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National people to build and safeguard a single motherland

Ours is a Union where various national races reside together everywhere. All national races are living together in the nation made up of 14 States and Divisions. Loving kindness, attachment and truthfulness have grown firmly through age-long existence. Therefore, it is Union Spirit of national people who live in the same land and drinking water from the same source to build and safeguard a single motherland. In other words, Union Spirit is patriotism cultivated by correct national belief.

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

(From address at the graduation parade of the 45th Intake of Defence Services Academy)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host Union Day commemorative reception and dinner to Union Day delegates, cultural troupes of States and Divisions

YANGON, 12 Feb — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a reception to mark the 59th Anniversary Union Day and the dinner, on the lawns of the President House on Ahlon Road, here, this evening. At 6.30 pm, the Senior General and wife arrived at the reception and dinner. (See page 7)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates, cultural troupes of States and Divisions and Taninthayi Division, and Union Day delegate USDA members of States and Divisions at 59th Anniversary Union Day Reception and Dinner. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 February, 2006

Strive for further strengthening national solidarity

The Union of Myanmar is a nation with high culture and national prestige and integrity. Since time immemorial, national brethren such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living in the Union of Myanmar through thick and thin based on family spirit and Union Spirit.

The Union Day (the 12th February) is a day of historical significance, on which Myanmar has been able to free herself from the yoke of colonialists through national solidarity, and become an independent and sovereign nation.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe sent the message on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Union Day. In the message of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, it is stated that the entire national races are to accept that stability, peace, development and existence of the Union of Myanmar encompassing all the national races completely rely on the strength of national solidarity and flourishing of Union Spirit.

Throughout the Myanmar history, the spirit of national unity, Union spirit and anti-colonialist spirit or the spirit of collectively repulsing alien intrusion have always reflected the national vigour that enables the Union to stand tall among the world nations.

Neo-colonialists are making attempts to cause racial dissension for the ruining of national solidarity that is the foundation of the Union and the recurrence of armed conflicts.

At present also, some powers eager to dominate and manipulate the Union of Myanmar are attempting to undermine national unity and obstruct national development. They are also imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar and attempting to incite political instigation to hinder the momentum of national development.

Nowadays, efforts are being made under the leadership of the government for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In the process, the National Convention, the first and most important step of the seven-point Road Map, is being held with the participation of the delegates from all walks of life.

An enduring State constitution that will ensure continued flourishing of liberty, justice, equality and the rule of law in the country will soon emerge.

Therefore, the entire national people are to try their best with Union Spirit for further strengthening national solidarity that has existed in successive eras.



U Tin Maung Kyi-Daw Khin Mar Kyi and family of Mayangon Township present K 100,000 to Secretary of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board Major Aung Than (Retd) recently. — H

Union Day Pledge

Disintegration of national solidarity will lead to loss of independence. We shall march towards a new peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the strength of the national solidarity in accord with seven-step Road Map.

Production of iodized salt discussed in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 12 Feb — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Managing Director of Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise U Win Htain inspected salt fields in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, on 9 February.

Managing Director U Win Htain reported on production of iodized salt. The minister gave instructions on arrangements for production of salt for industries.

The minister oversaw salt fields and met local authorities, entrepreneurs, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association. They discussed rural development tasks and cultivation of physic nut. The minister inspected Thahmephyu



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint oversees Thahmephyu salt industry in Ngaputaw Township. — MINES

salt industry in Ngaputaw Township on 10 February and discussed production of salt and collection of revenues with officials concerned in Labutta Township on 11 February. — MNA

Vehicles of Tatmadaw and departments checked on dry day

YANGON, 12 Feb — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and members of the committee supervised functions of Dry Day inspection teams this morning and evening.

At the main points of Yangon from 7 am to 5 pm, the dry day inspection teams performed their tasks to check dry day pass, driver's licence, and wheel tax bill of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles and wearing of respective uniforms and breaking of traffic rules. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Union Day delegates visit Memorial to Fallen Heroes

YANGON, 12 Feb — The delegates and cultural troupes who attended the 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations, accompanied by Secretary of Reception and Accommodation Sub-Committee Lt-Col Tin Kyaing and officials, visited the Memorial to Fallen Heroes and laid wreaths at the memorial here this morning.

They also visited Shwedagon Pagoda and donated K 118,390 to the pagoda. Later, they proceeded to Maha Wizaya Pagoda. The Union Day delegates also donated K 106,650 to the pagoda and paid homage to it. — MNA



Union Day delegates and cultural troupes pay tribute to fallen heroes at Memorial to Fallen Heroes. — MNA

S Africa continues to be China's largest trade partner

BEIJING, 11 Feb — In 2005, the trade volume between China and South Africa grew 23 per cent year-on-year to 7.27 billion US dollars, making South Africa remain China's largest trade partner in Africa.

China is willing to enhance technology transfer and investment cooperation with South Africa in textile, agriculture, mining and medicine, said Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Wei Jianguo, when meeting here Wednesday with Vusi Koloane, Charge d'Affaires of South Africa in China.

China hopes the first round talks on establishment of free trade area between China and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) will be started as soon as

possible, Wei said. Wei also urged South Africa to take substantial measures to protect the life and property of Chinese citizens living in the country.

Three Chinese business people were killed by armed robbers in South Africa within the space of 36 hours last weekend; another one was killed earlier this year.

South Africa will further improve its investment environment so as to attract more Chinese business people, said Vusi Koloane. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia predicts 660m barrels of oil production in 2006

JAKARTA, 11 Feb — Indonesia predicts to produce about 660 million barrels of oil this year, according to a document obtained by Xinhua on Saturday from the Ministry of Mines and Energy Resources.

The document said that based on the fiscal and business as usual (BAU) scenarios, Indonesia has targeted to export some 260 million barrels of oil and will import about 225 million barrels of oil this year.

The country's oil production in condition of BAU is predicted to continue to decline to more than 200 million barrels in 2010, and based on the fiscal scenario, the production will reach more than 400 million barrels, it said.

Meanwhile, oil export in 2010 in condition of BAU is predicted to be

about 160 million barrels and based on the fiscal scenario, it will be some 150 million barrels, said the document.

Import in condition of BAU will decline in 2010 to about 500 million barrels and based on fiscal scenario efficiency will be below 500 million barrels,

it added.

Indonesia's oil production declined at 5 per cent rate or more annually.

Indonesia's state-run oil firm Pertamina sees January oil product consumption at 943,000 barrel per day.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor passes an art work by Mariscal displayed at the Spanish International Arts Fair (ARCO) in Madrid, Spain, on 11 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

US soldier killed in car accident in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 11 Feb — A US soldier was killed on Thursday in a vehicle accident in Afghan eastern province of Nangarhar, US military said on Friday.

"A US service member was killed yesterday when the high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle he was travelling in was involved in a rollover northwest of Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province," the

US military said in a Press release.

"The vehicle was operating as part of a combat patrol at the time of the accident," it added.

"The cause of the accident is under

investigation. No other people in the vehicle were injured. The name of the service member is being withheld pending notification of next of kin," it said.

After the collapse of Taliban in late 2001, the US-led Coalition forces stayed in Afghanistan for the further clean-up and anti-terrorism operation.

Till now more than 200 US soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan. The American Government has decided to reduce the troops from 19,000 to about 16,000 in 2006, but promised the presence and commitment in the war-torn country. A couple of days ago, the American Government has announced the cancelling of all the debts of Afghanistan.

Internet

MNA/Xinhua

British troops videoed 'beating Iraqis'

LONDON, 12 Feb—Details emerged last night of a shocking video which appears to show a group of British soldiers brutally beating and kicking defenceless Iraqi teenagers in an army compound.

The footage is said to show eight soldiers pulling four teenagers off the street following a riot

and dragging them into their army base, before beating them with batons, as well as punching and

kicking them.

An urgent Military Police investigation was under way last night into the events shown in the video.

The Ministry of Defence issued the following statement: 'We are aware of these very serious allegations and can confirm that they are the subject of an urgent Royal Military Police investigation. We condemn all acts of abuse and treat any allegation of wrongdoing extremely seriously.'

But the emergence of the footage, given to the *News of the World* by an anonymous whistleblower, will spark a huge controversy about the conduct of the army in Iraq.

There were also fears that it could lead to more attacks on the British soldiers currently serving there.

The MoD has repeatedly given assurances that Iraqis who are captured are treated with respect and decency by British troops.

The Abu Ghraib

prison scandal involving Americans, dating back to 2004, shocked the world but Downing Street was adamant that there could not be any similar scandal involving the UK forces.

However, there have been investigations by MoD prosecutors into a series of serious allegations of abuse by its troops in southern Iraq.

Ecuadorean police seize 469 kilos of cocaine

QUITO, 11 Feb — Ecuadorean police seized around 469 kilos of cocaine and arrested 11 people in a recent operation carried out in four provinces, police said.

The drug in 431 packets is worth about 18.4 million US dollars on the international market.

The 11 arrested include six Colombians, four Ecuadoreans and one minor.

