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Tuesday, 1 February 2005

Hundred fruits from a common stem

In the Union of Myanmar where national races are residing, the culture, traditions and customs, language and social systems may appear to be different but in essence they are all based on the common blood of Union kinship and Union Spirit like a hundred fruits from a common stem.



Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From the message sent to the 46th Anniversary Union Day)

Entire national races developing Myanmar with their united strength under leadership of Government Hmawby Township hails Union Day, supports National Convention

YANGON, 31 Jan— A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention was held at the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

Present were Secretary of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aye Myint, Joint-Secretary U Tha Win, executives, the secretaries and executives of Yangon North District USDA and

Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya, Hlegu, Htantabin, Hmawby and Taikkyi Township USDAs, organizers and members, members of War Veterans Organization, MAAF, MCWA, Red

Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people totalling 2,500.

Shwepyithit and Panglong columns comprising members of USDA and social organizations and local people marched to the sports ground.

Yangon North District USDA Secretary U Kye Maung presided over the ceremony together with members of the panel of chairmen — Secretary of Hmawby Township WVO U Nyunt Aung, Chairperson of Hmawby Township Organization for Women's

Affairs Daw Nu Nu, Patron of Hmawby Township MCWA Daw Aye Aye and local older U Soe Min of Bantbwegon Village. Reserved Executive Daw Tin Marlar Myint of Mingaladon Township USDA acted as MC and Hlinethaya Township USDA Executive Daw Ei Mon Soe as co-MC. Before the ceremony, those present saluted the State Flag.

Secretary of Yangon North District USDA U Kye Maung delivered an opening address. He said in the Union of Myanmar all the national

races have been living together sharing weal and woe for thousands of years. Better foundations on morale such as sacrifice, tolerance, mutual assistance and confidence and reliance have been built among them in the Union. Now the entire national races are building a nation with their united strength under the leadership of the government. The Union of Myanmar will perpetuate forever as long as mutual friendship and amity have been forged among nationalities.

(See page 7)

All the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation. Now the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.



Yangon North District USDA holds the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention at Bantbwegon sports ground in Hmawby Township.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 1 February, 2005

Towards efficient execution of nation-building work

Peace, stability, strong economy and high education standard are the sine qua non for our endeavours to build the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and developed democracy. Therefore, accelerated measures are being taken for peace, stability and strong economy and educational plans are being implemented for high education standard.

A dinner hosted by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the Central Panel of Patrons of Union Solidarity and Development Association, in honour of the trainees of BEd Course No. 36 of University for Development of National Races, was held at the Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel in Yangon on 30 January.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the graduates of UDNR should properly train their students along the line of our national policy, commonly known as Our Three Main National Causes, and instil correct convictions in them.

The youths should be trained in such a way that they can become educated, well-disciplined, patriotic, highly-educated, good and able citizens. Only all-round youths will be able to effectively carry out national development work and the development of the Union will be possible only with such youths.

The Union of Myanmar was ruled by colonialists for more than one hundred years. To get rid of the evil legacy of the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists from the minds of the national brethren, it is necessary to strengthen their national unity and Union Spirit.

At the same time, it is important to preserve the traditions and culture of national races and to prevent the penetration of alien cultures.

For this, youths of national races will have to be trained in such a way as to become citizens deeply imbued with Union Spirit and patriotism.

Good sons and daughters thus trained will have to take over the responsibilities of the State sometime in the future and they themselves will have to take part in all national endeavours. Therefore, we would like to urge the new generation youths to prepare themselves well so as to be able to execute the nation-building work efficiently.



Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board Joint-Secretary U Thein Aung accepts K 600,000 donated by Mr Pien-Yen-Yu of China (Taipei) recently.—H

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

USDA S-G receives Korean youth delegation



USDA Secretary-General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Korean youth delegation led by Mr Chung Sang Ok.—MNA

YANGON, 31 Jan — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received a 27-member youth goodwill delegation led by Mr Chung Sang Ok of the Republic of Korea at the USDA headquarters this evening.

Also present at the call were CEC members

Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein.

They cordially discussed friendly relations and cooperation of youths between the two countries.

MNA

Hsihseng Township USDA office opened

YANGON, 31 Jan — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein attended a ceremony to open Hsihseng USDA office in Shan State (South) on 29 January and delivered an address on the occasion.

During the ceremony, he gave instructions on participation of the members in implementing the seven-point Road Map and presented cash donation for education and rural library. — 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

Victorious Band of 55 LID honoured

YANGON, 31 Jan — The band representing the No 55 Light Infantry Division which won the first prize in the C-class Band Contest and the C-class Conductor Contest of the 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 arrived back in Kalaw on 28 January evening.

The band troupe members were welcomed back at Kalaw Station by Commander of No 55 LID, officers and other ranks and family members, local people, students and bands.

At the hall of the LID, the LID commander presented prizes to members of the band troupe. The band manager handed over the first prize shield to the LID commander. Later, the LID commander hosted a dinner to those present.

MNA

UDNR trainees leave for Hsinde

YANGON, 31 Jan — The trainees of BEd Course No 36 of University for Development of National Races, accompanied by Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Rector of UDNR Col Zaw Min Thein, Pro-rector Daw Khin Si Si and officials, left here for Hsinde this morning after completion of their visit to Yangon.

Before their departure, Chairman of the Reception and Accommodation Sub-committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint met them. Next, Brig-Gen Myo Myint and Daw Khin Si Si exchanged commemorative pennants. Later, the leader of the excursion tour supervisory group expressed gratitude.

MNA



Reception and Accommodation Sub-committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint extends greetings to UDNR trainees.—MNA

Chinese Vice-Premier meets Swiss President, WEF Chairman

DAVOS (Switzerland), 30 Jan — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju, who is here to attend the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), met with Swiss President Samuel Schmid and WEF Chairman Klaus Schwab separately Friday evening.

While meeting with Schmid, Huang said that the Sino-Swiss relationship in general has been developing smoothly.

The two countries are keeping a close relationship at the high level, which has promoted bilateral exchanges and cooperation in politics, economics and culture, he said.

Huang told Schmid that China would like to enhance collaboration with Switzerland in areas such as science and technology, finance, energy, environmental protection and tourism.

He also asked the Swiss Government to provide convenience and adopt favourable policies for Chinese companies to invest in Switzerland.

Schmid told Huang that he is deeply

impressed by China's rapid development. He said Switzerland would work to keep pushing the bilateral ties forward and further expand cooperation with China in economy, trade and tourism.

The President also invited Chinese companies to invest in his country in the near future.

When meeting with Schwab, who is also the founder of the WEF, Huang said that China and the WEF have maintained good relations since 1979.

He praised the Geneva-based organization for its positive role in boosting exchange and cooperation among governments and companies around the world.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese child is vaccinated at a vaccination centre in Chuzhou, east China's Anhui province in this picture taken on 30 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Fire ants confirmed in HK

HONG KONG, 31 Jan—The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation received Saturday a verbal reply from experts in the Chinese Mainland confirming that the specimen of ants that had been submitted for their examination was Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA).

According to the US Department of Agriculture, red fire ants (*solenopsis invicta*) bite repeatedly when their nests are disturbed. Repeated stings from a swarm could lead to chest pains, nausea, shock or, in extremely rare cases, coma or death. Taiwan reported its first death from red fire ants last October.

Hong Kong discovered its first suspected fire ant mounds in Wetland Park in Tin Shui Wai Wednesday. Since then, more and more suspected mounds have been reported.

In Saturday's operation, the West Bank of Kowloon Cultural District area and a former bus terminal in Tai Kok Tsui became the latest habitats of the fire ants, making the total number of mounds found so far in various sites amounting to 187.

Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food York Chow Yat-ngok said Friday the fire ants might settle in Hong Kong permanently.

"I cannot rule out this possibility ... they might have been in Hong Kong for some time," he said.

An interdepartmental taskforce led by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has been set up to coordinate patrol efforts by various departments which will report findings to the agriculture department. —MNA/Xinhua



Workers disinfect large areas in the New Territories during a hunt for killer red ants in Hong Kong on 30 Jan, 2005. —INTERNET

Philippine police discover explosive device in Metro Manila

MANILA, 30 Jan — Philippine police said on Saturday that local terrorist groups could be the owner of some powerful explosive devices discovered in a parking lot on Friday in Cubao, Quezon City in Metro Manila. Tension gripped at

a parking lot in Cubao, Quezon City where police discovered numerous explosive devices Friday afternoon, police said.

An initial report reaching the Central Police District Office said at least five rocket-propelled grenade

launchers and a grenade launcher were found at the parking area.

Some security guards were conducting their routine security checks in the area when they found a plastic bag containing the explosive devices.

MNA/Xinhua

1,429 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—As of Sunday, on 30 January, 2005, at least 1,429 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,087 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The AP count includes four

military civilians and is 18 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday. The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary,

Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,291 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 978 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet

Ivory Coast launches first Chinese newspaper

ABIDJAN, 30 Jan—The first Chinese-language newspaper, *Voice of Chinese in Coted'Ivoire* (*Ke Hua Zhi Sheng*), started publication here on Friday, opening up a new channel for Chinese expatriates in Ivory Coast to have a better understanding of Chinese culture.

The Chinese newspaper was sponsored by the Federation of Chinese in Ivory Coast. In a written congratulatory message to the first issue, Chinese Ambassador to Ivory Coast Ma Zhixue said, "Where there are Chinese, there is the Great Wall." The paper said it will be dedicated to promoting Chinese culture and reporting general situation of China and Ivory Coast.

MNA/Xinhua

Up to 15 British personnel feared dead in Iraq crash

LONDON, 30 Jan—Up to 15 British troops were killed on Sunday when a transport plane crashed near Baghdad in what could be Britain's biggest single loss of life of the Iraq campaign, a British military source said.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said a number of Britons died when the C-130 Hercules transport plane crashed. He gave no figure but the source said about 10 were dead and it could rise to 15.

"We are investigating and our thoughts are with the families of those who were on board the plane," the source said. There was no comment on the cause of the crash or whether the

plane had been shot down. US officials said helicopters had spotted wreckage strewn over a wide area.

The plane crashed at around 5.25 pm (0925 EST) some 20 miles northwest of Baghdad, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. It was on its

way from Baghdad to Balad, a major US military air transport hub, when it crashed.

