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Monday, 14 February 2005

National solidarity is the strength of the nation

The building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation plays a basic role in shaping the nation into a democratic one. According to the experiences of the entire people, the strength of the people is the most basic requirement for progress of the nation.

In the Myanmar history, when the national solidarity was high, the strength of the entire national people was at its peak, with a fine tradition that the nation was safeguarded and protected through the unity of the entire people. Thus, national solidarity is indeed the strength of the nation.

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

(From the address delivered at the Annual General Meeting 2004 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association)



Installation of CNG engines discussed in Mandalay Division



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint speaking at the coordination meeting on installation of CNG engines in vehicles in Mandalay Division.—ENERGY

YANGON, 13 Feb—A coordination meeting on installation of CNG engines in vehicles in Mandalay Division was held at the Division Peace and Development Council Office in Mandalay on 11 February.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, heads of departments, officials of all bus lines control committee, industrialists of Mandalay Industrial Zone, owners of the vehicles and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint spoke on the occasion. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi said the fuel price has risen in the world and the Ministry of Energy began installation of CNG engines in motor vehicles under the guidance of the Head of State. As the first step, CNG engines will be installed in passenger buses with the aim of saving fuel.

Technicians from the ministry will install CNG engines in the vehicles in cooperation with the industrialists of the committee for assembling vehicles in Mandalay Industrial Zone, he said.

CNG filling stations will be opened as soon as possible, he added.

Next, Chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn, Chairman of Mandalay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung and officials took part in the discussions. The commander and the minister replied to the queries raised by those present.

The commander and party inspected display of CNG conversion kits, CNG engines and three-wheel cycles of UD Group in Mandalay Industrial Zone.—MNA



National Convention delegate groups arrive

YANGON, 13 Feb — National Convention delegates of respective groups arrived here by air and by car to attend the National Convention which is to resume on 17 February at the Nyaungnnapin Camp.

The delegates arriving today included 23 from Kayah State, 32 from Shan State (North), 14 from Shan State (East), 25 from Kayin State and 46 from Mon State. They were welcomed and accommodated by the invitation, reception and accommodation subcommittee for convening of National Convention Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials. — MNA

National Convention delegates from Shan State (North) arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 14 February, 2005

Strive for improvement of socio-economic life of local people

The government is fulfilling necessary requirements to bring about equitable and harmonious development across the nation. In doing so, local people on their part are participating in the drive for improvement of their socio-economic life in cooperation with the government.

To ensure development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well, the government and the people have exerted concerted efforts resulting in marked progress in the agricultural sector.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein met members of agricultural supervisory committees and farmers who are engaged in cultivation of summer paddy in Phanwein Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) on 8 February and gave instructions. He said that efforts are to be made to generate more income and meet the demand by means of shifting from single cropping to multiple cropping.

Summer paddy acreage of Shan State (East) has increased from 13,000 in the past to over 20,000 to date. In addition to monsoon paddy, local farmers are now engaging in cultivation of summer paddy plus quality Shweyinaye paddy that suits the region.

They are also giving priority to growing of rubber which has ready foreign market and can serve the long-term interest. Therefore, farmers of Shan State (East) are to place emphasis on multiple cropping and applying fertilizer for self-sufficiency in rice. In the process, a variety of cultivation methods are to be applied to meet the demand of growing population.

Moreover, strenuous efforts are to be made for development of agriculture as the base for satisfying of food, clothing and shelter needs, the basic requirement of their region as well as improvement in education, health and social sectors.

The government is striving for opening of a specialist hospital in the region to provide health care services to the people and prevent the outbreak of common diseases.

Hence, at a time when the government is striving for improvement of socio-economic life of local people, the residents on their part are to make earnest efforts for regional development.

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

Rural gravel road opened in Sittway

YANGON, 13 Feb — As a gesture of honouring the 58th Anniversary Union Day, the ceremony to put the gravel road into service was held in Kywite Village of Sittway Township on 10 February.

Present were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, commanding officers of regiments and units, departmental officials, social organization members and local people totalling over 3,500.

Deputy Director U Mya Soe of Sittway Township Development Affairs Committee reported on

construction of the road.

Rakhine State DAC Director U Ohn Thwin presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials.

Chairman of Sittway District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col San Htay and Director U Ohn Thwin formally opened the road.

The road, 6.5 furlongs long and 12 feet wide, links Yangon-Sittway Highway and Kywite Village. The Township DAC has spent K 5,866,000 on construction tasks. Later, the commander paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikha of Ywama Monastery in the village.—MNA

Dry day inspection teams check Tatmadaw, departmental vehicles



Dry Day Supervisory Committee Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party supervise functions of a dry day inspection team.—MNA

YANGON, 13 Feb — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, together with Supervisory Group leader Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint

Kyu and members Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers and departmental heads, and another group comprising Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, senior military officers and

departmental heads led by Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, supervised functions of the dry day inspection teams at the main points in Yangon City this morning and afternoon.

The dry day inspec-

tion teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence and wheel tax bill of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules from 7 am to 5 pm.

MNA

New design clothes of He & She Fashion Co introduced

YANGON, 13 Feb — He & She Fashion Co today introduced new design clothes at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road.

Journalists and guests attended the ceremony at which models of Talents & Models Agency introduced and showed the new design

clothes.

He & She Fashion Co has produced various kinds of clothes for both men and women, and they are now

available at reasonable prices at the sales centre, No 171/181, 28th Street, Pabedan Township.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL SEPAKTAKRAW CHAMPIONSHIP - 2005 (MYANMAR)

18 - 25 FEBRUARY 2005

NATIONAL INDOOR STADIUM (1) THUWUNNA, YANGON



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The Launching ceremony of He & She Fashion Co clothes in progress.—MNA

China to have 20 million young volunteers by end of 2005

BEIJING, 12 Feb— The number of officially registered young volunteers is expected to increase to 20 million by the end of this year, according to the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League (CCYL), one of the largest non-government organizations (NGOs) in the country.

The CCYL will step up its efforts to recruit more young people as volunteers engaged in community-based services or big projects such as government poverty-relief programmes. Some of the young volunteers work in charitable

and environmental programmes.

The CCYL plans to improve its assistance and establish a standard procedure for the recruitment of volunteers, to introduce more people into voluntary activities. — MNA/Xinhua



Philippines, Japan hold first political-security dialogue

MANILA, 12 Feb— The Philippines and Japan have concluded their first political-security dialogue in Manila with an agreement to boost cooperation on counter-terrorism and disaster prevention, *The Philippine Star* reported on Friday.

The local newspaper quoted officials from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as saying that the dialogue was particularly focused on enhancing maritime security and counter-terrorism.

The Philippines has been asking Japan to provide new equipment and

help improve the communications infrastructure of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Philippine and Japanese officials also discussed other initiatives for strengthening Philippine-Japanese inter-agency cooperation such as Air Transportation Office of the Philippines and

its Japanese counterpart to improve aviation security and search and rescue operations.

They also discussed ways to cooperate in reducing damage caused by future natural disasters such as earthquake and tsunami, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

A money changer in Manila Airport on 12 Feb, 2005. INTERNET

Some Arab countries to mull Mideast peace

AMMAN, 12 Feb— Officials of some Arab countries will meet in the Syrian capital of Damascus in the next few days to discuss the Mideast peace, the *Jordan Times* reported on Friday.

The meeting is expected to focus on means to revive the Arab Peace Initiative, Jordanian Foreign Minister Hani Mulqi was quoted as saying following a visit to Syria on Thursday.

Mulqi said that Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, Egyptian and Lebanese officials are to attend the meeting in an effort to push forward the Middle East peace process, particularly the Arab initiative, launched at an Arab summit in Lebanon in 2002.

The Arab Peace Initiative calls for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, the establishment of a Palestinian state and a comprehensive solution to the refugee issue in line with UN resolutions.

Meanwhile, Mulqi said his talks in Damascus focused on the future of

the peace process and the need for a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We reiterated the strategic choice of Arabs to establish peace in the region and agreed on the importance of realizing the initiative and make sure it is well adopted by all parties," he said.

He also briefed Syrian officials on the outcome of the Sharm el-Sheikh summit, during which Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared a mutual ceasefire.

The Tuesday summit, hosted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and attended by Jordanian King Abdullah II, was considered as the first step toward resuming peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

MNA/Xinhua

Rich nations urged to fight poverty more energetically

MUNICH, 12 Feb— German President Horst Koehler urged on Friday wealthy nations to help poor nations more energetically and enter dialogue with them in order to achieve a long-term security.

Speaking at a welcoming dinner on the eve of the 41st Munich Security Conference, Koehler said that "unless we tackle global poverty, long-term security will remain elusive. A strategy for development is by far the best form of conflict prevention".

While poor nations must bear responsibility

for their own future, wealthy nations should increase support for the poor to make a real long-term difference for their life, he said.

He appealed the industrialized nations to raise their development aid to 0.7 per cent of Gross National Product which they pledged 30 years

ago. The gap between fund pledged by wealthy nations and real fund given every year is 100 billion US dollars, he said.

He also urged the developed nations to "take a vigorous action to speed the creation of a fair trade regime worthy of the name. Fair trade is still the most important contribu-

tion the international community can make to the fight against poverty in Africa," he said.

The German President also listed dialogue of different cultures as an important condition for greater global security.

"We need to engage with other cultures in a process of mutual discovery. This can only be done through dialogue. We can look for common ground, be we must also accept and respect differences," he said. More than 250 officials and scholars from more than 40 countries attending the 41st Munich Security Conference were present at the dinner.

MNA/Xinhua

HK will not propose tax increases unless necessary

HONG KONG, 12 Feb — Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Henry Tang promised here Thursday he would not try to propose further increase in taxes in the budget for the new financial year.

He noted that it is more difficult for him to draw the budget for the 2005-06 financial year, while meeting with news practitioners who called at his residence to wish him a happy new year.

Tang said he is cur-

rently busy with drawing the budget, which will be more difficult than the previous one. He explained that as Hong Kong is experiencing economy recovery, people consequently raise their expectations of the government.