In the operation, police also seized seven guns, nearly 3,500 US dollars, 112,000 Colombian pesos, 105 Uruguayan pesos, 10 telephones and two cars.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers scan rooftops for armed groups from their position in the open back of a humvee in Ramadi, 115 kilometres (70 miles) west of Baghdad, on 10 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

US military death toll rises to 2,269

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb—As of Saturday, 11 Feb, 2006, at least 2,269 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 1,779 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is one lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EST.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,130 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,670 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. —Internet

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China welcomes Iran-Russia nuclear talks

BEIJING, 10 Feb — China said on Thursday it welcomed nuclear talks between Iran and Russia planned for next week to defuse a crisis over Teheran's atomic programme.

"We hope that this Russian invitation to Iran to hold talks on the 16th about participating in an international uranium enrichment centre will help break, or encourage a break, in the current stalemate over the Iranian nuclear issue," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a regular news conference.

The deputy head of Iran's National Security Council would lead Teheran's delegation to the talks in Moscow next week, Russia's *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported earlier. — *MNA/Reuters*

US Govt watchdogs say Iraq needs more money to rebuild

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — Two US Government watchdogs said Iraq will need more money to rebuild than the 56 billion US dollars forecast by the World Bank and the United Nations in 2003, US media reported on Thursday.

"That number in fact will be much higher," said Stuart Bowen, the US special inspector-general for Iraq reconstruction, though he did not go into detail. Joseph Christoff, director of international affairs at the US Government Account-

ability Office (GAO), said guerilla attacks, looting, and sabotage are increasing war recovery costs while Iraq's water, sewer, and electricity systems are in worse shape than previously thought. Both of them said that Iraq's oil refineries and pipelines are also in need of repairs.

The World Bank, the United Nations and the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority estimated in 2003 that Iraq's reconstruction needs through 2007 would be about 56 billion dollars.

The US authorized 18.4 billion dollars for Iraq rebuilding, with an expectation that other countries and companies would contribute to the total, along with Iraqi oil revenue.

International donors have so far provided only 2.7 billion dollars of the 13.6 billion dollars pledged for Iraq's reconstruction.

Christoff said Iraq's ability to help pay for its own rebuilding will depend on the new government's success in boosting revenue from crude oil exports, reducing energy and food subsidies, paying for a growing security force and making payments to international creditors and victims of the 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

However, he said Iraqi officials are having problems producing and refining oil and protecting refineries and pipelines from attacks, and that the country will need more money to achieve its production goals.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand ready to host international meeting on bird flu

BANGKOK, 11 Feb — Thailand is willing to host a new international conference on bird flu and to assist neighbouring countries in containing the disease as requested by the World Health Organization (WHO), according to local media report on Saturday.

The report said that Thai Public Health Minister Pinij Jarusombat told journalists Friday after meeting with WHO Director for Asia and the Pacific Dr Samlee Plianbangchang and representatives of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) that he had discussed with the UN officials the planned international conference on bird flu in which ministers concerned from more than 30 countries will take part in.

The international meeting will be hosted by India in April, Pinij said. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A Chinese girl looks at lotus flower-shaped lanterns for the upcoming Lantern Festival in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province on 10 Feb, 2006. The traditional Chinese festival will fall on 12 Feb. — INTERNET

Eight Afghan soldiers killed in two blasts

ASADABAD (Afghanistan), 12 Feb — Roadside bombs killed eight Afghan soldiers on Friday, a provincial governor said, in the latest incidents of violence as NATO members prepare to expand an Afghan peacekeeping force.

Seven soldiers were wounded in two separate blasts in Kunar Province, which is on the border with Pakistan, said the province's governor, Assadullah Wafa.

"The soldiers were going in convoys when the enemies of Afghanistan set off bombs planted on the roads," Wafa told *Reuters*.

Six soldiers were killed in one of the blasts and two were killed in the other, he said.

He did not elaborate on who he thought was responsible but Taliban and allied militants are known to operate in the province.

US forces mounted a major sweep to clear insurgents from Kunar last year and 16 US troops were killed there in June when their helicopter was shot down.

A US missile strike on a Pakistani village opposite Kunar last month killed at least 18 civilians, and possibly several suspected al-Qaeda members, though no bodies have been found.

In a separate incident, four Canadian soldiers were slightly wounded when a roadside bomb hit their armoured vehicle in the southern Kandahar Province on Thursday evening, a spokesman for Canadian troops said. A Taliban commander claimed responsibility.

Afghanistan has seen a surge of bomb attacks in recent months, including numerous suicide blasts.

Defence ministers agreed to check security measures in place for their 9,000-strong International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan, but insisted its expansion to 16,000 troops this year would go ahead as planned.

NATO would then manage all international peacekeeping in the country, allowing a larger US-led force to reduce troop numbers and focus on hunting the Taliban and al-Qaeda remnants seen as behind the insurgency. — *MNA/Reuters*

Tobacco kills 200,000 Brazilians each year

BRASILIA, 11 Feb — Brazil's National Cancer Institute (INC) said that 200,000 Brazilians die each year due to tobacco-related illnesses, even though fewer Brazilians are smoking than ever before, local Press reported on Thursday.

Vera Colombo, a specialist at the INC's tobacco division, said that 25 million Brazilians now smoke.

The government's campaign

currently targets children attending 8,000 schools across the country.

Colombo also congratulated the organizers of the World Health Organization's international conference against tobacco related illnesses, taking place this week in Switzerland. Tobacco-related illnesses include asthma, bronchitis, respiratory infections, heart attacks and lung cancer. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Venezuela hopes to increase oil exports to China

CARACAS, 10 Feb — Venezuela hopes to nearly double its oil exports to China in the near future, Venezuelan Oil and Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said here on Wednesday.

Ramirez, who is also the head of the state oil company Petroleo de Venezuela (PDVSA), told reporters that "we are hoping to sell 300,000 BPD to this market (China) very soon". According to two contracts signed between PDVSA and the China National Petroleum Corporation last year, Venezuela now sells 100,000 BPD of crude oil and 60,000 BPD of fuel oil to China.

"We will complete the construction of the Jose Complex's orimulsion module, which belongs to CNPC," said Ramirez.

Orimulsion is an artificial fuel blend, which results from a mixture of water and extra-heavy

crude found in Venezuela's Orinoco River basin.

Ties between Venezuela and China have been strengthened since late 2004 after President Hugo

Chavez visited China and signed a series of agreements on co-operation in petroleum, gas, telecommunications and trade. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqi soldiers secure a road on a vehicle at a checkpoint in Baghdad on 11 Feb, 2006. — INTERNET

Musharraf likely to brief Chinese leaders about Indo-Pakistani ties

BEIJING, 11 Feb — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf is expected to brief the Chinese leadership on the latest developments in his country's relations with India during his 19-23 February visit to the Communist nation.

Besides, he is likely to welcome China's active role in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), diplomatic sources said.

Musharraf has been invited by his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said on Thursday.

Apart from Hu, also the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chairman of Central Military Commission (CMC), Musharraf will meet other Chinese leaders during his visit.

Hu and Musharraf had met in New York on 15 September last on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

"This is a very important state visit. The talks and meetings will focus on how to further enhance and deepen the friendship, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries," Kong said, adding the two sides will also sign some agreements on cooperation. No details were given.

"We believe and hope that President Musharraf's visit will help promote the further deepening of strategic cooperation partnership between our two countries," he said.

In April, 2005, China and Pakistan had

signed the agreement on good-neighbourly and friendly cooperation and established their strategic cooperative partnership.

"China and Pakistan are friendly neighbours and we share all-weather friendship and all-dimensional cooperation between us," Kong commented on the traditionally friendly bilateral ties.

MNA/PTI



A French soldier sprays a chemical to battle a mosquito-borne virus, the Chikungunya, that has infected more than 50,000 people on the French island of La Reunion in the Indian Ocean, in Saint-Denis, La Reunion, on 10 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Havana forum condemns US-led Iraq war

HAVANA, 12 Feb — Participants at an international forum held in Havana on Friday condemned the US-led war in Iraq, describing it as "illegal and immoral".

In a resolution adopted at the end of the 8th International Globalization and Development Issues Forum, the participants said they were worried by the war-like policies and diplomatic stance shown by the US Government.

The forum was attended by some 1,500 people from more than 40 countries, including such dignitaries as Cuban President Fidel Castro and former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir

bin Mohamad.

The resolution said the strategy adopted by the US Administration put the survival of the planet in peril.

It also criticized Washington for increasing its military spending. The document added that nearly three years after the start of the Iraq war, the world is upset by the disastrous consequences of a conflict it described as "criminal, illegal and immoral".

The participants

called for unity among all groups demanding an end to the war. They also demanded an end to the human rights violations committed in Iraq in the name of fighting terrorism.

"The lies and falsehoods" used by the US Government are designed to set off a military escalation and a policy of systematic aggression against governments and their people, the resolution said.