It was not clear why there was still doubt about the casualty toll, although darkness would have hampered any search of the wreckage. Military

transport flights around Iraq often pick up personnel at short notice if they have space available. Before Sunday's accident, 29 British troops had been killed in combat in Iraq and 43 more had died in non-combat incidents.—Internet

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.



A woman checks the foreign exchange rates at a money changer in Kuala Lumpur recently.—INTERNET

ဝက်ပူစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Venezuela, China sign 19 cooperation accords

CARACAS, 31 Jan — Venezuela and China signed 19 documents Saturday on issues ranging from economic cooperation to visa procedures following talks between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and visiting Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong.

The documents include a letter of intent on China's investment in the construction of an agricultural special economic zone on Guara Island and Venezuela's telecommunications network.

The two countries signed memorandums of understanding on the peaceful utilization of the outer space, on ocean

shipping, and an agreement on oil and gas exploitation. They also agreed to simplify visa procedures for officials engaged in governmental cooperation programmes.

Zeng, at the invitation of his Venezuelan counterpart Jose Vicente Rangel, arrived here Friday for an official visit.

MNA/Xinhua

WB offers \$600m loan for Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 31 Jan— The World Bank (WB) said Saturday that it will grant a loan of 600 million US dollars to Guatemala for education, the fight against corruption and other projects.

The loan is expected to be disbursed in four years. But it is up to the WB Board in Washington to decide in April whether the amount will be delivered in totality.

The money will be repaid in 15 to 20 years with an interest rate of 5 per cent. The loan was announced at the end of a visit to the Central American country by a WB mission, reports by Guatemala said.

Jane Armitage, WB Director for Central America, said the mission had held meetings with representatives of the Guatemalan Government, Congress, businessmen, civil society and universities in a bid to evaluate the country's economic realities.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia Airlines launches Kuala Lumpur-Kolkata flight

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Jan— The first Malaysian Airlines flight from Kolkata, India, to Kuala Lumpur with 157 passengers on board arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) Saturday.

The introduction of the Kolkata-Kuala Lumpur route is in line with Malaysia Airlines' focus on building its strategy to expand its network in India and to reaffirm its position as a global carrier, *Malaysia National News Agency* reported.

The national carrier currently flies to six destinations in India — New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

Kolkata is the 7th destination,

Malaysian Airlines public affairs manager for corporate communications Mohd Shah Khalid was quoted as saying.

He said the thrice-weekly direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Kolkata will utilize a two-class configured Airbus A330-300 passenger aircraft.

Malaysia Airlines began air links between Malaysia and India on 1 July, 1974 with its inaugural flight from Kuala Lumpur to Chennai. — MNA/Xinhua

State assets watchdog not to intervene CAO bailout plan

BEIJING, 30 Jan— A spokesman with China's state assets watchdog said here Friday that the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) will not bail out China Aviation Oil (Singapore) Corp.

Du Yuanquan said the CAO restructuring plan was submitted to the Singapore High Court on Monday. The Singapore-listed company, which suffered a massive loss in derivatives trading, is now seeking investors who are interested in helping the company.

In line with laws of Singapore and international business practice, Du said, the company is looking for an appropriate solution, which might settle the debts and minimize deficits.

As owner of China Aviation Oil Holding Company (CAOHC), which parents CAO, the SASAC will ask CAO to abide by rules in restructuring the company, but will not directly engage in the bailout plan, Du said.

Du said the SASAC hopes the CAO restructuring plan would be understood and accepted by its creditors. Singapore's state investment vehicle Temasek Holdings is willing to participate in the restructuring. — MNA/Xinhua

China, Venezuela should expand cooperation

CARACAS, 31 Jan— China and Venezuela should implement cooperation projects in the key sectors of energy, agriculture, infrastructure and high-technology, said China Vice-President Zeng Qinghong here on Saturday.

In a meeting with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Zeng said China and Venezuela should expand cooperation by encouraging contacts in politics, culture, the Press, and science and technology.

China and Venezuela should also enhance dialogue and consultations in international affairs so that they can coordinate their positions, Zeng added.

Since the two countries announced to forge a strategic partnership of common development in 2001, Zeng said, bilateral friendly cooperation in various fields have advanced rapidly.

During Chavez' recent visit to China, leaders of the two countries reached important consensus on bilateral ties, laying a new foundation for furthering the relations, he said.

Zeng hoped his visit will help implement the consensus so as to give new impetus to mutually beneficial cooperation.

Chavez agreed on Zeng's viewpoints, noting bilateral ties are based on equality, mutual benefit and respect.

Cooperation in agriculture, energy, science and technology between the two countries is developing rapidly, he said.

The Chinese economy is growing at a fast pace and Venezuela is also striving to develop its economy, offering a good opportunity for the two to reinforce cooperation, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

At least 232 civilians die doing US work in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan— At least 232 civilians have been killed while working on US-funded contracts in Iraq and the death toll is rising rapidly, according to a US government audit released Sunday.

The quarterly report sent to Congress by the inspector general appointed to audit US-funded work in Iraq said security problems were the biggest obstacle to Iraq's reconstruction and workers faced grave risks daily.

"One cannot spend a day in Iraq without quickly gaining a profound respect for all engaged in this endeavour," said Stuart Bowen, a former White House lawyer and now Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

"Their work and sacrifice in Iraq make all the more crucial our success in promoting economy, efficiency and effectiveness in preventing fraud, waste and

abuse," he added in the report, released after Iraqis voted in elections bloodied by attacks.

People working on US-funded projects in Iraq increasingly have been the targets of kidnapping and assassination by guerillas, who view them as collaborators with the US military that invaded Iraq and ousted ex-President Saddam Hussein in 2003.

More than 1,400 US troops have been killed in Iraq but the US government does not keep an official tally of the number of civilians slain while working on US-funded projects there and in support of US forces. —Internet



A man walks in front of a destroyed home in the city of Fallujah recently. —INTERNET

China committed to following scientific concept of development

DAVOS (Switzerland), 31 Jan—The Chinese Government is committed to following a scientific concept of development and applying this concept to guide socio-economic development, Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here on Saturday.

Addressing the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Huang said that in 2020 China's gross domestic product will reach 4 trillion US dollars, quadrupling that of 2000, and its per capita GDP will reach 3,000 dollars.

"The jump from 1,000 dollars to 3,000 dollars in per capita GDP will be a critical stage in China's modernization drive and an important period of profound changes in socio-economic structure," said the Chinese leader.

To address the problems in the process of development, the Chinese Government has drawn up policies and measures, the most fundamental of which is to follow a scientific concept of development, he added.

Huang said that China's scientific approach to sustainable development includes the following points:

— to adopt a human-centred development strategy and bear in

mind people's fundamental interests in the course of development;

— to take economic development as a central task and promote economic, political and cultural advancement in an all-round way to achieve comprehensive socio-economic development;

— to balance urban-rural development, regional development, socio-economic development, harmonious development of man and nature, and domestic development and opening-up;

— to coordinate economic development with population growth, resource availability and environment protection, and stick to a road of sustainable development consistent with the characteristics of a modern society.

Huang arrived at the Swiss ski resort on Friday. He met with Swiss President Samuel Schmid and WEF Chairman Klaus Schwab separately on Friday evening.

MNA/Xinhua

HK enjoyed significant drop in crime in 2004

HONG KONG, 31 Jan—Hong Kong has witnessed a significant drop in thefts, robberies and burglaries in 2004, proving that police efforts in combating crime are paying off, Hong Kong Commissioner of Police Dick Lee said here Saturday. He attributes the drop to enhanced public awareness.

Speaking on a radio talk show, Lee said robberies and burglaries have become more organized and complicated. To deal with them, the police have started providing shop owners with information on the modus operandi of robbery and burglary syndicates.

Although the overall crime rate fell last year, there was a 13-per-cent rise in domestic violence, Lee said. The police have enhanced the training for officers to deal with such cases.

The police are also planning to revamp its computer system so as to allow officers to trace the information of callers, Lee added.

MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu death in Vietnam rises to 11

HANOI, 30 Jan—A 13-year-old girl from Vietnam's southern Dong Thap Province, who was confirmed to contract the bird flu virus H5N1 by the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, died on Saturday, bringing the total fatalities in the country since late December 2004 to 11, a local doctor said.

"The patient was admitted to our hospital on January 20. She lived in Cao Lanh Town where dead poultry were detected," a doctor at the Pediatric Hospital No. 1 in Ho Chi Minh City said, declining to be named.

The patient's 35-year-old mother, also an H5N1 carrier, died on 21 January after 10 hours of treatment at the city-based Hospital of Tropical Diseases, the doctor noted, adding that the woman often had a bath in a canal which contained dead chickens.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said further investigations into the mother and her daughter are needed to explore right sources of exposure and look for signs of illness in family members, other close contacts, and the general community.

"In view of the six-day interval between dates of symptom onset in the mother and her child, limited human-to-human transmission, as seen during similar events in the past, cannot be ruled out at this stage," the WHO said in a statement posted on its web site on Friday.

Now, the Pediatric Hospital No. 1 is treating a bird flu patient — a 10-year-old girl from Tan Thanh District of southern Long An Province.

Before being admitted to the hospital on 20 January with symptoms of high temperature and breathing difficulty, she had contacted with dead chickens, said the doctor.

MNA/Xinhua



Singaporean scientist Anil K Ratty (R) takes a look at 'chakragati' mice kept in a plastic containers at a laboratory in Singapore on 31 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Australia shifts diplomatic staff in Iraq after bomb attack on embassy

CANBERRA, 31 Jan—Australia's diplomatic staff in Iraq have moved from central Baghdad to a safer location in a US military base following a car bomb attack on their embassy on 19 January, the government said.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the US Camp Victory would be a temporary home for the Australian mission while it awaits relocation to a permanent embassy inside the more secure Green Zone international sector. Camp Victory, a major US facility close to Baghdad International Airport and the headquarters of both the US and Australian military, will accommodate Ambassador Howard Brown and staff of two for up to six months.

The mission is guarded by a dedicated security force of 120 troops, who are part of the Australian military contingent of about 900 army, air force and

naval personnel in and around Iraq.

Two Iraqis were killed and two Australian soldiers slightly injured in the 19 January attack in which a car bomb exploded outside the embassy's concrete blast barriers and alongside the Australian soldiers' accommodation. Downer said he believed the attack was deliberately targeted at the Australian embassy following similar attacks targeting other embassies recently.

