

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 6 February 2005

## A symbol of unity of entire national races

Throughout history, the Union people were able to set up the fine historical traditions of living together with Union Spirit on the same land and drinking water from the same source, with eggs and nest intact, and warding off in unity all the dangers befalling the nation. These fine traditions have firmly existed as a symbol of unity of national races of the entire Union of Myanmar for many years.



**Senior General Than Shwe**  
**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council**  
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services**  
 (From the message sent to the 53rd Anniversary Union Day)

## Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), longest and largest in Myanmar, emerges to serve interests of State and region

### Senior General Than Shwe attends inauguration of the bridge



*Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address to the opening ceremony of Thanlwin River spanning Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)*  
 MNA

YANGON, 5 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day, Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the longest and the largest in Myanmar, was successfully commissioned into service on a grand scale this morning.

The ceremony to inaugurate Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) linking Mawlamyine, city of Mon State, and Mottama, was held at the pandal near the bridge on Mawlamyine bank at 8 am today, with greetings extended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior

General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of

South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, employees who participated in construction of the bridge, local people, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, MWAF, MCWA, Council Commander of

(See page 16)

**It is important to build strength of solidarity, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order whatever difficulties the country encounters. Difficulties can be overcome through these two strengths.**



The 11,575-foot Rail-cum-road Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the longest and the largest in Myanmar, lies on Thanlwin River after its opening ceremony. — MNA

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 6 February, 2005

## Work in coordination to make National Convention a success

In line with the national policy, the State Peace and Development Council is doing everything it can to turn the Union of Myanmar into a perfect modern and developed nation. In this process, priority has been placed on national reconsolidation, stability and peace, and the enforcement of law and order, and success has also been achieved.

Now, the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map that will give rise to a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation in conformity with the background history of Myanmar, culture, and tradition. As part of the efforts to take the first as well as most vital step embodied in the Road Map, the National Convention was held successfully from 17 May to 9 July last year.

Preparatory measures are being taken to continue the National Convention on 17 February this year.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Working Committee, and the National Convention Convening Management Committee held their Work Coordination Meeting No 2/2005 at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp, Yangon Division, on 4 February. NCCC Chairman and also State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the meeting.

In his speech, the Secretary-1 stressed the need of the Work Committee to get ready the matters that will be submitted to the coming National Convention. He also pointed out steps are to be taken in full measure since it is the time when legislative, executive and judicial powers, the three powers of the State, are under discussion.

The delegates to the National Convention are educated and experienced persons. Furthermore, the delegate group of national races constitutes a diversity of national people. That group's 633 delegates representing different states and divisions are men of repute in their respective regions.

The National Convention will come up with the new State constitution, which is now being formulated through the discussions of basic principles, and which is the only thing that can grant a long-term guarantee of national solidarity and prolonged sovereignty of the Union in future and will create the equal interests of the entire national people.

Now, some saboteurs inside and outside the country are making attempts to undermine the National Convention, which has been in progress. It is therefore necessary for all the national people to remain vigilant at all times.

All in all, the onus is on the officials concerned to make concerted efforts in a systematic way to ensure the smooth holding of the National Convention, while the seven-point Road Map is being implemented for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation as desired by the entire national people.

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## People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy



Minister Col Zaw Min speaks at the coordination meeting. — COOPERATIVES

## Ministry of Cooperatives holds coord meeting

YANGON, 5 Jan — The coordination meeting of the Ministry of Cooperatives was held at the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning with an address by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min.

Also present on the occasion were the directors-general, the deputy directors-general, the acting managing director and officials of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

In his address, the minister urged the officials to strive for boosting the agricultural and industrial production, exports and development of cooperative enter-

prises. Afterwards, Chairman of Central Cooperative Society U Win Sein, Chairman of Cooperative Bank U Khin Maung Aye, deputy directors of State/Division Cooperative Departments, the chairmen of cooperative societies and principals of Cooperative Degree College and colleges reported on sectoral works. Next, the directors-general of the Cottage Industries Department and Cooperative Department and the acting managing director gave supplementary reports.

Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

## Education Minister inspects university, college and basic education schools in Hpa-an Township

YANGON, 5 Feb — Minister for Education U Than Aung and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung met educational staff at Kyaikto Basic Education High School No 2 on 3 February.

At Hpa-an Education College in Kayin State, Minister U Than Aung held a meeting with faculty members and trainees. Next, he inspected Hpa-an BEHS No 3. At Mya Thanlwin Hall of BEHS No 1, the

minister gave instructions to local authorities, education staff and officials.

On arrival at Hpa-an University, the minister heard reports on academic and management matters of the facility by Rector U Saw Han Shein. Later, the minister inspected the computer training centre and language lab.

MNA

## UDNR trainees continue excursion tour



The trainees on their excursion at the Kyetmauktaung Dam. — MNA

YANGON, 5 Jan — The trainees of BEd Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races led by Pro-rector (Academic) Daw Khin Si Si left No 1 Transit Centre on Bayintnaung Road, here, on 31 January morning to continue their excursion tour of Thayawady, Padaung, Taungdwingyi, Magway, Bagan-NyaungU and Popa regions.

At Thayawady Ceramics Factory, the trainees were welcomed by local authorities and departmental officials. Next, officials explained salient points of the factory.

The trainees proceeded to Padaung. At No 1 Agricultural Equipment Factory, Managing Director Col Myo Tint extended greetings and General Manager of the factory U Khin Zaw explained facts about

the factory. Seven groups of the trainees visited the factory.

On 1 February, they arrived at ancient Beikthanoe city and viewed excavation of the city and artifacts of Pyu age in Beikthanoe Museum.

In Magway, they visited the Myathalun Pagoda and made cash donations.

On 2 February, they arrived at the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan-NyaungU. Director of the Archaeology Department (Bagan) U Myo Nyunt briefed them on the history of the pagoda. The trainees also visited pagodas in Bagan, Myanma Lacquer College, Archaeological Museum and Mount Popa.

Then the trainees visited Kyatmauktaung Dam and factories in Kyaukse.

MNA



## Malaysia's export of manufactured products up in 2004

**KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Feb** — Malaysia's export of manufactured products increased by 18.9 per cent in 2004, with all product sectors registering double digit growth, a minister said on Thursday.

In announcing the trade figures here, Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz said manufactured products accounted for 78.4 per cent of total exports.

The country's total merchandise exports reached a record high of 126.5 billion US dollars last year, up 20.5 per cent over the previous year, she said.

Rafidah said last year's exports growth was almost two folds the 10.8 per cent growth rate forecast for developing economies by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Rafidah said exports of electric and electronic products continued to be the major contributor to

manufactured exports, increasing by 14.4 per cent to 63.54 billion US dollars.

However, she said the share of E.E products within manufactured exports had declined from 66.7 per cent of total manufactured exports in 2003 to 64 per cent in 2004, due to expansion of other manufactured products.

Other major manufactured exports that recorded significant increases included chemicals and chemical products that went up to 6.56 billion US dollars from 4.98 billion US dollars and machinery, appliances and parts which rose to 4.09 billion US dollars from 3.26 billion US dollars,

according to the minister.

Malaysia's exports value to the United States, the country's top export destination last year, stood at 23.73 billion US dollars, up 15.6 per cent from the figures in 2003.

Malaysia was ranked as the 10th largest source of imports for the United States, having surpassed Ireland and moving up from the 11th position in 2003.

The top five products exported to the United States were E.E products, wood products, textiles and clothing, optical and scientific equipment and rubber products. The country's other main export markets last year were Singapore, Japan, China and European countries. — *MNA/Xinhua*



## Thailand to host international meeting on biodiversity

**BANGKOK, 5 Feb**—Thailand is scheduled to host two international conferences on biodiversity next week, aimed at establishing common guidelines on how to protect local biodiversity.

Thailand will hold the 10th meeting of the international adviser teams on scientific, academic and technology, or the SBSTTA, on February 7-11, and the 3rd meeting of the committee on access and interest sharing on February 8-14, the secretary-general of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Nisakorn Kositrat, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Friday.

Both of the conferences will be held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok.

At the meetings, Thailand aims to promote a common understanding between countries on the access and

sharing of the benefits of biodiversity, she said.

In the past, countries with advanced technology have been able to exploit the benefits of biodiversity of other countries, particularly developing and less developed nations, by registering the legal rights to these natural resources, and claiming that they had found them first.

This happened, for instance, in the case of two Thai local herbs, Kwow Krua and Ploa Noi, Nisararat said.

"The meetings, we hope, will help protect more of our natural resources in the future," she said.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Bus service between Kathmandu, Lhasa to start in May

**KATHMANDU, 5 Feb**—The agreement signed between the governments of Nepal and China to link Kathmandu with China's historical city of Lhasa by bus is expected to be materialized from 1 May as preparations are near completion, a Nepali official said.

"We are all set to begin a weekly direct bus services between Kathmandu and Lhasa from 1 May," Radio Nepal on Friday quoted Mukunda Raj Satyal, executive chief of Sajha Yatayat, the government owned transport company, as saying.

The two-way flow of enthusiastic Nepali and Chinese travellers across the border in recent years has prompted the two governments to begin a shuttle service, Satyal said. The bus service will enable many Nepali to make affordable trips to Lhasa, as the transport fare will come down significantly, he noted.

Travellers have to pay 28,000 Nepali rupees (about 400 US dollars) to

go to Lhasa from Kathmandu by air, but once the road transport begins, they will pay only about 5,000 rupees (about 71.4 dollars) for one way travel.