MNA/Xinhua



Children suffering from bird flu-like symptoms are seen in a hospital in Sulaimaniyah, 260 kilometres (160 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 9 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Car bomb in Baghdad kills 11

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — A car bomb exploded in Baghdad on Friday, killing at least 11 people and wounding 38, doctors at al-Yarmuk Hospital told Reuters.

Police said they had reports of eight dead and 28 wounded in the blast in the Doura District of southern Baghdad. The district is one of the most volatile in the capital.

The blast took place as Iraq's electoral commission announced the final results of December's parliamentary elections, which confirmed the dominance of the ruling Shiite Alliance.

Sunni guerrillas fighting to topple the US-backed Kurdish and Shiite-led government have accused the Shiites of cheating their way to

victory. Iraqi and US military officials have warned of more guerilla

violence around the announcement of the results. — MNA/Reuters

Earthquake hits central Chile

SANTIAGO (Chile), 11 Feb — A medium-sized earthquake shook central Chile on Friday, rattling buildings, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damages, officials said.

The quake occurred at around 2:50 pm local time (1750 GMT) and could be felt in office buildings in the Chilean capital.

The US Geological Survey said on its website that the earthquake had a magnitude of 4.9 and was centred off Chile's central coast near the port city of Valparaiso. A 4.9 magnitude earthquake will be felt by most people, and can break windows, but does not damage constructions, according to the USGS website. — MNA/Reuters

MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay), 11 Feb — Salvage experts recovered a massive bronze eagle emblem on Friday from the wreckage of a Nazi battleship scuttled off the coast of Uruguay at the outset of World War II.

The ship — the *Graf Spee* — was a symbol of German military strength in the war. It sank nine

vessels in the Atlantic Ocean before being badly damaged in December 1939 during the battle of the River Plate, one of the war's first naval clashes.

After making port in the Uruguayan capital, Montevideo, the ship was sunk with explosives by its captain to prevent it from falling into enemy hands.

Divers have been working on and off since 1998 to recover the ship piece by piece, part of a multimillion-dollar effort by Argentine and German investors to refloat remains of the Nazi fleet and open a museum.

"This is a very unique piece in the world," said Hector Bado, leader of the recovery effort, adding the bronze eagle weighed up to 880 pounds (400 kilos).

Eagles were often used with swastikas in Nazi symbolism.

The recovery was the second major one by the international team of divers. In 2004, the group raised the *Graf Spee's* range finder, a component that held the first radar antenna installed on a warship.

MNA/Reuters

Land mine kills two, injures 28 in Angola

LUANDA, 11 Feb — An anti-tank land mine blew up a passenger-laden truck in Angola's highland Bie Province, killing two people and injuring 28 others, six seriously.

According to local media on Friday, the incident took place near the town of Andulo Wednesday, when construction workers were returning home at the end of the day.

Angola is considered to be one of the world's most heavily mined countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin says Russia to join int'l effort to aid poor countries

Moscow, 12 Feb — Russia has decided to take part in financing the programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to aid the poorest countries suffering from external disasters, President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday.

"In the period of 2006 through to 2010, we will make a voluntary contribution amounting to 30 million Special Drawing Rights, or about 43.5 million US dollars for these purposes," Putin said when receiving G-8 finance ministers in the Kremlin.

The President also indicated that Russia was ready to allocate an additional 587 million dollars to the International Development Association (IDA) as a compensation for the write-off of the poorest countries' debts.

"The money will be used to eliminate the so-

called structural breaks, and the whole set of our proposals will make the IDA financially stable for a period of five to 10 years as a minimum, depending on what plan of action is chosen," Putin said.

Talking about a programme of early repayment of Russian debts to the Paris Club, Putin said Russia is ready to make a new repayment that will amount to 11.9 billion dollars.

"This proposal will support development of the world's poorest

countries," he said.

On Saturday, Russia played host to the G-8 financial minister's meeting for the first time. Reports said the world's second-largest oil exporter was eager to highlight its newfound financial muscle and brush off its suspicion over its reliability as an energy supplier. —MNA/Xinhua



A woman looks at the mobile phones at a 3G shop in Hong Kong on 11 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Two Nepalese kidnapped in Afghan capital

KABUL, 12 Feb — Two Nepalese were kidnapped Saturday morning in Afghan capital Kabul, an Afghan official said.

"This morning at about 9:00 am (0430 GMT) two Nepalese were kidnapped in Charah-i-ansari, central area of Kabul," an official from Interior Ministry told Xinhua.

Afghan Government has sent someone to the area to investigate about the reason and current situation about the kidnapping, Interior Ministry spokesperson Stanizi said.

Charah-i-ansari area is a kind of business centre in Kabul which is always very crowded.

Last year an Italian aid worker was kidnapped one night from her car also in the central area of Kabul, and was finally released after some time's negotiation between Afghan Government and the kidnapers.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran ready to increase crude oil supply to Philippines

MANILA, 12 Feb — Iran said on Friday it is willing to provide additional crude oil to the Philippines if it is needed.

Iranian Ambassador to the Philippines Jalal Kalantari said at a Press conference that Iran made this assurance to the Philippine Government during bilateral consultations between the two countries.

"We have indicated that in case additional supply is needed, we are ready to negotiate," he said.

Bilateral trade

between Manila and Teheran reached about 800 million US dollars in 2004 because of heavy imports of Iranian oil by the Philippines, which buys from 70,000 to 110,000 barrels of oil a day from Iran.

The Philippines relies by more than 90 per cent on imports of oil products for its energy supply.

Iran, the Philippines' third largest trade partner in the Middle East, recently invested 100 million US dollars in the Philippine petrochemical sector, which is considered a sign of flourishing ties between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Thunderstorm delays flights at Johannesburg Airport

JOHANNESBURG, 12 Feb — A thunderstorm, accompanied by hail, was delaying outgoing flights at Johannesburg International Airport by between 40 minutes and an hour on Friday afternoon.

Airport spokesman Solomon Makgale said the storm hit the airport around 5 pm (1500 GMT).

Incoming flights were allowed to land but outgoing flights were grounded, he said.

Seventeen domestic, one regional and three international flights were affected, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Moderate aftershock jolts northern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb — A moderate aftershock of 5.2 intensity jolted the Pakistani capital of Islamabad and other northern cities on Saturday, the Meteorological Department said.

There was no report of casualty and property damage.

Tremors lasting a few seconds were felt at 10:33 am in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, as well as Peshawar, Mansehra, Balakot and Abbotabad, cities hit by the 8 October devastating earthquake which had killed over 73,000 people.

Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry, director-general of the department, told GEO TV that the epicentre was located near Mansehra, some 80 kilometres northeast of Islamabad, in the North-West Frontier Province.

He said that the occasional aftershocks of around five magnitude would continue to strike for few more weeks but unlikely to cause any substantial damage to life or property.

"Aftershocks of mild intensity are quite common after six to seven months of every major earthquake," he added.

According to the meteorological department, more than 1,600 aftershocks, most of four on Richter Scale, have been felt since the powerful quake last October.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier holds a weapon as he secures a road in Baghdad on 11 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Two killed as hot air balloon crashes in Kenya's game reserve

NAIROBI, 12 Feb — A Belgian tourist and a Kenyan pilot were killed and 10 others seriously injured when a hot-air balloon carrying safari goers crashed in Kenya's world famous Masai Mara game reserve early Friday.

Kenyan police spokesman Jasper Ombati said the deceased — a pilot and a Belgian

woman tourist were among the 12 people on board when the hot air balloon, one of the admired tourists activities in the wildlife rich Masai Mara, crashed at around 0330 GMT.

"Two people among

them a tourist were killed at around 6:30 am this morning. The two were among the 12 people who were board while viewing animals above the park," said Ombati by telephone.

MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed by roadside bomb in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb — Two US Marines were killed on Thursday by a roadside bomb targeting their patrol near the western restive Iraqi city of Fallujah, the US military said in a statement on Friday.

Two Marines, assigned to the 2nd Marines Division, died of wounds sustained from a blast of an improvised explosive device near their vehicle while patrolling an area near Fallujah, some 60 kilometres west of Baghdad, on 9 February, the military said in the statement.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added.

The latest deaths have brought the total death toll of US military personnel in Iraq to at least 2,262 since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Roadside bombs are frequently used by guerrillas fighting the US-led occupation forces in Iraq during the past over two years of insurgency in the violence-ravaged country. —MNA/Xinhua

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host Union Day commemorative reception and dinner to Union Day delegates, cultural troupes of States and Divisions

(from page 1)

They were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior Gen-



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates, cultural troupes of States and Divisions and Taninthayi Division, and Union Day delegate USDA members of States and Divisions at 59th Anniversary Union Day Reception and Dinner. — MNA

Divisions and Taninthayi Division, members of State and Division Union Solidarity and Development Associations and guests.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a dinner to those present.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the

Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor and wife, members of the Central Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day, the Management Committee members, deputy ministers, the Deputy Auditor-General, CSSTB members, the Vice-Mayor, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the National Convention Convening Committee, NCC Work Committee, and NCC Management Committee, members of the panel of chairmen of the National Convention, the director-general of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, rectors, medical superintendents, USDA member Union Day delegates, cultural troupes of States and Divisions, senior police officers, District Peace and Development Council Chairmen, officials of News and Periodicals Enterprise, reporters of foreign news agencies, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, representatives of national race groups and guests.

