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Gratitude owed to our forefathers

Because of the gratitude owed to our forefathers of the successive eras, who lived in unity with high vision, attaching themselves with bonds of amity, with the family spirit – love and friendship, helpfulness, sympathy, mutual reliance, understanding, forgiveness, and cooperation based on common interest – as the foundation, the national races of the Union have been able to live together and join hands for a long time.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From the message sent on the occasion of 57th Anniversary Union Day)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office of LPDR

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Chairman of National Sports and Physical Education Committee Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Dr Phouthong Seng-Akhom of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and party at the hall of Government Office, here, at 4.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and departmental heads.

The Laotian delegation was accompanied by Lao PDR Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kouily A Souphakhet.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets Chairman of National Sports and Physical Education Committee Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Dr Phouthong Seng-Akhom of Lao PDR at Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

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
Try to make movies of international standard

Improvement of movie standard is the lifeblood of Myanmar’s film world. Film artistes, technicians and producers are to focus on meeting the standards of their movies. They have to try to improve more in all parts such as plot, acting and mode of dress.

In making and screening global movies, modern technologies and equipment and good sound effects are being used. It is found that their movies are penetrating the international market due to excellent performance in all sectors plus the efforts of film directors and stars.

With the assistance rendered by the State and the efforts made by those from the film world, Myanmar has been able to make movies with better picture, colour and sound system. So it is necessary to continue to improve the movie standard and produce movies of international standard till reaching the global market.

Throughout the successive eras, those from the Myanmar film industry were able to uplift national integrity with the might of arts. They have constantly been discharging national duties from the period of independence struggles to the present time of building a new nation.

With the advent of globalization among world countries, alien culture such as arts, music and dress style of some countries is infiltrating into Myanmar. Their ideology and character has wielded influence on us. Therefore, the people, including the youth, are to be vigilant against such alien culture.

A movie has great influence on us. So, film artistes and producers are to try to produce movies in which their acting and mode of dress are compatible with the Myanmar culture. All in all, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon and those from the film world are to make greater efforts to produce movies of international standard.

Earthquake Report

YANGON, 7 Feb.—A strong earthquake of 6.6 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Ryukyu Islands) about (1900) miles northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 12 hrs 40 min 03 sec today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

People’s Desire

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

Special Refresher Course No. 13 for faculty members concludes at CICS (Upper Myanmar)

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb.—Special Refresher Course No. 13 for faculty members concluded at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division this morning. Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, on behalf of Myanmar Education Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, gave a speech on the occasion.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, the Deputy Chief Justice, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the rector and pro-rectors of the CICS, heads of faculties and course instructors.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister U Thaung said that since possession of advanced technologies and adequate educated human resources of high proficiency was pivotal in development drive of a nation, 30-year long-term national education promotion plan was being implemented in both basic education and higher sectors in accordance with the goal of Myanmar education—emergence of an education system that can create continuous learning society to be able to cope with challenges of the Knowledge Age.

Faculty members were to try hard to have encyclopedic knowledge of their respective subjects. Meanwhile, they were also to nurture their students as efficient human resources for future society based on education. It was also the responsibilities of faculty members to put findings of researches into practical use and to strive for wide-ranging development of applied subjects that were suitable with the nation.

So, the government, with a view to emergence of educated human resources, had been fulfilling all the necessities to promote basic and higher education. Efficient human resources plus invaluable natural resources would bring about prosperous future of the nation.

The government was systematically implementing the national education promotion programme under six sectors—development of human resources, application of technology, research, continuous learning society, promotion of educational level, preservation of national standard and national value.

In conclusion, the minister urged trainees to nurture themselves as students of younger generation as able and proficient human resources by learning continuously and developing applied subjects widely.

Afterwards, on behalf of the SPDC Secretary-1, Minister U Thaung presented prizes to winners of best trainee awards, trainee of industry awards, model hostel awards and completion certificates to trainees.

The four-week course was attended by 860 faculty members from universities and colleges in Upper Myanmar.—MNA

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung being welcomed by Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr Neuton Gunaratna at the reception to mark 62nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 7 February.—MNA
Iran launches training programme on nuclear, radiation safety

KABUL, 7 Feb — Jordan’s Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced on Saturday the launch of an EU-funded project to provide training for Jordanian staff in the field of nuclear and radiation safety.

Under the one million-euro project, which is financed by the European Commission, training programmes will be offered to Jordanian personnel in the field of nuclear and radiation safety, a statement released by the commission indicated.

Jordanian personnel will also take part in local and international workshops held on the issue under the project.

The project will enable the commission to benefit from international expertise in drawing up legislation and monitoring systems in the field. Jordan Nuclear Regulatory Commission Director General Jamal Sharaf said in the statement.

Sharaf added that the project, which will be implemented over two years, entails enhancing of monitoring of radioactive materials and focuses on implementing safety standards when implementing the country’s peaceful nuclear programme.

Karzai of his support to the dialogue offer to the Taliban, according to the statement.

The Saudi Arabian authorities have reportedly put the condition that the Taliban must renounce the al-Qaeda before Riyadh could mediate between the Karzai administration and the militant group.

The Qaem semi-heavy guided missile was launched in the capital, Tehran, to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Islamic revolution, on February 11.

Iran has reached full self-sufficiency in producing radars with different ranges and frequency bands.

The Qaem semi-heavy guided missile can destroy targets flying at low speeds and altitudes, specially the aggressive helicopters equipped with armour-like bodies, Vahidi said.

The Qaem missile is not prone to enemy’s electronic warfare as it is laser-guided, he added.

The Iranian defence minister said that once these advanced weapons are mass produced and delivered to the Armed Forces, Iran’s defence power in ground and air combat will be reinvigorated.

Also on Saturday, Commander of Iran’s Khatam al-Anbia Air Defence Base Brigadier General Ahmad Miqani said Iran has reached full self-sufficiency in the production of different types of needed radars with different ranges and frequency bands.

