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National unity has been strengthened

The State Peace and Development Council has taken lessons from history in which the national strength was derived from national unity, and national weakness and backwardness were the result of the loss of national solidarity. It has laid down the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty— and has been strengthening national unity, with the national re-consolidation and the perpetual flourishing of Union Spirit as the objective.

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

(From message sent on the occasion of 57th Anniversary Union Day)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host 61st Anniversary Union Day Reception and Dinner in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 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 the 61st Anniversary Union Day

Reception and Dinner at the square of the City Hall here this evening.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General

Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at the square of the City Hall at 6.30 pm. They were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and
(See page 7)



Senior General Than Shwe greets Union Day delegates from states and divisions, members of cultural troupes and members of Committee for Drafting the State Constitution and social organizations. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 13 February, 2008

Towards emergence of a democratic nation

Myanmar is the Union where various national races have been residing. Living in the Union in unity and amity for years countable by the thousand, the national brethren are maintaining and safeguarding own culture, national prestige, integrity and sovereignty.

With the united strength of the entire national people the nation was able to regain her sovereignty and became independent. And it is now on the right track of peace and development.

In the message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary Union Day, 2008 it is stated that now, national people are pursuing the State's seven-step Road Map with a solemn determination in harness with the government for transition to a modern, developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. And the third step of the Road Map—the drafting of State constitution—is under way.

In an effort to build a modern, developed democratic nation the government is fulfilling all necessary requirements in political, economic, education and health sectors. As a result, the people are now enjoying the fruits of all-round development.

The past history revealed that the consolidated national unity is as important as the lifeblood. This being the case, priority is to be given to ensuring non-disintegration of the Union.

At such a time, the entire national people are to make concerted efforts with Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit for the successful realization of the seven-step Road Map. Only then, will a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic new nation emerge.



CCY plays against The Gyuts in Horizon League Basketball Tournament. NLM

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

Commander attends opening ceremony of Computer Learning System

YANGON, 12 Feb—Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day, the ceremony to launch the Computer Learning System with the use of solar energy installed at Nos 1 & 2 BEHS and Daw Phawr Thin library was held in Kayan Township on 10 February. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Deputy Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Myo Myint and well-wisher U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing of Smart Technical Services formally opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon. The commander and the guests viewed learning of the students at Computer Application Room and Computer Aided Instruction Room. The commander and party proceeded to No 2 BEHS in Kayan Township where they formally opened a similar ceremony.

Later, the Commander and party viewd students who are applying computers through solar energy system at the Computer Application Room. Next, they opened the Daw Phawr Thin library and visited there. The ceremony to hand over the relevant documents was held at the School Hall. Officials handed over documents related to the solar system and the library to the deputy director-general.

The solar energy system applications installed at BEHSs in Kayan Township is 800 W and it can be used at three computer sets for 5 hours.

MNA

Commander, Minister on inspection tour of Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye together with Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met departmental officials, social organization members, townsenders and local residents at the town hall of Taunggyi on 9 February.

After the commander's speech, the minister clarified functions of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the need for cooperation of departments, social organizations and townsenders for speedily issuing of citizenship scrutiny cards.

The minister presented Red Cross uniforms for the members of townships in Shan State (South) and five wheel-chairs for the State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee.

The commander and the minister inspected issuing of citizenship scrutiny cards to local people.

They then looked into the site chosen for construction of the fire station, water tank and tower, and Parahita Home for the Women, Social Welfare Department and Taunggyi Pre-primary School in Taunggyi.

At the Home for the Aged in Meiktila, the minister and wife donated K 200,000 for installation of a water purifying machine and clothes to 22 older persons.— MNA

Horizon Basketball Tournament continues

YANGON, 12 Feb— The Horizon League Basket-ball Tournament 2007-2008, jointly organized by Myanmar Basketball Federation and Horizon International Education Center, continued at Kyaikkasan Gymnasium, here on 9 and 10 February.

In the men's event, Red Star crashed WHO with 82-31 points, Shadows passed through Last Vampire with 54-44, KKS won over Filipino with 79-51 and The Gyuts edged out CCY with 48-47. In the women's event, SKY best Ballbabies with 20-0 points and Ballbabies was defeated by Kandawgale with 29-94. Cowboy and Red Star went top in the men's event with four wins each, KKS three wins and Shadows three wins and one loss followed up.—NLM

Health Minister inspects hospitals in Magway Division



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint visits Traditional Medicine Hospital in Magway.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint on 8 February inspected women's patient ward, labour room, constructions of new toilet preparations for construction of operation theatre men's patient ward and store at Taungnyo Station Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Township.

Afterwards, the

minister visited Taung-dwingyi Township People's Hospital of Magway Division and inspected TB Unit, facility for water supply and arrangements for keeping the hospital clean, and then proceeded to Magway General Hospital.

At the meeting hall of the hospital, he met the rector and faculty members and heard the

report on arrangements for installation of teaching aids for human resources development at the teaching hospital and attended to the needs.

On 9 February, the minister also visited Magway Division Traditional Medicine Hospital where he looked into patient wards, herbal garden and medical stores.

MNA

Russian Dy PM warns against potential new Cold War

MUNICH (Germany), 12 Feb—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Sunday that Western nations should abandon their ideological prejudice against Russia which might trigger a new round of Cold War.

“It is time we should decisively abandon all approaches that have long divided our world on ideological grounds,” Ivanov told a group of high-profile diplomats at a key security conference in the southern German city of Munich.

Ivanov underlined that some nations, long with “double standards” against Russia, have the potential to “return to the containment policy”.

“Some states strive to exploit anti-terrorist activities as a pretext to achieve their own geopolitical and economic goals,” he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday the United States and NATO are igniting a “new arms race” by planning to establish the missile defence system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

MNA/Xinhua

McCain says does not need public campaign cash

RICHMOND (Virginia), 12 Feb—Presidential candidate John McCain said on Monday he has rejected public funding and its accompanying spending limits as he seeks to wrap up the Republican presidential nomination. The Arizona senator asked for public funds last summer after his campaign nearly foundered, but said on Monday he does not need taxpayer money as he seeks to secure the party’s nomination for the November election.

“That was my thinking, we didn’t need to,” McCain said after a rally in Virginia, which along with Maryland and the District of Columbia holds primary elections on Tuesday. The decision will allow McCain to ignore the 54 million US dollars spending limit he would have had to observe had he taken public funds, allowing him to train his sights on his eventual Democratic opponent.—MNA/Reuters



Residents walk to attend spring festival celebrations in the village of Wuhu, Anhui Province, on 11 Feb, 2008. The lunar “Year of the Rat” began on 7 Feb in China and will also be celebrated by as many as 35 million overseas Chinese in cities across the globe.—INTERNET

Gates urges Europe to back US in Afghanistan

MUNICH (Germany), 12 Feb—US Defence Secretary Robert Gates made a direct appeal to Europeans on Sunday to support the war in Afghanistan, warning that violence and terrorism could surge worldwide

if NATO was defeated there.

While admitting US policy mistakes — and his own role in one of them — Gates urged the allies to come together in the fight against Islamist militants in Afghanistan and said the credibility of NATO itself was at stake.

“The threat posed by violent Islamic extremism is real — and it

is not going to go away,” Gates told an annual gathering of security and military experts in Munich, Germany. “I am concerned that many people on this continent may not comprehend the magnitude of the direct threat to European security,” said Gates, admitting public support for the war in Afghanistan was weak in Europe.

MNA/Reuters

A Palestinian woman waits with her baby to cross the closed Egyptian border with the Gaza Strip on 10 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



Iran will not back down in nuclear row

TEHERAN, 12 Feb—Iran will not back down “one iota” in its nuclear dispute with Western powers, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a huge rally marking the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution on Monday.

