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National strengths that always safeguard the Union

A glance at the long and firm historic events of Myanmar has revealed clearly that nationalistic fervour, Union Spirit and anti-colonialist sentiment that does not allow alien intrusion whatsoever are the national strengths that safeguard our Union so that it will be able to stand tall and grand amid the international community.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
 (From the message sent to the 58th Anniversary Union Day)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife host Union Day reception and dinner

YANGON, 12 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted the 58th Anniversary Union Day Commemorative reception and dinner at the Presidential House on Ahlone Road here this evening.

On arrival at the Presidential House, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing were welcomed by State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of

the Central Committee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-I of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Management Committee Chairman Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials.

First, the Senior General and wife cordially greeted national race leaders, traditional cultural troupes from states and divisions, USDA member Union Day delegates and special guests. Next, the Senior General and wife hosted the dinner to those present.

Also present at the reception and dinner were SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Yangon City Development Committee chairman Yangon mayor and their wives, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the panel of chairmen of the National Convention

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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates at the dinner.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 13 February, 2005

Hold on to national solidarity to build discipline-flourishing democracy

The Union of Myanmar is a land where there has lived a people called Myanmar constituting a diversity of ethnic groups. It is therefore necessary for the entire national brethren residing in the Union to cultivate a spirit of fraternity and go hand in hand through weal and woe.

Union-born national people inspired with Union Spirit have set a fine historic tradition in their fights against all forms of outside threat to the country.

"A glance at the long and firm historic events of Myanmar has revealed clearly that nationalistic fervour, Union Spirit and anti-colonialist sentiment that does not allow alien intrusion whatsoever are the national strengths that always safeguard our Union so that it will be able to stand tall and grand amid the international community", stated in the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary Union Day.

It is necessary to be always on the alert that the old and new colonialists alike bent on occupying and influencing the country are scheming to destroy national unity, which is the foundation of the Union, and attempted and are still attempting to weaken the national strength. The country was colonized for over 100 years at the collapse of national unity as a result of the discriminatory practices adopted by the colonialists. Therefore, all the national people should have vivid memories of Myanmar's slide into servitude.

Lessons should be drawn from the causes of the outbreak of armed conflicts stemming from dissension and distrust at the collapse of national unity, and from the conditions in which the Union was close to disintegration for three times. After drawing lessons from the history, the State Peace and Development Council laid down the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. In line with this national policy, the government is doing everything it can to ensure the perpetual existence of the Union of Myanmar as a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In this context, it is very important for the entire national people not to fall prey to the discriminatory practices and provocative acts of the neo-colonialists who are hatching wicked schemes to break up the Union. All the national people are to make combined efforts to deter them. All in all, it is necessary to ward off the interferences of the neo-colonialists with the strength of national solidarity, an instrument with which foreign interferences are countered, at a time when measures are being taken for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။

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(၁၃-၂-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့ နှင့်
(၂၇-၂-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

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

Extended cultivation of rubber coordinated



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addresses coordination meeting to extend growing rubber.— A&I

YANGON, 12 Feb— A coordination meeting on extended cultivation of rubber was held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation yesterday.

Present were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, officials of companies that are engaged in rubber

farming in states and divisions, owners of rubber farms and those who have applied for work permit. In his discussions, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo said the government is giving encouragement to entrepreneurs for cultivation of marketable crops at home and abroad.

The price of rubber is stable and it can be grown in all parts of the

country. In the world market, he said, Myanmar rubber is of high quality and it is a perennial plant.

Besides cultivation of rubber, factories that can produce value-added rubber products are to be established, he said.

The ministry will provide assistance on work permit, pedigree and cultivation techniques to rubber growers, he added.

Managing Director of Myanmar Perennial Enterprise Col Kyi Win reported on quality of rubber, cultivation of rubber, manufacturing of value-added products and finished timber products.

Next, private rubber growers reported on requirements and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.— MNA

Clarifications given to video/VCD industry

YANGON, 12 Feb—Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo yesterday clarified measures to be taken concerning video/VCD industry at a meeting with chairmen of township PDCs in Yangon Division, and chairmen and secretaries of township video boards at Yangon Division Peace and Development Council office.

In his clarifications, the minister said it is learnt that some businessmen are selling, hiring and showing uncensored foreign video tapes and VCDs not suitable for public shows including discs and records that are not in conformity with Myanmar culture. The minister

called for doing business in accordance with the existing laws and rules and severe action will be thus taken against those businessmen who fail to abide by the rules and regulations.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yee, Director-General of the General Administration Department U Myat Ko, Managing Director of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee Col Myint Aung and officials. — MNA

Transport Ministry holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 12 Feb— The work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Transport was held at the ministry yesterday and this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, departmental heads, ad-

visers and responsible officials.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe made an opening address and the officials reported to the minister on their respective works. Afterwards, the directors-general, the managing directors and rectors reported on progress of the tasks, earning of income and efficient use of the electricity and fuel.

The first-day meeting ended yesterday afternoon.

The second-day meeting took place this morning and Leader of Supervisory and Inspection Group U Cho Than Maung reported on advantages and disadvantages of the tasks.

Regarding the reports, the deputy ministers took part in the discussions. Next, the minis-

ter gave instructions on carrying out the tasks in accord with the motto of the ministry, serving the interest of the passengers, meeting the target, curbing misconduct in financial matters and promoting the GDP.

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

MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 12 Feb—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay left here by air for India this morning to attend Third Asia Gas Buyers Summit to be held in New Delhi. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director-General of the Energy Planning Department U Soe Myint, departmental heads, and their family members.

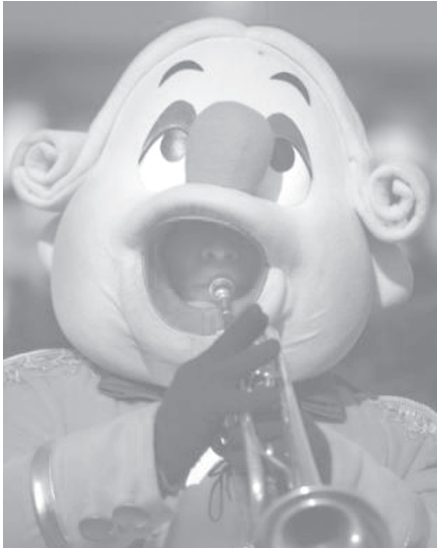
The deputy minister is accompanied by Deputy Director-General of the EPD U Thein Lwin and Director (Production Management) U Soe Aung. — MNA

Union Day commemorative ceremonies

YANGON, 12 Feb—Thanlyin Township in Yangon South District held a 58th Anniversary Union Day commemorative ceremony at Thiha Dipa sports ground this morning.

On the occasion, Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Tin Htay read the message sent by SPDC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

A similarly ceremony took place at No 2 Basic Education High School in Hlaingthaya Township this morning.— MNA



A Chinese folk musician plays the trumpet in a park during the Chinese Lunar New Year in Beijing, on 11 Feb, 2005.
INTERNET

Mercedes, BMW to launch new cars to boost sales in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 11 Feb— Two leading German carmakers — Stuttgart-based DaimlerChrysler through its flagship Mercedes-Benz and Munich-based BMW — are to launch new models this year in a bid to boost sales in Indonesia.

PT DaimlerChrysler Indonesia president Director Friedel Engisch was quoted Thursday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying that following satisfactory sales last year — in which Mercedes-Benz managed to off-load a total of 2,051 passenger vehicles excluding the 4x4 classification — the company plans to launch three new models of CLS class, the new A class and the new M class.

"This year, we are aiming to sell between 2,200 and 2,400 vehicles, including sales of the three new cars that will be launched," he said.

"We are optimistic (with our target) because based on last year's performance, we managed to make 26.5 million US dollars in profit before tax."

Sales in the premium segment have been stagnant over the last three years with a total volume of 4,400 units being sold in 2002, 4,300 in 2003 and 4,410 in 2004.

Mercedes-Benz sales over the past three years accounted for 45 per cent of the premium-car market in 2002, and 47 per cent in both 2003 and 2004.

"With a Gaikindo (the Association

of Indonesian Automotive Industries) estimate that the market will grow from last year's 480,000 units to 520,000 this year, we believe that the premium segment of the market will grow to around 4,800 units from 4,400 last year," he said.

Meanwhile, PT BMW Indonesia sold a total of 2,053 cars last year, including 178 X Series models.

"The 3 Series model continues to be the market favourite, with 1,319 units sold last year," the company said in a statement.

BMW launched four models on the local market last year, comprising of 730 Li, 645 Ci coupe, the locally assembled 5 Series and the X3.

The company plans to launch two models — the 1 Series hatchback and the new 3 Series — in the first semester of this year.

"Last year was definitively an exciting year for BMW Indonesia. With these results, we will continue to strengthen our market leadership in the premium segment and we expect further successes in 2005," BMW Indonesia president Director Josef Honsel said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

World leaders hold dialogue with Cambodia on future eco growth

PHNOM PENH, 11 Feb — A televised dialogue on Fair Trade and Growth opened here on Thursday evening with the participation of some world leaders to openly discuss Cambodia's economic future after the post-quota garment era.

Prime Minister Hun Sen delivered an opening speech, while former US president Bill Clinton gave a speech by video presentation.

There are more than 20 key presenters at the meeting, including Prime Minister Hun Sen, World Bank president James Wolfensohn, Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh, former Trade Commissioner for the European Commission Pascal Lamy, Executive Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Social Dialogue Sally Paxton, Gap Inc. vice-president for Global Compliance Dan Henkle,

and some other Cambodia's senior officials.

It is part of the two-day meeting titled as Cambodia: Seizing the Global Opportunity—a Growth Strategy in an Era of Free Trade.

The policy conference will take place on Friday with three powerful panels convened to address Cambodia's garment sector, investment climate, and path towards international engagement.

The expiration of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement and the consequent elimination of quotas in the garment sector have dramatically changed the dynamics of global garment

production. These changes could have a profound effect on the Cambodian economy because garments are responsible for 80 per cent of Cambodia's export revenue, employ 270,000 workers and accounts for around 12 per cent of Cambodia's gross domestic product.

During the dialogue, leaders urged Cambodia to improve investment climate to enhance investor's confidence and attract more investment, including to eliminate corruption, protect workers' rights and further improve labour standard.

MNA/Xinhua

Most Shanghai residents satisfied with their lives

SHANGHAI, 12 Feb — According to a recent survey by the Shanghai Statistics Bureau, 80 per cent of the city's residents are satisfied with their lives in the past five years.

The survey, the largest in recent years, was conducted by the bureau's urban survey team. The team went door to door to gather basic information such as residents' living conditions, health and family structures. They got 3,000 samples spread over 19 Shanghai districts and counties.

