

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 294

11th Waning of Pyatho 1366 ME

Friday, 4 February 2005

Strengthening of Union Spirit is of utmost importance

Of utmost importance in the country today is the strengthening of the Union Spirit. The Union of Myanmar is composed of 14 states and divisions where all national races live together through thick and thin. Only when all the national races cherish and love their motherland will they be able to live together with unity and solidarity.



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

(From the address delivered at the parade of the 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Sri Lankan President

YANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, which falls on 4 February 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Madame Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. — MNA

The Government is striving for ensuring peace and stability and the rule of law, improving the means of people's livelihood, strengthening the economy, and developing the human resources for the nation-building task, while laying down and implementing the seven-point Road Map for democracy transition. It is now in the process of successfully holding the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map.

Myanmar still facing unjust accusations of child soldiers as only slanders and falsehood reach UN Committee for Prevention of Recruitment of Minors for Armed Forces meets

YANGON, 3 Feb—The Committee for Prevention of Recruitment of Minors for Armed Forces held its fourth coordination meeting at Zeyathiyi Beikman on Konmyinthathere here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were members of the Committee ministers, the deputy chief justice, the deputy attorney-general, senior military officers, officials and departmental heads. The Secretary-1 said that after assumption of the State duties, the Government has been working overtime, with the aim of building a new nation, implementing the 12 objectives as the national policy. And due to the efforts, the political, economic and social sectors of the nation are witnessing progress to a certain degree. It is also mate-

rializing plans with might and main to develop the border areas and the rural areas home to about 70 per cent of the population for all the national races to enjoy the fruits of progress fairly.

The Government is striving for ensuring peace and stability and the rule of law, improving the means of people's livelihood, strengthening the economy, and developing the human resources for the nation-building task, while laying down and implementing the seven-point Road Map for democracy transition. It is now in the process of successfully holding the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map.

Instead of rendering a helping hand to the emergence of a desired discipline-flourishing democratic state at this time, some saboteurs at home and abroad are trying to discredit the Government, tarnish the image of the race, create difficulties for the people,

and destroy the National Convention, holding personal and ideological prejudices as their dogmatism. All the people have witnessed their evil schemes to slander Myanmar in many ways with the intention of blemishing her dignity in the world.

Employing the imposition of democracy shaped by themselves and human rights as an excuse, the perpetrators are defaming the nation, using the (See page 6)

INSIDE

Chin-Bamar Friendship Conference was held on a grand scale in Htilin of Gangaw District for three days from 3 to 5 March in 1947.

(Page 7)

YAWNKA PHO HTAUNG



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses meeting of the Committee for Prevention of Recruitment of Minors for Armed Forces. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 4 February, 2005

Strive for rapid development of industrial sector

In building the Union of Myanmar into a modern and developed nation, priority is being given to the development of the industrial sector based on agriculture.

And to develop the industrial sector, various measures are being taken for development of mechanized farming, construction of new factories, for the existing factories to be able to operate to their full capacity, for establishment of new industrial zones and rapid development of the existing ones and for the growth of private industrial sector.

For the nation to become an industrialized one, the State-owned, private and cooperative industries are working harmoniously and fundamental requirements for industrial development are being fulfilled by the government.

And in accordance with the objective — the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national people, national entrepreneurs will have to place special emphasis on the development of the industries based on natural resources of the nation.

Speaking at the coordination meeting 1/2005 of the Industrial Development Committee held at the training hall of the Ministry of Industry-1 on 1 February, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, also Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee, said that it was necessary to shape the way of industrial development properly and the future of the nation rested on the rapid and enormous development of the industrial sector. This calls for knowledge and initiative power of the private sector and its cooperation with the government. Private industries, though small in size, outnumber the State-owned industries and their production is quite large.

Ninety per cent of the factories and mills in the nation are privately-owned. This being the case, both qualitative and quantitative development of small and medium private industries is necessary.

Therefore, we would like to call on the national industrialists to strive for the development and modernization of the nation, by fully cooperating with the government and making the best use of assistance provided and favourable conditions created by the government.



CASH DONATED: U Khin Maung Aye and Daw Aye Aye of Yankin Township donated K 200,000 for building new hospital for the Hninzigon Home for the Aged to mark the birthday of their son Dr Phone Myint on 2-12-2004. Treasurer U Aung Than of the Home Administrative Board accepts the donations. —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

FM U Nyan Win felicitates Sri Lankan counterpart

YANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, which falls on 4 February 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. —MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 3 Feb — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Col Thein Swe, Officer on Special Duty at the Ministry of Transport as the Principal of the Central Institute of Transport and Communication under the Ministry of Rail Transportation on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

MNA

Russian Federation Deputy Minister arrives

YANGON, 3 Feb — At the invitation of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Mr Alexander Yu Alekseev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, arrived here by air this afternoon for regular consultations of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs between the two countries.

The Russian Federation Deputy Minister was welcomed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Russian Federation Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Oleg V Kabanov and officials



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation Mr Alexander Yu Alekseev being welcomed at the airport. —MNA

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Russian Embassy. Deputy Minister U

Kyaw Thu hosted a dinner to the Russian Federation Deputy Minister at the Dusit Inya Lake Hotel this evening. MNA

Culture Deputy Minister makes inspection tour of Rakhine State

YANGON, 3 Feb — Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, accompanied by Director-General of the Department of Archaeology U Nyunt Han, inspected the repairing and maintaining works of Koethaung Stupa in MraukU in Rakhine State on 1 February and heard reports on the background history and maintenance of the stupa.

Afterwards, Deputy Director (Engineer) U Phone Kyaw reported to the Deputy Minister on maintenance and future tasks for the stupa. The Deputy Minister attended to the needs.

The Deputy Minister gave instructions on

preserving the ancient cultural heritage for long-term existence. Next, the Deputy Minister proceeded to the Archaeological Museum and left instructions on beautification around the museum.

In the afternoon, he went to Vesali ancient city and looked into excavation of the ancient city and Director U Kyaw Oo Lwin reported on the findings in excavating the city.

Next, he paid homage to Kyauktaw Maha Myat Muni Image and viewed the Kyauktaw Archaeological Museum.

On arrival at Sittway, he visited the Culture Museum of Rakhine State on 2 February. He was conducted around the museum by Deputy Director of the Department of Cultural Institute U Tin Aung Soe.

Afterwards, he went to Sittway Buddhological Museum and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

UMFCCI Vice-President leaves for Pakistan

YANGON, 3 Feb — A 15-member delegation led by Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin left here by air on 1 February to attend Expo Pakistan 2005 to be held in Karachi, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, from 2 to 5 February.

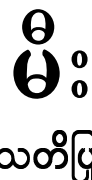
They were seen off at the airport by Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry, President of UMFCCI U Win Myint, CEC members and officials. — MNA



TRAINING COURSE CONCLUDES: The International Trade Course (Programme-1) of UMFCCI concluded at its training centre on 28-1-2005. Adviser U Khin Maung Yi of UMFCCI presents a gift to a teacher. —H

All this needs to be known

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



Susilo to visit Malaysia

JAKARTA, 2 Feb— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will shortly visit Malaysia to discuss the problem of Indonesian migrant workers with the Malaysian Government, presidential spokesman Andi Mallarangeng said here on Tuesday.

“The President will visit Malaysia in the near future,” Andi was quoted by the official *Antara* news agency as saying.

He did not explain whether the problem of Indonesian migrant workers would be on the President’s main agenda.

The President had ordered officials of the Foreign and Home Affairs ministries and the Office of the Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare to facilitate the repatriation of about 300,000 Indonesian workers from Malaysia.

He also ordered relevant officials to simplify procedures for the issuance of travel and other immigration documents needed by Indonesian workers to return to work legally in

Malaysia.

The Office of the Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare was devising a method to simplify the issuance of documents in such a way that a worker would need only one document covering immigration, employment and citizenship requirements.

On Monday, the Malaysian Government ended a three-month amnesty for foreign expatriates working illegally in that country.

More than 400,000 Indonesians working illegally in Malaysia are facing the prospect of being arrested and penalized by whipping, fining or imprisonment before deportation, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman looks at a polar bear from a special dome capsule at Asahiyama Zoo in Asahikawa, northern Japan recently.—INTERNET

Property rights watchdogs meet in HK

HONG KONG, 2 Feb— Heads of European and Asian intellectual property offices will exchange information on IP protection with the World Intellectual Property Organization and other leading IP organizations in a regional conference in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

The conference is jointly organized by the Europe Patent Office and the Intellectual Property Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government. Speaking at the opening ceremony, HKSAR’s Legislative Council President Rita Fan said every region had its own challenges in IP protection and in particular, IP was vital to supporting economic development in Asia.

“Strong IP protection reduces investment risk and thus enhances investor confidence. Attracting investors to develop locally-based research and development as well as creative industries can help Asian economies create a more sustainable base for longer-term economic development,” Fan said.

“This is one of the benefits of under-pinning our economic development with a strong IP protection regime,” Fan said. Europe Patent Office President Alain Pompidou said the conference will provide a unique opportunity to share information on the latest developments in the European and Asian IP offices and trilateral partners (the United States, Europe and Japan), exchange views on the challenges that IP offices are facing and discuss how co-operation can help overcome these.— MNA/Xinhua

CNPC makes headway in expanding overseas cooperation

BEIJING, 2 Feb — China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) turned out 30.1 million tons of crude oil and 3.55 billion cubic metres of gas in its overseas cooperative oilfields in 2004, up 20 per cent and 84.6 per cent from 2003.