Before and during the dinner, national race girls and vocalists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan modern music troupe presented music to the guests.

After the dinner, goal medallists of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, cultural troupes of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Taninthayi, Chin, Rakhine and Shan States and artists of Fine Arts Department presented entertainment to the guests.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates, cultural troupes of States and Divisions and Taninthayi Division, and Union Day delegate USDA members of States and Divisions at 59th Anniversary Union Day Reception and Dinner. — MNA

eral Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the Management Committee Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greeted representatives of national race groups, cultural troupes of States and



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates, cultural troupes of States and Divisions and Taninthayi Division, and Union Day delegate USDA members of States and Divisions at 59th Anniversary Union Day Reception and Dinner. — MNA

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Honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

**Panglong Region testifies to historic lesson
“Unity is strength”**

Kyi Kyi Cho (Taunggyi University)

**Hundred fruits
from a common
stem—Our Union**



The 12th of February 2006 is the 59th Anniversary of the Union Day of the Union of Myanmar. A salient characteristic of the Union of Myanmar is that the Union is home to more than one hundred national races. According to the different regions they reside in, their tribes, languages and native regions appear different. However, they are all national brethren residing in the same land, drinking water from the same source and sailing in the same boat. With the national races living in various regions through thick and thin with own cultures, customs, languages and literature, Myanmar stood tall with own monarchs in the world. The national brethren upheld their own faith fostering national prestige and integrity.

Looking back to the history, Myanmar has had fine traditions with cultural civilization from time immemorial. In the soil of Myanmar, anthropoid primates were discovered indicating the origin of human beings, along with cultural evidences in the Stone Age and Iron Age.

In some areas of Myanmar, there once

emerged city states such as Tagaung, Beikthano, Srikestra, Vesali and Thuwunnabumi. Based on national solidarity, the city states were combined into Myanmar empire three times.

In the 11th Century, King Anawrahta founded the First Myanmar Empire with Bagan royal capital in its centre. It existed from the 11th Century to the 13rd Century with strong economy, defence forces and flourishing culture and customs based on religion owing to the correct leadership. The national unity in the times of Bagan dynasty made the nation strong, so the nation won respect and admiration of neighbours. Taking advantage of disintegration of national solidarity in the late Bagan period, Mongo troops intruded into the nation, resulting in the collapse of the First Myanmar Empire.

In Toungoo Period in the 16th Century, the good organizing abilities of King Tapin Shwehti and King Bayintnaung Kyaw Htin Nawrahta integrated national people into the Myanmar empire again. However, disunity of national people in the time of King Nanda, son of King Bayintnaung, brought the nation into

collapse.

In the period between 1752 and 1760, U Aung Zeya (a) King Alaungmintara strove for rebuilding the nation based in Shwebo. In the time of the king, the organization and military power of the nation reached its peak and the nation was thus held in high esteem by neighbouring countries. But, when the national solidarity was in a state of decline, Myanmar came under the aggression of the colonialists. Myanmar lost its independence and became the colony subsequent to the three aggressive wars that took place in 1824, 1852 and 1885. So, it can be deduced that unity is important for the Union at all times.

Buddhist Association and the General Conference of Buddhists Association and launched anti-colonialist struggles to rise against the colonialists. However, the Divide-and-Rule Policy employed by the colonialists caused collapse of the GCBA which split into pieces. But, it could not harm the policy of the association, which speeded up its anti-colonialist campaign.

Having formed Dobamar Asiayon, national young patriots inculcated the people with patriotic fervour and nationalistic spirit in 1930 for regaining independence. As a result, their encouragement and spur culminated in the 1300 Myanmar Era Uprising, comprising the entire na-

sorted to all possible evil means to extend their rule over Myanmar. Administration of the plains and hilly regions separately since they guaranteed Di-Archy Rule of the nation in 1923 bore witness to their scheme to under-

Panglong Agreement to show the sheer unity of the entire national people.

Based on the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit conceived in the Panglong Conference, national

Based on the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit conceived in the Panglong Conference, national races exerted greater efforts in their campaigns. Eventually, the nation became an independent and sovereign nation again on 4 January 1948. Panglong Region is therefore a testament to the fact that unity is the strength as well as the lifeblood of the Union.

Despite the conquest over Myanmar, the colonialists could not suppress nationalist fervour and patriotic spirit of Myanmar nationals. Patriotic spirit means the spirit of safeguarding own lineage, cherishing own culture and traditions and the spirit of not yielding to any attempt to harm national prestige and integrity. And Union Spirit is based on patriotic spirit.

On 1 January 1886, Myanmar lost its sovereignty. National people who deeply resented the state of being under alien subjugation rose with whatever arms they got against the invaders. Nevertheless, they could not achieve success due to great arm power gap and lack of consolidated forces. Therefore, national people had no opportunity to express their nationalistic spirit and patriotic fervour.

In the early 21st Century, the people formed the Young Men's

national people. It was a fruit of national unity that when World War II broke out, the people stuck together and sought ways for foreign aid and drove out the colonialists and consequently the Fascists.

After World War II, Myanmar fell under the rule of the colonialists again. So, national people continued their struggles for independence.

The colonialists re-

mine the cohesion among the national races.

Braving all the frustration caused by the colonialists, leaders of national races held the Panglong Conference in Panglong, Shan State (South), from 3 to 12 February 1947 for the people of the plains and the hilly regions to enjoy the independence together. On 12 February, the national race leaders signed the

races exerted greater efforts in their campaigns. Eventually, the nation became an independent and sovereign nation again on 4 January 1948. Panglong Region is therefore a testament to the fact that unity is the strength as well as the lifeblood of the Union.

Translation: MS

United Myanmar

* **Only when united will the nation prosper...
How prominent is
Our Myanmar saying.
Peaceful and modern
For prosperity of our nation.
To build up this rally around
Our brethren nationals
Let's strive hard.**

* **Unity means...
A united strength
Capable of always smashing destructionists.
We have lived together on this land
Many long years.
Have or have-not
We have dwelt together
Our nation, our race
Loving and cherishing.**

* **Don't believe what outsiders say
Believe what own blood says.
In any emergency, blood must get together
When it's urgent, blood gets close.
And clasped hands get stronger.
For the future Myanmar
To be prosperous.
Helping hands to be built up
Union national brethren
Let's strive together.**

Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)



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

With an area of 14,200 square miles, Rakhine State is located in the western part of the Union of Myanmar and is home to Rakhine, Bamar, Chin, Mro, Thet, Khami, Daingnet, Maramargyi, Kaman, etc. The population of the state is about 3,045,000 and the population density stands at 215 persons per square mile.

Rakhine State is sandwiched between the Bay of Bengal and Rakhine mountain range which is running from north to south. With an altitude of 3000 feet, Rakhine mountain range has more higher peaks in the north than in the south. Rivers namely Naff, Mayyu and Kitsapanadi and creeks such as Ma-ei, Tanlwe, Taungup, Thandwe, Kyeintali and Gwa are flowing from north to south. Sittway plain is



Wanphaik Creek Bridge under construction in Yanbye township to develop transportation sector of Rakhine State.

the largest one in the region and the sea is dotted with Phayonga, Yanbye, Manaung islands and other small islands. The government is trying its best to raise the living standard of the entire national people and

national brethren residing in Rakhine State are no exception.

Infrastructures such as roads, bridges, dams, hospitals, clinics, schools, etc. have been built throughout the country and thus Rakhine

State is witnessing development like other states and divisions.

The table provides readers with facts and figures on development

of Rakhine State during the period from 1988 to the present.

Development of Rakhine State

Subject	1988	2006	Progress
Agriculture/Livestock breeding			
Sown acreage	895400	1576903	681503
Dam	26	30	4
River water pumping project	-	3	3
Sown acreage of monsoon paddy	790990	1100632	309642
Sown acreage of summer paddy	-	12148	12148
Sown acreage of edible oil crops	26761	97863	71102
Acres of prawn breeding ponds	-	155533	155533

Subject	1988	2006	Progress
Forest conservation			
Reserved Forest (square mile)	645	817	172
Area of natural forest (square mile)	-	678	678
Forest plantation (acre)	1400	58705	57305
Transport			
Motor road (mile)	448	897	449
Tarred road (mile)	163	550	387
Gravelled road (mile)	135	230	95
180 feet and above bridge	11	44	33
Under 180 feet bridge	142	326	184
Electric power			
Electricity consumption (unit in million)	4.111	14.486	10.375
Education			
Basic Education			
Primary school	2246	2472	226
Middle school	109	149	4
High school	36	95	59
Number of teacher	8729	12497	3768
Number of student	244357	441927	197570
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	36	43	7
Health centre	118	122	4
Traditional medicine hospital	-	1	1
Communication			
Post office	61	81	20
Telegraph office	19	25	6
Telephone exchange	1	41	40
Information and Public Relations			
TV Retransmission station	1	11	10
Self-reliant village library	-	3520	3520
Sub-printing house	-	1	1



Three-storey main building of Government Technological College (Swittway) in Rakhine State.

