

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 298

15th Waning of Pyatho 1366 ME

Tuesday, 8 February 2005

Union Spirit

Union Spirit is the spirit that binds all citizens in unity no matter in which section, which region they may reside. Union Spirit is built on the spirit of nationalism that engenders nationals to love, cherish and value a single motherland, our mother nation, and work for its prosperity. In a way, Union Spirit is that oneness and unity of nationals who have descended from kin who have lived together with affection, in weal or woe on the same land, drinking water from the same source for a very long time.

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

(From the address delivered at the graduation parade of 40th Intake of Defence Services Academy)



Onus on present-day people for progress and prosperity of future generations

Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental personnel of Mon, Kayin States

YANGON, 7 Feb — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than

Shwe met departmental personnel from Mon and Kayin States at Aung San Hall of the South-East Command on 5 February afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC members 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, Mon State PDC Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, ministers, senior military officers, Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu, officials of the SPDC office, heads of department, departmental officials of Mon and Kayin States.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung reported that Mon State has seen progress in the agricultural sector due to the emergence of the dams and sluice gates. Over 0.8 million acres of land have been put under summer and
 (See page 6)

Excerpts from speech of Senior General Than Shwe

- * Progress of the states and divisions will lead to development of the national economy.
- * Earnest efforts should be made for national development.
- * Efforts and innovation are important.
- * The economy of Mon and Kayin states will develop if their land and water resources are harnessed to the most effective degree.
- * As people of all the states and divisions are striving their utmost to develop their own regions, innovative means should be applied to accelerate the progress of the two states.

Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental personnel of Kayin and Mon States at South-East Command.
 MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 8 February, 2005

Strive for speedy completion of construction projects

The Government is building all the necessary infrastructures in education, health, transport, economic and social sectors of each and every region for their parallel development and implementing development plans laid down in accordance with the needs and situation of a particular region.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by high-ranking officials, inspected the construction sites of Sittoung Bridge (Mopalin) in Kyaikto Township and Kataik Dam in Paung Township on 4 February and left necessary guidance on work being done.

The Head of State said that Sittoung Bridge should be built in such a way that it could bear the weight of heavy trucks carrying stones and cement, that relentless efforts should be made for sooner completion of Kataik Dam and that survey on available water resources needs to be conducted for the construction of new dams in the region.

Sittoung Bridge (Mopalin) is going to be constructed about four miles downstream from the existing Sittoung Bridge and it will be reinforced concrete type and have a 28-ft motorway. The length of the bridge is going to be 1365 feet. The existing bridge is very old now and it is not safe for heavy trucks. Therefore, a new one is being built.

While the government is building roads and bridges wherever necessary for regional development, it is doing all that is necessary to develop the agriculture sector to boost national economy. Therefore, various ways and means are being sought to supply water sufficiently for agriculture. Dams, river water pumping stations and tube-wells and artesian wells are being constructed according to the needs of respective regions.

Kataik Dam is being built on the Kataik creek near Kataik village in Paung Township in Mon State. On completion, it will be able to irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland for double cropping. Up to now, a total of 170 dams has been built all over the nation. As a result, sown acreage is on the increase year by year. We would like to call on all those responsible to bear in mind the guidance given by the Head of State and strive to the best of their abilities to complete the construction projects in time.

Trainees of vocational school go on excursion

YANGON, 7 Feb — Young women numbering 100 went on an excursion trip to the Union National Village in Thakayta township here this morning. The excursion was arranged by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation in cooperation with the work group for preventing violence against women, the work group for prevention of trafficking in persons, the work group for rehabilitation and resettlement, and the work group of young women, which are under the work group for protection and rehabilitation of women.

They are the trainees of the women vocational school under the Social Welfare Department.

At the briefing hall of the Union National Village, U Win Aung, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Border Areas and National Races Development, gave an account of the village. Next, national races presented their traditional dances to the trainees and officials. Afterwards, the excursion trainees were conducted around the village. — MNA

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

MoU on cooperation in sports sector signed

YANGON, 7 Feb—At the invitation of Chairman of the Committee of Sports and Physical Culture of Socialist Republic of Vietnam Minister of Sports Mr Nguyei Danh Thai, Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint went to SRV to sign MoU on cooperation in sports sector and study sports from 30 January to 4 February 2005. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and party, and Minister of Sports Mr Nguyei Danh Thai and party discussed matters on cooperation in sports sector on 31 January morning.

A ceremony to sign MoU on cooperation in sports between the Ministry of Sports of Myanmar and Committee of Sports and Physical Culture of SRV was held



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and his Vietnamese counterpart Mr Nguyei Danh Thai sign the MoU. — MNA

at the office of the committee and it was attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, General Secretary of MOC Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thuang Htaik, member U Mo Myint, Joint General Secretary Director U Kyaw Soe Myint, Charge d'

Affaire U Than Sein, Military Attaché Col Tin Soe, Minister of Sports Mr Nguyei Danh Thai and officials.

The two ministers signed MoU and exchanged the documents.

Afterwards, the two ministers made speeches and replied to queries raised by journalists.

Next, Minister Brig-

Gen Thura Aye Myint and party viewed sports grounds of the National Sport Complex.

On 3 February, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and party visited No 2 National Training Centre where they were briefed by Rector Mr Lam Quang and officials on salient points of the centre. — MNA

Printing Course No 1/2005 opens



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein addresses the opening of Printing Course No 1/2005. — MNA

YANGON, 7 Feb — The Printing Course No 1/2005 was opened at GTC Publishing House in Insein township here this afternoon, with an address delivered by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

The course was conducted by the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information.

Present at the opening ceremony were departmental heads, advisers, officials and others.

After his speech, the deputy minister cordially greeted the trainees.

Next, he inspected the printing house and gave necessary instructions. The course is being attended by 35 trainees from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The course will last six weeks. — MNA

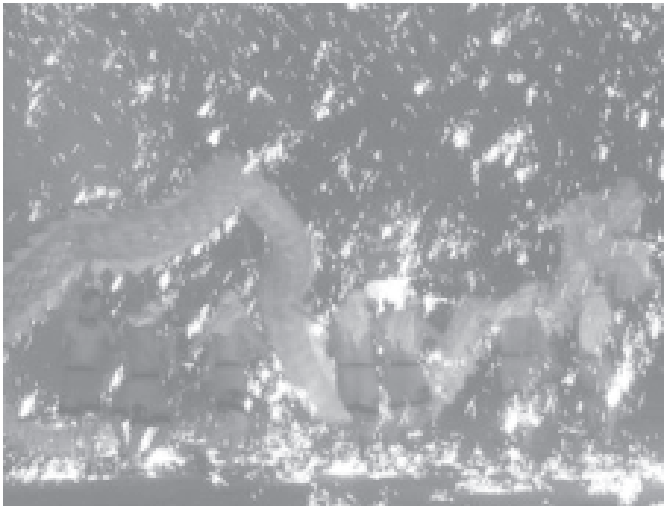
District-to-district roads in Paukhaung inspected

YANGON, 7 Feb—Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu of the Ministry for progress Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and officials inspected construction of district-to-district roads in Paukhaung and Paungde Townships on 3 February.

Officials concerned reported on Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu on work being carried out.

He also inspected bridges and gravel roads in the two townships.

The Officer on Special Duty and party inspected the site for Wegyi Bridge construction project and construction of earth roads. They also looked into the construction of roads in Zigon, Gyobingauk, Okpo, Minhla and Letpadan Townships and water supply in Pyay on 4 February. — MNA



Chinese men perform a fire dragon dance at the Xiaoyaojin Park in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province on 6 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET



Jia Qinglin attends CPPCC offices' new year gathering

BEIJING, 6 Feb— A Lunar New Year gathering was held at the meeting hall of China's top advisory body, here Friday, at which Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), sent office workers new year greetings.

Jia urged all office workers of the CPPCC to go on improving their work in the coming year. As the service sector of the CPPCC, he acknowledged that the office workers can have a vital, direct impact on the performance of the CPPCC

National Committee and its members.

Jia required all workers to improve their own quality and continue to study in the New Year. The officials of the CPPCC National Committee should have a high sense

of politics and services so that they will be steadfast politically and be equipped with a wealth of knowledge, and continue to improve their comprehensive competency, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign countries asked not to intervene in Cambodia's affairs

PHNOM PENH, 6 Feb— Cambodian National Assembly President Prince Norodom Ranariddh on Friday asked foreign countries not to intervene in its domestic affairs.

Prince Ranariddh's remark was a response to the accusation of US Senator Mitch McConnell on the stripping of three opposition party lawyers' immunity by the National Assembly on Thursday.

"I think this a Cambodian domestic issue. We have the full right to solve it according to the rule of the laws of Cambodia," Prince Ranariddh told reporters on Friday. Cambodian National Assembly on Thursday voted to suspend the opposition Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) leader Sam Rainsy and his two members, Chea Poch and Cheam Channy, of their parliamentary immunity, in order to allow several defamation lawsuits against them to proceed.

McConnell called the lifting as "another black day in Cambodia's history". He also asked the US State Department to prohibit those PMs who voted to strip

the immunity of SRP members and their family members from entering the United States.

The US Embassy also issued a swift statement, strongly condemning the actions of the immunity suspension.

"He only talks about democracy, but not about justice. Americans can say whatever they want to. I do things my own way," Ranariddh was quoted by Reuters as saying. Sam Rainsy left the country on Thursday on board a plane to Singapore after the Assembly session. Cheam Channy was arrested by military police Thursday evening. He was accused of building illegal army as part of a coup plot.

Sam Rainsy and Chea Poch face libel suits launched by FUNCINPEC Party headed by Prince Ranariddh for alleging that Prince Ranariddh took bribes to join a coalition government with the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) last July.—MNA/Xinhua

China's top online game operator reports surging profits

BEIJING, 6 Feb— China's top online game operator listed on the NASDAQ market reported more than 100 per cent year-on-year rise both in revenues and net profits in its 2004 fiscal year, according to Saturday's *China Daily*.

The Shanda Interactive Entertainment Ltd.'s fiscal report without auditing showed that the company's revenues in the fiscal year ending on 31 December totalled 1.37 billion yuan (165 million US dollars), up 115.8 per cent from the 633 million yuan (76.3 million US dollars) in 2003. The Shanghai-based company reported a net profit of 610 million yuan (73.5 million US dollars), or 8.1 yuan (98 US cents) per American depositary share (ADS), for 2004, compared with 496 million yuan (59.8 million US dollars), or 4.14 yuan (50 US cents) per ADS, a year earlier.—MNA/Xinhua

1,448 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — As of Sunday, 6 February, 2005, at least 1,448 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,105 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,310 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 996 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet

Heavy fog blankets Shanghai, disrupting traffic

SHANGHAI, 6 Feb— A heavy fog covered east China metropolis Shanghai, Friday, disrupting traffic.