He pointed out that the 20 billion HK dollars (2.56 billion US dollars) the government has gained through issuance of bonds is to be paid back, and cannot be used to cover the recurrent costs.

MNA/Xinhua

1,457 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb— As of Saturday, 12 Feb, 2005, at least 1,457 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 seven higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11;

Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat

operations in Iraq had ended, 1,319 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,002 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet



A Hmong girl carries her sister on her back as they make their way to a market in Kasi, Laos recently. —INTERNET

Chinese officials urged to implement “scientific concept of development”

BEIJING, 12 Feb —Chinese President Hu Jintao has urged local officials to fully implement the “scientific concept of development” and to protect the fundamental interests of common people and to build “a harmonious and well-off society”, as he wound up his five-day visit to southwest China’s Guizhou Province.

During the Spring Festival, China’s traditional family reunion holiday, President Hu, who is also General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), visited the mountainous, multinational Guizhou Province in southwest China and spent the holiday with local farmers, workers and fire fighters. He also visited ethnic villages, urban communities, construction sites and a telecommunications company.

Hu also heard the work report of the provincial government and the provincial committee of the CPC during his visit and delivered an important speech.

Hu said the “scientific concept of development” is important not only for economically developed areas but for economically backward areas as well.

He said the central government will continue to push forward the development of western areas by giving more favourable policies, intensifying capital input and adjusting industrial structure.

He urged local officials to strengthen and improve macro-economic control policies, speed up the readjustment of economic structure, convert the economic growth mode and stick to the “sustainable

development” strategy. He told local officials to stabilize and strengthen policies favourable to the development of agriculture and to intensify their efforts to promote grain production and increase farmers’ incomes.

Poverty reduction work should also be stepped up, he said. “People and officials in poor areas should uphold a self-dependent spirit, reasonably utilize local resources and vigorously develop industries with local characteristics.

At the same time, the central government will intensify funding for poverty relief, step up infrastructure construction in poor areas, improve work conditions for people in poor areas, and solve the problems of food and clothing for people in poor areas as soon as possible,” he said.

Hu said building a socialist harmonious society is in the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the country’s people and is an important strategic task for the government and the CPC. “Governments at all levels should do their best to safeguard people’s legitimate rights and interests and to maintain social stability,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Thailand to hold largest industrial fair

BANGKOK, 12 Feb —Thailand is to hold its largest industrial fair on 24-27 February at the Bangkok International Trade Exhibition Centre (BITEC).

Damri Namphaya, manager of the Industrial Fair 2005 organizers, TBP Publications, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Friday that the fair was likely to see over 520 million baht (13 million US dollars) changing hands, with visitors attracted by price reductions of 20-50 per cent.

The fair will showcase the 1,000-plus

booths of products, including automobiles and aviation and marine equipment, Damri said.

Visitors to the fair, now in its third year, will be able to see the latest technological innovations, as well as sports and racing car displays, while enter-tainment will be provided by popular singers and actors, Damri added.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh improves maritime security record

DHAKA, 12 Feb —Bangladesh has improved its record among the maritime operators as the number of piracies and armed robberies declined in 2004, the *Financial Express* reported on Saturday.

Data from the Piracy Reporting Centre of the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) showed that incidents of piracies and armed robberies along Bangladesh’s coastline came down to 17 in 2004, accounting for one-third of the cases in 2003, said the report.

IMB reported 58 piracy incidents in 2003 in Bangladesh and then bracketed the territorial waters of the country as the second most dangerous place after Indonesia in Asia. At present Bangladesh

improved its position to number three among Asian countries with 17 incidents, according to an IMB report.

Indonesia still retained its top position with 93 piracy incidents, followed by the Malacca Straits with 37 incidents which separates Indonesia from Malaysia, added the report.

The IMB data further shows that the number of seafarers killed by pirates surged in 2004, even though the number of armed robberies on the high seas fell all over the world. Worldwide actual

or attempted piracy attacks declined to 325 from 445 in 2003, but violence against seafarers continues and remains at high levels.

Director General of the Department of Shipping AKM Sha-fiullah was quoted as saying that Bangladesh’s position improved slightly in rating as the authority managed to reduce the incidents of piracy substantially.

MNA/Xinhua



Staffs of ‘Pasona O2’, totally new greenhouse built in the basement of a Tokyo highrise building, check rice plants in a rice cultivation room on 10 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

Singapore, Australia to discuss open skies agreement

SINGAPORE, 13 Feb —Singapore’s Transport Minister Yeo Cheow Tong will begin to pay a four-day visit to Australia on Sunday to discuss the open skies agreement (OSA) with his Australian counterpart John Anderson, according to a statement by the Ministry of Transport on Saturday.

Singapore Airlines (SIA) may launch flights to destinations in the United States using Australia as a stopover if the OSA will be reached as expected.

Local media reports said on Saturday that the two countries expanded bilateral aviation links in 2003, which allowed Qantas, Australian national carrier, to use Singapore as a base to

fly to Europe and beyond.

However, the Australian Government denied SIA the reciprocal rights, citing the negative effects of the September 11 terrorist attacks on local aviation industry as an excuse, said the reports, adding that the Australia-Los Angeles route, operated by Qantas now, is profitable.

MNA/Xinhua

Syria calls for comprehensive peace on all tracks in Mideast

DAMASCUS, 13 Feb — Syria reasserted the importance to realize a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks in the Middle East in efforts to achieve security and stability in the region, the official SANA news agency reported.

During talks with his visiting Canadian counterpart Pierre Pettigrew, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara stressed the importance of reviving the Arab peace initiative, which was endorsed at Arab Summit in Beirut in 2002.

In this regard, Pettigrew voiced his country’s support to the Palestinian refugees’ right to return home in accordance with UN Resolution 194.

On the issue of Iraq, both sides shared similar views over the signifi-

cance of completing the political process after the elections in a way that secures a full participation of the Iraqi people.

On bilateral relations, the two sides expressed the desire to further develop these ties in all fields.

Pettigrew arrived in Damascus earlier in the day for an official visit, during which he was also received by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Prime Minister Mohammad Naji Ottri.

MNA/Xinhua



A Singapore Airline jumbo taxis past a Qantas plane at Sydney Airport on 13 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

India expects to import Iranian gas from end 2009

NEW DELHI, 12 Feb— India is expected to start importing gas from Iran via pipeline through Pakistan from end-2009, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted Petroleum Secretary S C Tripathi as saying here on Friday.

"If all goes well, the Iran-India pipeline should be operational by the end of 2009. In fact, work on the proposed pipeline via Pakistan should start in two years' time," Tripathi said.

Earlier Friday, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, who met Iranian Ambassador to India S Z Yaghoubi, said he would visit Teheran in June to conclude the pipeline deal.

According to Tripathi, a feasibility and financial study on the pipeline would now be conducted to determine the project cost and the

quantum of supplies.

The pipeline project, covering some 700 kilometres of Pakistan's territory, is currently estimated to cost 4.5 billion US dollars.

The petroleum secretary said the proposal envisages import of 60 million metric standard cubic metres of gas per day —half of it for Pakistan. But if the neighbouring country desired more gas, the pipeline's capacity could be enhanced.

On the other issues related with the Iran-India pipeline project, Tripathi said while India would sign what is

called a "take or pay" contract, Iran would be expected to sign a reciprocal "supply or pay" agreement.

For the moment, the Indian Government is considering a corporate guarantee for the pipeline, but a sovereign guarantee can also be considered if desired by the countries involved, the petroleum secretary said.

Talks, he added, would also start with Turkmenistan for a third pipeline, while Australia has also shown interest in supplying Liquefied Natural Gas to India.

MNA/Xinhua

UN top official calls on globalization to work for mankind

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Feb — UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette said on Thursday the current challenge facing the world is to make globalization work for all the people.

Frechette made the remarks at the opening of the 43rd session of the commission for social development, which will last 8 days. She said globalization, which has brought tremendous benefits to large parts of the world, may seem as immutable as a force of nature.

"But that does not mean it cannot be shaped through choices and actions," she noted, saying

that if today there are winners, losers and people excluded, that need not be the case tomorrow.

"Our challenge is to make globalization work for all the world's people," she stressed.

Developing countries must take steps to promote good governance and focus on practical public investments in health, education and other basic services that allow people to partici-

pate in market economies, and pursue social policies to lessen inequality and exclusion, Frechette said.

The 43rd session of the commission, which marks the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995, will review and renew in international development cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia rejects US objections to plans to sell arms to Venezuela

Moscow, 12 Feb — Russian officials on Friday rejected US objections to Moscow's plans to sell automatic rifles and helicopters to Venezuela, dismissing as "unfounded" concerns that the weapons could be used by leftist rebels.

US State Department Spokesman Lou Fintor said on Thursday Washington was con-

cerned that 100,000 *Kalashnikov* guns and a number of helicopters due to be sold to the

Latin American state could fall into the hands of leftist guerillas in the region.

"Moscow has been puzzled by the State Department spokesman's concerns," *Interfax* news agency quoted an unnamed Foreign Ministry official as saying. The ministry often uses such format to express its views without issuing a formal statement.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, asked by reporters about the deal, replied tersely: "Our bilateral cooperation does not violate laws and obligations. There is nothing to comment on."

Apart from the purchase of *Kalashnikov* guns and helicopters under an arms pact announced last year by Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, Venezuela is also evaluating Russian *MiG-29* fighters as possible replacements for its *F-16s*. — MNA/Reuters



groups of pandas, food remains scarce for the pandas.

To help pandas tide over the difficult period, many townships in Gansu Province have set up rescue teams to care for the rare animals.

MNA/Xinhua

Withering bamoo causes pandas to go hungry

LANZHOU, 12 Feb — About 100 giant pandas in northwest China's Gansu Province are suffering from hunger because large tracts of arrow bamboo have bloomed and died.

By the end of 2004, arrow bamboo, the favourite food of giants, had blossomed on 7,420 hectares at the Baishuijiang State Nature Reserve in southern Gansu Province, a major habitat of pandas in China, according to a recent survey conducted by the nature reserve administration.