“They should know that the Iranian nation will not retreat one iota from its nuclear rights,” he told the crowd, which had gathered in the capital Teheran for the 29th anniversary of the revolution that toppled the US-backed shah.—MNA/Reuters

Gunmen wound two Iraqi Army officers, kill civilian

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb—Gunmen wounded two Iraqi Army officers in a drive-by shooting in western Baghdad on Sunday, while a civilian was killed by random shooting in the capital, an Interior Ministry source said. “Brigadier Muhammad Basim Abdul Ridha and Colonel Farqad Salman Alwan, who work at the Defence Ministry General Inspector Office, were critically wounded when gunmen opened fire on the their car in Yarmouk neighbourhood,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, unknown gunmen opened fire randomly on civilian cars in the busy al-Nisour Square in the western part of the capital, killing a civilian and wounding two others, the source said.

Sporadic attacks continue in Baghdad, shaping a setback to the security in the capital after a relative lull of violence as a result of a US military surge.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Death toll in bomb blast in N-W Pakistan rises to 30

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb—The death toll in a bomb blast at the rally of a political party in northwest Pakistan on Saturday has risen to 30 on Sunday, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

The Awami National Party (ANP) was holding an election rally in Shabqadar Tehsil of Charsadda District in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) when the blast took place.

Interior Minister Hamid Nawaz Saturday confirmed that 14 people died in the blast and 24 others injured. However, local TV channels said that the death toll would be further increased because some victims were seriously injured when

they were rushed to the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar, capital city of NWFP.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast.

The Interior Ministry earlier warned that political leaders in the country could

probably be targeted by terrorists before the general elections slated on 18 February.

Hamid Nawaz said the government would take more measures to protect political leaders.

MNA/Xinhua



A Pakistani policeman walks past an election billboard in Rawalpindi.

Bush says McCain needs to win over conservatives

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb — US President George W Bush on Sunday told conservative members of his Republican Party that White House hopeful Senator John McCain needed to do some work to win them over but he was a “true conservative”.

Bush also took a direct shot at Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, questioning his foreign policy by pointing to the senator’s support for direct

talks with Iran’s Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and potentially attacking Pakistan.

Bush has previously stayed out of the primary fight and tried to avoid calling McCain, an Arizona senator, the presumptive party nominee despite his commanding lead among delegates over his closest rival, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee.

“If John is the nominee, he has got some

convincing to do to convince people that he is a solid conservative and I’ll be glad to help him if he is the nominee,” Bush said in a television interview with *Fox News* Sunday. —MNA/Reuters

Crowds cross a pedestrian bridge after emerging from Beijing Railway Station on 11 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



New Tanzanian PM sworn in

DAR ES SALAAM, 12 Feb — Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda has been sworn in as Tanzania’s 10th Prime Minister as Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete is poised to name the new Cabinet Monday.

The swearing-in took place in Dodoma Sunday when all of Tanzania’s top government officials went there for the event, according to local media reports.

Attending the swearing in ceremony were President Kikwete, Vice-President Ali Mohammed Shein, President of Zanzibar Amani Abeid Karume and Zanzibar Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha.

Prime Minister Pinda has replaced Edward Lowassa who offered to resign from the post to take the responsibility of a dubious power generation and supply deal in 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranians mark revolution, defy nuclear pressure

TEHERAN, 12 Feb — Tens of thousands of Iranians rallied on Monday to mark the 29th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, in a show of defiance of Western pressure on Iran to suspend its disputed nuclear programme.

Almost three decades after the revolution, women in head-to-toe black chador and men shouted “Death to America”, the ritual chant of the 1979 Revolution which toppled the US-backed Shah and swept the Shiite Muslim clergy to

power.

Iranian officials had called on people to turn out in large numbers to show their unity in the face of Western pressure. State television broadcast live footage of major rallies held in other cities.

The West fears Teheran is covertly trying to obtain nuclear bombs. The Islam Republic says it needs nuclear technology to meet its booming electricity demand.

“With this rally, Western countries will understand that they

cannot impose their will on us and they see that we back our leader and government,” Ali Salmani, 17, told *Reuters* in Teheran. Teheran’s defiance of a UN Security Council demand that it suspend uranium enrichment, which can have both civilian and military uses, has led to two rounds of sanctions.

MNA/Reuters



Construction workers install a mustang sculpture at Denver International Airport on 11 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

South Korean landmark destroyed in blaze, man arrested

SEOUL, 12 Feb — South Korean police on Monday arrested a 70-year-old man on suspicion of starting a blaze that destroyed the nation’s 600-year-old top cultural landmark, an agency said.

Police were investigating whether the fire at the Namdaemun gate in the heart of Seoul, one of the few historic structures to have survived the 20th century Japanese occupation and the Korean War, was arson.

A 70-year-old man identified only by his last name, “Chae”, was detained on Monday, suspected of starting the fire.

He was taken into custody at Ganghwa Island, west of Seoul, *Yonhap* news agency reported.

Internet

Two CBS journalists missing in Iraq

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — Two journalists working for CBS News have gone missing in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the company said in a statement.

“All efforts are under way to find them and until we learn more details, CBS News requests that others do not speculate on the identities of those involved. CBS News has

been in touch with the families and asks that their privacy be respected,” CBS News said in a statement. Iraq has become extremely hazardous for journalists, raising concerns about the diminished amount of information about the war that is available to the public.

The Committee to Protect Journalists in a recent report called the Iraq war “the deadliest conflict for journalists in recent history”, with 125 journalists and 49 support workers killed since the March 2003 US-led invasion. —MNA/Reuters

A wounded man stands at the scene of car bombing in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



UAE firm to launch new airline in India

ABU DHABI, 12 Feb — Emirates Trading Agency-Associated Construction (ETA-Ascon), a conglomerate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will launch a new regional airline in India in October, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Sunday.

“We have already got the license to start the airline. We are preparing for commercial launch in around October. It will be a regional airline,” said the company’s managing director Syed Salahuddin.

ETA-Ascon is currently in talks with regional jet makers to buy jets for its new airline. —MNA/Xinhua

Mbeki says no change in economic course

JOHANNESBURG, 12 Feb—South Africa's economic growth is likely to slow as the world economy cools, but the country remains committed to its pro-business policies, President Thabo Mbeki said on Sunday.

"There may very well be a slowdown as it (growth) slows down in the United States and in many other countries of the world ... but it doesn't change the character, the nature, the direction in which the country would develop," he said in an

interview with public broadcaster SABC.

Growth in Africa's biggest economy is widely expected to slow from the average 5 per cent a year of the past four years due to higher interest rates, a slowdown in the US and a power crisis that has knocked production at manufacturers and mines.

The Treasury has said there will likely be a downward revision to the forecasted 4.5 per cent expansion for 2008.

Answering questions related to his state-of-the-

nation speech from Friday, Mbeki said economic policy would not change, despite new leadership of the ruling African National Congress.

The ANC, at its Congress in December, had recommitted itself to current policy.

MNA/Reuters

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L) exchanges documents with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari in Moscow. INTERNET



ECONOMIC NEWS

Chavez threatens to seize foreign milk plants

CARACAS, 12 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday threatened to seize milk plants owned by Switzerland's Nestle and Italy's Parmalat if they muscled state producers out of the market.

Bolstering the private sector's supply with state-financed enterprises, Chavez sought this year to end chronic shortages of food, including milk, that are weighing on his popularity.

While he has tried to encourage private companies' output with measures such as lifting prices for some regulated goods, economists worry his persistent rhetoric against producers could undermine his goal by scaring off investment.

On his weekly TV show, the socialist

president complained producers run by the state or cooperatives could not increase supply because they struggled to get raw milk.