Local transportation authorities said three ferry services linking Chongming Island and Shanghai proper were suspended and several expressways linking Shanghai with neighbouring provinces and cities were closed due to the heavy fog.

More than 40 flights were delayed at Hongqiao and Pudong airports and more road accidents were reported than during normal days, according to the transportation authorities.—MNA/Xinhua

Rome warned to pull soldiers out of Iraq

CAIRO, 6 Feb— The purported kidnappers of an Italian journalist abducted in Iraq claimed they still were interrogating her and said they had given Rome a final warning to withdraw its troops from the country, according to a statement posted on the Internet Sunday.

Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, 56, was kidnapped Friday by gunmen who blocked her car outside Baghdad University. Sgrena is a veteran reporter for the communist daily *Il Manifesto*.

A group calling itself the Islamic Jihad Organization claimed to have kidnapped the woman and gave Italy 72 hours to withdraw its troops from Iraq. But it made no threats to kill her or say what would happen if its demands were not met. Sunday's statement, released in the same group's name, described Sgrena as an "Italian POW," and said her fate "will be announced by us in the near future."

The statement, which

could not be immediately verified, did not elaborate on her possible fate. "We consider this as the last message to the Italian

government ... that there will be no security or stability as long as there is one Italian soldier in the land of Iraq," said

statement. It wasn't clear if both statements came from the same group, given that the names were different.—Internet



An Iraqi soldier patrols Baghdad's notorious Haifa Street district on 6 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Regional development tasks inspected in Patheingyi

YANGON, 7 Feb – Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence inspected the construction project of Patheingyi-Thalathkwa-Mawtin road on 5 February.

In his inspection tour, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than was accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and also South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, local authorities, and officials.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard progress reports on extension of the road, construction of bridges and conduits. Engineers and officials concerned presented supplementary reports on the occasion.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need to take systematic measures as the road will contribute much to the development of nearby areas.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also inspected the construction of Dadanku bridge, at the milepost No 17/7.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than visited Munisinkya Atula Pahtaman Aungtheikdi Pagoda on Phol Hillcock in Patheingyi township. He offered flowers, lights, joss sticks and donated cash at the pagoda. He also visited Myatdipayon Pagoda near Shwedwintu village and offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to the pagoda.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than paid obeisance to members of the Sangha led by Ovadacariya Sayadaw of the pagoda Bhaddanta Visara. He also offered provisions to the Sayadaw and the members of the Sangha at the prayers' hall.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to the construction project of Kwinchaung bridge at the milepost No 28/4 and oversaw the progress of construction.

The construction of Patheingyi-Thalathkwa-Mawtin road by Public Works started in 1989-1990. Now, the extension of the road has been under way



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects the construction project of Patheingyi-Thalathkwa-Mawtin road. — MNA

since 2004. Arrangements have been made to complete the construction in three years.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at Ngayokkaung village in Tinchaung village-tract. At the affiliated basic education middle school, he met with departmental officials, members of social organizations, townsenders of nearby villages, and local populace.

At the meeting, local authorities reported on development conditions of villages, agriculture, and the requirements to be fulfilled.

On the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing attended to the requirements after asking them.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also heard reports on the location and area of Ngayokkaung village, functions of local departments, agricultural undertaking, and the requirements to be fulfilled.

In giving instructions on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said peace and stability is of the essence for national development, adding that there should be a proportionate rate of economic growth in all regions. He also stressed the importance of the development of human resources and called for concerted efforts for the complete success of the five-

point rural development project. He also stressed the need to make efforts to exceed the targets in agriculture as well as in livestock.

Next, he urged local people to give a try to the cultivation of ten major crops, three new crops and three perennial crops suitable to their region. He also called for the cattle and poultry farming by individual houses. He also urged local people to make strenuous efforts for the development of their own region.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing donated books to the village library.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to the construction project for Patheingyi-Ngwehsaung road being undertaken by Asia World Co Ltd. At the briefing hall, officials of the project presented progress reports to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than. After inspecting the tasks for the tarring of the road, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions regarding the construction.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Patheingyi and arrived back here this evening.— MNA

Mass rally in Hinthada District honours Union Day, supports National Convention

YANGON, 7 Feb— Hinthada District held a mass rally to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention in Aingthabyu Village in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Division this morning.

It was attended by secretaries, joint-secretaries, executives and members of USDA from the district, townships and villages, members of War Veterans Organizations, Women's Affairs Committees, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people numbering over 7,200.

Secretary of Hinthada District USDA U Khin Maung Yi presided over the meeting together with Executive of Hinthada District USDA Dr Khin Than Win, Joint Secretary of Hinthada Township MCWA Daw Tin Tin Hlaing, Captain Han

Nyunt (Retd) of Hinthada District War Veterans Supervisory Committee and Dr Soe Lwin of Aingthabyu Village.

Zalun Township USDA Executive Daw Wint Kay Khine acted as MC while Laymyethna Township USDA Executive Daw Yi Way Way Lwin acted as co-MC.

When the meeting chairman announced the opening of mass rally, those present saluted the

State Flag.

Next, Secretary of Hinthada District USDA U Khin Maung Yi made an opening speech.

Member of Laymyethna Township MCWA Daw Zinmar Oo presented matters in honouring the Union Day, Organizer of Laymyethna Village USDA U Kyi Nyunt in supporting the National Convention, Hinthada District USDA executive U Chit Win on

regional development tasks in the district.

Next, Daw Kyin Nu of Laymyethna Township Women Affairs's Committee seconded the motions tabled by three representatives.

The mass rally hailed the Union Day and supported the National Convention.

The rally ended with the chanting of slogans.—MNA



Mass rally hailing the Union Day and supporting the National Convention in progress at Aingthabyu village in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District. — MNA

Thathon District hails Union Day, supports National Convention

YANGON, 7 Feb — A meeting to hail Union Day and support National Convention was held at Nongkalaywagyi village in Nongkala village-tract in Thathon District, Mon State, on 5 February.

Meeting Chairman Thathon District USDA Secretary U Kyaw Myint gave a speech.

Secretary of Thathon Township Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Aye Mu made her discussion hailing the Union Day.

Member of Thathon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Than Than Win discussed in support of the National Convention.

Executive of Thathon District USDA U Zaw Myint discussed matters relating to rural development undertakings.

Executive of Paung Township USDA U Mehn Aung Than Nyunt supported the discussions hailing the Union Day, and endorsed the National Convention and rural development tasks.

U Myint Lwin presented K 1.5 million to build a hydel power station in Hsaungnainggyi village.

The meeting, was attended by members of USDA and other social organizations, departmental personnel, local national races and guests, where they unanimously supported the three motions.

The meeting concluded with the chanting of slogans.

MNA

Tarmoenye hails Union Day...

(from page 16)

To put that goal into reality, the seven-point Road Map is being implemented by keeping in the fore our three main national causes.

In conclusion, he called upon the entire national people to do their bit in the successful holding of the National Convention. Later, Daw Ar Hline, executive of Kutkai Township USDA, gave an account of rural development tasks being carried out in Kutkai District. She said the government is building infrastructures needed for economy, education, health and trans-

port to ensure that every region in the country enjoys equitable prosperity. In this process, emphasis is given to border areas.

To raise the living standard of the national people, the government is also implementing power projects across the country. In conclusion, she called for active participation of the entire national people in rural development tasks being carried out by the government. U Myint Lwin, secretary of the national cultural troupe of Tarmoenye, donated K 2 million and suits worth K 1 million to be used for rural develop-

ment tasks in the district.

U Chit Swe of the national cultural troupe of Tarmoenye, U Khun Kyi of Lonhtan ward, and U Aung Myint of Shaukhaw village donated K 1 million each. On the occasion, books were also donated to be used at the village library. Tarmoenye town and Maruphetka village submitted 10,000 and 204 membership applications respectively.

Next, Shan State (North) USDA presented Kachin traditional musical instruments to Maruphetka village.

Afterwards, Daw Jay Nan, member of Tarmoenye USDA, seconded the three above-men-



The panel of chairmen seen at the ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention in Kutkai. — MNA

tioned motions. The chairman of the mass rally sought the approval from those present at the cer-

emony. Upon the agreement given by the entire mass, the meeting approved the motions. Af-

terwards, the meeting came to an end successfully with chants of slogans. — MNA



Member of Kutkai USDA Ma Ni Ni Win Kyaw acts as MC, Member of Tarmoenye USDA Ma Chaw Su Myint, co-MC. — MNA



Member of Tarmoenye USDA Daw Ghan Nan presents reports. — MNA



Executive of Kutkai USDA Daw Aha Hlaing presents reports. — MNA



Secretary of Tarmoenye USDA Daw Kyu Lant presents reports. — MNA



Dr Wai Lin of Tarmoenye USDA presents reports. — MNA



U Myint Lwin of Tarmoenye USDA presides over the meeting. — MNA

Kawthoung District hails Union Day and supports National Convention

YANGON, 7 Feb— Kawthoung District held a mass rally to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention in Hsemaing Model Village in Kawthoung Township, Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Division on 5 February. It was attended by the secretary of Taninthayi Division USDA, secretaries, executives and members of USDA from the district, townships and villages, departmental officials, members of War Veterans Organizations, Women's Affairs Committees, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, village elders in the

district, and local people numbering over 2,150.

Joint Secretary of Kawthoung District USDA U Saw Myint presided over the meeting together with Chairperson Daw Nyunt Nyunt of Kawthoung District MCWA, member of Kawthoung District Women's Affairs Committee, Captain Kyaw Thet Maw (Retd) of Kawthoung District War Veterans Organizations and U Than Soe of Hsemaing Model Village. Kawthoung District USDA Executive Daw Yin Min Thant acted as emcee and Kawthoung Township USDA Executive Daw Naing Naing Maw acted as co-emcee.

Next, Joint Secretary of Kawthoung District USDA U Saw Myint made an opening speech. Executive of Kawthoung Township USDA U Than Win presented matters on hailing the Union Day. Executive of Kawthoung Township USDA U Aung Htwe on supporting the National Convention, Kawthoung District USDA Executive Daw Su Su Lwin on regional development tasks in the district. Next, Executive of Kawthoung District seconded the motions. The mass rally hailed the Union Day and supported the National Convention.