"We have been concerned, particularly from 19 January with the attack on the Australian embassy, that we move the staff to Camp Victory which is where they remain," Downer told ABC radio.—INTERNET

Fallujah residents too bitter to vote

FALLUJAH, 31 Jan — Iraqis in the city of Fallujah, devastated by a US assault on guerillas in November, say they are too bitter to vote in Sunday's election. "This election is clearly an American game. We fear that the Americans, knowing that people here are not willing to vote, might force us to," said lawyer Abdul Latif al-Dulaimy, 50.

"This of course will make us hate them more. The streets of Fallujah are still red with the blood of innocent people that they spilled in November."

Fallujah, a Sunni Arab city 50 kilometres (32 miles) west of Baghdad, was the main guerilla stronghold in Iraq until a US offensive drove most guerillas out after a fierce battle. Most resi-

dents fled ahead of the battle, which left much of the city in ruins. Some have begun to return. But as elsewhere in Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland, most of them are suspicious of the polls and even those who want to vote are afraid to do so.

Militants loyal to al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who were based in Fallujah be-

fore the offensive, say anyone who votes will be killed.

"I don't want to vote, I don't want to elect any of those faces that brought the Americans to our country," said Alaa Khaled, a Fallujah grocery shop owner. We are not planning to go and vote. They might just enter our houses with the Iraqi police and make us vote from home, but it won't be a good democracy."—MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi girl is searched by US Marines outside a polling center in the center of Fallujah, Iraq on 30 Jan, 2005 to vote in the election.—INTERNET

Hydel power turbine set up into service in Htilin Information Minister on tour of townships in Gangaw District

YANGON, 31 Jan — USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 25 January attended the ceremony to launch the hydel power turbine built at a cost of over K 6 million on a self-reliant basis by USDA and local people in Htanbingon Village of Htilin Township.

The turbine, built at Maw Creek near Htanbingon Village, can generate 7.5 kilowatt of electricity. Apart from power supply functions, the turbine powers a small rice mill.

While in Htilin Township, the minister met with local people and presented cash and gifts for the Township USDA, schools, BEPSs and local people. And, he accepted USDA membership applications.

Similarly, the minister joined local people in Gangaw Township and accepted USDA membership applications. Next, he presented stationery, books and personal goods to the school, the library and local people.

Speaking on the occasions in Htilin and Gangaw Townships, the Secretariat Member said that today's Tatmadaw government is carrying out all the development tasks and cooperation in rural development among the State, local people, and USDA and wellwishers.

He continued to say that as Myittha Dam project will be implemented near Gangaw villages can enjoy irrigation facilities for agricultural purpose. In addition, the dam project will contribute to generating hyro-electric power from the river. Likewise, the plan is under way to implement Manipur Dam Project for supplying water to some areas of farmland and generating electricity as well.

The Head of State has inspected the project and gave guidance on development of Gangaw District. That is why the



USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and an official open Hydro-electric Turbine in Htanbingon Village of Htilin Township on 25-1-2005.—MNA

fruitful results of the project will emerge in the region soon, he added.

However, he cautioned, acts of internal and external destructive elements using various means and ways and their confrontation policy will harm regional development and obstruct the plan to realize democracy system which the people desire. As Myanmar is rich in natural resources, all the people should be aware

of the danger of neo-colonialism. At present, village libraries were established one after another for ensuring dissemination of knowledge to the people so as to have a chance to be talented by reading media presentation. The Ministry of Information performs its dynamic and sharpened functions of entertainment and education for the public and publishes a journal namely "Doh Kyeywa" for the rural people

without taking into account on the profit. In conclusion, he said as today is the education age, all the people are to try hard to serve the interest of the State and themselves by learning and applying advanced technologies.

MNA

Acts of internal and external destructive elements using various means and ways and their confrontation policy will harm regional development and obstruct the plan to realize democracy system which the people desire.

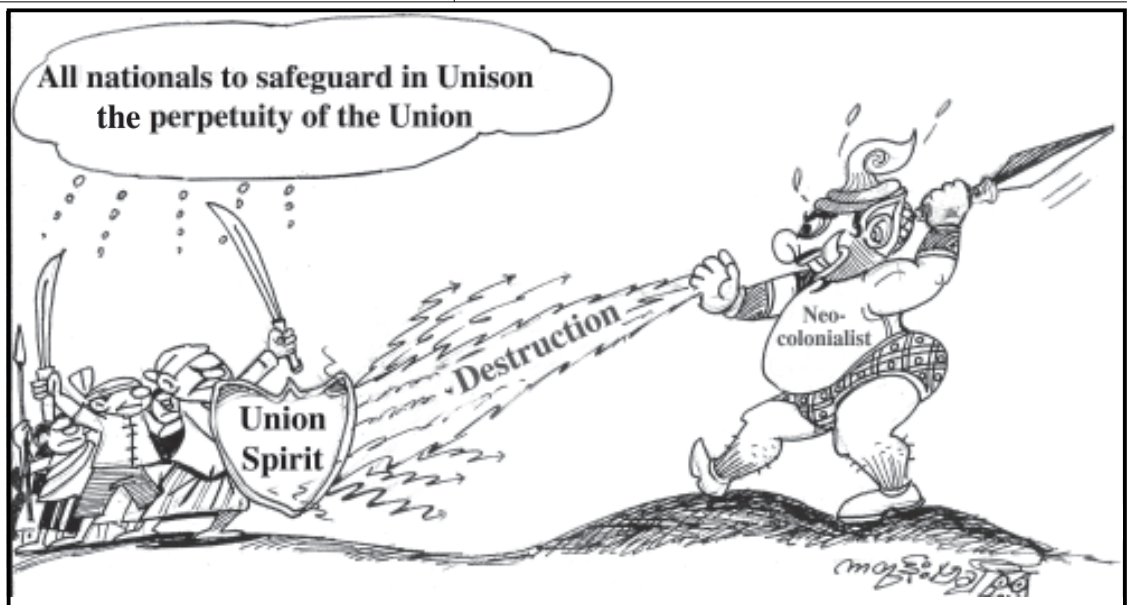


Secretariat Member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts 300 USDA membership applications in Minywa Village-tract of Gangaw Township on 25-1-2005.—MNA

The sky of the Union

- * Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Kayah and Citizens all together.
Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan
All of one mind.
Many years have passed
We never part from this land.
Eggs not broken, nest undisturbed
Hands held firmly together.
- * One helps, another rallies
Lending helping hands in unison
The strength of Myanmar.
Roads and bridges step by step
Like flowers they bloom one by one
'Tis specially encouraging.
- * When Myanmar is green and lush
The tune of song of peace
Is fragrant and comely
What's famous throughout the world
Ruby and sapphire
Jade and all else
The resources of our nation
'Tis so plentiful.
- * Citizens, brethren, all of us
The Union is their sky
Sun, moon, stars all brightly glittering
All bright and clear.
There may be a hundred fruits
But all out of a single stem.
Both younger brother
And elder are no different
For Myanmar our land to prosper
Let's all try together.

Soe Moe (Pathein) (Trs)



Myanmar stands 2nd in SEA U-21 Volleyball

YANGON, 31 Jan — An 18-member Myanmar youth volleyball team led by Vice-President of Myanmar Volleyball Federation U Thein Win which won the second prize in the SEA U-21 Youth Volleyball Tournament held in Malaysia from 24 to 29 January arrived back here by air yesterday night. They were welcomed back at the airport by Director of Sports and Physical Education Department Vice-President of MVF U Maung Win and officials, athletes and their relatives.

Pyi Phyo Hlaing,

San Shwe Maung and Tin Maung Htwe won the best player awards.

MNA

Yangon Division PDC meets

YANGON, 31 Jan — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council held a coordination meeting at its office in Kyauktada township here

this afternoon. Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting. Daw Hla Kyi, Di-

rector of the Planning Department, reported on implementation of targeted projects regarding the GDP for fiscal 2004-2005 and future tasks for fiscal 2005-

2006; Divisional Myanmar Agriculture Service Manager U Aung Hsan on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops in 2004-2005 and arrangements for meeting the target cultivation of monsoon paddy in 2005-2006; and Yangon Division Myanmar Police Force Police Col Aung Daing on ensuring peace and tranquillity and rule of law and arrangements for crime reduction and other tasks to be carried out.

Chairmen of district PDCs and officials also reported their respective tasks. Later, the meeting ended with a concluding remark by the commander.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses coordination meeting of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council.— YANGON COMMAND

Entire national races developing...

(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation. Now the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. As the first step, the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996 reconvened on 17 May 2004. As the open season



USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.— MNA

Hmawby Township USDA Daw Aye Aye Maw spoke of the need to safeguard the independence so that the nation would be able to stand tall among the na-

ing Our Three Main National Causes. He said drafting of new constitution is an important national duty of all citizens. He urged members of the USDA to

wipe out any hindrance that undermines the National Convention. Executive of Yangon North District Daw San San Nwe said that the whole nation is achieving

harmonious progress due to the cooperative efforts of the entire national races. The Yangon North District USDA is striving to develop the various sectors of the district. It has built 33,840 feet of tar roads in Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha and Hlaingthaya townships, 18,580 feet of granite roads, 2,581 feet of dirt roads, 25 feet of concrete roads, a 16-foot wooden bridge, three earth dams, four tube-wells, three drinking water ponds, and two school buildings and renovated a number of schools. With the help of the Yangon Mayor, the association launched anti-haemorrhagic fever campaign for 35 times. The association built 93 libraries.

It also launched rural development endeavours in 2005-2006. The USDA has been launching its activities in accord with its aims for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation. USDA members presented documentaries on rural development, education, health to officials concerned. The USDA also contributed K 10 million towards rural development funds. All those attending the meeting unanimously approved the motion hailing the Union Day and supporting the National Convention and the rural development tasks. The meeting ended with chanting of slogans. — MNA



The meeting chairman and members of the panel of chairmen seen at the rally in Bantbwegon sports ground in Hmawby Township.— MNA

enters the National Convention will resume on 17 February. Therefore, members of USDA will have to welcome the convention in the interest of the people. The Tatmadaw government is implementing national development projects in all parts of the country. He called on members of the USDA to take part in national and rural development tasks.