Almost 32 per cent of those surveyed said the quality of their lives has improved by a large margin over the past five years. Another 50 per cent said it has remained at the same

level. Residents are also positive about their residential conditions, with 31 per cent saying that it is getting better and another nearly 60 per cent surveyed saying it is almost the same as before. In addition, 87.6 per cent of surveyed felt they are healthy, while 9.9 per cent said they suffered from diseases. Of the total, 97.7 per cent those 20 to 40 think they are healthy, 90.8 per cent of those at age of 40-60, and 75 per cent of those over 60

MNA/Xinhua

China finds more oil reserves

BEIJING, 12 Feb — Thanks to intensified exploration efforts, China's three major oil companies found more oil and natural gas reserves in 2004, state media reported.

According to *People's Daily*, China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) found 520 million tons of new oil reserves and 243.6 billion cubic metres of natural gas reserves in six regions in 2004. Sinopec found 328 million tons of new oil reserves and 177.9 billion cubic metres of natural gas reserves last year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

1,455 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb — As of Friday, 11 Feb, 2005, at least 1,455 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 1,111 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The *AP* count is five higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST on Thursday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 18; 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, 1,317 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. That includes at least 1,002 deaths result-

ing from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military: A soldier was killed Friday when an explosive detonated in western Baghdad. A soldier died Thursday after a non-hostile incident in Baghdad.

Internet



US soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment aim their rifles at someone on a roof, after an Iraqi police station next to a power station received small arms fire from guerillas, in the Summi northern city of Mosul. on 11 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

S Korea investors interested in franchised business in China

SHANGHAI, 11 Feb—As China endows more favourable rights to overseas investors, more and more franchised proprietors from South Korea hope to open businesses in China, said an official with South Korea Franchised Business Association.

Cho Dong Min, deputy director of South Korea-based association, told a recent Sino-South Korea franchised business conference held in Shanghai that the implementation of the regulation on franchised operation in China starting on February 1st will bring more opportunities for those overseas investors who are interested in franchised businesses in China.

The new regulation cancelled all limits on overseas investors' market access. All investors, both from China and overseas, will share the same operation conditions, rights and obligations, information and advertizing opportunities in their application for the franchised operation in China.

Cho said most South Korean investors favour joining hands with Chinese partners when running business in China, and many noted local enterprises in Beijing,

Shanghai and Shenzhen have been partners with those South Korea investors.

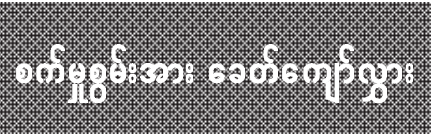
Cho also hopes the cooperation between South Korea and Chinese enterprises will help more Chinese products enter South Korea market.

Franchised businesses appeared in China as early as the 1990s but have become popular only in recent years.

A professor surnamed Wu from a Shanghai-based institute on chain-store operation said there are more than 1,900 franchises in China, and the number is increasing annually by 49 per cent.

According to Wu, by the end of 2004, the number of franchised stores in Shanghai had topped 4,000, about 35 per cent of the city's total chain stores.

MNA/Xinhua



Indonesia to discuss extradition treaty with Singapore

JAKARTA, 11 Feb—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said Thursday he will discuss an extradition treaty with Singapore during his one-day official visit to the country next week.

President Susilo expressed the hope that his meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong could find a solution to the differences of the two countries over the extradition pact, the Detik on-line news reported.

"It is the right time for us to strengthen cooperation with friendly nation to prevent corrupt people going around there without getting punishment," President Susilo said at his

residence.

The leaders of the two countries have vowed to work closely to improve bilateral relations.

The Indonesian Government has long asked the city state to enter into an extradition pact as a number of Indonesian corrupt business tycoons have escaped to Singapore and parked billions of dollars there.

However, Singapore has consistently refused to sign such a treaty.

MNA/Xinhua

Vehicle accidents kill two US GIs in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — A US Marine and an Army soldier were killed Friday in separate traffic accidents in Iraq, the US military said.

The Marine, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, died in an accident while conducting security operations in Anbar Province west of Baghdad, the command said.

Separately, a US Army soldier assigned to the 1st Marines was killed in an accident during security operations in the northern Babil Province south of the capital.

Names of the victims were withheld pending notification of relatives.

Internet



A Chinese girl pouts in front of some artificial sunflowers in a park during the Spring Festival in Beijing on 11 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

400,000 watch fireworks display to celebrate Lunar New Year

HONG KONG, 11 Feb—A stunning climax to the Lunar New Year brought by a fireworks display which lightened the sky over Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong on Thursday night.

About 400,000 ecstatic spectators crowded on both sides of the harbour to watch the 23-minute extravaganza started at 8:00 pm in celebration of the new Rooster Year.

The fireworks display was coordinated by the Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau. A total of 22,888 shell pieces was discharged in the display from four barges consisting of nine scenes. Total sponsorship amounts to 4.8 million Hong Kong dollars.

Traditional and new patterns merged together

forming novel and creative designs that gave people lots of surprise. Spectators were impressed by the pattern featuring red Arabic numerals "8" which is a lucky number in Hong Kong culture symbolizing luck and wealth.

A man surnamed Ho occupied a vantage position at Wanchai Golden Bauhinia Square had showed full excitement while enjoying the dazzling fireworks just as the others.

"Hong Kong people has experienced a fruitful year and I feel happy to be

here to celebrate the coming of a new year with a big crowd," said Ho.

Another man surnamed Zhang from Beijing to Hong Kong for vacation gasped in admiration of the splendid fireworks show, "What a gorgeous night! I'll definitely come again for the fireworks next year," said Zhang with delight.

While the explosively multi-coloured sparkles fell and faded in the dark sky, laughter and happiness carried on among the crowd forming a harmonious ambience in the city. — MNA/Xinhua

Transnational bus to link Guangxi, Vietnam this March

BEIHAI, Guangxi, 12 Feb—A transnational bus linking Beihai in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to Ha Long in Vietnam will be started this March, according to an agreement signed by local governments of both cities.

The 400-kilometre route links two famous tourism cities. Called "Sea Garden", Beihai is the closest port city in China to Southeast Asia, West Asia and Europe.

Ha Long is home to Ha Long Bay, recognized as a Natural World Heritage site in 1995 and a Geological World Heritage site in 2000 by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Guangxi's Dongxi Port, one of the most convenient ports from China to Vietnam and Southeast China, saw 3.18 million people passing through in 2004; 60 per cent are tourists departing from Beihai to Vietnam.

"It means that the planning tourism route will have a stable passenger source," said Wen Zhaobing, general manager of the Beihai Company of National Express Group, the China side of the transportation cooperation agreement.

According to Wen, more measures will be taken by the co-partners to provide convenient services for tourists from both countries. — MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers attend to the scene of a suicide bombing in Mosul, Iraq, on 7 Feb, 2005.— INTERNET

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

China to build top-grade meteorological observation base

HAIKOU, 12 Feb— China will build a top-grade meteorological observation base in the Xisha Archipelago in the South China Sea, said Qin Dahe, director of the China Meteorological Administration.

Qin made the announcement when he landed on the Yongxing Island, an island of the Xisha Archipelago where the Xisha Meteorological Station, China's southernmost meteorological station is located.

After extending his gratitude and appreciation to personnel at the station and PLA soldiers stationed on the island, Qin visited the site of the Doppler weather radar station which will break

ground soon.

Qin said that advanced scientific and technological knowledge should be used to improve the observation ability of the meteorological station to solve the scarcity of detection material on South China Sea and to improve the efficiency of meteorological information in safeguarding state security.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA still undecided about techniques for in-flight repair

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 11Feb— Just three months before launching the first space shuttle mission in two years, NASA is still undecided about which techniques for in-flight repair on the heat shield to test to ensure the Columbia accident is not repeated.

After the 2003 *Columbia* disaster, which blew up the spacecraft and killed seven astronauts, NASA is putting a high priority on showing it will never be caught again without options to repair a shuttle in orbit. The heat shield repair techniques are a crucial part of the *Discovery* mission, due to launch on 14 May. NASA engineers are debating three procedures for in-flight repairs of the shuttle's protective tiles and two methods of patching carbon panels on the leading edges of the wings, both critical to keeping the shuttle intact during its fiery re-entry into Earth.

Mission commander Eileen Collins, who was at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida with her six crewmates for training, said NASA had not yet decided on which repair techniques to test.

"Normally you'd have to make the decision a lot sooner," she said. "We've been training for over three years — and we have a lot of flexibility in the sense that we're trained to maybe pick up some tasks late," Collins said, seemingly good-natured about the problem. "But it is late, we're three months from launch."

Columbia was destroyed after a chunk of insulation fell off the shuttle's fuel tank during launch and smashed a hole in the orbiter's left wing. The damage was undetected until after the shuttle attempted to re-enter Earth's atmosphere on 1 February, 2003, and was torn apart by searing temperatures and high pressure.

NASA's first priority was to redesign the fuel tank and *Discovery* will fly with a new one.— MNA/Reuters

India denies slowing of dialogue process with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 12 Feb — Ahead of his visit to Pakistan next week, India's External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh denied Friday that the bilateral Composite Dialogue process to normalize ties had slowed down, the *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

"I don't share your views on the dialogue process," he told a Pakistani journalist, who asked if his two-day visit to Islamabad from Tuesday — the first bilateral

visit by an Indian Foreign Minister to Pakistan since 1989 — would help revive the "stalled" process.

Singh, who took questions from reporters after releasing a book at the For-

eign Correspondents Club here, said the process had in fact gathered momentum after the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government took office last year.— MNA/Xinhua



Celebrations marking the Lunar New Year in the streets of Bangkok's Chinatown recently.—INTERNET

Emirates Airline to launch Dubai-Beijing direct flights in 2006

SHANGHAI, 12 Feb— Emirates Airline of the United Arab Emirates plans to open direct flights between Dubai and Beijing in early 2006 to meet the demand for 2008 Beijing Olympics, said Emirates Greater China & Northeast Asia manager Liu Rongzhu.

The first non-stop route to China's Mainland connected the Dubai with Shanghai beginning last April.

"I believe more foreign international airlines will tap China's aviation

market, along with China's increasing opening to overseas tourism and businesses," said Liu. "Emirates will develop more aviation services with China in the future."

Emirates has been

servicing China with passenger flights to Hong Kong since 1991. With a young and modern fleet of aircraft, Emirates currently flies to more than 70 destinations worldwide.— MNA/Xinhua



Tomatoes are grown in a bright indoor vegetable garden in an office building in Tokyo on 10 Feb, 2005. Various artificial light is provided in a number of rooms where herbs, vegetables and rice are being grown by Pasona Inc, with hopes to bring greater awareness about agriculture to city dwellers.

INTERNET

Most Salvadoreans oppose troops deployment in Iraq

MEXICO CITY, 11 Feb — Most Salvadoreans are opposed to an extension of the country's troops deployment in Iraq, an opinion poll showed.