The meeting came to a close with the chanting of slogans. — MNA



The ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention in progress in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

PyinOoLwin District holds mass rally to honour Union Day support National Convention



The ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention in progress in PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division. — MNA

YANGON, 7 Feb — PyinOoLwin District held a mass rally to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Shwepyi village, Singu township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were members and organizers of USDAs from PyinOoLwin district, townships and villages in the district, nurses, members of social organizations, departmental officials, teachers, students and local people totalling 10,700. After the master of ceremonies announced the start of the rally,

those present saluted the State Flag. Next, PyinOoLwin District USDA Secretary U Maung Maung Lwin delivered a speech. Afterwards, Sinku Township USDA Executive U Aung Soe Min, Mataya Township USDA Executive U Sein Maung and PyinOoLwin District USDA Executive U Kyaw Min tabled their motions, calling on those present to commemorate the Union Day and support the National Convention and to encourage rural development tasks being implementing in the district. U Kyaw Min

next presented officials with documents related to upgrading of 12 primary schools at a cost of K 4.4 million, sinking of 5 tubewells, 26 hand-pumps and digging of three lakes for water supply, donation of K 1.6 million for repair of township schools in the district and K 1 million for construction of a biogas power station for power supply. Later, the presiding chairman passed resolutions of the rally after seeking the approval of those present, and the rally came to an end with the chanting of slogans. — MNA

Onus on present-day people...

(from page 1)

monsoon paddy in the state compared to 0.6 million in the past. In addition, rubber cultivation has now been extended to more than 240,000 acres from 70,000 acres in the past. Three new crop items have been grown in the state besides the 10 major crops. The commander also reported to the Senior General on development of the state's sectors such as education, health, trans-

the requirements for the development of the region. We have witnessed the betterment of roads and tidiness of houses in Mawlamyine. Moreover, it was heartening to see that local people fully participated in the arrangements for the opening of the bridge. It means the people are enjoying fruits of development in their state.

The government on its part is striving its utmost not only to ensure balanced

The Head of State has given guidance to the departmental personnel to work hard for improving the living standard of the people, and developing the regions and rural areas. The service personnel should work in accord with the guidance. Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha explained the economic development of Mon State and Kayin State and the sectors which need

Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and townsenders in Ye. MNA



port, industry and per capita income.

Col Khin Kyu presented a report on formation of districts and townships in Kayin State, growing of the ten major

development in all aspects across the country but also to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation which is compatible with our geographical conditions and culture, the Gen-

assistance. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said that the Government will provide assistance to the farmers to boost agricultural production. Peasants should make systematic efforts to extend sown acreage, increase per acre yield, and minimize wastage.

In giving guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said that the Government has been providing necessary assistance for progress of all the regions of the Union.

Progress of the states and divisions will lead to development of the national economy. Thus, earnest efforts should be made for national development. Roughly, Myanmar has a total cultivable area of about 50 million acres, and to this date only over 25 millions acres have been put under crops. Reclamation of vacant and virgin lands to the full will help develop the national economy many times greater than at present. Rubber can be grown in hill regions and highland farms can be set up in those regions with advanced methods. Efforts and innovation are important. The economy of Mon and Kayin states will develop if their land and water resources are harnessed to the most effective degree. The agricultural sector will continue to play a leading role in the nation's economy for certain length of time. Thus, it is important to develop the sector with energetic efforts. As

people of all the states and divisions are striving their utmost to develop their own regions, innovative means should be applied to accelerate the progress of the two states.

The national development starts from individual and regional development.

and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on implementation of national development projects in underdeveloped regions, spending over K 3,000 million on roads and bridges and education, health, agriculture and communication sectors

He said there are many economic enterprises to be extended for development of Ye township. Some economic enterprises with good prospects are to be established.

He spoke of the need to set the targets to increase the per capita income during the short-term five-year plan. Next, the Senior General cordially greeted those present at the meeting. After the ceremony, the Senior General and party toured Ye and inspected Ye River Bridge. They proceeded to Thanbyuzayat by helicopter. On arrival there, they were welcomed by Col Khin Maung Si of Thanbyu-zayat Station and officials. They then inspected the development of the township. The Senior General and party helicoptered to Mawlamyine and they passed through Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) again in the evening.—MNA

The per capita income in Ye township is over K 200,000. Per capita income of the nation increases considerably year after year.

The onus is on the present-day people for the progress and prosperity of future generations.

The Senior General and party inspected the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) by car in the evening. On arrival at Ye the next morning, they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Ye Win and officials. In Ye Station, they met with officials, members of social organizations and local people. Officials reported on administration, population, agriculture, health, education, transport and development of the region.

Minister U Soe Tha reported to the Senior General on the national economic development and Mon State's contribution to it and the condition of Ye; and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo assignment of duties to create more opportunities in the agricultural sector, extend sown acreage, and increase per acre yield of various crops.

Minister for Border Areas and National Races

and rapid development with the participation of the people. In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said out of the ten townships in Mon State Ye Township is the highest in average per capita income. According to the calculations, the per capita income in the township is over K 200,000. Per capita income of the nation increases considerably year after year. He spoke of the need to make concerted efforts for increase of income.



General Thura Shwe Mann. — MNA

crops, cultivation of 430,000 acres of monsoon paddy up to October 2004 against the target of 500,000 acres, cultivation of 104,000 acres of summer paddy against the target of 150,000 acres, local self-sufficiency of rice, extension of rubber cultivation and livestock breeding, geographical surveys conducted for power supply through Dakyaing Creek in Hlaingbwe Township and education and health matters of the state. Next, General Thura Shwe Mann delivered a speech, saying that they, led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, arrived there to attend the inauguration of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) and fulfil

eral added.

It is necessary to have the strength of people to achieve this goal. It can be seen that present conditions of the country is contrary to those in 1988. Now, the nation is progressing day by day, he noted. Per capita income has increased to K 160,000 from K 140 in 1988. The Tatmadaw Government has been fulfilling the rights of the people, and implementing workable programmes to realize the targets. Thanks to the harmonious efforts of the people, the Tatmadaw and the Government, the targets have been met. The Government is striving on self-reliant basis for the national development. Harmonious endeavours are required to achieve greater progress.



Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets families of military and departmental officials in Thanbyuzayet. (News on page 1) — MNA

The 58th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

POEM

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Apparent Example

- * The neem leaves in Upper Myanmar, seasoned fish lower
When the two are combined Human appetite is further whetted
There's good eating, truly spicy
- * If it were only the neem leaves alone
It's simply bitter, rice meal isn't
Appetizing at all.
- * If it were only the seasoned fish alone
It's simply salty, rice meal isn't
Appetizing at all.
- * That instance, given as example
In the Union, brethren of all shades
With hands held, firm together
Will be like, appetizing cooked salted fish
And neem together as an apparent example
The appetite will surely be whetted.

Meru (Trs)

Pakokku District hails Union Day, supports National Convention

YANGON, 7 Feb— Pakokku held a mass rally to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention in Thazin village, Thayettaw village tract in Pakokku Township, Magway Division, on 5 February morning.

Present on the occasion were local people, members of USDA from the district, townships and villages, members of War Veterans Organiza-

tions, Women's Affairs Committees, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and others numbering 2,450.

Executive of Pakokku District USDA U Lu Min presided over the meeting together with Pakokku Township WVO member U Thuang Tun, Chairperson of Pakokku Township MCWA Daw Ohma

Aung, Pakokku Township Women's Affairs Committee member Daw Yin Yin Myint and U Than Myint of Thayet Village.

Pakokku Township Ward-9 USDA Joint Organizer Daw Thanda Swe acted as emcee and Pakokku Township USDA Executive Daw Cho Mi Aung acted as co-emcee.

When the meeting chairman announced the

commencement of mass rally, those present on the occasion saluted the State Flag.

Next, Executive of Pakokku District USDA U Lu Min made an opening speech.

Executive of Pakokku Township USDA U Ko Ko Htay presented matters in honouring the Union Day, Secretary of Pak Township USDA U Myint Soe Win in supporting the



The ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention in progress in Pakokku District, Magway Division. — MNA

National Convention, Pakokku District USDA Executive U Saw Win on regional development tasks in the district.

Magway Division USDA Executive U Kyaw Tint presented K 2.5 million for rural development funds in the district to Secretary of Pakokku District USDA U Thaw Zin Oo.

U Khin Soe of Thayet Village seconded three motions tabled by three representatives.

The mass rally hailed the Union Day and supported the National Convention. The rally ended with the chanting of slogans. — MNA

UAE car market to exceed \$ 4.92B in 2005

ABU DHABI, 7 Feb— The volume of the car and auto part market in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will exceed 4.92 billion US dollars in 2005, the official WAM news agency reported Sunday.

According to a recent study conducted by Abu Dhabi Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry (ADCCI), UAE's car market posted a growth rate of 9.2 per cent in 2004, the highest among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states where growth of the auto sector did not exceed 6.4 per cent last year.

Some 22 per cent of imported cars to the UAE

are reexported to other Middle Eastern, African and Commonwealth countries, said the study.

Japanese cars remained holding the largest market share in the UAE, with Toyota the most purchased brand, followed by Nissan and Mitsubishi, added the report. — MNA/Xinhua

Arab-Chinese Commerce Forum to be held in Beijing in April

ABU DHABI, 7 Feb — A delegation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will attend a two-day Arab-Chinese Businessmen Forum due in April in Beijing, the *Khaleej Times* reported Sunday.

The forum, bringing together Arab and Chinese financial institutions and government representatives, will explore economic cooperation between China and Arab countries and means

to enhance investment. Both sides might agree to create an Arab-Chinese forum as a platform for cooperation and dialogue to boost business ties between the two sides at various levels.

Arab-Chinese cooperation will witness a rapid growth soon and new business ties will yield positive results for both sides, Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the Arab League, was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



The Union of Myanmar has prospects for development if the national people further enhance peace and unity in harmony.