According to CNPC president Chen Geng, the corporation signed eight investment and cooperation contracts last year, including a group of key projects such as the Sino-Kazakhstan gas pipeline project.

To date, CNPC has cumulatively signed 48 investment and cooperation contracts overseas with 20 countries. The contracts signed include an exploration project in Algeria, an oilfield project in Iran and oilfield and gas pipeline projects in Sudan, Kazakhstan and Venezuela.

The DIFFRA Oilfield in Sudan went into operation

last March, which was expected to produce one million tons of crude annually. About 40 per cent of the total engineering work had been completed in Sudan.

Moreover, the construction of an oilfield with a production capacity topping one million tons in Kazakhstan is in full swing. An oil refinery project in Venezuela with a refining capacity of 6.5 million tons is going smoothly. The first expansion project of the oil refinery in Sudan was completed last August and construction started for the second expansion project.

MNA/Xinhua

1,437 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb— As of Wednesday, 2 February, 2005, at least 1,437 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 1,100 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said.

The *AP* count includes four military civilians and is one higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 86

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 1 May 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,299 US military members have died, according to *AP*’s count. That includes at least 991 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—Internet

Mixed expectations for business in Singapore in 2005

SINGAPORE, 2 Feb — Firms in the manufacturing and services sectors in Singapore are cautiously optimistic about business conditions in the first half of this year, according to the result of two surveys released on Tuesday.

A poll conducted among 400 manufacturing establishments by the Economic Development Board (EDB) in the past two months showed that a net weighted balance of 5 per cent of manufacturers hold optimistic outlook for their business.

The majority of the businessmen surveyed anticipate market conditions to remain similar to the fourth quarter of last year, while gloomy outlook in clusters such as the electronics and the precision engineering exists at the same time.

MNA/Xinhua

Abu Ghraib guard pleads guilty in abuse scandal

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb— A US soldier charged in the Iraq prison abuse scandal pleaded guilty Tuesday to battery and two other charges as part of a deal reached with US military officials.

At Fort Hood, Texas, defendant Sergeant Javal Davis, 27, admitted to jumping on a pile of Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib Prison in November 2003 and stomping on their feet and toes.

He also pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty, making a false statement and two counts of battery. He pleaded not guilty to the conspiracy and mistreating prisoners charges against him.

Under the deal, Davis will have to co-operate in other ongoing investigations. He is the fifth guard at Abu Ghraib to admit guilt or be found guilty on some charges.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese child receives vaccination against meningitis at a disease prevention station in Beijing on 3 February, 2005.—INTERNET

Nation needs strength to...

(from page 16)

occurred disagreements among the national races soon after the independence was regained, and it was followed by armed conflicts that hindered national development. After assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has extended an olive branch to the armed groups with a view to serving the national interest. At present, 17 former armed groups are joining hands with the Tatmadaw Government in striving to develop the socio-economy of the people. The Tatmadaw Government has been giving priority to the progress of border areas which were in backwardness due to certain reasons in the past in launching the development drive. Now the people have



Ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in progress in Okpo Township, Thayawady District.—MNA

invited delegates will continue to lay down the basic principles to draw a constitution at the National Convention that will resume on 17 February 2005. The entire Myanmar people have supported the National Convention, without paying any attention to the outside pressures and criticism. The seven-point Road Map will be materialized in ac-

perpetuation of sovereignty

- to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union spirit for its perpetual existence
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and

tional objectives for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, and the nation is on the right tract to reach this end. An enduring constitution is the soul of the nation and a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state is her goal.

As there are differences between the east and the west, Myanmar is trying to materialize a democratic system that is in accord with her condition. At present all the delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates of the National Convention are in the process of drafting a constitution in accord with the six objectives — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuity of sovereignty, flourishing of a genuine multi-party democracy system, further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality; and the Tatmadaw to be

power supply in rural areas practically for ensuring uplift of living standard of the entire national people.

In the education sector, Thayawady District USDA donated K 2 million to needy children of the townships in its district for their school enrolment, he added. Furthermore, the association has spent over K 1 million on repair of eight schools in Thayawady Township, two in Monyo Township and two in Gyobingauk Township.

Regarding rural water supply sector, the district association sank nine artesian wells in Thayawady

He continued to say that service personnel, local and USDA members made concerted efforts for ensuring better transport in rural area. So, local people in rural areas of the district can easily travel from one place to another all the seasons.

He recounted experience in power supply tasks in the district. In this regard, township USDA's organized to supply electricity to 15 villages of respective townships in 2004. Moreover, he added that now hydro-electricity is being supplied by the 10 kilowatt kva generator to Linlunbin Village of Okpo Township at low-



Members of the panel of chairmen.—MNA

seen the fruits of the 24-development zone project and rural development tasks. It is a common knowledge that all are witnessing progress resulting from the decisive, bold and energetic efforts of the Government. It resumed the National Convention on 17 May 2004 to practically implement the seven-point Road Map. The National

accord with the 12 national objectives and the four-point people's desire, and the national people will take part in the task in their respective sectors.

Secretary of Okpo Township USDA U Tin Htwe said that the national unity is the basic strength for perpetuation of the Union. The Union is like a large thriving tree that is

external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development and

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

As the national people had to sacrifice lots of

The Union is like a large thriving tree that is giving shelter to hundreds of birds, and it is the inborn duty of all to safeguard the Union.

Township, 11 artesian wells in Letpadan Township, four artesian wells and one lake in Minhla Township, 13 artesian wells in Monyo Township, nine artesian wells and one well, 14 artesian wells, five tubewells and three watertanks in Gyobingauk Township, two artesian wells in Zigon Township and six in Nattalin Township in 2004, spending over K 5.6 million.

est cost.

Next, Teinmyoke Village USDA Joint Organizer U Hla Win of Okpo Township seconded three motions tabled by three representatives.

The meeting decided to hail the Union Day, safeguard Our Three Main National Causes, support the National Convention and rural development in the district.

Okpo Township USDA Secretary U Nay Win handed over 21,500 membership applications to Thayawady District USDA Joint-Secretary Daw Khin Khin Lin. Similarly, a local people presented K 1 million for carrying out regional development tasks to Daw Khin Khin Lin.

Later, the ceremony ended with chanting of the slogans.



Thayawady Secretary U Nyan Khin.

MNA



Letpadan Township Secretary U Aung Kyaw Oo.—MNA

MNA



Okpo Township Secretary U Tin Htwe.

MNA



Gyobingauk Township Secretary U Thant Zin.—MNA

MNA



Teinmyouk village Joint-Organizer U Hla Win.

MNA

Convention, the first step of the Road Map, is in the process of drafting a constitution.

The delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other

giving shelter to hundreds of birds, and it is the inborn duty of all to safeguard the Union. The 58th Anniversary Union Day will be observed with the following objectives:

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy-non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and

blood, sweat and lives to regain independence, they will have to safeguard it with indivisible unity.

Secretary of Letpadan Township USDA U Aung Kyaw Oo said that it is the bounden duty of all the national races to play their respective roles for perpetuation of the Union. The Government has been implementing the firm na-

able to participate in the national political leadership role of the future State.

U Thant Zin, Secretary of Gyobingauk Township USDA, in his report on rural development tasks in Thayawady District, said that the Government is carrying out five rural development tasks such as health, education, rural water supply, economy, transport and



MC Daw Htaik Htaik and co-MC Daw Soe Soe.—MNA

MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung receives Indian guests

YANGON, 3 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Chairman of Angel, Que International Limited, Procurement and Construction Company Mr DK Goyal and party of India at his office this afternoon. During their meeting, they held discussions

on bilateral cooperation. Present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, directors-general and managing directors of department and enterprises under the ministry.

MNA

Sittway District holds mass rally in honour ...

(from page 16)

townselder U Aung Tun Hlaing of Kyauktaw, Minbya Township Organization for Women's Affairs President Daw Nyo Nyo Zan, and

neighbours. Unforgettable and bitter lessons can be taken from the Myanmar history, which revealed that the colonialists, taking full advantage of disintegra-

Union Spirit. So, all national people are to enhance the national sentiment.

Union Spirit means the spirit, with which all the entire people as-



Danyawady column of USDA members, representatives of social organizations and locals marching to the mass rally. — MNA



Members of the panel of chairmen. — MNA

MraukU Township MCWA member Daw Sein Nu, MraukU Township USDA Daw Htay Htay acted as MC, and Kyauktaw Township USDA executive Daw Hla Saw Yee as co-MC.

The participants saluted the State Flag. The

tion of the national races, annexed the nation after waging the three aggressive wars on it. In the colonial days, the national races fully armed with Union Spirit launched anti-colonialist struggles for independence. Myanmar regained its in-

sumed themselves as the national brethren in the same Union wherever state or division they live in and what national races they are. A lot of national people scarified their lives in the independence struggle to enable the motherland to

quillity in the nation. hand in hand had to carry out uphill tasks not to lose independence again.

After taking up State duties, the Tatmadaw government gave top priority to national reconsolidation. With peace and stability, there emerged economic infrastructures across the nation including border areas, and the national people have enjoyed fruitful results of higher living standard. The Tatmadaw has achieved unprecedented success in its drive to regain national reconsolidation. Now 17 national armed groups have returned to the legal fold, and they are participating in the nation-building endeavours.

The national progress reflects that unity is key to success.

Now, the State's

quillity in the nation.

He said the National Convention, the first stage of the seven-point programme, is in the process, calling on the entire people to be in support of the National Convention.

