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Live more unitedly and work more collaboratively than before

It is essential for the Union to be consolidated and firm, for all national races not to believe what aliens say, and to maintain friendly relations among the national brethren and to live more unitedly and work more collaboratively than before. Only when the national unity is consolidated and firm, will the independence or sovereignty be steadfast perpetually.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address delivered at the Annual General Meeting (1997) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association)



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife to pay official visit to PRC

YANGON, 10 Feb — At the invitation of Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Than Than Nwe will pay an official visit to the People's Republic of China in the near future. — MNA

Racism, localism and dogmatism are quite contrast to Union Spirit and can bring all the national races to the abyss of poverty, so the delegates should stay away from such evil spirits and ideas.

**National solidarity fundamental to non-disintegration of the Union
Entire national people are to make collaborative efforts
and to prevent any acts that can harm national unity**

Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with Union Day delegates



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein extends greeting to delegates to 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebration. — MNA

YANGON, 9 Feb — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary of Union Day Celebrations Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein today

met with delegates to the 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations at National Sports Stadium -1 here.

At the meeting, he said all national races have lived in the nation from time immemorial. Although

there are differences of dialects and customs and traditions of national races, they have shared them and lived harmoniously in the nation since yore.

(See page 6)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 February, 2006

Actively take part in national, regional and rural development endeavours

The government of the Union of Myanmar is implementing the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. The Union Solidarity and Development Association, being a major national force, is actively taking part in national development endeavours. And it has been conducting various kinds of courses to hone the skills and abilities of its members and broaden their horizons.

The Myanmar and International Studies Course No 11 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the USDA training school in Hmawby Township on 8 February and it was attended by Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the USDA Prime Minister General Soe Win. In his address on the occasion, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that USDA members were required to try to be good citizens who could take the lead in the realization of the national goal and good organizers who could serve as a bridge between the State and the people, heroes who could ward off the danger to the State and the people and good sons and daughters of the nation who were always at one with the people.

At the training courses being conducted to improve the skills and abilities of the members of the Association, lectures on the national policy, political, economic and social development of the nation, national prestige and integrity and the value of peace and stability, the rule of law and the unity of national people living in the Union are given.

Rural development tasks are included in the national development endeavours that are being carried out by the Union Solidarity and Development Association. Now, in the rural areas, special priority is being given to cultivation of physic nut as physic nut oil can be used as bio-diesel to power agricultural machines, generators, water pumps and trawler-Gs. Therefore, it is necessary for the USDA members to organize the people in all rural areas to grow physic nut widely and to produce and use its oil as bio-diesel.

We would like to call on all the members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association to actively take part in the national, regional and rural development endeavours and in the realization of the national goal.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှ အပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေကြပါသည်။

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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

Medical students visit Early-Childhood Development Centre

YANGON, 9 Feb — Final year (part 1) students of the Yangon Institute of Medicine (1), led by Lecture Dr Daw Tin Tin Aye of the institute paid a visit to the Early-Childhood Development Centre of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) this morning.

Chairperson of the association Daw Khin Khin Win extended greetings to the students. Vice-Chairperson Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint briefed them on the constitution and functions of the association.

The chairperson, the vice-chairperson and CEC members replied the queries raised by the students,



Vice-Chairperson of Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Linn Myint briefs on activities of MMCWA. — MMCWA

who then observed the functions around the diagnosing clinic and the pre-primary school of the centre.

MNA

59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 9 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continued today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall here and people, teachers and students viewed the exhibition.

Booths on pre-history and ancient Myanmar, traditions and customs of Myanmar nationals, emergence of the Union Day and regaining independence, national unity, modern and development of the nation, current political and social progress are put on display at the exhibition together with staging of ministerial booths.

At the exhibition, students participated in computer quiz with Audio Language Lab organized by Soft Guide Computer Co Ltd and No 1 BEMS of Yankin Township led by teacher Daw Nilar Myint won the prize for the excellence.

The exhibition will be kept open daily till 16 February from 9 am to 5 pm. Admission is free.

MNA

State-owned factories to be privatized

YANGON, 9 Feb — No 1 Loikaw Marble Slab Factory (Branch) located on 2.673 acres of plot on Thiridaw Road, DawUkhu Ward, Loikaw will be sold at a reserve price of K 58.368 million, and No 15 Thingangyun Textile Factory located on 1.35 acres at No 20 on U Ba Han Street in Thangangyun Township at a reserve price of K 165.557 million through auction system.

Individuals or organizations may purchase forms as from 16 February 2006 at Privatization Commission Office, Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department, No 313, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, here, and the furnished forms should be submitted to the office on 16 March 2006 between 11 am and 4 pm.

For further information, interested persons may dial 245506, 245516 and 245537 of Privatization Commission Office (Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department).

MNA

Union Day delegates and cultural troupes visit Union Day Exhibition

YANGON, Feb 9 — The Union Day delegates and cultural troupes who are here to attend the 59th Anniversary Union Day celebrations, accompanied by the Union Day Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee, visited 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall this morning and officials conducted them round the exhibition. — MNA



Delegates to the Union Day Celebrations and members of cultural troupes taking part in the computer quiz at Union Day Exhibition. — MNA

China firmly opposes US defence review

BEIJING, 8 Feb—China has expressed firm opposition to a US defence review to play up the “China military threat”.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a Press conference on Tuesday that China has lodged serious representation with the US side on the China-related content in the *Quadrennial Defence Review (QDR)*.

The *QDR*, issued by the US Department of Defence on 3 February, irrationally criticized China's normal defence

construction. The move “interfered in China's internal affairs” and could “mislead public opinion”, Kong said.

Ruan Zongze, deputy head of the China Institute of International Studies and an expert on China-US relations, said the report criticized China as lacking military transparency.

“The criticism is unacceptable,” said Ruan.

China has publicized white papers on its national defence annually for many years and issued a first-ever white paper on its peaceful development in December 2005.

Kong said China is taking a straight path toward peaceful development and is adopting a national defence policy of a defensive nature, thus constituting an important force to promote the peace

and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

“China has never threatened any country in the past and at present, and will never do so in the future,” he said.

He urged the US side to correct its viewpoints and actions, saying it should “review China's peaceful development from an objective perspective and stop its random and irresponsible remarks on China's normal defence construction”.

Instead, the United States “should do more to promote the healthy and steady growth of Sino-US relations”, he said.

Ruan noted that compared with the previous report issued in 2001, this *QDR* specified China's military potential to challenge the United States.

The United States is paying more and more attention to China's military issues.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl plays at a Disney shop in Shanghai on 8 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

ထိုက်တိုက်နှစ်ခဲ ထိုးမြင့်ကြ

Venezuela blasts US proposal to boost anti-Chavez broadcasts

CARACAS, 8 Feb—Venezuela on Tuesday blasted a US budget proposal to boost broadcasts against President Hugo Chavez, stoking the tension between a major world oil producer and its importer in the same hemisphere. The Venezuelan Communications Ministry denounced the US broadcast of “many messages critical of President Hugo Chavez,” saying the practice is a “crass intervention” and a waste of US taxpayers' money. US President George W Bush announced on Monday that his 2007 budget proposal calls for the Voice of America to increase television and radio broadcasts of international and US news to Venezuela, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.

“This application is part of an interventionist policy spearheaded by Florida legislators linked to Miami's anti-Cuba mafia and terrorists like Luis Posada Carriles, a self-confessed and convicted torturer, murderer, aircraft-bomber and drug trafficker,” the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill three Iraqis northeast of Baghdad

BAQUBA (Iraq), 8 Feb—Three Iraqis were killed in separate attacks during the past 24 hours in Baquba, some 60 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, police said on Tuesday.

“Armed men attacked a police checkpoint in Baquba City on Tuesday morning, killing a policeman and wounding several others,” said a statement by the Joint Coordination Centre of Diyala, obtained by Xinhua.

The Iraqi police detained an unspecified number of suspects after the attack, the statement said. In a separate incident, another policeman was killed on Monday night when gunmen attacked him near the Awqaf Street in central Baquba, the statement added.

A third civilian victim was killed outside Baquba, when gunmen opened fire at him and stole his car, said the statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish, Indian engineers killed in Afghan mine explosion

KABUL, 8 Feb—Four engineers, one Turkish, one Indian and two Afghans, were killed on Tuesday in a bomb explosion in Afghan southwestern province of Farah, a local official said.

“Today a vehicle belongs to the US construction company named Louis Berger hit a landmine in Bala Blok area.

Four engineers, one Turkish, one Indian and

two Afghans, were killed in the explosion,” an official told Xinhua under the condition of anonymity.

The Louis Berger Group in Afghanistan is providing engineering,

design, construction management and other services to implement USAID's (United States Agency for International Development) Rehabilitation of Economic Facilities and Service Programme.

Afghanistan's major and rural roads like Herat-Kandahar Highway are being reconstructed by this company.

Taliban militants, vowed to drive all the foreign troops and companies out of Afghanistan, has raised a new surge of attacks.

Gunmen opened fire on the employees of an Indian company on Helmand-Kandahar Highway on Sunday night in the southern Helmand Province, wounded three Afghans and fled away.