Over 10,000 people attend 59th Anniversary...

(from page 16)
the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, representative of Union Day delegates U Hsan Kyon of Chin State, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, national races and USDA members, to the People's Square.

Next, the Union Flag was planted in the silver bowl on the dais in front of the national races' emblems representing States

University of Culture, local and foreign journalists, executives of Division, District and Township USDAs, cultural troupes, USDA members of States and Divisions, representatives of peace groups totalling 1,188.

Over 10,688 people from four districts attended the ceremony.

At 4.30 am, Secretary of Yangon Division PDCLt-Col Myint Kyi read out the agenda of the ceremony. While those present saluted the Union Flag, the State Military Band played the national anthem.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win read out



Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint hands over the Union Flag to Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin. — MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin conveys Union Flag to People's Square. — MNA

and Divisions.

Also present on the occasion were USDA CEC members, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, heads of central offices, members of the sub-committees, local au-

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

Afterwards, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin

USDA members, and handed it over to Chairman of the Union Day Flag Conveying and Billboard Erecting Sub-committee Chairman Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe.

U Tin Soe carried the Union Flag again and planted it in the silver bowl on board the Union Boat.

The Union Boat conveyed the Union Flag, flanked by members of the panel of chairmen, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, national race girls, to the City Hall where the Union Flag will be kept the whole year. Along the route, local people in Dagon, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan and Kyauktada Townships welcomed the Union Flag by waving miniature flags together with the

banners bearing "Warm welcome to the Union Flag" across the roads.

When the Union Flag arrived in front of the City Hall, YCDC Secretary U Tin Soe took out the Union Flag from the silver bowl on board the Union Boat and handed it over to the Mayor.

Flanked by members of the panel of chairmen, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, and national races, the Mayor carried the Union Flag and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais in the drawing-room of the mayor so as to spend the whole year. Next, those present saluted the Union Flag.

Government offices, shops and houses, parks, roads, bridges, markets and schools were decorated

with various sizes of Union Flags as a gesture of honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day. — MNA

Union Flag conveyed to People's Square for Union Day ceremony

YANGON, 12 Feb — A ceremony took place this morning to convey the Union Flag that rested a night on Salin sports ground in Kyimyindine township to the People's Square on Pyay Road here where the 59th Anniversary Union Day ceremony would be held. Officials, local authorities, social organizations, teachers and students and the public attended the ceremony.

The Union Flag was conveyed to the Public Square through the route covering Panbingyi Street, Kyimyindine Strand Road, Nanattaw overpass, Nanattaw Street, Pyay Road in Kyimyindine, Kamayut, Sangyoung and Dagon townships. Along the route, the public including service personnel, factory workers and social organization members gave rousing welcome to the Union Flag.

Later, the Union Flag arrived at the designated place. — MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin plants the Union Flag in silver bowl in the mayor's drawing-room at City Hall. — MNA

thorities, senior military officers of the military command, departmental heads, YCDC members, rectors, principals, medical superintendents, departmental officials, representatives of 16 NGOs, national races of

and flag relay team took out the Union Flag from the silver bowl and carried it flanked by members of the panel of chairmen, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, national races and



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin plants the Union Flag in the silver bowl on the dais at People's Square. — MNA



Members of the panel of chairmen at 59th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony. — MNA

Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut

Extend physic nut as national duty

Myanmar has cultivable lands and virgin and vacant lands in abundance. Myanmar has an acres of 261,228 square miles, and forest coverage stands at more than half the total land area.

Myanmar's cultivable land area is about 45 million acres. The Tatmadaw Government's drive for extended cultivation of crops has increased the number of sown acreage to over 43 million. So, there remain only two million acres of cultivable land in the nation.

Extend sown acreage

About 16 million

acres of virgin and vacant land still remain in Myanmar, accounting for more than 18 million acres to be cultivated. In a bid to raise the agriculture sector, Myanmar is taking steps for boosting per acre yields of ten major crops and speeding up the growing of physic nut that is nationwide popular and can be used as a multi-purpose crop.

Now, the target has been set to put seven million acres under physic nut across the nation. But, the total sown acreage is to be extended as much as possible yearly in the interests of the nation if it shows a great benefit. Of 60 districts in Myanmar, the ones in the arid zone

will meet the target of growing more than 100,000 acres each.

Nurture physic nut saplings systematically

Physic nut is easy to be planted. If physic nut plants are grown extensively in a systematic way, it will make considerable contribution towards the interest of the nation. By sowing seeds or planting grafts, physic nut can grow well. There are many conventional methods of growing physic nut. To achieve fine growth rate of plants with high yield of fruits, physic nut is to be grown in accordance with the agricultural methods set by the Myanma Agriculture Service.

Seek better ways for boosting per acre yield

Seeds can be sowed directly or saplings planted if it is to grow physic nut with the use of seeds. And grafts can be planted di-

rectly or nurtured first in small plastic bags to be planted. If physic nut plants are grown at six-foot intervals, the first yield of the plants reaches its peak at the age between 13 and 14

months. In general, a plant grown from a graft starts to bear fruits at the age of six months and a plant grown from a seed, at the age of eight months.



Women nurturing grafts of physic nut in Lashio District.

Egypt win record fifth African National Cup title

CAIRO, 11 Feb — Egypt won a record fifth African Cup title Friday, beating Ivory Coast 4-2 on penalties after goalless draw in the regular and extra time.

Mohamed Aboutrika converted the clinching penalty for the Pharaohs after Egyptian keeper Essam Al Hadari saved attempts by Didier Drogba and Bakary Kone, sending a crowd of more than 74,000, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in Cairo International Stadium into a frenzy.

The victory gave Egypt its first title since 1998 and one more than

Ghana and Cameroon. It was the second time Egypt had beaten the Ivory Coast in two weeks. Egypt won their Group A first-round encounter 3-1.

Penalties were required after 120 minutes of goalless soccer, including a disputed extra-time penalty, which Egyptian captain Ahmed Hassan put off the post.

The Ivory Coast, which was seeking only its second continental title and

first since 1992, had its best chance in the 77th minute but Drogba shot high over an empty net.

"This tournament belongs to the Egyptian fans. It was not one single player who won this. It was a joint effort," veteran Egyptian striker Hossam Hassan said.

Ahmed Hassan, Mohamed Abdulwahab, Amr Zaki and Abutraika converted their penalty attempts for Egypt, while Abdulhalim Ali missed. For Ivory Coast, Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Eboue scored.

MNA/Xinhua

British lottery winner jailed for brawl

LONDON, 12 Feb — A British man who won nearly 10 million pounds (17.5 million US dollars) in the National Lottery was jailed for nine months on Friday after admitting affray, a court official said.

Michael Carroll, 22, dubbed the "Lotto Lout" by newspapers after a string of drugs and disorder offences, had burst into a church disco in Norfolk, eastern England, with two friends wielding baseball bats in May 2004.

He had admitted the offence at an earlier hearing and returned to Norwich Crown Court for sentencing on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

Uzbekistan suspends US NGO activities

ALMA ATA, 12 Feb — Uzbekistan has ordered the US non-governmental organization (NGO) Freedom House to suspend its activities in the country for six months, a spokesman for the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan said Friday in Tashkent.

The Uzbek Justice Ministry said that the organization had had meetings with representatives of other NGOs in the country without official permission, and that quite a number of the NGOs had not registered with the justice department, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the organization had violated the regulations of the country's civil non-profit organizations law.

In addition, Freedom House had not spent the money funded by the British Embassy to Uzbekistan, which amounts to 17,000 US dollars, on declared activities, the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that Freedom House was also involved in other illegal activities, including providing Internet access without permission.—MNA/Xinhua

Three Gorges Power Project generates 100 b kwh of electricity

YICHANG, 12 Feb — The China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation announced Friday its power plant has cumulatively generated 100 billion kilowatts per hour of electricity by 10 February of this year.

The announcement was made by Li Yong'an, general manager of China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation.

The Three Gorges Power Plant, where turbo-generators with a combined installed capacity of 9.8 million kilowatts are now operational, along with the Gezhouba Power Plant downstream of the Three Gorges power plant, are capable of generating between 240 million kilowatts per hour and 250 million kilowatts per hour of electricity daily, equivalent to 5 per cent of the country's actual daily power consumption, according to Li. Launched in 1993, the Three Gorges Project, including a 185-metre-high dam and 26 generators, is being built in three stages on the middle reaches of China's longest river, the Yangtze.

The gigantic, multi-functional Three Gorges Project is estimated to cost 180 billion yuan (approximately 21.7 billion US dollars) and will have a combined generating capacity of 18.2 million kilowatts.—MNA/Xinhua

Sharon at no immediate risk after surgery

JERUSALEM, 12 Feb — Comatose Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's life was not in immediate danger after emergency surgery on Saturday, but the operation would not improve his chances of recovery, the hospital said.