"Our corporate will soon sign a contract with private transport entrepreneurs to operate luxury coaches to the historical city of Lhasa in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China," Satyal said.

It will take Nepali 20 hours to reach Lhasa by land, as the narrow Arniko Highway makes the road travel time-consuming. Therefore, a team of Chinese experts will travel along the highway to assess the road condition in the coming weeks, said Satyal. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A Singapore health official fumigates a construction site against mosquitoes recently. —INTERNET

## Iraq's Sadr and Sunni clerics call for end to US troop presence

**KUFA, 4 Feb**—Iraqi Shiite rebel cleric Moqtada Sadr and Sunni clerics in Baghdad called Friday on all political forces that took part in the country's election to push now for an end to the US troop presence.

At the grand mosque in Kufa, south of Baghdad, the firebrand young cleric Sadr sent an emissary to read a message on his behalf to the thousands of worshippers gathered for the traditional weekly prayers.

"I call on all religious and political powers that pushed towards the elections and took part in them to issue an official statement calling for a timetable for the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Iraq," Sadr Hashim Abu Ragheef told the faithful.

Sadr gave notice that he would no longer hold his tongue about political developments in Iraq after keeping quiet for months according to the message read by Abu Ragheef.

"I stood aside for the elections and did not stand against them as I did not want to show disobedience toward the Marjaiyah (senior clerics). I did not join these elections so that I wouldn't be one of the West's pawns.

"The West is so proud that they have held the elections but I would ask: who is responsible for the blood that day?" he asked. — *Internet*

## Czech Army modernizes 20 tanks

**PRAGUE, 4 Feb**—The Czech Army has modernized 20 tanks, while 10 others are to be completed by the end of 2006, a spokesman of the Defence Ministry said Thursday.

Along with the modernized T-72M4 CZ tanks, the Army will continue to use more than 100 old tanks which will not be upgraded, spokesman Petr Sykora said.

The modernized tanks are equipped with an Italian system of guided fire. US automatic gearbox and new ammunition, with a total cost of about 174 million US dollars.

*MNA/Xinhua*



Japan's second biggest automaker Nissan on 4 Feb, 2005 said it will return to the market in Pakistan after five years, saying the country had a fast-expanding appetite for cars. —INTERNET

## Emergence of network of roads and bridges across the nation makes publications covering literary knowledge reach far-flung regions Prizes presented for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship Award and Pakokku Library Book Award



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung addresses prize presentation ceremony of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship Award and Pakokku Library Book Award.—MNA

YANGON, 5 Feb—A ceremony to present prizes to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship Award and Pakokku Library Book Award for the year 2004 was held at the National Theatre on Myomakyaung Street in Dagon Township at 2 pm today with an address by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Co-operatives Col Zaw Min, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Ministers for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and U Thein Sein, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, departmental officials under the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and executives, well-wisher U Ohn Pe, members of U Ohn Pe Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee, literati, social organizations and others.

In his address, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung said that we are grateful to members of the Supervisory Committee appointed by the Ministry of Information and members of the Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee as well as well-wishers for their help. Likewise, it is heartening to witness enthusiasm and spirit of cherishing literary of writers participating in the literary contests.

It is worthy to put record on Pakokku U Ohn Pe who contributed K 5 million again to his original literary funds. In addition, it has been the third time Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award was presented since its emergence. It did so with the aim of ensuring literary development.

Prizes for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards were scrutinized and awarded since 1993. Altogether 160 writers who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award in

five categories have emerged up to date. Prizing winning manuscripts were published into books by Sarpay Beikman and as a result, seven books won the National Literary Award.

Pakokku U Ohn Pe life-long literary award could be presented to 15 writers who devoted their life in literary career.

The government has been holding the competitions for National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards, Armed Forces Day commemorative literary and photo competitions and others. Meanwhile, it has laid down and is implementing the 30-year education promotion plan.

The presentation of those prizes amounts to ensuring human resources development.

In the process of globalization, Myanmar needs to apply modern techniques to catch up with nations of the world while striving for human resources development. This will contribute much to bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

The emergence of a network of roads and bridges

Next, Well-wisher U Ohn Pe presented K 5 million for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award trust funds and Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung accepted the donation.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony followed.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presented prizes to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe life-long



Pakokku U Ohn Pe donates K 5 million to his literary funds to Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.—MNA

literary award and Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary award (collected poem category).

Afterwards, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo presented prizes to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award (short story category).

Next, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented prizes to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe scholarship award for University of Culture and Pakokku U Ohn Pe outstanding Myanmar Award; Minister for Cooperatives Co Zaw Min, to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award (in Myanmar and English); Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award (in Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Biology); Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, to Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award (in Geography, History, Economics and Optional Myanmar). Later, prizes were presented to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award.

Next, well-wisher Pakokku U Ohn Pe spoke words of thanks.

Next, U Kyi Aye (Hsinphyugyun Aung Thein), who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe life-long literary award, expressed thanks and the ceremony ended.

After the ceremony, ministers, deputy ministers, Pakokku U Ohn Pe had a documentary photo taken together with prize winners. —MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-long Literary Award to U Kyi Aye (writer Hsinbyukyun Aung Thein).—MNA

in all parts of the nation makes the publications covering literary knowledge reach far-flung regions. Only then, will the Union of Myanmar made up of 14 states and divisions be fully equipped with the five strengths.

In conclusion, the minister stressed the need for the writers to widely contribute literature capable of serving the national interest, to cherish and safeguard the literary heritage through the unity of those from the literary world, to pave the way for youths to be able to study literary and to participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a modern developed democratic nation.



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min presents scholarship award to Ma Thiri Aung.—MNA



### Far-sighted national leaders...

(from page 16)  
the symbol of national solidarity of the Union of Myanmar for centuries. When there was national solidarity, the State was strong. It is obvious that when the Union spirit was weak, political, economic, social and security conditions were low. The historic Panglong Agreement was signed due to the Union spirit, patriotism and nationalistic spirit in the country.

He said Myanmar became a sovereign nation again on account of national solidarity and strong desire not to live under servitude. The government has laid down the national policy of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of na-

tional solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty and is marching towards a peaceful modern developed nation. Far-sighted national leaders firmly built national solidarity and Union Spirit.

He said now the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. As a first step, the National Convention is in session and all the citizens are to take part in the respective roles. The National Convention will lay down basic principles which guarantee political, economic and social privileges of various national races in constituting the future State. The entire

people welcomed the forth coming National Convention which will resume on 17 February, he added.

He urged the national races to implement the tasks for emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Next, Secretary of Kengtung District USDA U Sai Huan Nwe recounted historical backgrounds of the Union Day. The national objectives of the 58th Anniversary Union Day are full of political essence and permanent work guidelines to be followed for perpetuation of the Union. With the political stability, prevalence of law and order, peace, national solidarity can be built.

Next, executive of



The meeting chairmen seen at the rally to honour Union Day and support National Convention in Kengtung Township.— MNA

Kengtung District USDA Daw Nan Hla Yin table the motion calling for hailing the National Convention.

Joint Secretary of Kengtung Township USDA U Sai Kyaw Zan reported on rural develop-

ment tasks in Kengtung District.

Afterwards, Kengtung District USDA Executive Daw Nan Ar Phei tabled a motion, calling for hailing the Union and supporting the National Convention and rural devel-

opment tasks being carried out in the district.

Later, the chairman passed resolutions of the rally after seeking unanimous approval of those present. The rally ended with the chanting of slogans.— MNA



Kengtung District USDA Secretary U Sai Lon Hsaing.— MNA



Kengtung Township USDA Secretary U Sai Hwan Nwe.— MNA



Kengtung Township USDA Joint-Secretary U Sai Kyaw Zan.— MNA



Kengtung District USDA Executive Daw Nan Ar Phei.— MNA



Kengtung District USDA Executive Daw Nan Hla Yin.— MNA



Daw Nan Hwan Tit and Daw Aye Aye Aung.— MNA

## Kalay District people, USDA members honour Union Day, support National Convention

YANGON, 5 Feb — USDA members and local people attended the ceremony to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Letpanchaung Village BEMS in Kalay Township yesterday.

Those present saluted the State Flag. Secretary of Kalay District USDA U Thein Hlaing, presiding over the ceremony, gave a speech. Pinlon Ward Organizer Chin national Daw Mi Mi San of Kalay Township honoured the Union Day and U Kyaw Win of Kalay submitted the report on supporting the National Convention. Kalay District USDA Executive U Than Aye presented rural development tasks in Kalay District and future tasks. Kalay Township USDA Secretary U Yu Tin Win seconded the mo-

tions of three representatives.

Chin national race U Kam Mar of Letpanchaung Village handed over 23,820 USDA membership applications to District USDA Executive U Tin Hlaing.

Afterwards, District USDA Reserve Executive U Zaw Myo Hlaing handed over documents related to rural development to Deputy Director of Township Development Affairs Committee U Tin Ko and the documents concerning education sector to District Education Officer U Shwe Thuang.

Before concluding the ceremony, all the participants approved to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention and rural development tasks.— MNA



A mass of people attend the rally to honour Union Day and support National Convention in Kalay Township.— MNA

## Meeting on offering gold plates to Shwedagon Pagoda held

YANGON, 5 Feb — The meeting to offer gold plates and foils to Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the prayer hall of the pagoda this morning.