It is known to all that since its assumption of State duties, the Tatmadaw has paid priority to national reconsolidation, while upholding Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The government is building infrastructures in diversified spheres for eq-

Table A
Per acre yield (basket)

Gross production (basket) (thousand)

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Land resource			
- sown acreage	3721145	4104908	383763
- acres of vacant and virgin land	989067	409811	-
Irrigation			
- dam, lake, reservoir, canal	16	39	23
- completed works	16	34	18
- tasks under implementation*	-	3	3
- tasks to be done*	-	2	2
- river water pumping tasks	-	60	60
- completed works	-	49	49
- tasks under implementation	-	7	7
- tasks to be done	-	4	4
- damming creeks	-	1117	1117
- underground water works	-	2805	2805
- Benefited acre	420434	1248774	828340
Thriving double crops	456059	1478936	1022877
Extended paddy cultivation			
- acres of monsoon paddy	1039502	1511321	571819
- per acre yield*	55.61	68.29	12.68
- acres of summer paddy	-	37500	37500
- per acre yield*	-	80.00	80.00
- gross production	52802	131969	79167
- food sufficiency	-	142%	142%
- beans and pulses (acre)	476177	1772091	1295914
- cotton (acre)	94982	129331	34349
- sugar (acre)	2796	120894	118098
- maize (acre)	91223	137975	46752
- tea (acre)	4997	8546	3549
Edible Oil crop (acre)			
- Groundnut	284662	455063	170401
- sesame	686632	862461	175829
- sunflower	73239	342120	268881
- mustard	13246	26780	13534
- niger	22724	70789	48065

* Dams under construction— 1. Yazaygo, 6,500 acres (Kalay); 2. Phaunggata, 1,000 acres (Salingyi); 3. Aingya, 750 acres (Ayadaw)

* Dams to be built—1. Khetlon (North); 2. Ayadaw

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Sagaing Division marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

struct economic, education, health and transport infrastructures of the states and divisions, the government is making efforts with might and main and enlisting the strength of the people and the governmental staff based on self-reliance. The harmonious endeavours of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw have yielded sustainable progress of states and divisions and it is making significant contributions towards the development of the entire Union. Now, almost all of the infrastructures required for national development have been in

Table C

Forest conservation

* trees (million)
*Square miles

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Reserved forest*	9061	9490	429
Protected public forest*	-	1445	1445
Natural area*	1013.89	2086.48	1072.59
Setting up of forest (acre)	6814	138405	131591
- acres of teak special plantation	-	11000	11000
- acres of commercial plantation	4850	64985	60135
- acres of village plantation	1364	33595	32231
- acres of industrial plantation	-	3550	3550
- acres of watershed plantation	600	25275	24675
acres of Thitseint plantation	-	1500	1500
Tree planting of community movement	0.55	15.05	14.50

its utmost with a robust concept that all regions of the nation and national races will be able to enjoy equal development in a short time. Basically, he

to narrow the development gap between one region and another and for ensuring proportionate development of all. There will be development only if terrestrial and aquatic resources are tapped efficiently and effectively by manpower, he said.

The national people are indeed capable of taking a correct approach to what is going on in the world as well as to the internal affairs. So they are now marching to a new golden land of unity and amity by means of participating in the nation-building endeav-

endeavours and activities for bringing equitable progress to the hilly regions and the plains of the nation and harmonious development of all sectors in the interests of the nation and the people. I would also like to present development of the seven divisions in which various national races live in union and harmony, comparing the conditions in 1988 and those at present starting with Sagaing Division.

Sagaing

In the east of

Greening works

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Setting up of forest (acre)	-	41934	41934
- fuel wood plantation (acre)	-	20860	20860
- acres of watershed plantation	-	6450	6450
- hill plantation (acre)	-	4850	4850
- research plantation (acre)	-	104	104
- other plantation (acre)	-	8170	8170
acres of Thitseint plantation	-	1500	1500
conservation of natural forest (acre)	-	291000	291000
use of fuel-substitute wood			
- improved stove	-	86277	86277
- briquette	-	8214	8214
- discarded farming matters (ton)	-	18270	18270
water work			
- pond	-	351	351
- silt-prevention dam	-	265	265
- tapping underground water	-	16	16

Table E

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Motor road	1332/0	2131/5	799/5
- tarred road	345/0	1037/7	692/7
- gravel road	150/0	330/6	180/6
Bridge			
- above 180 feet long	17	34	17
- lower 180 feet long	694	961	267
Railways			
- miles	316.50	420.63	104.13
- miles of railroad	350.1	460.59	110.48
- passenger	5211600	5556600	345000
- miles of passenger transport	381905.9	392308.8	10402.9
- tons of cargo	176100	291300	114200
- miles cargo transport	26138.5	46976.6	20838.1
- stations	62	79	17
Airways			
- Airports	7	7	-
- above 5000 ft runway	1	4	3
- under 5000 ft runway	6	3	upgrading

said, all the regions of the nation are the same, but they have specific features and characteristics of their own. It is required to utilize the significant natural resources of the regions in a correct and effective way

ours whatever role it may be for ensuring perpetual existence of their mother country as well as for social and economic progress of the entire people.

I have presented the government's unremitting

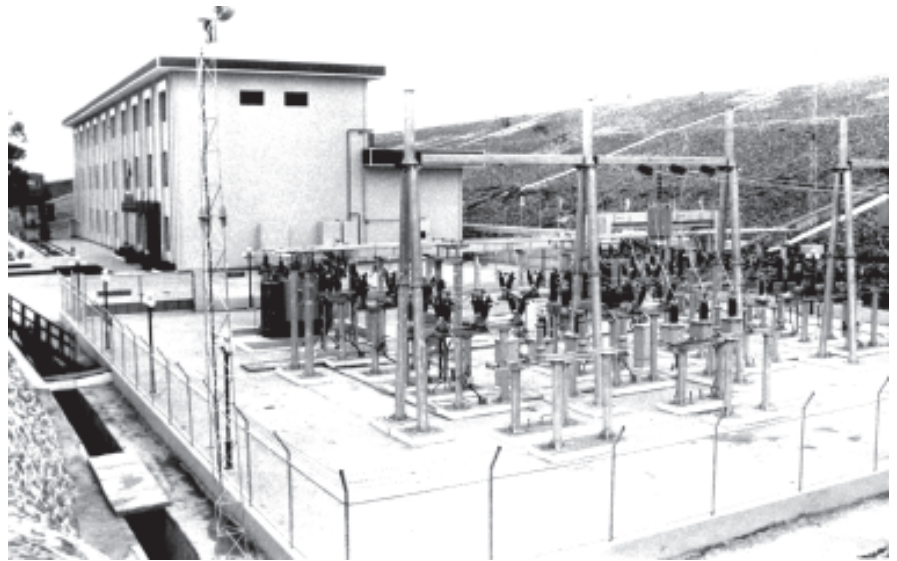
Sagaing Division are Kachin State, Shan State and Mandalay Division, in the south Mandalay Division and Magway Division, and in the north Chin State. With

(See page 10)



Development in Sagaing Division after 1988

Thaphanseik Hydel Power plant built near Thaphanseik village in Kyunhla Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Division.
MYANMA ALIN



Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day



New building of Monywa airport in Monywa, Sagaing Division.— MYANMA ALIN

With the length of 4320 feet, Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) spans Chindwin river in Monywa Township, Sagaing Division.
MYANMA ALIN



Sagaing Division marching to...

(from page 8)

a total area of 36,535 square miles, the Division is like a mini union in which a diversity of national races such as Bamar, Shan, Naga, Chin, Gadu and Ganan have been living in unity. Its population is around 5.945 million and population density is 163 per square mile.

Its northern part is more populous. Its southern part has small mountain ranges and plains. Its north-west part shares border with India, and along this border line are more-than-10,000-foot-high Patkwaing Mountain Range and about-8,000-foot-high Naga Mountain Range, on which the 12,553-foot-high Mount Sarameti lies. There are other mountain ranges such as Pontaung and Ponnya. The Ayeyawady River, the Chindwin River and the Mu River flow through the region. Among the plains in the region, Shwebo Plain is the largest, and such plains as Homalin, Kabaw valley, Myittha valley, Monywapale, Meza valley and Katha are famous.

Agriculture

Sagaing Division is located between the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers and the region is long if compared with its width. Its lower part was a region where water was scarce in the past. It gets only a little rainfall, and there was shortage of water in supplying water to the farmland even in the rainy season.

However, the government has been able to upgrade the agricultural sector of the region, and now it has become the granary of the Upper Myanmar. The government reclaimed the virgin and fallow lands of the region. It has constructed water pumping stations, dams and diversion weirs with the agricultural purpose.

In the past, there were more than 0.37 million arable acres in the region and now the sown acreage has

increased to more than 4.1 million in total. In olden days, the region had only 16 irrigation facilities.

Over the one-year period after the Tatmadaw had taken State duties, it was able to launch 18 projects of irrigation facilities—the underground water tapping project, Zedi Diversion Weir, Letyetma Dam, Wetshu Diversion Weir, Tonegyaw Diversion Weir, Nwekhway Dam, YeU Dam, Thazi Dam, Ywathaya artesian well, Htanzalok Dam, Kindat Dam, Kyepinet Dam, Letpan Dam, Ngwetha Dam and Salingyi Dam one after another. These facilities benefit 369,944 acres of farmland. The multiple-cropping acreage of irrigated farmland has increased close to 1.5 million, up from 1 million in the past.

Sagaing Division has got river water pumping stations, which had never been in the past in Myanmar. So far, altogether 49 water pumping projects have been completed, seven projects are under way, and four projects will be launched in the region. In consequence, the region can put another two million acres under crops, and the region is greening all-year round.

The opening ceremony of the Thaphanseik Dam, the region's greatest showcase that enhances the prestige of the nation, took place on 17 April 2001. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe graced the occasion with his presence and delivered a speech to the ceremony, saying "It took more than 40 years for previous governments just to carry out feasibility study

Table G

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
electricity consumption maximum load*	87.578	297.330	209.752
	7.500	33.000	25.500
Increase of generating power			
- implemented project	-	3	3
- implementing project	-	2	2
- diesel power plant	92	59	added into grid
present capacity of generator*	11.888	38.837	26.949
future capacity of generator*	11.888	1898.837	1886.949

Table F
(For 1000 people)

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
post office	158	157	(-) 1
telegraph office	32	45	13
facsimile	1	53	52
computer telegraph	-	8	8
telephone service			
- telephone office	23	81	58
- number of line	2040	17598	15558
- exchange	23	62	39
- direct line	1842	15816	13974
- auto/carrier telephone	1842	15346	13504
- auto radio telephone	-	114	114
- CDMA telephone	-	93	93
- DECT Telephone	-	263	263
- telephone density*	0.42	2.75	2.33
microwave station	4	22	18
rural telephone exchange	-	19	19
local satellite station			
- DOMSAT	-	2	2
- iPSTAR	-	4	4

auto-telephone exchange being undertaken—1. Monywa(extension) with 256 lines; 2. Tamu with 750 lines; 3. Wuntho with 400 lines

Table H

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
Upgrading industrial power			
- Industrial Zone	-	3	3
- works	-	1311	1311
- private industries	1426	4464	3038
- cottage industries	-	360	360
State-owned industries	53	69	16

Table I

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Basic education			
- number of schools	3603	4579	976
- multimedia classroom	-	152	152
- e-Learning Centre	-	68	68
- number of teachers	15072	28231	13159
- number of students	600501	926969	326468
- KG enrolment	67.97%	94.9%	26.93%
- adult literacy rate	80.87%	95.50%	14.63%
School dropout rate			
- primary school level	42.02%	16.47%	25.55%
- middle school level	41.23%	2.99%	38.24%
Higher education			
- professional institutions	-	2	2
- arts & science university	-	1	1
- degree college	-	1	1
- college	2	2	-
- education college	1	2	1
- e-Learning centre	-	75	75
- academic programmes	8	68	60
- number of teachers	150	725	575
- number of students	1458	67672	66214
- Human resource development centre	-	4	4

Table J

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Government Technological College (Monywa)	-	1	1
- course numbers	4	7	3
- number of teachers	43	160	117
- students (graduate)	-	5128	5128
- present students	-	2913	2913
Government Computer College (Monywa)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	4	4
- number of teachers	-	33	33
- students (graduate)	-	458	458
- present students	-	764	764
Government Technical Institute			
- GTI (Sagaing)	-	1	1
- number of courses	-	5	5
- number of teachers	-	105	105
- students (graduate)	-	1567	1567
- present students	-	897	897
Technical High School (Monywa)	-	1	1

Consumption unit (millions)
*megawatt

sons. Yet, we set up a robust determination to see to that, and now the over-40-year-long dream has come true. We have realized the project with the confidence that if we do so, local people will be able to carry out double or triple cropping and they can elevate their living and social standards cumulatively," he added.