"We are not doing anything by installing plants only to find afterward there is no milk for the plants because it has all been taken by Parmalat or Nestle," he said. "This government should turn the screw."

MNA/Reuters

G-7 financial leaders vow to ensure economic stability

TOKYO, 11 Feb—Group of Seven financial leaders said in a joint statement Saturday here that they will take individual and collective action to secure stability and growth of world economy amid worries stemming from the US subprime crisis.

"We stand ready to take any further action necessary to enhance stability in the financial markets," the G-7 finance ministers and central bank chiefs said in a statement released after a one-day gathering in Tokyo.

The financial chiefs noted that the global economy is facing growing uncertainties, saying, "The world confronts a more challenging and uncertain environment than when we met in last October."

"In the United States, output and employment growth have slowed considerably and risks have become more skewed to the downside," the statement said, noting that economic growth in all G-7 nations are expected to slow down in the short-term. — MNA/Xinhua



Google's new software platform for mobile phones entitled 'Android' in its prototype form on demonstration at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.—INTERNET

Chinese automaker Chery sets up JV with Quantum

HEFEI, 11 Feb—Chinese carmaker Chery Automobile has set up a joint venture with Quantum LLC, a US subsidiary of Tel Aviv-listed Israel Corp, in its attempt to explore the European and

US markets. The joint venture, Chery Quantum Automobile, has registered at the administration of industry and commerce in east China's Anhui Province, sources from Chery said.

Quantum LLC spent 225 million US dollars for a 45-per-cent stake in the new entity, while Chery provided mainly technology and land to get a controlling 55 per cent.

The two parties planned a total investment of 1.5 billion US dollars into the joint venture, which would be the biggest joint venture in Anhui. A Chery official said it is the first time for a Chinese automaker to provide technology, rather than direct financial investments, to form a joint venture with a foreign company. Chery Quantum Automobile is expected to start production in 2009 and aims to produce 150,000 vehicles a year.

Chery's vehicle sales are forecast to reach a record 480,000 units this year, after rising 24.8 per cent year on year to 381,000 units in 2007.—MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine willing to settle gas debt with Russia

KIEV, 11 Feb—Ukraine is willing to settle a gas debt worth 1.5 billion dollars with Russia if it can have a direct import agreement with the Russian gas company Gazprom, Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov said on Sunday.

"Ukraine's first deputy prime minister Oleksandr Turchynov confirms that the country's state gas and oil company Naftogaz indeed has a debt," said a statement on the government's website.

"Naftogaz is ready to commit to full repayment of its debt in exchange for an agreement to sign a direct contract and relevant documents with Russia's Gazprom," it said.

Gazprom has threatened to reduce some supplies to Ukraine if the state energy company Naftogaz does not pay the debt by 11 February.

MNA/Xinhua



The Singapore Flyer is seen at night in Singapore on 10 Feb, 2008. The world's largest ferris wheel, the Singapore Flyer, made its first spin on Monday, offering passengers a bird's eye view of the city-state as well as parts of neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia.—INTERNET



Pakistani riot police beat a lawyer to the ground during a protest against President Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 9 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

Pakistani police clash with protesters in capital

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb — Pakistani police clashed with lawyers who staged protest in capital on Saturday, the *News Network International* news agency reported.

Police arrested several lawyers as hundreds of lawyers marched to the residence of former Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhamamd Chaudhry, who has been under house arrest since 3 November last year.

Holding portraits of Chaudhry, a crowd of about 500 protesters chanted slogans outside a

five-star hotel and government buildings in Islamabad.

The police clashed with lawyers when they tried to remove the barricades en route to the judges colony where Chaudhry was placed under house arrest.

The lawyers hurled stones at the police who sprayed water cannon and fired tear gas shells to

disperse them. As a result, several lawyers and members of civil society were injured and were also taken into custody.

The protesters also demanded release of President of Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan and other lawyer leaders who were also under house arrest.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb — An American soldier was killed and two others were injured by a roadside bomb explosion in Diyala Province in northeast of Baghdad, the US military said on Monday.

A soldier assigned to Multi-National Division-North was killed and two others were wounded when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in the province on Sunday, a military statement said briefly without telling the exact location of the attack.

The name of the deceased soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it added.

The latest death bring the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq to some 3,960 since the outbreak of US-led invasion in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. — MNA/Xinhua



A Chadian soldier is seen patrolling in the central market in N'Djamena, Chad, on 11 Feb, 2008. — INTERNET

Fifteen killed in north Iraq clashes

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — Fifteen people were killed, including 10 suspected al-Qaeda insurgents, in clashes with local security units in northern Iraq on Sunday, the US military said.

The military said insurgents had attacked a compound set up by a US-backed neighbourhood security unit near Sinjar, a small town 400 kilometres (250 miles) northwest of Baghdad in Nineveh province.

It said five members of the neighbourhood unit, known by the US military as concerned local citizens or CLCs, were killed and five wounded. The unit counter-attacked, killing 10 insurgents, the military said.

MNA/Reuters

Bird flu spreads to another Bangladesh district

DHAKA, 11 Feb — Bird flu has spread to another district in Bangladesh despite efforts by authorities to contain it, taking the number of affected districts to 40, officials said on Sunday.

Health workers culled nearly 12,000 fowls after tests confirmed some

chickens had died from the avian influenza virus in the northeast, livestock officials said.

The H5N1 virus, first detected in Bangladesh in March last year, was quickly brought under control through aggressive measures, including culling. But follow-up

monitoring eased in later months prompting the disease to reappear, experts say. So far, no human infections have been reported in Bangladesh, a densely populated nation with millions of backyard poultry and thousands of chicken farms.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide bombing targeting anti-al-Qaeda Iraqis kills 17

TIKRIT, Iraq, 11 Feb — A suicide car bomb struck a checkpoint manned by an Awakening Council group outside a village in Salahudin province on Sunday, killing 17 people and wounding more than 40 others, a local police source said.

“A suicide bomber rammed in the afternoon his explosive-laden car into a checkpoint outside the village of Mazarie near the town of Yathrib, 70

kilometres north of Baghdad,” the source from town’s police told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The source said the casualties include Awakening Council members and civilians. Earlier, the source put the death toll at four, with eight others injured.

MNA/Xinhua

Palestinian population reaches 3.76m

RAMALLAH, 11 Feb — An official in the Palestinian Central Statistic Bureau in this West Bank city said Saturday that the Palestinian population in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem stood at about 3.76 million. Luai Shabanah, director general of the statistic bureau, told a news conference held in Ramallah on Saturday that the Palestinian population increased by around one million in 10 years, which stood at 2.89 million in June 1967.

Of the 3.76 million Palestinians living on the Palestinian territories, some 2.345 million were living in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, and the other 1.416 million living in Gaza, Shabanah said. — MNA/Xinhua



A woman sits next to her belongings after evacuating her flooded home in Trinidad, northern Bolivia, on 11 Feb, 2008. A rainy season aggravated by La Nina, a periodic cooling of waters in the Pacific Ocean, has hit hard all across the country. — INTERNET

Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

(from page 1)

Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and officials.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party cordially greeted Union Day delegates, members of traditional cultural troupes, members of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution, members of social organizations and special guests.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted dinner to the guests.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, members of SPDC and their wives, senior military officers, the ministers, the chief justice and the attorney-general



Senior General Than Shwe greets Union Day delegates from states and divisions, members of cultural troupes and members of Commission for Drafting the State Constitution and social organizations. — MNA

and their wives, members of Central Committee and management committee, the deputy ministers, deputy auditor-general, members of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution, director-general of Government Office and the Union Day delegates from states and divisions, members of traditional cultural troupes and social organizations and guests.

Before and during the dinner, the national race girls and vocalists to the accompaniment of Myanmar

Atham Modern Music Troupe entertained those present with songs.