MNA/Xinhua

100 hutments gutted in Delhi fire

NEW DELHI, 8 Feb—Over 100 hutments were gutted when a major fire broke out in a shanty area in south Delhi in the early hours of Tuesday, New Delhi Television (NDTV) reported here.

There were, however, no casualties. Fire officials said over a dozen fire-fighting vehicles were used for over two hours to control the rising flames.

“We managed to rescue some people who were trapped and no one was injured,” NDTV quoted RC Sharma, the chief fire officer, as saying.

He said this was the second time this year when a fire had broken out in this slum cluster. There are over 500 hutments in the area.

“There are illegal electrical connections in the cluster which was the cause of the earlier fire,” said Sharma.—MNA/Xinhua

US military deaths in Iraq brings toll to 2,264

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—As of Wednesday, 8 Feb, 2006, at least 2,264 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. The figure includes six military civilians. At least 1,772 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The *AP* count is two fewer than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 am EST.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,125 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. That includes at least 1,666 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet



The wreckage of a car lies on a truck after a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 8 Feb, 2006. One civilian was wounded in the attack targeting a police patrol, witnesses said.—INTERNET

Official says Russia stands ready to help Iran

Moscow, 8 Feb — Russia stands ready to help Iran if it is interested in a Moscow proposal for creating a joint venture to enrich its uranium on Russian territory, a senior Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

“Our proposal remains in force. If Iranian colleagues are interested, we are ready to help,” Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

Moscow’s proposal can “help Iran allay all concerns over its nuclear programme,” Kislyak said.

Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said on Monday that

Teheran had informed the International Atomic Energy Agency of its decision to resume full-scale uranium enrichment after the UN nuclear watchdog voted to report the Iranian nuclear issue to the UN Security Council.

But *ITAR-TASS* quoted Iran’s government spokesman, Gholam-hosseini Elham, as saying in Teheran Monday that Iran welcomes contact on

any proposal in the nuclear area that would serve its national interests and that the talks with Russia may continue.

Russia is hoping to hold consultations with Iran on 16 February over the proposal, Kislyak said, adding the parties will discuss not only the nuclear dossier in Moscow, but “the whole range of relations with Iran.”

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ပူပွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်ဖွား

Badawi reminds media not to abuse Press freedom

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Feb— Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Tuesday reminded the media to deal with sensitive issues with care and not to abuse the freedom of Press.

“Issues such as integrity and religion must be approached with care. And we know that matters pertaining to religion are so sensitive for Muslims, Hindus or those professing other faiths,” Badawi told reporters.

Badawi, who was also Minister of Internal Security, made the remarks after the monthly

assembly of the ministry.

The freedom of Press has its boundaries and unbridled freedom could also lead to chaos and suffering for everyone, said Badawi.

He described as “insensitive and irresponsible” the reprinting of those insulting cartoons about Prophet Mohammed by a local English-language newspaper.

An editor of the *Sarawak Tribune* reproduced those cartoons on Saturday’s edition. On Sunday, the publisher and the editorial committee issued a joint statement, expressing their profound regret over the matter while stressing the editor on duty had resigned after admitting his oversight and deciding to take full

responsibility for it.

Nevertheless, the group editor and senior management of the newspaper have been asked to explain the matter to the Internal Security Ministry on Tuesday.

“In this case, I appreciate the attitude of our newspapers which use self-censorship as an approach that reflects their sense of responsibility,” Badawi said.

Self-censorship does not mean compromise of the Press freedom, said Badawi, adding that media should take into account the rights and sensitivities of other communities before deciding on the content of their newspapers.

MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait Emir names brother as Crown Prince

KUWAIT, 8 Feb— Kuwait’s new Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah on Tuesday appointed his brother Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah as the new Crown Prince and heir of the US-allied Gulf Arab oil producer.

State news agency *KUNA* and state television said Sheikh Sabah also appointed a nephew, Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, a minister-in-charge of the Emiri Diwan (royal court), as the new Prime Minister.

The latest move effectively does away with a long-held political tradition that the position of the emir and other top posts should rotate between the family’s two wings. Sheikh Sabah, Sheikh Nawaf and Sheikh Nasser are all members of the Jaber clan of the Sabah dynasty.

“We have issued a decree nominating His Highness Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah to assume the post of Crown Prince,” Sheikh

Sabah said in a decree read on state television.

Nawaf, 69, had been acting Prime Minister since the former premier Sheikh Sabah was named emir late last month following the removal by Parliament of ailing Emir Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah, who hails from the Salem branch.

MNA/Reuters



People walk under heavy snowfall in a park in Russia’s southern city of Stavropol at temperature of 15 Celsius (5 Fahrenheit), on 8 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Spanish police arrest major drug dealing suspect

MADRID, 8 Feb— Spanish police have arrested a 21-year-old man suspected of being one of the biggest hashish dealers in France, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

Nabil MA, born in the Spanish North African enclave of Ceuta, was arrested near Cadiz on the south coast on an international arrest order from France.

He is suspected of leading a ring trafficking in luxury cars and drugs, which shipped large quantities of drugs to Spain from Morocco, hid them in fast cars and took them to Bordeaux, northern France and Belgium for distribution, the ministry said.—MNA/Reuters

Anti-US protest blocks Sheraton Hotel in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 8 Feb— Protesters waving Cuban flags blocked the entrance to a US-owned Sheraton Hotel in Mexico City on Tuesday, calling for it to be closed because it evicted Cuban officials on orders from Washington.

About 30 people shouted “Yankees out” as they demonstrated outside the hotel over its eviction of the 16 Cubans who were staying there last week for a conference with US energy companies.

Presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilar said Mexico was looking into the evictions and would apply the full force of the law against the Sheraton if a crime had been committed.

“It is an unacceptable application of a foreign law in our country, which goes against all principles of international law,” Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Derbez said in a radio interview.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide Inc, which owns Sheraton hotels, said it had been

asked by the US Treasury Department to tell the Cuban officials to leave the hotel because of the terms of the US Embargo on the island.

Mexican newspapers were filled with angry opinion pieces railing against perceived US meddling in Mexico.

MNA/Reuters

Swiss Customs reports fall in cases of drugs smuggling

GENEVA, 8 Feb— Swiss Customs officers uncovered 3,192 cases of drug smuggling in 2005, 240 fewer than in 2004, the Federal Customs Office said on Tuesday.

The volume of cocaine seizures dropped more than 100 kilos to 167 kilos in 2005, while the heroin haul sank from 97 kilos to 57 kilos, said the office in an annual report. It added, however, that 2005 was a bumper year for cannabis smuggling, with Customs stopping almost twice as much of the drug as in 2004 at 296 kilos. Greater quantities of ecstasy, LSD and amphetamines were also found.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi soldiers inspect a vehicle that exploded while the convoy was driving past, in Baghdad, on 8 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

China, India biggest challenges to British economy

LONDON, 8 Feb— Fast emerging economies like those of India and China are considered the biggest challenge to the British economy over the next five years, a new survey has found.

In a study conducted by Deloitte/YouGov, on public attitudes of Britain people to global economic competition, 79 per cent of 2,704 people identified China as the largest threat to Britain in the manufacturing sector. India, which now houses a number of call centers for British firms, was seen as the main challenge to Britain by 45 per cent of those surveyed.

A separate Deloitte report said Britain could fall from sixth to the 12th most competitive global economy by 2010.

The survey found that 64 per cent of respondents expressed a negative reaction to such off-shoring, and a quarter also held the opinion that existing off-shoring programmes should be reversed. Just 6 per cent said they supported their continuation.

"The survey results clearly show the uncertainty that exists

among British population when it comes to the growing prowess of India and China," said Deloitte's head of consulting, David Owen. There needs to be a great understanding among the public that the transfer of certain jobs to other locations is a trend that is likely to continue and brings with it opportunities as well as threats. British-

located companies should benefit from, rather than be threatened by the increasingly global nature of the product and services markets," he said.

To help boost British competitiveness, 75 per cent of the survey's respondents said there should be greater investment in education and training.—MNA/PTI



Vietnamese from Phu Ung village take part in a traditional spring festival 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Hanoi on 8 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Africa, Asia Literary Conference to start from 15 February

NEW DELHI, 8 Feb— Around 40 writers from Asia and Africa will discuss issues of legacy, identity and assertion in the post-colonial period and strategize to counter "new age imperialism" in a two-day seminar to be held in Neemrana, Rajasthan starting on 15 February.

To be organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), "The Africa Asia Literary Conference" seeks to celebrate the spirit of the Bandung Conference held in Indonesia 50 years ago to promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation and oppose colonialism or neo-colonialism by the United States.

"Impact of colonialism, the effect on cultures and influence on the people will be discussed and the writers from various

countries will seek to forge an identity.

"The discussions will be in depth and of substantive process", Pavan K. Varma, director general, ICCR, told reporters here Tuesday. Some of the writers who will be part of the conference include Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, Tarun Tejpal and U.R. Anantha Murthy from India, Ahmad Faraz from Pakistan, Kaiseer Haq from Bangladesh, Don Mattera, Charles Mungoshi and Miral el Tahawi from Africa and Cai Cehai from China.—MNA/PTI

76 Romanians frozen to death since 15 Jan

BUCHAREST, February 8 — Eleven people were frozen to death in Romania in the past three days, raising the number of cold victims to 76 since January 15, the Romanian news agency *Rompres* reported on Tuesday. Aged between 29 and 86, most of the dead had heart problems or had been overdrunk. Twenty-one of them were homeless.