The CID-Gallup poll conducted on 29 January-3 February revealed that 90 per cent of the 1,216 people interviewed nationwide were opposed to the government plan to send in a new contingent to replace its 380 troops whose mandate

has expired.

Almost one in four (23 per cent) respondents believed the government of President Antonio Saca keeps troops in Iraq "under pressure from the United States". — MNA/Xinhua

Deadly bomb attack hits Iraqi patrol

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb—Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 wounded when a car bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol exploded near a Shia mosque northeast of Baghdad, a security source said.

A police official said soldiers were killed in the attack. A car loaded with vegetables exploded when the patrol approached, the official said.

Earlier that day, armed men fired on customers in a bakery in eastern Baghdad, killing nine people, police said.

The assailants drove

up in two cars and burst into the Happiness Bakery.

Seven of the victims died in the bakery and two others died in hospital, police said. But according to some neighbourhood residents, the death toll from the attack was 11.

A police officer said he thought the attack was

caused by a conflict between two factions or tribes.

A police station opposite the store was not damaged.

One witness said the same bakery was attacked a few weeks ago in a similar manner and three people were killed.

Internet

Salespersons most-wanted professionals in China

BEIJING, 12 Feb— Salespersons are the most-wanted professionals in China, while drivers of motorized vehicles are the most unmarketable in the country, according to a recent survey by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Specialists in machining processing and dressmakers are also on the most-wanted list, while shop attendants,

cashiers and accountants are in low demand, it says.

The survey was conducted in Beijing,

Shanghai, Chongqing, Shenyang, Jinan, Nanjing, Wuhan, Xi'an, Fuzhou and Chengdu.

MNA/Xinhua

Senior General Than Shwe and wife host Union Day reception and dinner...

(from page 1)

Commission, National Convention Convening Work Committee and National Convention Convening Management Committee, alternate chairmen of National Convention, the director-general of the SPDC office, heads of departments, rectors, medical superintendents, officers of Myanmar Police Force, chairmen of district PDCs of Yangon Division, officials of News and Periodicals Enterprise, correspondents of foreign news agencies, officials of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, All Myanmar Women's Affairs Work Committee, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Red Cross Society, representatives of national race organizations and guests.

Before and during the reception and dinner, national races entertained those present with songs to the accompaniment of Myanma Athan Modern Music Troupe.

After the dinner, artistes of Fine Arts Department, winners of Myanma Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and traditional cul-



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates at the dinner.—MNA

tural troupes from Chin State, Taninthayi Division, Kachin State, Kayin State also entertained those Kayah State, Mon State, Shan State, Rakhine State, present with songs and variety of dances. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates at the dinner.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates at the dinner.—MNA

Kachin delegates to National Convention arrive



Delegates from Kachin State to attend the National Convention being welcomed at the airport.—MNA

YANGON, 12 Feb—A total of 11 delegates to National Convention from Kachin State arrived here by air this evening to attend the National Convention.

Chairman of the Re-

ception and Accommodation Subcommittee Commandant of the Defence Services Records Office Commander of Yangon Station Brig-Gen Myo Myint and members welcomed them at Yangon

International Airport and conveyed them to the Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township where the National Convention will resume on 17 February.

MNA

Union Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 11 Feb — The Union Day Commemorative Exhibition organized by the Subcommittee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day and Exhibition Subcommittee, continued at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall as the fifth day today. In addition to ministerial booths, the booths on ancient Myanmar, national culture and customs of the national people, emergence of the Union

Day and regaining independence, and modern developed country are put on display in the exhibition.

At the exhibition, the basic education high school students took part in the computer quiz in the audio language lab, and Yankin Township BEHS No 2 won the quiz.

The exhibition is kept open free of charge up to 16 February from 9 am to 5 pm daily. — MNA



Students visiting State and Division booths at Union Day Exhibition.—MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and party salute the Union Flag at People's Square.

MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin plants the Union Flag in the silver bowl at City Hall.— MNA

Over 10,000 people attend ...

(from page 16)

First, MC Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi announced the agenda of the ceremony. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe read out the message



to the 58th Anniversary Union Day sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

At 7.50 am, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and party took out the Flag from the silver bowl and carried it again flanked by members of the panel of chairmen of the Observance of the Union Flag Hoisting Organizing Committee, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, national people and USDA members.

On Pyay Road, he handed over the Flag to Chairman of the Sub-committee for Conveying the Union Flag, Putting up Billboards and Emblems representing States and Divisions Secretary of YCDC Col Myint Aung.

Col Myint Aung conveyed the Flag and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais on board the Union Boat to carry it to the City Hall where it will be kept the whole year.

The Union Boat carried the flag flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers and national people from the People's Square to the City Hall along Pyay Road,

Phoneygi Road, Maha Bandoola Road and Sule Pagoda Road.

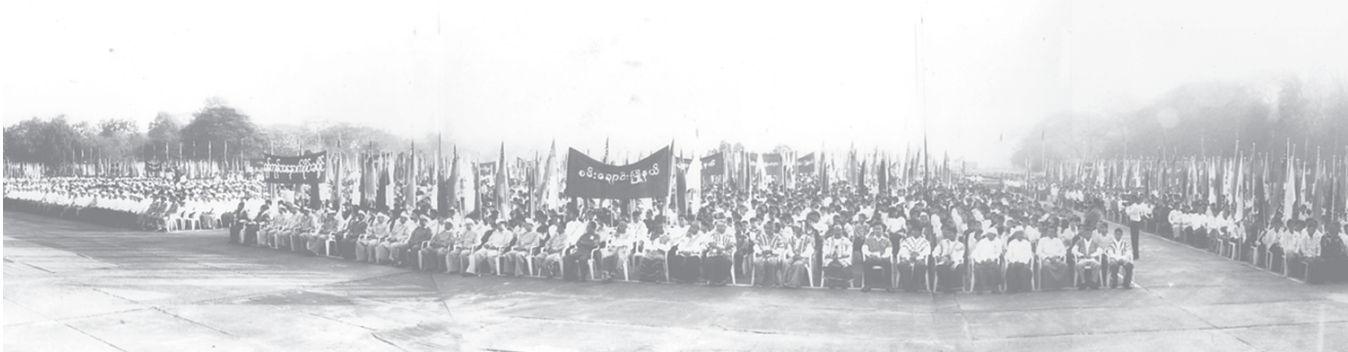
Local people from Dagon, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan and Kyauktada townships, local authorities and social organizations warmly welcomed the Union Flag by waving miniature flags together with the banners bearing 'Warm welcome to the Union Flag' across the roads.

Government offices, shops and houses were decorated with various sizes of Union Flags as a gesture of honouring the 58th Anniversary Union Day.

When the flag arrived in front of the City Hall, YCDC Secretary Col Myint Aung took out the Union Flag from the silver bowl on board the Union Boat and handed it over to the Mayor.

At 8.25 am, the Mayor, flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, national people and USDA members carried the Flag and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais in the parlour of the mayor so as to spend the whole year. Next, those present saluted the Union Flag.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reads out the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe on 58th Anniversary Union Day.— MNA

State/division delegates attend Union Day ceremony

YANGON, 12 Feb — The Union Day delegates from states and divisions, led by Secretary of the Reception and Accom-

modation Subcommittee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Commandant of No 1 Transit Centre Lt-Col

Tin Kyaing, attended the 58th Anniversary Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony held at the People's Square on Pyay Road this morning.

Next, the Union delegates visited the People's Square and People's Park. They were conducted by the officials around the park.

MNA

Pathein-Mawtinsoon bus line launched

YANGON, 12 Feb — The Ayeyawady Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held the Pathein-Mawtinsoon bus line at the jetty of Ngwehsaung on Strand Road in Pathein on 9 February.

Present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-

West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Secretary Lt-Col Thein Hlaing, departmental officials, social organization members and local people.

Chairman of Pathein District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thwin briefed them on opening of the bus line which will run between Pathein-Mawtinsoon through Hainggyi and Ngayok-

kaung.

Officials formally opened the bus line.

Thanks to opening of the bus line, it will contribute towards development of economic, social, education and health of local people of villages along Pathein Mawtinsoon.

In addition, Yangonites can travel to Mawtinsoon by car via Pathein. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



As a gesture of honouring the Union Day, the day on which the Union of Myanmar was conceived, the development of the seven divisions and seven states is being presented to the national people living in the motherland.

A tribe that had been in existence for millions of years in the motherland

periods of history.

The message sent by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary Union Day read: **“Drawing lessons from history, the State Peace and Development Council laid down a national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national**

Honouring 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Mandalay Division marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

Table B

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Extended livestock breeding			
- cow	1528000	1924000	396000
- goat/sheep	555000	732000	177000
- pig	331000	420000	89000
- hen	3139000	7022000	3883000
- duck	178000	250000	72000
- turkey, goose, muscovy duck	45000	47000	2000
Extended acres of fish and prawn breeding			
- acres of fish farming	595.25	6145.97	5550.72
- paddy plus fish	-	300	300
- number*	-	0.150	0.150
- fingerling production			
- production*	3.772	35.0329	346.557
- fish release*	0.979	188.233	187.254
- sales*	2.628	162.096	159.468
fish released into Ayeyawady river*	-	107.101	107.101

*million

Table C

Forest conservation

*Square mile

*tree (million)

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Reserved forest*	3866	3857	(-9)
Protected public forest*	-	85	85
Natural area*	128.98	187.52	58.54
Setting up of forest (acre)	14305	233628	219323
- acres of teak plantation	-	21000	21000
- acres of commercial plantation	5805	51525	45720
- acres of village plantation	4700	57378	52678
- acres of industrial plantation	1800	35650	33850
- acres of watershed plantation	2000	68075	66075
- acres of Thitseint plantation	-	1500	1500
Tree planting of community movement	0.81	26.53	25.73

Map that will pave the way for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation as desired by the entire people, the National Convention, which is the most vital and the very first phase of the Road Map, has been in progress.