After the dinner, winners in Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition, cultural dance troupe members of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States and Taninthayi Division also entertained the guests with songs and dances.

MNA

61st Anniversary Union Day observed in Yangon



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win reads message sent by Senior General Than Shwe at 61st Anniversary Union Day Celebration in Yangon. — MNA

YANGON, 12 Feb — The 61st Anniversary Union Day was observed at the People's Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

Over 3,500 people including service personnel, members of social organizations, nurses, teachers and students from districts and townships in Yangon Division took the respective places in the People's Square starting from 6 am.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day in Yangon Division Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay

Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, military officers, Tatmadaw members of regiments and units, members of division, district and township PDCs, members of the leading committee, members of work committee, members of YCDC and heads of departments, the rectors, the principals, medical superintendents, delegates of social organizations and national races from the University of Culture (Yangon).

At 7 am, the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command marched from the Hluttaw Compound to the People's Square and took position.

Next, Chairman of the Leading Committee Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win took position on the stage.

The commander took the salute of the Guard of Honour and together with those present at the ceremony saluted the State Flag. The Guard of Honour played the National Anthem.

Next, the commander read the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe.

The ceremony came to a close later in the morning.

MNA

HONOURING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Maintain the heritage of the Union

Kyaw Min Aye



**WILL REMAIN EVER UNITED
WHOEVER CONSPIRES TO DIVIDE US**

We people of national races such as Shan, Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Bamar have been living in the Union in harmony for ages.

We do not favour the well-being of a single national race alone, nor do we accept any discrimination against or in favour of a particular national race. Our nation has been constituted into a Union where various national races under the name of Myanmar people have lived together since yore with three characteristics—national brethren, oneness, and magnanimity that we cultivate by nature.

(Excerpt from Myanmar Independence Declaration)

Myanmar, a multicultural country, has preserved a fine history of gradually advancing civilization

since its early history.

The term “Asia” means a place where the sun rises first in the world. It is the largest continent in the world. The civilization of man originated in Asia, and so did many religious faiths related to the civilization.

Asia has a very long history with a variety of races, religions, languages and faiths. Myanmar is located in Indochina Peninsular. With an area of 678,033 square kilometres (261790 square miles), Myanmar is over two times larger than the British Isles.

In Myanmar, a population of over 56 million of over 100 national races have lived together sharing joys and sorrows. So, the history of Myanmar and that of national unity are the same. Whenever national races managed to build up consolidated unity among them, the nation was strong with high prestige. And whenever the nation lacked unity of national races, it came under alien intrusion for a long time. Once, it fell under the subjugation of the colonialists for over 100 years.

National races became disunited due to the wedge driven among them by the colonialists, to the accompaniment of armed insurgency. In consequence, all national races had to withstand various forms of plights and upheavals. Therefore, people have to take lessons from the historic incidents that the Union of Myanmar has been on the point of collapse several times, stemming from the seeds of suspicions sowed by the colonialists.

In retrospect, south Asia, southeast Asia and almost the entire east Asia were colonized by the colonialists and neo-colonialists from 17th century to 20th century. The region thus had to put up strong resistance against the colonialism and Fascism by waging major combats

for national liberation. A salient point in that regard is that the majority of the old colonies lost national unity and had to cope with internal armed conflicts soon after they had regained independence.

Now, the global power balance has been lost, and as a result, hegemony is rearing its head again. Today, every country with disunity among the national people concerned has come under various attempts to break them up into parts.

According to the geopolitics and loss of global power balance, what is the most indispensable for today’s Myanmar and its people is to build consolidated unity among national brethren.

Despite rich natural resources, Myanmar lags behind other countries in development due to instability and lack of peace triggered by internal and external destructive elements. The people are longing for stability of the State, economic growth and high social standard. So, the aspiration of the people is to ensure emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Under the historic necessities of the nation, the Tatmadaw had to take up the State responsibilities in September 1988 to address the general deterioration of the nation in accordance with the wishes of the people. Since then, it has placed the nation on the path to the multiparty democracy system from the one-party Socialism. It has abrogated the centralized economy and introduced the market economy. Indeed, it is now carrying out formidable tasks of fulfilling the requirements and the duties of reforms in the long-term interests of the nation.

So, the Tatmadaw government is not just a caretaker government ensuring prevalence of law and order and restoring peace and stability. It is a government devoting itself to tasks for reforms to introduce a new system.

Now, Myanmar is on the path of smooth transition to democracy. In the past, Myanmar suffered difficulties and crises when it practised democracy. Since the nation regained independence, the multiparty democracy had been practised. However, the democratic practice showed no success due to lack of economic development of the public. Not only that, the Union also stood on the edge of an abyss at that time.

(See page 9)

The Tatmadaw government is not just a caretaker government ensuring prevalence of law and order and restoring peace and stability. It is a government devoting itself to tasks for reforms to introduce a new system.

HONOURING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Maintain the heritage of the Union

Kyaw Min Aye

(from page 8)

Stability of the State and community peace, and economic development are the two main requirements for democracy to flourish. Practice of democracy without peace and stability can attract widespread anarchism. Different nations have different customs, national cultures and geopolitics, so their ways to exercise democracy are different from one another. In this regard, every nation wishing to practise democracy will have to choose own ways in the interests of the people concerned.

It is regrettable that certain western countries are extending their economic sanctions against Myanmar, while neglecting the nation's practical democratic processes. Moreover, they have recently laid down some more economic sanctions against Myanmar to put pressure on the government.

Regarding the sanctions, the Chinese Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister last November said that China was not pleased with economic sanctions; that economic sanctions could not help solve the problems, but worsen them; that peace and stability was the major need for Myanmar to achieve success in democratic process and economic growth; that China did not want Myanmar to be a second Iraq; that it was not important whatever other countries said in that regard; and that it was China's firm stand.

In an interview conducted on 31 December 2006, BBC told former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan that some Iraqis said that their life was even worse now than under the dictatorship. And BBC asked him if that was right.

Kofi Annan said that it was right for an

Stability of the State and community peace, and economic development are the two main requirements for democracy to flourish. Practice of democracy without peace and stability can attract widespread anarchism. Different nations have different customs, national cultures and geopolitics, so their ways to exercise democracy are different from one another. In this regard, every nation wishing to practise democracy will have to choose own ways in the interests of the people concerned.

ordinary Iraqi, adding that he would say "yes" if he were an Iraqi. There had been a harsh rule over the country, but at that time the people could get out of their homes and walk on the streets peacefully, children could attend their classes, and any parents did not need to worry if their children would get home from school, he said. Then, terrorist attacks were not under control in Iraq, and what was needed in the human society was to build security and to maintain secure environment in Iraq. Without security,

The people have to weigh the international and national affairs correctly. Destructive elements with negative views are now distorting the image of the nation. So, it is required of the people not to place reliance on their groundless accusations.

POEM:

Historic national duty

In fore we place
Three Main National Causes
Priority given to national interest
On force of Union Spirit
Rely on we
Consolidating ever rising strength
The nation has
In oneness we are undivided
Forward we march
Our policy in hearts

However hard our path is
Never tired are we
Community and nation we serve
Even outside interferences
In addition to disturbances
From right and left
And internal elements
Ward them off with bravery
From unity of Union
Comes our strength
Realizing are we
Road map with seven steps
O close kith and kin
For our dear nation
Let's march forward
Carry on doing this historic duty.

(Honouring the 61st Anniversary Union Day)
Maung Hla Thein (Mining) (Trs)

reconstruction and building the nation was not possible, he said.

The people have to weigh the international and national affairs correctly. Destructive elements with negative views are now distorting the image of the nation. So, it is required of the people not to place reliance on their groundless accusations.