Hadassah hospital director Shlomo Mor-Yosef told a news conference that one third of Sharon's large intestine was removed to avoid the danger of infection and that there were no complications during the operation. Sharon has been in a coma since suffering a massive

stroke on 4 Jan. Mor-Yosef said that after the operation on Saturday, he was in a critical but stable condition. "I don't see any problem with the outcome of this specific operation, but again the main problem is not this operation, but recovering from his stroke," Mor-Yosef said.

"Of course such a dramatic event as happened to him this morning won't help him recover... It won't contribute to the wellbeing of Prime Minister Sharon. Every day that passes, the chances are reduced."—MNA/Reuters



Egyptian defender Abdel Zaher El Saca (R) challenges Ivory Coast's captain Didier Drogba during overtime of the African Nations Cup final in Cairo on 10 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for AstraZeneca AB
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 13 February 2006

Huge explosives seized in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 11 Feb — Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) troops seized huge explosives and hand bombs in Sunamganj District, about 400 kilometres north-east of Dhaka early Friday, private news agency UNB reported.

The haul included nine powerful hand bombs, four power gels weighing 125 grammes, another two power gels weighing 110 grammes and nine novel power gels weighing 125 grammes.

According to the BDR news release, several miscreants, walking into Bangladesh from India

along with the explosive materials, left those behind sensing the presence of a patrol team of the BDR at about 3 am.

The paramilitary troops recovered the hand bombs and explosives and handed those over to the local department concerned.

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign investors select China as R&D base

BEIJING, 11 Feb— Foreign investors are setting up an increasing number of research and development facilities in China, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

There are about 750 of these centres in China, mainly distributed in Shanghai, Beijing and Shenzhen where foreign investment is concentrated.

In response to China's hunger for advanced overseas technologies, many multinationals have re-deployed their global strategy and have made China one of their

priority locations for R&D centres.

The ministry said the centres mainly focus on high-tech industries such as electronic and telecommunications equipment, manufacturing of transport equipment, pharmaceuticals and chemical materials.

Multinationals such as Microsoft, IBM, Motorola, Nokia and Toyota have all established R&D centres in China.

With the expansion of the China market, many multinationals have kept increasing investment in their China R&D centres.

Statistics show that the investment of companies like General Motors, Philips, Motorola and Siemens to their Chinese R&Ds have all exceeded 10 million US dollars. These foreign R&Ds

also employ a large proportion of Chinese talent.

The ministry said highschool graduates and students, who have returned from overseas, have been the main target for recruitment.

The R&Ds also have close ties with Chinese universities and scientific research institutions, said the ministry.

Many centres have combined with Chinese scientific institutions to work on new products and technologies, with both sides reaping the rewards.

Economic observers said by attracting more and more localized foreign R&D centres, China can climb the hierarchy within the global economy and the technological innovation of Chinese companies can be improved.

MNA/Xinhua

British, Dutch aid workers freed in Colombia

BOGOTA (Colombia), 11 Feb— Two workers with the international aid group Doctors Without Borders were released on Thursday after being held for five days by an armed group in the jungles of Colombia, the organization said.

The hostages, one British and one Dutch, were seized in North Santander Province near Venezuela on Saturday while trying to bring health services to communities hit by the country's guerilla war.

"They have been released without conditions," a Doctors Without Borders spokesperson told Reuters. "They are in good health and good spirits."

The spokesperson declined to name the two men or say what their job

was in North Santander, one of 10 Colombian provinces where Doctors Without Borders operates.

Local newspaper *Vanguardia Liberal* reported the two were kidnapped by the leftist National Liberation Army, or ELN, which is demanding that the government hand over the body of one of its leaders, Wildemar Castro, who was killed in a recent battle with the Army, in return for the hostages.—MNA/Reuters

Death toll reaches 31 in Pakistan blast

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb— The death toll from a blast in a remote town in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) has reached 31 with dozens of others injured, according to a Geo TV report on Friday.

Two explosions hit the mourners procession commemorating Youm-i-Ashur on Thursday morning in the main market of Hangu, some 200 kilometres northwest of Islamabad.

In another incident in Sydan Banda area near Hangu, unknown persons opened fire at a passenger coach killing four people including a woman and wounding two others.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese man held over bomb joke at Manila Airport

MANILA, 11 Feb— Philippine police detained a 71-year-old Japanese man at Manila's International Airport on Friday after he said he was

carrying two bombs.

"He is being held for a bad joke," said Rolando Estabillo, a spokesman for Philippine Airlines. "I am not sure whether

police will set him free or file charges against him for some security violations."

Signs at Manila's International and domestic airports warn passengers not to make jokes about carrying explosives.

Airline and security officials said Yasou Ishii was being frisked by guards when he was

overheard saying he had two bombs. His luggage was searched but police found no explosives.

Estabillo said the Philippine Airlines flight left on time for Tokyo's Narita Airport on Friday afternoon without the man. "We don't tolerate any jokes," said airport police officer Fely Parariza.—MNA/Reuters

Canadian village evacuated as grass fire rages

OTTAWA, 11 Feb— A village of about 660 residents in Canada's Alberta Province was evacuated Thursday after it was threatened by a massive grass fire.

Smoke filled the sky in the vicinity of Carseland Village, about 40 kilometres southeast of the province's industrial centre Calgary.

The fire was visible as far as 40 kilometres away, Canadian Television reported.

Besides all residents of the village, some people who live nearby have also been evacuated.

A golf course which lies on the opposite side of the local Bow River could also be in jeopardy as gusting winds fan the

blaze, the report said.

There have been no injuries reported as a result of the fire.

Much of Alberta has experienced warmer than normal temperatures this winter, coupled with little or no snow, the report added.—MNA/Xinhua

Russian PM to visit Vietnam next week

HANOI, 11 Feb— Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov will pay an official visit to Vietnam from 16-17 February in a move to bolster cooperative ties, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

During the two-day visit, Fradkov will hold talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Van Khai and meet with other Vietnamese top officials, discussing measures to step up friendly and cooperative relations and the strategic partnership between the two countries, including the ties in economy, trade, investment and anti-narcotics, spokesman Le Dung told a regular Press briefing.

MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in boat overturn in eastern Thailand

BANGKOK, 11 Feb— Two people were killed in Thailand's eastern Trat Province on Friday morning as a ferry boat carrying some 30 passengers capsized in the sea.

The incident took place during the boat's journey from Ban Dan Kao in the province's Muang District to Koh Crud.

A local rescue team rushing to the scene has

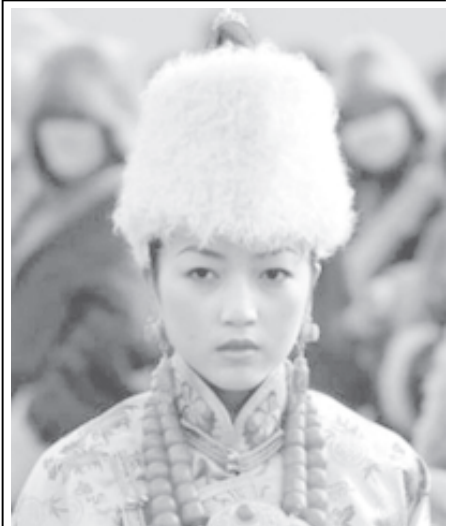
so far rescued nearly 20 lives, however, two passengers were found dead from drowning. They have not yet been identified.

The rest of the passengers on boat were

still unaccounted for, reported the *Thai News Agency*.

Initial investigation found that the ferry's overload was the cause of the tragedy.

MNA/Xinhua



An ethnic Tibetan woman watches a Cham dance performance at the Labrang Monastery in Xiahe, western China's Gansu Province, on 11 Feb, 2006, during the Monlam or Great Prayer ceremony.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒြေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

French car maker Renault to launch 26 new models by 2009

PARIS, 10 Feb — French car maker Renault announced on Thursday that it would launch 26 new models by 2009 in order to become the most profitable European auto manufacturer.

The company would also enter new segments of the market, including the sports utility vehicle (SUV) and four-wheel-drive cars, Renault CEO Carlos Ghosn said.

“Renault is not in crisis but remains fragile. This fragility can lead to a dangerous situation and is therefore unacceptable,” Ghosn told a Press conference.

He said a key element of his three-year strategic plan was to launch new

models to refresh the Renault range of cars, in a bid to make Renault “the most profitable car maker in Europe”. Ghosn, currently head of both Renault and Japanese Nissan car makers, has a reputation as an expert at revitalizing ailing companies.

He took over as chief executive of Nissan in 1999 and turned the company into a world leader in four years.

Nissan is 44.4-per-cent owned by Renault.

“We cannot be satisfied with an operating margin of 3.2 per cent,” he said, adding that it was “inferior to the average margin of other world car makers which is 3.6 per cent”. Earlier, Renault posted its net profit in 2005 at 3.367 billion euros (4.03 billion dollars), a rise of 18.7-per-cent compared with 2004 and the best record in the company’s history. — MNA/Xinhua



An Indonesian man walks in front of an advertisement of Toyota’s new compact car Yaris in Jakarta on 10 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Blind persons trained online as psychoanalysts

BEIJING, 10 Feb — The first batch of 156 blind people from across the country have completed an online training programme and passed final tests that qualify them as psychoanalysts.