At the same time, the government and people

Myanmar. In the south lie Bago Division and Kayin State; and in the west, Sagaing and Magway Division. The division is 14,294 square miles wide. National races such as Bamar, Shan, Danu, Lisu, Palaung, Kayin and Chin live in the Union as small Unions. It is an area of dense population and has a population of 7,627,000. The population density is 534 per square mile. In the east there are mountain ranges whose heights are over 6,000 feet. In the south west is Bago Yoma. In the north

Table A per acre yield-basket Gross production-basket (thousand)

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Land resource			
- sown acreage	3403766	3585995	182229
- acres of vacant and virgin land	374822	131461	-
Irrigation			
- dam, lake, reservoir, canal	64	116	52
- completed works	64	106	42
- works under implementaton*	-	8	8
- works to be done	-	2	2
- river water pumping tasks			
- completed works	-	86	86
- tasks under implementation	-	70	70
- tasks to be carried out	-	9	9
- tasks to be carried out	-	7	7
- damming creeks	-	143	143
- underground water pump	-	1381	1381
- Total benefited area	624548	1183031	558483
Thriving double crops	712118	1122344	410226
Extended paddy cultivation			
- acres of monsoon paddy	582490	681478	98988
- per acre yield*	55.66	71.11	15.45
- acres of summer paddy	-	188662	188662
- per acre yield*	-	90.00	90.00
- gross production	29017	57560	28543
- food sufficiency	-	53%	53%
beans and pulses (acre)	475720	1256930	781210
cotton plantation	214281	277221	62940
sugarcane	37870	65698	28098
maize	43390	44430	1040
tea	2050	5791	3741
coffee	1732	7916	6184
edible oil crops			
- groundnut	275483	298329	22846
- sesame	809365	1083841	274476
- sunflower	72626	118808	46182

diversified into over 100 national races such as the Kachin, the Kayah, the Kayin, the Chin, the Bamar, the Mon, the Rakhine, and the Shan. It is a national prestige to be proud of that these national races have amalgamated into a people called “Myanmar” and evolved throughout the consecutive

solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. In accordance with this policy, strenuous efforts are being made to transform the country into a peaceful, modern and developed nation and to ensure that the country exists as long as the world does. In line with the seven-point Road

in tandem have committed themselves unswervingly to the successful implementation of the State’s economic objectives aimed at enabling the Union of Myanmar to keep pace with the world nations in terms of modernization.”

The concerted efforts between the Tatmadaw

Table D

Greening Tasks

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Setting up plantations (acre)	-	61907	61907
- firewood plantation	-	19690	19690
- watershed plantation	-	30300	30300
- mountain range plantation	-	3650	3650
- research plantation	-	152	152
- other plantation	-	6815	6815
- Thitseint plantation	-	1300	1300
Natural forest conservation (acre)	-	265000	265000
fuel-substitute wood			
- stove	-	88751	88751
- briquette	-	20405	20405
- agricultural waste (ton)	-	23423	23423
Water works			
- pond	-	361	361
- silt-prevented dam	-	482	482
- underground water	-	23	23
Bago Yoma greening work (acre)	-	1890	1890
- fuel wood plantation	-	90	90
- watershed plantation	-	1600	1600
- Thitseint plantation	-	200	200
- natural forest conservation	-	2000	2000
- fuel-substitute wood			
- stove	-	1200	1200
- briquette	-	200	200
- agricultural waste (ton)	-	350	350
Water works			
- pond	-	6	6
- silt-prevented dam	-	10	10
- underground water	-	1	1
Plantations cooperated with international organizations	-	4816	4816

and the people have resulted in astonishing development in all sectors of all regions. Plans are under way to enable the country to stand on its own feet after contemplating the possible future challenges. A thorough thought will provide vivid pictures. To enable the

people to take enjoyment from such pictures of development, the author here presented the development trends of Mandalay Division on its march to a golden land of unity and amity.

Mandalay Division

Mandalay Division is situated in central

of the Bago Yoma is Mt Popa, which is 4,981 feet high. In the west, there is Ayeyawady Plain, in the east, Mandalay-Kyaukse plain and in the south Sittoung plain. The Chindwin River joins the Ayeyawady River near Myingyan.

(See page 10)

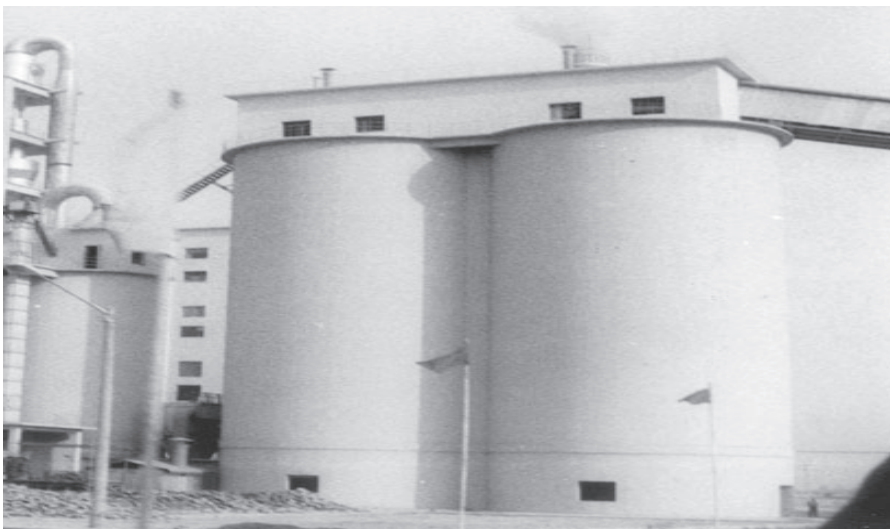


Development in Mandalay Division after 1988

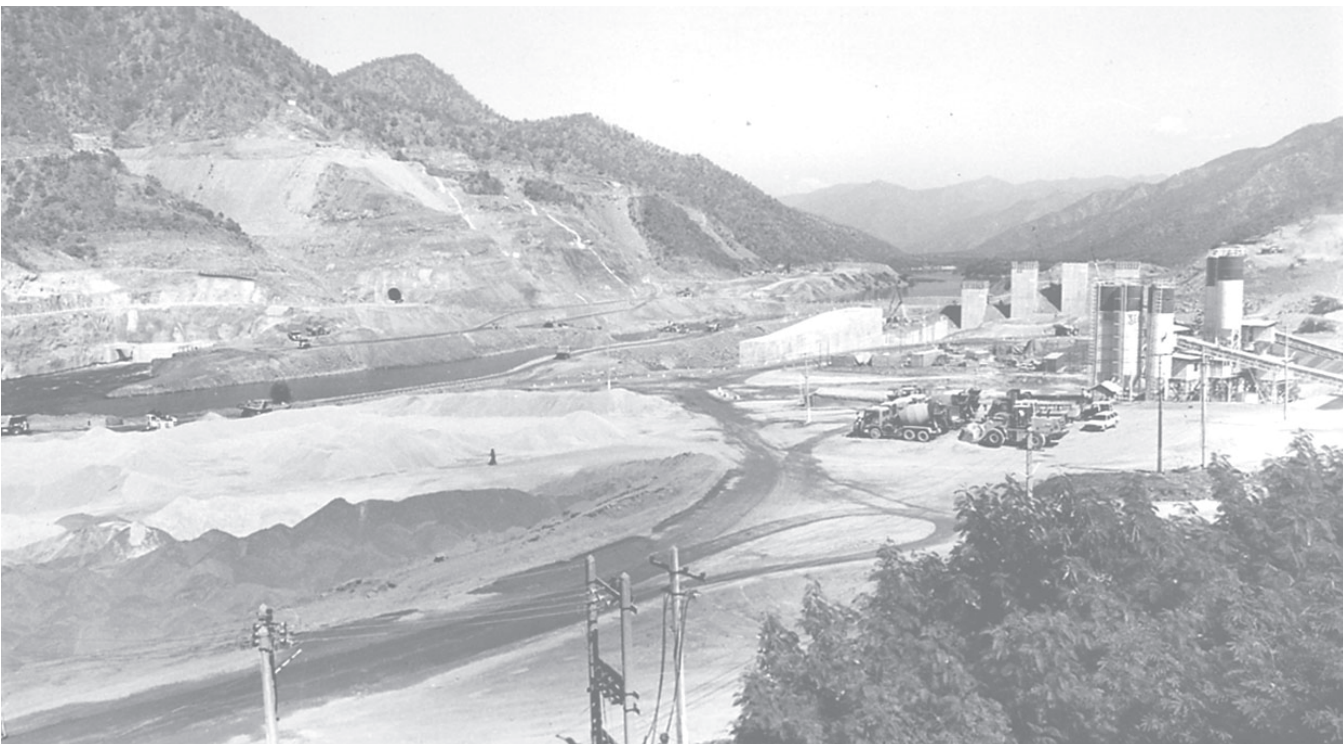


Honouring
58th
Anniversary
Union
Day

The main building of Myingyan Degree College in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Division.
MYANMA ALIN



Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division. — MYANMA ALIN



Yeywa Hydel Power Project underway on Myingye River, southeast Mandalay, Mandalay Division.—MYANMA ALIN

Mandalay Division...

(from page 8)

The Dokhtawady River or Myitnge River and its tributary, Panlaung River, join the Ayeyawady River

ernment is fulfilling the requirements of the people. The Tatmadaw born of the people never forgets the people's lives and difficulties of every re-

Hsinthe and Kintha dams were built in Tatkon, Thaphangyoung, Hsindeewa, Welaung and Kyauktalone dams in Taungtha, Samon and Thettaw dams in Thazi and Chaungkauk dam in Pyawbwe. Sitha,

Table E

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Railways			
- miles	459.83	613.38	153.55
- miles of railroad	623.11	805.64	182.53
- passenger	6019700	6418200	398500
- miles of passenger transport	443253.1	455327.1	12074.0
- tons of cargo	498500	883600	385100
- miles cargo transport	88718.8	195390.9	106672.1
- stations	125	175	50
Airways			
- Airports	5	7	2
- above 5000 ft runway	4	7	3
- under 5000 ft runway	1	-	upgrading
Motor road	1035/0	1284/7	249/7
- tarred road	853/0	1102/0	249/2
- gravel road	71/0	91/0	20/5
- hard road	74/0	50/3	upgrading
- earth road	37/0	40/5	3/5
Bridge			
- Public Works			
- above 180 feet long	18	31	13
- completed bridge	18	25	7
- implementing bridge	-	6	6
- lower 180 feet long	227	365	138

near Innwa. **Agriculture**

As the division is in the arid zone, ancient Myanmar kings built many dams and creeks for supply of water. Cultivation was made through irrigation in Kyaukse and its environs. The region was renowned as the granary of Myanmar in those days. The cultivation acreage of the whole country was only half a million acres during the annexation of Myanmar by the imperialists.

After over a hundred years, Mandalay Division was a region where rice was insufficient and cultivation of other crops also decreased. There was no cultivation with no rain and no dams.

The Tatmadaw gov-

gion. Therefore, after taking up the State duties, it is fulfilling the requirements of the people. At the opening of North Pinle Dam on 13 April 1996, Senior General Than Shwe said that he was born and brought up in those areas. He had realized the hardships of the farmers in the areas since childhood.

They needed no gold but water. If water was available in the areas, it means they possessed gold. That is why water availability and regional development tasks are being implemented after the government had taken up State duties. He spoke of the need to work harder.

There are 42 dams in the division in 16 years.

Hsinlan and Dokwin were built in Pyin OoLwin, Soonlun, South Pinle and North Pinle in Myingyan, Kinta in Kyaukse and Chaungmagyi dam in Pyinmana, Lebyu in Yamethin, Thebyu in Lewe, Myakan in Nyaung U, Thapbyeyo in Wundwin, Zidaw in Nahtogyi, Thittetkon in Myittha, Thinbon, kwintha and Ponmaki in Mahlaing, Myotha, Nathadaw and Phaungkataw in Ngazun, Yanaungmyin in Lewe and Chaungmanet in TadaOo.