Now, Myanmar is taking pragmatic approach to democratic transition processes so as to exercise Unitary System, multiparty democracy system, and market economy, as aspired by the people. The drafting of State constitution, the third step of the State's seven-step Road Map, is nearing completion.

In 2008, Myanmar is going to see choices that will make important changes. And the nation is now on an important turning point for the people. So, the people will have to choose the correct way for speedy transition to democracy. Now is the time for the people to give priority to national interests, cherish own lineage, and safeguard the motherland more than ever. So, the entire people are urged to remain united for perpetual existence of the heritage of the Union.

Translation: MS



Guard of Honour and delegates of national races salute the State Flag at 61st Anniversary Union Day Celebration in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

61st Anniversary Union Day State Flag...

(from page 16)

USDAs, War Veteran Organization, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people totalling over 4,000.

First, departmental officials and members of social organizations took positions at the designated places at the square in front of City Hall of Nay Pyi Taw starting from 5 am.

At 5.30 am, the 61st Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held and the flag-hoisting platoon flew the State Flag. At 7.30 am, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) Guard of

Honour marched to the square and took position.

Next, Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo arrived and took position on the stage.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 took the salute of the Guard of Honour and those present saluted the

State Flag and the Guard of Honour played the National Anthem.

Next, the Secretary-1 read out the message sent by Chairman of the SPDC Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary Union Day and the ceremony came to a close. At night, government offices, the city hall, roundabouts, schools and staff quarters were beautifully illuminated.

MNA

Minister visits Technical Training School (Mandalay) Project, Myanma Industrial Development Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin met with officials concerned of Technical Training School (Mandalay) Project in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay, on 9 February.

ma Industrial Development Bank Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected functions of Myanma Industrial Development Bank (Mandalay Branch) in Chanayethazan Township.

MNA

The minister looked into lecture halls, the computer room and installation of machines at the training workshops and progress of test-running.

Chairman of Myan-



Nay Pyi Taw City Hall is being illuminated to mark 61st Anniversary Union Day. — MNA

Shwenyamyay Yangon-NyaungU express bus line opened

YANGON, 12 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day

2008, the Highway Section of Passenger Transport Division under Road

Transport of the Ministry of Rail Transportation opened Shwenyamyay Yangon-NyaungU express bus line at Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal in Mingaladon Township this morning.

Deputy General Manager U Hla Win of Road Transport cut the ribbon to launch the new express bus line and presented gifts to the passengers onboard the bus.

Air-con City Bus that can carry 40 passengers will ply the route once the every two days and the fare is fixed K 6,200 per passenger. The express buses will depart from both Yangon and NyaungU at 12 noon

Minister meets with the staff of the ministry

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — Minister for Immigra-

tion and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met with the staff of the ministry at the meeting hall, here, yesterday.

Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung Than and officials reported on the plans to issue the Citizenship Scrutiny Cards by making field trips to remote areas. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein gave a supplementary report. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA



A ceremony to launch Shwenyamyay Yangon-NyaungU bus line in progress at Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal in Yangon. — MNA

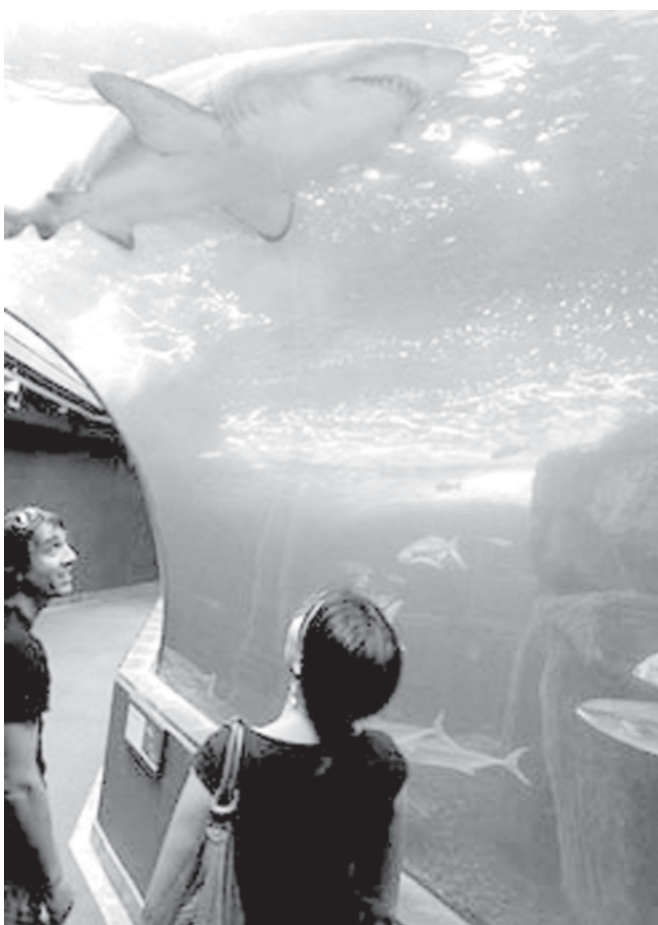
Images of the Day



A boy performs martial arts at a tourism booth promoting China at Madrid's International Tourism Trade Fair (FITUR) on its inauguration day 30 Jan, 2008. FITUR is a grand international tourism fair with 170 participating countries and thousands of companies showcasing their products and services.—INTERNET



Tourists visit the Great Sphinx in Egypt's Giza in 2007. The UN World Tourism Organisation has said global tourism soared to a record performance in 2007, led by emerging markets, and the outlook remains good despite financial crises and high oil prices. The Middle East "continues to be one of the tourism success stories of the decade so far, despite ongoing tensions and threats," a UNWTO statement said.—INTERNET



People look at a Ragged Tooth Shark at the Two Oceans Aquarium situated at the Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa, on 11 Feb, 2008. Thousands of tourist visit the Western Cape province of South Africa every year.

INTERNET



Passengers walk under lanterns on a street in Wuhan of Hubei Province on 4 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

Thieves take \$164m masterworks in Swiss art heist

ZURICH, 12 Feb—Masked robbers brandishing handguns stole four paintings by 19th Century masters worth 164 million US dollars from a Zurich museum in Switzerland's biggest art theft, police said on Monday.

Oil paintings by Cezanne, Degas, van Gogh and Monet were

stolen in broad daylight on Sunday from the private Buehrle Collection in the second dramatic art theft in the area within days.

The robbery in Switzerland's financial capital followed the theft of two Picasso paintings—Tete de Cheval, from 1962, and Verreet Pichet, from 1944 — from a

nearby cultural centre last week. Police told *Reuters* they had no concrete leads on the Picasso theft and that the investigation was ongoing.

They declined to say whether they thought the two thefts were connected.

In Sunday's robbery, three men in dark clothing and masks, one

of whom spoke German with a Slavic accent, forced their way into the museum and made off with the paintings in a white car, police said.

Police said a reward of 100,000 Swiss francs was on offer for information leading to their arrest.

MNA/Reuters

UK fire crews attacked "40 time a week"

LONDON, 12 Feb— Fire crews are being attacked 40 times a week, assaulted by bricks, bottles and stones as they tackle blazes, the Fire Brigades Union said on Monday.

Other incidents include ambushes, booby traps and attacks with lumps of wood and knives.

"In some areas attacking fire crews has become a recreational activity, with very serious consequences," said the union's general secretary Matt Wrack.

The union said attacks had risen 15 per cent to 1,504 in England and Wales in 2006-07. That compared with data from the Department for Communities and Local Government which showed a 68-per-cent fall to 400 over that period.—*MNA/Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-285)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-285) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 13.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Thousands rally as Bhutto party relaunches poll bid

THATTA (Pakistan), 11 Feb—To chants of "Democracy is the best revenge", tens of thousands of Benazir Bhutto's followers rallied in southern Pakistan on Saturday as her party relaunches an election campaign derailed by her assassination.