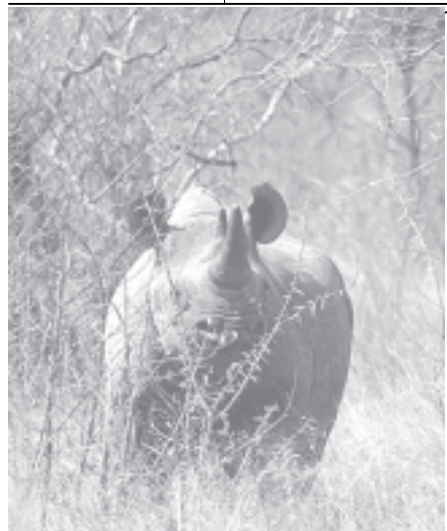
The giant panda is one of the world's most endangered species, with an estimated 1,000 living in the mountainous regions of Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. To protect the animal, dubbed China's

"national treasure", the country has set up 33 nature reserves, covering a total area of 1.6 million hectares.

The Baishuijiang State Nature Reserve is home to more than 100 giant pandas. Currently, they are threatened by a severe food shortage in the wake of the withering bamboo. What is worse, arrow bamboo on another 1,950 hectares which blossomed in 1993 has not grown tall enough for consumption. Since it usually takes 15 years for the new plants to grow adequately to supply enough food for

Employees from Matsushita Electric Works Ltd demonstrate the company's horseback riding exercise machine "Joba" in Tokyo on 10 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET



A rhinoceros in a game farm in Madelane, South Africa. With its large variety of wildlife coupled with vast landscapes. South Africa draws some 9,500 foreign hunters per year.

INTERNET

Car bombs claim 18 lives in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Feb— Car bombs killed 18 people in Iraq yesterday and injured 24 others. The first blast in a mostly Shiite Muslim town south of Baghdad killed 17, and US troops backed by tanks battled guerillas in the country's third largest city as the insurgency showed no sign of abating after national elections.

The second car bomb exploded in an eastern Baghdad neighbourhood as a US military convoy passed, killing an Iraqi woman and wounding three others but causing no American casualties, Iraqi police said. The bomb exploded about a kilometre from a US Army base.

The car bomb south of Baghdad exploded

near the main hospital in Musayyib, a mostly Shiite town 60 kilometres south of Baghdad along the Euphrates River. The town is in a religiously mixed area that has been the scene of frequent attacks by guerillas.

It appeared the attack was part of a campaign by extremists against the country's Shiites — an estimated

60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people — who stand on the verge of a major victory as officials finish the final counting from the 30 Jan national elections.

In Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, two gunmen assassinated a prominent Iraqi judge who served under Saddam Hussein.

Internet

Centenary Buddha Pujaniya of Atuladhipati Mahamuni Thakya Koedatgyi Pagoda Buddha Image held

YANGON, 13 Feb—A ceremony to open the centenary Buddha Pujaniya of Atuladhipati Mahamuni Thakya Koedatgyi Pagoda Buddha Image was held at the prayer hall of the pagoda here this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung graced the ceremony by attending it.

Also present on the occasion were members of Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhmmajotika Dhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, the director-general of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the chairmen of Yangon East District and West District Peace and Development Councils, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, social organizations and religious associations and guests.

First, the congregation led by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received the Five Precepts from Bhaddanta Kesara.

Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe offers alms to a Sayadaw at the centennial Buddha Pujaniya of Koedatgyi Buddha Image.— YANGON COMMAND

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials concerned presented offertories to members of the Sangha.—MNA

Three-storey building for Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik inaugurated



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Col Than Myint formally open three-storey building of Mingla TaungdawU Kyaungtaik in Bahan Township.— MNA

YANGON, 13 Feb—A ceremony to open a three-storey building constructed with the contributions of well-wishers at Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik on Arzarni Street in Bahan Township was held in conjunction with the merit-sharing ceremony at the

Kyaungtaik this morning.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyay Bonsan Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharaththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha

Saddammajotika Bhaddanta Pañinda Bhivamsa and Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Col Than Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General of Religious Affairs Dr Myo Myint and departmental officials, the chairman of Kyaungtaik Board of Trustees and members, well-wishers and guests.

The opening ceremony was held in front of the Kyaungdawgyi and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Col Than Myint formally opened the three-storey building.

Next, Secretary of Kyaungtaik Board of Trustees U Aung Kyi unveiled the stone inscription of the Kyaungtaik.

Next, Chairman of Kyaungtaik Board of Trustees Lt-Col Ba Than (Retd) handed over the related documents to Bhaddanta Sujana.

This was followed by the cash donation ceremony.

The cash donation for Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik included K 8 million by Bhaddanta Sujana, K 12.2 million by U Kyi Soe-Daw Hla Aye and K 7.5 million by U Toe-Daw Tin Tin, Daw Than Than and family.

The cash donation for Nyaungdon Kyaungtaik in Bahan Township and Dhamma Lankara Aye Kyaungtaik in Yenangyoung Township included K 100,000 each by Bhaddanta Sujana.—MNA

Union Day delegates visit MRTV, markets

YANGON, 13 Feb — Led by Secretary of the reception and accommodation subcommittee

for the observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Commandant of No 1 Transit Hall Lt-Col Tin

Kyaing, Union Day delegates and traditional cultural troupes of states and divisions and USDA

member delegates made study of Yangon city in two groups. One group including 182 delegates of Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states and Sagaing and Magway divisions visited Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyaw Road for shooting a Mawgun TV feature.

The other group comprising 236 delegates from Kayin, Mon and Shan states and Taninthayi, Bago, Mandalay, Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions studied Yuzana Plaza and Bogyoke Market.



Union Day delegates of States and Divisions visit Bogyoke Aung San Market.— MNA

MNA

Minister inspects fuel and CNG filling stations in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 13 Feb — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 11 February inspected Filling

Station No 0606 in Chanayethazan Township and Fuel Station No 0613 in Amarapura Township.

On 12 February, the minister proceeded to Paleik CNG Filling Station and oversaw sales of CNG

to vehicles and installation of a new compressor. The minister gave instructions on installation of the compressor as soon as possible. On arrival at the fuel station of Mandalay International Airport in TadaU, Managing Director Col Sein Tin Win of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise and the division manager reported on filling of fuel and storage condition. Brig-Gen Lun Thi instructed them to always check maintenance of the bowsers. Next, he inspected the bowsers, storage system and the control room.



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects Filling Station No 0606 in Chanayethazan Township.— ENERGY



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prizes for staff through IPRD Director-General U Chit Naing.— MNA

Ministry of Information honours...

(from page 16)

Motion Pictures Enterprise to Managing Director U Bo Kyi; prizes for 38 members of Myanmar Music Asiayon to Chairman Accordion U Ohn Kyaw; prizes for 25 of Myanmar Motion Pictures Asiayon to Chairman U Sein Tin; and prizes for 28 artistes to Director (Broadcasting) U Ko Ko Htwe of MRTV.

After the ceremony, dinner was hosted to those present. — MNA

First Triathlon Contest held

YANGON, 13 Feb — A ceremony to open the First Triathlon Contest co-organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Swimming Federation was held at the entrance to Kandawgyi Natural Park, here, this morning, attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Among the spectators were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Maw Thein, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents K 800,000 to first prize winner Aung Kyaw Moe (SPEI) in Triathlon Contest.— NLM

speech. Dr Khin Shwe explained the purpose of the contest. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepted K 4 million donated by

and launched the triathlon contest.

Athletes participated in the contest by swimming 1,000-metre event, by cycling 25,000-

and sixth prizes to two winners. Similarly, Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department presented prizes to fifth and fourth winners. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded first, second and third prizes to Aung Kyaw Moe (SPEI-Yangon), Win Hlaing (Yangon Command) and Chit Oo (South-West Command) respectively.

The first prize winner won K 800,000, the second K 600,000 and the third K 400,000.

A total of 70 athletes took part in the contest.— MNA



Karaweik Park and Kandawgyi Natural Park Managing Director Daw Zay Zin Latt presents K 4 million to Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.— NLM

Women's Sports Federation, Chairman of Zay Gabar Co and President of Myanmar Swimming Federation Dr Khin Shwe and officials.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave an opening

Kandawgyi Natural Park Managing Director Daw Zay Zin Latt and K 2 million by Managing Director U Sein Thit of National Development Co through Dr Myat Thura Soe. The minister cordially greeted the athletes

metre event and by running 6,000-metre event in succession.

After the contest, Commodore Maw Thein presented tenth, ninth and eighth prizes to three winners. Dr Khin Shwe also gave away seventh

Poem

Honouring the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

The Haven of Peace Hereabouts

* When we were young, we were taught
A verse in which it is said...
"On the way to the big place
Many a banyan tree grew, full of
shady boughs'
The leaves enmeshed, and provided
shade..."

* These days, many people
Brethren all, find a meeting place
An abode where there are smiles
Modern, developed, in national interest
Nurtured, tended to, prominently
At this place called "Twin Banyans"
Thus it is called and for journey
onward
There'll be more leaves and also more
shade
To strive for national interest all the
more
Surely it is, a haven of peace
Loving brethren, true brothers
Helping each other forever continue
the journey
Then only with we, be ably stride and
hold
The winning post isn't far ahead.
U Aung Mon (MA) (Trs)

Over 3,000 people visit Union Day Exhibition

YANGON, 13 Feb — The 58th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continued for the sixth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, here.

Over 3,700 monks,

teachers, students and people visited the exhibition. The booths on Myanmar empires, royal buildings and gradual progress of Myanmar are put on display. At the booth of present modern

and developed nation, endeavours of the State are being displayed at ministerial booths.

Anybody may visit free of charge from 9 am to 5 pm daily up to 16 February. —MNA

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union



It is said that everybody writes his or her own history. The history of Myanmar is that of the entire national people as well as that of each Myanmar national. Each and every citizen should conduct a thorough review of his or her past and present evidences and envisage possible consequences of their deeds. In doing so, the people come to realize the historic evidences and major requirements of the nation.