The Chairman of the Leading Committee for All-round Perpetual Renovation of the pagoda and members, deputy ministers and officials discussed systematic offering of gold plates and foils, maintenance of the Htidaw and the pagoda.

Wellwishers are permitted to offer gold plates and foils to the pagoda till 17 April, Myanmar New Year Day of 1367 ME.

Arrangements are being made for those wishing to donate gold plates to the pagoda in person and for the gold foils offering ceremony with the use of the floating carriage. The plan is under way to complete the offering gold plates before fullmoon of Kason, 1367 ME.— MNA

## Union Day delegates arrive

YANGON, 5 Feb — Members of cultural delegations of States and Divisions and Union Day delegates who are USDA members arrived here by air this afternoon to attend the 58th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony and the dinner.

Altogether 30 members of the cultural delegation and three USDA members of Chin State, 30 Dawei cultural troupe members and four USDA members from Taninthayi Division and five USDA members of Shan State (East) arrived at the airport where they were welcomed by Chairman of the Subcommittee for Reception and Accommodation Commandant of Defence Services Records Office and Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint and members. The Union delegates and cultural troupe members were accommodated at respective hostels.— MNA

## Another Sittaung River Bridge...

(from page 16)

Directorate of Military Engineers under the Ministry of Defence, 7 bridges; the Ministry of Rail Transportation, 7 bridges; and the Ministry of Electric Power, one bridge. Arrangements are under way to construct a bridge spanning the Sittaung River and linking Mon State and Bago Division. Moreover, bridges will also be constructed in other places as necessary.

In line with the guidance and encouragement of the Head of State, there have emerged 14 major bridges — four bridges spanning the Thanlwin River — the Hpa-

**The State has so far built 14 bridges across four major rivers.**

an Bridge in Kayin State, the Tahsan Bridge and the Takaw-et Bridge in Shan State; seven bridges spanning the Ayeyawady River — Nawaday (Pyay) Bridge, Bala Min Htin (Myitkyina) Bridge, Bo Myat Tun Bridge, Maubin Bridge, and Dedaye Bridge in Ayeyawady Division; Anawrahta (Chauk) Bridge, Magway Bridge; two bridges spanning the Chindwin River — Hsinphyushin Bridge and Monywa Bridge; and Sittaung river-crossing Shwekyin-Madauk Bridge.

The government is constructing the bridges with the aim of ensuring easy accessibility between one region and the other and raising the socio-economic life of national people.

Before this bridge has come into existence, people travelling to Mawlamyine found it difficult in crossing



Senior General Than Shwe and party crossing over the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).— MNA

interests. It always pays special attention to it. Now, the Head of State gave guidance, saying that infrastructures needed for national development have now been established; that continued efforts are to be made to make the most of them; and that hope must be set on the establishment of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Now is the time that the Tatmadaw and

themselves to the development tasks in their respective regions in concert with the government. Thus, a good legacy of solidarity and prosperity can be handed down to posterity.

Our Three Main National Causes in a sense are patriotism or Union Spirit. It is also a national policy that will never go wrong at any given time. The 12 political, economic and social objectives are also correct working guidelines. By implementing these policies, regional development has to be undertaken to enable the country to stay in touch with the international community.

The seven-point Road Map was laid down to ensure a smooth transition to a democracy relevant to historical background, topographical conditions, and cultural tradition of the country.

It is historic concern for the people to join hands with the government for realizing the correct political work programmes. Only then will the discipline-flour-

**Our Three Main National Causes in a sense are patriotism or Union Spirit. It is also a national policy that will never go wrong at any given time.**

ishing democratic nation emerge.

In conclusion, it is necessary for the entire national people living in Mon State to stand in solidarity and to maintain the development momentum.

Later, General Thura Shwe Mann urged local people to actively participate in the shaping of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation and to maintain the newly-constructed transport facility for its long-term use.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivered a speech. He said the Ministry of Construction is building transport infrastructures in the country with

(See page 7)



Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for the documentary photo together with local people at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).— MNA

the Thanlwin River. Z-craft and ferries were the only transport means. It took long to reach the other bank. Down on luck, travellers had to spend the night there. It was also risky to cross the river in the rainy season. Now, these obstacles are a thing of the past.

Furthermore, Mon State will boom in trade with neighbouring regions. For instance, Hpa-an is only a few hours drive from Mawlamyine.

Now, a network of transport has linked the east with the west, and the north with the south. The total miles of roads have increased to 56,600 at present from 21,400 in 1988. More and more agricultural infrastructures are being established across the country just as the number of transport infrastructures is on the rise.

The same thing can be said of the education and health sectors. Measures are being taken to promote the education and health standards through the establishment of development zones. At the same time, development tasks are also being carried out in rural and border areas.

The steps now being taken are aimed at narrowing the development gaps between one region and another. In other words, these measures are the efforts to ensure social advancement. In this process, the government is building infrastructures needed for economy, education, health and transport in cooperation with the people. In a sense, they are the fruitful results stemming from the concerted efforts made by the government and the people.

The Tatmadaw government led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has never lost sight of public

the people should go hand in hand to serve the interests of the country. History has proved that armed insurgencies are detrimental to the development of socio-economic life.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, arrangements are made to enable armed groups to return to the legal fold and to participate in the nation-building tasks. As a result, a total of 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold. They are now lending



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min formally open Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). — MNA





Senior General Than Shwe pressing the button to unveil the stone inscriptions of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). — MNA

### Another Sittaung River Bridge...

(from page 6)

goodwill. In accord with the goodwill of Head of State Senior General Than Swe, geographical survey was conducted in 1998 to construct Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). The bridge construction started after the stake-driving ceremony took place on 18 March 2000. It is the 179th of the bridges with the length of over 180 feet built by the ministry. It is the longest and largest one with 28 bole piles built with technical help of Caisson Type Foundation, the minister said. The minister vowed that the ministry will keep road and bridge construction to further develop the transport sector of the State.

In his remarks, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myin Aung said the bridge emerged due to the efforts of

**The bridge emerged due to the efforts of Myanmar engineers, which was just a dream in previous eras. The inauguration of the bridge is a great honour for all national people of the country, particularly for those in Mon State.**

Myanmar engineers, which was just a dream in previous eras. The inauguration of the bridge is a great honour for all national people of the country, particularly for those in Mon State. It was constructed near Gaungsay Island between Mawlamyine, the capital of Mon State, and Muktama.

Next, the commander expressed thanks to the Head of State, the Ministry of Construction and engineers including white & blue collar workers for the construction of the bridge.

He went on to say that measures have been taken not only to renovate the major roads but also to build new ones in Mon State. Roads were constructed in ten townships in the state to link between villages, townships and other regions. Thanks to the efforts, the union road has now been extended up to 2615 miles from

988 miles in 1988. Railroad also have been expanded to 293 miles from 276.

In conclusion, he said, on behalf of local people, he thanked the government for building the bridge to help develop the sectors ranging from economy, education, health to transport of the state. Local people on their part are urged to maintain the bridge as long as Mon State exists.

Later, U Tin Soe Moe Naing, a local, spoke words of thanks.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development

because of some difficulties, especially financial constraints and technological problems. The government waited for appropriate time and circumstances.

Now economy of the country has improved to a certain extent.

As small, medium and large bridges could be built technologically, the government gained technical know-how and experiences. Therefore it is capable of building such kind of bridge, he said.

It is important to build strength of solidarity, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law



Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). — MNA

Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe extended greetings to the people at the opening ceremony. He said he came to Mawlamyine to attend the inauguration of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)) and he conveyed best wishes to those present.

He said it has been a long time that the government would like to build such bridge that is useful to the region and the country. However, the bridge construction project could not be implemented immediately

and order whatever difficulty the country encounters. Difficulties can be overcome through these two strengths. The bridge has emerged because of the two strengths, he said.

Continuing, he said, the government built this bridge with the aims of ensuring regional development and promoting socio-economic life of local people. Local people can now go easily from one place to another through the bridge in a short time.

(See page 11)



Guests and local residents at the opening of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) spanning Thanlwin River. The bridge is the longest and the largest facility of its kind in Myanmar. — MNA

## Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



Facing the Bay of Bengal in the west, Rakhine State lies in the westernmost sector of the Union of Myanmar. On its 14,200 square miles of territory live Rakhines and Bamars alongside Chin,

than those of the south. Sittway plain is the largest flat land in the region, and the sea is dotted with large Phayonga, Yanbye and Manaung islands and a number of islets.

At the Special Projects

**Table A**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
<b>Irrigation</b>			
- dam, lake, reservoir, canal	26	32	6
- river water pumping tasks	-	3	3
- damming creeks	-	734	734
- Benefited acre	82691	136988	54297
<b>Thriving double crops</b>	<b>28401</b>	<b>361936</b>	<b>333535</b>
<b>Extended paddy cultivation</b>			
- acres of monsoon paddy	790990	1003474	212480
- per acre yield*	52.27	67.55	15.28
- acres of summer paddy	-	12363	12363
- per acre yield*	-	80.00	80.00
- gross production	44165	68775	24610
- food sufficiency	-	143	143
- beans and pulses (acre)	2816	154948	152132
- rubber (acre)	2015	7820	5805
- pepper (acre)	234	16309	16075
<b>Edible Oil crop (acre)</b>			
- Groundnut	121648	59258	46610
- sesame	2098	3773	1675
- sunflower	65	1059	994
- mustard	12815	94500	81695
- niger	-	193	193

Mro, Thet, Khami, Dainet, Maramagyi and Kaman races. A union within the Union, the state has a population of 3,045,000, and on average, every square mile is inhabited by 215 persons.