Female fire fighters participate in an emergency rescue and disaster relief drill in Managua, capital of Nicaragua on 5 Feb, 2010. The drill aims to equip female fire fighters with adequate field skills while most of them serve as management and logistics staffs.

Afghan, ISAF troops kill two militants

KABUL, 7 Feb — Afghan and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) eliminated two militants in Helmand Province, a Talibanded hotbed in south Afghanistan, a Press release of the alliance said on Saturday.

“An Afghan-international security force in the area of Deh Ghawchak in Masa Qaleh District of Helmand province received small-arms fire from a number of militants yesterday, and the troops returned fire killing two militants,” the press release added.

In another operation on Friday the troops discovered a weapons cache in Garmir district of Helmand Province, the Press release further said.

Shiite militants kidnap American in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Feb — A missing Iraqi-American contractor was kidnapped by Shiite militiamen who lured him into central Baghdad by promising to help him find distant relatives, an Iraqi defence official said on Saturday.

A Shiite extremist group claimed responsibility for the 23 Jan kidnapping and posted a video online that shows a man wearing military fatigues reading a list of demands that includes the release of militants, the prosecution of Blackwater guards and an immediate American troop withdrawal.

A high-ranking Iraqi defence official and an American intelligence official identified the man in the video as Issa T. Salomi, the missing contractor. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Iran opens production lines for two new missiles

TEHRAN, 7 Feb — Iran opened its production lines for two new missiles — the Toofan 5 anti-armour missile and the Qaem anti-helicopter missile — on Saturday, the Fars news agency reported.

“The Toofan 5 missile is one of the most advanced anti-armour missiles, which has two warheads and is capable of destroying armoured vehicles, tanks and personnel carriers due to its high penetration power,” Iranian Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said at the inauguration ceremony.

The Qaem semi-heavy guided missile can destroy targets flying at low speeds and altitudes, especially the aggressive helicopters equipped with armou...
Vietnam tackles US in first WTO case

HANOI, 7 Feb—Vietnam has filed its first case over anti-dumping measures under World Trade Organization rules since joining the body three years ago, official media reported.

Vietnam brought the case against anti-dumping tariffs imposed by the United States on frozen shrimp, the Vietnam News Agency said in a report late on Friday.

WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

Vietnam, whose shrimp exporters face US tariffs ranging from 4.13 percent to 25.76 percent, sent a request to the United States on Monday to discuss the anti-dumping measures, the Vietnam News Agency said.

If the two countries cannot reach an agreement on the issue within 60 days, Vietnam can propose that the WTO set up a committee to settle the dispute, the report said.

Vietnamese officials were not immediately able to comment.

A US diplomat, speaking in Hanoi on Saturday, said only that he had heard about Vietnam’s complaint to the WTO.

Open skies, budget travel: Asian airlines soar

SINGAPORE, 7 Feb—The boom in low-cost travel and a growing web of open-skies agreements are expected to power long-term growth for Asian airlines after the global recession, industry bosses and analysts said.

Participants in the Singapore Airshow which ended on Sunday expressed optimism that the region, particularly China, will lead the rest of the world to recovery after the most harrowing year in global travel.

The world aviation industry lost an estimated 11 billion dollars in 2009 after a financial crisis that began in the United States grounded travellers and forced airlines to cancel or defer plane orders.

Organizers of the Singapore Airshow said 10 billion dollars’ worth of contracts were done during the event, down from 13 billion dollars in 2008.

“We look forward to the market picking up further as the industry rides the upturn,” said Jimmy Lau, managing director of the show, Asia’s biggest civilian-military aerospace conference and exhibition.

Nissan to slash production at Spanish plant

MADRID, 7 Feb—Japanese carmaker Nissan said on Saturday its Avila plant in Spain will keep running at less than 50 percent capacity for at least three years, as unions said it was planning to lay off half the factory staff.

The Avila plant — one of several operated by Nissan in Spain — is equipped to turn out 26,000 vehicles per year, most of them small vans, but has been functioning at a fraction of its capacity since 2008, a Nissan spokesman said.

“For the past two years we have had to cut production and the situation is going to continue because our forecast is for 11,000 units per year over the next three years,” the spokesman said.

Ethiopia gets Microsoft software in Amharic

ADDIS ABABA, 7 Feb—US software giant Microsoft has launched Windows Vista in Amharic, the first operating system in the national language of Ethiopia, the official news agency said on Saturday.

”Launching the Amharic version software is a major step forward for Amharic to be a language of technology,” Director of the Ethiopian ICT Development Agency, Debretsin Gebremichael was quoted as saying by the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA). He said 40 scholars from the Addis Ababa University had taken part in the translation of the software and added that plans were being drafted for translation into some of the nation’s other languages.
High-speed rail linking central, western China starts operation

Xi’an, 7 Feb—A high-speed railway linking central China city Zhengzhou and northwestern city Xi’an, went into operation on Saturday.

The 505-km Zhengzhou-Xi’an high-speed railway, the first of its kind in central and western China, cut the travel time between the two cities from former more than six hours to less than two hours, said local railway authorities on Saturday.

The first train left Xi’an, capital of Shaanxi Province, at 10:50 am and arrived at Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province, at 1:15 pm, said Long Jing, head of the Xi’an Railway Bureau.

The train travelled at 350 kilometres per hour, said Long. A total of 14 trains would be travelling between Zhengzhou and Xi’an everyday, said Long.

The first train from Zhengzhou to Xi’an departed from Zhengzhou at 11:25 am and arrived at Xi’an at 2:04 pm, said Niu Jianfeng, spokesman of the Zhengzhou Railway Bureau.