The speech reflected the Tatmadaw Government's firm commitment to this project, the genuine goodwill to the nation and the people, and a prudent provision for

Table K

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
upgrading of hospital health units	79	89	10
health staff	222	228	6
1937	2521	584	
- doctors	208	299	91
- nurses	242	554	312
- midwives	1008	1042	34
- skilled staff	11	30	19
- township health assistant	-	9	9
- health assistant-1	-	37	37
- health assistant	147	163	16
- supervisor (1)/(2)	152	218	66
traditional medicine			
- traditional medicine hospital	-	2	2
- traditional medicine dispensary	6	22	16

the nation's future.

With 108 feet high and 22,587 feet (more than four miles) long earthen embankment, the dam is the largest of its kind in the nation. And the facility's embankment is the longest of its kind in South-East Asia. It benefits more than 500,000 acres of crops in Shwebo, KhinU, Kanbalu, Daze, YeU, Dabayin, Budalin and Ayadaw townships all-year round.

Table A shows the agricultural progress of Sagaing Division.

Taking into account the food security of the nation's future population of more than 100 million, the government is constructing good foundations in various sectors. It is also taking measures for enabling Sagaing Division to become a region that provides a great deal of fish and meat for other states and divisions.

The region is adhering to the guidance of the Head of State on distribution of pedigree species of fish, breeding fish in rural regions on a commercial scale, and releasing fingerlings into the Ayeyawady River. Table B shows progress of the livestock and fishery sector.

Forest conservation

The regional development tasks and environmental conservation are interdependent. Only when the nation's natural resources are well conserved and protected, will the steps be taken effectively for national progress. So, it is needed to prevent the people from cutting down the trees indiscriminately so as to avert the deforestation, while growing trees for forming new forests.

Strictly following the guidance of the Head of State, Sagaing Division has managed to conserve forests and set up new forests annually in the region. It has planted trees on all the vacant lands on Sagaing Mountain and speeded up implementation of the project for the greening of Minwun Mountain.

The tables C and D show the region's progress in implementing the nine districts greening project in cooperation with local authorities, service personnel and the locals.

(See page 11)

Sagaing Division marching to...

(from page 10)

Transport sector

Being large and mountainous and endowed with rivers and creeks, Sagaing Division had poor transport in the past. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, Sagaing-Monywa Road, Monywa-Kale Road, Tagaung-Shwegu Road, Tamu-Zedi Road, Hkamti-Lahe Road (56 miles), Htamanthi-Leshi Road (41 miles), Kalewa-Monywa Road (115 miles), and Kye-pin-et-Dam bypass (10 miles and three furlongs) of Swebo-Myitkyina Road were upgraded.

The total length of the road in the region has increased to 2,132 miles including 1,038 miles of tarred roads, compared to only 1332 miles in 1988. The region is now enjoying better transport.

Besides, new bridges emerge one after another.

Table L

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
development regions	-	2	2
- Naga region	-	1	1
- Kabaw region	-	1	1
road/bridge			
- miles of earth road	-	195/0	195/0
- miles of gravel road	-	81/6	81/6
- miles of tarred road	-	16/7	16/7
- bridge (I/suspension)	-	1/5	1/5
health			
- hospital/dispensary	-	5	5
- rural health unit	-	14	14
education			
- BEPS, BEMS, BEHS	-	86	86
- number of teachers	-	329	329
- number of students	-	2543	2543
agriculture			
- agricultural office	-	5	5
- dam/water facilities	-	9/3	9/3
forest			
-	-	1	1
livestock breeding			
- livestock breeding farms	-	1	1
- veterinary office	-	3	3
energy			
- generator	-	28	28
- power-supplied town	-	20	20
public relations			
- TV retransmission station	-	7	7
communication			
- post office	-	2	2
- telegraph	-	5	5
- telephone work	-	8	8
Expenditure			
- development funds	-	2403.74	2403.74
- departments	-	929.30	929.30
	-	1474.44	1474.44

In the past, there were only 17 bridges, each of which is more than 180 feet long. Now, the region has got 12 more such kind of bridges including 465-foot Meza Bridge (Indaw), 2,330-foot Shweli Bridge (Katha), 4,730.2-foot Chindwin Bridge (Monywa), 1,320-foot Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) and 4,957-foot Shinbyushin Bridge (ChaungU). Phainglin Bridge and Kangiwa Bridge projects on Tamu-Zedi Road in Tamu Township are under construction. Yetpha Creek Bridge (408 feet) Project on Thetkeyyin-Phaungpyin-Homalin-

Hkamti Road and Nantsalein Bridge (320 feet) on Hkamti-Lahe Road will be launched in future. With respect to the bridge projects implemented in Sagaing Division by the government, it can be noted the two large bridges spanning Chindwin River. Up to 1988, there were no bridges across the river and the region's transport sector was poor in the past.

The government is opening transport facilities one after another in the region including two large bridges — Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) and Sinbyushin Bridge (ChaungU). Sinbyushin Bridge lies on ChaungU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale railroad, which is contributing towards all-round development of Sagaing Division.

The 277.34-mile ChaungU-Kale railroad links east banks and west banks of the Ayeyawady

Asian highways, ASEAN highways, and transnational highways will be constructed in future. Table E shows progress of transport facilities of Sagaing Division that is enjoying prospects for progress.

The region's communication sector is making progress in parallel with other sectors. Table F reflects the State's capabilities for progress of the region in external and local communication.

The government is taking measures for supply of more electricity for the region. In 1988, the region's electricity consumption was more than 87 million units only. At that time, there were not a single hydropower plant. But, after that period, the region was facilitated with the 30-megawatt Thaphanseik hydropower plant, the 1.26-megawatt Zeegyauing hydropower plant, and the 0.05-megawatt hydropower plant Lahe hydropower plant, increasing the figures of the units to 297.33 million.

The capacity of generators has risen to 38.837 megawatt, up from 11.888 megawatts in 1988. The government is never content in serving the interests of the nation and the people.

The 1,200-megawatt Htamanthi and the 660-megawatt Shwesaryay hydel-power plant projects will emerge in the region soon. Table G indicates progress of the electric power sector of the region.

Table M

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
University for Development of National Races			
- institute in past		1	1
- faculty members	64	130	66
- number of students	3147	8905	5758
Cooperative College			
- number of teachers	-	1	1
- number of students	-	30	30
Youth Development Training Schools			
- number of teachers	-	113	113
- number of students	-	4	4
- number of teachers	-	20	20
- number of students	-	1527	1527
Agricultural Institute			
- number of teachers	1	1	-
- number of students	26	26	-
	107	730	623

Pontaung-Ponnya tunnel.

In addition, the government reconstructed Budalin-YeU railroad and extended it up to KhinU, and built 2,125-foot bridge spanning Mu River to link Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad and Sagaing-Monywa railroad stretching from east to north.

With farsightedness, the government is constructing new airports, railroads, roads and bridges to shape the better future of the nation. Plans are under way to construct more transport facilities in the region.

Asian highways, ASEAN highways, and transnational highways will be constructed in future. Table E shows progress of transport facilities of Sagaing Division that is enjoying prospects for progress.

The region's communication sector is making progress in parallel with other sectors. Table F reflects the State's capabilities for progress of the region in external and local communication.

The government is taking measures for supply of more electricity for the region. In 1988, the region's electricity consumption was more than 87 million units only. At that time, there were not a single hydropower plant. But, after that period, the region was facilitated with the 30-megawatt Thaphanseik hydropower plant, the 1.26-megawatt Zeegyauing hydropower plant, and the 0.05-megawatt hydropower plant Lahe hydropower plant, increasing the figures of the units to 297.33 million.

The capacity of generators has risen to 38.837 megawatt, up from 11.888 megawatts in 1988. The government is never content in serving the interests of the nation and the people.

The 1,200-megawatt Htamanthi and the 660-megawatt Shwesaryay hydel-power plant projects will emerge in the region soon. Table G indicates progress of the electric power sector of the region.

Industry

Sagaing Division is enjoying cumulative progress in the industrial sector. In the region are Monywa, Shwebo and Kale industrial zones.

With a total investment of K 599.33 million, Monywa Industrial Zone is made up of 615 enterprises. Its annual turnover is K 1,809.83 million. Shwebo Industrial Zone consists of 453 industries with a total investment of K 326.57

Table N

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
- TV retransmission station	1	19	18
- IPRD offices	-	40	40
- IPRD libraries	12	40	28
- departmental libraries	-	35	35
- rural library	-	1336	1336
- e-library	-	52	52
- sub-printing house (Kalay)	-	1	1

million and an annual turnover of K 556.70 million. And Kale Industrial Zone comprises 243 industries with an investment of K 236.85 million in total and annually produces goods valued at K 715.11 million.

The number of private factories and plants has grown to more than 3,000 alongside 360 small-scale industries and 69 State-owned industries. Table H represents progress of the region's industrial sector.

Mining and minerals

The region is extending its mining industry. The number of its mining blocks of jade, copper, gold and coal is on the increase. It also discovered other mineral deposits including quartz. It produced 220,000 kilos of jade, 28,592 metric tons of copper, 4,237.17 troy ounces of pure gold, 568.68 troy ounces of raw gold, and 15,475.4 metric tons of coal.

Education

Sagaing Division is contributing towards the government's drive for producing more intellectuals and outstanding educated persons so as to enable the nation to exist forever and ensure national progress. So far, the government has opened 903 more post-primary schools to help local youths pursue education constantly. The figures of basic education schools has increased to 976

including 139 basic education middle schools and 162 basic education high schools.

The government opened an institute of economics, and a university in Monywa, a university of education in Sagaing, a university in Kale, a degree college in Shwebo, and an education college each in Sagaing and Monywa, to enable local people to pursue education in respective regions. The number of students of higher education

has surged 40 times.

Table I depicts the region's progress in the educational sector.

Science and technology

The region is also enjoying the improvement of the science and technology sector. Table J shows progress of the number of students in the region.