Next, Executive of

tions of the world. It is the national duty of all citizens. She said the country is peaceful and stable because of consolidation of national solidarity among the national people. National solidarity is essential in efforts for perpetuation of the nation.

Executive of Yangon North District USDA U Kyaw Tint said the government is building a nation with 12 objectives uphold-



Htatabin Township USDA Secretary U Than Myint.— MNA



Yangon North District USDA Secretary U Kyee Maung.— MNA



Yangon North District USDA Executive U Kyaw Tint.— MNA



Hmawby Township USDA Executive Daw Aye Aye Maw.— MNA

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



Kachin State is located in the northernmost part of the Union of Myanmar with an area of 34,379 square miles in total. It is like a small union, home to various national races such as Kachin, Chin, Bamar, Shan and Naga. Its population is 1,433,000 people, and so in the region, a square mile is populated with about 42 people in average.

The mountainous region has Mount Khakaborazi (19296 feet) and Mount Galanyazi (19142 feet), which are higher than any other mountains in the nation. These mountains are always capped with snow. Its largest plains are Hugaung valley in Tanaikha river basin at the top of Chindwin River, Putao plain in Malikha river basin, the surrounding regions of Myitkyina and Bhamo, Indawgyi Lake, and surrounding areas of Mogaung Creek and Kaukkway Creek.

During his inspection tour of the region in April 1995, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to the officials, saying "In the past, Kachin State lagged behind in development owing to lack of peace and stability in the region for many years. So, local people should not apply traditional methods any longer but must work hard much more than ever before for regional development. Now, peace has been restored

well and it is thus the most opportune time to speed up the implementation of tasks for boost-

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	Progress
Land			
- Sown acreage	443160	583888	140728
- Virgin (acre)	5182784	4806515	-
Water supply task			
- Dam, reservoir	3	4	1
- Water pumping station	-	6	6
- Damming river, creek	-	464	464
- Underground water tap	23837	93803	69966
Double cropping acreage	14811	144142	129331
Sown acreage extension			
- Monsoon paddy (acre)	275709	398261	122552
- Per acre yield	50.85	63.88	13.03
- Summer paddy (acre)	-	7600	7600
- Per acre yield	-	67.00	67.00
- Gross Production	13466	26460	12994
- Food sufficiency	-	119%	119%
- Beans & pulses (acre)	5685	51116	45431
- Maize	6045	17061	11016
- Rubber (acre)	64	6621	6557
- Oil palm (acre)	-	57	57
- Tea (acre)	1251	1665	414
- Pepper (acre)	12	536	524
Edible oil crop (acre)			
- Groundnut	24893	52677	27784
- Sesamum	2959	12013	9054
- Sunflower	652	11661	11009
- Mustard	10648	56297	45649
- Niger	1297	14488	13191

ing production through effective use of the natural resources," he added.

Now, Kachin State has caught up with other states and divisions in various sectors thanks to the assistance and encouragement of the government, and united and harmonious efforts of local national race leaders and people.

Local national people in Kachin State are enjoying fruits of development. The conditions before and after 1988 are compared in this article.

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Kachin State marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

Agriculture

The total sown acreage of Kachin State was 443,160 only in the past. At that time, altogether 275,709 acres were put under paddy and the output was 13,466 baskets. Now, the sown acreage of monsoon and summer paddy has nearly doubled with boosting per acre yield, so the paddy production has increased two times. In consequence, the region's agricultural produce has been in surplus. The following table shows the progress of the sown acreage of paddy and other crops in the region.

Livestock and fishery

The government pro-

million, compared to only over 1.3 million in 1988.

With regard to the fish and prawn breeding sector, there were only 58 acres of breeding ponds in the past, but now the figure has surged to 828 acres accounting for 14 times. While extending paddy cultivation, the government helped the region launch the paddy plus fish project. Over 60,000 fishes were put in the paddy fields of more than 120 acres.

The distribution of a variety species of fingerlings amounted to 0.144 million in 1988. A total of 3.311 million fingerlings have been distributed up to 12-2-2005.

Under the guidance of

Per acre yield

Total output - baskets (in thousand)

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	Progress
Land			
- Sown acreage	443160	583888	140728
- Virgin (acre)	5182784	4806515	-
Water supply task			
- Dam, reservoir	3	4	1
- Water pumping station	-	6	6
- Damming river, creek	-	464	464
- Underground water tap	23837	93803	69966
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- Oil palm (acre)	-	57	57
- Tea (acre)	1251	1665	414
- Pepper (acre)	12	536	524
Edible oil crop (acre)			
- Groundnut	24893	52677	27784
- Sesamum	2959	12013	9054
- Sunflower	652	11661	11009
- Mustard	10648	56297	45649
- Niger	1297	14488	13191

Square mile

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	Progress
Reserved Forest	2008	2218	210
Protected public forest	-	3118	3118
Natural forests	269.46	6276.13	6006.67
Establishment of forest plantation	211	14115	13904
-Commercial plantation plantations (acre)	-	8245	8245
-Village firewood plantations (acre)	-	2270	2270
-Watershed plantation (acre)	211	3600	3389
-Thitseint plantations (acre)	-	900	900

moted livestock industry to increase production of meat. The number of buffalo, cow, sheep, goat, pig, chicken and duck has increased to nearly 3.6

The Head of State, more than 30,000 fingerlings of different species of fish were released into the Ayeyawady River for increasing the number of

fish in the long run.

Forest conservation

The government paid attention to conservation

then to Chibwe and Sawtlaw in the northern part.

In the time of the

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	Progress
Road	1471	1629	158
Bridges	90	331	241
-Above 180 feet	27	42	15
-Under 180 feet	63	289	226
Rail transport			
-Distance (mile)	114.75	122.00	7.25
-Railroad (mile)	123.94	131.26	7.32
-Passengers	1967.5	2097.7	130.2
-Miles (people travelled)	115079.9	118214.6	3134
-Cargo (ton)	98.8	124.6	25.8
-Miles (Cargo transported)	14344.8	20351.3	6006.5
-Railway stations	21	33	12

of forests in Kachin State. So the area of forests has risen nearly thirty times. The area of afforestation has surged nearly 70 times. In 1988, a total of 10,000 saplings were planted in mass activities. Now, over 6.6 million saplings have been grown in the region.

Besides, the government is implementing the project for greening and long-lasting of Indawgyi Lake in Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary in Mohnyin Township. It designated 299.32 square miles including the area of the lake (14 miles long and five miles wide) as Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Transport sector

In the past, with poor transport, the region had to mainly rely on railway and airway. At that time, Shwebo-Myitkyina Road was not a fine one, and the remaining roads were in poor condition. So, local people had to cross

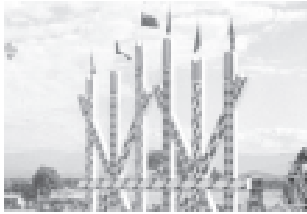
Tatmadaw government, 2,688-foot-long Bala Min Htin Bridge across Ayeyawady River in Myitkyina was opened in 1998, resulting in better transport in the region. The opening of Sinkhan Bridge on Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road took place in Shwegu Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State, on 13 January 2005. It is the 178th of the bridges with 180 feet and above in length in the nation.

Now, the people can choose the 350-mile-long Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Road on the west bank of Ayayawady River, or the 302-mile-long Mandalay-Mogok-Momeik-Mabein-Mansi-Bhamo Road on the east bank of Ayayawady River and the 115-mile-long Bhamo-Myitkyina Road to travel from Mandalay to Myitkyina. The government has constructed the 375-mile-long Mandalay-Myitkyina Union Highway along the east bank of Ayayawady River.

The 460-foot-long Sinkhan Bridge is the 12th of the bridges with 180 feet and above built by the government in Kachin State.

After 1988, Tapein, Tabetchaung, Bala Min Htin, Nantmyitkha, Maliyan, Namsanyan, Mole, Tanai, Hopin, Mogaung and Mohnyin bridges emerged in Kachin State. Now, the

(See page 10)



Development in Kachin State after 1988



Kandawyan diversion weir

Kandawyan diversion weir built by the State in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State supplies water to 12,000 acres of farmland.
MYANMA ALIN

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day



Bhamo Degree College
Bhamo degree college built in Bhamo, Kachin State.
MYANMA ALIN

With the length of 2688 feet, Bala Min Htin bridge was built across Ayeyawady River in Myitkyina, Kachin State.
MYANMA ALIN



Kachin State marching to new...

(from page 8)
government is implementing, Kyundaw bridge, Kaunghmulon suspension bridge, and Namti bridge (Kanhla) projects in the region.

progress of the communication sector of the region. **Electric Power** The government is taking systematic measures in order to effectively tap natural resources in abun-

will be able to generate 34.5 megawatt. Thus, the present-hydel power plants in Kachin State will soon be able to generate 48.196 megawatt.

Industries

As efforts are being made for ensuring development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well there have been good foundations for industrial de-

*Unit (million)

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	Progress
Electricity consumption	1.371	17.508	16.137
Maximum power*	4.551	15.935	11.384
Extended generation of electricity			
-hydel power plant	1	4	3
-projects under implementation	-	2	2
Installed power*	5.233	13.696	8.463
Power to be acquired* unit (million) * megawatt	5.233	48.196	42.963

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Post office	64	78	14
Telegraph office	20	29	9
Facsimile	-	48	48
Computer telegraph	-	6	6
Telephone			
-telephone office	12	55	43
-telephone line	1140	13430	12290
-exchange	12	38	26
-direct line	876	10920	10044
-auto/manual phone	876	8225	7349
-cellular telephone	-	2695	2695
-telephone density	1.13	8.03	6.90
Microwave station	-	13	13
Rural telephone exchange	-	17	17
E-mail internet	-	6	6
Satellite station			
-VSAT	-	4	4
-iPSTAR	-	2	2

Moreover, it is upgrading the 78-mile-long Putao-Machanbaw-Phayukha-Nawngmon Road, and the 228-mile-long Myitkyina-Namti-Tanai-Shinbweyan-Pansaung-Ledo Road. It will also upgrade Myitkyina-Putao Road, and Myitkyina-Pansaung-Ledo Road. The following table shows the progress of transport sector in Kachin State.