It has been known to the entire national people that in the present period the ultimate goal of the Union of Myanmar is nothing but the building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In this regard, the people are playing respective roles in the nation-building tasks by doing their bit. It is sure that these endeavours

will serve the interests of the nation and the people in future. So the entire people should put on record and study the nation's present historic evidences.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered a speech at the graduation parade of the 47th Intake of the Defence Service Academy on 17 December 2004. The Senior General in his speech, said, "Patriotism is the most decisive factor for you comrades to selflessly shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to you by the State. You must deeply love your race and your nation based upon the knowledge of the nation's history and traditions. Our cherished nation is made

Honouring 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Yangon Division marching to golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

up of river basins, low plains, high mountain ranges and high plateaux, rivers beginning and ending with our land, rich alluvial soil, precious gems and abundance of natural resources, naturally advantageous sea-coasts and a temperate climate. Since time immemorial our ancestors have cleared the land by the sweat of their brow and worked and lived on our

Table B

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Extended livestock breeding			
- buffalo	118000	138000	20000
- cow	491000	517000	26000
- goat/sheep	32000	61000	29000
- pig	273000	387000	114000
- chicken	3484000	11197000	7713000
- duck	1597000	1617000	20000
- quail	-	158000	158000
Extended acres of fish and prawn breeding			
- acres of fish farming	927.50	50786.54	49859.04
- paddy plus fish	-	2080.00	2080.00
- number (million)	-	1.042	1.042
- prawn breeding area	30.00	9820.00	9790.00
- fingerling production (million)			
- production	1.684	123.697	122.013
- fish release	0.297	59.974	59.677
- sales	1.387	63.723	62.336

motherland.

The nationalities which had descended from the same ancestors have lived together through weal and woe in this country. For thousands of years all our nationals have lived together as equal citizens from the moment of their birth. Our race has a long tradition and throughout history it has shown great courage. You comrades are the inheritors of history. You must cherish your mother

Table C

Forest conservation

* square miles
* tree (million)

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Reserved forest*	468	428	(-40)
Protected public forest*	2.41	2.41	-
Setting up of forest (acre)	5935	44767	38832
- acres of teak plantation	-	7000	7000
- acres of commercial plantation	1500	8220	6720
- acres of village plantation	4335	10675	6340
- acres of industrial plantation	-	500	500
- acres of watershed plantation	100	18372	18272
- acres of Thitseint plantation	-	650	650
Tree planting of community movement*	0.90	14.44	13.54

herit the fine traditions of the present generation. Now, the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are inheriting the fine traditions and handing down them to new generation youths, while marching to the golden land of unity and amity. I would like to present progress of Yangon Division as a living proof of the combined efforts.

Yangon Division

Yangon Division is situated in the southernmost part of the central plain of Myanmar. In the north and in the east of Yangon Division lies Bago Division; in the south, Mottama Gulf; and in the west, Ayeyawady (see page 10)

country and people who possess great tradition and the love for your nation must be ardent. You must maintain loyalty to the State citizens. This is the

Table D

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Railways			
- miles	109.25	147.51	38.26
- miles of railroad	195.45	241.16	45.71
- passenger (thousand)	22774.4	24281.8	1507.4
- miles of passenger transport	377433.5	387714.7	10281.2
- tons of cargo (thousand)	326.6	500.5	173.9
- miles cargo transport	59591.2	106424.8	46833.6
- stations	45	71	26
Airways			
- Airports	3	3	-
- above 5000 ft runway	2	2	-
- under 5000 ft runway	1	1	-
Waterway			
- jetty (local vessel)	36	54	18
- jetty (vassels from abroad)	13	29	16
Motor road (mile)	243/0	543/0	300/0
- tarred road	228/0	328/4	100/4
- gravel road	9/0	62/5	53/5
- hard road	6/0	72/7	66/7
- earth road	-	79/4	79/4
Bridge			
- Public Works			
- above 180 feet long	7	37	30
- completed bridge*	7	30	23
- implementing bridge*	-	7	7
- below 180 feet long*	45	97	52

*Six bridges of special project

1. Aungzeya Bridge (Insein)
2. Maha Bandoola Bridge (Pazundaung)
3. Ngamoeyeik (Thingangyun)
4. Hline River Bridge (Shwepyitha)
5. Hline River Bridge (Myochaung)
6. Bawle River Bridge (Yebawthoung)

* Seven bridges under construction

1. Yangon-Thanyin Bridge-2
2. Bawchaung Bridge (Thanlyin)
3. Panhlaing Bridge (Hlinethaya)
4. Shwelinpan Bridge (Hlinethaya)
5. Twantay Bridge (Twantay)
6. Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) (Thingangyun)
7. Rakhineyung Bridge (Twantay)

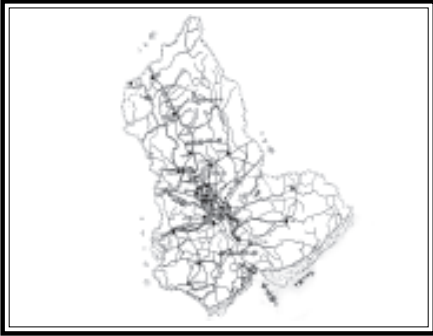
Table A

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

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Land resource			
- sown acreage	1487786	1467967	other lands
- acres of vacant & virgin land	168364	12453	-
Irrigation			
- dam, lake, reservoir, canal	58	75	17
- completed works	58	73	15
- works under implementation	-	2	2
- river water pumping tasks			
- completed works	-	23	23
- tasks under implementation	-	8	8
- tasks to be carried out	-	3	3
- tasks to be carried out	-	12	12
- damming creeks	-	1715	1715
- underground water pump	-	562	562
- Total benefited area	291040	1006034	714994
Thriving double crops	157145	539412	382267
Extended paddy cultivation			
- acres of monsoon paddy	1225823	1188870	summer paddy
- per acre yield*	63.45	64.54	1.09
- acres of summer paddy	-	162783	162783
- per acre yield*	-	80.00	80.00
- gross production	76623	86930	10307
- food sufficiency	-	101%	101%
beans and pulses (acre)	17205	355392	338187
sugarcane	1013	12343	11330
jute	-	1073	1073
rubber	5094	29424	24330



Development in Yangon Division after 1988



The main building of Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division.
MYANMA ALIN



Import-substitute items are produced at the factories in Hlinethaya No-3 Industrial Zone, in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division. — MYANMA ALIN

Honouring the 58th Anniversary Union Day



Aungmye Bridge linking Insein and Hlinethaya Townships is 3786 feet long. — MYANMA ALIN

Yangon Division marching to...

(from page 8)

Division. With a total area of 3,927 square miles, Yangon Division is like a mini-union where Bamar and other national races have been living in unity. Its population is 6,369,000 and its population density is 1,622 people per square mile.

Bago Yoma mountain range stretches from north to south in Yangon Division, and so there are small laterite hills in Thanlyin, Twantay and Kungyangon townships. Passing through the eastern part of Yangon Division, Bago River empties into the Yangon River. Ngamoeyik Creek in the central part of Yangon Division flows from north to south into the Bago River. In the western part, Bawle River and Panhlaing River meet Hline River into Yangon River. According to its geographical features, Yangon Division is designated as a delta. Yangon City, the Capital of Myanmar, lies at the confluence of Yangon River and Bago River, 21 miles from the Sea.

Agriculture

Yangon Division is surrounded by fertile rural regions. In the past, the region could not cultivate crops at its full capacity because there were no large dams in the region. So, the government had to fulfil the region's needs of food sufficiency, extended

cultivation of beans and pulses, and growing of industrial crops and perennial crops. The government has constructed 15 dams in 16 years. Taunglonmyaung Dam was built in 1993 and Ngamoeyik Dam in 1995 in Hlegu Township. Ngamoeyik Dam benefits 70,000 acres of farmland. The government also built Tabuhla Dam that benefits 52,000 acres in Taikkyi Township, Zamani-in Dam that benefits 1,000 acres in Thanlyin, and Zeebyugon Sluice Gate that benefits 7,500 acres in Twantay Township. Again in 2004, the government completed Kungyangon Sluice Gate Project that benefits 21,400 acres in

Table F

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
electricity consumption	545.077	3084.312	2539.235
maximum load*	146.000	430.000	284.000
Increase of generating power			
- recycle power plant	-	4	4
- boiler power plant	1	1	-
- natural gas power plant	1	5	4
- diesel power plant	26	8	grid added
- capacity of generator*	110.716	465.223	354.507
- present capacity of generator*	110.716	465.223	354.507

Completed boiler power plant

1. Ywama 30.000 megawatt (large scale)

Completed natural gas power plant

1. Ywama 36.900 megawatt (large scale)
2. Thakayta 57.000 megawatt (large scale)
3. Ahlon 99.000 megawatt (large scale)
4. Hlawga 99.000 (large scale)
5. Ywama 23.000 megawatt (large scale)

Completed recycle power plant

1. Thakayta 35.000 megawatt (large scale)
2. Ahlon 54.300 megawatt (large scale)
3. Hlawga 54.300 megawatt (large scale)
4. Ywama 9.400 megawatt (large scale)

Table E

*1000 persons

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
post office	68	103	35
telegraph office	32	50	18
facsimile	1	3143	3142
computer telegraph	-	11	11
telephone service			
- telephone office	22	73	51
- number of line	34340	223655	189315
- exchange	22	60	38
- direct line	35357	200506	165149
- auto/carrier telephone	35357	135897	100540
- auto radio telephone	-	1996	1996
- CDMA	-	28288	28288
- cellutor	-	10928	10928
- DECT telephone	-	451	451
- GSM	-	23246	23246
- telephone density* (1000 person)	7.58	32.68	25.1
microwave station	6	12	6
rural telephone exchange	-	13	13
e-mail, Internet	-	5439	5439
X.25 line	-	126	126
microlink	-	-	-
Optical fibre line	-	9041	9041
local satellite station	-	-	-
- DOMSAT	-	-	-
- VSAT	-	-	-
- iPSTAR	-	1	1
overseas satellite ground station	-	2	2
overseas satellite channel	-	675	675
overseas underwater cable channel	-	1012	1012
international telephone channel	-	1669	1669

Implementation of auto-telephone lines extension

Hanthawady, Bahan, Maunghtawlay, Thingangyun, Insein and Shwepyitha
Total 29500 lines

First phase of DECT telephone project under implementation

Yangon Division 2000 lines

Kungyangon Township and Moemakha Sluice Gate Project that benefits 40,000 acres in Twantay. It also constructed Lagunbyin Dam (22,000 acres) in 2001, Kalihtaw Dam (9,000 acres) in 2003, and Mahuya and Paunglin Dams in 2004 in Hlegu Township.