Health

The State has upgraded 10 hospitals in the region to provide better health care services for the people. The figures of hospital has stood 89 including two 200-bed hospitals, five 100-bed hospitals and two 50-bed hospitals. It also opened six more health care centres, 22 traditional health care centres and two traditional medicines hospitals. A total of nearly 600 health staff including 91 specialists and assistant surgeons have been appointed in these health care facilities. It also opened a nurses training school along with a mid-wifery training school to produce nurses and mid-wives.

Table K shows progress of health staff in the region.

Urban, rural development

Sagaing Division has been facilitated with a network of transport facilities. The length of the urban roads has risen from 186 to 646 miles including 206 miles of tarred roads. The region has a total of 995

urban bridges. So far, urban water supply projects have been completed in 18 out of 37 towns.

At the same time, the length of rural roads has surged 20 times from more than 150 miles to over 3,092 miles. The region, 1340 rural bridges. The water supply project has thoroughly covered 2,057 out of 2,454 villages.

Progress of border areas and national races

Only when the education level of national races in border areas is high, will they have a wide view of things along with good ideas and be able to play a leading role in the regional development tasks. The government has been building basic foundations for regional progress in Naga and Kabaw regions in order to effectively reduce the development gap between one region and another.

Table L shows progress of the border areas and national races development sector.

Human resources

The government established the University for Development of National Races to bring progress to the Union and to help locals participate in the project for progress of border areas and national races and to create opportunities for the teachers, produced by the institute for development of national races, shouldering duties across the nation to pursue education in the university and to lift their lifestyle by themselves.

The training centres for development of youths are nurturing the youths in such border regions in Sagaing Division as Kale, Hkamti, Leshi and Lahe. The Institute of Agriculture has been established in Shwebo to disseminate agricultural methods to local farmers in the region. Table M indicates progress in the field.

Information & public relations

The Tatmadaw Government is employing the public mass media to ensure oneness of the parts of the nation and the national races sharing the same views and outlooks. Table N shows progress of the information sector in the region.

(Translation: MS +TTA)

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ADVANCE PESCADORES
VOY NO (16)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ADVANCE PESCADORES Voy No (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2005 and cargo 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 byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD, JAPAN
Phone No: 256924/ 256914

**MGM searching for young
"007"**

LOS ANGELES, 6 Feb — The search is on for a young actor to fill the tuxedo of Agent 007 in the next James Bond film, "Casino Royale", to be based on Ian Fleming's first novel about the suave British spy with a licence to kill.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc said on Friday that filmmaker Martin Campbell has signed on to direct the 21st Bond movie, paving the way for casting to succeed Pierce Brosnan, 51, as the star of the multibillion-dollar film franchise.

Campbell directed Brosnan in his debut as Bond in the 1995 film "GoldenEye".

In a message posted on his official web site (<http://www.pierce-brosnan.com>) this week, the Irish-born actor bid farewell to the role he inhabited in four films over nearly a decade, saying, "everything comes to an end".

MGM and the producers behind the

Bond franchise said no decision has been made about casting. Brosnan has suggested that fellow Irish actor Colin Farrell would be ideal for the role, but Farrell has said he was uninterested.

Other young actors whose names have surfaced as possible replacements include Ewan McGregor, Hugh Jackman, Jude Law, Eric Bana and Clive Owen.

Earlier big-screen incarnations of the British agent, starting with the film "Dr No" in 1962, were played by Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and George Lazenby.

Production on "Casino Royale", slated for release in 2006, will start as soon as the New Zealand-born Campbell wraps up filming on his sequel to "The Mask of Zorro", MGM said.

"Casino Royale" is being adapted from the 1953 Fleming novel that introduced the Bond character.—MNA/Reuters

**TRADE MARK CAUTION
HOKKO CHEMICAL
INDUSTRY CO.,LTD.,**

a Japanese corporation of 4-4-20, Hongoku-cho, Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

**MINOLEAD
Reg. No. 5876/2001**

in respect of "plant growth regulating preparations in International Class 1".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **HOKKO CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO., LTD.,**
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 8 February 2005

**Cyprus tourist arrival expected to
grow 5% in 2005**

NICOSIA, 6 Feb — Tourist arrivals are expected to grow 5 per cent in 2005, local Press reported Friday.

Cyprus Tourism Organization (CTO) Chairman Photis Photiou was quoted as saying that 2005 would see an increase of 5 per cent with an extra 80,000 to 100,000 tourists visiting the country.

Around 35,000 German and Austrian pensioners will visit

Cyprus in March and April for the first time ever, Photiou said. He added that sports tourism is also doing well.

"We have managed to attract quite a few football teams for training," he said.

While tourism revenues dropped 3 per cent in 2004, Photiou said

an increase is expected for this year, which may bring revenues back over the two billion US dollars mark before 2002.

Cyprus, a Mediterranean island, aims to tap its tourism potentials fully and become an all-year round tourist destination.

MNA/Xinhua

**Japanese police investigating suspected group
suicide case**

TOKYO, 6 Feb — Japanese police said on Saturday they were investigating a suspected group suicide after six people were

found dead in a parked car, the latest in a series of such cases.

The three men and three women, who all appeared to be in their

20s, were found dead on Saturday in a station wagon parked on a remote road in Miura just west of Tokyo, a police spokesman said.

"We think it's a case of group suicide," he said, adding that officers had found four charcoal stoves and boxes of sleeping pills in the car, which had its windows sealed from the inside. The stoves generate carbon monoxide, a deadly poison.

Japan has been hit by a series of group suicide pacts, many by strangers who only got to know each other through suicide web sites, and dubbed by the Japanese media as "Internet suicides".

A total of 34 people killed themselves in such pacts in 2003, according to police data.

It was not clear whether those found dead in Saturday's case made contact through the Internet.

Japan has one of the highest rates of suicide in the developed world and has no religious prohibitions against a practice long been seen as a way to escape failure. Suicide is also seen as a way of saving loved ones from embarrassment over financial losses.

MNA/Xinhua

**WHO needs Chinese plant
to make antimalarial drugs**

GENEVA, 6 Feb — The World Health Organization has turned to Africa — where a child dies every 30 seconds from malaria — for urgently needed new stocks of a Chinese plant needed to make a key antimalarial drug, a top official said.

Shortages of artemisinin, the drug's main ingredient, are threatening the success of the WHO's programme to halve the annual global death toll from malaria, currently one million deaths, by 2010.

Tanzania and Kenya have planted artemisia annua, from which artemisinin can be extracted, Fatoumata Nafo-Traore, director of WHO's Roll Back Malaria Department, said in an

interview on Friday. The first harvests are expected in mid-year.

"We hope it will be possible to secure at least 20 million treatments from the two projects by the end of this year," Nafo-Traore, a former health minister of Mali, told Reuters.

There are 300 to 500 million cases of the mosquito-borne disease each year in more than 100 countries, with the vast majority of deaths in Africa, south of the Sahara. Malaria is the leading cause of death of African children under five.

The United Nations agency has been scrambling to find new producers of artemisinin since Swiss drug maker Novartis announced in November that its traditional Chinese suppliers were unable to

deliver sufficient quantities this year.

Novartis, which sells its malaria drug Coartem to the WHO at product cost, estimated it would only be able to make around 30 million doses in 2005 — half what the WHO requires.

Some 42 countries have declared they are ready to use artemisinin-based combination therapies (or ACT drugs), including Coartem, for some patients because mosquitoes have developed resistance to cheaper treatments such as chloroquine.

"We are going all out to see how we can reduce the deficit this year ... We cannot afford any shortage in raw materials next year, it would be a mess," Nafo-Traore said.

MNA/Reuters

**Dutch Co compensates
families of Chinese
immigration victims**

BRUSSELS, 6 Feb — The Dutch insurance company AXA Nederland paid out nearly 600,000 euros to the families of 58 Chinese immigrants who were killed on their way to England four years ago, Radio Netherlands reported on Friday.

On June 17, 2000, 60 Chinese immigrants tried to reach Dover of England by hiding in a Dutch lorry, but 58 of them were suffocated to death. The

lorry's owner had an insurance policy with AXA.

A spokesperson for the company was quoted by the radio as saying that they were able to come to a quick agreement with families' lawyer on the amount of the compensation.

Both parties wanted to avoid lengthy legal proceedings, the radio said.

MNA/Xinhua



Huge sculptures of the Dragon and Tiger Pagodas in the city of Kaohsiung in Taiwan loom over spectators at Sapporo Snow Festival in Sapporo, northern Japan, on 7 Feb, 2005. The festival, began in 1950, opens on Monday for a seven-day run.—INTERNET

The best time
to plant a tree
was 20 Years
ago. The
second best
time is now.

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Christine Buchmann, a horticulturalist at Kew Gardens on London, poses with an *Ophrys ciliata* orchid, at the start of the annual Orchid Festival on 4 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Dyslexia can slow driver's reaction time

LONDON, 4 Feb — Dyslexia, a reading and writing disorder, can slow a driver's reaction time as much as drinking moderate amounts of alcohol, according to a study on Wednesday.

When Norwegian researchers compared how long it took drivers to react to road signs, they found that dyslexics were about 30 per cent slower than other volunteers.

"Drivers just over the Britain's alcohol limit, which can be exceeded by drinking two pints of beer, are typically 10 per cent slower than normal to react," *New Scientist* magazine said.

Researcher Hermundur Sigmundsson and his colleagues at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim gave two simulated driving tests to six dyslexic volunteers and 11 other people. They were shown road signs as they drove on simulated country and city roads at different speeds.

In both tests, the dyslexic volunteers reacted slower than the other drivers.

"The results fit in with other studies which suggest that dyslexia may affect the way the brain

processes sensory information," the magazine added.

About 10 per cent of the population in Britain may have some form of dyslexia, which causes difficulty in reading, writing and spelling. It tends to run in families but scientists say environmental factors may also contribute to it. Other activities that delay driver reaction time, such as drinking and talking on a mobile phone, have been outlawed in Britain.

But the researchers said larger studies are needed to confirm their results before any action is considered.

Britain's Department of Transport agrees. "Reaction time is only one of the cognitive functions needed for driving and it has not been consistently shown to be a good predictor of driving performance," a spokeswoman told the magazine. —MNA/Reuters

Alcoholic drinks are as bad as tobacco and high blood pressure

LONDON, 4 Feb — When it comes to causing death and disability, alcoholic drinks are as bad as tobacco and high blood pressure.

Alcohol is linked to more than 60 different medical conditions, including oral, liver and breast cancers, heart disease, stroke and cirrhosis. It also increases the risk of car accidents, drowning, falls and homicides.

"Overall, 4 per cent of the global burden of disease is attributable to alcohol, which accounts for about as much death and disability globally as tobacco and hypertension," said Professor Robin Room of Stockholm University in Sweden.

By comparison, tobacco accounts for 4.1 per cent and high blood pressure 4.4 per cent.

"Alcohol is a substantial health problem in the world. It is a particular problem in the developing countries that are well off and in the developed world," he added in an interview with *Reuters*.