Around 2,000 police and hundreds of private armed security guards from Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) secured the venue, a sports stadium in the town of Thatta in the southern province of Sindh, amid fears Islamist extremists could seek to disrupt the run-up to a 18 February election.

A suspected suicide bomber attacked an election rally for another secular party, the Awami National Party, in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, killing 14 people and wounding 24. The PPP rally was the first since Bhutto's 27 December assassination by a suicide bomber in the garrison town of Rawalpindi, adjoining Islamabad, an attack that has stoked fears of instability in nuclear-armed Pakistan and led to a postponement of the vote. The size of the rally -- police estimated the crowd at over 100,000 -- dwarfed smaller ones Bhutto had held in the run-up to her murder.

"She wanted to change the system and that is why the system has killed her," Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, de facto party leader, told supporters, some wrapped in red, green and black party flags and wearing hats bearing her portrait.— *MNA/Reuters*

Woman jailed for murder of 100-year-old aunt in london

LONDON, 12 Feb — A woman who murdered her 100-year-old aunt, a former dressmaker to the Queen, during a feud over a will was jailed for a minimum of 20 years on Monday.

Susan Turner, 48, set fire to the family shop in Barking Road, east London, in 2006.

Her aunt, Violet Durling, was asleep upstairs at the time. Only

able to move with the help of a zimmer frame, the pensioner became trapped and choked to death as smoke engulfed her property. She was found dead the following day curled up on the kitchen floor.

Turner, a mother of two, immediately fled the country and went on a six-month luxury tour of Europe with her boyfriend.

Turner, the daughter

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for KLINGSPOR Spolka z o.o.

P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 13 February 2008

13 dacoits killed in clash with villagers in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb— Thirteen dacoits trying to steal some cattle were killed and two more others were injured in a gun battle with villagers in southeast Pakistan on Sunday, *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) reported.

About 20 dacoits entered the compound of

a local landlord Sardar Najib at near Sahiwal Town in Punjab Province to steal his cattle when they were spotted by some servants, *APP* quoted police as saying.

The servants raised an alarm and people from the village rushed to the area, sparking a gun battle between the dacoits and villagers.

"Thirteen dacoits were killed on the spot and two others were injured," Deputy Superintendent of Police Malik Daud said.

The remaining criminals managed to escape from the scene. The bodies were sent to a hospital in Sahiwal for autopsy. Police cordoned off the area and launched a search operation for other members of the gang, the *APP* said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

**Don't
Smoke**

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko who unveiled the Dhammasala Signboard and the stone inscriptions at the ceremony to open Nanda NayUparnay Dhammasala Building at No 5/7 of the 3rd lane of Botahtaung Pagoda Road in Botahtaung Township on 10 February 2008; Pro-Rector Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and Patron Captain (Retd) K D Limbu of Myanmar Gurkha-Hindu Dhamma Organization who cut the ribbon to open the building; Nepalese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar HE Mrs Guna Laxmi Sharma (Bishowkarama) and departmental heads who were present on the occasion; and friends far and near.

U Nanda+Daw Kalarvati Family

People walk past a bundle of Tanghulu in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 10 Feb, 2008. Tanghulu is a kind of traditional snack in north China in winter.
INTERNET



China's state-owned grain companies reap profit

BEIJING, 12 Feb—China's grain circulation enterprises shrugged off losses to reap unprecedented profits last year, the first in the past 46 years.

Overall net profits of the nation's grains enterprises hit a historic 167 million yuan (23.194 million US dollars) last year, *Xinhua* learned from the State Administration of Grains (SAG) on Sunday. In 2006, those companies suffered a 2.97 billion yuan loss.

Grain companies in 17 provinces including Jiangsu, Shandong and Henan earned handsome profits while those in other areas trimmed their losses, according to SAG. The first-ever profit surplus was believed to be a result of effective government measures backed by the minimum purchasing price schemes, which aims to protect the interests of both farmers and grain trading companies.

Rising grain prices also drive up the profit. Last year the minimum purchasing price for wheat and rice stood at 69 to 72 yuan and 70 to 75 yuan for every 50 kilogrammes, respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

Yunnan speeds railways linking three ASEAN countries

KUNMING, 12 Feb — Southwest China's Yunnan Province has speeded its pace to build four international railways linking Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand, according to an official with the provincial government.

Vice-Governor of province Qin Guangrong said that the four outbound railways are significant to the transport and eco-

nomie development of Yunnan Province and the three ASEAN countries.

The rails linking Kunming, Yuxi and Ho Chi Minh city in Vietnam have been under smooth construction, and are scheduled for completion in 2009.

Qin said that his province will strive to start construction this year for the railway in Mengzi in

Yunnan to the Sino-Vietnam border.

The preparatory work of the China-Myanmar railway expansion project has been in full swing.

The preliminary work of building Kunming-Bangkok railway has been launched, which will sharply improve the transport efficiency between the countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese actresses dance at the evening party of "Meet in Chinese Festival" at the Victorian Arts Centre in Melbourne, on 10 Feb, 2008. —XINHUA

China donates \$155m to disaster-hit areas

BEIJING, 11 Feb — People from all circles of Chinese society have donated a total of 1.16 billion yuan (about 155 million US dollars) to the areas stricken by snow and rain havoc, announced the Ministry of Civil Affairs on Sunday.

By 18:00 Sunday, the ministry had received 85.8 million yuan (about 11.4 US dollars) of direct donation for those areas, China Red Cross Association and its branch organizations received 136 million yuan (about 18 million US dollars) in donations, and the rest was received by the China Charity Federation and the provincial governments of the seven most seriously stricken areas.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian Shiv Chowrasia (R) poses with Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan after winning the US\$2.5 million Indian Masters, the first European Tour event to be played in the country. —INTERNET

Dubai starts testing green fuel for buses

ABU DHABI, 12 Feb — The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) of Dubai, the second largest emirate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has started testing green fuel for buses in a bid to improve the emirate's air quality.

The four-month test will use 10 busses equipped with the selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology to see how much nitrogen oxide emissions can be reduced by using diesel fuel containing 50ppm (parts per million) or lower of sulfur.

The diesel fuel currently available in Dubai contains 500ppm of sulfur.

"We are in the advanced stage of procuring 50ppm diesel and plan to introduce it for public buses in the first quarter of 2008," Eng Essa Al Dossari, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency, was quoted as saying.

"International studies show lower sulfur fuel contributes to reduced pollution," he added.

"In due time, the availability of 10ppm ultra low sulfur diesel in Dubai will drastically reduce pollution from diesel engines," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

More snow looms for China amid transport crunch

BEIJING, 12 Feb — More snowy weather was forecast for parts of China on Monday, threatening to snarl transport at the height of holiday travel and hampering the country's efforts to return to

normality after its worst winter in decades.

China is expected to see railway traffic peak on Tuesday, the last day of Spring Festival, as the Lunar New Year holiday is known, when millions

head back to work from their villages.

"Post-Spring Festival railway traffic peak saw more than five million passengers in one day last year and we expect more in 2008," Xinhua news agency quoted the Railways Ministry as saying. —MNA/Reuters

"Jaws" actor Roy Scheider dead at 75

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb — Actor Roy Scheider, a two-time Oscar nominee best known for his roles as a small-town police chief in "Jaws" and his portrait of famed choreographer Bob Fosse in "All That Jazz", died on Sunday at age 75.

Scheider died of complications from multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood cells, at the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, hospital spokeswoman Leslie Taylor said.

She said the actor had been treated there for the disease off and on over the past two years.

A classically trained actor recognized for his angular facial features and boxer's nose, the New Jersey-born Scheider often played harried lawmen or average guys caught up in extraordinary circumstances.