With a speed of 350 kilometres per hour, a high-speed Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) train is on test operation en route from Xi’an to Zhengzhou, in Tongguan, northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, on 4 Feb, 2010. Xinhua

Russia, NATO pledge to cement ties

Moscow, 7 Feb—Russia and NATO reiterated their willingness to strengthen cooperation as both sides have seen a thaw in ties, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen met on Saturday on the sidelines of a major security conference in the German city of Munich.

They vowed “to develop political dialogue and practical cooperation within the Russia-NATO Council,” the ministry said, adding that they also discussed the situation in Afghanistan as well as other regional and international issues.

Two planes collide in Colorado, killing at least three

Los Angeles, 7 Feb—Two small planes collided in Colorado on Saturday, killing at least three people, authorities said.

The three dead came from both of the planes that crashed, Boulder County sheriff’s office spokesman Rick Brough said. But there was no immediate information on how many people were flying in each of the planes. Previous reports said two people were killed in the collision.

The accident involved a plane towing a glider and another aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said. One of the aircraft clipped the towline of the plane that was pulling the glider, FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said. The glider, described as a sailplane, apparently disconnected after the collision and landed safely a short time later.—Xinhua

Small plane crash kills three in Argentina

Buenos Aires, 7 Feb—A small plane crashed in western Argentina on Saturday, killing all three people aboard, civil defence authorities said.

The aircraft crashed in a mountainous area, some 80 km southwest of the capital city of Mendoza Province, a civil defence official said. Two people were killed on the spot and a third died of injuries in hospital.

The cause of the accident was still under investigation, the official said. A preliminary probe showed the plane hit a hillside due to the pilot’s error. Xinhua

Yemen kills at least 11 rebels in Saada

Sanaa, 7 Feb—Yemeni military forces have killed at least 11 Shiite rebels and wounded others in clashes across the northern province of Saada, a military-run website reported on Saturday. According to the report, the army troops killed five militants when they attempted to sneak into some sites in al-Maqash and al-Aqib in Saada Province.

The report also said another six rebels were killed and unknown others wounded when the troops of the armed forces repelled an infiltration attempt by those rebels into Daris hill, in Saada.

The Houthis elements sheltered with mortar in the house of Sheikh Othman Majly in Saada, causing the death of five citizens.—Xinhua

State of emergency declared in Colombian city over dengue outbreak

Bogota, 7 Feb—A state of emergency has been declared in the Colombian city of Cali, capital of western Cauca Province, after the outbreak of hemorrhagic dengue killed nine people there, according to the country’s health department.

At least 1,247 dengue cases have been found in Cauca, and 162 of the victims are in a serious condition, said the Department of Health.

Dengue fever is common in many Central American and Caribbean countries. Its symptoms include high fever, nau- sea, rashes, backache and headache.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Two folk dancers perform breathtaking lion dance on knives at a downtown arena in Nanning, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on 6 Feb, 2010. The folk dance was a prelude of a series of cultural celebrations for the Chinese traditional Spring Festival, or new year on Chinese lunar calendar. —Xinhua

Members of a rescue team work in the area where a helicopter crashed in Restauracion, Dominican Republic. The helicopter, believed to be involved in aid operations in Haiti, crashed late Thursday in the western Dominican Republic, killing two men who were aboard.—Xinhua

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Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Union Day

Chin State in blossom with developments, peace and prosperity

Article: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine); Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

Myanmar suffered miseries of over 40 years instability due to evil legacy of the colonialists that had enslaved Myanmar for over 100 years, and then it became backward and bankrupt in all aspects. The Myanmar Tatmadaw that had saved the country and the people whenever there was a crisis in successive eras safeguarded the motherland. All the people are enjoying peace, stability and security.

Since its assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has been striving for development of the nation day in, day out. The government has made peace with 17 major national race armed groups and many small armed groups. The government fulfilled the requirements of economic, education, health, transport and social sectors for the national brethren.

With a view to narrowing the development gap among the States and Divisions, the government designated 24 special development regions. Due to the five rural development tasks, equitable progress can be witnessed in all States and Divisions including rural and border areas.

Chin State is located in the northwest part of Myanmar, between north latitude 20°40' and 24° and between east longitude 92°36' and 94°09'. The region, with an area of 13,907 square miles, is home to Chin national races, Mro, Khami and Bamar national races.

Chin State has plentiful mountain ranges and a few plain regions. Mountain ranges are stretching from the north to the south. Chin State has valleys and basins among the mountain ranges. Manipura River is the artery of Chin State. Mount Victoria (or) Khornasum, 10,200 feet high, is the highest in Chin State.

Chin State is constituted with Falam and Mindat districts. Falam District is formed with Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Tonzang, Thanflang, Kyikha and Reed townships. Mindat, Kanpetlet, Paletwa, Matupi, Rezwa townships are located in the area of Mindat District. Over 540,000 people are residing together in 1389 villages of 471 village-tracts of Chin State.

Agriculture and Economy

In the geographical conditions, a lot of “V” shape valleys can be seen in Chin State. The local people grow crops on hillsides. The sown acreage of the State could extend to 312,923 as the Tatmadaw Government built Liva Dam to benefit 500 acres of farmlands in Falam Township on 6 April 1994, constructed small dams in villages and reclaimed highland farmlands. Therefore, the local farmers can cultivate paddy, beans, maize, edible oil crops and other various kinds of crops.

Chin State is blessed with fertile soil and favourable weather for growing tea. In accord with the guidance that Chin State must be tea state, the local growers focus on cultivation of tea. Up to 2009, the local farmers and departmental personnel have put 20,196 acres of land under tea plants. In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, a total of 65,030 mythuns are being bred on a commercial scale in the state. Actually, the national people in Chin State are enjoying fruits of developing socio-economy.

Education

The government is implementing the short- and long-term plans in the education sector. The international standard human resources are being turned out in line with the 20-year plan by applying modern technology. The government is giving priority to creating the equitable learning opportunity for the hilly and plain regions of the State with the aim of enabling all the citizens to learn basic education and continuously turning out intellectuals and intelligentia.