Seven river water-pumping projects were implemented to irrigate the farmlands of the division. To ensure the greening of the division,

Table F

*1000 persons

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
post office	140	149	9
telegraph office	37	47	10
facsimile	1	329	328
computer telegraph	-	2	2
Local fax service	-	11	11
telephone service			
- telephone office	27	67	40
- number of line	10858	66695	55837
- exchange	27	47	20
- direct line	9326	51146	41820
- auto/carrier telephone	9326	35407	26081
- auto radio telephone	-	619	619
- CDMA	-	1916	1916
- cellulor	-	4086	4086
- DECT telephone	-	1450	1450
- GSM	-	7668	7668
- telephone density*	1.98	6.89	4.91
microwave station	12	20	8
rural telephone exchange	-	20	20
e-mail, Internet	-	181	181
X.25 line	-	23	23
microlink	-	64	64

Implementing Extension of auto-tel- phone lines

1. Mandalay (3000 lines)
2. Madaya (500 lines)

Total 3500 lines

Implementing DECT telephone project

1. Mandalay (3000 lines)

Implementing auto-exchange projects

1. Taungtha (700 lines)
 2. Mahlaing (500 lines)
 3. Natogyi (500 lines)
 4. NyaungU (Extension) (500 lines)
 5. Myingyan (Extension) (700 lines)
- Total 2900 lines

Table I

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Basic education			
- number of schools	3680	4467	787
- BEHS	87	227	140
- BEMS	180	234	54
- Post Primary	-	541	541
- BEPS	3413	3465	52
- multimedia classroom	-	201	201
- number of teachers	32653	32623	9970
- number of students	747105	1045803	298698
- teacher education			
- education college	2	2	upgrading
- teacher	59	100	41
- trainee	788	5482	4694
- KG enrolment	68.40%	97.46%	29.06%
- adult literacy rate	81.69%	98.50%	16.18%
School dropout rate			
- primary school level	38.67%	14.95%	23.72%
- middle school level	35.77%	10.87%	25.90%
Uplift of higher education			
- university/college/degree college	3	10	7
- professional institutes	1	1	-
- arts&science university	1	6	5
- degree college	-	1	1
- college	1	2	1
- academic programmes	44	118	74
- number of teachers	1115	1716	601
- number of students	20191	139829	119638
- e-Learning centre	-	74	74
- Human resource development centre	-	8	8

Table G

power consumption-million *megawatt

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
electricity consumption	183.590	519.935	336.345
maximum load*	45.000	180.000	135.000
Increase of generating power			
- implemented project	1	4	3
- large scale (above-10 megawatt)	1	3	2
- medium-scale (1-10 megawatt)	-	1	1
- installed generator	56.000	295.000	239.000
Implementing projects			
- large-scale (above-10 megawatt)	-	2	2
- installed generator	-	930.000	930.000
- diesel power plant	10	18	8
- present capacity of generator*	59.100	313.460	254.360
- future capacity of generator*	59.100	1243.460	1184.360

Table H

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Upgrading industrial power			
- Industrial Zones	-	3	3
- works	-	1881	1881
- private industries	4485	9280	4795
- cottage industries	-	1435	1435
State-owned industries	102	138	36

regional development and regional self-sufficiency of food, nine river-water pumping projects are being implemented and plans are under way to carry out seven others. In addition, more dams and reservoirs will be built to improve the living standard of farmers in Mandalay Division.

Eight dams have been constructed in the division — the Paunglaung in Pyinmana township benefiting 35,000 acres of farmland, the Madan and the Chaungmange in Leway township benefiting 8,000 acres each, the Sedawgyi Ye Ku in Mataya benefiting 127,000 acres, the Marlenattaung in Sinku benefiting 8,000

acres and the Ngathayauk in NaungU benefiting 2,000 acres. Moreover, Kani Dam and Shanmange Dam will be built soon.

Thanks to the efforts of the people alongside the assistance of the State, Mandalay Division has hugely boosted the cultivation of crops and paddy, helping improve the economy of the State.

Livestock and fishery

The ancestors made a suggestion that the people grow plantations of kitchen crops in the back of the homes to ensure sufficiency of food.

The government has taken measures for extended cultivation of crops and livestock breeding in

Mandalay Division. It has also released a variety of fish species into the Ayeyawady River. Table B shows progress of the region's livestock breeding sector.

Forest conservation

More than 18 million of people live in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, accounting for one-third of the nation's population.

These regions' dense population is detrimental to environmental conservation, causing an undesirable impact on regional climate.

These had suffered adverse effects on the agricultural works for more (See page 11)

Mandalay Division...

(from page 10)
 than 100 years. If the situation remains unchanged for next 50 years, some deserts will appear on the map of Myanmar. Therefore, the government had to construct many irrigation facilities and plant trees to form forests in the regions. It has also real-

enjoying smooth transport because of roads linking one city and another. But, it still has many requirements and needs if compared tasks to be carried out for cementing relations and friendship among the national races in the region, national and regional development.

district-to-district roads, town-to-town roads, village-to-village roads alongside roads in border areas in collaboration with respective departments and organizations.

It has upgraded Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road, Magway-Namauk-Pyawbye Road, Twinng-Momeik Road, Mandalay-

Table J

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
- Technological University (Mandalay)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	7	7
- teachers	-	97	97
- students (graduate)	-	4045	4045
- present students	-	5121	5121
- University of Computer Studies (Mandalay)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	7	7
- teachers	-	55	55
- students (graduate)	-	921	921
- present students	-	366	366
- Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University (Meiktila)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	4	4
- teachers	-	52	52
- students (graduate)	-	-	-
- present students	-	157	157
- Government Technological College (Mandalay)	-	1	1
- course numbers	5	11	6
- number of teachers	63	250	187
- number of students (graduate)	3953	8655	4702
- present students	-	3038	3038
- GTC (Kyaukse)	-	1	1
- number of course	-	11	11
- teachers	-	285	285
- students (graduate)	-	2846	2846
- present students	-	1844	1844
- GTC (Meiktila)	-	1	1
- number of course	4	7	3
- teachers	50	135	85
- students (graduate)	-	5329	5329
- present students	-	1382	1382
-Government Computer College (Mandalay)	-	1	1
- course number	-	4	4
- number of teacher	-	72	72
- students (graduate)	-	529	529
- present students	-	3098	3098
GCC (Meiktila)	-	1	1
- course number	-	4	4
- number of teacher	-	20	20
- students (graduate)	-	-	-
- present students	-	379	379
- Government Technical Institute (Kyaukpadaung)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	4	4
- teacher	-	55	55
- students (graduate)	-	620	620
- present students	-	317	317
- GTI (Yamethin)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	5	5
- teacher	-	60	60
- students (graduate)	-	374	374
- present students	-	332	332
- GTI (Myingyan)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	6	6
- teacher	-	40	40
- students (graduate)	-	-	-
- present students	-	638	638
- GTI (PyinOoLwin)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	1	1
- teacher	-	-	-
- students (graduate)	-	21	21
- present students	-	12	12
Technical Higher School	-	3	3
- THS (Mandalay)	-	1	1
- THS (Kyaukse)	-	1	1
- THS (Meiktila)	-	1	1

izing the special regions greening project in the Central Myanmar. Tables C and D show progress of the project.

Transport

Superficially, Mandalay seemed to be a region

With a lofty aim to ensure smooth transport of the entire nation and emergence of a modern and developed nation, the government is making unremitting endeavours to construct Union Highways,

Mogok-SiU-Bhamo Road, Mandalay-PyinOoLwin-We t w u n - N a w n g h k i o Road, Mandalay-Sagaing-Monywa Road, Mandalay-Meiktila Road, and Magway-Taungdwingyi-Kyaukpadaung-Meiktila

Table K

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
upgrading of hospital	67	88	21
- specialist hospital	3	7	4
- teaching hospital	1	2	1
- 300-bed	-	1	1
- 200-bed	-	2	2
- 150-bed	-	1	1
- 100-bed	5	6	1
- 50-bed	5	8	3
- 25-bed	3	8	5
- 16-bed	14	9	upgrading
- station/ sub-township hospital	36	44	8
health units	216	223	7
- rural health unit	155	159	4
- maternal and child care unit	36	36	-
- regional health unit	13	16	3
- school health team	12	12	-
Health employee	2271	4823	2551
- doctors (specialist/assistant)	373	1012	639
- nurses	468	1950	1482
- health staff	197	217	20
- midwives	947	1117	170
- skilled staff	35	100	65
- township health in-charge	-	9	9
- health assistant-1	-	31	31
- health assistant	119	161	42
- supervisor (1)/(2)	132	226	94
traditional medicine			
- traditional medicine hospital	1	1	-
- traditional medicine dispensary	12	28	16
Training schools			
- nursing training school	1	2	1
- midwifery school	2	2	-
Free from disease			
- small pox	free	free	free
- leprosy	-	free	free
- polio	-	free	free
decrease of mortality (1000 person)			
- rural*	9.9	8.9	1.0
- urban*	7.1	6.2	0.9
increase of longevity (years)			
- rural			
- man	56.2	60.8	4.6
- woman	60.4	63.3	2.9
- urban			
- man	59.0	61.5	2.5
- woman	63.2	65.6	2.4
Universities			
- Medical Institute	1	1	-
- Institute of Dental Medicine	-	1	1
- Institute of Nursing	-	1	1
- Institute of Paramedical Science	-	1	1
- Institute of Pharmacy	-	1	1
- University of Traditional Medicine	-	1	1
- teacher	169	1342	1173
- student	150	7287	7137

Road. Altogether seven large bridges have emerged in the region — two 210-foot-long bridges across Zawgyi River on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Kyaukse Township, 700-foot-long Dokhtawady Bridge across Dokhtawady River on the road leading to Mandalay-TadaU International Airport, 300-foot Panlaung Bridge spanning Panlaung Creek, 300-foot Samonpauk Bridge spanning Samonpauk Creek on Myingyan-Yaywun road section in Myittha Township, and 300-foot-long Tangar Bridge spanning Chaungmagyi Creek on Mandalay-Mogok road section in Madaya Township.

The six bridge projects are under way and on completion, each bridge will be more than 180 feet long. Before long, there will emerge five more bridges — Panlaung, Myitnge and Pincha

bridges in Singaing Township, Panunglaung Bridge in Pyinmana, and Kyauko Bridge in Mogok Township. Besides, there also emerged the 5,604 feet long Yadanabon Bridge across Ayeyawady River near Inwa Bridge (3,960 feet) in Amarapura Township.

The British colonialists annexed the nation and exploited Myanmar for nearly 124 years, but they built only one bridge across the 1,000-mile-long Ayeyawady River. They never took into account the progress of the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River as well as the border areas and far-flung areas. In contrast, the Tatmadaw Government has constructed seven Ayeyawady River crossing bridges in 16 years.