At least 50 others are continuing with the training, the first of its kind which started in October 2004 and drew more than 200 blind students from 20 provinces and municipalities, said Wang Jianjun, an official with the employment service for handicapped people under China Disabled Persons’ Federation.

They studied basic psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, mental health and handicaps as well as professional ethics and diagnostic skills of psychoanalysts, said Wang.

The students were provided with multimedia talking books which enabled them to follow the courses and interact with their teachers through assignments and quizzes on a computer at home and work units or a training centre for the handicapped in their communities.

MNA/Xinhua

Don’t smoke

Over 3,000-year-old tombs unearthed in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 11 Feb — Archaeologists in the central China Province of Henan have excavated 336 tombs dating back more than 3,000 years.

Arranged in a U shape, the tombs were unearthed near Hebi City at the Liuzhuang ruins of the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC). Funeral objects were discovered in 208 of the 336 tombs, including tomahawks, strings of turquoise stone beads, ancient cooking vessels and basins.

The most noticeable among these tombs contained a stone coffin, which was formed by 13 stones. Archaeologists also discovered that in some of the tombs, stones were put beside the head or feet of the tomb owner.

Judging from the few funeral objects in each tomb and the shape and structure of the tombs, archaeologists said that the tombs belonged to a clan of middle to lower class of their day.

This is the first time that such a great number of Shang tombs have been unearthed in Henan Province and the discovery provides valuable evidence for studying the funeral rituals, social structure, and culture of the Shang Dynasty, said Zhao Xinping, a research fellow with the Henan Provincial Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Research Institute. — MNA/Xinhua

“Reuters” photo of child famine victim wins top award

AMSTERDAM, 11 Feb — A Reuters picture of a mother and child at an emergency feeding centre in Niger during the recent famine there won the coveted 2005 World Press Photo of the Year Award, organizers said on Friday.

The picture, taken by Canadian photographer Finbarr O’Reilly in Tahoua, northwestern Niger, on 1 August, 2005 shows the emaciated fingers of a one-year-old child pressed against the lips of his mother.

A swarm of locusts and the worst drought in decades left millions of people short of food in the West African state. “The picture has haunted me ever since I first

saw it two weeks ago,” said James Colton, chairman of the World Press jury. “It has stayed in my head, even after seeing all the thousands of others during the competition. “This image has everything — beauty, horror and despair.”

The picture was chosen from 83,044 images entered by 4,448 professional photographers — 182 more than

in 2004 — from 122 countries.

“The beauty of the picture is that there is a little ambiguity in it... To me it showed compassion between mother and child. But some people may look at it as being helplessness and despair,” Colton said in an interview.

O’Reilly will receive a cash prize of 10,000 euros (12,000 US dollars) for the award. — MNA/Reuters

No sign of Mt Fuji to erupt, but Japan makes plan

TOKYO, 11 Feb — Japan’s Government is expected to announce this month measures to deal with a possible eruption of its famed Mount Fuji, officials said, but they added there were no signs that the long-dormant volcano had become active.

The 3,776-metre (12,390 feet) Mount Fuji has not erupted for nearly three centuries, but signs of increased seismic activity five years ago prompted the government to create a panel to begin work on an evacuation plan.

The panel has already outlined ways to evacuate people near Mount Fuji, the best locations for shelters, and envisaged flow routes of lava, ash, gas and rocks.

The reports to date have also stressed the need to ensure efficient communications between the central and local governments and

residents in the area by using the Internet, television and radio.

The panel has also called for the government to provide training on evacuation to local governments, hotels and travel agencies and for volunteer systems to be set up.

“After all, there are no signs that an eruption of Mouth Fuji is imminent,” said a Cabinet Office official. “But it is important for us to sort out what the government can do.”

The government will put together the panel’s recommendations into an official plan.

MNA/Reuters



A Japanese bullet train speeds past Mount Fuji in this photo. Japan’s government is expected to announce measures to deal with a possible eruption of its famed Mount Fuji, officials said on 10 Feb, 2006, but they added there were no signs that the long-dormant volcano had become active. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Hamburg go second after shock Bremen defeat

FRANKFURT, 12 Feb— Werder Bremen suffered a costly 2-0 defeat at home to bottom club Kaiserslautern on Saturday, handing second spot to Hamburg SV and giving Bayern Munich a chance to move 10 points clear at the top on Sunday.

Bremen dominated the game but failed to take their chances and second-half goals from Boubacar Sanogo and Ervin Skela earned the visitors a surprise win.

Hamburg won 1-0 at home to Mainz with a goal from Mehdi Mahdavia.

Champions Bayern, who are at home to Nuremberg on Sunday, lead

the table with 51 points, followed by Hamburg on 44 and Bremen on 43.

Kaiserslautern's victory took them up a place to 17th with 17 points from 21 games. Cologne will overtake them again if they win at home to Borussia Dortmund on Sunday.

Fourth-placed Schalke 04 reignited their Champions League hopes after an

extraordinary 7-4 win at home to Bayer Leverkusen gave them 39 points.

Goals from Soren Larsen, Mladen Krstajic and Zlatan Bajramovic put Schalke 3-0 ahead by the 34th minute but Leverkusen hit back with headers from Andriy Voronin and Dimitar Berbatov. Schalke restored their three-goal lead through Kevin Kuranyi and Larsen only for Leverkusen to stage another comeback through Voronin, with a perfectly-placed long shot, and Jacek Krzynowek.

MNA/Reuters

Hyypia stops rot for Liverpool at Wigan

LONDON, 12 Feb— European champions Liverpool ended a dismal run of Premier League form with a scrappy 1-0 victory at Wigan Athletic on Saturday.



Wigan Athletic's Graham Kavanagh, right, and Liverpool's Harry Kewell jump for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at The JJB Stadium, Wigan, England, on 11 Feb, 2006. Liverpool defeated 1-0.—INTERNET

With only one point and one goal from their four previous league games, third-placed Liverpool were indebted to central defender Sami Hyypia for stopping the rot.

New signing Robbie Fowler started his first game for Liverpool since 2001, in partnership with Fernando Morientes, but it was Finland international Hyypia who clinched the points, volleying past Mike Pollitt after 30 minutes at the JJB Stadium.

Morientes almost made it 2-0 shortly before the break when his half-volley was saved smartly by Pollitt while Steven Gerrard was also denied by the keeper.

Wigan, who began the day in sixth place, were forced to field a makeshift attack with Jason Roberts suspended and Henri Camara failing to return in time from African Nations Cup duty.

The hosts improved slightly after the break although Liverpool keeper Jerzy Dudek was rarely threatened as his side comfortably held on for the victory.

"We worked really hard for the win...after the last performance (a 2-0 defeat at Charlton Athletic) we showed we had character," Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez told Sky Sports.

Liverpool stay third on 48 points, 18 behind leaders Chelsea who are in action later at Middlesbrough.—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Carlton Cole, centre, battles his way through Middlesbrough's Fabio Rochemback, left, and Gareth Southgate, right, during their English Premier League soccer match at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, England, on 11 Feb, 2005. Middlesbrough won 3-0.—INTERNET

Boro stun Chelsea with 3-0 victory

LONDON, 12 Feb— Middlesbrough applied the brakes to Chelsea's Premier League title express in spectacular fashion on Saturday, humbling the champions 3-0 at the Riverside. It was Chelsea's second league defeat of the season and only the third since Jose Mourinho took over in 2004.

Relegation-threatened Boro, without a home league win for six matches, took the lead inside two minutes through Fabio Rochemback before Stewart Downing added a second on halftime. Aiyegbeni Yakubu added a third after the break.

Second-placed Manchester United can cut Chelsea's lead to 12 points when they play at Portsmouth in Saturday's late game.—MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

3	P	E	T	E	R	8	D	O	U	B	T		
P	8	X	8	V	8	H	8	A	8	S	U	8	D
L	O	T	T	E	R	Y	8	S	A	L	V	E	
U	8	R	8	R	8	D	8	I	8	L	8	F	
C	H	A	S	E	8	R	E	S	P	I	T	E	
K	8	8	8	S	T	A	R	8	8	O	8	R	
8	T	R	I	T	E	8	O	P	I	N	E	8	
A	8	A	8	8	R	I	S	E	8	8	8	F	
C	O	N	T	E	N	T	8	R	A	N	G	E	
U	8	C	8	X	8	A	8	F	8	A	8	R	
T	R	O	O	P	8	L	A	U	N	D	E	R	
E	8	U	8	E	8	Y	8	M	8	I	8	Y	
8	D	R	O	L	L	8	M	E	R	R	Y	8	

Bordeaux cut Lyon's lead to 7 points

PARIS, 12 Feb— Girondins Bordeaux cut Olympique Lyon's lead to seven points when they beat Stade Rennes 2-0 at home while the champions salvaged a 1-1 draw at Racing Lens.