In a review of alcohol and public health published in *The Lancet* medical journal, Room and his colleagues in Canada and the United States assessed the problems caused by alcohol and ways of controlling alcohol abuse.

They said alcohol poses problems not only to drinkers but also to people around them by increas-

ing the risk of violence and injury. How much is consumed and the patterns of drinking have an impact on alcohol-related illnesses and deaths.

Tobacco may cause more deaths, but they are generally in older people compared with deaths from alcohol. But Room said when the two are compared on the basis of years of life lost, they are about equivalent.

Evidence has shown that increasing the price of alcohol and limiting its availability would lower consumption and risks to health.

The researchers estimated that a 10-per-cent rise in British alcohol prices could reduce deaths from alcohol dependence and poisoning by 28.8 per cent in men and 37.4 per cent in women.

Room and his colleagues also suggested there should be an international agreement on alcohol marketing, similar to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

"The trade is global and the solutions cannot be only local," he said. "In order to facilitate solutions that reach beyond the national level you must think about an international agreement."

MNA/Reuters

Screen actors guild awards

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb—Modest wine country comedy "Sideways" staged a surprise knockout over favourites "Million Dollar Baby" and "The Aviator" by winning the top prize for best ensemble acting at the Screen Actors Guild awards on Saturday, an important pre-Oscar test.

Hilary Swank won the best actress award for her performance as a gritty boxer in Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby," and Jamie Foxx was named best actor for his pitch-perfect performance as soul singer Ray Charles in "Ray".

Veteran actor Morgan Freeman took the best supporting actor award for playing a gym manager and washed out fighter in "Million Dollar Baby", and Kate Blanchett won best supporting actress for playing Katharine Hepburn in

"The Aviator". The SAG awards are a major test on the road to the Oscars because actors are the largest single group voting for the Academy Awards. Experts said "The Aviator" or "Million Dollar Baby" would have had front-runner's status for the best-picture Oscar, Hollywood's highest award, if either had won.

Swank won best actress for her performance as the scrappy boxer in a drama that so far has succeeded in keeping its surprise ending basically secret.—MNA/Xinhua

G-7 offers total debt relief for poorest countries

LONDON, 6 Feb—British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown said on Saturday finance chiefs from Group of Seven countries have offered up to 100 percent debt relief for the world's poorest countries in an effort to boost their development.

At the end of the G-7 finance ministers meeting in London, Brown said that the G-7 club—Britain, US, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada — agreed to offer, on a case by case basis, up to 100-per-cent relief on the debts owed by the poorest countries to multinational institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and African Development Bank.

Brown, who chaired the meeting, told a Press conference after the meeting that discussions would continue on what financing mechanisms should be used to increase development assistance and the IMF would work on pro-

posals to help the debt relief effort.

Britain has made tackling poverty in Africa and the developing world a priority for its presidency of the G-8 — the Group of Seven plus Russia, which it said is crucial to meet the goals set by the United Nation's 2000 Millennium Summit to tackle by 2015 the poverty, hunger and disease affecting billions of people.

Describing the G-7 meeting as "successful", Brown said the participants have also agreed plans for countries hit hard by the December 26, 2004 killer tsunami and for the third world debt relief.— MNA/Xinhua



A wall is decorated with two dragons at the Confucius Temple in Nanjing on 3 Feb, 2005. China will usher in the Year of the Rooster on 9 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Joint Korean team possible for 2006 Asian Games

KUWAIT, 7 Feb — The Executive Board of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Sunday recommended that North Korea and South Korea should be allowed to field a united team at the 2006 Asian Games in Doha. OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Sabah said talks had already been taking place between the two countries and both were interested. The joint marches at the last two Olympic Games and the 2002 Busan Asian Games had been widely acclaimed, but this would be the first time athletes from the two countries competed as a single team in a major multi-sports event.

"The IOC Charter does not allow them to compete as a joint team in the Olympic Games, but this is not the case with the OCA and the Asian Games. Allowing them to compete as one team is the best scenario to show the OCA's solidarity and support," the OCA President said the OCA would work closely with both sides.

MNA/Xinhua

Record-breaking Cech goes into match against Man City

LONDON, 7 Feb — Record-breaking Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech puts his success in the Premier League down to team spirit and a side that knows how to defend from the strikers backwards.

The lofty 22-year-old Czech, who joined the runaway league leaders at the start of the season, goes into Sunday's match against Manchester City defending a 781-minute clean sheet.

"It's not just four defenders and a goalkeeper. We are playing defensively well as a team. It's difficult to get through our block from the front to back," Cech said.

"Then we have some great players in front who can turn a game," the 2.01-metre tall keeper said after a session at the club's Cobham training ground southwest of London.

Billionaire Russian owner Roman Abramovich snapped up Cech from Stade Rennes

in France for nine million pounds (17 million US dollars) before manager Jose Mourinho took over last June. Arsenal had failed to secure his services two years earlier. Barcelona also tried.

His outstanding form has relegated Italian Carlo Cudicini, who could walk into most Premier League first teams, to the Chelsea bench.

The diffident Czech international plays down his own role in Chelsea's success despite some match-saving performances.

Going into Sunday's game in Manchester, the London side are eight points clear at the top of the Premier League, conceding only eight goals in 25 matches.

MNA/Reuters



Czech Republic goalkeeper Petr Cech holds onto the ball.—INTERNET

Inter preserve unbeaten record

ROME, 7 Feb — Ten-man Inter Milan preserved their unbeaten Serie A record in dramatic fashion on Sunday, fighting back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Parma.

The result gave Inter 39 points from 23 matches, 11 behind leaders Juventus, who lost 1-0 to Palermo on Saturday.

Inter's draw, however, could not save them from surrendering third place in the division to Udinese, who climbed to 40 points after a 1-0 victory over lowly Brescia.

Though Inter have made up ground on Juventus and AC Milan, they came up against a Parma side that had won three of their previous five games to give themselves a good chance of escaping the relegation zone.

Inter began aggressively with Juan Sebastian Veron twice firing narrowly wide in the opening minutes.

The balance of the match swung in the 14th minute, when a Parma counter-attack ended with striker Mark Bresciano crashing the ball off the bar.

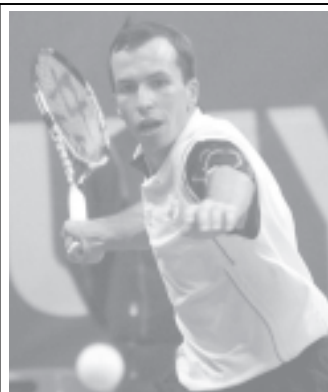
That signalled the start of a period of pressure by the home side culminating 20 minutes later when Inter defender

Marco Materazzi stuck out a hand to prevent a Bresciano shot crossing the line, earning himself a red card.

The ensuing Parma penalty was converted by Fabio Simplicio.

Inter's hopes of salvaging anything from the encounter looked even slimmer when Italy international Alberto Gilardino beat keeper Hector Carini with a superb overhead kick on the hour.

MNA/Xinhua



Radek Stepanek of Czech Republic. INTERNET

Brief reports of Bundesliga matches

FRANKFURT, 7 Feb — Reports of Bundesliga matches played on Saturday:

VfL Bochum 1 Arminia Bielefeld 1
Bochum remain in the relegation zone after a poor game between two out-of-form sides. Denmark's Peter Madsen scored with a penalty to put the home side ahead in the 19th minute, following a push at a corner. Delron Buckley equalized 10 minutes later with a header from Massimiliano Porcello's cross.

Hanover 96 1 Borussia Dortmund 3
Dortmund maintained their bright start to the new year with this convincing win. Jan Koller scored a trademark headed goal from a Florian Krings cross in the sixth minute to set the visitors on their way and two goals from Lars Ricken settled matters by the 57th minute.

Hanover pulled one back with a penalty from Nebojsa Krupnikovic in the 72nd minute after Thomas Christiansen had been kicked in the area.

Hansa Rostock 2 Schalke 04 2

Bottom club Rostock, inspired by new signing Jari Litmanen, played well enough to deserve all three points but had to settle for a draw when Ailton popped up in the third minute of injury-time to snatch an equalizer.

Schalke had taken the lead in the 25th minute when Ebbe Sand scooped the ball over the keeper before second-half strikes from Swedish pair Rade Prica, with a terrific volley, and Magnus Arvidsson, heading in unchallenged, put the home side ahead.

Rostock had Marcus Allback sent off

with five minutes to go and Schalke took advantage to equalize with virtually the last kick of the game.

FsV Mainz 0 Hertha Berlin 3

Hertha moved up to provisional fourth place with an eye-catching win.

Turkish midfielder Yildirim Basturk converted a Gilberto cross for the first in the 27th minute and added the third after Andreas Neuendorf's chipped finish from a loose ball in the area had made it 2-0.

FC Nuremberg 1 Hamburg SV 3

Naohiro Takahara scored twice as Hamburg continued their rise up the table. Sergej Barbarez set up the first for Takahara just past the half hour and the Japanese striker got his second eight minutes after the break when he held off two defenders and shot across the keeper.

Robert Vittek brought the home side back into the game eight minutes from time but an injury-time strike from Benjamin Lauth made the game safe.

VfB Stuttgart 1 FC Kaiserslautern 1

Stuttgart, beaten 4-2 at home last weekend, slipped further off the championship pace with another disappointing display.

Kevin Kuranyi put them ahead after playing a one-two with Boris Zivkovic in the 15th minute.

Kaiserslautern had Lucien Mettomo sent off 12 minutes after the break but were level four minutes later through a perfectly struck free kick from Marco Engelhardt. — MNA/Reuters

Everton come from behind for 2-2 draw at Southampton

LONDON, 7 Feb — Substitute Marcus Bent struck an injury-time equalizer as Everton came from behind for a 2-2 draw at Southampton in the Premier League on Sunday.

England striker James Beattie scored his first Everton goal against his former club after only four minutes but Saints hit back with goals from strikers Peter Crouch and Henri Camara.

Beattie volleyed into the roof of the net from close range after Tim Cahill's header had been parried by Saints goalkeeper Paul Smith.

The home side hit back in the 36th when Crouch rose above the defence in the middle of the box to send a looping header in under keeper Nigel Martyn's bar from a long Rory Delap throw-in from the right.

Senegal international Camara put the home side in front 10 minutes after the interval when he started a move on the right, passed to winger David Prutton, raced into the box for the return and shot

over the advancing Martyn.

One minute into injury time, Bent broke free onto a pass from fellow substitute Duncan Ferguson and rifled his equalizer into the roof of the net.

Southampton remain one from bottom while Everton stay fourth 16 points adrift of leaders Chelsea.

Chelsea were at home to Manchester City, the only side to have beaten them in 25 league matches this season, in a later match at Stamford Bridge.