A long coastal stretch of land touching the Rakhine Yoma in the east, the state is crisscrossed with a large number of natural watercourses including Naff, Mayyu and Kissapanadi rivers and Maei, Tanlwe, Taungup, Thandwe, Kyeintali and Gwa creeks flowing from north to south. With an average elevation of 3,000 feet the Rakhine Yoma is a mountain range whose northern peaks are higher

Implementation Committee Meeting, held in November 1995, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said, "Rakhine State is a region where transport is difficult, and the main means of transport is waterways. Although not a border area, Sittway region is accessible by only a very few roads. Time

**Table B**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Reserved forest*	645	817	172
Protected public forest*	-	1226	1226
Natural area*	-	677.88	677.88
<b>Setting up of forest (acre)</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>55405</b>	<b>54005</b>
- acres of commercial plantation	1350	48145	46795
- acres of village plantation	50	7210	7160
- acres of industrial plantation	-	750	750
- acres of watershed plantation	-	50	50
- acres of Thitseint plantation	-	600	600

## Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

# Rakhine State marching to new golden land of unity and amity

*Thiha Aung*

passed by, but the region's roads remained in poor condition, and could not be improved for certain reasons. The Government is launching the drive to develop every region of the Union, and narrow the gap between one place and another. It will build a road to improve transport between Yangon and Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State. The work will be difficult because of the mountainous terrain covered with thick evergreen forests and marked by a large number of rivers and creeks."

With fraternal spirit, the Tatmadaw Government is striving utmost to harmoniously raise the living standards of all the national races living in

**Per-acre yield— basket  
Gross production— basket (thousand)**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
<b>Irrigation</b>			
- dam, lake, reservoir, canal	26	32	6
- river water pumping tasks	-	3	3
- damming creeks	-	734	734
- Benefited acre	82691	136988	54297
<b>Thriving double crops</b>	<b>28401</b>	<b>361936</b>	<b>333535</b>
<b>Extended paddy cultivation</b>			
- acres of monsoon paddy	790990	1003474	212480
- per acre yield*	52.27	67.55	15.28
- acres of summer paddy	-	12363	12363
- per acre yield*	-	80.00	80.00
- gross production	44165	68775	24610
- food sufficiency	-	143	143
- beans and pulses (acre)	2816	154948	152132
- rubber (acre)	2015	7820	5805
- pepper (acre)	234	16309	16075
<b>Edible Oil crop (acre)</b>			
- Groundnut	121648	59258	46610
- sesame	2098	3773	1675
- sunflower	65	1059	994
- mustard	12815	94500	81695
- niger	-	193	193

weal or woe in the Union.

Whether it is a state or a division, the Government has the same goodwill towards it, fulfilling all necessary infrastructures and facilities, without making any discrimination against any region, for harmonious development of the entire Union. Now I will present the developments Rakhine State is witness-

**Table C**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
<b>Motor road</b>	<b>448/0</b>	<b>897/1</b>	<b>449/1</b>
- tarred road	163/0	547/0	384/4
- gravel road	135/0	230/0	95/0
- earth road	20/0	119/5	99/5
<b>Bridge</b>			
- above 180 feet long	11	47	36
- lower 180 feet long	142	326	184
<b>Airways</b>			
- Airports	7	7	-
- above 5000 ft runway	1	3	2
- under 5000 ft runway	6	4	upgrading

**Table D**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
post office	61	81	20
telegraph office	19	25	6
facsimile	1	30	29
computer telegraph	-	2	2
<b>telephone service</b>			
- telephone office	17	43	26
- number of line	1850	7134	5284
- exchange	17	35	18
- direct line	1621	6212	4591
- auto/carrier telephone	1621	6212	4591
- telephone density*	0.85	2.12	1.27
<b>microwave station</b>	7	14	7
<b>rural telephone exchange</b>	-	8	8
<b>e-mail/Internet</b>	-	1	1
<b>local satellite station</b>			
- VSAT	-	1	1
- iPSTAR	-	2	2

\*(for 1000 persons)

ing as in all the sister regions.

### Agriculture

Paddy can be cultivated only on one-fourth of the state's land area, but the Government is trying to develop its agricultural sector, making arrangements to grow crops on all cultivable land, increase per acre yield, and boost agricultural production. In 1992, it introduced summer paddy cultivation to the region, which cultivated only monsoon paddy before that time.

The Government has built Gyogyakwin Dam in Taungup Township, and Kanthaya and Rahaikwin dams in Gwa Township for irrigation, and Hinywet

Dam in An Township to supply potable water. Pyaingchaung Dam, with the capacity to irrigate 4,000 acres of land, in Kyauktaw Township is under construction, and Zeechaung Dam is in planning stage.

Large and small dams and waterworks have extended the area of mixed-cropping in the state more than ten times. Food sufficiency of the state has reached 143 per cent. The state can put more land under beans and pulses and edible oil crops, and is extending pepper and rubber plantations, with the assistance of the Government, to grow them on com-

### Livestock and fisheries

Livestock breeding has been extended for Rakhine State to produce an adequate amount of food for local consumption. The state is raising four million heads of livestock, up from two million in 1988.

A significant development of the state at present is fresh water and prawn farming. The industry is showing encouraging signs for local distribution as well as for export. The industry did not exist in the state in the past, but now it is running 155,533 acres of prawn farms.

### Forest conservation

The forest conservation project of the state is developing alongside

**Consumption unit (millions)  
\*megawatt**

**Table E**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
electricity consumption	4.111	9.350	5.239
maximum load*	6.300	8.200	1.900
<b>Increase of generating power</b>			
- projects implemented	-	2	2
- diesel-fired power station	59	74	15
<b>present capacity of generator*</b>	<b>7.789</b>	<b>12.296</b>	<b>4.507</b>
<b>future capacity of generator*</b>	<b>7.789</b>	<b>127.296</b>	<b>119.507</b>

\*Square miles

mercial scale.

As the Government has been providing necessary infrastructures and assistance, Rakhine State, with favourable soil and weather for cultivation, is witnessing the emergence of more sound foundations in the agricultural sectors than in 1988. The Table A will prove it.

The state has been setting up more reserve forests, public protected forests and natural parks. It now has over 550,000 acres of forest plantations, up from just 1,000 acres in the past because of the ardent participation of the local people. The mass movement (See page 10)





# Development in Mon State after 1988

## Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day

*Padonmar Soap Factory built in Paung Township creates many job opportunities for local people living in Thaton District, Mon State.*  
MYANMA ALIN

*Winphanon Dam built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Mudon Township, Mon State benefits 13,000 acres of farmland.*  
MYANMA ALIN



*Chainchaung Bridge linking Bilin Township and Zokthok village in Mon State contributes much towards better transportation.*

MYANMA ALIN



*Ye Bridge with the length of 857 feet was built by Myanma Railways in Ye Township is rail-cum-road facility.— MYANMA ALIN*

## Rakhine State marching to...

(from page 8)

in 1988 managed to grow only 100,000 saplings, but now the local people have planted over eight million saplings. The Table B has something more to tell readers about the development in forest conservation

Thanthamagyi creeks in the state have been built under the special projects of the Government.

There are four more large bridges under construction. They are the 2,704-foot Minkyauing Creek Bridge, the 703-foot Thanthamache Bridge and

roads and a large number of bridges in the state, the Government is also implementing the 100-megawatt Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project in Thandwe Township and the 15-megawatt An Creek Hydel Power Project. Please see Table E for data.

**Industrial sector**  
The Government has

**Table F**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
<b>Basic education</b>			
- number of schools	2391	2716	325
- multimedia classroom	-	64	64
- e-Learning Centre	-	26	26
- number of teachers	8729	12107	3378
- number of students	244357	430454	186097
- KG enrolment	62.7%	95.2%	32.50%
- adult literacy rate	59.78%	72.90%	13.12%
<b>School dropout rate</b>			
- primary school level	44.32%	13.38%	30.94%
- middle school level	45.98%	14.73%	31.25%
<b>Higher education</b>			
- arts & science university	-	1	1
- college	-	1	1
- education college	1	1	-
- e-Learning centre	-	27	27
- academic programmes	8	53	45
- number of teachers	94	218	124
- number of students	930	20115	19185
- <b>Human resource development centre</b>	-	1	1

and plantation of the state.

### Road and transport sector

The colonial government totally ignored the transport sector of the state, with mountains, forests and rivers, because the matter was out of its interest. And during the post-independence period, the matter was out of reach due to certain reasons.

The Tatmadaw Government is always thinking about plans to assist and develop all the seven states and seven divisions of the Union and to make them prosper and stronger.

The Government has opened the new chapter of transport in the state. First, it launched the 202-mile-and-three-furlong Yangon-Sittway Union Highway, and then the 110-mile Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathaingchaung road, the 45-mile An-Padekyaw-Maei road, the 41-mile Yangon-Taungup-Kyaukpyu road Pyinwun-Minbyin section, and 42.5-mile Taungup-Maei road. All are tarred facilities.

As the state has a large number of natural water-courses, sometimes, roads are being built through marshes, with much difficulty. Many large and small bridges have been built on rivers and creeks, and the number of over 180-foot bridges in the state has reached 47, from only 11 in the past.