The county of Ploiesti, 70 kilometres north of the capital Bucharest, reported nine deaths from cold, representing the largest number of cold victims in 41 counties. Three people frozen to death in Bucharest.—MNA/Xinhua

Moderate tremor jolts Islamabad, northern cities

ISLAMABAD, 9 Feb — A moderate aftershock of 5.01 intensity on the Richter Scale jolted the Pakistani capital and some northern cities on Wednesday, head of the meteorological department said:

Tremors lasting a few seconds were felt at 5:57 pm local time in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, as well as Peshawar, Manshera, Balakot and Abbottabad, the cities hit by the devastating earthquake of October 8, which had killed more than 73,000 people.

MNA/PTI

French police hold two in Madrid bombing probe

PARIS, 8 Feb — French police have arrested two suspects wanted in connection with the 2004 Madrid train bombings, a Paris radio station said on Tuesday. France Info radio said two Egyptians were arrested in the Paris region earlier on Tuesday, suspected of having helped another Egyptian, now in prison in Italy, whom Spain suspected of being involved in the Madrid bombings. A police spokesman said two suspected Islamists had been arrested in France but declined to give further details.—MNA/Reuters

13 rescued in ship collision at China's Qiongzhou straits

HAIKOU, 8 Feb— Thirteen fishermen on board a sunken fishing boat after a collision with a Cambodian cargo ship were salvaged by rescuers on sea areas at the Qiongzhou Straits in south China on Tuesday.

A passing-by fishing boat coming into rescue salvaged the victims. Sources with hospital in Haikou, capital of the southernmost China's Hainan Province said that the victims suffering injuries were still receiving medical treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

CIA counter-terrorism chief steps down

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb— The head of the CIA's counter-terrorism centre has been forced to step down as part of efforts by the spy agency to bolster its pursuit of al-Qaeda, current and former intelligence officials said on Tuesday.

Robert Grenier, 51, told colleagues in an e-mail on Monday that he had been asked to move on from the helm of the unit that plans and executes CIA counter-terrorism operations and provides analysis on terrorism issues.

It was not clear whether Grenier planned to leave

the spy agency and there was no immediate word on who would succeed him in the counter-terrorism post.

The CIA has been criticized for failing to track down al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and his second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahri, who are believed

to be somewhere along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan.

A failed CIA attempt to eliminate Zawahri with a missile strike last month in Pakistan was condemned in Islamabad and set off anti-American protests across the country after 18 civilians including women and children died

in the attack.

The CIA's counter-terrorism centre has recently lost stature as the result of intelligence reforms that created the National Counterterrorism Centre to oversee strategic planning and serve as a clearinghouse for intelligence and analysis for the entire intelligence community in that area.

An intelligence source, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the departure, said Grenier was asked to step aside by the CIA clandestine service chief, whose identity is secret.

"There is a sense that he was not necessarily aggressive enough or forward leaning enough, that this is a good officer but there might be a better choice for this post at this time," the source said.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi health workers collect ducks from local village farms, on 8 Feb, 2006, on the outskirts of Sulaimaniyah, 260 kilometres (160 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq.—INTERNET

(from page 1)

In his guidance of Senior-General Than Shwe given at the meeting with the trainees of University for Development of National Races of course No 37 BED, said National races do not live in the nation separately race-wise or region-wise. But all the national brethren have lived harmoniously in each and every region of the nation since yore.

All trainees are to enhance Union Spirit already inculcated into the youths. Only when the people are fully equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the Union of Myanmar exist perpetually.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, all national races living under the flag of the Union are to strive for peace and development of the nation joining hands with one another.

Racism, localism and dogmatism are quite contrast to Union Spirit and can bring all the national races to the abyss of poverty, so the delegates should stay away from such evil spirits and ideas, he said.

Dating back to the history, as a result of building consolidated unity of national races, King Anawrahta founded the First Myanmar Empire in 1044, King Bayintnaung the Second Myanmar Empire in 1551 and King Alaungphaya the Third Myanmar Empire in 1752. So, Myanmar achieved a dominant position in Asia region and won respect and admiration of neighbours.

But, in the Kongbaung Dynasty, there was disinte-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets Union Day delegates. —MNA

together without making any regional discriminations, absolute unity of national races was shown in Panglong, Shan State, on 12 February 1947. Therefore, the entire nation regained sovereignty on 4 January 1948.

The 12th of February, unforgettable day, which paved the way to regain independence for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union, was designated as

Despite abundant natural resources such as fertile farmland, forests with full of valuable wood, oil and natural gas deposits, various kinds of minerals and precious stones, rivers, creeks and lakes and marine resources, Myanmar lagged behind in development if compared with neighbouring countries owing to lack of cohesion, peace and tranquillity.

Some neo-colonialist powers using national traitors as tools trying to break up national solidarity

People must ward off the danger with national awareness

gration of royal family members owing to the wedge driven by the colonialists and it harmed the Union Spirit subsequently, culminating in falling under subjugation of the colonialists.

The colonialists were bent on employing a variety of wicked means to sow downright suspicion among the national races and to undermine national solidarity to prolong their rule over Myanmar and oppress national people. They resorted to such destructive acts with the intention of suppressing patriotic spirit, the spirit of loving motherland, nationalistic fervour and anti-colonialist spirit of national people.

It has been common knowledge that the invaders practised the divide-and-rule policy in ruling the mainland and hilly regions. In consequence, hilly regions lagged behind in development all the more.

Even when it was inevitable the colonialists had to grant independence to the nation, they kept on driving a wedge among national races to break up unity between the people living in the mainland and those in the hilly regions with the intention of their continued colonization of hilly regions as their dominions.

With the efforts of visionary leaders of national races and the firm resolution to regain independence

the Union Day. So, Union Day celebrations are held on a grand scale after laying down national objectives the length and breadth of the nation.

After Myanmar regained independence, neo-colonialists incited racial conflicts and deceived national people dogmatically, fanning the flames of internal armed struggle line. Therefore, almost of the nation was under the domination of multi-coloured armed insurgents and the recently-independent Myanmar was on the verge of becoming a minion of the neo-colonialists.

Then, the Tatmadaw standing by the people with loyalty and duty conscientiousness discharged the demanding tasks steadfastly, and the majority of urban regions enjoyed the taste of peace and stability. But, rural regions especially border areas withstood trials and tribulations of armed insurgency. National people in these regions had to live in a state of alarm for years, and misunderstanding and suspicions among national races cost lots of lives and blood and sweat.

Successive previous governments could not achieve success in rebuilding the torn nation. And nation rebuilding programmes did not work at all because of destructive acts.

After taking over State duties, the Tatmadaw Government made a thorough review about various conditions of the nation of many periods. Then, it was deduced that Myanmar was a union nation, so the Union with sovereignty would be existing as long as the Earth did only when unity could be erected among the national races living in the Union. So, the government laid down the national policy of Our Three Main National Causes "non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, and since then it has given the priority to national reconsolidation and perpetually flourishing Union Spirit.

When the government's correct leadership, benevolent attitude to national races and effective drive met with national races' clear outlook and objectives, the majority of national race armed groups returned to the legal fold. Then, the nation emerged from a spate of armed conflicts for more than four decades.

National solidarity is fundamental to non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty. In this context, entire national people are to make collaborative efforts and to prevent any acts that can harm national unity.

The government has spent a large amount of cash to build transport infrastructures to ensure close relations among the national races that will help strengthen national solidarity. It has built a network of roads and bridges to overcome geographical barriers. It is required to narrow the development gap between one region and another for equitable progress in the whole nation to terminate all doubts among the national people.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the government has been simultaneously implementing border areas and national races development project, 24 special regions development project and rural development project with greater momentum.

The projects cover all-round progress of all the sectors of national races, and as long as they are benefiting the grassroots including those in the border areas, they bring development to the nation.

The projects ensures equitable progress and they have interrelations with national solidarity.

(See page 7)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially converses with Union Day delegates. —MNA

Some neo-colonialist powers...

(from page 6)

At present, the government is in the process of implementing the seven-point Road Map for prosperity and perpetuation of the Union and emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic state, which is the people's genuine desire. It has been successfully convening the Na-

tional Convention, the first step of the Road Map.

The national people are urged to play a part in implementing the national task from the convening of the National Convention to the realization of all the steps of the Road Map, with the firm conviction that consolidation and perpetuation of the Union is as important as

their life.

The present era sees national unity enjoying greater consolidation, the people and the government harmoniously implementing nation-building projects, with oneness, and the National Convention, the lifeblood of the nation, gaining more ground. But on the other hand, some neo-colonialist powers using national traitors as tools are trying to break

up national solidarity, delay progress and disturb and destroy the National Convention. All the people must ward off the danger with national awareness.

The people should serve the Union's interest more, while accepting the following Union Day objectives as directives:

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegra-

tion 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 ex-

ternal 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.

The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the Union Day delegates.

MNA

Dagon Overpass put into service on Alanpya Pagoda Road



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win unveils signboard of Dagon Overpass on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township. — MNA

YANGON, 9 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day, the ceremony to put

Dagon Overpass into service was held at Dagon Basic Education High School No 1 on Alanpya Pagoda

Road in Dagon Township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu, Chairman of Yangon West District PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, the chairman of School Board of Trustees of Dagon BEHS No 1, the headmaster, teachers, students and wellwishers.