They practised the divide-and-rule policy and drove a wedge between the hilly regions and the plains, and exploited natu-

ral resources of the nation. But, the government has built a network of roads and bridges to enhance amicable relations among the national races. Table E shows progress of the region's transport sector.

Communication

The government has also upgraded the communication sector of the region in proportion with its population and trade. Table F indicates progress of the region's communication sector.

Electric power

The government is making all-out efforts to boost generation of electricity for the people. Now, it is implementing 12 hydropower projects simultaneously.

One of the 12 projects is Ye Ywa Hydropower Project, 31 miles south-east of Mandalay. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, there have emerged

(See page 12)

Mandalay Division...

(from page 11)

Sedawgyi hydropower plant (25 megawatts), Paunglaung hydropower plant (210 megawatts) and Mogok hydropower plant (4 megawatts) in Mandalay Division, increasing the capacity of electricity generation to 180 megawatts, up from 45 megawatts in 1988.

On completion, Ye Ywa Hydropower Plant will be able to generate 790 megawatts.

It is also implementing Ahtet Paunglaung Hydropower Project and completion, it will be able to generate 140 megawatts.

In his inspection tour of Ye Ywa Hydropower Project on 18 December 2004, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to the officials, saying that it is necessary to complete the project as soon as possible to be able to meet the electricity demand of the State. Measures are to be taken

Table L

Industry

Boosting consumption of more electricity is helping promote the region's industrial sector along with the socio-economic life of local people.

So far, the government has established Mandalay, Myingyan and Meiktila industrial zones in the region. Mandalay Industrial Zone consists of 1,155 enterprises with a total investment of K 1,883.44 million. Its annual turnover has surged nearly nine times, accounting for K 1,6091.25 million.

Myingyan Industrial Zone is made up of 310 enterprises with a total investment of K 3,661.31 million and its annual turnover has increased three times, accounting for K 964.95 million. Meiktila Industrial Zone comprises 416 enterprises with a total investment of K 495.78 million. It has boosted production of goods val-

agement and assistance of the government and endeavours of the industrialists, significant achievements have been made in the zones.

He pledged that the government would constantly provide necessary assistance for the development of the zones and their industries.

While encouragement is given to respective industrialists for the development of their enterprises, emphasis is to be put on steps not to inflict harm to the interests of the nation and the people. Now, the Industrial Development Committee has been formed to constantly fulfil the requirements of the industrial zones.

The increasing number of private-run factories in Mandalay Division is heartening. There were only 4,485 factories in 1988, and now there are 9,280 factories.

It has got 1,435 cottage industries so far.

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Urban development			
- urban road miles	303/4	702/6	399/2
- miles of tarred road	101/6	246/1	144/3
- miles of gravel road	123/5	142/1	18/4
- miles of granite road	49/5	9/4	upgrading
- earthen road	28/4	305/0	276/4
- urban bridges	-	1244	1244
- urban water supply work			
- works for town	26	10	16
- completed work	10	16	6
Rural development			
- Rural road	532/6	2745/4	2212/6
- tarred road	40/0	173/7	133/7
- gravel road	149/2	642/6	493/4
- granite road	242/4	182/1	upgrading
- earthen road	101/0	1746/6	1645/6
- Rural bridge	-	598	598
Rural Water supply tasks			
- work for village	4119	507	3612
- completed work	-	5257	5257
- rural housing	-	283	283

in accord with the set standard.

And serious attention is to be paid to the project as it is a huge one.

In 1988, the electricity consumption of Mandalay Division was 183.59 million units. Now, the region can consume 519.935 million units. Upon completion of Ye Ywa and Paunglaung hydropower projects, the region's electricity generation will increase four times.

Therefore, the local people will be able to enjoy better economic and living standards. Table G reflects progress of the electric power sector of Mandalay Division.

ued at K 1,321.01 million.

During his inspection tour of Yenangyoung Industrial Zone on 22 December 2004, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the establishment of the industrial zones is to ensure the development of import-substitute industries in the country, production of quality products with the use of modern equipment, creation of job opportunities and use local-made products easily at reasonable prices.

In the initial period, the industrial zones were on the level only a bit better than blacksmith's forges. With the encour-

agement and assistance of the government and endeavours of the industrialists, significant achievements have been made in the zones.

Minerals

It is Mandalay Division that has a land of precious stones, namely Mogok. Nowadays, the division can accelerate the momentum of gems and mineral exploration because of the State's assistance.

Up to now, 245 gem mining blocks have been extended and 2639000 carats of various kinds of gems mined. Gold, lead, tin and tungsten mining blocks are on the increase.

Marble, antimony, sodium carbonate, oxide, lime stone and other kinds

of mineral are also being mined.

Education

Nowadays, Mandalay Division has become a shining star in its education sector. On account of the efforts to ensure the balanced development of the whole

Meikhtila with a view to producing space scientists. The development of the science and technology sector in Mandalay Division is shown in Table J.

Health

The government now is serving the interests of the people according to the policies on edu-

making efforts for increasing number of intellectuals and intelligentsia in education, health and science and technology sectors. In Mandalay Division, a Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College was constructed.

The University of

Table M

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
- TV retransmission station	1	4	3
- IPRD offices	-	33	33
- IPRD libraries	12	33	21
- departmental libraries	-	18	18
- rural library	-	2350	2350
- e-library	-	23	23
- sub-printing house (Mandalay)	-	1	1

country, Mandalay City of the Upper Myanmar now can be called a city of universities. Ministry of Education has opened Mandalay University of Foreign Languages, Mandalay University of Distance Education, Yadanabon University, Meikhtila University of Economics and Kyaukse University in the division compared to the one in the past, Mandalay University.

The number of people, pursuing higher education now has increased to nearly 140000 from only over 20000 in the past.

There are 4467 basic education schools where more than 1 million students are learning. School enrolment rate of kindergarten has come to full percentage. The following Table I shows the educational index of Mandalay Division.

Science and technology

Mandalay Technological University and Computer University has been established in Upper Myanmar to link technological colleges and computer colleges opened in every state and division. Besides, Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University has been opened in

cation and health in border and rural areas.

It is planning to establish cities of coffee, industry, education, business and health under the 24 special region development projects.

In Mandalay Division, station hospitals and hospitals were opened and Mandalay city will become a health centre of Upper Myanmar.

There are six health and medical universities, seven specialist hospitals and two teaching hospitals. Health development of the division is shown in Table K.

Urban and rural development

Under the Tatmadaw government urban and rural areas in the division have developed. There are 400 miles of roads including 246 tarred roads. Water supply projects were undertaken in 16 townships out of 26.

There were only 500 miles of rural roads. As rural roads link with urban ones, there are now over 2,745 miles of rural road. Altogether 5,257 rural water supply projects have been carried out in the division.

Union and human resource development

The government is

Culture, Institute of Forestry, Institute of Agriculture, Institute of Veterinary Science, Cooperative College and Lacquerware College produce technicians who will serve the interests of the Union and national races.

Information and Public Relations

There is no more armed conflict in the Union of Myanmar now. Peace and tranquillity has been restored in border and rural areas. Political, economic and social developments have also been achieved.

National races can now witness regional development and significant changes through TV, radio, newspapers and other publications.

If the people are prosperous, it is said the nation is prosperous. If all the regions develop, the Union will develop. The information sector informs the people about the government's efforts for national interest. Table M shows the data.

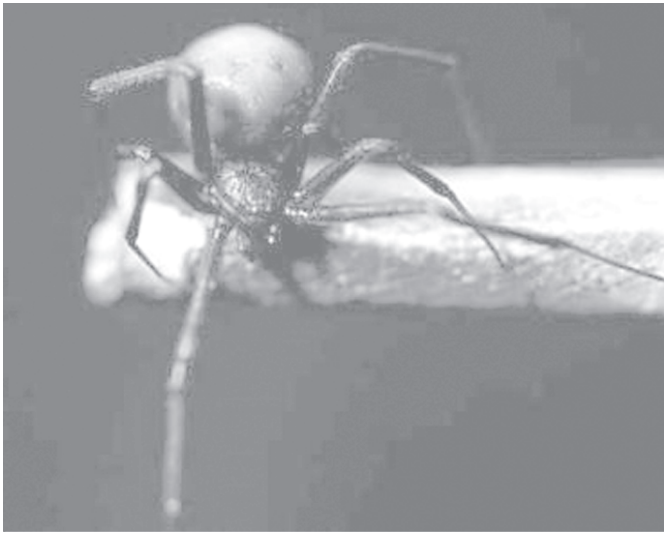
Like other states and divisions, Mandalay Division is marching towards the united golden land.

(Translation: NW+TTA+MS+ST+KTY)



Union Day delegates visit Pyidaungsu Ayeyekmyon in People's Square. (News on page 7) —MNA

မညာရေးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A female redback spider climbs on a web-covered stick at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia, on 11 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

COPD patients not receiving optimum care in English hospitals

LONDON, 10 Feb— Patients suffering from the serious respiratory disease COPD are not receiving optimum care and more than 1 in 10 who are admitted to hospital die within 90 days, health experts said on Wednesday.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the fifth most common cause of death in England and Wales.

But doctors say the illness is not given enough priority in the state-funded National Health Service.

“Care received by COPD patients remains a lottery with many not benefiting from the potentially life-saving and life-enhancing care provided by a specialist respiratory team,” said Dr Mike Roberts, of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP).

In the first national audit of the illness by the RCP and the British Tho-

racic Society, Roberts and his colleagues found that COPD accounts for more than 10 per cent of all acute hospital admissions but more than half of patients are not under the care of a specialist.

Deaths rates, length of stay and readmissions to hospital vary greatly.

Smoking is the leading cause of COPD. A smoker is 10 times more likely to die of the illness than a non-smoker. It begins with a persistent cough and increased mucous. Eventually COPD leads to fatigue, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing as the lungs are destroyed.

MNA/Reuters

IBM forecasts more virus, worm attacks in 2005

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb — Viruses and worms are likely to more aggressively attack handheld devices, cell phones and embedded computers in cars, a latest report by IBM forecast on Wednesday.

Email-based worms and viruses, such as Bagle, Netsky and Mydoom, wreaked havoc on corporate networks in 2004, according to the report.

During the latter part of 2004, a growing number of viruses aimed at PDAs and other mobile devices, such as the Cabir worm, were released. It is likely that such worms will be used by copycats and may spur an epidemic of viruses aimed at mobile devices, the report said.— MNA/Xinhua

Study shows sudden stress can cause heart failure

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb— Sudden emotional stress can cause heart failure in primarily healthy women, most of them older, according to a study published on Thursday in the latest edition of *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

According to the report, intense grief, fear, anger or shock can lead to a temporary weakening of heart which affects the heart’s ability to pump blood. Doctors in the research from Johns Hopkins University say the condition, which they call stress cardiomyopathy, is different from a heart attack in that the patients can recover fully without any lasting damage to the heart muscle.