He earned his first Oscar nomination for his supporting role as Gene Hackman's partner in the 1971 film "The French Connection".

Eight years later, he was nominated as best lead actor for playing the womanizing, pill-popping Fosse alter ego Joe Gideon in the semi-autobiographical "All That Jazz", which Fosse co-wrote and directed.

MNA/Reuters



NASA image shows the space shuttle Atlantis approaching the International Space Station (ISS). Two astronauts from Atlantis have stepped out into space on the first walk of the current mission, to prepare the European research laboratory Columbus for hooking up to the ISS. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Robinho likely to miss Champions League game

MADRID, 12 Feb — Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Robinho is likely to miss the first leg of his side's Champions League last 16 tie at AS Roma because of a torn stomach muscle.

Real, who play Roma on February 19, said on their website (www.realmadrid.com) that the winger would be out of action for between 10 and 15 days.

The 24-year-old, one of Real's stand-out players this season, sustained the injury in the opening minutes of his side's 7-0 thrashing of Valladolid at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

He will also miss Saturday's league match at Real Betis.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal footballer Emmanuel Adebayor (R) vies with Blackburn footballer Andre Ooijer (L) during their Premiership match against Blackburn at the Emirates Stadium in North London. Arsenal won 2-0.—INTERNET

River hand Simeone winning start

BUENOS AIRES, 12 Feb — River Plate made a winning start to the Clausura Championship under new coach Diego Simeone with a solid 2-0 victory over Gimnasia-Jujuy on Sunday.

Midfielder Matias Abelairas found the net with an angled free kick early in the second half and Paulo Ferrari added the second with a sharp header from a corner by Ariel Ortega.

Simeone has replaced Daniel Passarella, who quit in November after River were knocked out of the Copa Sudamericana.

Midfielder Cristian Gonzalez grabbed a last-minute equalizer for Rosario to spoil Juan Roman Riquelme's return to Boca Juniors after joining from Villarreal. Gonzalez earned Rosario a 1-1 draw after playmaker Riquelme had set up Rodrigo Palacio for the opening goal.

Argentina's 2007 Apertura champions Lanus were handed a 1-0 win over Independiente when defender Leandro Gioda fired into his own goal. Racing Club earned a 1-1 draw against Olimpo when striker Facundo Sava equalised six minutes from time.—MNA/Reuters

Clemente accepts job as Iran coach

MADRID, 12 Feb — Former Spain and Serbia coach Javier Clemente has accepted an offer to take charge of the Iranian national side during the qualification phase for the 2010 World Cup.

"Yes, I've accepted the offer," Clemente told Reuters on Monday. "My aim is to help Iran learn and improve as a team."

The three-times Asian Cup winners have been without a coach since the departure of Amir Ghalenoei after they were knocked out of the competition by South Korea in the quarterfinals last July.

The Iran Football Federation (FFI) announced last month they had appointed Clemente but the Spaniard said his decision would depend on a visit to Iran.

"Last week's visit to Iran went well," said Clemente, who explained that he would not live in Iran but would travel to the country only to prepare the team for their matches.

"It has been decided that I will go back and forth between Spain and Iran in order to coach the team," he said. "I won't be living there." —MNA/Reuters

Ireland set to name Trapattoni as manager

DUBLIN, 12 Feb — Former Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni will become Ireland manager once his contract with Austrian club Salzburg ends in May after agreeing in principle to a deal.

"The intention is we will have a meeting on Wednesday of the board and management to ratify Trapattoni and it is expected he will be announced officially as the new manager on Thursday night," a senior Football Association of Ireland (FAI) source who declined to be identified told Reuters on Monday.

In a move similar to new England coach Fabio Capello's inclusion of former defender Stuart Pearce on his backroom team, the FAI is to hand a role to ex-Ireland international Liam Brady.

"Brady will have a role in the backroom staff," said the source. "What that role is will of course be up to the new manager."

Former midfield general Brady, who played under Trapattoni at Juventus in the early 1980s, will take on the Ireland role while remaining as head of Arsenal's academy. —MNA/Reuters



El Salvador's Marcelo Arevalo plays Paraguay's Juan Carlos Ramirez in their singles tennis match during the first day of Davis Cup play in Asuncion on 11 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Chelsea's Terry likely to miss League Cup final

LONDON, 12 Feb — Chelsea captain John Terry is likely to miss the League Cup final against Tottenham Hotspur later this month, though he is recovering well from a broken foot, manager Avram Grant said on Sunday.

"I think it will be too soon," Grant said of the final at Wembley on February 24. "I think he will be back in about three weeks... he trained sooner than we thought."

Terry, England captain under previous manager Steve McClaren, has also missed the opportunity to impress new England boss Fabio Capello after breaking his foot against Arsenal on 16 December.

The defender sounded more optimistic than Grant about his fitness. "I'm hoping to join in with the team in training next week as I run off the aches in my foot," he said in his programme notes.

Both Grant and Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez were keen to have absent players return after playing out a lacklustre Premier League 0-0 draw at Stamford Bridge. —MNA/Reuters

Egypt striker Zidan made right choice this time

ACCRA, 12 Feb — Egypt striker Mohamed Zidan, absent when his team won the African Nations Cup two years ago after putting club commitments first, said on Sunday he made the right choice this year by choosing to play for his country.

"It's a great feeling to be champion today," said the Hamburg SV player after Egypt beat Cameroon 1-0 in the final to win the trophy for the second year running and a record sixth time overall.

"I missed the last time in Egypt and it was a difficult situation," said Zidan, who laid on the winning goal for Mohamed Aboutrika in the final.

"I decided to stay with my club in Germany and I was in a similar situation this time, it was a difficult situation to decide who to play for, Hamburg or the national team. —MNA/Reuters

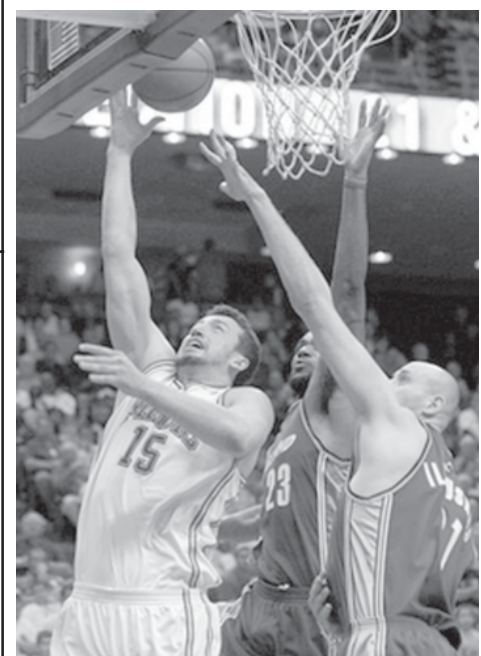


Rabobank's Graeme Brown of Australia (C) crosses the finish line to win the second stage of Mallorca Challenge 2008 cycling race between Cala Millor and Son Servera, in the Spanish island of Mallorca on 11 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Gabon int'l collapses and dies during match

LIBREVILLE, 12 Feb — Gabon international Guy Tchingoma collapsed and died on the field during a premier division match in Libreville on Saturday, the Gabo news agency reported.

Midfielder Tchingoma, 21, collapsed after contact with an opposing player late in the match between his club FC105 Libreville and US Mbiliandzami at the Mondedang de Sibang Stadium in the capital. The news agency reported there were no medical attendants on hand at the game. Tchingoma was taken to hospital in a team bus but pronounced dead on arrival. No cause of death was given. —MNA/Reuters



Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu, left, of Turkey puts up a shot in front of Cleveland Cavaliers guard LeBron James and Zydrunas Ilgauskas of Lithuania during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla, on 11 Feb, 2008. The Cavaliers won 118-111.—INTERNET

Indonesia to host world conf on hazardous waste

JAKARTA, 12 Feb — Indonesia will host an international environmental conference in Indonesia's resort city Bali in June to address efforts to reduce exports of hazardous waste from industrialized nations to developing countries, Jakarta Post reported on its website on Sunday.