Due to an increase in the number of enthusiasts to pursue education, all Basic Education Primary, Middle and High Schools are extended with branches and post-primary schools. At present, Chin State opens 1590 basic education schools in all regions.

Universities in Kalay and Monywa Districts of Sagaing Division, included in the 24 special development regions for Chin State and other universities in Magway Division, are ready to provide higher education to those who have passed the matriculation examination. Students in Falam District are pursuing education at Kalay University, Technological University, University of Computer Studies and training schools of the Ministry of Science and Technology in Kalay District. Likewise, all the people are enjoying peace, stability and security.

Development of Chin State in the time of Tatmadaw Government

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Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Union Day

Chin State in blossom with developments, peace and prosperity

Article: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine); Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

Projects to be implemented for development of Chin State

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Chin State MPT in Tiddim contributing to local people to have easy access to communication networks of the nation.

Manhsaung Bridge across Manipura River linking Tiddim and Laitwi in Chin State.

(from page 6)

the students in Mindat District can pursue higher education at universities and colleges in Pakokku of Magway Division and training courses being conducted by the Ministry of Science and Technology. As a result, the number of graduates is increasing in the state, and most of them are discharging duty as teachers in their regions.

In the near future, Government Technical School (Haka) of Technical and Vocational Education Department, will be opened on Falam-Haka Road, west of Haka. Chin State like other States and Divisions.

Communication

Communication towers can be seen in various townships of Chin State to connect with the telephone networks of the Union as well as the world. As of March 2008, the local people of Haka can use GSM phones and those of Mindat, CDMA-450 phones. In March 2009, new auto-exchanges were put into service in Mindat, Matupi and Thantlang and a total of 75 PCO phones were installed in the urban areas. Thanks to construction and the Ministry of Construction upgraded the local roads for better transportation in the state.

Katal Bailey Suspension Bridge, 385 feet long and 14 feet wide, was built near Katal Village of Tiddim Township in 1995 and it was inaugurated on 20 April 2002. The government commenced construction of the steel-frame Bailey cable suspension Manhsaung Bridge across Manipura River to link Tiddim and Laitwi on the road to Reed Lake of Tiddim, at the border of Tiddim and Reeddokha Townships on 1 December 2002 by spending K 141.6 million and opened it successfully on 20 March 2005. Moreover, the 340 feet long and 34 feet wide Var Bridge with three-foot-wide pedestrian way on either side, across Manipura River, was built on Kalay-Falam-Haka Road in Falum Township on 1 October 2005, and the facility was put into service for the local people on 12 February 2007.

The region has been equipped with 286 miles and three furlongs long turned road, 277 miles and seven furlongs long gravel road and 480 miles long earth road.

In addition, the plan is under way to construct five highways for all-season use in Chin State—124-mile Kalay-Falam-Haka Road, 86-mile Gangaw-Haka Road, 173-mile and 2-furlong Mindat-Matupi-Rezwa-Haka Road, 57-mile and one-furlong Thaingingin-Tiddim-Reeddokha Road and 80-mile Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyikha Road. In the year 2010, a special plan is being imple-

Chin State MPT in Tiddim contributing to local people to have easy access to communication networks of the nation.

As a result, the number of graduates is increasing in the state, and most of them are discharging duty as teachers in their regions.

As part of efforts to uplift the health standard of the region, the 100-bed Haka Hospital is being upgraded to the 200-bed facility and Tiddim 50-bed hospital to the 100-bed facility. These hospitals will be inaugurated soon. As such, it is obvious that the government is placing emphasis on health sector of Chin State like other States and Divisions.

Communication

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Chin State MPT in Tiddim contributing to local people to have easy access to communication networks of the nation.
Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Union Day

Bounden duty of all national races of the Union

Shwe Ein Si

Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty is essential for every country. So, Union Spirit is at the heart of the nation. A union is a land formed with states and divisions under the adminis-tration of the central government. In other words, it is a land where all national people make their home through thick and thin. Union Spirit is nationalistic spirit (the spirit of national solidarity), with which the entire national people must equip themselves strongly.

The Union of Myanmar is located in Indochina Peninsula, Southeast Asia, and it has stood as a sovereign, independent nation for thousands of years. With an area of 261,228 square miles, the nation is 582 miles wide between east and west and 1275 miles long between south and north. It shares its borderline with its neighbours for 3808 miles. Its coast is 1385 miles long from the source of the Naff River in the northern part and Bayintnaung Bay in the southern part. It has over 14,000 square miles between the coast and beaches and the exclusive economic zone. Myanmar is blessed with the politically, economically and socially strategic location, temperate climate pattern, rich natural resources and human resources. Therefore, perpetuation of sovereignty is the most indispensable national policy of the nation.

More than 100 national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Jinhaw, Wa, Palaung, Leshu, Naga, Rawan, Akha, Danu, PaO, Kayan, Myo, and Taungyo have been living with amicable relationships in the Union of Myanmar for thousands of years. There is slight difference between their religious faiths, cultures, customs and traditions, but all national races have shared the common nature of leading a peaceful life and peaceful coexistence along with bravery, uprightness, honesty and hospitality from time immemorial. Our ancestors preserved and safeguarded their monarchy, sovereignty, law, literature and culture throughout Tagaung, Shwe Ein Si, Bagan, Innwa, Sagaing, Pinya, Toungoo, Konbaung and Yadanabon periods. In retrospect, King Anawrahta unified the whole country into the First Myanmar Empire in Bagan Period; King Bayintnaung, the Second Myanmar Empire in Konbaung Period; and King Alaungpaya, the Third Myanmar Empire in Konbaung Period. In the process, the visionary kings effectively mobilized the consolidated unity of all national races, as a fine tradition.