In addition, the stress-induced heart failure, unlike heart attacks, involves no blood clot in a coronary artery that cuts off circulation. However, emotional stress can cause a heart attack in a person who has coronary disease.

The researchers say it is important to distinguish between the “broken heart syndrome” and a heart attack so that patients can get proper treatment and be spared from a possible dependence on heart medicine for the rest of their lives.

The researchers found in women suffering from the above- mentioned condition unusually high levels of stress-related brain chemicals and hormones like adrenaline, which might have temporarily impaired their heart function.

But it remains unclear how the condition exactly occurs and why the victims were mostly women.

MNA/Xinhua

US scientists develop world’s fastest oscillating nanomachine

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb— Scientists at Boston University said on Wednesday that they have developed an antenna-like sliver of silicon one-tenth the width of a human hair that can oscillate at gigahertz speed.

This device, pushing nanotechnology forward into the realm of quantum mechanics, can help further miniaturize wireless communication devices like cell phones, the researchers said.

With two sets of protrusions, much like the teeth from a two-sided comb or the paddles from a rowing shell, the antenna not only exhibits the first quantum nanomechanical motion but is also the world’s fastest moving nanostructure.

The Boston team led by assistant professor Pritiraj Mohanty developed the device, which is called nanomechanical

oscillator.

This device is also the fastest of its kind, oscillating at 1.49 gigahertz, or 1.49 billion times a second, breaking the previous record of 1.02 gigahertz achieved by a nanomachine produced by another group, according to a paper in the latest issue of journal *Physical Review Letters*.

More important to the researchers, the oscillator lies at the cusp of classic physics, what people experience everyday, and quantum physics, the behaviour of the molecular world. Comprised of 50 billion atoms, the antenna built by Mohanty’s team is so far the largest

structure to display quantum mechanical movements.

According to Alexei Gaidarzhy, the paper’s lead author, during the past several decades engineers have made phenomenal advances in information technology by shrinking electronic circuitry and devices to fit onto semiconductor chips.

Shrinking electronic or mechanical systems further will inevitably require new paradigms involving quantum theory.

For example, these mechanical/quantum mechanical hybrids could be used for quantum computing.

MNA/Xinhua

344 kilos of narcotics seized in northern Iran

TEHERAN, 10 Feb— Iranian anti-drug police on Wednesday seized 344 kilos of drugs in the northern province of Golestan, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

Some of the drugs were nabbed from a passenger car travelling and the rest from a transportation company during a search, *IRNA* quoted a statement by the provincial police headquarters as saying.

Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, a country sitting in the crossroad linking drug producing

MNA/Xinhua

Smoking is more harmful than beneficial to Alzheimer’s patients

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb— Contrary to the common belief that nicotine can treat the Alzheimer’s disease, chronic nicotine exposure worsens some Alzheimer’s-related brain abnormalities, US scientists reported on Tuesday.

In the latest online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the researchers at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), said that chronic nicotine exposure increases neurofibrillary tangles, namely the bundles of fibres that are one of the two neuropathological hallmarks of the disease.

Alzheimer’s disease is marked by the accumulation of two distinct brain

lesions, beta-amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles which accumulate in specific brain regions critical to learning and memory.

Previous animal studies had suggested that nicotine reduces the number of amyloid plaques; however, this possible benefit is outweighed by the increase in tangles, according to UCI researchers.

MNA/Xinhua



A model for designer Anna Sui wears a creation from the Anna Sui Fall 2005 Collection during the fashion show in New York, on 9 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

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Serena pulls out of Paris Open

PARIS, 12 Feb— Australian Open champion Serena Williams pulled out of the Paris Open with gastro-enteritis on Friday and later had to reject the advances of an overzealous fan.

The American top seed was to meet Russia's Dinara Safina in the quarterfinals but was unable to play because of stomach problems.

"I'm not playing today because I'm sick and mentally I'm not well," she told the Parisian crowd in French on court.

"I wanted to play here because it's the first tournament I won and it's very important to me.

"I love it here, I love the Stade de Coubertin," she added. Coubertin fans love her too.

One of them managed to sneak into Serena's Press conference without wearing a badge and started asking odd questions, much to the amazement of the player and journalists.

"I'm a fan and I just wanted a kiss," said the fan before being escorted out of the room by security officers.

Williams won her first WTA Tour title at the Parisian indoor tournament in 1999.—MNA/Reuters

Reyes underlines commitment to Arsenal

LONDON, 12 Feb— Jose Antonio Reyes has underlined his commitment to Arsenal after falling victim to a hoax phone call from a Spanish radio station during which he said he was unhappy in London and would welcome a move to Real Madrid.

"I have seen stories in the media linking me with Real Madrid," the 21-year-old Spanish international told Premier League champions Arsenal's official website.

"Of course it's flattering but not only am I under contract at Arsenal, I am happy here and committed to helping the team win more trophies."

An impersonator from the radio station rang Reyes pretending to be Real Madrid's sporting director Emilio Butragueno.

Unaware he was not talking to the

real Butragueno, Reyes told the impersonator in a live show that he was keen on a move to Real.

"I am delighted that Real Madrid are interested in me because I have always wanted to play there," Reyes told the radio station.

"God willing, it can happen. The way things are (in London) at the moment, I'm not happy."

Arsenal paid a club record fee of around 17 million pounds (31.62 million US dollars) to Sevilla for Reyes in January 2004.—MNA/Reuters



East Carolina's LaShawn Merritt, right, heads into the final turn of the 400-meter dash followed by Alleyne Francique, center, and Andrew Rock, left at the Tyson Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., on 12 Feb, 2005. Merritt won the race in a time of 44.33 seconds, the second-fastest indoor 400-meter time in history.—INTERNET

Real not considering any exchange deal

MADRID, 12 Feb— Real Madrid have denied reports that they are interested in an exchange deal involving England striker Michael Owen and Arsenal forward Jose Antonio Reyes.

"Real Madrid are not considering any exchange deal involving Michael Owen and Arsenal's Jose Antonio Reyes," the Primera Liga side said on its website on Friday.

"Real Madrid are delighted and satisfied with the English player's work. No representative and, of course, no one from Arsenal has made contact with Real Madrid to suggest any such deal.

"The relationship between Real Madrid and the English club has always been characterized by transparency and confidence."

Reports of an exchange deal between the two clubs have surfaced in recent weeks, with the speculation reaching fever

pitch after Reyes told an impersonator from the Cope radio station in Spain that he was not happy in London and was keen on a move to Real.

Arsenal paid a club record of around 17 million pounds (31.62 million US dollars) to Sevilla for Reyes in January 2004.

Owen has been unable to earn himself a regular place in the Real Madrid starting line-up since his 12-million-euro move from Liverpool, despite the fact that he enjoys one of the best strike rates in the Primera Liga.

The England striker has scored seven league goals and one each in the King's Cup and Champions League.—MNA/Reuters

Wenger says Reyes needs to overcome disappointments

LONDON, 12 Feb— Manager Arsene Wenger says Jose Antonio Reyes needs to overcome his disappointments at Arsenal after the unhappy Spanish striker was caught out by a hoax offer from Real Madrid.

Believing he was speaking to Real sporting director Emilio Butragueno, the 21-year-old forward said he was unhappy at Arsenal and was keen to join Real during a hoax phone call from a Spanish radio station. "When you take a young player, you know you are taking a challenge ... there are periods when you are 20 or 21, that things go a little bit less well and players find it a bit more difficult," Wenger told a televised news conference on Friday.

"But it doesn't take anything away from my desire to keep the player at the club or my belief in the player. I'm ready to take on that challenge."

As for the timing of the hoax call to a striker who has struggled with form and fitness since a promising start to the season, Wenger said: "Young players are sometimes up and down.

"He's been caught when he has been a little bit disappointed maybe at not playing in some big games.

"But it doesn't take away from the fact that Reyes and myself have a real challenge in front of us to make him one of the best players in the world.

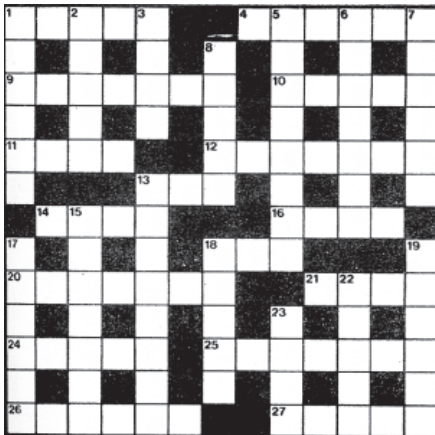
"He has to overcome periods like that, it's part of every career."

Turning to Reyes' desire to play for Real, Wenger said: "It is normal for one of your country's big clubs to be one of your dreams as a youth...But he made his decision to come here because it was a dream for him to play for Arsenal."

Summing up the episode, the Frenchman said: "It's just a minor, minor, small event in the life of our week...he's committed to the club, end of story."

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 1 Rowing team
- 4 Beautiful girls
- 9 Skull
- 10 Raise objections
- 11 Neat
- 12 Generosity
- 13 Fall sick
- 14 Network
- 16 Love foolishly
- 18 Excessively
- 20 Hermit
- 21 Central London area
- 24 Small cat
- 25 Layer
- 26 Pace
- 27 Medicine

Down

- 1 Stir emotion
- 2 Protect
- 3 Cut shorter
- 5 Golden land
- 6 Flickering
- 7 Emphasise
- 8 Tiny
- 13 Regulated
- 15 Get back
- 17 Spring flower
- 18 Nervous
- 19 Pertaining to ants
- 22 Frequently
- 23 Court document

Ferguson believes Chelsea no longer at top of Premier League

MANCHESTER (England), 12 Feb— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes Premier League leaders Chelsea are no longer at the top of their game going into another crucial weekend in the title race.

Chelsea's lead over United was trimmed to nine points after they were held to a goalless draw by Manchester City last Sunday and Ferguson is unconvinced by the form of Jose Mourinho's team.

"We are coming to the part of the season where you want to have good form," Ferguson told reporters on Friday.

"I don't think Chelsea have been playing as well as they have been playing and it could make it interesting to the end of the season."

Chelsea face a difficult game at Champions League hopefuls Everton on Saturday, a day before United face a derby game at Manchester City.

"We've got to maintain our form and also hope that we get some help with Chelsea dropping points," added Ferguson, whose side still have to play Chelsea at Old Trafford before the end of the season.

"The thing about the Premier League is that it doesn't matter who you play when you get into the run-in, every one is a difficult game."

United could be without winger Cristiano Ronaldo, who sustained an Achilles tendon injury following a challenge by Chelsea's Damien Duff during the friendly between Portugal and Ireland on Wednesday.