Communication sector

The government is taking measures for development of the communication sector of Kachin State. The following table shows

dance in Kachin State. Hence, there was only a 0.168 megawatt small-scale hydel power plant (Putao) in 1988. But three medium-scale hydel power plants have emerged in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Therefore, the consumption of electricity in Kachin State has increased from 1.371 (million) unit in the past to 17.508 (million) unit at present. In addition, two large-scale hydel power plants are under implementation to be able to consume more electricity. Upon completion, the two hydel power plants

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Basic education sector			
-school population	1178	1315	137
-multimedia classrooms	-	63	63
-e-Learning centre	-	32	32
-strength of teacher	4873	8376	3503
-student population	142248	281336	139088
-primary enrolment rate	62.13	94.51	32.38
-adult literacy rate	72.71	92.50	19.79
School dropout rate			
-primary school level	45.35	8.48	36.87
-middle school level	44.93	10.55	34.38
Higher education sector			
-university	-	1	1
-degree college	1	2	1
-college	-	1	1
-e-Learning centre	-	35	35
-teaching programme	8	52	44
-number of faculty member	86	367	281
-number of student	1252	17365	16113
Human resource development centre	-	3	3

development in Kachin State. In the past, there were 601 private factories and workshops but there are now 175 private factories and workshops, 95 cottage industries and 11 State-run factories.

Mining and mineral resources

Jade, copper, gold and coal have been mined in Kachin State well-known as the jade land. After 1988,

talcum and crystal were also produced in the region. With the encourage-

Kachin State but there are now one university, two degree colleges and one

like other states and divisions. The number of hospitals has increased from 35 in the past to 45 to date. Likewise, the strength of health staff has increased from 716 in the past to 1,130 to date. There were 121 doctors in 1988 but there are now 271. One traditional medicine hospital and five dispensaries were added for ensuring better health care services.

Development affairs

Steps are being taken for development of urban and rural regions in Kachin State while striving for improvement of socio-economic life of the local people. The length of urban roads including tarred roads, gravel roads and laterite roads has increased from 215 miles and 3 furlongs in the past to 305 miles and 7 furlongs to date.

In the past, measures were taken for ensuring water supply to two towns

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Upgraded hospital	35	44	9
Health centre	69	72	3
Health staff	716	1130	314
-doctor	121	271	150
-nurse	177	490	313
-midwife	284	343	59
Traditional medicine			
-traditional medicine hospital	-	1	1
-traditional medicine dispensary	5	10	5

ment of the government, the number of joint venture-private jade block has now increased. Jade and gold are now being mined more than ever. More private entrepreneurs are en-

college. Hence, there were only over 1,000 students who were able to access higher education in 1988. But there are now 17,365 students who are able to do so in the region.

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Road/bridge			
-earth road (mile)	-	319/6	319/6
-gravel road (mile)	-	201/4	201/4
-tarred road (mile)	-	2/1	2/1
-road maintained (mile)	-	216/1	216/1
-bridge (large/small/suspension)	-	8/196/26	8/196/26
Health			
-hospital/dispensary	-	26	26
Education			
-high/middle/primary	-	159	159
-teacher	-	590	590
-student	-	15953	15953
Agricultural office/station	-	10	10
Dam	-	2	2
Reserved forest	-	1	1
Livestock			
-livestock breeding farm	-	1	1
-LBVD office	-	4	4
Energy			
-generator	-	23	23
-towns/village enjoying electricity	-	17	17
Public relations			
-TV retransmission stations	-	13	13
Communications			
-post office	-	3	3
-telegraph	-	5	5
-telephone	-	6	6
Funds spent *			
-development fund	-	4952.21	4952.21
-ministries	-	1685.38	1685.38
*Kyats (million)	-	3266.83	3266.83

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
gaged in those tasks in the interest of the State.			
Education			
The government is striving in all seriousness in order to produce more intellectuals and intelligentsia and to enhance the education standard of the whole region. More basic education schools were opened in border areas. In the process, there have emerged 137 basic education schools in border areas, where altogether over 280,000 students are pursuing education. The strength of teachers has doubled.			
The special 24 development regions have been designated and are being implemented to enable the national race youths to pursue education within their reach. In the past, there was only one degree college in			

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
Science and technology			
In combination with the education sector, efforts are being made for the emergence of experts in science and technological sector. With this end in view, two government technological colleges and two government computer colleges have emerged in Kachin State. The four higher learning institutions in Myitkyina and Bhamo special regions are now producing technocrats and computer scientists by thousands. One government technical institute was also opened in Mohnyin.			
Health			
In an effort to ensure uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation the government has been providing health care services to local people in Kachin State			

in Kachin State. At present, efforts are being made for ensuring water supply to another seven towns. The length of village-to-village roads has increased from 468 miles in the past to 862 miles to date for regional development. This includes 53 miles and 2 furlongs of tarred road. To ensure potable water supply to rural regions, tasks for water supply were carried out in 388 villages out of 678 villages.

Border areas and national races development

With a view to bringing development to Kachin State and ensuring development of national races, the government has designated Kachin State Special Region-1 and Kachin State Special Region-2. Thanks to prevalence of peace and



Those attending the ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention held in Hmat Taing Village, Paungde Township, Bago Division (West). MNA



Panel of chairmen at the ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention held in Hsat Thwa Village, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway District.— MNA

Union Day hailed...

(from page 16)
executive of Minbu Township USDA, discussed in favour of the

rural development tasks through Minbu District USDA Executive U Aung Naing. Next, U Kyaw Thu

Aung, and K 10,000 and various kinds of books to the village library through U Kyi Soe, the USDA organizer of the village.

Later, U Ko Lay sought the approval of the

place at the football ground of Hmat Taing village, Paungde township, Bago Division (West), on 29 January. A total of over 4,900 persons gathered at the mass rally.

ouring of the Union Day and the support of the National Convention. Progress made in the undertaking of rural development tasks was also explained. Six townships of Pyay District submitted their USDA membership application forms

numbering 7,563. Next, wellwishers donated K 1 million to the funds of rural development.

Later, U Kyaw Kyaw Lin sought the approval of the attendees of the rally, which came to a successful end with chanting of slogans. —MNA



Chin national Salai Hla Myo Aung. MNA



Magway District USDA Secretary U Kyaw Moe. —MNA



U Nay Shin of Chauk Township USDA.—MNA



Farmer U Kyaw Thein. MNA

above-mentioned proposals and explanation.

Magway Division USDA Executive U Kyaw Thu Oo handed over K 2.5 million to the funds of

Oo handed over K 10,000 to the funds for the construction of Kyaungdawya basic education high school through schoolhead U Than Htay



Secretary U Kyaw Kyaw Lin of Pyay District USDA.—MNA



Daw Tin Tin Aye of Paungde Township Women's Affair Organization. — MNA



Daw Khin Moe Aye and Daw Su Nanda act as Masters of Ceremonies. —MNA

attendees of the ceremony. The mass rally came to a successful end with chanting of slogans.

Likewise, a ceremony to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention took

U Kyaw Kyaw Lin, secretary of Pyay District USDA, presided over the meeting and spoke on the occasion.

On the occasion, motions were tabled in connection with the hon-

Commander, Minister look into development tasks in Dawei

YANGON, 31 Jan — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Taninthayi Division In-charge Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met with townsenders in Dawei yesterday and held discussions on condition of progress of rural areas and assistance to be rendered by the State.

On arrival at Zaha village, the commander and the minister met with local peasants and instructed them to take measures for water supply, to extend cultivation of summer paddy and to cultivate seasonal crops in the regions where summer paddy cannot be grown and inspected Hsinshweli summer paddy plantations.

They over saw water supply for cultivation of 1,000 acres of summer paddy. After inspecting Dawei railways station, they instructed officials concerned to carry out beautifying tasks. They inspected progress in building of Dawei airport's runway and production of three-wheel motorcycles.

Next, the commander and the minister and party paid homage to Lawkamarazein pagoda in Dawei.

MNA

Seven-point Road Map hope of people as well as the policy they desire

YANGON, 31 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention was held at Alegon village, Kanaingda village-tract, Dawei Township, Dawei District, Taninthayi Division, yesterday.

At the ceremony, Secretary of Dawei District Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htein Win said that the nation fell under subjugation after facing three aggressive wars of the colonialists. But the national races daringly fought back the intruders with any available weapons. The nationalities were able to sign the Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947, and the 12th of February has been observed as the Union Day to symbolize the solidarity of the national people. The national goal of the people is to

build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing state. The seven-point Road Map is the hope of people as well as the policy they desire. The holding of the National Convention, the most important part of the Road Map is in the process at present. The entire nation willingly supports the National Convention that will resume soon. Over 65 per cent of the nation's, population are rural dwellers, and the USDA is energetically taking part in the five rural development tasks. The USDA is winning the support of the people due to its endeavours to improve the social standard, and regional development.

Secretary of Yebyu Township USDA U Pe Than tabled a motion hailing the Union Day, Secretary of Launglon Township USDA U Wunna Zaw support-

ing the National Convention and Secretary of Thayetchaung USDA U Khin Maung Htay supporting the rural development tasks. Secretary of Dawei Township USDA U Thein Oo seconded the motions.

USDA members of Taninthayi Division and Dawei District, and Dawei, Launglon, Yebyu, and Thayetchaung townships, departmental personnel, members of War Veterans Organization, Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Fire Brigades and Red Cross, local elders and local people totalling over 900 at the ceremony unanimously approved the motions.

Cash donations were presented to the trust funds of the township USDAs and libraries. The ceremony ended with chanting of slogans. — MNA

Mubarak hints of seeking fifth term

CAIRO, 30 Jan — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak gave a strong hint on Saturday that he would seek a fifth six-year term in office and argued that the current system of having Parliament choose the president makes the country stable.

Mubarak told reporters on his plane to an African summit in Nigeria that calls to change the Constitution were pointless at this stage. Many opposition parties want the system changed to allow direct multi-candidate elections.

Mubarak, asked about his election manifesto, said: "My election manifesto has been announced and exists and is applied every day, for I'm not new to the scene and my acts are my manifesto." He was quoted by the state news agency MENA.

In the absence of any obvious successor, Mubarak, 76, is widely expected to let the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) nominate him for another term, possibly in May.

Once the party chooses him, the nomination goes to Parliament, where the NDP holds more than 85 per cent of the seats. In a referendum in September, Egyptians could then vote yes or no on whether they want him to continue.