After 1988, the living standard of Yangonites became higher and its population was on the increase. Therefore, the government established more new towns and villages. That led to reduction of nearly 20,000 acres of farmlands. However, the government managed to speed up the agricultural work in the division, so the multiple-cropping area doubled. Measures were

power consumption-million *megawatt

Table G

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Upgrading industrial power			
- Industrial Zones	-	4	4
- works	-	2678	2678
- private industries	-	5786	5786
- cottage industries	-	4833	4833
State-owned industries	194	241	47

Table H

Subject	1988	12.2.05	Progress
Aphyauk Oil field	-	1	1
- Gas pipeline (mile)	32.6	235.99	203.39
- crude oil production (barrel)	-	159	159
- gas production (cubic feet)	-	3745.78	3745.78
- refining crude oil (gallon)	-	114.928	114.928

taken to put more than 160,000 acres under summer paddy and to gain per acre yield of 80 baskets, boosting production in the region.

It has constructed

eight water pumping stations in the region so as to extend multiple crop-

ping. Three more water pumping stations are under way, and 12 more projects will be launched soon. It has also constructed Kayan Sluice Gate that contributes towards 30,000 acres in Thanlyin Township, and Thongwa Sluice Gate that irrigates 29,000 acres.

Tatmadaw members and respective departments are lending themselves to the Yangon City 30-mile Radius Greening Project to fulfil the requirement of kitchen crops and other crops of Yangon Division. Table A shows the progress of the region's agricultural sector.

Livestock and fishery
Now, Yangon Di-

vision is extending the breeding of fish and prawn to provide sufficient fish and prawn for the local people. In 1988, there were 927 acres of fish breeding ponds, but now there are 50,786 acres of fish breeding ponds. The area of prawn breeding ponds has increased to nearly 10,000 acres, up from only 30 acres in the past. The paddy-plus-fish project is making progress year by year. Table B indicates the progress of its livestock and fishery sector.

Forest conservation

The government is growing trees and forming forests for greening of the (see page 11)

Table I

Now, Yangon Di-

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Basic education			
- number of schools	2374	2667	293
- BEHS	126	217	91
- BEMS	183	233	50
- Post Primary	-	298	298
- BEPS	2065	1919	upgrading
- multimedia classroom	-	264	264
- number of teachers	28859	30820	1961
- number of students	776162	983509	207347
- pre-primary			
- number of school	-	64	64
- children	-	2109	2109
- teacher education			
- education institute/school/college	-	3	3
- teacher	85	154	69
- trainee	756	3809	3053
- KG enrolment	70.45%	99.30%	28.85%
- adult literacy rate	90.44%	97.40%	6.91%
School dropout rate			
- primary school level	28.23%	8.21%	20.02%
- middle school level	39.93%	4.5%	35.43%
Uplift of higher education			
- university/college/degree college	8	12	4
- professional institutes*	5	2	handing over
- arts & science university	1	6	5
- degree college	1	1	0
- college	-	3	3
- institute**	1	-	upgrading
- Wide Area Network	-	1	1
- No of WAN Sites	-	25	25
- academic programmes	76	184	108
- number of teachers	2927	3560	633
- number of students	90092	195270	105178
- Human resource development centre	-	9	9
- e-Learning centre	-	69	69

Remarks

* Sagaing Institute of Education, Monywa Institute of Economics, Meiktila IE were added. Yangon Technological University, University of Computer Studies, Institute of Agriculture and Institute of Veterinary Science were handed over to respective ministries.

** Institute of Foreign Languages was upgraded to the university level.

Yangon Division marching to...

(from page 10)
Central Myanmar including Mt Popa. At the same time, it is taking measures for greening of the entire Yangon Division. Table C reflects progress of the region's forest conservation.

Transport

Yangon Division enjoyed smooth transport to an extent in the past. There are local and inter-

(Shwepyitha), Hline River crossing bridge (Myochaung), Bawle River crossing bridge (Yebawthoung) and Aungzeya Bridge (Insein) have contributed towards better transport of the region. On completion of the seven bridge projects, local people can travel by car to all parts of the country. Table D indicates progress of the region's transport sector.

Table J

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
- Yangon Technological University	1	1	-
- course numbers	18	72	54
- teachers	256	478	222
- students (graduate)	687	10947	10261
- present students	-	1289	1289
- Yangon University of Computer Studies	1	1	-
- course numbers	2	10	8
- teachers	40	151	111
- students (graduate)	19	16137	16118
- present students	-	12787	12787
- Government Technological Colleges			
- GTC (Hmawby)	-	1	1
- course numbers	-	9	9
- GTC (Thanlyin)	-	1	1
- course number	-	11	11
- number of teachers	-	320	320
- number of students (graduate)	-	10586	10586
- present students	-	5828	5828
- Government Technical Institute			
- GTI (Insein)	1	1	-
- course numbers	5	5	-
- teacher	86	40	-
- students (graduate)	6471	10546	4075
- present students	-	17	17

national sea and air freights and trains and bus terminals in the division.

But, people have to rely on ferry services in the region as it is teeming with many rivers and creeks. Thanlyin Bridge is one and only facility that links Yangon East and West. Transport had been poor for a long time in the region.

The government is upgrading Yangon City which was famous in Asia in the past. It has built Hline River crossing bridge and Aungzeya bridge and a new road to directly links the region with Ayeyawady Division. It has also built many roads that lead to Yangon-Mandalay Highway. There have emerged town-to-town roads and village-to-village roads such as Kaddapana-Khanaung-Zwebargondan-Kwani-Kamarakalok road.

A total of 23 bridges, each of which is more than 180 feet long, including six large bridges have emerged in the division. Maha Bandoola Bridge (Pazundaung), Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Thingangyun), Hline River crossing bridge

Communication

It is vividly visible that the entire nation has witnessed remarkable development in numerous sectors. The government is taking steps for development of border areas and rural regions and urban areas.

Now, it is putting into motion the border areas development project, the special regions development project, the nine-district greening project, the 24 special regions development project, and the five-task rural development project for national development.

Table E depicts progress the region is making in the communication sector.

Electric power

Yangon Division consumed 545.077 million units of electricity in 1988. However, the Tatmadaw government has been able to increase the amount nearly six times, accounting for 3,084.312 million units.

The region's population has increased by 1.9 million. The living standard of local people has become higher to a certain degree. In the past, on average a household could

use an electric apparatus, and now a citizen can use close to the rate of an electric apparatus.

A careful analysis of increasing number of industrial zones and factories in the region will reveal the electricity requirement that is interrelated with the nation's improvement and changes for the better.

Now is the time when the government is making sustained endeavours for all-round development of the nation. It

Table L

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
- Defence Services Medical Academy	-	1	1
- Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science	-	1	1
- Myanmar Maritime University	-	1	1
- University of Culture	-	1	1
- Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College	-	1	1
- Yangon Cooperative Degree College	-	2	2
- Central Cooperative College (Phaunggyi)	-	1	1
- Mercantile Marine Degree College	-	1	1
- Civil Aviation College	-	1	1

has constructed irrigation facilities in the regions where water was scarce for ensuring long-term benefits of the nation and the people. Simultaneously, it is constructing Union Highways and bridges of various sizes and types across the nation. It has also built universities, colleges, schools in addition to construction and upgrading of hospitals and health care centres for raising the health standard of the people.

So far, almost all the infrastructures have been constructed. Now, the government is seeking all possible ways and means for boosting generation of electricity. Table F represents progress of the electric power sector of Yangon Division.

Industry

The goal "transforming the agro-based nation into an industrialized one" will come true

in the near future. The government has organized scattered factories into industrial zones. It is giving encouragement to technical experts for the industrial development.

It is heartening to note that many requirements have been fulfilled for industrial development of Yangon Division. It has established four industrial zones in the region — Yangon East Industrial Zone, Yangon West Industrial Zone, Yangon South Industrial Zone, and Yangon North Industrial Zone in the region. In each industrial zone are many small enterprises.

In Yangon East Industrial Zone are Nos 1, 2 and 3 South Dagon Industrial Zones, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan Township Industrial Zone, Yangon Industrial Zone, Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone, North Okkalapa Industrial Zone, South Okkalapa Industrial

Zone and Thakayta Industrial Zone.

In Yangon West Industrial Zone, there are Mayangon, Hline, and Kamayut industrial zones; in Yangon South Industrial Zone, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, and Kayan industrial zones; and in Yangon North Industrial Zone, Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha and Mingaladon industrial zones.

Yangon East Industrial Zone is made up of 1,136 enterprises; Yangon West Industrial Zone, 621; Yangon South Industrial Zone, 382; and Yangon North Industrial Zone, 539, totalling 2,678.

The region has 5,786 private-run factories and 4,833 cottage industries alongside 241 State-owned factories. Table G compared the region's project of the industrial sector in 1988 and that at present.

Energy

There has emerged an onshore oilfield (Aphyauk) in Yangon Division. Table H shows production of gas and oil of the oilfield.

Education

Thanks to the education promotion plan, the youths both in the hilly regions and in the plains have enjoyed better opportunities to pursue education. Regarding the basic education sector, all school-aged children have enjoyed the opportunity to attend primary school, and equality to continue to pursue middle and high school education.

The government has established 298 post-primary schools, and there are nearly 1 million basic education students in Yangon Division.