The injury-hit Ligue 1 leaders were about to suffer only their second league defeat this season when France forward Sylvain Wiltord struck from outside the box in the 92nd minute.

Lens striker Jussie had curled home a superb shot from 18 metres to put the hosts in front 10 minutes into the second half but they ran out of steam in the closing minutes.

Bordeaux, who have yet to lose this year, sealed their sixth victory from seven outings against Rennes thanks to goals by Fernando in the 39th minute and Vladimir Smicer in the 67th.

Lyon have a game in hand of Bordeaux after their match at Monaco on 29 January was postponed because of a flooded pitch but Girondins confirmed that the title race may not be over yet.

Bordeaux's win also opened up a six-point gap over third-placed AJ Auxerre, who were surprisingly

held to a 1-1 draw at home to bottom team Metz. Lyon, who were missing their entire first-choice defence, conceded that they are struggling for their best form before taking on PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League on 22 February. "I must pay tribute to the defence which did a great job tonight despite (the fact that) we are dealing with some troubles at the moment," said Lyon coach Gerard Houllier.

"We proved again that we are not ready to give up anything. Once again, we fought until the very last minute and it paid off," he added.

"Bringing back one point the way we did tonight is rather good for our confidence."

Lens coach Francis Gillot was clearly disappointed as he hoped his team would become only the second side to claim the scalp of the four-time champions this season.

MNA/Reuters

Dominant Osasuna held to 1-1 draw by Zaragoza

MADRID, 12 Feb— Osasuna had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home to Real Zaragoza in the Primera Liga on Saturday despite dominating their in-form opponents for most of the match.

The Navarrans got off to a flying start, taking the lead in the third minute when Zaragoza old boy Savo Milosevic headed in past Cesar after midfielder Ludovic Deporte had ballooned a cross into the area.

Zaragoza were a mere shadow of the side who demolished Real Madrid 6-1 in the Cup in midweek and rarely threatened the Osasuna goal.

But they still managed to snatch an equalizer against the run of play just before halftime when Argentine midfielder Leonardo Ponzio netted with a curling free kick.

The draw left Osasuna in third spot in the table, a point ahead of Real Madrid and level with second-placed Valencia, who are at home to leaders Barcelona on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Chievo keep up push for Europe with win at Treviso

ROME, 12 Feb— Chievo Verona kept up their bid for European football next season after Simone Tiribocchi's double gave them a 2-1 win at Treviso in Serie A on Saturday.

The victory helped Chievo consolidate seventh place with 38 points from 25 matches, 25 points behind leaders Juventus, who visit second-placed Inter Milan on Sunday. More importantly for Chievo it leaves them just a point behind Livorno who occupy the last UEFA Cup qualifying place.

The scoreline did not accurately reflect Chievo's dominance over relegation-threatened Treviso.

A goal in each half by Tiribocchi put Chievo in control before Marco Borriello pulled one back for the home side.—MNA/Reuters



Fulham's Heidar Helguson, left, scores against West Bromwich Albion during their English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage in London, on 11 Feb, 2006. Fulham won 6-1.—INTERNET

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

Organ-donation information proposal mooted in HK

HONG KONG, 12 Feb — Hong Kong's Health, Welfare and Food Bureau said Friday it will study a proposal to use Smart ID cards to carry or access organ-donation information.

In a Legislative Council paper, the bureau said the Smart ID card could be used as an alternative and convenient means for organ donors to indicate their wish through electronic channels.

The proposal could supplement the current organ-donation card system, it said.

However, the bureau stressed that, given current social values, even if the proposal is adopted,

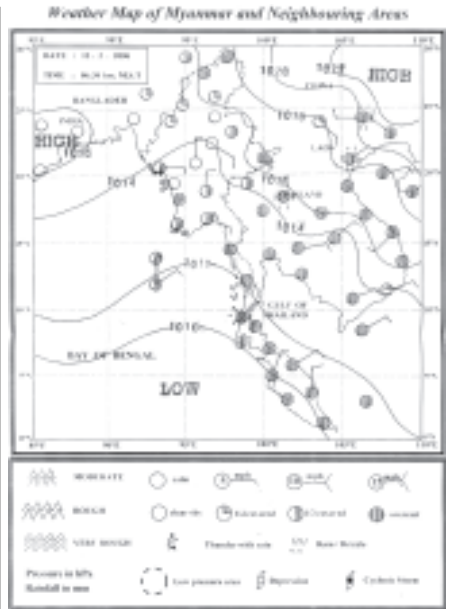
the existing practice of seeking the consent of the deceased's next-of-kin for organ donation should continue and the next-of-kin's decision should be respected. Under the existing provisions, informa-

tion about a person's willingness to become an organ donor is not a prescribed particular that is required to be furnished for the purpose of the registration and issue of an ID card. Should the proposal to incorporate organ-donation details in the Smart ID card be adopted, a legislative amendment will be required to enable the Director of Immigration to include the data in the ID card.

The bureau will study whether there is sufficient spare capacity in the Smart ID card to store all the organ-donation details.

It will also explore how it can provide for the donor to amend the record in the Smart ID Card anytime he/she wishes to do so, and to allow authorized persons to access the organ-donation details in case the donor is unconscious or dead.

MNA/Xinhua



Elephants run in a race during an elephant show in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 11 Feb, 2006. Sri Lankan tamed elephants staged a show on Saturday to raise funds for their medical needs.—INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 12 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and isolated in Chin State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State and (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka, Pinlaung and Namsam (2°C) each and Lashio (4°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (0.59) inch, Namsam (0.28) inch and Kengtung (0.20) inch.

Maximum temperature on 11-2-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 12-2-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 12-2-2006 was (66%). Total sunshine hours on 11-2-2006 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 12-2-2006 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 Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 11-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-2-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain in Shan, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-2-2006: Partly cloudy.



Monday, 13 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဒေသနာရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ မြေဘူတာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ မြေဘူတာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning news

7:40 am

5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

6. Song of national races

8:05 am

7. အထီးမြို့ပွဲ

8:10 am

8. Cute little dancers

8:20 am

9. အရေးမြိုင်ပွဲ

8:25 pm

10. ဒေသပျံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်စေမည် ခုနှစ်ဝတ်

8:30 am

11. International news

8:45 am

12. Grammar Made Easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ဆောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

4:40 pm

4. အထူးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညွှန်ရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (အထူးအထူး) (အထူးအထူး)

4:55 pm

5. Dance variety

5:05 pm

6. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

5:20 pm

7. (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ဆောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:30 pm

8. Industrial achievement

5:40 pm

9. Musical programme

5:50 pm

10. အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေ ဖြန့်ချိ အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားကာကွယ်ရေးဗဟိုဌာနမှ ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ဖြင့် ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဆီလီလေး" (အပိုင်း-၆၃)

6:50 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဗဟိုဌာနမှ "အချစ်လှူဒါန်းတစ်လေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၃၈)

7:35 pm

15. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မပြတ် ရင်သန်ခိုင်မာရန်မှာ ဒီဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ရာ အညွှတ်စု ခိုပြည်ထောင်စု)

7:45 pm

16. ကြားဖြတ်သုတပြည့်စုံစေရေး စာပဒေသာ

8:00 pm

17. News

8:05 pm

18. International news

8:10 pm

19. Weather report

8:15 pm

20. နိုင်ငံခြားဗဟိုဌာနမှ "ပျော်ရွှင်ဖွယ်နေ့ကလေးများ" (အပိုင်း-၉)

8:20 pm

21. The next day's programme



Monday, 13 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

-Born to make you happy... Britney Spears

9:00 pm Round up with famous local talent stars

9:20 pm Article

9:30 pm Drugs Elimination

9:40 pm Local Gem/ Golden Land's Melody

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

Over 10,000 people attend 59th Anniversary Union Flag Hoisting Ceremony

YANGON, 12 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held at the People's Square on Pyay Road, here, this morning, in accord with the objectives of the 59th Anniversary Union Day : For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people; for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence; to

prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step future policy programme of the State.

The Union Flag that spent one night each in four districts of Yangon Division arrived at the People's Square on Pyay Road by the Union Boat at 7.20 am.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and those present at the 59th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony salute the Union Flag. — MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win reads out the message sent to 59th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe.

MNA

Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and flag relay team accepted the Union Flag from Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint. The flag relay team carried the Union Flag flanked by members of the panel of chairmen of the 59th Anniversary Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Secretary-General of (See page 10)

INSIDE



Honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

The colonialists resorted to all possible evil means to extend their rule over Myanmar. Administration of the plains and hilly regions separately since they guaranteed Di-Archy Rule of the nation in 1923 bore witness to their scheme to undermine the cohesion among the national races. Braving all the frustration caused by the colonialists, leaders of national races held the Panglong Conference in Panglong, Shan State (South), from 3 to 12 February 1947 for the people of the plains and the hilly regions to enjoy the independence together.

PAGE 8 KYI KYI CHO (TAUNGGYI UNIVERSITY)