First, Director-General U Aye Kyu, SBT Chairman U Hla Tint and wellwisher film actor Min Oak Soe formally opened the overpass. The commander pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the overpass.

The commander, the mayor, the deputy minister and officials passed through the overpass and sprinkled scented water on it.

The overpass is 52 feet long, 6 feet wide and 18 feet high. Thanks to the construction of the overpass, safety is ensured for students within school hours.

MNA



Dagon overpass at Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township. — MNA

Booths, shops opened at Gyobyu Sports Ground

YANGON, 9 Feb — The ceremony to open booths and shops in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary Union Day were held yesterday at the Gyobyu Sports Ground in Taikkyi Township where the Union Flag will stop over for a night.

Taikkyi Station Commander Col Win Maung, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min and Taikkyi Township PDC Chairman U Myat Kyaw formally opened the ceremony.

Booths of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Cooperatives, Ministry of Indus-

try-1, Ministry of Industry-2 and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association are put on display.

Furthermore, Documentary Film and Shwe Myinmo Anyeint Troupe will present

entertainment to the local people from 8 to 12 February.

MNA



TRAINING COURSES CONCLUDE: International Trade Course (Programme 3) Batch 4 organized by Educational Affairs Committee of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry concluded at its office on 7 February. A trainee accepts the certificate at the concluding ceremony of the course. — UMFCCI

Construction of approach railroad at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) inspected

YANGON, 9 Feb — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing heard reports on progress in construction of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) by Senior Engineer U Myo Win from Mottama bank, and Senior Engineer U Tint Lwin from Mawlamyine bank and construction of approach railroad and the station by Engineer U Zaw Min Oo of Myanma Railways at the construction site on 6 February afternoon.

The commander attended to the needs and instructed them to make efforts for timely completion of the tasks meeting the set standard.

Next, the commander inspected construction of the approach structure and approach railroad, and laying of rail tracks in Kyaikphane Ward in Mawlamyine. At Mawlamyine Station, the commander looked into the station facilities and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day:**March with unity towards
modern and developed nation***Myint Soe***Hundred fruits
from a common
stem—Our Union**

The 12th of February 2006 is the 59th Anniversary Union Day of the Union of Myanmar.

It is a pride for us that over 100 national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have resided in the country with a common name called Myanmar in harmony and amity since many years ago. Like a family, the Myanmar people have been living through thick and thin, and sharing joys and sorrows, a tradition defining their high civilization and prestige.

Lying in the south-east of Asia, Myanmar emerged as a sovereign and independent nation over 2000 years ago. She shares a common land border with China in the north and north-east, Laos and Thailand in the east and south-east, and Bangladesh and India in the west and north-west, and touching Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal in the south.

Having an area of 261,228 square miles, the nation is 582 miles in its widest part from east to west, and 1,275 miles from the northern tip to the southern end. Of her 5,200-mile long border, the 3808-mile section is the land border sharing with her neighbours, and the other 1,385-mile section is the coastline. She possesses a special offshore economic zone with an area of over 14,000 square miles. Forests cover over 130,000 square miles or 51 per cent of the land area. Myanmar is formed with mountain ranges, rolling mountains and plains and through her valleys and basins flow large and small natural waterways. Of the four major rivers — the Ayeyawady, the Chindwin, the Thanlwin and

the Sittaung — the Ayeyawady is over 1,000 miles long.

Myanmar is made up of seven divisions — Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi and Magway — and seven states — Kayin, Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. Having lived in those states and divisions in unity and harmony since yore are the over 100 national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, and so close and cordial is their relationship like 100 fruits from a common stem.

At his meeting with trainees of No 37 Course (BEd) of the University for Development of National Races at Pyithu Hluttaw on 20 January this year, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, "National races do not live in the nation separately race-wise or region-wise. They have lived harmoniously in each and every region of the nation since yore. It is their nature that the national brethren live together in amity without having any enmity against one another.

"It is your duty to enhance Union Spirit already inculcated into the youths. Only when people are fully equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the Union of Myanmar exist in perpetuity."

"Union Spirit is not based on an organization, a race or an ideology, but on the nationalistic fervour that concerns the entire country. Likewise, Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — is the national duty requiring the involvement of all the nationalities to implement."

"The drive for flourishing of Union Spirit needs integration of practical work as it cannot be implemented with concepts and ideologies only. So, the government is putting efforts into the harmonious implementation of border areas and national races development project, 24 special development regions project, and the rural development project."

After taking over the State duties in 1988, the Tatmadaw government laid down 12 objectives for national development, and has been implementing them since the time. Thanks to the government's endeavours, the people are now enjoying the fruits. The border areas and national races development project and the participation of the national groups, that have returned to the legal fold, have brought peace and progress to the remote regions which in the past lacked both. Border areas are gaining greater progress than expected as peace has also paved the way for building necessary infrastructures in them.

The total sown acreage in Myanmar in 1988 was 24.8 million acres, and 20.8 million acres of vacant and fallow land. The paddy sown acreage then was over 11.5 million acres. The nation puts 12 million acres under monsoon paddy and four million acres of land under summer paddy totalling 16 million acres. Due to

Strength of the Union

- * You and I, I and you
Blood-brothers, true relatives
Help each others as companions
No talking behind back, we by ourselves.
- * Relatives who dwell in plains, related
Those who dwell on hills, relatives
Water, land, may be barriers
But Union-born nationals
Undivided, like you can't divide water.
- * Union-born nationals
Living together on one land, drinking water
from same source,
One is all, many hands
Many heads put together, if they accomplish
No pessimist, axe-handle or any other
We're not afraid, won't kneel down.
Won't put our hands up, no matter who
threatens
We'll make it to the winning post.
(Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day)
Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)

the application of various means, annual paddy output has reached one billion baskets.

In addition to paddy, cultivation of beans and pulses, cotton, maize, buckwheat, oil palm, tea, pepper, coffee, and edible oil crops has also been extended. A large number of new dams large and small have been opened the length and breadth of the nation.

Farming, fisheries, communications, construction, energy, education, science and technology, health, information and public relations sectors are also developing fast. Hydel power plants, oil and petrochemical industries, mining enterprises, import substitute industries, and private sectors are developing in all regions of the nation.

The people will have to promote and propagate Union Spirit with unity based on patriotism.

In accord with the fine traditions of the Union Day, all the national races will have to strive for the perpetuation of the motherland and enhancing her international prestige with unity, while warding off the perpetration of the neo-colonialists to deceive and divide the nation.

The national people should foster nationalistic fervour, Union Spirit and patriotism. They with unity should make efforts to realize the following Union Day objectives for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation:

- 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)

Kyemon: 9-2-2006

"The drive for flourishing of Union Spirit needs integration of practical work as it cannot be implemented with concepts and ideologies only. So, the government is putting efforts into the harmonious implementation of border areas and national races development project, 24 special development regions project, and the rural development project."

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

Like a mini-union, Kayin State with an area of 11,730 square miles is home to Kayin, Pa-O, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan nationals. The population of Kayin State is 1,653,000 and population density of the state is 145 persons per square mile.

Kayin State is a land of plains, mountain ranges and forests. In the east of the state are mountain ranges running from north to south and plains are located in the west of the state.

Such major rivers as Thanlwin, Thaungyin, Attaran and Gyaing are flowing through the



Main Building of Hpa-an University, in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

state.

Blessed with land and water resources coupled with encouragement given by the government and efforts made by lo-

icals, agricultural capacity of the state has increased. Moreover, infrastructures which will help raise the social standard of national peo-

ple residing in the state have emerged one after another.

Kayin state is march-

ing towards its goal of development in parallel with other states and divisions. The table indi-

cates development of Kayin State during the period from 1988 to the present.

Development of Kayin State

Subject	1988	2006	Progress
Agriculture/Livestock breeding			
Sown acreage	666194	837466	171272
Dam	22	23	1
River water pumping project	-	5	5
Sown acreage of monsoon paddy	383069	492032	108963
Sown acreage of summer paddy	-	102031	102031
Sown acreage of edible oil crops	24580	48514	21934
Acres of fish breeding ponds	96	326	230
Acres of prawn breeding ponds	-	80	80



Zarthabyin Bridge across Gyaing River on Mawlamyine-Zarthabyin-Eindu-Hpa-an Road in Kayin State.

Subject	1988	2006	Progress
Forest conservation			
Forest plantation (acre)	400	7840	7440
Transport			
Motor road (mile)	554	771	217
Tarred road (mile)	201	340	139
Gravelled road	45	108	63
180 feet and above bridge	8	13	5
Under 180 feet bridge	117	263	146
Length of natural gas pipeline (mile)	-	42	42
Electric power			
Electricity consumption (unit in million)	10.274	286.998	276.724
Education			
Basic Education			
Number of School	1149	1295	146
Primary school	1064	1163	99
Middle school	65	77	12
High school	20	55	35
Number of teacher	4116	5625	1509
Number of student	133777	219819	86042
Higher Education			
University	-	1	1
College	-	1	1
Government Computer College	-	1	1
Government Technological College	-	1	1
Government Technical Institute	-	1	1
Health			
Hospital	17	26	9
Health centre	50	58	8
Traditional Medicine Hospital	-	1	1
Communication			
Post office	27	33	6
Telegraph office	7	13	6
Telephone exchange	5	24	19
Information and Public Relations			
TV Retransmission station	-	8	8
Self-reliant village library	-	711	711

Irrigation facilities in Kyangin, Kanma Townships inspected



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversees progress in construction of Maday Dam in Kanma Township. — A&I

YANGON, 9 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversaw thriving 400 acres of summer paddy fields with the use of irrigation facilities from Kunchaung Dam in Kyangin Township on 4 February.