Asked to comment on calls for constitutional change, he said: "The call is now in vain. Those who talk about direct elections and the referendum and which system is best must understand that the referendum is based on nomination by the people's representatives in Parliament." —MNA/Reuters

Former Guantanamo detainee reunites with family in Australia

CANBERRA, 30 Jan — Mamdouh Habib was back to Australia and reunited with his family on Friday after more than three years of detention at the US base in Guantanamo Bay.

The 48-year-old man was arrested in Pakistan in October 2001 and transferred via Egypt to the US base in May 2002.

He was alleged to have undertaken terrorist training with al-Qaeda, an international terrorist network, in Afghanistan, but the United States has decided it did not have

INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of pharmaceuticals.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, No-57, Sakawa Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, commencing from (1.2.2005).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, not later than (15.2.2005) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone NO. 371284.

Central Medical Stores Depot Department of Health

Palestinian police officers to be sent to Egypt for training

CAIRO, 30 Jan — Some 40 Palestinian police officers will come to Egypt for training next week as part of Egypt's contribution to the new security arrangements in Gaza, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said on Saturday.

Egypt will also receive delegations from the Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which new Pales-

tinian President Mahmoud Abbas is trying to coax into a truce with Israel, he told Reuters by telephone after talks between Abbas and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Under an earlier plan, Egypt had offered to host a dialogue between the Palestinian Authority and the militants but Shaath said that would no longer be necessary.

MNA/Reuters

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၂/၂၀၀၅ (၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၅ရက်) လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမျိုးသားစိမ့်ကိန်းနှင့် စီးပွားရေးပို့ဒါးတက်ပုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ စိမ့်ကိန်းရေးဆွဲရေးဦးစီးဌာနတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ပါရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများ အလို့ရှိပါသည်။

စဉ်	ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လစ်လပ်
(က)	ဦးစီးအရာရှိ	မဟာဝါထိက္ခတ္တ(သို့မဟုတ်) မဟာစီးပွားရေးပညာဘွဲ့ (ဘောဂဗေဒ)(သို့မဟုတ်)မဟာစီးပွားရေးပညာဘွဲ့ (စာရင်းအင်းပညာ)ရရှိသူ	၄၀ နေရာ
(ခ)	ဦးစီးအရာရှိ	မဟာကုန်ပျူတာသိပ္ပံဘွဲ့(သို့မဟုတ်)မဟာကုန်ပျူတာ နည်းပညာဘွဲ့(သို့မဟုတ်)မဟာသုတသိပ္ပံဘွဲ့ရရှိသူ	၁၀ နေရာ

- ၂။ လျှောက်လွှာသို့သည့်- (က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။ (ခ) ၂၂-၂-၂၀၀၅ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက်မကွဲလွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။ ၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၂-၂-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ ၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိမည့် စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၂၀၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေ နှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စစ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ပြင်ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ် လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာစာပေးသောရာထူးများလျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက်လစ်လပ်ညွှန်စာတမ်းပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်ညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ ၅။ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့ များတွင် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲစာတစ်ဌာနများ ထားရှိမည်။ မိမိကြေငြိလိုသောစာတစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်း တိကျစွာ ဖော်ပြရမည်။ ၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ ရုံးကြိုချက်ယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်း ရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၂-၂-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတင်စာတင်ကို စာတံပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ ၇။ ၅-၃-၂၀၀၅ နေ့နှင့် ၆-၃-၂၀၀၅ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲကြီးပမည်။ ၈။ ၃-၃-၂၀၀၅ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေ အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနရုံးနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတိပြားများကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။ ၉။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် (၃၇၀၁၆၃) သို့ဖြစ်စေ ဆယ်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။ ၁၀။ ဤကြော်ငြာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ Website လိပ်စာ csstb.imis.com.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

Putin says Russia to reach new level of interaction with NATO

MOSCOW, 30 Jan — President Vladimir Putin Friday stated that Russia is prepared to reach a new level of interaction with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and expand military-technical cooperation with the alliance, the Interfax news agency reported.

"We are willing to enter a new level of interaction and expand our cooperation in a number of military and military-technical activities," Putin said at the first Security Council session in 2005 in the Kremlin on Friday, which focused on the development of relations between Russia and NATO.

The President thought one of the new

ways for the cooperation could be the arrangement of direct working contacts between NATO and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, that consists of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. "This organization and NATO are mutually complementary elements of global and regional security systems. Combining their potentials could produce a significant positive result," he said.

Putin meanwhile reiterated that Russia was concerned over the North Atlantic alliance's enlargement and said Russia and NATO held posi-

tions that "can coincide on far from all points".

The President believed Russia's option for dialogue and cooperation with NATO has undoubtedly proved correct and fruitful, saying it obviously has worked for the strengthening of Russia's international positions.

"For a rather short historical period," Russia and NATO "have been able to take a gigantic step from former confrontation to interaction" and "from mutual accusations and stereotypes to forming modern institutions of cooperation, such as the Russia-NATO Council," Putin said. — MNA/Xinhua

Ridge believes another attack on US inevitable

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — Departing Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Friday he believed another attack on the United States was inevitable, and warned that America should not focus just on al-Qaeda, but also on similar groups that could carry out attacks.

"I have accepted the inevitability of another attack or attacks," Ridge said in an interview on the eve of his departure from the department launched two years ago to guard against another attack like that of September 11, 2001.

"It could be al-Qaeda or it could be al-Qaeda-

like organizations," said Ridge, who departs on February 1. "I do think, when we talk about global terrorism, (it is) better ... that America doesn't focus just on al-Qaeda."

"There are a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations and there are quite a few (Osama) bin Laden wannabes out there — you've got one of them operating in Iraq right now," he said, referring to al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Ridge said the other groups he views as possible threats are driven by the same ideology as al-Qaeda and they would use "terrorist attacks" as their means to that end.

When asked what type of attack he viewed as the biggest threat, Ridge said a biological or nuclear attack were of concern since they could involve "catastrophic" loss of life.

"I'm convinced that if they had a nuclear weapon they'd use it," he said in a joint interview with Reuters and the Associated Press.

Although there were no new attacks during Ridge's tenure, the administration was criticized for not giving him enough leeway or resources to properly set up an effective department.

Halliburton to win down operations in Iran

HOUSTON, 30 Jan — US oilfield services company Halliburton Co will pull out of Iran after its current contracts there are wound down, its chief executive said on Friday, citing a poor business climate in the Islamic Republic.

"The business environment currently in Iran is not conducive to our overall strategy and objectives. As a result, we have decided to exit Iran and wind down our operations there while fulfilling our existing contracts and commitments," CEO Dave Lesar said on

a conference call with investors.

The Houston-based company, formerly headed by Vice-President Dick Cheney, has also been criticized for its work for the Pentagon in Iraq, where it is the largest private contractor with revenues totalling more than 10 billion US dollars.

The company is under investigation by the US Justice Department for possible overcharges for fuel and food services connected to its Iraq contracts.

Halliburton said in

July it had received a subpoena seeking information about operations in Iran of its Cayman Islands-based Halliburton Products & Services Ltd unit.

Halliburton has argued that using a Cayman Islands subsidiary exempts it from a trade embargo against Iran imposed by Washington, which accuses Teheran of seeking nuclear arms and funding terror networks.

Halliburton generated about 80 million US dollars in revenues in Iran in 2003.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့မြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Living standard improves in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 30 Jan — The Nepal Living Standard Survey released Saturday by the Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal shows that average household income in the country has grown by more than 80 per cent during the past eight years.

According to the survey, annual per capita income increased from 7,690 Nepali rupees (110 US dollars) in the fiscal year 1995/1996 to 15,162 rupees (216.6 dollars) in 2003/2004 fiscal year.

The annual per capita consumption has increased from 6,802 rupees (97.2 dollars) to 15,848 rupees (226.4 dollars) during the same period.

The survey states that the growth in per capita consumption is 91 per cent for the bottom quintile of the population and

177 per cent for the top quintile over the last eight years as a result of an impressive growth across all population groups.

The share of farm income in total income has declined from 61 per cent to 48 per cent, while that of non-farm income increased from 22 to 28 per cent and of other sources including emittance by overseas Nepali workers increased from 16 to 25 per cent during the review eight years.

MNA/Xinhua

Hopes of a world record bring out China's extraordinary citizens

BEIJING, 30 Jan — It is hard to stand out in a country of 1.3 billion, but on Friday hopes of a world record brought out some of China's most extraordinary citizens.

Standing at more than 2.4 metres (7 feet 10 inches), Zhan Junchai said he thinks he may be the world's tallest man, as he readied himself for a performance alongside the longest-haired woman, the man who made the world's smallest scissors and a group of Mongolian wrestlers.

Though he has made a career of performing for advertisements, Zhan says his height is more burden than point of pride, surrounded by a people not known for their large size.

"Being taller than others isn't convenient," the 39-year-old said, holding his head in his giant hands.

"My family is all like you. It's only me who is this tall," he said. The Guinness World Records web site (<http://www>

.guinnessworld records.com) lists Tunisia's Radhouane Charbib, measured at just under 2.4 metres, as the world's tallest living man.

Xie Qiuping, from the southern city of Shenzhen, is proud of her five metres of hair, a small tiara perched on her head to distinguish her from a row of women with hair so long they drape it over their arms to keep it dragging on the floor. Xie travels with an assistant to hold her hair for her. "It's no trouble at all. I'm used to it," she said.

"But you need patience and you need to hold yourself straight when you have hair like this," said Xie, who began growing her hair when she was a little girl. For others, striving for records takes a cer-

tain kind of personality.

Performer Dan Leping, his head wrapped in a blue spangled turban, pulled out a case full of instruments and began playing a flute with his nose, a wad of cloth stuffed up his other nostril.

A profile of Chen Yupei, who has created what are thought to be the world's smallest scissors, as well as a miniature ivory abacus and carvings on grains of rice, says he is obstinate by nature, "always trying to do what others cannot do." Even when the attributes are God-given, they seem to breed a competitive spirit. Tall Zhan scoffs when asked if he knows Chinese basketball star Yao Ming. "I'm certainly taller than him!" he said.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese official says Asia becomes positive force of global eco

DAVOS (Switzerland), 30 Jan — With its dynamic model of cooperation, Asia has become a positive force on the rise in the world economy, a senior Chinese official said here Friday.