The history of the independence struggles revealed that only with the consolidated unity, all national races fight back the British troops to throw off the fetters of colonial rule. And only with the strong sense of Union Spirit, could all national races show significant resilience in grappling with the strategy the British exercised to prolong its colonial rule over the nation by stirring up problems designed to undermine the national unity, and sowing hatred and doubts between the mainland and hilly regions. Even at the last moment when the colonialists did not have any other choice except to grant independence to Myanmar, they plotted to set aside highlands. Therefore, national brethren made their unanimous demand to regain independence of the whole nation, by reaching an agreement in Panglong on 12 February 1947. Rekindling the vigour of Union Spirit conceived in Panglong served as a driving force behind the struggle to achieve the independence. And with the consolidated unity, the entire brethren have been able to safeguard the motherland.

In his message to mark the 57th Anniversary Union Day, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that learning invaluable lessons that the nation was strong with high economic growth rate due to consolidated national unity and the nation became weak with less development due to disintegration of national solidarity, the State Peace and Development Council laid down the National Policy “Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty” in its bid to build national unity by ensuring national reconsolidation and flourishing of Union Spirit.

Since 18 September 1988 on which it took over State duties unavoidably, the Tatmadaw government has put national reconsolidation to the forefront. As a result, the government managed to settle the internal conflicts that persisted over 40 years, following the regaining of independence. In its time, the Tatmadaw government managed to make peace with 17 major national race armed groups and many other small groups, thereby improving the life quality of local people. With the aim of shaping the nation (See page 9)

Poem

Only the unity

- Kith and kin in harmony
  People of the Union
  Any enemy they never yield to
  Fear never they for having unity
  Defeating every enemy
  In the 550 Jatakas also
  Small creatures with united strength
  Defeating the bully elephant
  Till it fell down into ravine to its death

- Intellectual power
  Excels physical power
  Victorious Union people
  Also our brethren
  Warding off all attacks
  The aggressive colonialists
  Are launching with
  Greed, ego and hegemony
  So, the Union of ours
  Will be consolidated forever

(Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Union Day)
U Aung Mon (M.A) (Trs)

* Today, neo-colonialists are resorting to all possible ways and means and tactics and driving a wedge among national races to undermine national unity, and disrupt the nation’s political, economic and social development.
* Who will guard the Union for its perpetuity that we have built, except us?
Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Union Day

Bounden duty of national races of the Union

Shwe Ein Si

* For all national races to uphold the national policy—non-dissintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
* To boost the sense of Union Spirit of the national people
* To defend and safeguard the Union with consolidated unity of all national races against dangers posed to disrupt State stability and development by internal and external subversives
* For all national races to work harder to build a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation in line with the State Constitution approved with the great majority of the ballot
* For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful accomplishment of the seven-step Road Map

Requirement

As Thanwin, Ayeyawady, Chindwin and Sittoung, all the rivers flow into the Bay of Bengal and come together...

That’s right.

Unity and amity!

That’s right.

Friendship and solidarity are truly essential.

Ye Htet

63rd Anniversary Union Day Objectives

* To boost the sense of Union Spirit of the national people
* To defend and safeguard the Union with consolidated unity of all national races against dangers posed to disrupt State stability and development by internal and external subversives
* For all national races to work harder to build a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation in line with the State Constitution approved with the great majority of the ballot
* For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful accomplishment of the seven-step Road Map

THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR  Monday, 8  February, 2010

9
Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends…
(from page 16)
Next, he viewed documentary photos of the school and teaching aid displayed at the hall.
At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Tin Aye explained efforts of the State Peace and Development Council for realizing the vision on Myanmar education.
The commander and the director-general of Education Planning and Training Department made speeches.
Wellwishers donated stationery, computers and cash to the school through the headmistress.
On behalf of the locals, the chairman of SBT spoke words of thanks.
After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party cordially greeted those present.
In the 2009-2010 academic year, the government upgraded BEHS (Branch) to BEHS in Hongyi Model Village.—MNA

Measures for control of H1N1 New Influenza in full swing

Eight more patients found with A/H1N1

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—According to the information that infectious sign of fever and flu occur was found at some children at the student boarding in Ward 43 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Division, the disease control team of Yangon Division Health Department, recently made a field trip to inspect the infectious of fever, search the new patients, give effective treatments and conduct the laboratory research. The team approved that New Influenza A/H1N1 was found at eight patients.
The patients are kept in quarantine and are undergoing treatment at Waibaghi Specialist Hospital. Measures of disease control are being taken by scanning those who are in contact with the patients. Now, the patients are in good condition.
The Ministry of Health urged the people to follow the preventive measures against the virus in order to avoid spread of virus in the public and to take part in the campaign to prevent the diseases.—MNA

Fire breaks out in Minbya

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—A fire broke out on Aungthitsar Street in Auk-ywa-baing Ward in Minbya, Rakhine State, at 1.15 pm on 4 February, burning down 15 houses and leaving 15 households, homeless.
A house caught fire from a stove with embers in it when the case took place. The fire was put out at about 1.40 pm the same day.
The victims are being accommodated and provided with relief supplies at a rescue camp.—MNA

Paper-reading session on historical evidences commences

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—A paper-reading session on historical evidences, organized by the Ministry of Culture, was held at its hall, here, this morning, with an address by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar National Culture Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.
Director-General U Sann Win of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department explained the purpose of holding the paper-reading session.
Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Historical Commission Dr Toe Hta and Secretary Dr Kyaw Win, member Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and archaeologist U Myint Aung presided over the session. Lecturer U Win Kyaw of Archaeological Technology Training School (Pyay) and Deputy Principal of the training school (Pyay) U Naing Win, Deputy Director U Myat Swe of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department (North) and Assistant Director U Myo Nyunt Aung of the department (Bagan Branch) submitted their papers and replied to the queries.
Later, the minister gave instructions on the papers.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye presses button to open the stone inscription.
MNA
Mudslides sweep away cars, assault homes near LA

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, 7 Feb — Thunderous mudslides damaged dozens of homes, swept away cars and pushed furniture into the streets of the foothills north of Los Angeles on Saturday as intense winter rain poured down mountains denuded by a summer wildfire.