MNA/Reuters

Stepanek to clash with Soderling for Milan title

ROME, 7 Feb — Czech fourth seed Radek Stepanek will meet Swedish fifth seed Robin Soderling in the final of the men's indoor ATP tournament after winning their semifinal matches in Milan on Saturday.

Stepanek beat Croatian second seed Ivan Ljubicic 6-4, 6-2, while Soderling came back from a set down to defeat big-serving Belarussian Max Mirnyi, the number eight seed, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-4.

The Swede will be chasing his second career title on Sunday having won in Lyon last year.

MNA/Xinhua



Riders of Malaysia's Le Tour de Langkawi 2005 cycle in front of the Petronas Twin Towers during the final stage in Kuala Lumpur February 6, 2005.—INTERNET

China to produce 6 million cars in 2005

BEIJING, 7 Feb — Despite slack auto market in the latter half of 2004, China is expected to churn out more than six million cars in 2005, 20 per cent more than last year, replacing Germany as the 3rd largest manufacturer of motor vehicles, Zhang Xiaoyu, vice-president of the China Federation of Machinery Industry (CFMI), said here Saturday. China's auto market expansion was slowed down last year due to speculation that auto prices will be further reduced, Zhang said. "The market potentials have been delayed, which does not mean the lack of market demand."

In 2004, domestic manufacturers turned out 5.0705 million motor vehicles, and sold 5.711 million entire car units, representing increases of 14.11 per cent and 15.50 per cent respectively compared with 2003.

As prices are down to the lowest possible level this year, auto sales will finally pick up its momentum, Zhang said, predicting that the increase could be up to 20 per cent. Wang Qing, a researcher with the Market Economic Research Institute of the State Council Development & Research Centre, holds a similar view.

"Price fluctuation of automobiles this year will be less volatile, because profit margins are reaching bottom low and overstocking pressure greatly eased," he said. Industry insiders also predicted that the growth market for domestically manufactured motor vehicles may just be outside China. — MNA/Xinhua

226 kilos of narcotics seized in Northwestern Iran

TEHERAN, 7 Feb — Iranian anti-drug police on Sunday seized 226 kilos of narcotics in the north-western province of East Azarbaijan, the official IRNA news agency reported.

IRNA quoted a provincial police officer as saying that the drugs confiscated were found concealed in a truck which came from the eastern part of the country.

Eight suspected drug traffickers were arrested in connection with the haul, said the officer. Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social

problem in Iran, a country sitting in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, western Europe and other regions.

According to official statistics, there are at least two million drug addicts in Iran.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran urges EU to be more serious in nuclear talks

TEHERAN, 7 Feb — Iran on Sunday reiterated that the European Union (EU) should be more serious in the ongoing nuclear talks, slamming the EU for being influenced by the United States.

"We call on the Europeans to be more serious in the negotiations with us, and they must observe Iran's rights," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters.

"We do not want any concession from the Europeans, but we want our legitimate rights," Asefi said, stressing peaceful nuclear technology is a legitimate right of the Iranian nation.

Asefi denied the allegation that the negotiations had reached a dead end, saying a new round of talks would start Monday.

The spokesman also accused the EU of adopting a double-standard policy and being pressed by the United States during the nuclear negotiations.

"The Europeans are under US pressure, by which Washington is trying to create tensions in Iran and humiliate Europe. Namely, it is trying to impress on the world that the EU is not capable of doing anything," Asefi said.

Iran and the EU have undertaken two rounds of consecutive negotiations on Iran's nuclear programmes since Teheran

downtight suspended its sensitive uranium enrichment in November 2004.

The suspension was a result of increasing international pressure and persuasion and encouragement of the European trio of Britain, France and Germany.

However, it was reported the negotiations had reached a deadlock and the EU, hardening its attitudes, had asked Iran to suspend all nuclear activities.

For its part, Iran intensified efforts to urge the EU to speed up the negotiations.

Iranian Supreme Leader Seyyed Ali Khamenei has voiced dissatisfaction with the EU, threatening the current process would be changed.

The United States accuses Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons, while the Islamic Republic says its nuclear research is fully peaceful.

MNA/Xinhua

Eight Saudi gunmen arrested in Southern Iraq

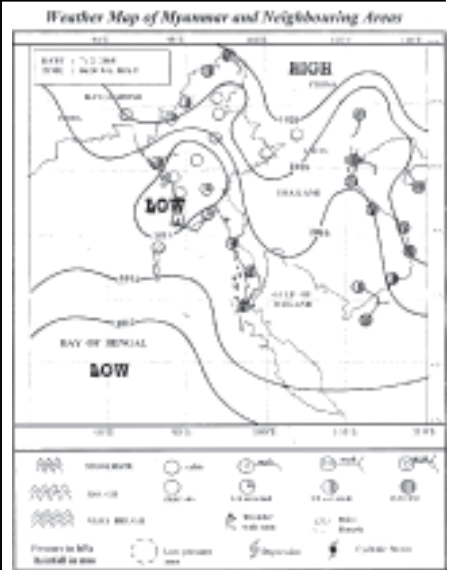
BAGHDAD, 7 Feb — Eight Saudi nationals were arrested by Iraqi police after they infiltrated into the war-torn country, media reports said on Sunday.

Police sources told local media that the eight armed men were detained in the southern province of Muthana bordering on Saudi Arabia before they could carry out attacks. Colonel Kareem Hlebit from the local police force said "the police of the governorate arrested eight Saudis found illegally entering Iraq and intending to launch attacks against Iraqi citizens and the multinational forces".

Hlebit said evidence was found that another Saudi man was financing the team and encouraging them to carry out operations. He gave no further details.

The interim Iraqi Government and the US forces have always blamed foreign militants for mounting attacks on US and Iraqi Government interests.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 7 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Eastern Shan State, Magway, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State, (4°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsam and Loilin (2°C) each, Heho (3°C) and Lashio (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 6-2-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 7-2-2005 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-2-2005 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 6-2-2005 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 7-2-2005 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 4 mph from Northwest at (13:10) hours MST on 6-2-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8-2-2005: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-2-2005: Fair weather.



Tuesday, 8 February Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: Who do you love
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: For your love
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: There you'll be
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -Nobody want to be lonely
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunchtime music -Stumbling in -Heart of gold
- 9.00 pm Union Day Discussion
- 9.15 pm Article/Music
- 9.25 pm Weekly sports Reel
- 9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure -Misty blue
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 8 February View on today:

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်အစည်းအဝေး အဘိဓမ္မာအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်က တီထွင်ရေး၊ စုဆောင်းရေး၊ ဆရာတော် အဖွဲ့အစည်းတော် အစည်းအဝေး အစည်းအဝေး
- 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. ကဗျာနိဂုံးပျောက်
- 8:00 am
 6. Song of yesteryear

- 8:10 am
 7. (၅၈) နှစ်ပြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:20 am
 8. မင်းလှရေလှောင်တစ်
- 8:30 am
 9. International news
- 8:45 am
 10. Let's go
- 9:00 pm
 1. Martial song
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:15 pm
 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:40 pm
 4. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သရဲအထူးပြု) (သရဲ)
- 4:55 pm
 5. Song of national races
- 5:10 pm
 6. (၅၈) နှစ်ပြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:25 pm
 7. Sing and Enjoy

- 6:15 pm
 8. နိုင်ငံခြားကာကွယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း (အပိုင်း-၆၆) "အောက်မင်းပွဲစုန်း" (အပိုင်း-၆၆)
- 6:30 pm
 9. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
 10. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
 11. ကမ္ဘာ့ဗုဒ္ဓသာသနာ့အဖွဲ့အစည်း (တတိယနေ့) မိတ်ဆွဲအစည်းအဝေး (အပိုင်း-၁) (၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၄)
- 7:25 pm
 12. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစည်းအဝေး
 13. ပြည်ထောင်စုတော်ဝင်တော် မပြုတော် ရန်သူနဲ့ နိုင်မရန်မှာ ခိုဝန်တာ "နံ့ဖြိုးရေးစဉ်" တိုင်းတစ်ခုတည်း
- 8:00 pm
 15. News
 16. International news
 17. Weather report
 18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "သံဃာ့နိဗ္ဗာန်" (အပိုင်း-၃၇)
 19. မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်က တီထွင်ရေး၊ စုဆောင်းရေး၊ ဆရာတော် အဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်
 20. 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

Secretary-1 receives Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 7 Feb — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Mr Nobutake Odano, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta here this afternoon.



Present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, and Director-General of the Political

Department U Thaug Tun.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano. —MNA

Tarmoenye hails Union Day and supports National Convention at mass rally



YANGON, 7 Feb—A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National

Convention was held in Tarmoenye, Kutkai Township, Muse District, Shan State (North) on 6 February. Present on the occasion were Secretary of Shan State (North) Union Solidarity and Development Association U Sai Naw Khan Oo, Executive U Ti Khun Myat and executives, Secretary of Muse District USDA, Secretaries of Kutkai,

Muse and Namhkam Township USDAs, joint secretaries, executives, organizers, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, members of MWAFA and MCWA, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people totalling 2,200.

U Myint Lwin of Muse District USDA presided over the mass rally together with members of

USDA U Aung Myint and U Khun Kyi, U Sai Maung Kyan of Monesi Village and U Hkam Aik of Tarmoenye as members of panel of Chairmen. Kutkai District USDA member Ma Ni Ni Win Kyaw acted as MC and Tarmoenye USDA member Ma Chaw Su Myint as co-MC.

Chairman U Myint Lwin delivered a speech. He said it was significant

for all of us because the Union Day will be observed and the National Convention will resume soon. The government is carrying out nation-building tasks after laying down Our Three Main National Causes. All the citizens are to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes which are the national duty. In the history, Myanmar was under servitude for over 100 years. Under the colonial rule, the imperialists practised the divide-and-rule policy in order to break up national unity among the national people. National race leaders signed the historic Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947. As a result, Myanmar became an independent nation on 4 January 1948.

He said the National Convention is important to the nation and its people. That is why it

is being held with the national essence. He urged the national races to participate in the tasks for holding of the National Convention and successful realization of the seven-point Road Map step by step.

Afterwards, Secretary of Women's Affairs Organization Tarmoenye Daw Kyu Lant reported on tabled a motion hailing the Union Day. Next, Dr Wai Lin, member of Tamethe USDA, proposed a motion in support of the National Convention. He said as part of the efforts to carry out the first phase of the seven-point Road Map, the National Convention is being held with the aim of drafting the State constitution that is crucial for shaping the future of the country where over 100 national races reside.

(See page 5)



Masses supporting Union Day and National Convention in Tarmoenye, Kutkai Township, Muse District, Shan State (North).—MNA

INSIDE

It is known to all that since its assumption of State duties, the Tatmadaw has paid priority to national reconsolidation, while upholding Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

(Page 8)

THIHA AUNG