The development in Asia, which has drawn worldwide attention amid growing globalization and regional integration, has three features, said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang, who is accompanying Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju to attend the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

First, Asia's overall development has been led by economic cooperation and trade, Shen said while addressing a WEF-hosted dinner titled "Asia's New Balancing Act".

Though regional economic cooperation began quite late in Asia, it has become very flexible, diverse and fast growing and has promoted trade within the region, he added.

The second feature, Shen said, is that political dialogue and security co-

operation have led to more political mutual trust among countries in the region. "Given their diversity, Asian countries have to seek harmony without uniformity in regional cooperation," he said.

The third feature, according to the senior Chinese diplomat, Asian countries have taken joint actions to meet challenges collectively.

The Asian financial crisis, the avian flu, the SARS epidemic and the Indian Ocean tsunami have all heightened the region's awareness of danger, strengthened cohesion and highlighted the pressing need for cooperation, Shen said.

He said that the cooperation among Asian countries, based on the recognition of and respect for their diversity, has expanded common interests and generated tangible benefits to all countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Shanxi Province reports big malleable iron export

TAIYUAN, 30 Jan — China's biggest malleable iron production centre Taigu County in Shanxi Province achieved 31-million-US-dollar export turnover last year, a record high.

Located in north China's Shanxi Province, Taigu possesses 126 malleable iron companies. It

produced more than 300,000 tons of malleable iron in 2004, accounting for one quarter of China's total, said an official with the local government.

The official said the companies invested more than 18 million yuan (about 2.2 million US dollars) in tackling pollution last year and spent about

100 million yuan (about 12 million US dollars) in developing their new products.

A comprehensive production structure has taken shape in the malleable iron centre and the companies are turning from labour-intensive types to technology-intensive one, the official said. —MNA/Xinhua



Revellers of the 'Tabajara' group performs on stage in Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands during carnival celebrations on 29 Jan, 2005. —INTERNET

Iranian Supreme Leader reports US threat

TEHERAN, 30 Jan — Iranian Supreme Leader Seyed Ali Khamenei on Saturday retorted some recent accusations and threats made by senior US officials against Iran, terming them as "nonsense" and calling on the country to resist, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"US officials, speaking to their bluffing and intimidation," Khamenei said. "However, this nation is by far stronger than the first years of the Islamic Revolution and by relying on their faith, determination and unity, will never be intimidated by any threats," he warned.

Recently, US senior officials, including President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, made some hostile comments against Iran, which has raised wide imagination that Washington

might launch attacks upon Iran in the near future. Iran has warned that it would strongly stand up to any aggression. Iran and the US, who had been close allies in 1970's, turned into enemies after the Islamic Revolution of Iran took place in 1979.

The US accused Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons and sponsoring terrorists and imposing harsh sanctions on the country. Iran, in return, termed the US as enemies of the whole Islamic world.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy approve certified e-mails to transmit important messages

ROME, 30 Jan — Italy approved on Friday a decree allowing the use of certified e-mails to transmit important information and documents.

The new decree would give certified e-mails the same legal status as recorded delivery letters. "Certified e-mail is a major innovation," Innovation and Technology Minister Lucio Stanca said, adding that it would greatly simplify formal communication between the public administration and Italians.

He noted that the total cost for sending an official letter would reach

about 20 euros (26 US dollars), while sending a certified message via the Internet would cost only two euros (2.6 US dollars).

Under the decree, Internet service providers will have to offer a reasonable price for the service if they want to be included in a government list of certified e-mail handlers.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Unseeded Aussies win mixed doubles Australian Open title

MELBOURNE, 31 Jan— Unseeded Australians Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur beat Zimbabwean Kevin Ullyett and Liezel Huber of South Africa 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 to win the mixed doubles title at the Australian Open on Sunday.

The Australian pair raced through the first set but were pegged back by the fourth seeds in the second before they held their nerves in the tiebreak to clinch their first Grand Slam title.

Draper, who also made his professional golf debut this week, was a late replacement for fellow countryman Todd Reid, who pulled out on the eve of the event.

Ullyett had been bidding for his second Grand Slam crown in two days, having teamed up with fellow Zimbabwean Wayne Black to win the men's doubles title on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Safin wins Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 31 Jan— Fourth seed Marat Safin stared down the challenge of local hero Lleyton Hewitt to win the centenary Australian Open on Sunday.



Russia's Marat Safin rides the front of a tram while holding the Australian Open trophy in Melbourne, January 31, 2005 the day after he defeated third seed Australia's Lleyton Hewitt in the men's singles final. Safin defeated Hewitt 1-6 6-3 6-4 6-4 to win the first grand slam tournament of the year.—INTERNET

His 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory earned the big Russian a second Grand Slam crown after his 2000 US Open triumph.

Runner-up here in 2002 and 2004, Safin hugged third seed Hewitt and raised his arms in triumph after crashing an unreturnable serve on the final point.

Hewitt, winner at Wimbledon in 2002 and the US Open in 2001, has now lost the last two Grand Slam finals after he was beaten by world number one Roger Federer in the US Open last year.

The disappointed Australian however will rise to number two in the

world after reaching his first home final.

Safin had got off to a slow and nervous start but changed the course of the match in a drama-charged third set, when he staged a stunning comeback after being down 3-0 to Hewitt, who was buoyed by his home crowd on Rod Laver Arena centre court.

Safin had two chances to break Hewitt's serve in the first game of the third set but Hewitt saved both break points and then held his own serve after the Russian made two sloppy errors in a game which typified the early stages of the match.

Zimbabweans win Australian Open men's doubles

MELBOURNE, 30 Jan— Zimbabweans Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett upset second seeds Bob and Mike Bryan 6-4, 6-4 to win the Australian Open men's doubles on Saturday.

The fifth seeds broke the Bryan twins once in each set to clinch their second Grand Slam title together, completing victory without dropping a set in the tournament.

Having broken for 3-2 in the second set, Ullyett held his nerve to serve out for victory and gain revenge for their defeat at the hands of the Americans in the final of the Masters Cup in Houston last year.

The Zimbabweans' only other Grand Slam title came at the US Open in 2001.

MNA/Reuters

Parma beat Udinese 1-0 in Italian Serie A

ROME, 30 Jan— Udinese suffered their third Serie A defeat in a row, when they lost 1-0 to Parma on Saturday.

The defeat, which followed losses to AC Milan and Reggina, meant Udinese remained a distant third in the standings on 34 points, 13 behind leaders Juventus, who play Atalanta on Sunday.

Udinese fell behind after 34 minutes, when Italy striker Alberto

Gilardino nodded a deflected cross past keeper Morgan De Sanctis for his 10th goal of the season.

Udinese looked more dangerous after the interval, but Antonio Di Natale's wild header over the bar from Michele Pazienza's inviting cross summed up their frustrating night.

The best chance to equalize arrived 10 minutes from the end, when midfielder Mirko Pieri failed to make contact with a Marek Jankulovski cross that bounced up at the far post.

In the final minute Gilardino nearly grabbed his second goal, breaking forward alone before firing against the post.

In an earlier match, Chievo Verona climbed six points clear of the relegation zone with a 1-0 win over Livorno.

The result lifted Chievo to 13th on 25 points in the 20-team division.

Livorno failed to reproduce the form that earned them a 1-0 win over champions AC Milan last weekend, and rarely looked likely to score.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea agree eight-year sponsorship deal with Adidas

LONDON, 31 Jan— Premier League leaders Chelsea have agreed an eight-year kit sponsorship deal with German sportswear manufacturer Adidas-Salomon.

The club's web site said the deal would begin on July 1, 2006 and would be worth around 12 million pounds (22.59 million US dollars) a year to Chelsea.

"We believe a global partnership with Adidas will be a huge step in helping the club achieve its long-term strategic goals. Together we can become a formidable team," Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon said.

British sportswear manufacturer Umbro said this month that its kit contract with Chelsea was being terminated five years early in 2006.—MNA/Reuters

Serena Williams wins Australian Open tennis title

MELBOURNE, 30 Jan— Professional misery and personal heartache over the past two years drove Serena Williams right through the pain barrier to the Australian Open crown, the American said on Saturday.

The seventh seed staged a stunning comeback to beat Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 at Melbourne Park before saying she had been through too much in the past two years to consider giving in to a back injury which struck at the start of the match.

The 2003 champion suffered the injury in the opening game of the final but bravely fought back to defeat world number one Davenport in a display of heart and determination. "She was killing me in the first set but I just thought, 'Enough... I'm not going to lose,'" Williams said.

"Lindsay had me on the run, I was running for a ball on my backhand and my back went out. I'm not as young as I used to be," the 23-year-old smiled.

The remarkable comeback gave Williams her seventh Grand Slam title and her first since Wimbledon in 2003. It was soon after that victory that Williams endured a bleak period in her life which included the death of one of her elder sisters, the separation of her parents and an extended lay-off after knee surgery.

She won tournaments in Miami and Beijing after her comeback last year but

also endured the disappointment of being beaten in the finals of Wimbledon and the season-ending WTA Championships, losing to Russian teenager Maria Sharapova both times.

Williams said those experiences had made her more determined to battle back and that she drew strength from them in the final. "It means a lot to me. I went to a few finals last year and I went so close and didn't win, so I really didn't want it to happen again," she said.

Davenport, the 2000 champion, raced to a 4-0 lead in the first set after only 11 minutes, with Williams leaving the court for treatment when she trailed 4-1. The former world number one returned to court and ground her way back before a pivotal fifth game in the second set.

Williams gamely held off six break points against her serve in that game before slamming a service winner to hold for 3-2 in what proved to be the turning point of the match.

MNA/Reuters



Serena Williams of the US runs for a return against compatriot Lindsay Davenport at the 2005 Australian Open - web tennis tournament in Melbourne.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Kachin State marching to new...

(from page 10)
tranquillity in Kachin State the two special regions are enjoying the fruitful results of development.

Those regions, which lagged behind in development in the pasts, are now making progress like big cities. The youth development training

schools were opened in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Putao. Arrangements are being made to open vocational training schools in Bhamo, Putao, Dwonban and Dawphoneyan.