No injuries were reported but residents and emergency responders were caught off guard by the unpredicted ferocity of the storm, which damaged more than 40 homes and dozens of vehicles.

Some 540 homes were eventually evacuated at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains after heavy rains overflowed debris basins, carried away cement barriers and filled houses with mud and rocks.

Another 300 homes to the east in Sierra Madre were evacuated for much of the day, but residents were told they could return home on Saturday night when another wave of rain proved tame. Flash flood warnings for foothill areas also were called off. — Internet

Six killed at bar in cartel-plagued Mexican state

CULIACAN, 7 Feb — Gunmen killed six people at a bar on Saturday in the northern state of Sinaloa, a drug-violence hotspot, state prosecutors said.

At least three gunmen walked into Las Herraduras bar in the resort city of Mazatlan early on Saturday and opened fire, killing a customer and two waiters, said Martin Gatelum, spokesman for the Sinaloa state prosecutor’s office.

A taxi driver and a night watchman were killed outside the bar, where the assailants also shot to death a hostage who had led them to the bar, Gatelum said.

Sinaloa, Mexico’s drug-smuggling heartland, is the birthplace of the leaders of four of the six major cartels.

In the border city of Ciudad Juarez, authorities on Saturday announced the arrest of a second suspect in last week’s massacre of 15 people, many of them teenagers with no known criminal ties. — Xinhua

China’s railways send 5 mln passengers by 6 Feb

Beijing, 7 Feb — China’s railway network has transported 5.03 million passengers on the eighth day of the country’s annual Spring Festival transport peak lasting from 30 Jan, to 10 March this year, said the Ministry of Railway (MOR) on Sunday. The figure was 105,000 more than that in the same time last year, up 2.1 percent year on year, according to the MOR.

Beijing railways have transported 347,418 passengers by 6 Feb, and the figures in Guangzhou and Shanghai stood at 576,710 and 325,190, the MOR said.

The MOR had forecasted in January that China’s railways were expected to transport 210 million passengers during the Lunar New Year travel rush, up 9.5 percent year on year. — Xinhua

House fire in Warwick, RI, kills five, including baby

WARWICK, 7 Feb — A house fire that officials said might have simmered undetected for hours on Saturday killed five people, including a mother and her 7-month-old baby, in one of Rhode Island’s deadliest blazes since a 2003 fire at a crowded nightclub killed 100 people.

Firefighters found the victims unconscious and severely burned on the second floor of a single-family house in a residential neighbourhood, Warwick Fire Chief Kevin Sullivan said.

They were called to the house just after noon by a friend of the victims who was sleeping on the first floor after a late-night party at the home, he said. One horrified neighbour saw a firefighter carry the baby out the house in his arms. — Xinhua

Mountain lions evade capture in Calif

California wildlife officials said two mountain lions spotted by hikers in a San Mateo county park were tracked by officials but evaded capture.

State Department of Fish and Game warden Patrick Foy said the hikers, two brothers in their early 50s, attempted to ward the mountain lions off with a stick when they encountered the animals on Sunday at Pescadero Creek County Park near La Honda, but the predators stalked them all the way back to their car, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on Friday.

Foy said trackers found signs of the mountain lions but were unable to capture them.

“We found actual tracks and our tracking dogs picked up on the scent right off,” Foy said. “It was very obvious to us it was a credible story with real lions. We put the hounds on the ground and they struck a scent immediately.”

“Unfortunately, the lions were successful in escaping,” Foy said. “There’s two aggressive lions ... out there.”

County officials said another mountain lion sighting was reported Wednesday in La Honda. It is unknown whether it was one of the same animals.

Century-old spirits found in Antarctic

A New Zealand restoration team said they discovered five crates of whisky and brandy buried in the Antarctic for more than a century.

The New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust team working to restore Sir Ernest Shackleton’s 100-year-old hut at Cape Royds said they discovered three crates of whisky and two crates of brandy left behind by the explorer and his team when they left the Antarctic in 1909.

The Times of London reported on Friday: “The unexpected find of the brandy crates, one labelled Charles Mackinlay & Co and the other labelled The Hunter Valley Distillery Limited Allandale are a real bonus,” trust official Al Fastier said. “I personally think they must have been left there by mistake because it’s hard to believe two crates would have been left under the hut without drinking them.”

An eight year-old Belgium sheepdog wears anti-bite protection on its teeth during a presentation at the Hund 2010, dog exhibition in the town of Winterthur north of Zurich. The anti-bite protection should avoid injuries caused by dog bites.

A giant rag doll measuring 16 feet high hangs from a crane in the Cuban Town of Camaguey. It took thirteen people nine months to construct the doll. The creators hope that the doll will be included in the Guinness Book of Records as the tallest.

Five tigers discovered in Indonesian man backyard

Indonesian authorities have found five tigers in a backyard of an Indonesian man who have illegally raised the endangered species for years in Tangerang, an outskirt city of Jakarta, a media reported here Saturday.

Director of Forest Protection of Forestry Ministry Anwiya Ibrahim quoted two cubs had been illegal according to the Indonesian law. All the animal were found on Thursday, he said.

The number of the endangered species of Sumatran tiger has been no more than 400 left in the wild.

Their habitat keep decreasing due to their contact with people particularly in deforestation.