Kunchaung Dam has one 23.5 mile-long main canal. The Dam supplies water to Kyangin and Myanaung townships through 15 canals. Myanaung Township has cultivated over 3,000 acres of summer paddy. Likewise, Kyangin Township has put over 3,000 acres of land under summer paddy, and the plan is under way to grow additional 4,000 acres of summer paddy there. The minister inspected storage of water at Kunchaung Dam-2 near Tatkon Village in Kyangin Township.

The minister proceeded to Kanma Township. On

arrival at Maday Dam Project site being built by Construction-2 of Irrigation Department, the minister heard reports on completion of the embankment and the water control tower, preparations for building the lower structure of the spillway and others by Director U Tin Maung Ohn. Director-General U Kyaw San Win of ID briefed the minister on storage of water and preparations for generating hydel power.

Director U Tin Maung Ohn also reported on supply of water from the dam to 2,000 acres of summer paddy and irrigation facilities of Gamon, Minhla and Khawa dams. The minister inspected preparations for construction of the 200-foot-wide spillway, completion of the 468 feet wide conduit, and construction of the embankment measuring 155 feet by 1,920 feet. — MNA

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ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ပြည့်
နေ့ရက် - ၈-၂-၂၀၀၆ မှ ၁၆-၂-၂၀၀၆
အချိန် - နံနက် ၀၉:၀၀ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၁၄:၀၀ နာရီ
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Union Flag arrives...

(from page 16)

On arrival at the archway in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein took out the Union Flag from the silver bowl and carried it flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students and national races.

Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein handed over the flag and it was conveyed by flag relay teams. Later, Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein planted the flag in the silver bowl on the dais at the sports ground in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

While the local people together with the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command saluted the Union Flag, the Military Band of No 11 LID played the National Anthem.

From morning to evening, local people saluted the Union Flag at the sports ground. Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and officials inspected booths and shops being opened at the sports ground.

MNA

Dinner hosted to Union Day delegates by Ministers' families

YANGON, 9 Feb — A dinner in honour of the delegates to the 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations was hosted at the residence of the Minister for Transport on Zawgyi Road in Kamayut Township yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, wife Daw Mya Theingi, departmental heads and their wives.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe extended greetings. The minister and

wife, departmental heads and wives presented souvenirs to the Union Day delegates. U Tun Min of Rakhine State expressed gratitude. Later, the Union Day delegates were served with dinner.

Likewise, member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein hosted a dinner to the Union Day delegates at the Ministry of Livestock and



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and wife Daw Mya Theingi host a dinner to Union Day delegates. — TRANSPORT

souvenirs to the delegates. At the residence of the Minister for Religious Affairs on Chindwin Road in Kamayut Township, a dinner was hosted to the Union Day delegates from

was hosted in honour of the Union Day delegates from Kayah State at the residence of Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and family yesterday evening.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung and wife Daw Khin Htay Myint welcomed and extended greetings to the delegates and hosted a dinner to them. Later, souvenirs were presented to the delegates.

Yesterday evening, a dinner hosted by the Ministry of Industry-1 was held at Kunthaya Hall of the ministry. Departmental heads of the ministry and advisers warmly welcomed the Union Day delegates and hosted a dinner to them. Afterwards, officials presented gifts to the delegates. Moreover, Director-General of Civil Service Affairs Department U Kyaw Zan Hla and wife hosted a dinner to the Union Day delegates at their residence at Bahosi Housing Estate in Lanmadaw Township yesterday evening. — MNA

Murderers nabbed within two days after robbery

YANGON, 9 Feb — Yangon Division police nabbed two robbers within two days after they had committed a crime on 6 February in which the men killed an elderly couple.

Than Khaing Oo and his neighbour Aye Lwin (a) Kalar killed the couple, U Tin Kyu, 83, and Daw Kyin Nu, 78, when Daw Kyin Nu did not yield to their demand to give them her diamond earrings worth K 800,000 and a gem studded ring valued at K 400,000, she was wearing. Than Khaing Oo murdered Daw Kyin Nu with Chinese kitchen knife and Aye Lwin (a) Kalar stabbed U Tin Kyu with the dagger he had brought with him. Daw Kyin Nu opened the door for them as the couple knew Than Khaing Oo well.

The two robbers arrived at the elderly couples' apartment at No 950, on the second floor, in ward 3, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, at about noon on 6 February, when their son Ko Win Myat Thu was not at home. He went to the Yangon International Airport together with his

sister and her family to bid farewell to his older brother who was leaving Yangon for Taiwan. When he came back home at 12.45 pm, he found the door open, and in the house were U Tin Kyu who died of knife wounds on the chair in the sitting room, and Daw Kyin Nu laying dead facing the floor with wounds in the kitchen. He found her earrings and ring missing. He reported the case to Lanmadaw Police Station.

When the police investigated the house, they found an 11-inch long blood-stained Chinese knife, also stuck with some threads of hair, suspicious-looking objects and note books.

Based on the evidences they had found and public information they had received, the police were able to arrest Than Khaing Oo, 24, son of U Chit Hlaing at his house at No 306, Thumana 5th Street, Ward 5, Thakayta, on 7 February and Aye Lwin (a) Kalar, 28, son of U Tin Win, at 2.30 pm the following day.

MNA

Fisheries on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township yesterday evening.

The minister warmly extended greetings to the delegates. After the dinner, the minister gave

Kayin State yesterday evening. After the dinner, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and family and the delegates exchanged souvenirs.

Similarly, a dinner



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and wife Daw Khin Htay Myint host a dinner to Union Day delegates. — FORESTRY

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.

Official says China to ban new cigarette factories

BEIJING, 9 Feb— China will not allow new cigarette factories, including joint ventures with foreign partners, as part of efforts to reduce smoking in a country that puffs its way through almost 2 trillion cigarettes a year.

Beijing would also impose strict controls on existing tobacco production, including taxes on tobacco leaf and industry reorganization, *Xinhua* news agency quoted Sha Zukang, the Ambassador to UN agencies in Geneva, as telling a conference.

China is the world's largest cigarette producer and Chinese are the world's most enthusiastic smokers, with a growing market of about 320 million making it a magnet for multinationals and focus of international health concern.

Chinese cigarettes are also among the cheapest in the world—a packet can cost as little as 8 US cents—and smoking kills 1.2 million people a

year in China, according to the World Health Organization.

In December, Philip Morris, a unit of Altria Group Inc, announced a joint venture to produce Marlboro cigarettes in China. Its partner is state-owned China National Tobacco Corp.

Sha's promise echoed past comments by Chinese health officials, including some by a spokesman for the country's State Tobacco Monopoly Administration early in 2005, and it was unclear how the Philip Morris deal would be affected.

Philip Morris declined comment, apart from reissuing a statement from last December announcing the China deal.

Sha was speaking at a meeting on implementing the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which China signed in 2003 and ratified in 2005.

The convention aims to reduce tobacco consumption, including through a ban on advertising and promotion.

"The Chinese Government will follow the relevant stipulations of the convention to improve its related laws and regulations, strictly control smoking in public spaces and strengthen regulation of tobacco production and business activities," Sha said.

The WHO said the convention's measures could help save 200 million lives by 2050 if

they achieve the goal of cutting smoking and fresh recruits to smoking by a half.

MNA/Reuters

First Confucius Institute opens in Canada

VANCOUVER (Canada), 9 Feb— The first Confucius Institute on Tuesday opened in Vancouver and was warmly acclaimed by both the Canadian and Chinese sides.

Visiting Chinese State Councilor Chen Zhili inaugurated the opening of the institute, which was also attended by a group of Canadian officials.

The opening of the institute not only strengthens Canada-China relations but also benefits Canadians, especially those interested in doing business and

tourism with the fast-growing Asian country, according to officials from both countries at the inauguration ceremony.

"I believe the Confucius Institute would serve as another important bridge between Canada and China and further enhance understanding and cooperation between the two countries," said Chen, who inaugurated the Confucius Institute at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

Chen's remarks were echoed by Shirley Bond, Deputy Premier and Education Minister of British Columbia, a province reputed as Canada's major gateway to international trade with

Asia. "As bilateral trade and exchange between B. C and China grows, we have to strengthen all our opportunities including education," Bond said.

"The Confucius Institute at BCIT builds on our ongoing relationship with China, a relationship I look forward to making even stronger in the future," She said.

The Confucius Institute, established in February 2006 by the BCIT with the support and accreditation of the National Office of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language under the Chinese Ministry of Education, is housed on the eighth floor of BCIT's downtown Vancouver campus.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Suspected drug gunmen storm Mexico newspaper

NUЕVO LAREDO (Mexico), 9 Feb— Gunmen thought to be working for a drug cartel shot and seriously wounded a reporter during a raid on a Mexican newspaper near the violent US-Mexico border, reporters at the paper said on Tuesday.