The large bridges on Kissapanadi River and Dalet, Myaungbwe, Tanlwe, Lamu, Maei, Sanepauk, Londawpauk, Deedokpauk, Kaingshe, Pikauk, Min, Ramong, Yaw, Hsatthwa and

**Table G**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
<b>Government Technological College (Sittway)</b>	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	5	5
- number of faculty members	-	95	95
- students (graduate)	-	662	662
- present students	-	464	464
<b>Government Computer College (Sittway)</b>	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	6	6
- number of faculty members	-	13	13
- students (graduate)	-	112	112
- present students	-	187	187
<b>Government Technical Institute (Thandwe)</b>	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	3	3
- number of faculty members	-	45	45
- students (graduate)	-	410	410
- present students	-	192	192

the 592-foot Thazintan-pauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway in Yanbye Township, and the Kyauktan Bridge on Yangon-Sittway highway in Sittway Township. Furthermore, Wunphaik Bridge will emerge on Yangon Kyaukpyu Road soon.

The Table C documents the transport development of the state.

### Communications

The Government has developed and facilitated the transport and communications sectors of the state. The Table D compares the present situation and that of the 1988.

### Electricity

"If there are mountains, roads will be built on them, and they will be beautified with forest plantations and highland farms. Likewise, bridges will span rivers and creeks and their waters will be harnessed for electricity", and that is the conviction and resolve of the Government to serve public interest.

While building miles of

been laying sound foundations for the progress of the state's industrial sector. The state now has 1,585 private industries, up 1,143 from only 442 in 1988. Twenty-six cottage industries and 28 State-owned industries are also manufacturing goods in the state.

### Education sector

The Government is implementing human resources development programmes region-wise. The special national education promotion project has helped raise the education standard of Rakhine State

**Table H**

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
upgrading of hospital health units	36	42	6
<b>health staff</b>	118	121	3
- doctors	126	231	105
- nurses	153	317	164
- midwives	539	573	34
- skilled staff	8	14	6
- township health assistant	-	6	6
- health assistant-1	-	17	17
- health assistant	79	91	12
- supervisor (1)/(2)	52	87	35
<b>traditional medicine</b>			
- traditional medicine hospital	-	1	1
- traditional medicine dispensary	6	12	6

**Table I**

\*Kyats in millions

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
<b>Road/bridge</b>			
- mile of earth road	-	161/6	161/6
- mile of gravel road	-	135/2	135/2
- mile of tarred road	-	8/5	8/5
- maintenance	-	15/0	15/0
- bridge (large/small)	-	14/221	14/221
<b>Health</b>			
- hospital/dispensary	-	15	15
<b>Education</b>			
- BEPS, BEMS, BEHS	-	56	56
- number teachers	-	281	281
- number of students	-	13320	13320
<b>Agriculture</b>			
- agricultural camp/station	-	27	27
- dam	-	2	2
<b>Livestock breeding</b>			
- livestock breeding farm	-	1	1
- veterinary office	-	2	2
<b>Energy</b>			
- generator	-	35	35
- town/village supplied with power	-	28	28
<b>Public relations</b>			
- TV retransmission station	-	5	5
<b>Communication</b>			
- post office	-	11	11
- telegraph work	-	5	5
- telephone work	-	2	2
<b>Vocational course</b>			
- number of teachers	-	8	8
- number of students	-	443	443
<b>Youth development training school</b>			
- number of teachers	-	15	15
- number of students	-	995	995
<b>Expenditure (million)*</b>			
- development funds*	-	8509.13	8509.13
- ministries*	-	1422.84	1422.84
	-	7086.29	7086.29

cation in the state.

Table E serves as the education indicator showing the sector's development.

### Science and technology sector

The Government has been paving the way for local youths to get access to professional institutions of higher learning in their own regions to produce a larger number of engineers and computer experts. Thus, youths in Rakhine State also get the opportunity to attend classes at a government computer college and a government technological college in Sittway and a government technological institute in Thandwe. Up to now, the state has produced 1,184 technocrats. Table F shows the opportunities of the youths in the state to study science and technology.

### Health

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
- TV retransmission station	1	11	10
- IPRD offices	-	21	21
- IPRD libraries	6	21	15
- departmental libraries	-	22	22
- rural library	-	328	328
- e-library	-	1	1
- sub-printing house (Sittway)	-	1	1

The number of hospitals in Rakhine State has reached 42 — one 200-bed hospital, three 100-bed hospitals, one 50-bed hospital, seven 25-bed hospitals, five 16-bed hospitals and 25 station hospitals. In the past it was 36.

The Government has assigned 105 more doctors and 382 extra health staff to the state. A 50-bed traditional medicine hospital and 12 traditional medicine dispensaries are treating patients in the state. There are now two nursing schools in the state.

The Table G attests to the health development of the state.

### Urban and rural development

There are now 224 miles and six furlongs of urban roads in the state. Of them 76 miles and six furlongs are

tarred facilities. In the past, the state had 184 miles and four furlongs of urban roads. The state has also maintained 543 urban bridges. Rural roads have also been extended and upgraded in the state, which now has 456 miles and six furlongs of rural roads, up 183 miles and four furlongs from 273 miles and two furlongs in 1988. To this date, the state has built 583 rural bridges.

(See page 15)



## Another Sittaung River Bridge...

(from page 7)

The bridge will serve the interests of the State and the region.

He said another Sittaung River Bridge is under construction near the existing old Sittaung Bridge for the development of Mon State and Taninthayi Divi-



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung addresses the opening of Thanwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). — MNA

sion. The government is doing its best with the aim of developing all parts of the regions in the Union.

Therefore, the Senior General urged each and every citizen to safeguard State-owned properties including this bridge that contributes towards the interests of the region and the people as their own and maintain them for durability.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted those present.

At the auspicious time, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min cut the ribbon to open the bridge.



Local resident U Tin Soe Moe Naing expresses gratitude. — MNA

The Senior General and party posed for documentary photo at the bridge.

After unveiling the stone plaque of the bridge, the Senior General cordially greeted the people attending the ceremony.

The Senior General and party passed through the bridge by car.

On Mottama bank, the commander and the ministers formally opened the bridge. The Senior General

and party had documentary photo taken.

Thanwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is the rail-cum-road bridge —two railroads and one motor road. Not only the railroads but the motor road were built at the bridge within the iron frames.

The super structure of the bridge is of steel frame and reinforced concrete and the lower one, of reinforced concrete piles and bole piles.

The bridge has 28 feet wide motor road and the railroad, 14 feet wide. It has six feet wide pedestrian lane on both sides. Its clearance is 328 feet wide and 46 feet high.

The main bridge is 7,699 feet long. Its approach road on Mawlamyine bank is 1,624 feet long and 2,252 feet on Mottama bank, totalling 11,575.

The bridge is located on Yangon-Mawlamyine-



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. — MNA

Myeik-Kawthoung Road. Construction started on 18 March 2000 and was completed on 7 December 2004.

MNA

## Russian Deputy Foreign Minister returns home

YANGON, 5 Feb — Mr Alexander Yu Alekseev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation who visited Myanmar at the invitation of U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, left here by air this afternoon.

The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister was seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Oleg V Kabanov and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Russian Embassy.

During his visit to Myanmar, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win on 4 February and attended the regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same day.

At the consultations, the two sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on the current international situation, foreign affairs of the two countries, domestic developments, regional cooperation and promotion of Myanmar-Russia relations and bilateral cooperation among others.

MNA



Thanwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). — MNA

## The 58<sup>th</sup> 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

### POEM

#### The Dream Bridge

- \* At this place, the current is swift  
Gulf of Mottama, where five rivers meet  
They flow gracefully, the Thanwin  
Also Gyaing, together with Attaran  
Plus Kyondoe, known as Myitkadoe  
With creet of waves, making much noise
- \* The meeting of waters creating a whirlpool  
Like and island, the crags crop up  
Gives the appearance of faint emerald  
Gaungsay island as centrepiece  
Vying with the water surface, rocks are to be seen.
- \* Rough is the journey  
Tiredness and difficulties abound  
Always have to meet, as if an elephant in musth  
Have to take due care, in going back and forth  
Because much danger abound.
- \* Big rivers in competition, swirling waters meet like octopus  
Amid the rocks, like a mast  
To set up a monument, we have  
Seldom had a dream
- \* Today, throughout the nation  
To facilitate easy communications  
Build series of bridges, and straight roads  
The network nationwide connecting all parts of nation  
For all-round development  
We strive toward building the New Nation.  
With Construction, and its kin  
The Railways, combining strength  
With proficiency and expertise  
Hailed throughout the world, Myanmar engineers  
Show our worth, be awe- inspiring  
Doing all we can, showed what we could  
It's Myanmar's longest bridge.
- \* Known as Thanwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)  
It's become well-known  
For all our kin  
Dream Bridge, has become reality  
Magnificent, in Myanmar history  
Fame unmatched ever  
Fragrant victory, our nation's  
Bridge unmatched.

Hla Min (Electrical) (Trs)

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V "MANDALAY" VOY NO. 146/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V "MANDALAY" Voy No. 146/N are hereby notified that the vessel arrives at Yangon port on 06-02-2005 and will be berthing on about 07-02-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

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**MARRIAGE**

**JAMIE TAN**

daughter of Eng Byan Tan & Fay Kyin Kong,  
North Baldwin Ave, El Monte,  
California, USA

&

**Nyi Nyi Aung**

son of U Toe Kyi & Daw Soe Myint

No 9,18th Street, Latha Township, Yangon  
were married on 27 January, 2005 in front of  
Deputy District Judge, Yangon Southern  
District Court.