"Cristiano Ronaldo had a bad tackle on Wednesday and he is doubtful for Sunday. It was a tackle from young Duff. I was surprised because he's not that type of player, but things happen in games, you never know," said Ferguson.—MNA/Reuters



Gilberto 'Sugar' Reyes, right, takes a swing at Carlos 'Bolillo' Gonzalez of Mexico in the seventh round during their welterweight title bout in Miami on 11 Feb, 2005. Reyes won the bout by unanimous decision.—INTERNET

UN scouting for new interim home

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Feb — The United Nations, fearing New York may reject its plan to build temporary offices in a nearby park during a renovation of its headquarters, is scouting about for a new interim home.

The world body is not yet so desperate it is looking beyond Manhattan to the less fashionable outer boroughs of Queens or Brooklyn, UN officials said on Thursday.

But the project, which requires approval by the New York state Legislature, has gotten caught up in a wave of anti-UN sentiment in the United States.

The United Nations has been working for five years on a 1.2-billion-US-dollar Capital Master Plan for renovating its aging headquarters, completed in 1952.

Renovations are due to begin in 2007, although financing is not in place. The UN complex, which draws 800,000 tourists a year, is an architectural landmark jutting out of the New York skyline along the East River. But inside, water drips through the roof, toxic asbestos lines ceilings, heating and cooling systems are erratic and there are no sprinklers in case of fire.

Under the master

plan, a new 30-storey office tower in Robert Moses Park near UN Headquarters would temporarily house UN staff while the main UN secretariat building was gutted and renovated.

After the renovation was complete, more than a dozen UN agencies, offices and programmes scattered around the city would move from rented space into the new tower.

But the New York State Legislature has refused to act on the plan, with lawmakers citing objections ranging from anger over UN mismanagement of the oil-for-food programme for Iraq to charges the United Nations is anti-Semitic in its handling of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. The United Nations acknowledged it had begun looking for possible alternatives for interim offices. But it denied a *New York Post* report it was looking outside Manhattan.

MNA/Reuters

Russia to bar foreign firms from bidding for lucrative resources

MOSCOW, 12 Feb — Russia will bar foreign-owned firms from bidding for some of its most lucrative natural resources in 2005, officials said on Thursday, dealing a heavy blow to the already shaky business climate in the country.

The Natural Resources Ministry said companies will have to be at least 51 per cent Russian-owned to take part in tenders for strategic oil and metals deposits.

The tender list includes the giant Sakhalin-3 oil field in Russia's far east, which US ExxonMobil had planned to develop. It includes the Sukhoi Log gold field — Eurasia's biggest — and the huge Udokan copper deposit in Siberia.

The decision comes at a time when the Kremlin is seeking to reassert state control over strategically important sectors in a process many analysts said may put a brake on the investment needed to sustain the rapid economic growth of recent years.

It also reveals a major change of tack after the Kremlin invited a number of global majors — such as Britain's BP — to tap some of Russia's biggest natural resource deposits.

Apart from Exxon, many foreign firms have expressed interest in Russia's mineral riches, including the world's No3 gold company Barrick Gold, Britain's Highland Gold Mining and Kazakhstan's copper monopoly Kazakhmys.

Interfax news agency quoted a source in the Federal Natural Resources Agency as saying that "the government is interested in letting Russian companies develop strategic resources".

Separately, Natural Resources Minister Yuri Trutnev told Interfax that the foreign ownership issue will be dealt with according to Russia's competition law.

He gave no details, suggesting Russia could decide whether to allow foreign companies to bid on a case-by-case basis. He may say when he appears before Parliament on Friday. —MNA/Reuters

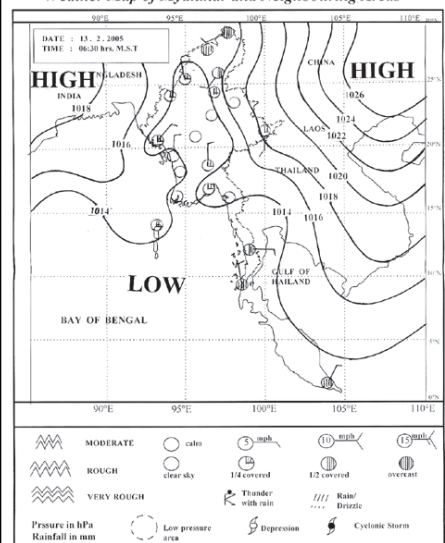
Australia grants new permits to petroleum companies

CANBERRA, 12 Feb — The Australian Government granted 11 new permits to petroleum companies to invest 220 million dollars (170 million US dollars) in oil and gas exploration in waters off the states of Western Australia and Tasmania.

The move is part of the Australian Government's ongoing programme of releasing offshore acreage for petroleum exploration. Announcing the new permits, Australian Industry Minister Ian MacFarlane said "These new exploration permits will advance Australia's quest for new oil and gas reserves to meet growing local and international demand".

Eight of the permits are located in the commercially proven Carnarvon Basin, off Western Australia, which hosts world-class reserves of natural gas, as well as significant volumes of oil. The other three permits are adjacent to the Yolla gas field in the Bass Basin off northern Tasmania, close to the major gas markets of south-eastern Australia. —MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 12 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. The note worthy amount of rainfall recorded was Dawai (0.28) inch. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin Rakhine and Mon States, (6°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (3°C) and Lashio (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 11-2-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 12-2-2005 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-2-2005 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 11-2-2005 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 12-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from North at (12:30) hours MST on 11-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 13-2-2005:** 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: Weather will be fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-2-2005: Fair weather.



Sunday, 13 February
View on today:

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parritas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
- 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော် (၃၈) ခြောက်လ
- 8:10 am
- 6. (၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:20 am
- 7. ဂျပန်တန်းတံတား
- 8:30 am
- 8. International news
- 8:45 am
- 9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
- 2. Musical Programme
- 11:25 am
- 3. Round-up of the week's International news

- 11:40 am
- 4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စိန်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)
- 12:15 pm
- 5. သင်္ဃာတန်းအရသောတစ်
- 12:25 pm
- 6. Teleplay: "မြေပြန့်တောင်ပေါ်ပေါ် ဝင်လယ်တောင်တန်း"
- ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားလှည့်လမ်းများ: ဒါရိုက်တာ-မျိုးအေး
- 1:40 pm
- 7. (၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 1:55 pm
- 8. Dance variety
- 2:10 pm
- 9. Musical Programme
- 2:25 pm
- 10. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:35 pm
- 11. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား
- 2:45 pm
- 12. International news
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. အစားသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ဝတ္ထုရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်္ဃာတန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Dance of national races

- 5:00 pm
- 5. Agricultural Source Country's Development
- 5:05 pm
- 6. (၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:20 pm
- 7. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:20 pm
- 8. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစား
- 6:30 pm
- 9. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
- 10. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
- 11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စိန်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၅၄)
- 7:35 pm
- 12. မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတို့ မိတ်ဆုံအရေးယူမှု အခါတရားစီတန်းတော်ရုပ်ရှင်ကား လက်စမ်း
- 13. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မြှင့်တင်ရန် နိုင်ငံတော်အဖွဲ့မှ ဝန်ထမ်းများ (အသီးတစ်ရာအညွှတ်စုံ ချီးမြှင့်ထောက်ပံ့) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း)
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 18. The next day's programme



- Sunday, 13 February
- Tune in today:
- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: More than a feeling
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Macarena
- 8:55 am National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am Music: Good times
- 9:10 am International news
- 9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar - Botahtaung, Buddha's 1st sacred hair relic pagoda
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Story for children An old mother and 3 daughters
- 1:50 pm Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Music
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Union Spirit songs sung by nationalities Part II
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

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

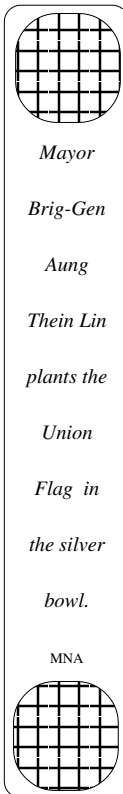
Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Over 10,000 people attend 58th Anniversary Union Flag Hoisting Ceremony



Mayor
Brig-Gen
Aung
Thein Lin
plants the
Union
Flag in
the silver
bowl.



MNA

Union Flag conveyed from Kyimyindine Township to People's Square

YANGON, 12 Feb — The Union Flag which spent one night each at the sports ground in Hlegu Township on 8 February, in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 9 February, in Thanlyin Township on 10 February and in Kyimyindine Township yesterday, was conveyed to the People's Square on Pyay Road where the 58th Anniversary Union Flag Hoisting Ceremony would be held this morning by the Union Boat and flag relay teams. First, local people saluted the Union Flag together with the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command at Salin Sports Ground in Kyimyindine Township. The Military Band of Defence Services (Air) played the national anthem.

After taking out the Union Flag from the silver bowl, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council, carried it flanked by Tatmadaw (Army,

Navy and Air) and Police Officers and national people. The Mingala drum troupe played music. At 7 am, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint planted the flag in the silver bowl on board the Union Boat at the archway of Salin Sports Ground. The Union Boat conveyed the Union Flag along Panbingyi Street, Strand Road, Nanattaw and Pyay Roads. People from Kyimyindine, Kamayut and Sangyoung Townships saluted the Flag. Near Hanthawady Roundabout, the band comprising schoolchildren from Sangyoung Basic Education Primary School No 9 played music in honour of the Union Flag. At the designated place in the People's Square, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint saluted and took out the flag from the silver bowl. He carried it flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, national people and USDA members and handed over the flag to the Mayor.— MNA

YANGON, 11 Feb — The 58th Anniversary Union Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held with political essence at the People's Square on Pyay Road, here, this morning in accord with the objectives of the 58th Anniversary Union Day: For all national races to safeguard the national policies—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.

The Union Flag which spent one night each in Yangon North, East, South and West Districts arrived near the People's Square on Pyay Road, by the Union Boat

at 7.20 am today. The flag relay team led by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted the Union Flag from Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint.

Flanked by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Secretary-General Maj-Gen Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, representative of the Union Day delegates U Saw Htar Lon of Kayin State, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, Union nationals and USDA members, the Union Flag was conveyed

to the People's Square. The drum troupe of the Fine Arts Department played music to honour the flag. At 7.30 am, the flag was planted in the silver bowl on the dais in front of the national races' emblems representing States and Divisions.

Also present on the occasion were CEC members of USDA, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and the military command, heads of the Central Offices, members of the organizing sub-committee, directors-general and managing directors, YCDC members, departmental officials, representatives of 16 NGOs, traditional cultural troupes, representatives of State and Division USDA and peace groups, totalling 1,057.

Similarly, over 10,557 people from townships in four districts attended the ceremony.

(See page 7)

INSIDE

Union-born national people inspired with Union Spirit have set a fine historic tradition in their fights against all forms of outside threat to the country.

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PERSPECTIVES



Delegates and people seen at 58th Anniversary Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony at People's Square.—MNA