At least two hooded men burst into *El Manana* newspaper in Nuevo Laredo, over the Rio Grande River from Laredo, Texas, late on Monday, tossing a grenade in the lobby and raking the newsroom with automatic weapons fire, they said.

Night-shift reporter Jaime Orozco was shot four times as he tried to flee.

He was hospitalized and listed in serious condition after receiving multiple blood transfusions, editor Jose Garcia said.

MNA/Reuters

Ecuador says unlikely to extend US air base deal

QUITO (Ecuador), 9 Feb— Ecuador is not likely to extend a deal that allows the United States to use an anti-narcotics air base on its territory due to a surge in sentiment against the American military presence, its Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations said on Wednesday.

Deputy Minister Diego Ribadeneira said in a television interview that the Andean country's major parties would probably block the ratification of a deal on US use of the Manta military base beyond 2009.

"I think it will be very difficult for a foreign minister in 2009 to ratify this agreement," said Ribadeneira.

Since 1999, the United States has used the Manta air base 161 miles (260 kilometres) southwest of Quito to fight drug trafficking in the region. — *MNA/Reuters*

British parents face soaring childcare costs

LONDON, 9 Feb— The cost of a full-time place at a private nursery school in England has soared 27 per cent over the past five years, almost four times the rate of inflation, childcare charity Daycare Trust said on Wednesday.

A typical full-time nursery place for a child under two now costs 142 pounds a week, or nearly 7,400 pounds a year, the charity said in an annual survey of childcare costs. Parents in inner London face the highest costs, with nurseries charging an average 197 pounds a week for children under two. The lowest fees were in the Midlands and the northeast.

Many parents send their children to childminders, with charges averaging around 130 pounds a week, and up to 163 pounds in London.

The government provides help with the cost of childcare through its tax credits system. Many parents can also get tax relief through their employer, through a government scheme introduced in 2005. But the charity said many families still struggle to meet the costs. It said British parents pay around 75

per cent of their childcare costs, compared with parents in Europe who only pay around 35 per cent.

"We urgently need a review of the funding system for childcare to ensure that all children have access to good quality services, regardless of their family income," said Daycare Trust Chief Executive Christine Walton.

Education Minister Beverley Hughes said the government had made a huge investment in childcare, spending 17 billion pounds since 1997. "We are focused on providing help for families with affordable childcare, in particular for families who need it most."

She said the Childcare Bill, currently going through Parliament, placed a duty on each local authority to provide sufficient childcare in their area. — *MNA/Reuters*



An Iraqi soldier secures the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PUTRI ASIA VOYNO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PUTRI ASIA VOYNO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 8.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.W.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S K.M INTER TRANS CO LTD, THAILAND
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOYNO (601) N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PRECIOUS RIVER VOYNO (601)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CORPORATION
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (095)N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOYNO (095)N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Vietnam detects seven cross-border drug transporting cases

HANOI, 8 Feb— Vietnam's border guards have recently uncovered seven cases of transporting narcotics via borders into the country, arresting 23 people.

They also seized nearly 1.6 kilos of heroin, 1.5 kilos of opium, 3,028 lab-made drug pills, 0.4 kilos of explosives, and some hot weapons when detecting the seven cases during the Lunar New Year Festival from 27 January to 2 February, local newspaper *People's Army* reported on Tuesday.

Four cases were unearthed in the two northern provinces of Son La and Lao Cai, and the southern province of Binh Phuoc. Border guards in Binh Phuoc detected a case of transporting lab-made drugs from Cambodia to Vietnam. By early 2004, Vietnam had a total of 169,000 drug addicts, of whom 30.5 per cent are from 13 northern mountainous provinces. According to law of the country, trafficking more than 600 grammes of heroin is punishable by death or life imprisonment.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., a Swiss Joint Stock Company duly organised under the laws of Switzerland, of Route Louis-Boule 10 at 12, 1763 Granges-Paccot, Switzerland, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

MAYSTORM

Reg. No. 9301/2005
in respect of " Class 12: Pneumatic tires and inner tubes for vehicle wheels; treads for retreading tires; tracks for track vehicles".

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 10 February 2006

China urges further talks to resolve Iran issue

BEIJING, 8 Feb—China said on Tuesday the Iranian nuclear standoff could still be defused through negotiations without a showdown in the United Nations, and urged countries to intensify efforts for a diplomatic compromise.

China voted for an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution on Iran because it believed that decision would encourage further talks.

"The Iranian nuclear issue should be

appropriately resolved through diplomatic negotiations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told reporters in Beijing.

"We still hope that this kind of resolution will help promote diplomatic resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue within the framework of the IAEA."

The IAEA decision made on 4 February calls for its chief Mohamed ElBaradei to report to it by 6 March on Iran's response to demands that it suspend nuclear

enrichment activities and improve cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog.

ElBaradei may send his report to the Security Council after the IAEA meeting in early March.

But Kong said the resolution did not oblige the IAEA to refer Iran to the Council, and he urged all the sides to intensify diplomatic efforts and called for Iran to abide by the resolution.

"There is still room to resolve the issue through diplomatic negotiations," he said.—MNA/Reuters

India should get nuclear power from thorium reserves

MANILA, 8 Feb— With complexity gripping talks between India and the US on the nuclear deal, India's President APJ Abdul Kalam has said energy independence should be the country's top priority and suggested development of nuclear power using thorium which is abundantly available at home.

"Nuclear power generation has been given a thrust by the use of uranium-based fuel (which US is set to supply to India if the deal comes through). However, there would be a requirement for ten-fold increase in nuclear power generation even to attain a reasonable degree of energy self-sufficiency for our country," Kalam said at the Asiatic Society gathering here on Sunday.

"Therefore, it is essential to pursue the development of nuclear power using thorium reserves which are abundant in the country," he said adding "technology development has to be accelerated for thorium-based reactors".

Kalam said one of the two pillars on which energy security rests is securing access to all sources of energy.

At the same time "we should access technologies to

provide a diverse supply of reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy", he said.

"India must achieve the real goal — that is energy independence or an economy which will function well within total freedom from oil, gas or coal imports," Kalam said.

"Hence, energy independence has to be India's top priority and highest priority. We must be determined to achieve this within the next 25 years, that is by the year 2030 — a 25-year national mission must be formulated, funds guaranteed and leadership entrusted without delay," the President said.

He also urged banks to come out with financial support for these programmes.

Kalam said that while energy security, which means ensuring India getting its citizens a supply of lifeline energy at affordable costs, is a very important need, "it must be considered as a transition strategy" as the "real goal is energy independence".

Setting a target of around 200 billion US dollars by 2008 for India's market share in IT services, IT enabled services and Business Process Outsourcing, Kalam said the target was an achievable one. — MNA/PTI

Uganda to procure thermal power plants to address power crisis

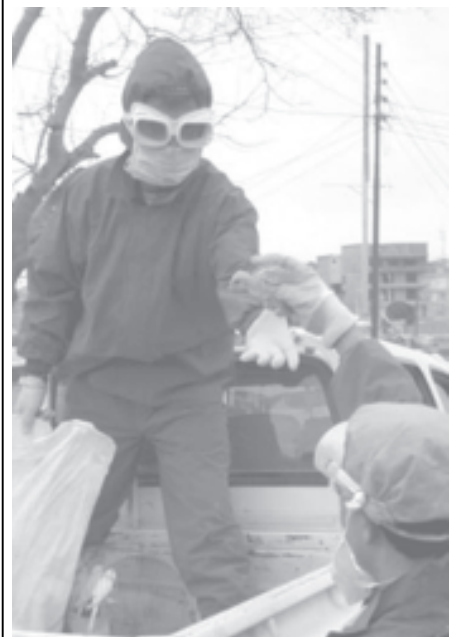
KAMPALA, 8 Feb— The Ugandan Government is in the process of procuring thermal plants to generate 150 megawatts (MW), as an emergency measure to address the current power shortage the country is facing, a senior government official has said.

The permanent secretary from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Fred Kabagambe, was quoted by local Press as saying on Tuesday that the installation of the first thermal generators that will generate 50 megawatts will be accomplished by June this year. He said of the 150

megawatts, 50 megawatts will be supplied by an independent power producer and will be installed in four months.

Uganda needs about 340 megawatts, but the country's two major dams, Kiira and Nalubaale, are generating 180 megawatts, supplemented by Aggreko's 50 megawatts of thermal electricity.

Kabagambe attributed the cause of the shortfall to reduce water levels at the two dams due to prolonged drought, delays in setting up of the 250 megawatts Bujagali power project that was to start in 2004 and increased demand.—MNA/Xinhua



Government workers confiscate a bird in a village near Sulaimaniya, about 331 km (210 miles) north of Baghdad, on 8 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

ပညာရေးပြင် ခေတ်မီပုံနှိပ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A bookcase, measuring 50 metres (164 feet) long, is suspended 10 metres (33 feet) above the floor in Nanjing, capital of east china's Jiangsu Province on 8 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

SingTel reports nearly 78 m mobile subscribers in Asia

SINGAPORE, 8 Feb—Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) said on Tuesday that its mobile subscriber base in Asia grew by 26 per cent last year to reach 77.79 million as of the end of 2005. "This is the largest mobile customer base in Asia outside of China," said a statement released on Tuesday by the company, which is one of the leading telecom services providers in the city state and Asia.