In conclusion, he urged the members to try their utmost to make contribution towards realization of the five rural development tasks. Upholding the national policy, Our Three Main National Causes, the members to play an active role in the drive for successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map whatever role they are in, and to be equipped with Union Spirit, nationalistic fervour and patriotism.

Sittway District Executive U Aung Myo Than tabled a motion

honouring Union Day.

Kyauktaw Township Executive U Than Gyaung seconded the motion.

Next, Pauktaw Township Executive Daw Zan Moe Nu elaborated on the rural development tasks being implemented in eight townships of Sittway District.

Rakhine State Secretary U Oo Kyaw Yin presented K 1 million for implementation of the rural development tasks in Sittway District to District Executive U Htin Kyaw.

Sittway District Executive Daw Khin Thein seconded the motions tabled by the three representatives.

The meeting chairman sought the approval of the attendees, after which the rally ended with chanting of slogans.

MNA



Sittway District Secretary U Tun Win. MNA



Sittway District Executive U Aung Myo Than. MNA



Executive U Than Gyaung. MNA



Pauktaw Township Executive Daw Zan Moe Nu. — MNA



Daw Khin Thein of Myebon Township. MNA



Daw Htay Htay and Daw Hla Saw Yee. MNA

meeting chairman announced the start of the meeting, and said that Myanmar is a Union with a fine tradition, in which more than 100 national races have lived in unity and amity for thousands of years. In the past, Myanmar stood as the first Myanmar Empire, the second Myanmar Empire and the third Myanmar Empire with sovereignty and own monarchs, winning respects of its

dependence and sovereignty nearly one year after the Panglong Agreement. The colonialists, before they handed over the independence to the nation, plotted schemes to leave out the hilly regions after driving a wedge among the national brethren.

However, the entire people did not accept their schemes, but could sign the Panglong Agreement, reflecting

stand tall as a sovereign nation among the global countries.

After regaining independence, successive governments employed various ways and means to modernize the nation, but the goal could not be achieved due the discord and hatred among the national races sown by the colonialists and lack of peace and national reconsolidation. It is known to all that the Tatmadaw and the peo-

seven-point Road Map is on its way for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

He said that USDA Patron State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe on the conditions occasionally gave guidance on the conditions in which nation-building endeavours could be carried out effective due to national unity, peace and tran-

Officials receive foreign entrepreneurs

YANGON, 3 Feb — Chairman of Greater Mekong Sub-region Business Forum U Win Aung and Vice-President of UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win yesterday afternoon received Chairman of Itochu Thailand Ltd Mr T Ishizuka of Thailand together with General Manager Mr Yukio Matsunaga of Mizuho Corporate Bank and Director of Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Yangon, (JCCY) Mr Hajime Tamanyu, at UMFCCI Building.

They discussed matters related to Eastwest Economic Corridor of Investment Seminar for Myanmar to be held in Bangkok during May 2005 and investment matters.

MNA

Myanmar still facing...

(from page 1)
 problems of forced labour, narcotic drugs, alleged sexual violence against women in border areas, human trafficking, and child soldiers as tools. They are even making various attempts to break up the Tatmadaw, which has fine traditions.

The conspirators are framing the Tatmadaw for the alleged forced recruitment of juvenile soldiers for the front lines, and trying to raise the matter at the UN for the global body to take action against Myanmar. Thus, the committee will have to pay attention to refuting the matter. Concerning the accusations of child soldiers, the Secretary-1 said that the Tatmadaw is an armed force systematically formed according to laws, bylaws, rules and directives, and also an institution with fine traditions. In accord with its rules and regulations, the Tatmadaw is enlisting only the persons who

have reached the age of 18 and who meet the required standards, and they are the steadfast rules and regulations strictly adhered by the Tatmadaw. In 2004, the Tatmadaw invited the UNICEF resident representative to study the recruitment rules, orders and directives for Defence Services (Army) Recruiting Units in Yangon and Mandalay and also to visit the recruits.

But Myanmar is still facing unjust accusations as only the slanders falsehood have reached the UN, because of some unscrupulous persons' perpetrations to bar the truth about the Tatmadaw's constructive acts from arriving at the global body. As such, he said, the committee will have to heighten its efforts to convey the truth to the UN.

Next, those present gave an account of measures being taken in accord with laws in diplomatic, judiciary, law, social, labour, and Tatmadaw sec-

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects development of Ye Township

YANGON, 3 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, senior military officers and officials, left Mawlamyine for Ye through Mawlamyine-Thanyuayay-ye Road on 31 January morning and arrived at Khawza of Ye Township at 11 am.

At the Dhammayon in the precinct of Khawza Monastery, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with local people. Executive Officer U Tint Naing of Khawza Town reported on the location and area of the town, population, completion of departmental buildings, arrival of staff, agriculture, livestock breeding, health and education sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that students pursued high school level basic education at Hangan because of lack of Basic Education High School in Khawza in the past. Thus, the Government opened the BEHS in Khawza for regional development. Likewise, even border areas are enjoying fruitful results thanks to assistance provided for all the regions.

He continued that State service personnel and local people utilizing good natural conditions should par-

ticipate in the regional development tasks under the leadership of officials.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the plots chosen for construction of departmental offices and Khawza Police Station. At Khawza Station Hospital, Lt-Gen Maung Bo oversaw units of the hospital and comforted the patients. Next, he looked into the plots chosen for constructions of the combined office of General Administration Department and the temporary combined office. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander presented K 100,000 to the funds for development measures through the executive officer. After inspecting Khawza BEHS, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended to the requirements of the school.

On arrival at Duya Station Hospital (16-bed) construction site, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on progress of tasks. Duya Station Hospital will be the 16-bed one measuring 128 feet and 103 feet wide.

They proceeded to Ye Township Hospital. Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on construction of two-storey patient ward and the operation theatre by officials. The building is 176 feet long and 44 feet wide. After inspecting construction tasks, Lt-Gen Maung Bo left necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

tors to refute the groundless accusations of the destructive elements and to help the international community understand the committee's correct endeavours for prevention of recruitment of minors for armed forces. In response, the Secretary-1

delivered concluding remarks, saying that some certain big powers will keep on making accusations against Myanmar in various spheres so long as the destructive elements remain in existence who hold negative views on the nation. It is needed to always rebut all the baseless accusations against Myanmar in order to eliminate misunderstandings of the international community.

The Secretary-1 spoke of the need of the officials concerned to systematically collect the data on issuing national registration cards to the citizens, health care, judiciary and legal measures for the children, and policies such as civilian and mili-

tary laws, rules and regulations, orders and directives.

He called on the officials at different levels to effectively supervise recruitment tasks and undergoing military training of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, and to help the resident representatives of UN

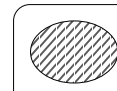
agencies in the nation to occasionally witness these measures. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called for thorough refutation of all rootless accusations against the nation by constantly exposing the committee's correct activities to the international community. — MNA



Minister U Nyan Win. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo. — MNA



Minister
Maj-Gen
Sein Htwa.

— MNA



Ceremony to commemorate Union Day, to support National Convention held in Myittha

YANGON, 3 Feb— A ceremony to honour the Union Day and to support the National Convention was held at Langwa village, Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division this morning.

Present were the secretary and executives of Mandalay Division USDA, the secretary and executives of Kyaukse District USDA, secretaries and joint-secretaries and executives of township and ward USDAs in Kyaukse District, departmental personnel, members of District Women's Affairs, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people totalling over 7,000. Secretary of Kyaukse District USDA Dr Ye Win Naing

presided over the meeting together with member of Myittha Township WVO U Kyaw Myint, Chairperson of Myittha Township WAO, Secretary of Myittha Township MCWA Daw Khin Tint and a townselder of Myittha Township U Aung Lin. Executive of Singaing Township USDA Daw Theingi Aung acted as MC and Organizer of Myinttha Township USDA Daw Thu Zar Tin, as co-MC of ceremony.

MC declared the start of the ceremony and those present saluted the State Flag. Secretary of Kyaukse District USDA Dr Ye Win Naing delivered an address on the occasion.

Executive of Singaing Township USDA U Aye Ko reported on preparation to honour the

Union Day. Executive of Kyaukse Township USDA U Tin Thein on matters related to supporting the National Convention and Executive of Kyaukse District USDA Daw Thwe Thwe Win on rural development affairs in the district.

Next, Joint-Secretary of Kyaukse District USDA U Than Shwe handed over Kyaukse District Education Officer U Zaw Win related documents of the school built at a cost of K 10.6 million through efforts made by various levels of USDA during 2003-2004 academic year.

Afterwards, Joint-Secretary of Kyaukse District USDA U Than Shwe handed over Executive Officer of Myittha Township Development Affairs Committee U George

Myo Myint documents on measures taken for 35 village-to-village roads, 17 tube-wells and 26 manual water pumps. Joint-Secretary of Kyaukse District USDA U Than Shwe presented Secretary of Myittha Township USDA

U Aung Kyi K 1.7 million to extend primary schools in the district and K 1 million to be used in striving for electricity supply.

After that, three delegates seconded the motions on commemora-

tion of the Union Day and supporting of the National Convention.

The participants unanimously approved the decisions made by the meeting, which ended with chanting of slogans.

MNA



Kyaukse District holds the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention. — MNA

Rhododendron flowers blooming in the Union Garden

Yawnaka Pho Htaung

February 12, 1947, was a day of great significance for the Union of Myanmar. It was the day that paved the way for the country to become an independent one through the consolidated strength of the entire national brethren. Myanmar is not home to a single ethnic group only. Nor was the restoration of independence a product of the endeavours made by a single ethnic group. Independence was regained as a result of all the national races coming together in a spirit of oneness. Myanma history of the past bears witness to this point.