With respect to the higher education sector, a total of close to the number of two million students go to Yangon University, Yangon Institute of Economics, Yangon Institute of Education, Yangon University of Distance Education, Dagon University, Yangon University of Foreign Languages, (see page 12)

Table K

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
upgrading of hospital	53	74	21
- specialist hospital	9	9	-
- teaching hospital	3	3	-
- 300-bed	-	2	2
- 200-bed	3	3	-
- 150-bed	2	1	upgrading
- 100-bed	1	2	1
- 50-bed	7	10	3
- 25-bed	5	11	6
- 16-bed	6	8	2
- station/ sub-township hospital	17	25	8
health units	147	167	20
- rural health unit	70	77	7
- maternal and child care unit	21	21	-
- regional health unit	35	48	13
- school health team	21	21	-
Health employee	3449	4603	1154
- doctors (specialist/assistant)	745	1242	497
- nurses	1652	1928	276
- health staff	193	204	11
- midwives	611	741	130
- skilled staff	118	158	40
- township health in-charge	-	9	9
- health assistant-1	-	45	45
- health assistant	78	89	11
- supervisor (1)/(2)	52	87	35
traditional medicine			
- traditional medicine hospital	1	1	-
- traditional medicine dispensary	12	21	9
Training schools			
- nursing training school	2	3	1
- midwifery school	2	2	-
Medical and Health Universities*			
- Institute of Medicine	3	6	3
- Institute of Dental Medicine	2	2	-
- Institute of Nursing	1	1	-
- Institute of Pharmacy	-	1	1
- Institute of Paramedical Sciences	-	1	1

* Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon), Institute of Medicine-2 (Yangon), Institute of Dental Medicine (Yangon), Institute of Nursing (Yangon), Institute of Pharmacy (Yangon) and Institute of Paramedical Sciences (Yangon)

Yangon Division marching to...

(from page 11)
Yangon East University, Yangon West University, National Management College, Yankin Education College, Hlegu Education College, and Thingangyun Education College in Yangon Division.

Now, the primary school enrolment rate of Yangon Division has risen to 99.30 per cent and the adult literacy rate, 97.40 per cent. Table I shows the division's progress of the education sector.

Science and technology

To the graduation parade of the 7th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy which was held in PyintOoLwin, Head of

State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the Tatmadaw Government has laid down and implemented the economic objective — Development of agriculture as the base and for all-round development of other sectors of economy as well. Thanks to the collective efforts of the Tatmadaw, the Government and the people, clusters of infrastructures have already been built in all necessary places. More infrastructures will be built in the future, too. Because of the energetic efforts to extend sown acreage, increase per acre yield, and introduce new crops species, the nation now is

enjoying surplus rice. As the nation is able to produce enough food for the people, we will have to establish an industrial nation for the prosperity of the national people. But the setting up of an industrialised nation needs a large number of qualified human resources. Hence, the Government has established 24 development zones, the project covering the task to develop human resources simultaneously in the entire nation. The rural development tasks are being attached to the project for development of all regions of the nation. Now, all the nationalities have the opportunity to get access to science and technological studies in their own regions. In addition, the Government is giving

Table N

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
- TV retransmission station	1	2	1
- IPRD offices	-	39	39
- IPRD libraries	7	39	32
- departmental libraries	-	43	43
- rural library	-	708	708
- e-library	-	2	2

priority to increased generation of electricity for industrial development. In this situation, you will have to strive as the human resources building a developed nation, while striving to further promote the science and technological sectors of the Tatmadaw. As the saying, which goes, 'The taller the person, the longer his shade', the task to build an industrial nation will be swifter and speedier, only if you try to enhance your ability. These words of guidance are signs of good prospects for the nation.

Now, concerted efforts are being made to produce qualified human resources to build a modern, developed nation. Table J shows the number of universities related to science and technology built in Yangon Division.

Health

Nowadays, public health care services are being provided as a priority to give medical treatment and take disease control measures. Hospitals (200-bed) have been built in the 24 development regions. All hospitals have been

upgraded into 200-bed ones complete with all necessary facilities.

Hospitals in every township have also been upgraded. Public health care services are being carried out by appointing specialists for 12 specialised subjects in all 200-bed hospitals. Table K shows the development of health sector of Yangon Division.

Development of human resources and the Union'

New generation youths are the ones responsible for accelerating the momentum of building a modern, developed nation. They will have to shoulder their duties in the interests of the nation and people. It is the duty of our entire national people to safeguard our motherland. The State is producing human resources to serve the interests of the Union throughout their life. The table 'L' shows the sector of development of human resources.

Development affairs

The State and the people are making combined efforts for rural and urban development.

The people are now contributing to the supply of rural drinking water, rural education sector and rural health sector by using their raised funds. Table M shows the development of rural regions in Yangon Division.

Information and public relations

The Tatmadaw Government is working hard side by side with the people to improve the socio-economy of all the people of the country. It can be seen now that Myanmar engineers are actively participating in the projects for construction of dams, power stations and bridges.

Similarly, all people including those from rural areas, pensioners, academics and technicians are co-operating in the efforts for development of education and health sectors.

Table N shows the number of facilities built in the division for the development of mass media.

(Translation: TTA+MS+ST)

Table M

Subject	1988	12-2-05	Progress
Urban development			
- urban road (miles)	147/6	184/2	36/4
- miles of tarred road	31/7	55/7	24/0
- miles of gravel road	10/7	4/0	upgrading
- miles of laterite road	27/2	34/7	7/5
- earthen road	77/6	89/4	11/6
- urban bridges	-	509	509
- urban water supply work			
- works for town	12	4	8
- completed work	5	8	3
Rural development			
- Rural road (miles)	239/4	894/1	654/5
- tarred road	14/1	35/0	20/7
- gravel road	70/7	61/3	upgrading
- laterite road	33/5	283/0	294/3
- earthen road	120/7	514/6	393/7
- Rural bridge	-	249	249
Rural Water supply tasks			
- work for village	1020	382	638
- completed work	-	874	874
- rural housing	-	99	99



NC delegates from Kayin State arrive at Nyaungnatpin, Hmawby.—MNA



NC delegates from Kayah State arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



NC delegates from Shan State (East) arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



NC delegates from Mon State arrive at Nyaungnatpin, Hmawby.—MNA

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Tuvalu is showcase of global warming's effects

SYDNEY, 13 Feb—Islanders on tiny Tuvalu in the South Pacific last week saw the future of global warming and rising sea levels, as extreme high tides caused waves to crash over crumbling sea-walls and flood their homes.

"Our island is sinking together with our hearts," wrote Silafaga Lalua in Tuvalu News (www.tuvalu.islands.com).

Tuvalu is a remote island nation consisting of a fringe of atolls covering just 25.9 square kilometres (10 square miles), with the highest point no more than 5 metres (17 feet) above sea level, but most a mere 2 metres (6.5 feet).

Global warming from greenhouse gas pollution is regarded as the main reason for higher sea levels, now rising about 2mm (0.08 in) a year, which could swamp low-lying nations such as Tuvalu and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean if tempera-

tures keep rising.

On February 16, a landmark UN pact to curb global warming comes into force. Under the Kyoto Protocol, developed countries are meant to cut emissions of carbon dioxide, largely from burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil in power plants, factories and cars, by an average 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels during 2008-12.

But the world's biggest greenhouse polluter, the United States, has refused to join Kyoto, while some Kyoto signatories such as Spain and Portugal have increased greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent over 1990 levels.

Last Tuesday evening, Tuvaluans in the capital Funafuti watched extreme high tides and strong winds send waves crashing across the island's main road, littering it with rocks and debris.

"It's that time of year again when my tiny island nation gets hit once again by strong winds and high tides," said Lalua.

"The sea-walls that were constructed to be barriers from the wrath of the waves and the sea stood no chance against the damages of the sea over the years, and now they are only tatters of wire among debris along the shores," said Lalua.

MNA/Reuters

Rafsanjani says Iran cannot give up uranium enrichment

TEHERAN, 13 Feb—Washington will not stop Iran pursuing nuclear technology and should not attempt a military "adventure" in the country, an influential cleric said on Friday.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has exhorted Iran to give up what she says is a nuclear weapons programme.

US officials have stressed diplomacy but not ruled out an attack against atomic sites, which Iran insists are to meet booming demand for electricity.

"The Persian Gulf is not a region where they can have fireworks and Iran is not a country where they can come for an adventure," cleric and former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told worshippers at Friday prayers.

"It is not acceptable that developed countries generate 70 or 80 per cent of their electricity from nuclear energy and tell Iran, a great and powerful nation, that it cannot have nuclear electricity. Iran does not accept this," he added.

Although France produces close to 80 per cent of its electricity from nuclear power stations, most major industrialized nations derive under 30 per cent, US Energy Information Administration data says.

Rafsanjani is often hailed by analysts as a pragmatist who wants to restore diplomatic relations with the United States.

However, Iran's right to produce its own nuclear fuel from uranium mined in the central deserts is a subject that unites politicians across the conservative and reformist camps.

Talks with France, Britain and Germany have aimed to persuade oil-rich Iran to drop its fuel making programme in return for economic incentives.

In Geneva, four days of closed-door discussions between the EU3 and Iran ended on Friday with an agreement to meet again in mid-March, also in the Swiss city, diplomatic sources said.

"The process is continuing. There will be more meetings. The work was serious. All subjects were discussed," said one diplomatic source, who declined to be identified further.

Negotiators have agreed to make no public statements.

MNA/Reuters

GCC defence bill highest in world as ratio of GDP

ABUDHABI, 13 Feb—The six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) spent 277 billion US dollars on defence and security over the last eight years, accounting for some 12.7 per cent of their gross domestic products (GDP), the highest ratio in the world, the *Gulf News* daily reported on Saturday.

The latest figures provided by the General Exhibitions Corp(GEC) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) show that in 2003 alone, the defence spending by the GCC was 25.38 billion dollars, irrespective of high or low oil revenues.

Among the GCC states, Saudi Arabia spent the highest in 2003 on defence, totalling 18.40 billion dollars, while Oman came next with 2.24 billion dollars.

Kuwait's defence expenditure was 1.9 billion dollars while that of the UAE was 1.6 billion dollars, followed by Qatar with 723 million dollars and Bahrain, 520 million dollars.

MNA/Xinhua



A Common Mayna Bird forages in the branches of a blooming tree in Dhaka on the eve of the Pahela Falgun (first day of spring).