**Nyi Nyi Aung & Jamie Tan**

**European tourism operators  
busy for China's Spring Festival**

**BEIJING, 4 Feb—** European tourism operators are busy in anticipation of the approaching China's Spring Festival, the first Chinese Lunar New Year after 25 European nations became Chinese tourist destinations last September.

London has quite a lot of overseas Chinese and Chinese descendants, so there are some celebrations for 2005, the year of the rooster, said Tom Wright, chief executive of British Tourism Administration.

Besides, a milestone tourism memorandum was signed half a month ago, which will enable Chinese tourists to visit.

British Airways (BA) held a seminar to discuss the impact of tourism on aviation development after signing a tourism memorandum.

"We predict Chinese passengers to rise 15 per cent to 20 per cent each year," said Tim Ramage, president of BA China.

Not far from the Chinese New Year, 66 Italian businesses held a tourism workshop in Beijing, led by Piergiorgio Togni, general manager of Italian State Tourist Board.

"It is quite cold in Beijing, and we hope the

citizens can escape and enjoy sunshine in Italy. Now many travel agencies have Chinese-speaking employees," said Togni. It is the first time that Italy has sought to promote its image here.

Spain, the world's second biggest tourism nation, also vowed to attract Chinese tourists from the fastest growing outbound market. The city of Madrid joined the promotion efforts.

"China's Spring Festival is very important to any famous tourism nation," said Richard Lees, general manager of Sino-European travel agency.

"Scandinavian nations hung out a Chinese version of introduction to skiing resorts, in order to attract Chinese customers who also favour sport on snow and ice," said Xuan Yan, representative of Scandinavian Tourism Board in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Ma Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L., for MERRELL PHARMACEUTICALS INC. P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 6 February 2005.

**Tiny animals thrive in deepest parts of Pacific Ocean**

**WASHINGTON, 5 Feb—** Colonies of tiny, soft-bodied animals thrive in the deepest parts of the Pacific Ocean, Japanese researchers reported on Thursday.

Many of the creatures they dredged up are one-celled animals called foraminifera, which surprised the researchers because they do not normally live deep in the ocean and because they typically have hard shells. The little organisms may have slowly adapted to the dark and high pressure found in the trenches 35,000 feet (10,000 metres) under the ocean, the researchers report in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

Yuko Todo of Shizuoka University in Japan and colleagues used the KAIKO Remote Operated Vehicle to sample the very deep trenches of the western Pacific, which they said reached their present depths of 6 to 9 million years ago.

MNA/Reuters

**Symbian unveils new software**

**AMSTERDAM, 4 Feb—** British mobile phone software maker Symbian, part-owned by Psion, unveiled on Wednesday a new version of its operating system that supports high resolution cameras and three-dimensional games graphics.

The software, which runs on faster processors based on designs from British chip developer ARM, comes with reference designs and other tools to help mobile phone producers save time and cut costs when developing new models.

The software can process pictures of two million pixels and more, it can send stereo music to a wirelessly connected headset and can import MP3 songs from a desktop computer without the need for additional synchronization software.

The first phones with Symbian "operating system version 9" will be introduced in the second half of 2005, with volume sales expected by Christmas, said Symbian spokesman Peter Bancroft.

Symbian is the world's biggest producer of software for so-called smartphones, a new category of versatile phones that can have

built-in music players and video recorders, and which run computer-like applications such as enterprise customer relationship software, car navigation programmes and e-mail.

Today its software is the engine of some 20 million phones, available through 200 mobile operators around the world.

Symbian was set up with financial backing from the world's biggest mobile phone vendors, including Nokia, Motorola and Sony Ericsson, who wanted a strong alternative supplier to Microsoft.

While Microsoft aims for corporate clients looking to supply smartphones that work well with other Microsoft software on office computers, Symbian is looking for big volume sales in the mass consumer markets where multimedia and video phones are becoming more popular with the advent of faster

networks.

"Symbian is a volume business," Bancroft said, adding that his company has also added functions that enable companies to more easily manage the security of their employees' phones, and which make it more convenient to access corporate e-mail and calendars.

While its licence fees are unchanged from version 8, Symbian hopes its tools to lower development costs will accelerate the price erosion of smartphones, which is already happening as a result of cheaper components, thereby creating a bigger market for advanced phones.

Market research group IDC forecasts 130 million smartphones will be sold in 2008 alone. Symbian receives between five US dollars and 7.25 US dollars for every phone that contains its software, depending on sales volumes.

MNA/Reuters

**Japanese industries failing targets for reducing greenhouse gas**

**TOKYO, 4 Feb—** More than a third of major industries in Japan, host of the Kyoto meeting on global warming, could fail to meet targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a 2010 deadline, a Trade Ministry survey showed on Wednesday.

Eleven out of 30 major industries, including the power and car parts industries, will have trouble sufficiently cutting emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), it showed.

The Kyoto Protocol, named after the ancient Japanese city where the UN plan for reining in emissions of greenhouse gases from cars, factories and power plants was drawn up, will take effect on February 16 with backing from almost all rich nations except the United States.

It aims to cut CO2

emissions in developed states by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12.

A Trade Ministry official said 12 industries in the survey had already met their goals and another seven were on track to do so, adding he was hopeful that the remaining 11 could do the same if they adopted new measures.

"They already have plans for various steps, such as installing more efficient factory equipment and switching to more eco-friendly fuel sources," he

said. But he said an environment tax proposed by the Environment Ministry and activists was unlikely to help.

A government advisory panel said last November an environment tax was needed to force companies to meet the Kyoto targets.

The panel discussed a proposal by the Environment Ministry for a tax of 2,400 yen (23.16 US dollars) for each ton of carbon emitted from fossil fuels such as crude oil or coal.

MNA/Reuters

**China congratulates VCP on 75th anniversary**

**BEIJING, 4 Feb—**The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) sent a congratulatory message Thursday to the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party on the occasion of the latter's 75th founding anniversary.

The message said that under the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party with General-Secretary Nong Duc Manh as the leader, Vietnam will become a prosperous, democratic, civilized and industrialized socialist country," said the message.

"We are pleased to see the great achievements your country has made and

hope that, under the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party with General-Secretary Nong Duc Manh as the leader, Vietnam will become a prosperous, democratic, civilized and industrialized socialist country," said the message.

The CPC and the Chinese Government always

treasure the traditional friendship between the two parties and peoples, and cherish the relations which have flourished thanks to the joint efforts of several generations of people of the two countries.

The message expressed China's readiness to work together with Vietnam to reinforce mutual trust and

cooperation under the principles of long-term stability, looking to the future, good-neighbourliness and all-around cooperation.

China is committed to maintaining the relations of good neighbours, good friends, good comrades and good partners with Vietnam, the message said.

MNA/Xinhua



# With determination to continue to live in unity and harmony, Panglong Agreement was inked on 12 February 1947

YANGON, 5 Feb—Pathein District held a mass rally at Shwe Ayeya ground near Dahka Bridge in Dahka Village, Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Division, this morning as a gesture of hailing Union Day and supporting the National Convention.

Present on the occasion were Ayeyawady Division USDA Secretary U Than Tun, the secretary of Pathein District and executives, secretaries, executives and members of USDAs of townships, wards and villages, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society and auxiliary fire brigade, local people numbering more than 9,400.

Pathein District Secretary U Nyan Lin chaired the meeting together with Pathein Township WVO



The ceremony to honour Union Day and support National Convention in progress near Dahka Bridge in Dahka Village of Kangyidaunt Township.—MNA

Township USDA Executive Daw Myo Zin Mar Nyo.

The meeting chairman delivered a speech, saying that Myanmar has stood as a sovereign nation with own monarchs for thousands of years. But, the entire nation was under the yoke of slavery following three aggressive wars launched by the British colonialists. During

ence which covered both the hilly regions and the plains, and it led to the Panglong Agreement.

With the decisive determination that all the national races would continue to live in unity and harmony, the Panglong Agreement was inked on 12 February 1947, which is a landmark in the nation's history. So, the date was des-

It is vividly visible that the Ayeyawady Division have enjoyed fruits of remarkable progress in various sectors and among them, the 1,400-foot Dahka Bridge is a living proof.

The National Convention resumed on 9 January 1993 with the eight groups of representatives. However, some parties did give priority to interests of their

based on the prevailing situations and the changes in the nation, and it can guarantee the transformation of the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic one.

In conclusion, the meeting chairman exhorted the entire national people to be imbued fully with Union Spirit and nationalistic fervour, and to play a more

active role in an attempt to ensure a new nation hand in hand with the government.

Division Committee for WAF Daw Malar Aung supported a motion, calling for honouring Union Day.

Kangyidaunt Township USDA member Dr U Win Myint tabled a motion, calling for being in favour of the National Convention.

Pathein District USDA



The meeting panel of chairmen seen at the ceremony to support National Convention near Dahka Bridge in Dahka Village of Kangyidaunt Township.—MNA



USDA members and local people marching to the rally in Dahka Village of Kangyidaunt Township.—MNA



Pathein District USDA Secretary U Nyan Lin.