It is March in 1824 that Governor of India Lord Amherst declared war on Myanmar. In consequence, the first Anglo-Myanmar war

and the Mons joined hands with the Bamars in the fight against the British on the battle fields like Taninthayi, Mottama, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Delta Region. Not only male Shan nationals, but also female Shan nationals showed their bravery in the first Anglo-Myanmar war.

Under the Yantapo Treaty reached between Myanmar and the British in February 1826, Manipur, Rakhine and Taninthayi regions succumbed to the British. Yet, the Kayins, the Bamars, the Rakhines and the Mons mobilized to continue armed resistance against the British.

Another British encroachment on Myanma territories was in April 1852, and this led to the second Anglo-Myanmar war, which lasted around



U Kee Yoe Man, a Chin national leader, who attended the Panglong Conference as a representative of Haka Township.

broke out, and it lasted nearly two years. It was not Bamar nationals alone who fought against the colonialists. Together with the Bamars, the Kachins, the Chins, the Shans, the Rakhines and the Mons fought the British on the battle fields like Assam, Manipura and Chittagong. The Kayins

eight months. In October 1852, Mottama, Bago, Yangon, Pyay and Ayeyawady Delta Region fell into British hands.

From that time onwards, all the national races like the Kayins, the Bamars and the Mons living in the British-controlled regions fought the British with all kinds of weaponry they could lay



Deedok U Ba Choe, a Bamar delegate, and U Vamthu Maung, a Chin national delegate, seen in action to lay cornerstones to erect the Chin-Bamar Friendship Memorial Plaque in Htilin, Pakokku District.

their hands on. In November 1885, Myanmar and the British were at war for the third time. The third Anglo-Myanmar war took just a matter of one month. Mandalay Royal Court was seized by the British in that month. Fights spread across the country following the fall of the palace. All the patriotic compatriots who had come of age rose in armed revolt against the British.

Willing to offer one's life for the other, the Kachins, the Kayahs, the Kayins, the Chins and the Shans in the hills launched brave attacks on the intruders. Kayah and Shan nationals led by Saw Laphaw and Htut Lu in the Kayah region as well as Bamar and Kachin nationals led by Phone Kan Duwa, Sama Duwa, Gara Duwa, Thama Duwa, Hsador Duwa, U Kham Hlaing, Saw Yan Paing and U Aung Myat in the Kachin region fought with dynamic nationalistic fervour.

Myinsaing Prince, Linpin Prince, Kengtung Sawbwa and Yaksawk Sawbwa led the fights in Shan State. Wa nationals led by Saw Maha and Naw Kham Oo stood in solidarity and attacked the British in the Wa region.

The British's attempt to introduce the 'divide-and-rule' policy ended in vain. Chin nationals turned down the British's demand that Prince Shwegyopyu be handed over to them if the former did not want the Chin re-

gion to be attacked. Chin national leaders like Taroon Sunbeik, U Tet, U Pya, U Taing Kam, U Khaw Kyin Tap, Choe Chin U Kee Yauk Nein, U Khope Lwin, U Kam Sut, Bo Kaing Twa, U Man Tin, U Htan Maung, and U Vamthu Maung fought the British with the spirit that they would not let themselves be enslaved.

Chin-Bamar Friendship Conference was held on a grand scale in Htilin of Gangaw District for three days from 3 to 5 March in 1947. Deedok U Ba Choe, leader of Bamar delegation, attended the conference, which attracted over 20,000 Chin and Bamar nationals.

U Vamthu Maung and Deedok U Ba Choe laid cornerstones to erect the Chin-Bamar Friendship Stone Plaque. The conference will remain a memorial to the lasting as well as unspoiled ties between the Chins and the Bamars, who are compatriots. U Vamthu Maung, a delegate to the conference, and U Ba Hsaing toured the northern part of Chin State to organize the national people and to consolidate national unity. And Thakin Aung Min and U Maung Galay toured the southern part to do the same. U Vamthu Maung had been scheduled to attend the Panglong Conference. However, he failed to attend the conference as he was then busy with the tasks for building friendship between the Bamars and the Chins. The

Panglong Conference, that would later become historically important, took place at 10 am on 12 February 1947. The Panglong Agreement was signed as evidence of solidarity among the national people of the hills and the plains.

Chin delegates who signed the Panglong Agreement were U Hlu Hmon of Falam, U Thaug Za Khup of Tiddim, and U Kee Yoe Man of Haka.

In the post-independence era, Chin nationals also took part enthusiastically in the efforts to bring an end to internal insurgency. The national races had sacrificed their

lives, blood and sweat in the drive for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. Captain Taik Chun, a Chin national, was decorated with Aung San Thuriya Title, the highest medal given for great valour.

Furthermore, Thiha Thura and Thura Gay Shein, Thura Naing Lein, Thura Kyon Teik, and Thura Shi Htan were also decorated with medals for their bravery while serving in the Tatmadaw.

Now, peace and stability reign in Chin State. Chin nationals, who make the Auk Chin Bird or Indian pied horn bill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) the symbol of Chin State, are always loyal to the country.

What has been mentioned above is the beauty of Chin nationals like Taungzalat or rhododendron flowers blooming in the Union Garden on the 58th Anniversary of Union Day.

Translation: KTY



Bo Khaing Kam, a Chin national leader, who attacked the British colonialists from 1890 to 1894.

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



Located in the western sector of the Union of Myanmar, the 13,907-square-mile Chin State is home to Chin, Mro, Khami and Bamar national races. A union within the

of March 1994, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, "There may be difficulties and hardships in carrying out development undertakings. But our cur-

Table A

Subject	Gross production— basket (thousand)		
	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Land resource			
- sown acreage	209625	220349	10724
- acres of vacant and virgin land	4102139	3100957	-
Irrigation			
- dam, lake, reservoir, canal	-	2	2
- damming creeks	-	58	58
- Benefited acre	-	2243	2243
Thriving double crops	2696	13718	11022
Extended paddy cultivation			
- acres of monsoon paddy	86781	111087	24306
- per acre yield*	32.52	38.56	6.04
- acres of summer paddy	-	205	205
- per acre yield*	-	62.00	62.00
- gross production	2805	4297	1492
Food sufficiency	-	55%	55%
- Beans and pulses (acre)	26787	39144	12357
- Sugarcane (acre)	335	757	422
- Maize (acre)	64383	85200	10817
- Tea (acre)	158	5533	5375
Edible Oil crop (acre)			
- Groundnut	751	2759	2008
- sunflower	661	4594	3933
- mustard	465	1509	1044
- niger	457	2934	2477

Union, the state has a population of about 514,000, and its population density is 37 persons per square mile.

It is a mountainous region, with very few plains. Many natural watercourses are flowing among mountain ranges running from north to south forming a number of valleys and gorges. Mount Victoria or Mount Khawnusoum, 10,200 feet high, is the highest peak in Chin State. The state has a lot of rivers, and the Manipura River flows through its northern territory.

During his tour of the country to make arrangements for regional development in the first week

rent sacrifices will bring benefits to us to a certain degree, and will contribute to improving the living standard of the people till posterity. Thus, we all need to work with conviction and goodwill."

As some regions of the nation were in backwardness, the Tatmadaw had to double or triple its efforts to develop and modernize the whole Union and to narrow the development gap among the people, with the participation of the national races.

Thanks to the goodwill endeavours of the Government, Chin State is enjoying progress in all sectors. Now, I will compare the situation of the state in the

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Chin State marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

past and at the present.

Agriculture

The Government is making utmost efforts for the local people to utilize the land and water resources of the mountainous region, with very few plains, to the most effective degree.

It built Laingva Dam in Falam Township and opened it on 6 April 1994 to irrigate 500 acres of crops. In many cases, man has the ability to accomplish, what was assumed impossible. The Government had to overcome many difficulties in building the Laingva Dam on the uneven terrain. The dam is now contributing towards progress of the state's agriculture.

The Government has

Per-acre yield— basket

Table C

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Motor road	695/0	1061/6	366/6
- tarred road	40/0	145/5	105/5
- gravel road	5/0	326/2	321/2
Bridge			
- above 180 feet long	2	5	3
- lower 180 feet long	37	47	10

turn Chin State into a major tea growing region. The state can now increase tea sown acreage to 35 times from merely 158 acres in 1988 to 5,533 acres at present.

The Manipura Multipurpose Dam Project in Falam Township will irri-

livestock at present, up from only about one million in 1988. In the past, there were 16.17 acres of fish ponds, but now, there are 86.37 acres of fish ponds. As the Government has given encouragement to raise native animals, Chin State can now raise 39,000 heads of mythun,

have been set up and tree plantation in the state shows encouraging signs of improvement.

The past mass movement managed to grow only about 50,000 saplings. At present more people are taking part in the task. The state has planted 5,430,000 sap-

Table D

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
post office	29	45	6
telegraph office	11	20	9
facsimile	-	23	23
computer telegraph	-	1	1
telephone service			
- telephone office	8	24	26
- number of line	390	3418	3028
- exchange	8	13	5
- direct line	243	3460	3217
- auto/carrier telephone	243	2864	2621
- telephone density*	1.05	5.71	4.66
microwave station	-	6	6
rural telephone exchange	-	11	11
e-mail/internet	-	2	2
local satellite station			
- VSAT	-	1	1
- iPSTAR	-	2	2

*(for 1000 persons)

gate large stretches of land and generate electricity. Annually, seven million acre-feet of water is flowing into the Manipura Dam.