INTERNET

Picture of mourning woman wins World Press Photo Award

AMSTERDAM, 12 Feb—A Reuters picture of an Indian woman mourning a relative killed in the Asian tidal wave won the coveted 2004 World Press Photo of the Year award on Friday.

The picture, taken by Indian photographer Arko Datta in Tamil Nadu on 28 December, shows a woman crouched on sandy ground, her mouth open in a wail and her palms turned to the sky, the arm of a disaster victim visible in the corner of the shot.

"In a good picture you can hear the roar of nature and the silence of grief," jury chairman Di-

ego Goldberg, an Argentine photographer, told a news conference to announce the winners. Goldberg said the 13-member jury had been unanimous in its choice of Datta's image for the top prize.

"He is not showing hundreds of bodies or the destruction. He chose a very simple composition, very strong. It is a very intimate moment but compelling visu-

ally," Goldberg said. "It shows you can express huge events by showing the detail."

The picture was chosen from a record 69,190 images entered by 4,266 professional photographers from 123 countries. Based in Amsterdam, the World Press Photo is the most prestigious annual international competition in Press photography.

MNA/Reuters

New cholera outbreak reported in parts of Uganda

KAMPALA, 13 Feb — The Ugandan Ministry of Health has disclosed that there has been an outbreak of cholera in six districts of the East African country, killing at least two people.

Commissioner for Community Health of the Ministry Dr Okware Sam told *Xinhua* on Friday that the outbreak was registered in Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kabarole and Hoima all in western Uganda. Busia (eastern Uganda) and Gulu (northern Uganda) districts have been also affected.

He said that in the last two weeks, 10 cases with two deaths were reported in Busia after six years of no case. The first case was reported on 21 January in Buhehe sub-county at the border of Kenya.

Okware noted that in

Hoima District, 10 cases were reported and these people were Congolese fleeing from the clashes in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In Kasese still bordering Congo, the disease is on and off, therefore there are no constant figures.

In the war-torn district of Gulu, there was an outbreak at Palabong Internally Displaced Persons' Camp registering six new cases in the last few weeks. About 200 cases were contained in this camp in August and December 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentina, Uruguay to discuss energy integration

MONTEVIDEO, 13 Feb—Officials from Argentina and Uruguay will meet next week in Montevideo to continue discussion on energy integration in South America, Uruguayan energy officials said Friday.

Uruguayan Industry, Energy and Mining Minister Jose Villar, National Energy Director Alvaro Bermudes and Chairman of state-run electricity firm UNE Ricardo Scaglia will meet Argentine Industry Secretary Dan-

iel Cameron and Energy Director Juan Meira on 17 February.

The officials will analyse the process of energy integration of the region and the situation of each country's energy sector undergoes.—MNA/Xinhua

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Inter move into third spot by beating AS Roma 2-0

ROME, 13 Feb— Two Sinisa Mihajlovic free kicks gave Inter Milan a 2-0 victory over AS Roma on Saturday and moved them into third spot in Serie A.

Inter jumped two points ahead of Udinese to 42 from 24 matches, eight behind leaders Juventus, who play Udinese on Sunday.

The 35-year-old defender broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute, when he curled the ball past Ivan Pelizzoli from a wide position outside the area.

Roma pressed forward in search of an equalizer and only a last-ditch tackle by defender Ivan Cordoba prevented Vincenzo Montella finishing from close range just before the break.

They continued to look lively in the second half though were unable to find a chink in the home side's defence and their hopes ended in the first minute of stoppage time, when Philippe Mexes was sent off for a second bookable offence and Mihajlovic rifled in the resulting free kick to seal victory.—MNA/Reuters

Rangers on top of Scottish Premier League

GLASGOW, 13 Feb— Croatia striker Dado Prso scored twice in a 3-0 win over third-placed Hibernian which put Rangers on top of the Scottish Premier League on Saturday.

Rangers, with 62 points, lead on goal difference from Glasgow rivals Celtic, who play at Inverness Caledonian Thistle on Sunday.

Hearts, in fourth, beat Kilmarnock 3-0 and Aberdeen (fifth) went down 2-1 at Dunfermline Athletic.

Rangers dominated the game and could have scored a hatful of goals if Hibernian goalkeeper Simon Brown had not been in superb form. Brown saved a penalty by Nacho Novo just before halftime after Novo was fouled. Prso hit the woodwork after scoring his first goal with a header from a corner.

Prso scored his second five minutes after halftime to put the game beyond Hibernian's reach before Belgian striker Thomas Buffel added a third.

Rangers manager Alex McLeish said: "It is hard to remember a better performance. That was a real quality display."

"We really took the game by the scruff of the neck and went on to totally dominate. "Every one of the starting eleven put in a good shift and Barry Ferguson was terrific (on his return)."

The crowd of 50,143 was Rangers biggest of the season.—MNA/Reuters

Schalke defeat

VfL Wolfsburg 3-0

FRANKFURT, 13 Feb— Schalke 04 moved level on points with Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich on Saturday as they roared back to form with a 3-0 win at home to VfL Wolfsburg.

Gerald Asamoah headed Schalke ahead in the 13th minute, Ebbe Sand doubled the lead with another header 10 minutes before halftime and Mike Hanke wrapped up Schalke's first win in three games with the third in the 85th minute.

Schalke even had the luxury of an Ailton penalty miss as they claimed a victory that kept them in second place with 41 points from 21 games, behind Bayern on goal difference.

Bayern can move back into a three-point lead if they win at Arminia Bielefeld on Sunday.

Werder Bremen, last season's double winners, climbed to third on 37 points with a 2-0 win at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Aaron Hunt got the first and Egyptian striker Mohamed Zidan marked his debut with the second goal two minutes from time.

Hertha Berlin improved to fourth on 36 points with a 2-1 win at home to FC Nuremberg, while VfB Stuttgart slipped to fifth on 35 points after a 2-1 defeat at Hamburg SV.

Schalke went into Saturday's game looking for a victory tonic, after managing just five points from their previous four games.

"Today it was simply important that we won," said Schalke coach Ralf Rangnick. "I'm not concerned about the results of the other teams."

Wolfsburg, beaten in their first three games in 2005, proved to be the perfect victims as their defensive weakness allowed Schalke to enjoy a comfortable win.

Asamoah, making a quick recovery from the injury he suffered in Germany's friendly against Argentina in midweek, was given a free header from Lincoln's free kick for the first goal.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid insisted there were no plans to swap England striker Michael Owen, seen here, for Arsenal's unsettled Spanish attacker Jose Antonio Reyes.—INTERNET

Monaco beat Libourne Saint-Seurin 4-2

PARIS, 13 Feb— A Javier Saviola hat-trick helped Monaco labour to a 4-2 victory at Third Division Libourne Saint-Seurin in the French Cup second round on Saturday.

The Argentina striker opened the scoring in the 25th minute before netting two more goals, including one in injury-time, to wrap up the match.

Libourne tried to live up to their reputation as giant-killers, after eliminating Olympique Lyon and Lille in 2001 and reaching the quarterfinals by beating Bastia in 2002, and put up a brave challenge until the end.

They equalized through striker Roland Vieira just after the interval and reduced the deficit to 3-2 thanks to a goal by midfielder Pascal Theze two minutes from time. Monaco were lucky to reach the next round as Libourne

defender Lilian Astier scored an own-goal in the 80th minute.

Amateurs Nimes claimed their second top-flight scalp when they beat visiting AC Ajaccio in a penalty shootout after the match had finished level at 1-1 following extra time. The Corsicans went in front when defender Nenad Dzodic netted in the fourth minute but Nimes equalized through Enza Yamissi from the penalty spot in the 89th.

Nimes, who had eliminated Saint-Etienne in the first round, kept their cool in the penalty shootout to win 4-2 and knock out their second Ligue 1 victims in a row.—MNA/Reuters

Chelsea come out on top thanks to Gudjohnsen's second-half goal

LONDON, 13 Feb— Striker Eidur Gudjohnsen kept Chelsea on course for their first league title in 50 years with the winner in a scrappy 1-0 victory over 10-man Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Gudjohnsen poked in a rebound 20 minutes from time after William Gallas' effort hit the bar to end some brave resistance by Everton, who played all but eight minutes of the match a man short after striker James Beattie's foolish dismissal.

Everton's record six million pounds (11.19 million US dollars) signing was given a straight red card, the first of his career, for twice head-butting the back of French defender Gallas' head as he chased an early through ball.

Chelsea's win, achieved without injured attackers Arjen Robben and Didier Drogba, lifted their points tally to 68, 12 points clear of second-placed Manchester United with only 11 matches to play.

United (56 points) visit local rivals City in the Manchester derby on Sunday. Third-placed champions Arsenal (54) host Crystal Palace on Monday. Everton's defeat meant they stayed fourth on 48 points.

In Saturday's other Premier League games fifth-placed Liverpool stumbled again, losing 2-0 at Birmingham City and Blackburn Rovers beat fellow strugglers Norwich City 3-0. Aston Villa won 2-1 at Portsmouth.

Everton had reasons for optimism before the match with a swirling wind and a terrible pitch seemingly playing into their hands. Beattie's departure, though, soon negated any advantage the home team might have had.

Chelsea dominated but found the uneven surface and the sharp instincts of Everton goalkeeper Nigel Martyn hard to overcome for most of the game.

MNA/Reuters

Anderlecht suffer another blow

BRUSSELS, 13 Feb— Belgian champions Anderlecht, who sacked coach Hugo Broos on Monday, suffered another blow as they lost 1-0 at home to bottom club Oostende on Saturday.

The result deepens the crisis at the Brussels team now coached by former assistant Franky Vercauteren as they remain 14 points behind leaders Club Bruges, who host Charleroi on Sunday.

Oostende went ahead through Marco Nijs in the 25th minute as he took advantage of an injury to Anderlecht central defender Hannu Tihinen, who was left laying on the ground. Nijs was sent off in the 57th minute for a second booking but Oostende battled throughout the match and picked up nine bookings in total, including the two for Nijs.