—MNA

member Capt Sein Maung (Retd), District MCWA Supervisory Committee member Assistant Lecture Daw Aye Aye Thuang of Pathein Education College, President of Kangyidaunt Township Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Mya Mya Htay, and townselder U Khin Maung of Dahka Village. Kangyidaunt Township USDA Executive Daw Naw Kaphaw Shee emceed the meeting together with Kangyidaunt

successive eras, the national races constantly launched battles against the intruders to regain independence. The invaders



Pathein District USDA Joint-Secretary U Soe Win.—MNA

created dissensions between the hilly regions and the plains of the nation. They had a wicked scheme to leave out the hilly regions if they had no ways to choose but to hand over independence to the nation. So, the national races leaders struggled for independ-

gnated as Union Day, and it has been celebrated and honoured annually in the nation.

Our Three Main National Causes is the national policy necessary for the nation to transform itself to a peaceful, modern and developed one. Now, the State



Kangyidaunt Township USDA member Dr Win Myint.—MNA

and the people have chalked up a great success thanks to collaborative efforts in the drive for implementation of the State objectives.

own rather than to that of the nation, and eventually it led to temporary adjournment of the NC on 31 March 1996. Nothing but the NC can complete the State Constitution, and the entire national people are therefore to be wholeheartedly in support of the National Convention which will



Ayeyawady Division OWA Daw Marlar Kyaw.—MNA

resume coming 17 February. The State's seven-point Road Map is indeed the national work programmes



Daw Naw Kaphaw Shi and Daw Myo Zin Mar Nyo.—MNA



Pathein District MCWA Executive Daw Khin Htwe May.—MNA

Joint-Secretary U Soe Win tabled a motion, calling for supporting the rural development undertakings being implemented in Pathein District. Pathein Township MCWA Executive Daw Khin Htwe May seconded the motions.

Next, the meeting chairman sought the approval of the attendees, and the meeting ended with chanting of the slogans.

MNA

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### 38 players confirmed presence in Nou Camp

MADRID, 5 Feb — A total of 38 players, of the 50 who have been summoned, have confirmed their participation, on 15 February, in the match "Football for Hope", to collect funds for the victims of the tidal wave in Southeast Asia.

The match, organized by FIFA and UEFA, in collaboration with the Spanish Soccer Federation and Barcelona FC — which will contribute with its stadium and personnel — will have "Ronaldinho's Team" and "Shevchenko's Team," in honour of the players who won the titles of world's best player and Europe's player of the year, respectively, in 2004.

The money collected in the match will be completely destined to the FIFA/AFC Fund of solidarity with the victims of the tidal wave. This scheme was developed by FIFA and the Asian Soccer Confederation (AFC), with the contribution of the European Soccer Federation (UEFA). — MNA/Xinhua

### Davenport begins quest for Pan Pacific Open title

TOKYO, 4 Feb — World number one Lindsay Davenport began her quest for a record fifth Pan Pacific Open title with a comfortable 6-4, 6-3 win over Japan's Saori Obata on Thursday.

Elena Dementieva, runner-up to fellow Russians Anastasia Myskina and Svetlana Kuznetsova in two of last year's four Grand Slams, trounced Japan's Akiko Morigami 6-2, 6-2 to join Davenport in the quarterfinals.

Defending champion Davenport, who lost the Australian Open final to Serena Williams last weekend, dropped her first two service games.

The American uncharacteristically threw down her racket in disgust after squandering five set points at 5-3 in the first set.

But Davenport quickly recovered and went on to clinch victory with a pummeling cross-court backhand to reach the last eight of the 1.3-million-US-dollar event she won in 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2004.

"To be honest, I still felt a little worn down," said Davenport, who suffered a final set meltdown in Melbourne in her 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 defeat by Williams.

"A Grand Slam final is the toughest

loss to get over. I probably had the biggest lapse of my career and it's going to take a few weeks to get it out of my system."

Fourth seed Dementieva had few problems against Morigami and will next face another Japanese player, Shinobu Asagoe, who overwhelmed Italy's Roberta Vinci 6-0, 6-2.

Dementieva was beaten by Myskina in the French Open final last year and lost to Kuznetsova at the US Open but believes she could go one better this season.

"I feel much stronger now and I know what it takes to reach a Grand Slam final," said Dementieva. "I just feel I need to take one more step and I think I can do that this year."

Sixth seed Elena Likhovtseva battled past American Jill Craybas 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 to set up an all-Russian quarterfinal with Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova.

MNA/Reuters

### At least four homegrown players to be included in UEFA matches

NYON (Switzerland), 4 Feb — Clubs taking part in the Champions League and UEFA Cup will have to include at least four homegrown players in their 25-man squads from the start of the 2006-7 season.

The quota will increase to six players the following season, rising to a maximum of eight homegrown players by 2008-9 following agreement at a one-day conference of the presidents and general secretaries of UEFA's 51 national members.

The ruling could be expanded to include domestic competitions at UEFA's annual congress in Tallinn in April, Lars-Christer Olsson, chief executive of European soccer's ruling body, told reporters.

UEFA defines homegrown players as those who, aged between 15 and 21, were developed at the club or by other clubs from the same national association for a minimum of three years.

The nationality of a homegrown player will be irrelevant in a bid to circumvent any opposition by the European Union on the grounds of freedom of trade.

Homegrown quotas are essentially an attempt by UEFA to find a way round the 1995 Bosman ruling which demolished restrictions on the numbers of foreigners playing in a team.

Since then top clubs have included fewer and fewer players from their own countries in their first teams.

English league leaders Chelsea had three English players in their starting team on Wednesday while Real Madrid had four Spanish players in their team at the weekend.

Sepp Blatter, president of world soccer's ruling body FIFA, has accused major clubs of creating a "high-stakes trade in humans" by hoovering up players from less developed areas of the world in a desperate search for talent.

This increasing "globalization" has raised fears that strong bonds between clubs and their local fans will be weakened. Many countries including World Cup hosts Germany believe the lack of opportunity for local players is harming the national team.

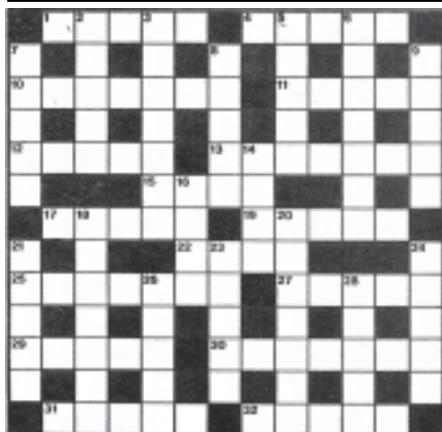
"The squad must be limited to 25 to stop some of the bigger clubs hoarding players and not playing them. This is totally unacceptable," Olsson said.

"Clubs have a social and sporting obligation and should be a model for lesser clubs in the same region and to set the highest example." — MNA/Reuters



Manchester United defender Wes Brown believes the Red Devils have remained in the Premiership title race thanks to the never-say-die attitude of midfield king Roy Keane (pictured).

INTERNET



ACROSS

- 1 Rule
- 4 Dandies
- 10 Solace
- 11 Swift
- 12 Ruinous
- 13 Conveyance
- 15 Always
- 17 Steeple
- 19 Sound
- 22 Shoal
- 25 Particular
- 27 Imagine
- 29 Occurrence
- 30 Sneering
- 31 Severe
- 32 German composer

DOWN

- 2 Ant
- 34-wheeled cab
- 5 Soil
- 6 Opens
- 7 Jeer
- 8 Oven
- 9 Farewell
- 14 Sea-eagle
- 16 Girl's name
- 18 Gift
- 20 Umbrage
- 21 Awry
- 23 Choose
- 24 Velocipede
- 26 Bury
- 28 Wall recess



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, returns the ball against Shinobu Asagoe, of Japan, during their semi-final match of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo on 5 Feb, 2005. Sharapova beat Asagoe 6-1,

7-6.—INTERNET

### Zidane will retire in 2007 at latest

PARIS, 5 Feb — Real Madrid playmaker Zinedine Zidane will retire in 2007 at the latest.

"My contract runs until 2007 and I won't go any further," the 32-year-old Frenchman said on Friday.

"At the latest I will end my career in 2007. Stopping before then is not on my agenda, but who knows? I won't go further than 2007 but I would like to go all the way," he said.

Zidane, among the most gifted players of his generation, said it would be "nice to win another European Cup" with Real before calling it quits. Zidane put an end to his international career after Euro 2004 with 93 caps and 26 goals.

"I'm no longer part of France's team but I watch them as a fan. The most important thing is for them to go to the World Cup," he told French pay television channel Canal Plus. — MNA/Reuters

### Chilean, Argentine tennis players advance in Vina del Mar

SANTIAGO, 5 Feb — Tennis players Fernando Gonzalez of Chile and Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina are in the quarterfinals of the Vina del Mar tournament after their respective second-round victories.

Gonzalez, the defending champion and second favourite in the competition, defeated on Thursday Spaniard Nicolas Pietrangeli 7-6 (7-4) and 7-5. Zabaleta, the fifth seed, defeated Spanish player Santiago Ventura 6-4 and 6-3.

The Chilean needed an hour and a half to defeat his Spanish rival, who hurt his knee in the second set, but managed to complete the game.

MNA/Xinhua



## Rakhine State marching to...

(from page 10)

Of the 17 town water supply projects, 11 have completed. A total of 612 units of waterworks have already been erected in 470 villages. The entire project covers the task of supplying clean water to 922 villages.

### Border areas and national races development

The Government's Border Areas and National Races Development Project covers Rakhine State together with many other regions. Sittway has a youth development training school and Maungtaw has a vocational training school for development of local youths. The Table H

explains the Government's endeavours to develop the socio-economy of Rakhine State to catch up with other regions, with exact figures.