A Los Angeles County Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) member, carries a 91-year-old woman from her flood-damaged home on Ocean View Boulevard on 6 Feb, 2010 in La Canada Flintridge, Calif. — Internet

Two anti-bite protection should avoid injuries caused by dog bites. — Xinhua

An eight year-old Belgium sheepdog wears anti-bite protection on its teeth during a presentation at the Hund 2010, dog exhibition in the town of Winterthur north of Zurich. The anti-bite protection should avoid injuries caused by dog bites.
**Chinese sales boosts luxury goods market in 2009**

**PARIS, 7 Feb**—Despite the economic crisis, 2009 ended better than it began for the French luxury goods sector, thanks largely to China’s growing taste for high-end products, encouraging thoughts of a better 2010.

Following the trend set by other global luxury brands, Hermes and LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy) announced fourth quarter sales growth on Thursday and Friday, suggesting the worst of the crisis could be over for the sector.

After announcing that annual profits fell 13 percent to 1.7 billion euros (2.3 billion dollars), LVMH chief executive Bernard Arnault said he was pleased with “record” sales figures for December, which he said would “grow in January”.

Good news for the number one global luxury group after almost stagnant sales in the first three quarters, slowed by wholesale stock clearances, which particularly affected watches, jewellery and champagne.—Internet

**Minivans drive up auto sales growth in China**

**BEIJING, 7 Feb**—China’s automobile market continued its robust growth in January, with sales surging 84 percent from a year earlier, heavily boosted by minivans, China Passenger Car Association said on Friday.

Rao Da, the association’s secretary-general, said a total of 1,218,722 cars, sport-utility vehicles, multi-purpose vehicles and minivans were sold last month, an increase of 84.2 percent year-on-year and 5.1 percent from December. The sales boost was largely driven by the minivan segment, which jumped 88.9 percent year-on-year and 44.4 percent from the previous month. This was mainly a result of subsidies for trade-ins and tax cuts introduced as part of the government’s stimulus programme.

**Internet**

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**Interest in Apple’s iPad wanes after launch**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Feb**—The announcement of Apple’s tablet iPad and related media by the technology company has raised the awareness of the new device, but failed to convince consumers to buy one, said a survey released on Friday.

The survey, by online technology shopping site Retrevo, showed that about 48 percent of consumers said they had heard of the Apple tablet before the company formerly unveiled the device. The percentage rose to 82 percent after Apple announced the long-anticipated iPad on 27 Jan and said shipping will begin from March.

According to Retrevo, the results were based on study of more than 1,000 randomly selected users.

The survey also found that the number of respondents saying they had heard about the tablet but were not interested in buying one doubled from 26 percent before the announcement to about 52 percent following the launch.—Xinhua

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**Egypt signs off on Apache oil deals**

**CAIRO, 7 Feb**—Cairo announced it signed formal agreements with US oil and gas explorer Apache for prospecting rights in the deserts in the west of the country.

“The samef Fahmi”, Sameh Fahmi, Egypt’s Petroleum Minister, said Apache plans to drill 13 oil wells in the Western Desert in a deal estimated at $39 million, the Egypt State Information Service reports.

Apache announced in January its latest discovery near the Libyan border tested at a rate of 5,085 barrels of oil and 130,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day.

The discovery is in line with a series of successful explorations for the company in the Faghur Basin in Egypt’s Western Desert.

Rod Eichler, the president at Apache, said the trends in the region could bring production to 20,000 barrels of oil per day by the third quarter of 2010, doubling the current volume. He said his company estimates the region holds as much as 50 million barrels of oil equivalent.—Internet
Asia to work with other countries on Indian Ocean security

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb—Indian Navy Chief Admiral Nirmal Verma on Friday said India preferred to keep operations in the Bay of Bengal said the Indian Navy would react to an assumption made by the US Defence Department recently that Indian Navy could have greater security role in the Indian Ocean region, according to the report. Nine foreign ships and delegations from 12 countries including Australia, Brunei, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam arrived in Andaman and Nicobar Islands southeast off the Bay of Bengal, said the report.

He was responding to a question on how India could have greater security role in the Indian Ocean region, according to the report. Nine foreign ships and delegations from 12 countries including Australia, Brunei, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam arrived in Andaman and Nicobar Islands southeast off the Bay of Bengal, said the report.

He was responding to a question on how India would react to an assumption made by the US Defence Department recently that Indian Navy could have greater security role in the Indian Ocean region, according to the report.

Japan’s SDF forces to be sent to Haiti to help peacekeeping operations

TOKYO, 7 Feb—The Cabinet of the government of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) on Friday approved a plan to send the nation’s Self Defence Forces (SDF) to Haiti to help with peacekeeping operations in the quake-hit country.

Some 160 SDF members are set to leave Japan on Saturday to assist in UN efforts to contain the earthquake and help Haiti at this difficult time. While accepting criticisms from several foreign ambassadors in the Kremlin, Medvedev said old thinking in geopolitics should be replaced. He also called on nations to effectively address global challenges, including terrorism, food shortages and climate change, while dedicating themselves to the construction of a fair, balanced and stable world.

Medvedev urges end to confrontational foreign policies

WASHINGTO, 7 Feb—All countries should abandon confrontational foreign policies and adopt new attitudes to tackling the world’s most pressing problems, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said here on Friday.

While accepting credentials from several foreign ambassadors in the Kremlin, Medvedev said old thinking in geopolitics should be replaced. He also called on nations to effectively address global challenges, including terrorism, food shortages and climate change, while dedicating themselves to the construction of a fair, balanced and stable world.

Major snowstorm hits US east coast

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb—A blizzard with an expected snowfall of up to 30 inches (76 centimetres) hit US east coast on Friday afternoon and is expected to last through Saturday, according to US National Weather Service. It will make it the snowiest winter in Washington DC for a century, after a record-setting snowstorm dumped more than 16 inches of snow in the capital area less than two months ago.

The total accumulations of the widespread storm will reach 20 to 30 inches (50 to 76 centimetres), with some locations in excess of 30 inches, the service warned.