The table A shows the sustainable development of the agricultural sector in Chin State.

and the mythun farming has become one of the main economic undertakings helping development of the socio-economy of the region.

Forests conservation

Thanks to the cooperation of the Government

I would like to prove the state's progress in the forestry sector with the table B.

Road and transport sector

The Government has been building many new miles of roads in the

Consumption unit (millions) *megawatt

Table E

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
electricity consumption	1.552	4.951	3.399
maximum load*	2.000	4.000	2.000
Increase of generating power			
- hydel power station	4	8	4
- diesel-fired power station	19	23	4
present capacity of generator*	1.709	3.952	1.243

Livestock and fisheries

The Government has been helping Chin State to catch up with other regions in fish and meat sector. The state raises nearly 1.9 million heads of

and the local people, forest conservation and plantation in the state is gaining more progress than that in the past. Many new protected public forests

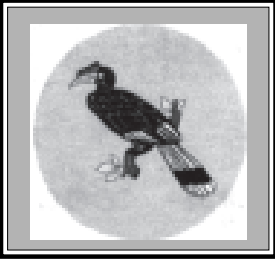
mountainous region. Earth roads have been upgraded into gravel ones, and the gravel roads to tarred facilities. The 115-mile Kalay-Falam-Haka road has already completed at present.

Tarred roads including 70-mile-and-four-furlong Gangaw-Haka road, 102-mile Mindat-Matupi road, 172-mile-and-seven-furlong Haka-Matupi road, 115-mile-and-one-furlong Kalay-Falam-Haka road (See page 10)

Table B

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Reserved forest*	605	696	91
Protected public forest*	-	1335	1335
Setting up of forest	1000	23580	22580
- acres of commercial plantation	1000	19230	18230
- acres of village plantation	-	3200	3200
- acres of watershed plantation	-	1150	1150
- acres of Thitseint plantation	-	300	300

*Square miles



Development in Chin State after 1988



Out-Patient Department of People's Hospital in Haka, Chin State.—MYANMA ALIN

**Hailing
the 58th
Anniversary
Union Day**

*Microwave station built in Falam,
Chin State. — MYANMA ALIN*



For better transport in Chin State, Var bridge across Manipura river was commissioned into service on Kalay-Haka road.— MYANMA ALIN



No-1 Basic Education High School in Haka, Chin State is facilitated with modern teaching aids.—MYANMA ALIN

Chin State marching to...

(from page 8)

and Kyaukhtu-Mindat road, linking Chin State and Magway Division, have been built. The sector-wise upgrading of the gateways to Chin State — Mandalay-Sagaing-Monywa-Gangaw-Haka road and Pakokku-Pauk-Tabyin-Kyaukhtu-Mindat road — is in progress at present.

The Kyaukhtu Airport, built by Directorate of Military Engineers of the Ministry of Defence in Kyaukhtu, Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division, was commissioned into service on 10 July 2004. The airport has helped develop the transport

Table F

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Basic education			
- number of schools	1091	1182	91
- multimedia classroom	-	28	28
- e-Learning Centre	-	16	16
- number of teachers	2982	4229	1247
- number of students	62660	110063	47403
- KG enrolment	67.97%	92.96%	24.99%
- adult literacy rate	56.87%	83.30%	26.43%
School dropout rate			
- primary school level	40.73%	12.88%	27.85%
- middle school level	40.79%	11.37%	29.42%
Higher education			
- arts & science university	-	1	1
- e-Learning centre	-	16	16
- academic programmes	-	39	39
- number of teachers	-	136	136
- number of students	-	9705	9705
- Human resource development centre	-	1	1

sector of southern Chin State linking Yaw and Pakokku regions in Magway Division. Cars can reach Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi in southern Chin State from Kyaukhtu via Saw. In 1988, the state had two over-180 feet bridges — the 270-foot Natzan Bridge in Tonzang Township and the 240-foot Lemyo Bridge in Matupi Township. The Tatmadaw Government has built the 340-foot Var Bridge across Manipura River on Kalay-Haka road in Falam Township in 1998, and 480-foot Kattel Bridge across River Manipura on Tiddim-Kattel-Reh Lake road in Tiddim Township in 2002. The 460-foot Manhsaung Bridge is being built across Manipura River on Tiddim-Reh Lake section. Significant developments in the state's road and transport sector can be seen in the Table C.

Communications

The Table D indicates the development in the communication sector of the state including the rise in the number of telephones.

Electricity

The effective utilization of land and water resources in the state has helped de-

velop the power generation capacity of the state.

In 1988, the state has four small scale hydel power stations — the Zarlwi in Tiddim Township, the Daungvar in Haka Township, the Ngasitvar in Falam Township, and the Paletwa in Paletwa Township. The Tatmadaw Government has built another four diesel power stations and four new hydel power plants, helping increase the power consumption of the state.

The four new hydel power plants are: the 0.2-megawatt Namhlaung Creek plant in Matupi Township, the 0.6-megawatt Laingva plant in

Falam Township, the 0.2-megawatt Htweehsaung plant in Tonzang Town-

Table G

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
upgrading of hospital health units	18	24	6
health staff	629	845	216
- doctors	73	146	73
- nurses	94	203	109
- midwifery	319	330	11
- health assistant	-	9	9
increase of life span (year)			
- rural			
- man	56.2	60.8	4.6
- woman	60.4	63.3	2.9
- urban			
- man	59.0	61.5	2.5
- woman	63.2	65.6	2.4

ship, and the 0.2-megawatt Chichaung plant in Mindat Township.

The Manipura Multipurpose Dam Project will be implemented in Chin State. The Table E informs the reader about the development of the state's electricity sector.

Industrial sector

Due to the facilitation of the transport and communication sectors and increase in the power generation in the state, many new private industries have emerged in the region. The state now has 496 private industries, 153 more than 343 in 1988. The number of State-owned

industries has now reached eight from five in the past. The Government has been striving to develop the industrial sector of the state which will become a major tea-growing region in the future.

Education

The education sector of the state, with a population of only over 500,000, is witnessing significant progress due to the Government's assistance and encouragement. One-fifth of the population or over 100,000 are students attending classes at basic education schools.

The Government has opened 91 new schools to open more opportunities for the youths to pursue basic education. An arts and sci-

ence university has been opened in the state for students to be able to pursue higher education studies in

their own region. Thus, the school dropout rate goes down in the state.

The Table F shows the development of the state's education sector covered by the 30-year education promotion plan of the nation.

Science and technology

The nation is providing assistance to Chin State to catch up with other regions in producing scientists and intelligentsia. A government technological college and a government computer college in Kalay has already produced nearly 600 intellectuals and intelligentsia. The two colleges have 722 students.

Table H

*Kyats in millions

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Road/bridge			
- mile of earth road	-	169/4	169/4
- mile of gravel road	-	28/7	28/7
- mile of tarred road	-	4/1	4/1
- maintenance	-	392/4	392/4
- suspension bridge	-	1	1
Health			
- hospital/dispensary	-	7	7
Education			
- BEPS, BEMS, BEHS	-	17	17
- number teachers	-	132	132
- number of students	-	3797	3797
water work			
Farming			
- veterinary office	-	1	1
Public relations			
- TV retransmission station	-	5	5
Communication			
- telegraph work	-	3	3
Vocational course			
- number of teachers	-	42	42
- number of students	-	1583	1583
Youth development training school	-	9	9
- number of teachers	-	49	49
- number of students	-	2652	2652
Expenditure (million)*			
- development funds	-	1155.89	1155.89
- ministries	-	678.01	678.01
	-	477.88	477.88

Health

The health sector of the state is developing in harmony with the population growth. A 150-bed hospital has been installed with advanced equipment. Moreover, a 25-bed hospital has been upgraded to a 50-bed facility, and a 50-bed hospital to a 100-bed one. Six new station hospitals have been built in the state. The number of specialist physician and doctors working in the state has increased two folds. Over 100 more nurses have been assigned to the state. Seven traditional medicine dispensaries are treating patients. A nursing school has been opened to

increase the number of nurses working in the state. The Government has been improving the life expectancy of the state to catch up with other regions. The Table G offers the readers to study the health development of the state.

Urban and rural development In the past, Chin State had only over five miles of urban roads. Now the state has 46 miles of urban roads including 11 miles of tarred roads. In addition, seven bridges have been put into service in rural area and 19 in urban area.

The state had 175 miles of village-to-village roads in the past. Now the length of rural roads in the state has reached 415 miles. Nine towns now have clean water supply.

Work is under way to supply potable water to 85 villages.

Border areas and national races development

The Government is developing the central regions of the state, and has covered the godforsaken regions with border areas and national races development

project. Six vocational schools have been opened in Kanpetlet, Mindat, Matupi, Tiddim, Haka and Falam and eight youth development training schools in Matupi, Kanpetlet, Falam, Thantlang, Tonzang, Haka, Tiddim and Mindat for the local people to earn their living. The Table H shows the success of the project in the state.

Information and public relations

The information sector is distributing news about the Government endeavours with the aim of harmoniously developing all the regions of the Union and narrowing development gap between one region and another.

The sector is helping the national brethren to march to the golden land in unity and amity. The Table I shows the progress of the information sector.

The Table J shows the present development of the science and technology sector of Chin State being undertaken by the State.