### Information and public relations

The Government has been developing the information and public relations sector to enable the people of Rakhine State to get in touch with everyday news about the national developments. The Table J shows how the state is improving its information sector in the drive towards reaching the golden land of unity and amity.

(Translation: \*TMT+TTA)

## COMESA challenges member countries

LUSAKA, 5 Feb — The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has challenged manufacturers in the region to take an aggressive stance and export to member countries instead of defending their respective small local markets.

COMESA senior trade adviser Mwansa Musonda said in an interview on Thursday that the COMESA member countries can only improve their intra COMESA trade by focusing and embracing their manufacturing capacities.

More aggression on the part of manufacturers in the grouping instead of complaining can improve market shares in the region, he added. He noted that potential for meaningful trade among member countries is enormous but has remained under-exploited.

"COMESA member countries have a very good avenue of trade in COMESA but sadly this vehicle of trade has remained under-utilized," Musonda said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Official says Afghan private airliner still missing

KABUL, 5 Feb — An Afghan private airliner that was scheduled to land in the capital is still unaccounted for almost 18 hours later, an airliner official said on Friday morning.

A representative from Kam Air who only gave his last name as Aziz, told Xinhua that the Boeing 737 is still missing after an overnight effort to locate it. "Earlier report that the plane has landed is no accurate," he said.

Another official who worked with the Kam Air told Xinhua this morning that the plane has landed safely in Peshawar Airport and 36 of passengers on board will be flown to Kabul if weather permits. He promised to provide more details later.

According to Aziz, the airplane that has landed in Herat after a flight mission from Kabul in the morning, took off in Herat at 2:30 pm and should reach its destination one hour later. At 3:10 pm, the pilot radioed the air controller about the weather condition and asked for landing. Then, it lost contact. "I don't know why it did not return back to Herat," Aziz remarked.

The distraught airplane carried 96 passengers and eight crew members. The airline has

contacted all neighbouring countries as well as ISAF and US-led coalition for help.

The Peshawar Airport authorities said later Thursday two airliners had landed in the airport, but later denied the information. Peshawar is the nearest airport that the Kam Air airplane should land in.

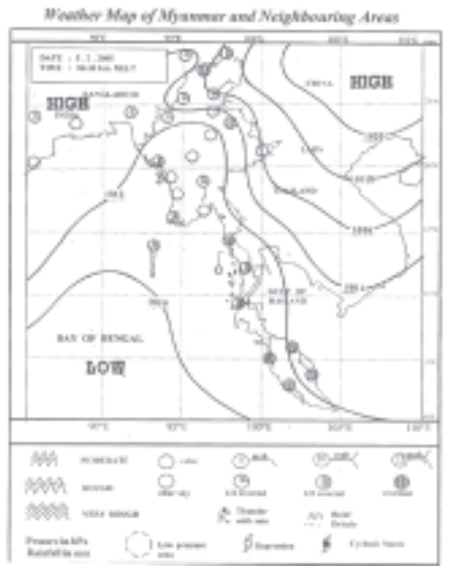
According to Aziz, the airplane was bought recently, and all the pilots and air stewardesses were foreigners.

Kam Air is a private airliner that started operation in November 2003. It has four Boeing 737s and some Russian-made airplanes. It is based in northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and has its maintenance base in Dubai. Except two Afghan air stewardesses, all of its crew were foreigners. A Russian airline also has a share in the venture.

MNA/Xinhua



A Matsushita Electric Industrial employee displays the new portable CD player 'SL-CT352' at the company's showroom in Tokyo recently. — INTERNET



## WEATHER

Saturday, 5 February, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division and Shan State, (6°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) above normal in Bago Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Lashio (4°C), Mogok and Pinlong (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 4-2-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 5-2-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 5-2-2005 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 4-2-2005 was (7.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 5-2-2005 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 5 mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 4-2-2005.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 6-2-2005:** Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-2-2005:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-2-2005:** Fair weather.



Sunday, 6 February

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:55 am National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am Music:
- 9:10 am International news
- 9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar -The culture and tradition of our nationalities
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Story for children -If there is a matter of importance
- 1:50 pm Songs for children -be if united
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Music
- 9:15 pm Leprosy Day Talk
- 9:25 pm Radio play
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan



Sunday, 6 February

View on today:

- 7:00 am
  1. ဇော့ဇော့ မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓမ္မာတိက၊ ထိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဝိဂ္ဂဟ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမ္ဗိယဘိဝံသ၊ ဝိပဿနာ ဝိပဿနာတော်
- 7:25 am
  2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
  3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
  4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
  5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၀)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:05 am
  6. (၅၀) နှစ်ပြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအခမ်း
- 8:15 am
  7. နိဗ္ဗာန်ရတနာတော်
- 8:30 am
  8. International news
- 8:45 am
  9. Say it in English

- 11:00 am
  1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
  2. Musical Programme
- 11:25 am
  3. Round-up of the Week's International News
- 11:40 am
  4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "ရုစီပန်းမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၅)
- 12:15 pm
  5. ယုဇော့င်းတံတား
- 12:25 pm
  6. Teleplay: "မေမြင့်ညီ" ရုစီပန်းမေတ္တာ၊ နိုင်ငံသားကြည့်၊ သစ္စာဝင်ထည့်၊ သူလှယ်သာ ခါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်
- 1:35 pm
  7. "တောင်းပြင်းဝေပြာ" ထွန်းထွန်းနီနီ၊ ရုစီပန်းမေတ္တာ၊ မင်းသူ၊ မြင့်မြင့်နီနီ၊ ဝေပိပိအေး၊ ရုစီပန်းမေတ္တာ (ဝိရစ်)
- 2:45 pm
  8. International news
- 2:50 pm
  9. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ရွှေရာဇာ နှစ် (၅၀) ပြောက် ပြည်နယ်နှင့်တို့တိုင်း ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်း၊ အမျိုးသား (အလွတ်တန်း)ဘောလုံး ပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအခမ်းအစဉ် (ဒုတိယအကြိမ်လှည့်)
- 4:45 pm
  2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:55 pm
  3. Song of national races
- 5:05 pm
  4. Agricultural Source Country's Development
- 5:15 pm
  5. (၅၀) နှစ်ပြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအခမ်း
- 5:25 pm
  6. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:20 pm
  7. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံ ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး
- 6:30 pm
  8. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
  9. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
  10. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "ရုစီပန်းမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၅)
- 7:35 pm
  11. (၅၀) နှစ်ပြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအခမ်း
- 12. ပြည်ထောင်စုစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "တိုးတက်ရေးအခမ်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 8:00 pm
  13. News
  14. International news
  15. Weather report
  16. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "အမှတ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
  17. The next day's programme

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

**Another Sittaung River Bridge is under construction near the existing old Sittaung Bridge for development of Mon State and Taninthayi Division**



General Thura Shwe Mann addresses opening ceremony of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) as a gesture of hailing 58th Anniversary Union Day.— MNA

(from page 1)

War Veterans Organization, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, teachers, students, nurses and dance troupes totalling over 25,000.

U Hla Win of Myanma Radio and Television acted as master of ceremonies. Speaking on the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann said the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is the longest bridge in Myanmar. It has a two-mile-long motor road and four-mile-long railroad. It also has pedestrian lanes. In a sense, the bridge serves as a political, economic and social strategies of Myanmar.

The bridge was constructed at the confluence of the Thanlwin River, the Gyaing River and the Attayan River.

The engineers had to work hard to construct the bridge because the river is not only wide and deep but also has a lot of whirls. Relentless efforts and energy is a crying need for construction of the bridge.

Therefore, the bridge will always reflect the brains and brawn of Myanmar engineers. From the nationalistic point of view, the bridge is a national pride as well as a grace for Mawlamyine of Mon State.

A total of 194 bridges whose length are over 180 feet have been constructed in the times of the Tatmadaw government. The Mawlamyine Bridge is among them. The Ministry of Construction built 179 bridges; the (See page 6)

**Far-sighted national leaders firmly building national unity and Union Spirit**

**Kengtung District holds mass rally to honour Union Day, support National Convention**

YANGON, 5 Feb — Kengtung District held a mass rally to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Yanlaw model village, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) this morning.

Present on the occasion were members and organizers of USDA from the district, townships and villages, nurses, members of social organizations, departmental officials, teachers, students and local people numbering 1,600.

Kengtung District USDA Secretary U Sai Lon Hsaing presided over the mass rally together with Kengtung District WAO Chairperson Daw Myint Myint Ohn and

MCWA Chairperson Daw Cho Cho, Kengtung Township War Veterans Organization Committee Chairman Maj Luka (Retd) and U Sai Kyauk of Yanlaw village. Kengtung Township USDA organizer Daw Nan Hwan Tit acted as MC and member Daw Aye Aye Aung as co-MC.

The moment the presiding chairman announced the start of the rally, those present saluted the State Flag.

Chairman of the meeting Secretary of Kengtung District USDA U Sai Lon Sai extended greetings and said in the Union of Myanmar all the national races have been living together sharing weal and woe, drinking water

from the same source in the course of history and they established noble traditions to fight against any danger detrimental to the Union. Such traditions have been (See page 5)

**INSIDE**

*The work will be difficult because of the mountainous terrain covered with thick evergreen forests and marked by a large number of rivers and creeks.*

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THIHA AUNG



USDA members and locals attending the ceremony to honour Union Day and support National Convention in Yanlaw model village of Kengtung Township.— MNA