Information and public relations

The information sector is sending news on

efforts of the government serving the long-term interest of the State and the people and news on economic, social and science and technology to the people. Kachin State Information and Public Relations Department is taking the following measures for further cementing friendship among the national races.

Subject	1988	12-2-2005	progress
-TV retransmission station	2	20	18
-IPRD office	-	24	24
-IPRD library	14	24	10
-mobile library	-	450	450
-rural library	-	292	292
-sub-printing house	-	1	1

(Translation: MS + TS)

OPEC poised to stick with existing oil supply limits

VIENNA, 31 Jan — OPEC is poised to stick with existing oil supply limits, deferring a decision on cutbacks to counter falling seasonal demand until March, cartel ministers said on Saturday.

"We believe strongly that OPEC will roll over the production for the time being and see what's going on in a few months from now," Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah al-Attiyah told reporters ahead of Sunday's meeting. US oil prices rose close to 50 US dollars this week, within 6 US dollars of record highs hit in late October, as harsh winter weather in the United States pumped up demand for heating fuel. OPEC's President Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah of Kuwait said almost all OPEC members were agreed the group should leave current output quotas unchanged. "We are starting to believe that almost all support to keep it where it is," he told reporters.

It was too early to talk of OPEC policy for the March meeting in Iran, Sheikh Ahmad added. "It's too early to speak about Isfahan but we have to follow in the second quarter, the stocks are still building," he said. Receding concerns that Sunday's meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries might possibly agree a deferred cut, for implementation from April, saw US crude fall 3.4 per cent on Friday, closing at 47.15 US dollars a barrel.

OPEC's mid-March meeting would still allow sufficient time to trim supplies for the second quarter. Estimates are that OPEC eased back by about 500,000 barrels per day in January to 29 million BPD.

MNA/Reuters

Russia, US vow to maintain succession in relations

Moscow, 31 Jan — Russia and the United States have assured their common views on preserving succession and pace of development in bilateral ties, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The presidents of Russia and the United States had confirmed concrete fields for bilateral cooperation, including strengthening international security and strategic stability, dealing with new global challenges and threats, developing trade and economic ties and expanding social and civil contacts, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov addressed the members of the Russian-American Business Cooperation Council on Thursday, the text of which was published on the ministry's web site.

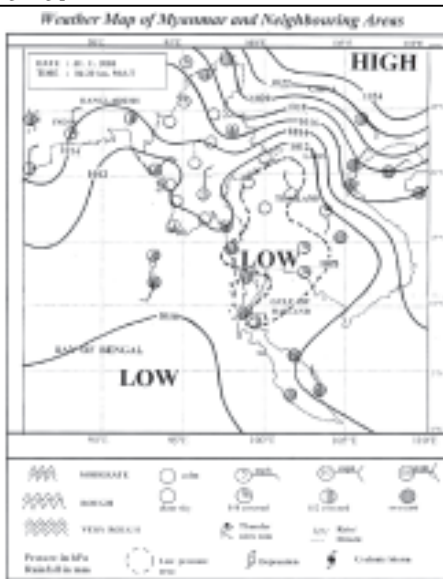
Lavrov said that both sides could consolidate the foundation of partnership given the successful joint efforts, noting that a long-term joint action plan is expected to be reached during the upcoming summit meeting of the heads of the two states in late February.

However, the minister pointed out that Russia and the United States also have different views over approaches to settling world crises, but divarication is normal for world

powers. Lavrov blamed Washington for implementing double standards in election process in the post-Soviet region, namely Ukraine which has just survived months of political turmoil, and interfering with Russia's internal affairs of the YUKOS case and the ongoing political reforms.

Fortunately, both countries have learned to separate vital matters from minor issues in the bilateral ties, said the minister, expressing the belief that any problems could be settled with "goodwill, openness, predictability, mutual trust and respect of each other's interests".

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 31 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam and Hakha (4°C), each, PyinOoLwin and Heho (5°C) each and Lashio and Mogok (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-1-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 31-1-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-1-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 30-1-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from Northeast at (8:55) hours MST on 30-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-2-2005: Weather will be fair in the whole country.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.



Tuesday, 1 February
View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 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. ကဗျာနိဂ္ဂယုဉ်
- 8:00 am 6. အကြံပြုပွဲ
- 8:10 am 7. Song of yesteryears
- 8:20 am 8. မနုဿိယာဇာတ်
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. Let's go

- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm 4. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်ဘွဲ့ သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (စာတုစေးအထူးပြု) (စာတုစေး)
- 5:00 pm 5. Dance of national races
- 5:15 pm 6. ခံစားနားဆင်စားစာတိုလင်
- 5:25 pm 7. (၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်ဘွဲ့
- 5:35 pm 8. ဆိုကြမယ်၊ ဖျော်ကြမယ်
- 6:15 pm 9. မိုင်းမြားကားသွန်းစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာတိစင်ရူစုနီ" (အပိုင်း-၆၄)
- 6:30 pm 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 11. Weather report

- 7:05 pm 12. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံ ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်
- 7:15 pm 13. ကမ္ဘာ့အဖွဲ့အစည်း ထိပ်တန်းညီလာခံ (ဒုတိယနေ့) မွန်လူပိုင်းအစီအစဉ် (၁၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) နှင့် ကမ္ဘာ့အဖွဲ့ တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်ညီလာခံ (တတိယနေ့) နှင့် ကမ္ဘာ့အဖွဲ့အစည်း (၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)
- 7:25 pm 14. The Mirror Images of the Musical Oldies
- 7:35 pm 15. (၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်ဘွဲ့
- 7:45 pm 16. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မြှောက်ရင်သန် မိုင်မာရန်နာ ဒီဂရီတာ (မြို့ပြ) ဝေဠာညီကန်ရတီ ဓမ္မတာဝန်ပြည့်
- 8:00 pm 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. မိုင်းမြားကားသွန်းစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "သံဓဉ်စုံချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၃၅)
- 21. မင်းတုန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစိန်ညွှန်သာဓကတော်ဝင်သမီး အရှင် ဓမ္မာတိစင်ရူစုနီ ဓမ္မတာဝန်ပြည့်
- 22. The next day's programme



- Tuesday, 1 February
Tune in today:
- 8.30 am Brief news
 - 8.35 am Music: Moonlight shadow
 - 8.40 am Perspectives
 - 8.45 am Music: Samba De Janeiro
 - 8.50 am National news/Slogan
 - 9.00 am Music: International news
 - 9.05 am Music: -Who do you think you are
 - 9.10 am News/Slogan
 - 1.30 pm Lunch Time Music
 - 1.40 pm -Woman
 - Lady
 - Please don't fall in love
 - Vincent
 - 9.00 pm Special Talk: -Safeguard National Solidarity
 - 9.15 pm Article/Music
 - 9.25 pm Weekly sports reel
 - 9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure
 - Whoops now
 - Love me for a reason
 - 9.45 pm News/Slogan
 - 10.00 pm PEL

Development tasks inspected in Maubin Township

YANGON, 31 Jan — A ceremony to donate cash for the renovation of MyoU Pawdawmu Pagoda in Maubin, Ayeyawady Division, took place at the pagoda on 29 January morning.

It was attended by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and South West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, townsenders, wellwishers, departmental staff and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Before the ceremony, the minister met USDA members of Maubin district and township and discussed regional development work.

Next, the commander and the minister made cash donations for



Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing accepts cash donations from a wellwisher for rebuilding MyoU Pawdawmu Shwezedi Pagoda in Maubin Township on 29-1-2004. — A&I

the renovation of the pagoda. Twenty four wellwishers also donated K 8.08 million. The commander and the minister accepted the donations and viewed the renovation tasks at the pagoda and construction of

Sasana Beikmandawgyi in Maubin District. Afterwards, they met local farmers in Wataw village, Maubin Township, gave necessary instructions to them and inspected the plantations of soya bean, sun flowers and maize and

grains. In Maubin Township, over 330,000 acres of monsoon and summer paddy, maize, oil crops and various kinds of beans and pulses are being grown.

MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Union Day hailed, National Convention supported in Magway, Minbu, Pyay districts



YANGON, 31 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention took place at Hsat Thwa village, Taungdwingyi township, Magway District, on 28 January.

Present were local people, Chin nationals, members of the women's affairs committee, the Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the War Veterans Organization, the Red Cross Brigade, the Fire Brigade, nurses, and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association totalling 800.

Magway District USDA Secretary U Kyaw Moe presided over the mass rally. USDA members Daw Khin Moe Aye and Daw Su Nanda acted as MC and co-MC.

At the outset, U Kyaw Moe spoke on the occasion. Salai Hla Myo Aung, a Chin national, ta-

bled a motion honouring the Union Day; and Chauk Township USDA Secretary U Nay Shin, a motion hailing the National Convention. Magway District Executive U Zaw Myint, made explanation in connection with the undertaking of rural development tasks in the district. U Kyaw Thein, a local farmer, discussed in favour of the above-mentioned proposals and explanation.

Magway Division USDA Executive U Han

Maung handed over K2.5 million to the funds of rural development tasks through Magway District USDA Executive U Aung Kyaw Soe. Next, Taungdwingyi Township USDA Secretary U Than Win handed over K 50,000 to the funds of the project for the supply of irrigation water in Hsat Thwa village through U Than Maung, the chairman of the village peace and development council.

Later, U Kyaw

Moe sought the approval of the attendees of the ceremony. The mass rally came to a successful end with chanting of slogans.

A similar ceremony took place in the compound of Kyaungdawya Pagoda in Pwintbyu township, Minbu District, Magway Division, on 29 January. Altogether 1500 attended the mass rally. U Ko Lay, secretary of Minbu District USDA, who presided over the rally and spoke on the occasion.

Daw Thin Thin Khine, executive of Ngape Township USDA, tabled a motion honouring the Union Day; and Pwintbyu Township USDA Executive U Zaw Naing Win, a motion hailing the National

Convention. Salin Township USDA Executive Daw Tin May Tun explained in connection with the undertaking of rural development tasks in the district. U Tin Aung Naing, (See page 11)

INSIDE

Now, Kachin State has caught up with other states and divisions in various sectors thanks to the assistance and encouragement of the government, and united and harmonious efforts of local national race leaders and people.

(Page 8)

THIHA AUNG



Ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in progress in Hsat Thwa Village of Taungdwingyi Township, Magway District. — MNA