(Translation:TMT+TTA)

Table I

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
- TV retransmission station	3	11	8
- IPRD offices	-	11	11
- IPRD libraries	-	11	11
- rural libraries	-	160	160

Table J

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Government Technological College (Kalay)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	5	5
- number of faculty members	-	55	55
- students (graduate)	-	525	525
- present students	-	492	492
Government Computer College (Kalay)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	4	4
- number of faculty members	-	17	17
- students (graduate)	-	32	32
- present students	-	230	230

The 58th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme

Toungoo District USDA hails Union Day and supports National Convention



The mass of local people attend the ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in Lebu Village of Toungoo District.—MNA

YANGON, 3 Feb — Ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention was held at the ground of Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Lebu model village of Toungoo Township, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of Bago Division USDA U Saw Maw Tun and Executives, secretaries, executives, organizers and members of Toungoo, Yedashe, Ottwin, Pyu, Htantabin and Kyaukkyi townships, members of War Veterans Organization, MWAF, MCWA, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people totalling over 4,000.

Toungoo District USDA Joint-Secretary U Win Naing Shein presided over the ceremony together with members of the panel of chairmen.

First, they saluted the State Flag. Meeting

Chairman U Win Naing Shein gave an opening address. Secretary of Ottwin Township USDA U Than Htaik briefed them on honouring the Union Day. Similarly, Toungoo District USDA Secretary U Tin Soe presented matters on the National Convention. Next, Htantabin Township USDA Executive Daw Htet Yi Win submitted reports on rural development tasks.

Afterwards, Toungoo District USDA Executive U Win Myint handed over the documents on upgrading BEPS in rural areas of six townships in the district to Toungoo District Education Officer U San Tin and the documents on sinking tube-wells to Toungoo Township Executive Officer U Ko Ko Naing of Development Affairs Committee.

Toungoo District USDA Executive U Thet Tin

POEM

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Vow of the Union

- * Misty, Twelfth of February
Cold season flowers, in fragrant blossoms
In many colours, the bud and bloom
Heritage of ancestors, Our Land
The beauty, is truly special.
- * Breath-taking beauty, we own eternally
Throughout Myanmar, verdant and green
The forests, mountains, water and land,
winding rivers
Modern roads and bridges, build a new nation
O, its all so lovely.
- * Let there be miles in between
Our citizens, close elder and younger brethren
No difference of mind, no wavering thoughts
In solidarity, toward New Nation
Marching together, with much strength
- * Our Three Main National Causes,
conceived in our hearts
National Policy, we'll put down and preserve
For Myanmar to last long, we will strive
Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar
Unified, Rakhine, and Shan all together.
- * The Seven Steps, we lay down and march
This day when the golden white dove coos
Good omen for peace throughout Myanmar
The pride of Myanmar, upheld by Myanmar
There will be harbingers of victory
overwhelming.
Unity of all brethren will be there
unflinching
True vow of the Union will be firm forever.

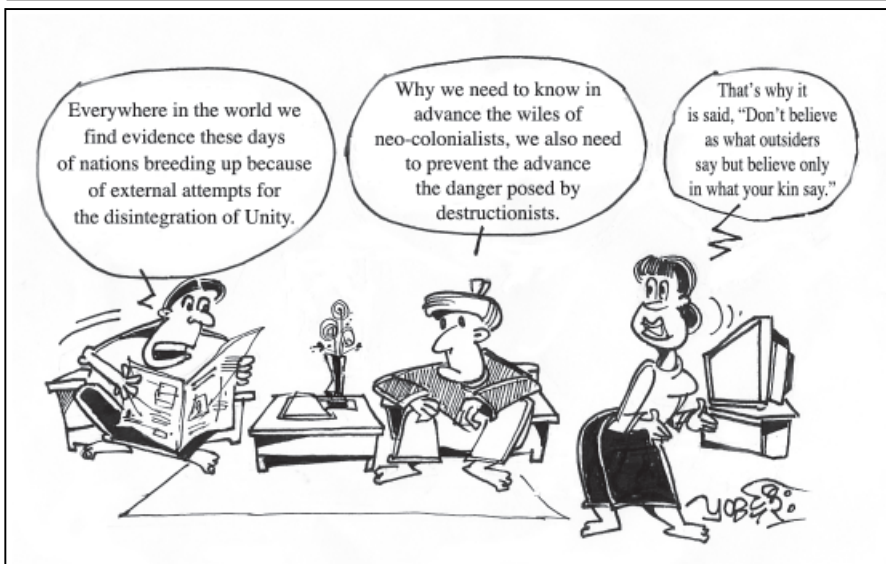
Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

Tun presented K 6 million for rural development and power supply tasks to Htantabin Township USDA Secretary U Kyaw Htay.

Toungoo District USDA Executive Daw Thauung Htay seconded the motions tabled by three representatives.

After students of Toungoo BEHS No 2 had sung the songs, the ceremony came to an end with chanting of the slogans.

MNA



Agreement on pencil distribution signed

YANGON, 3 Feb — A ceremony to sign agreement on pencil distribution to basic education schools between Ministry of Education and Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation was held at the meeting hall of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) on 1st February morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general and chairmen of department and boards, rectors, education officers of states and divisions, Managing Director of Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation Mr Fumiyoshi Sakurai and officials.

Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win and Managing Director of Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation Mr Fumiyoshi Sakurai signed agreement and they exchanged documents.

MNA

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China allows first stem cell injection into clinical test

BEIJING, 2 Feb— China's Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Health announced here Tuesday that the country's first stem cell injection was allowed into phase I clinical test for leukemia patients.

Professor Zhao Chunhua, principal investigator for cellular therapy research at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, said at a news conference that the new drug, mesenchymal stem cell, won approval from the State Food and Drug Administration for the clinical test on December 22 last year. The research is keeping up with other international medical researchers.

Zhao and his research team found multipotent adult progenitor cells exist in adult tissue and have numerous characters of embryonic stem cells.

Zhao further isolated a kind of cells which exist in most foetus tissues and can be differentiated into multiple tissue cells when placed in a suitable environment.

Zhao said they have collectively developed a procedure to raise the stem cells.

Zhao said, it has been proven that co-trans-

plantation of the stem cells and bone marrow can remarkably increase the survive rate of irradiated animals compared to treatment with only bone marrow.

Zhao said the new therapy with mesenchymal stem cells is different from traditional bone marrow transplantation. It can promote the survival of newly transplanted bone marrow cells and help reconstruct hematopoietic system.

"If the new therapy is successfully taken to bedside," Zhao acknowledged, "it would certainly provide a generally wiser and safer solution to patients who need bone marrow transplantation."

Zhao and his peers will try to broaden the use of the stem cells into finding new treatments for more diseases, including diabetes, skin injury and fibrosis of the liver.

MNA/Xinhua

Annan agrees to attend Madrid Summit on terrorism

MADRID, 2 Feb— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has confirmed his interest in participating in the summit here on March 8-11 to discuss the fight against terrorism, the conference organizer said on Tuesday.

The Club of Madrid said that the Summit on Security, Terrorism and Democracy is designed to commemorate the victims of terrorism across the world and provide a global forum to explore fresh ideas and alternative visions on how to fight terrorism within a democratic framework.

Among the participants to the meeting will be European Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa, and African Union Commission Chairman Alpha Oumar Konare, according to Club of Madrid President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a former Brazilian President.

MNA/Xinhua



Lava from Kilauea volcano in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park enters the Pacific Ocean at dawn on 2 Feb, 2005. Lava began dropping into the ocean at two new points this week, treating park visitors to a fiery show.

INTERNET

London dirtiest place to live in England

LONDON, 2 Feb— While parks and leafy lanes are getting cleaner, a survey published on Wednesday showed that London still holds the ignoble title as the dirtiest place to live in England.

London managed to score only 43 points out of 100 for cleanliness, compared to the east of England, the most pristine place to live with a score of 72.

"Despite a Herculean efforts by councils in the capital, the filthy habits of residents left London bottom," said the study of almost 12,000 sites by charity group Environmental Campaigns, which runs the "Keep Britain Tidy" initiative. The sur-

vey found overall standards had risen 4 per cent, with 44 per cent of areas deemed "good" or "satisfactory" and only 4 per cent rated "poor".

"For the first time in years, a national survey has shown improvements in the state of England," Alan Woods, chief executive of "Keep Britain Tidy" said in a statement.

While dog fouling and graffiti are decreasing, the charity lamented a rise in fast food litter - dumped

drink cans (up by 34 per cent), dropped snack packaging (plus 18 per cent) and sweet wrappers (up by 19 per cent).

The study also found that 91 of high street pavements were stained with chewing gum. Cigarette butts were found at 80 per cent of sites.

Local Environmental Quality Minister Alun Michael said he was pleased the report showed English streets were cleaner. — MNA/Reuters

Amount of Briton's gambling over Internet increases

LONDON, 2 Feb— The amount Britons are gambling over the Internet has increased more than six times in the last year, according to a survey on Tuesday by online casino 888.com.

Ten per cent of British women and 16 per cent of men said they would consider gambling all of their worldly possessions for a 5 million US dollars jackpot, said 888.com, which analysts say may be the next online casino to list on the London Stock Exchange.

Its survey of over 2,700 people on streets around Britain found a 566 per cent increase in the amount of money they staked online since the end of 2003. Online gambling is becoming a booming industry in Britain, one of the few jurisdictions where it is welcomed.

Last week, the world's biggest online poker com-

pany, PartyGaming, said it was considering what would be one of London's largest listings in over three years — estimated at over 3 billion pounds (5.7 billion US dollars).