The win moves Oostende level on 15 points with Mons Bergen, before their home match with Lierse on Sunday, and a point above FC Brussels who lost 1-0 at Westerlo.

Standard Liege versus Racing Genk and St. Truiden against Ghent were postponed on Saturday because of torrential rain.—MNA/Reuters



Feliciano Lopez of Spain returns a backhand to Joachim Johansson of Sweden during their semi-final match of the Open 13 tennis tournament in Marseille, southern France on Saturday.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

E	I	G	H	T	S	B	E	L	L	E	S
X	U	R	S	L	A	T					
C	R	A	N	I	U	M	D	E	M	U	R
I	R	M	A	O	B	E					
T	I	D	Y	L	A	R	G	E	S	S	
E	A	I	L	A	N	S					
G	R	I	D	D	O	T	E				
C	E	J	T	O	O	F					
R	E	C	L	U	S	E	S	O	H	O	
O	O	S	N	W	F	R					
C	I	V	E	T	S	T	R	A	T	U	M
U	E	E	E	I	E	I					
S	T	R	I	D	E	T	O	N	I	C	



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prizes to staff through Acting Managing Director U Thet Soe of PPE.—MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prizes for artistes through Director (Broadcast) U Ko Ko Htwe of MRTV.—MNA

McDonald's to pay \$8.5m to settle lawsuit over cooking oils

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Feb — McDonald's has agreed to pay 8.5 million US dollars to settle a lawsuit over artery-clogging trans fats in its cooking oils, the company said on Friday.

McDonald's said it will donate seven million US dollars to the American Heart Association and spend another 1.5 million US dollars to inform the public of its trans fat plans. The settlement is the result of litigation from a San Francisco area activist who has been seeking to raise public awareness of the health dangers from the trans fatty acids (TFAs) in hydrogenated or partially hydro-generated oils.

Trans fats are used in thousands of processed food products, often giving the crunch to French fries, cookies, and cereals. They are created in processing vegetable oils and have been found to be as unhealthy as pure cholesterol. The latest official US nutrition recommendations suggest limiting their intake.

"McDonald's has reached an agreement to further notify our customers about the status of our ongoing initiative to reduce TFAs in our cooking oil," the company said in a statement.

Stephen Joseph, a lawyer who founded BanTransFats.com, sued

McDonald's over complaints the firm did not properly inform the public that it had encountered delays in plans to lessen the trans fats in its cooking oils. Joseph said his site would receive 7,500 US dollars, as would another plaintiff in the case. "McDonald's has been successful in reducing TFA levels in our Chicken McNuggets, Crispy Chicken Sandwich and McChicken Sandwich," the fast food firm said. "McDonald's continues to work hard on our initiative to reduce TFAs in our cooking oil."

British-born Joseph first gained publicity for his cause by suing Kraft Foods two years ago to highlight the trans fat content of much-loved Oreos cookies. The company has since moved to remove trans fats from its snack foods.

MNA/Reuters

Kenyan employers not optimistic about eco growth

NAIRIBO, 13 Feb — Kenyan employers are not optimistic about the economic growth because of increased political volatility and poor infrastructure in the East African country.

The Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) has ruled out the possibility of improved economic growth in the current financial year. Officials of the FKE said Kenya had become a hostile investment destination and could not therefore achieve a growth rate of above 3 per cent, *The Standard* newspaper reported on Saturday. Aram Mbui, the FKE chairman, said key sectors of the economy such as tourism, infrastructure development, security and the judiciary were performing below expectations.

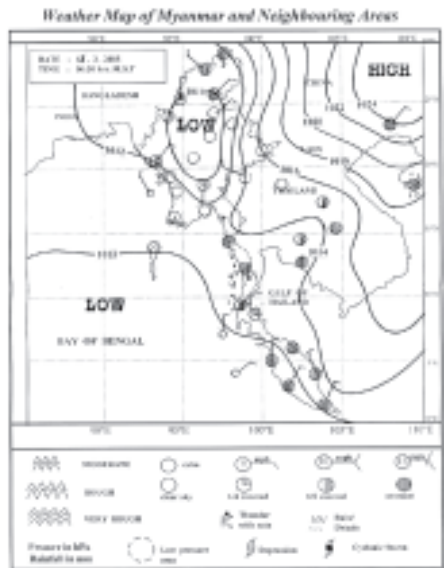
According to Mbui, Kenya was losing out on new investment due to increased volatility on the political front and poor infrastructure. He said infrastructure remained a major source of concern for FKE members and that the problem had negatively impacted on the cost of doing business in Kenya. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany, US differ over NATO's role in transatlantic ties

MUNICH (Germany), 13 Feb — Germany and the United States on Saturday both called for further transatlantic cooperation but differed over the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in transatlantic dialogue.

At the annual Munich security conference, the German Government proposed reorganization of transatlantic relations and reform of NATO. A close transatlantic tie still conforms to the interests of both

sides, but the reality of the international requirement has changed, said German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in a speech read to the conference by German Defence Minister Peter Struck. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 13 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.23) inch. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Eastern Shan State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, Taninthayi Division and upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lashio and Heho (5°C) each and Kengtung Namsam (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 12-2-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 13-2-2005 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 13-2-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 12-2-2005 was (7.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 13-2-2005 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 9 mph from East at (09:15) hours MST on 13-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 14-2-2005:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperatures are likely in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-2-2005: Fair weather.

Radio Myanmar

Monday, 14 February

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music: Love to infinity

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music: -I do cherish you

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9.00 am Music: -Should've never

9.05 am International news

9.10 am Music: -I turn to you

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Lunch time music

-Saving all my love for you

-Experience

-The one you love

9.00 pm Spotlight on the Star

9.10 pm Article

9.20 pm Drug Elimination

-Time for government and people to eradicate hand in hand the menace of narcotic drugs

9.35 pm Golden Land's Melody

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

Monday, 14 February

View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. Songs of National races

8:05 am

6. Cute little dancers

8:15 am

7. စလင်းရေလှော်တံခွန်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြု) (ရုပ်ပေး)

5:15 pm

6. Dance Variety

5:30 pm

7. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာအစားအယူများ (ရုပ်ပေး)

5:40 pm

8. (၅၀) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ရက်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:50 pm

9. Industrial Achievement

6:00 pm

10. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Troupe)

6:05 pm

11. Discovery

6:15 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "ဈေးကွက်ပေါင်းစုံချိန်း" (အပိုင်း-၆၇)

6:30 pm

13. Evening news

7:00 pm

14. Weather report

7:05 pm

15. အစောပိုင်းရုပ်မြင်သံကြားစာသားကိုစုစုံချိန်းပြုတိုချက်

7:20 pm

12. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မပြတ် ရင်သန် ခိုင်မာရန်မှာ ခိုဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ရာအညွှတ်တစ်ခု ခိုပြည်ထောင်စု) (စရာတိုတို)

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "သေခွဲပွဲချိန်း" (အပိုင်း-၃၈)

21. The next day's programme

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Rubber, tapioca farms inspected in Kawhmu, Twantay

YANGON, 13 Feb— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspected Hngetawsan Rubber Farm in Kawhmu Township this morning.

The minister met with staff at the office of Hsukalat Rubber Farm of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries in Kawhmu Township.

The farm manager reported on salient points of the farm. Managing Director U Aye Mauk reported on other salient points.

Next, the minister gave instructions on upgrading of the Hngetawsan-Hsukalat-Kawhmu Road, produc-



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspects Hngetawsan Rubber Farm.— INDUSTRY-1

tion of latex, nurturing of rubber trees and extended growing of 118 acres.

In his inspection

tour, the minister cordially conversed with workers producing rubber latex at the two rub-

ber farms. On arrival at the Tapioca Plantation in Twantay, the minister

heard a report on growing of the plantation and matters related to the plantation.

The minister gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.— MNA

Ministry of Information honours outstanding staff

YANGON, 13 Feb— Ministry of Information honoured departmental staff members for their outstanding performance of work at the Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addressed the occa-

sion and awarded honourable staff.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors, deputy directors general, general managers, directors and chief editors of the departments and enterprises un-

der the ministry, officials and guests.

First, the minister delivered a speech.

He said it was the ceremony to honour those who successfully performed the tasks of the Ministry of Information and film artists and musicians who participated in the media work of the min-

istry.

The functions of the ministry are wide, heavy and delicate and they are to be done in time or on time. The staff of the ministry and artistes were honoured for their outstanding performance in these important functions, he said.

Media work cannot

be done in a fixed way but it must be done through innovation for drawing attention of the people, he added.

The minister spoke of the need for media to be effective and dynamic.

He urged the staff to discharge the duties of the respective departments and tasks of the ministry

in accord with the 14-point guideline to be followed by the service personnel of the ministry and called on the artistes to continue to take part in the implementation of the tasks of the ministry.

Next, the minister presented prizes for 10 outstanding staff of the office of the Ministry of Information to Head of Office Maj Ye Tint; prizes for 81 staff of MRTV to Director-General U Khin Maung Htay; prizes for 10 of Information and Public Relations Department to Director-General U Chit Naing; prizes for 10 of Printing and Publishing Enterprise to Acting Magaging Director U Thet Soe; prizes for 30 of News and Periodicals Enterprise to Managing Director U Soe Win; prizes for 18 of Myanma (see page 7)



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the ceremony to honour tasks implementation of Ministry of Information.— MNA

42nd Myanma Gems Emporium to be held in March

YANGON, 13 Feb—With the aim of serving the interest of the State and the gem entrepreneurs, the Myanma Gems Enterprise has made arrangements for holding the 42nd Myanma Gems Emporium in March 2005.

The gem entrepreneurs will be able to generate their income more and more as gems and jewellery with a reasonable fixed reserve price will be sold

through competitive bidding at the gem emporium.

MGE in cooperation with relevant departments will take necessary steps for sooner acquisition of proceeds, facilitation of export and other requirements.

The gem entrepreneurs are to contact the MGE's Head Office to have their gems and jewellery accepted and prices fixed.—MNA

INSIDE

Now, the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are inheriting the fine traditions and handing down them to new generation youths, while marching to the golden land of unity and amity.