Rasio Ridho Sani, Deputy Assistant to Environment Minister for management of hazardous waste said that environment ministers from 170 countries were expected for the 9th Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movement of hazardous waste, the Jakarta Post said.

Scheduled to take place on 23-27 June in Bali, the conference is expected to bring together more than 1,000 delegates from developed and developing nations.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan condemns US Marine's raping of minorgirl

TOKYO, 12 Feb — Japanese central government and local officials on Monday condemned the raping of an Okinawa minor girl by a US Marine.

"It's a very regretful incident, and the foreign Ministry has asked the US side to reinforce its discipline to prevent similar incident from happening again," Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura said in an interview with

NHK. Komura said Japan's law enforcement authority will seriously deal with the incident in accordance with law and on the basis of proof.

The minister said it's a wicked affair for the Japan-US alliance from the point of national sentiment, and the Japanese side will try to control its shockwave.

Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima said he felt strong indignation against the crime and could

never forgive it since the victim is only a junior high school student.

"Such an atrocious, brutal crime... will naturally have detrimental effect on the sentiment of the people of Okinawa," the governor was quoted by *Kyodo News* as saying.

Okinawa Mayor Mitsuko Tomon said the incident was "absolutely unforgivable" as it inflicted such a terrible experience on a minor girl.

Tyrone Hadnott, a 38-year-old staff sergeant belonging to the Camp Courtney base, was arrested on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old girl inside a car parked on a street in the town of Chatan around 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

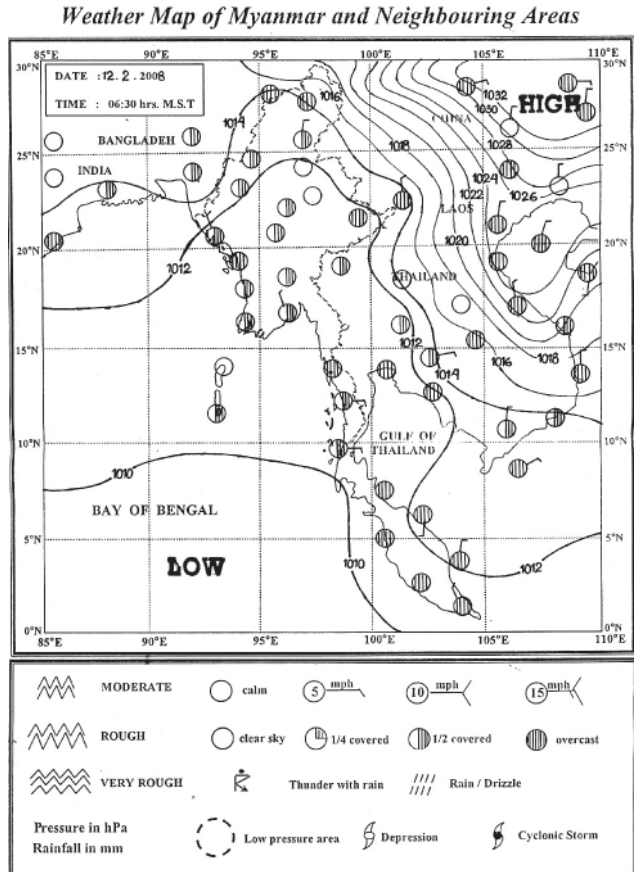
MNA/Xinhua

Army repairs snow-damaged power line in C China

WUHAN, 12 Feb — Some 3,000 soldiers and workers are braving freezing cold in snow-covered mountains in central China to fix a power line linking China's powerhouse of the Three Gorges Dam to the Central China State Grid.

"We are determined to fix the 500-kilovolt line by the end of February. Strenuous repair works are being carried out in deep mountains some 1,000 metres above the sea level, covered with 60 centimetres of snow," said Tang Wenquan, general manager of the Hubei Electric Power Co.

Tang said that the snow disaster, the worst in five decades, has damaged more than 20 kilometres of power line and 27 pylons along the line since 23 January. He said that over 600 People's Liberation Army soldiers and 2,300 repair workers have been working flat out to clear snow and ice on the mountainous roads to fix the damaged lines. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 12 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Southern Shan State and Mandalay Division, weather has been partly cloudy in upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (7°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Rakhine States, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (-1°C).

Maximum temperature on 11-2-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 12-2-2008 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 12-2-2008 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 11-2-2008 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 12-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (18:30) hours MST on 11-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperature in the North-Western Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-2-2008: Generally fair.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-2-2008: Generally fair.



Wednesday, 13 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-It came out of the sky
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-Bop Bop baby
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
-I'm gonna getcha good
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
-Self control
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Follow me
-All my life
- 9:00 pm Variations on a tune
"Right here waiting"
-Richard Marx
-Branda Coehrare
-Top of the Pops
-Monica & 112
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Music at your request
-Ever green tree
-Words
-Sweet dreams
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Wednesday, 13 February
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မေမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မေမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်(မောရသုတ်)
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
6. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:10 am
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am
8. ရေလှောင်တစ်ရံနွယ်
- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:05 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမိုင်းအထူးပြု) (သမိုင်း)
- 4:45 pm
4. Song of National Races
- 5:00 pm
5. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm
6. တေးသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ် "ငွေညိုပင်" (ကြည်သာ - ပွဲကြိုက်ခင်)
- 5:20 pm
7. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:30 pm
8. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm
9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
11. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ
- 6:50 pm
12. "နတ်လူသာဓုခေါ်စေသော်" (ခေတ်သစ်၊ ဝိုင်းစုနိုင်သိန်း၊ သတိုးစော) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သေယ်ကိုကိုကျော်)
- 7:10 pm
13. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 7:30 pm
14. The mirror images of musical oldies
- 7:45 pm
15. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ်မပြတ် ရင်သန်ခိုင်မာရန်မှာဒီဝန်တာ "အသီးတစ်ရာအညှာတစ်ခု ဒို့ပြည်တောင်စု"
- 8:00 pm
16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. FRANZ HARARAY'S MAGIC PLANET
- 20. "ရသစုံလင်ပြီးပျော်ရွှင် မြန်မာ့ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအစီအစဉ်" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ထူးသာ၊ ပုလဲဝင်း၊ နန်းဆုရတီ၊ ရတနာ၊ မြိုးမြိုး၊ လှလှ၊ ခင်မ၊ ပွင့်၊ ကောင်းစံ၊ ရှက်တယ်၊ နေဦးလွင်၊ ရီတ)
- 21. The next day's programme

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

61st Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw



State Flag Hoisting Ceremony to mark 61st Anniversary Union Day for 2008 in progress in front of City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — The 61st Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony was held on a grand scale at the square in front of Nay Pyi Taw

City Hall here this morning.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State

Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the Ceremony and read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe.

The ceremony was held in accordance with the national objectives — for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; for all the national races to keep Union Spirit alive and dynamic among the national races; for all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence; for all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; for all the national races to make endeavours for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution in accord

with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention; and for all the national races to make concerted efforts for the successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of Management Committee for Observ-

ance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw, deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of Central Committee for Observance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day, management committee members, sub-

committee members, heads of departments, rectors, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members, chairmen of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District and Township PDCs, departmental officials at district level, Union Day delegates from the states and divisions, members of cultural troupes, service personnel of the respective ministries, station families, delegates and members of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District (See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo reads the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of 61st Anniversary Union Day for 2008. — MNA