And in October, shares in Britain's Sportingbet — the world's biggest online betting firm overall — soared by over 50 per cent following its acquisition of Paradise Poker, a rival to Party Gaming fronted by American supermodel Caprice.

Moves to ease gambling regulation in Britain have hit resistance from anti-addiction campaigners and the tabloid media. — MNA/Reuters

Gene therapy helpful in dental implants

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — US researchers have found that introducing a growth factor protein into a mouth wound, using gene therapy, helps generate bone around dental implants, according to a paper in the *Molecular Therapy journal* published on Tuesday.

For a patient with a sizable mouth wound, replacing a tooth means more than simply implanting a new one. The patient also needs the bone structure to anchor the new tooth in place.

Such reconstructive surgery today involves either taking a bone graft from the patient's chin or jaw, which leaves a second wound needing to heal, or using donated

bone from a tissue bank, which yields unpredictable results.

A team of researchers at the University of Michigan led by Professor William Giannobile deliv-

ered the gene encoding for bone morphogenetic protein-7 (BMP-7) to large bone defects in rats, in an attempt to turn on the body's own bone growth mechanisms. The study showed that the animals produced nearly 50 per cent more supporting bone around dental implants after getting BMP-7 treatment.

BMP-7 is part of a family of proteins that regulates cartilage and bone formation. Recent studies have shown that BMPs are present in tooth development and periodontal repair. The Michigan study mixed BMP-7 genes with an inactivated virus in a gel-like carrier and injected it into wounds.

MNA/Xinhua



Young lion dancer Edison Chan, 5, of Sydney performs at the media preview for Chinese New Year at Town Hall in Sydney on 3 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Ronaldo rushes back to home because of family illness

MADRID, 2 Feb — Real Madrid striker Ronaldo was back in the Spanish capital on Tuesday after missing his side's league match against Numancia because of a flying visit to Brazil.

The 28-year-old had rushed back to his home country on Friday because of a family illness but said that the problem was now resolved.

"I have to thank the club for giving me permission to leave because it was a difficult time for me," Ronaldo told the Real Madrid website.

"When I arrived back home luckily it turned out to be little more than a scare and now everything is sorted out. I was sorry to have missed an important game, but my team mates were in good form and we won the match (2-1).

"Everyone appeared a bit taken aback by the way I had to rush back, but it was a family matter and now there is no reason to worry."

MNA/Reuters

DFB investigating second cup upset involving top flight side

FRANKFURT, 2 Feb — Germany's Football Association (DFB) is investigating a second cup upset involving a top flight side as part of the country's deepening match-fixing scandal.

The DFB identified on Tuesday nine matches that are under appeal—three in the German Cup, four in the second division and two in the northern regional league.

Among them is the second round cup match between FC Nuremberg, currently 11th in the top division of the Bundesliga, and second division LR Ahlen.

Nuremberg led 2-0 at halftime but Ahlen came back to equalize before the end of full time and win

3-2 in extra time, despite having a player sent off.

The match was refereed by Robert Hoyzer, the Berlin-based official who admitted last week that he had fixed matches.

The scandal was ignited when Hoyzer's role in Hamburg's 4-2 German Cup defeat by Paderborn last August came under suspicion.

Hamburg took a 2-0 lead but went on to lose 4-2 after Hoyzer sent off striker Emile Mpenza in the first half for insulting him and

awarded two penalties to the regional league side.

Paderborn's subsequent victory over MSV Duisburg in the second round is the third cup game under appeal, the DFB said. That match was not refereed by Hoyzer.

Three men connected with Berlin bar frequented by Croatian gamblers have been arrested and prosecutors are looking into other games and the possible involvement of other referees and players.

MNA/Reuters

Sugiyama beaten in first round of Pan Pacific Open

TOKYO, 3 Feb — Ai Sugiyama of Japan suffered her fourth straight first round defeat when she lost to Italian Roberta Vinci at the Pan Pacific Open here on Tuesday.

The fifth seed, who had lost her first rounders at the Gold Coast, Sydney and the Australian Open, lost to her 117th-ranked opponent 2-6, 6-3 and 6-2. "I think it's down to a lack of confidence," said Sugiyama. "Nothing I worked on in practice clicked. Mentally I'm still nowhere near close enough."

Serbian Jelena Jankovic was another casualty in Tokyo, when the seventh seed was knocked out by Czech Iveta Benesova 1-6, 6-3 and 6-1.

In other matches, Russian Maria Kirilenko beat China's Peng Shuai 6-3 and 6-2 while Saori Obata trounced wildcard Miho Saeki 6-0 and 6-1 in an all-Japanese encounter.

MNA/Xinhua

Porto chose Pedro Couceiro as coach to replace Fernandez

LISBON, 2 Feb — European champions Porto have named Portuguese Pedro Couceiro as coach to replace Victor Fernandez, Porto said on Tuesday.

The 42-year-old has quit Portuguese Premier League club Vitoria Setubal to take the Porto job, signing an 18-month contract, the club said.

"For whoever joins a club of this size the only objective is to win. There is no other objective," Couceiro told journalists at a news conference flanked by Porto Chairman Jorge Pinto da Costa.

"There is no time for complaints. We have to increase the level of confidence, to get stability and win games," said Couceiro, who started his coaching career in the second division Alverca club in 2002.

"No Portuguese coach would refuse an offer from a team as big as Porto," he had said earlier in the day.

Fernandez, who was sacked on Monday, said the decision to fire him had been totally unexpected.

"The truth is I never imagined I would

be sacked," Fernandez told a Spanish radio station. "The good thing was that I didn't suffer because it all happened so suddenly."

The Spaniard signed a two-year contract with Porto in August after European Cup-winning coach Jose Mourinho's replacement Luigi Del Neri was sacked just two months into the job.

Fernandez steered Porto to victory in December's World Club Cup final against South American champions Once Caldas and took them into the first knockout stage of this season's Champions League but the team's domestic form has been poor.

Porto have won only one of their last five home league matches and lost 3-1 to leaders Braga on Sunday, dropping to third in the table, two points behind their opponents.

MNA/Reuters

Blanco called up for World Cup qualifier in Costa Rica

MEXICO CITY, 2 Feb — Mexico's volatile striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco has been surprisingly called up for next week's World Cup qualifier in Costa Rica after originally being left out of the squad.

The Mexican Football Federation (FMF) announced the U-turn by coach Ricardo La Volpe on its website on Tuesday.

"The decision was the result of a chat between national team coach Ricardo La Volpe, and the player himself," the FMF said. Blanco, as hot-tempered as he is skilful,

had criticized some of his Mexico team mates in an interview last Saturday. "Personally, I don't like some of the players, one or two," he said.

"I don't want to say any names but he (La Volpe) is the coach and his decisions have to be respected. But if I were coach, I would select others." But Blanco also appeared to be short of match fitness when he played his first game of the year for America in their 4-2 win over Santos Laguna at the weekend.

Blanco, who scored nine goals in only seven appearances during the 2002

World Cup qualifiers, and La Volpe had several clashes before the former Argentina goalkeeper was named Mexico's coach in October 2002.

Since then both men have insisted that they have buried the hatchet even though Blanco has rarely been selected.

Mexico visit San Jose on February 9 for one of three games that kick off the six-team final stage of the marathon CONCACAF qualifying tournament. Guatemala host Panama and the United States visit Trinidad & Tobago on the same day.—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Arjen Robben celebrates after scoring to make it 1-0 against Blackburn during Premiership Cup clash at Ewood Park, Blackburn recently.

INTERNET

Albania's coach concerned about his team's euphoria

TIRANA, 2 Feb — Albania's coach is concerned about his team's euphoria over the news that Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko will miss next week's World Cup qualifier.

Hans-Peter Briegel noticed the giddy mood among players and fans alike on Tuesday and took immediate action to douse it although, careful not to dampen their mood too much, Briegel said he was "ruling out defeat for this match.

The absence of AC Milan's European Footballer of the Year with an ankle problem has dominated the run up to the match, but Briegel knows Albania still have a tough job on their hands.

Ukraine lead Group Two with 11 points from five matches after crushing 2002 World Cup semi-finalists Turkey 3-0 in Istanbul last November.

"Ukraine plays with 11 footballers," he reminded his squad on arriving in Tirana ahead of next Wednesday's qualifier.—MNA/Reuters

Hingis suffers first round comeback defeat in Thailand Open

BANGKOK, 3 Feb — Former world number one Martina Hingis suffered her first round defeat on her comeback in the Thailand Open WTA Tennis Tournament in Pattaya on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old Swiss, who missed the tennis court for two years with an ankle injury, suffered a 1-6, 6-2 and 6-2 defeat to Germany's Marlene Weingartner who was ranked 73rd in the world.

At 16, Hingis was on top of the world, the youngest winner of a Grand Slam last century, the youngest world number one and the holder of the Australian, Wimbledon and US Open titles.

Operations on her ankles in October 2001 and May 2002 led her to withdraw from the sport. Before the Pattaya tournament, her last match had been in Filderstadt, Germany, in late 2002

MNA/Xinhua



United States' Lindsay Davenport returns the ball against Japan's Shiori Obata during their second match of the Toray Pan Pacific Open at Tokyo gymnasium, on 3 Feb, 2005. Davenport defeated Obata 6-4, 6-3.—INTERNET

Storm kills 11 in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 3 Feb — A storm caused at least 11 people dead, 52 injured and 200 homeless in Argentina, the authorities said on Monday.