SingTel's five regional mobile associates in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand reported a total of 69.87 million

subscribers by the end of last year, posting an increase of 29.8 per cent over the previous year.

Its Australian subsidiary Optus expanded the user base to 6.3 million as of the end of 2005, up 1.6 per cent from a year ago, the statement said, adding that it "was achieved despite intense competition in the Australian mobile market". At home, the number of SingTel's mobile customers rose by 5.2 per cent from 2004 to reach 1.62 million at the end of last year, which included some 55,000 users of the third generation (3G) mobile services.—MNA/Xinhua

Toshiba develops fastest speed, highest density chip

TOKYO, 8 Feb—Japan's major electrical machinery maker Toshiba Corp announced on Tuesday it has developed a new chip that features the world's fastest operating speed and highest density.

The device, titled as Ferroelectric Random Access Memory, or FeRAM, has a 64-megabit storage capacity and can read and write 200 megabytes per second.

It is "the most advanced combination of performance and density yet achieved," *Kyodo News* quoted the company announcement as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

Cab carrying film actor hits girl in W India

NAGPUR, 8 Feb—A taxi, in which Indian film actor Salman Khan was travelling, Tuesday hit a teenaged girl near Bhandara here in West India, police said.

The girl suffered minor injuries and was admitted to a hospital, they said.

The actor was here to attend the birth centenary of Manohar Bhai Patel, father of federal Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel.—MNA/PTI



A mobile phone embedded with a computer chip is used to buy things at a kiosk by tapping it on a reading device marked with 'Suica' at Tokyo's JR Shinjuku Station on 8 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Japan's Princess Kiko expecting 3rd child

TOKYO, 8 Feb—Japan's Princess Kiko, wife of the Emperor's younger son, is pregnant, media said on Tuesday as the nation debates whether women should be allowed to inherit the imperial throne.

Public broadcaster NHK said the Imperial Household Agency was set to announce the pregnancy, but agency officials said there were no such plans and they could not confirm it.

The Princess's husband is Prince Akishino, the second son of Emperor Akihito. Her pregnancy, if confirmed, is likely to affect a debate on changing the succession law, because opponents of any change will want to wait and see if the baby is a boy.

No boys have been born into the imperial family since 1965, and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has said he wants to revise the law — which allows only males descended from emperors to become sovereign — in the current session of Parliament.

Those opposed to changing the longstanding tradition insist on maintaining the male line, some even promoting the idea of reviving the princely houses abolished after World War II in an attempt to find a male heir.

Some officials at the Imperial Household Agency have said in the past that they were pinning their hopes on Kiko and Akishino having a boy, who would be third in line to inherit the Chrysanthemum throne after his father and Crown Prince Naruhito.

Both of Kiko's two children are daughters. *Kyodo News* agency said she would likely give birth in September or October.—MNA/Reuters

Vietnam seeks big investment for aviation development

HANOI, 8 Feb—Vietnam needs 12 billion US dollars to develop its aviation sector in the 2005-2025 period, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported on Tuesday.

To obtain the large money, the country should have better policies on luring foreign investment, as domestic sources remain poor, the paper quoted local experts as saying.

"The state budget meets only one-fifth of the total capital," said head of the Planning and Investment Department under the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam, Dinh Viet Thang. Vietnam has intensified attracting both foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA) resources in the

aviation sector. But, foreign capital now constitutes a small portion of the sector's investment.

Since half of the needed money will be spent on upgrading aviation infrastructure, many foreign investors are wary of investing in projects that do not promise short-term profit. In terminal construction, investors may receive profit only when the number of passengers annually going through the terminal is at least six million, but now only Tan Son Nhat International Airport in southern Ho Chi Minh City reaches the

figure. This year, Vietnam will build a new terminal in Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi capital, expand Tan Son Nhat and upgrade Chu Lai Airport in central Quang Nam Province into a cargo transport center capable of handling 4.5 million tons per annum.

Vietnam has poured 1.57 trillion Vietnamese dong (roughly 99.4 million dollars) into upgrading its three international airports in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and central Da Nang City, and 22 airports nationwide since 1993.

MNA/Xinhua



Pilot Steve Fossett lifts off from the runway in the Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer aircraft as he attempts a record breaking flight from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Fla on 8 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Turkey furious over "political" punishment from FIFA

ISTANBUL, 9 Feb — Turkish media responded angrily on Wednesday to FIFA's punishment ordering Turkey to play its next six home matches abroad and behind closed doors, in a move seen as jeopardizing its chances of qualifying for Euro 2008.

The sanctions imposed by football's governing body was in response to a fracas at their World Cup qualifier against Switzerland in Istanbul.

Turkey has vowed to appeal the ruling, which the country's Sports Minister described as politically motivated. "A Clash of Civilizations," said a headline in the Islamic-leaning Yeni Safak newspaper. "The increasing political hostility in Europe is reflected in the decisions of FIFA's disciplinary committee," it said.

The committee was chaired by Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The sanctions, which apply to official matches and not friendlies, are among the most severe handed out to a national association and papers said it unfairly punished the fans.

In effect it means that Turkey must play their entire qualification programme for the 2008 European championships abroad. They have been drawn alongside European champions Greece, Norway, Bosnia, Hungary, Moldova and Malta in qualifying Group C.

"What is the spectator's crime? An unjust punishment from FIFA," the daily Sabah newspaper said in a front-page headline.

The paper published FIFA's phone and fax numbers and called on readers to send a protest letter to FIFA President Sepp Blatter, providing a sample letter in English.

"It is clear that you don't like to see our country in Switzerland at Euro 2008 but I am sure we will succeed in qualifying for the finals. We will be there," the letter said.

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. — MNA/Reuters



Goalkeeper Gaston Sessa of Argentine team Velez Sarfield concedes a goal during the first round Copa Libertadores soccer match against Ecuador's LDU of Quito at the Casa Blanca Stadium in Quito on 7 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

NHL asst coach charged in NJ sports gambling ring

NEW YORK, 9 Feb — A Phoenix Coyotes ice hockey associate coach has been charged with helping finance a multimillion-dollar sports gambling ring, New Jersey authorities said on Tuesday.

Rick Tocchet, a former star player in the National Hockey League, was served with a criminal complaint in Arizona after an investigation dubbed "Operation Slap Shot".

The state police complaint said the ring's clientele included past and present pro athletes and Tocchet said the complaint involved betting on football games, not hockey.

The investigation also resulted in the arrest of a

veteran New Jersey state trooper and another man, according to the New Jersey Attorney General Zulima Farber and state police.

The state police complaint said that in a 40-day period, the betting ring took more than 1,000 wagers exceeding 1.7 million US dollars on professional and collegiate sporting events.

"It's not a hockey-related issue. It's a football

thing," Tocchet, 41, told reporters at a Coyotes practice on Tuesday morning at the Glendale Arena in a Phoenix suburb. "And at this time, I can't really comment on anything further."

Tocchet, who played 18 years in the NHL with six different teams, was served with the complaint on Monday and is expected to come to New Jersey to answer charges of promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy, New Jersey police said.

Police said in addition to bookmaking and corruption charges, the investigation also revealed alleged ties to an organized crime group operating in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey.

NHL Deputy Commis-

sioner Bill Daly said in a statement: "We understand that Mr Tocchet's conduct in no way involved betting on hockey."

"We take this issue very seriously and will monitor the proceedings closely."

James Harney, an eight-year veteran state trooper, and New Jersey resident James Ulmer, who allegedly served as a "sitter" who funneled wagers to Harney, also were arrested, police said.

Coyotes head coach and former NHL superstar Wayne Gretzky told reporters at the practice: "Obviously we're concerned and obviously we feel bad. It's a situation that obviously concerns the organization at this point. Other than that, hopefully things work out." —MNA/Reuters

Safina reaches Paris Open quarter final

PARIS, 9 Feb — Russian Dinara Safina remained on course to retain her title, taming France's Virginie Razzano 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday to reach the women's Paris Open quarterfinals.

The seventh seed will take on the winner of Thursday's second-round match between compatriot Vera Dushevina and top-seed Amelie Mauresmo.

The French woman is returning to action after clinching her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in Melbourne last month.

"It was everything but an easy match because Virginie played pretty well," Safina said. "She was very solid on her baseline and she did some good runs.

"I feel more relaxed as I'm improving from one match to the other," she added.

Fifth-seed Elena Dementieva took less than an hour to beat Swedish qualifier Sofia Arvidsson 6-2, 6-2 and cruise into the second round.

Dementieva arrived in Paris on Monday after winning in Tokyo at the weekend.

"I was a little bit tired," the world number eight said. "It's tough to play when you are jet-lagged. I hope it will be better

tomorrow. What I want right now is to take a nap."

Dementieva will face France's Nathalie Dechy who humbled compatriot Marion Bartoli 6-0, 6-2 for her first victory this year.

"I came here chasing for a success," Dechy said. "I knew that my game was improving but I needed a win. I served rather well today."

Second-seed Mary Pierce reached the quarter-finals thanks to a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues.