Eight people were killed and 49 wounded when a bus carrying tourists collided with a truck on the Buenos Aires Route 41, near the city of San Andres de Giles. A woman and two minors died in the area of Buenos Aires Luis Guillon after strong winds forced a tree to fall on their house.

The other three were injured on Route 3 where a bus collided with an official vehicle.

Over 200 people have been evacuated by civil protection departments as populous neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires Province were flooded. Nearly 2,000 Uruguayan

bound passengers were stranded after heavy rains and strong winds forced the Uruguayan Navy to close the ports of Montevideo and Colonia.

In Buenos Aires, the Buquebus company's two vessels suspended their planned voyage to the Uruguayan harbours.

The ship *Atlantic*, the only one departing for Montevideo, had to return due to the poor weather.

"A lot of people had to resort to different means of transport to depart, while others had to re-schedule their departure," said a Buquebus spokesperson.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian President to promote nationwide fitness campaign

BRASILIA (Brazil), 3 Feb — With one in four Brazilian adults overweight, including President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the portly leader will promote a nationwide fitness campaign, the government said on Monday.

Lula has taken to daily walks and a diet to control his weight and combat a sedentary lifestyle. He wants Brazilians to follow suit after a government study in December showed 40 million were overweight and 10 million of those were obese.

Sports Minister Agnelo Queiroz told reporters that Lula told a meeting on sports and fitness: "I am overweight and because of this I do regular exercise. People need to know this."

Lula will lead a walk

in Brazil's capital, Brasilia, in late February to kick-start the campaign that will feature radio and television ads.

Medical studies show weight problems pose a greater health threat than malnutrition in Brazil, where up to 46 million people go hungry each day, according to government figures. Brazil's population is about 180 million. The culprits for Brazil's fattening population appear to be the country's sweet tooth, a lack of exercise and the gradual replacement of staples like rice and beans with processed foods, the December study said.

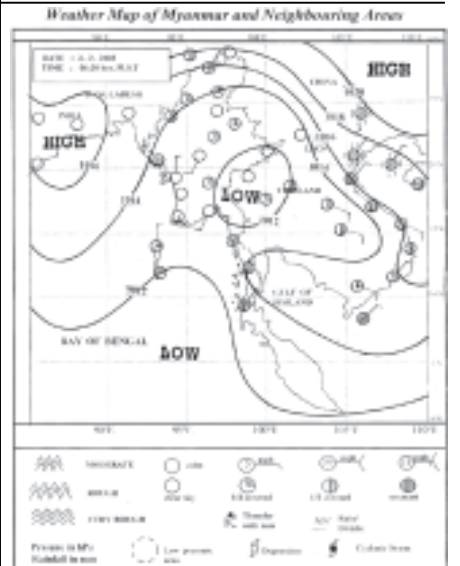
MNA/Reuters

China to hold an int'l conference on e-commerce

BEIJING, 3 Feb — China will hold an international conference on April 17-18 in a bid to promote the development of e-commerce in the country.

Launched by China E-commerce Association, the conference will focus on the flows of information, commodities and funds. It will also discuss problems in China's e-commerce development, including credibility, legislation, security and logistics. The conference will draw more than 800 participants, said Wei Zichuan with the organizing committee.

There would be government officials, businessmen and experts in the field as well as prestigious companies from China, the United States, Japan, South Korea and Europe. E-commerce is currently in the early stage in China. Lack of credibility and legislation have become serious problems hindering the development of e-commerce in the country. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Thursday, 3 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin and Eastern Shan States, about normal in Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (2°C), and Namsam (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 2-2-2005 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 3-2-2005 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-2-2005 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 2-2-2005 was (7.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 3-2-2005 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 7 mph from Southwest at (13:33) hours MST on 2-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-2-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-2-2005: Fine weather.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST on Today)
An earthquake of slight intensity (3.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (16) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (09) hrs (28) min (25) sec MST on 3rd February, 2005.



Chinese travellers crowd outside Shanghai Railway Station on 2 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

Friday, 4 February
View on today:

<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am 5. အတမြင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:05 am 6. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies</p> <p>8:15 am 7. ကျင်းသားရေရာသီတစ်</p> <p>8:30 am 8. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 9. English for Everyday Use</p>	<p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး</p> <p>4:45 pm 4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေးရန်ပြင်ဆင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယပိုဒ် (သရုပ်ဖော်အဖွဲ့) (သရုပ်)</p> <p>4:55 pm 5. Song of national races</p> <p>5:15 pm 6. Musical programme</p> <p>5:25 pm 7. ရှည်လမ်းဆုံဆုံအားကစား အစဉ်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:35 pm 8. (၅၀) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>5:45 pm 9. Song of Yesteryear</p> <p>5:55 pm 10. "ကောင်းပြင်းစေပြာ" တွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ရန်ပိုင်နိုင်၊ ပိုင်စေရဲထွန်း၊ မင်းသူ၊ မြင့်မြင့်နိုင်၊ ဝင်းမိုးမိုးအေး၊ နန်းမိုးမိုး၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကိုအောင်မိုး (ဒါရိုက်)</p>	<p>6:10 pm 11. Discovery</p> <p>6:15 pm 12. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး</p> <p>6:30 pm 13. Evening news</p> <p>7:00 pm 14. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm 15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရန်ပေးသည့်ပွဲ" (အပိုင်း-၄)</p> <p>7:35 pm 16. (၅၀) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>7:45 pm 17. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မြှောက်ရန် နိုင်ငံတော်မှ နိုင်ငံတော် "ပွဲ ဖြိုးမှုစုံစုံ ရာမညစဉ်"</p> <p>8:00 pm 18. News</p> <p>8:15 pm 19. International news</p> <p>8:30 pm 20. Weather report</p> <p>8:45 pm 21. Myanmar Video Feature: "ရှေးရေကန်နှင့်ရွှေရေစာ" (အပိုင်း-၂) ဝေဠုကျော်၊ မေဓညဝဠုဘို၊ ဖျိုးမိုးကျော် ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်နီလွင် (သပြေ)</p> <p>9:00 pm 22. The next day's programme</p>
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Friday, 4 February
Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music:
-Come and get your love

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music:
-That's how love goes

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9.00 am Music:
-The ketchup song

9.05 am International news

9.10 am Music:
-Too late for goodbye

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Lunch Time Music
-Golden eyes
-Miles to go
-All out of love

9.00 pm Talk:
Union Spirit

9.15 pm Article/music

9.25 pm Music at your request
-I'll never fall in love again
-All by myself
-I love you all the way

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

PM felicitates his Sri Lankan counterpart

YANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, which falls on 4 February 2005, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Manhinda Rajapakse, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. — MNA

Union Spirit means the spirit, with which all the entire people assume themselves as the national brethren in the same Union whatever state or division they live in and what national races they are.

Sittway District holds mass rally in honour of Union Day, support of National Convention

YANGON, 3 Feb— Sittway District Union Solidarity and Development Association held a mass rally to hail Union Day and support the National Convention at Thayettapin Village, Kyauktaw Township, Sittway District, Rakhine State, yesterday morning.



Ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention in progress in Thayettapin Village, Kyauktaw Township, Sittway District, Rakhine State, —MNA

It was attended by Rakhine State USDA Secretary U Oo Kyaw Yin and executives, Sittway District USDA Secretary U Tun Win and executives, secretaries, executives, organizers and members of USDAs of townships, wards and villages, service personnel, towns-

elders, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar

Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and locals totaling more than 4,000.

Sittway District USDA Secretary U Tun Win chaired the meeting together with Kyauktaw

Township WVO Chairman U Ye Htwe, (See page 5)

(See page 5)

Nation needs strength to safeguard her independence and sovereignty

YANGON, 3 Feb — A ceremony to honour the Union Day and to support the National Convention was held at Ayethaya Myothit sports ground in Okpo



USDA members, local people marching to Ayemyathaya Myothit play ground, Okpo township, Thayawady District. — MNA

Township, Thayawady District, Bago Division (West), this morning.

Present were the secretary and executives of Bago Division (West) USDA, the secretary, the joint secretary and executives of Thayawady District USDA, secretaries, joint secretaries and executives of township and ward USDAs in Thayawady District, members of Thayawady District Organization for Women's Affairs, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people totalling over 1,100.

Secretary of Thayawady District USDA U Nyan Khin together with Chairperson of Okpo Township MCWA Daw Hla Myint Kyu, Secretary of Okpo Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Mar Cho, Chairman of Township WVO U Hla Shwe and an elder of Ayemyathaya Myothit U Maung Maung Htay presided over the meeting. Member of Okpo Township USDA Daw Htike Htike acted as MC and Joint-Organizer of Moenyotan Ward USDA Daw Soe Soe, co-MC.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the start of the ceremony and those present saluted the State Flag. New generation students and members of USDA presented a song to honour the ceremony.

The meeting chairman said that during the times

of Myanmar kings the national races were able to ensure peace and stability and progress of the nation. But they had bitter experiences of living under subjugation for over 100 years. The national races signed the Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947 to regain independence. In order to commemorate the signing of the Agreement, the 12th of February has been designated as the Union Day. The nation needs strength to safeguard her independence and sovereignty. Thus, all the national people are required to enhance their intel-

All the national people are required to enhance their intellectual power based on national unity and to play a role in building the nation in accord with the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national unity and perpetuation of the sovereignty.

lectual power based on national unity and to play a role in building the nation in accord with the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty. Because of the colonialist dissension, there

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