The world number six looked in a relatively good shape and said she had overcome the disappointment of her elimination in the second round of the Australian Open.

"I didn't play my best tennis tonight but I won and it's the important thing," said Pierce who will face compatriot Emilie Loit in the quarterfinals.

"It's good for the public here as they can be sure that a Frenchwoman will be in the last four," she said. — MNA/Reuters



Elena Dementieva of Russia hits a return to Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden during their match at the Paris Open tennis tournament at Pierre de Coubertin stadium in Paris on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Italy to impose no-fly ban during Games opening

TURIN, 9 Feb — Italian authorities will close the airspace over Turin on Friday when athletes and foreign dignitaries, including US First Lady Laura Bush, attend the Winter Olympics opening ceremony.

The no-fly order was the latest move to protect the thousands of athletes and at least 15 visiting foreign leaders gathering in Turin for the Games, which start with the opening ceremony at 8 pm (1900 GMT) on Friday.

No flights will be permitted in or out of Turin's Caselle airport from 6:45 pm (1745 GMT) to 11:15 pm (2215 GMT) on Friday, airport operator Sagat said in a statement.

Exceptions will be made for aircraft carrying dignitaries or emergency teams.

Italy has deployed thousands of police, snipers and armed skiers to patrol the slopes, venues and living quarters of athletes staying in Turin and villages in the nearby Alps. —MNA/Reuters

Copenhagen to stage key 2009 IOC Congress

TURIN, 9 Febr — Copenhagen will stage the 2009 International Olympic Committee Congress, IOC members voted on Wednesday. The city beat off Cairo in the final round of voting to win the right to host the lucrative event. The host of the 2016 Summer Olympics will be chosen in Copenhagen and an election will be held for a new four-year term for IOC President Jacques Rogge if he decides to continue.

If Rogge decides to step down, the meeting in the Danish capital will decide a successor.

Many had feared Copenhagen's chances had been dented by the wave of fury sweeping the Middle East and Asia over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad.

The cartoons were originally published in Denmark and there have been attacks on Danish diplomatic buildings in Teheran, Beirut and Syria.

IOC members, however, plumped for the Danish capital by 59 votes to 40 in the final round of voting at their Session in Turin. Athens, Riga, Singapore, Taipei and Busan were eliminated in earlier rounds.

The first Congress was held at the University of the Sorbonne in Paris in June 1894. At that Congress, the Baron Pierre de Coubertin officially proclaimed the creation of the IOC and the restoration of the Olympic Games. Since 1894, twelve Olympic Congresses have taken place, with the most recent in Paris in 1994, the IOC's centenary year. —MNA/Reuters

Microsoft plans new PC security service in June

SEATTLE, 9 Feb — Microsoft Corp. said on Tuesday it plans to launch a new computer security service in June, marking the world's biggest software maker's entry into the fast-growing consumer anti-virus market.

Microsoft's Windows OneCare Live, a subscription-based, self-updating service, will push the software giant into competition with consumer security providers Symantec Corp and McAfee Inc.

The company downplayed a potential showdown with the PC security firms, including Trend Micro Inc, saying it did not see any other company offering an all-in-one service that included anti-virus, firewall and anti-spyware software along with backup and computer performance maintenance tools.

"As I look into this market right now, there is nobody else in this category," said Dennis Bonsall, director of Windows OneCare Live.

The Windows OneCare Live will be available via retailers and the web for an annual fee of 49.95 US dollars for up to three computers,

targeting consumers and small businesses.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft started offering a test version of the security and maintenance service in November and said it has nearly 200,000 "beta" users of the product.

Established players in the PC security indus-

try are already bracing for Microsoft's entry by bundling anti-spyware protection with anti-virus software. Last week, Symantec's CEO John Thompson said the company would make investments to fend off Microsoft and any other potential competitors.

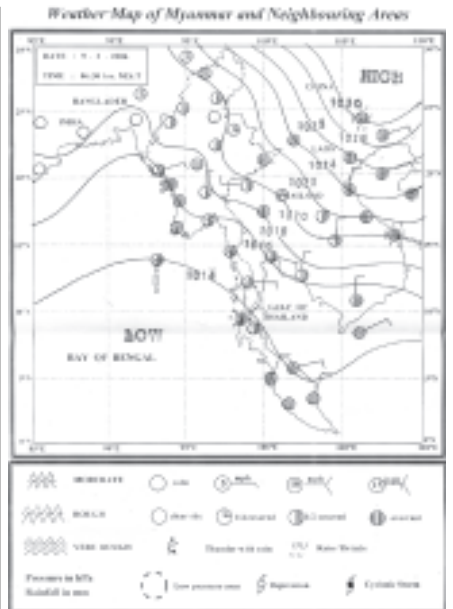
Windows OneCare

Live's business model of delivering services and products through the Internet reflects Microsoft's efforts to use the web to quickly and easily deliver new products and services to customers, a strategy employed by rivals Google Inc and Yahoo Inc.

MNA/Reuters



A general interior view shows the laboratory at the Alessandro Bertinaria anti-doping centre located at the San Luigi Hospital of Orbassano near Turin, Italy, on 7 Feb, 2006. The centre will be used during the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games. — INTERNET



WEATHER

Thursday, 9 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi 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 8-2-2006 was 93°F.

Minimum temperature on 9-2-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 9-2-2006 was (78%). Total sunshine hours on 8-2-2006 was (3.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-2-2006 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 (4) mph from Northwest at (17:30) hours MST on 8-2-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.


Forecast valid until evening of 10-2-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain in Rakhine and Northern Shan States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-2-2006: Partly cloudy.



Friday, 10 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. တေးဂျူးဂွမ်းဂွမ်းဆရာတော် တုရာကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ ဗဟုသုတအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် အောင်ချစ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဟာသဒ္ဒမ္မ ဇောတိက၊ တီပီဂျက်ဇေ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် တဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဖရိုတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercises

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဇာနည်း

8:00 am

6. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

7. The mirror images of the musical olides

8:15 am

8. အကဖြေပွဲ

8:20 am

9. (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဝုဏ်မြို့အစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. English for everyday use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs for uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒ အထူးပြု (ရူပဗေဒ))

4:45 pm

4. Song of National Races

4:55 pm

5. Songs of yesteryears

5:00 pm

6. (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဝုဏ်မြို့အစီအစဉ်

5:20 pm

7. "မြတ်ဗိမာန်ခေတ်အရာနေ့" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊ စိုးမိုးကြည်၊ ပုလဲဝင်း၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန် (ဖိုးနွယ်))

5:30 pm

8. သုတနုလင် ရွှေညွှန်ရှင်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရာဇ်စဉ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၄)

7:25 pm

12. (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဝုဏ်မြို့အစီအစဉ်

7:35 pm


13. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မြတ် ရန်သန် နိုင်စာရန်မှာ တို့ဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ရာအညွှတ်တစ်ခု နိုင်ပြည်ထောင်စု)

7:40 pm

14. လောင်းစာရွမ်းအင် အသုံးဝင် ခြံစည်းရိုးကြက်လှောင် (ကြက်ရွာရိုးမှ ဘိုင်းအိုဒီဇီ)

8:00 pm

15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နင်းသီအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း-၆)
19. The next day's programme



Friday, 10 February
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

8:50 am National news / slogan

9:00 am Music:

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:

1:30 pm News / slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music

9:00 pm "Variations on tune" Wom

9:15 pm Article/music

9:25 pm Discussion

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 Flag arrives Dagon Myothit (South) Township

YANGON, 9 Feb — The Union Flag that rested a night at Thihadipa Sports Ground in Thanlyin Township yesterday was conveyed to Dagon Myothit (South) Township representing Yangon East District by the Union Boat and flag relay teams



Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein salutes the Union Flag. — MNA

this morning.

While the people together with Guard of Honour of Yangon Command saluted the Union Flag at the sports ground in Thanlyin, the Military Band of Yangon Command played the national anthem. Next, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyay took out the Union Flag from the silver bowl and carried it flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students and national races. At the archway of the sports ground, Lt-Col Aung Pyay handed over the flag to Chairman of Yangon East District PDC Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein.

Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein carried the Flag again and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais on board the Union Boat. Afterwards, the Union Flag was conveyed by the Union Boat to Dagon Myothit (South) Township representing Yangon East District.

Along the route, local people, authorities, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, war veterans, teachers, students, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, totalling over 120,000 in Thakayta, Dawbon, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit (South) and



The Union Flag is being conveyed by flag relay teams. — MNA

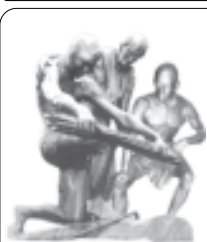
Dagon Myothit (North) Townships welcomed the Union Flag.

(See page 10)



Guard of Honour of Yangon Command and local people salute the Union Flag at the sports ground in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

INSIDE



Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

It is your duty to enhance Union Spirit already inculcated into the youths. Only when people are fully equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the Union of Myanmar exist in perpetuity.

Pyay road to be closed temporarily

YANGON, 9 Feb — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council announced that Pyay road section between Ahlon road and Shin Saw Pu road will temporarily be closed to traffic from 6 am to 9 am on 12 February 2006 while the 59th Anniversary Union Day ceremony is being held.— MNA