UNICEF condemns increase of child trafficking in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 7 Feb—The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Friday condemned the increase of child trafficking in Haiti at a time of grief and loss after the devastating earthquake on 12 Jan 2010.

UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman said during a visit to Haiti that the Haitian judicial system should be in charge of the trial against the 10 Americans who attempted to take 33 Haitian children out of the country without proper documents on 29 Jan. The increasing number of child trafficking incidents in Haiti at this disastrous time is worrying UNICEF, said Veneman.
Ferdinand’s England captancy ‘will boost United’

MANCHESTER, 7 Feb—Sir Alex Ferguson believes Manchester United can benefit from Fabio Capello’s decision to make Rio Ferdinand the new England captain. Ferdinand served the second game of his four-match suspension as United returned to the top of the table with a 5-0 victory over Portsmouth. The defender, 31, was watching from the stands just 24 hours after taking the England skipper’s arm-band from John Terry, who was stripped of the cap- taincy by Capello on Friday following allegations about his private life.

Ferguson admits he is proud of that a United player will captain England at the World Cup in South Africa later this year and hopes the accolade has a positive ef- fect on Ferdinand’s per- formances during the Pre- mier League title run in. He said: “We’re pleased for him and it’s great for Man- chester United to have one of our players capturing his country. “Over the years we’ve had Gary, Bryan Robson for 60-odd games or something so we’re very proud of that.”

Ferdinand was happy with the patient display of his team against Avram Grant’s strug- glers.—Internet

Liverpool’s English midfielder Steven Gerrard (L) vies with Everton’s Australian midfielder Tim Cahill.—Internet

9-man Barcelona secures vital home win against Getafe

MADRID, 7 Feb—FC Barcelona beat Getafe 2-1 in the Camp Nou Stadium after playing for 65 minutes with a player less. Goals from Leo Messi and Xavi Hernandez gave Barcelona the win, while Roberto Soldado scored a late penalty for the visitors. Barce- lona ended with just nine players after defenders Gerard Pique and Rafael Marquez were sent off. Pique was sent off in the first half, while Marquez was shown a red card in virtually the last action of the game.

Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola welcomed midfielder Toure Yaya back into his starting line up following his return from the African Nations Cup. Brazilian full back Maxwell started at right back for Barca after Dani Alves suffered a recurrence of his muscle problem while warming up shortly before kick off, meanwhile recent Getafe signing Miku was in his side’s starting 11. Barcelona got off to a per- fect start when Leo Messi put them ahead with his 15th goal of the season after just six minutes. —Xinhua

Three-star Robben strikes as Bayern draw level

BERLIN, 7 Feb—Bayern Munich drew level on points with Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday with a 3-0 win over VfL Wolfsburg as Dutch winger Arjen Robben scored his third goal in consecutive games. With Bayer drawing 1-1 with Bochum, Bayern’s eighth straight league win leaves Louis van Gaal’s side level with Leverkusen on 45 points and second only on goal difference.—Internet

Benitez expects win to kick-start Liverpool’s season

LIVERPOOL, 7 Feb—Rafa Benitez expects 10-man Liverpool’s battling 1-0 win over Merseyside rivals Everton to prove a defining moment in their bid to land a Champions League place. After a dismal run in the first half of the campaign threatened to wreck Liv- erpool’s hopes of securing a top four finish, Benitez’s team are now unbeaten in seven league matches and back in the hunt for a European spot. For much of the season, Benitez has been forced to find excuses for Liverpool’s failings and at times he has looked in danger of losing his job.

But the spirit in Liverpool’s dressing room remains strong judging by the way they recovered from Sotiriou Kyrigkios’ first half dismissal to beat Everton thanks to Dirk Kuyt’s second half header at Anfield. The game will be remembered as a bad tempered affair. Liver- pool forced to play with 10 men for almost an hour after Greek defender Kyrigkios was sent off for a two-footed challenge on Marouane Fellaini. Fellaini was fortunate not to be red-carded in the same incident after appearing to stamp on Kyrigkios while Steven Pienaar, who later dismissed his second yellow card, escaped after a poor challenge on Javier Mascherano as tempers boiled over at Anfield.—Internet

Striker takes big lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb—Steve Stricker had quite the Hollywood experience during a night out from the Northern Trust Open. He went to a Lakers game on Friday and spent more time watching the stars than players. Denzel Washington in the parking lot, Jack Nicholson courtside, along with George Lopez and one of the Kardashian sisters (he looked it up on the Internet—it was Khloe). In unexpec- ted sunshine on Satur- day afternoon at Riviera, Stricker was the star of his own show.

With an impressive display of wedges and putting during a pivotal stretch in the middle of his round, Stricker turned a one-shot deficit into a five shot lead in the Northern Trust Open before dark- ness halted the third round as he faced a 30-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole. “I did a lot of good things,” said Stricker, who was at 14-under par. The club- house leaders were Luke Donald, who shot a bogey- free 66, and JB Holmes, who made one final birdie to finish his 67. They were at 9-under 204, tied with Andres Romero, who was 9 under and in the final group with Stricker. — Internet

Americans take early Fed Cup command as Italy labour

PARIS, 7 Feb—Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Melanie Oudin gave the United States a dream start to their Fed Cup World Group first round match against France on Saturday—but holders Italy were finding Ukraine a tough nut to crack. Mattek-Sands and Oudin both won their singles rubbers to put Mary-Joe Fernandez’s 17- time champions firmly in the driving seat in the northern French town of Lievin despite the absence of both Williams sisters.

Mattek-Sands, from Rochester, Minnesota and ranked 140th in the world, saw off 65th-ranked oppo- nent Alice Cornet 7-6 (9/7), 7-5, to achieve her first Fed Cup match win before 53rd-ranked Oudin beat tour- nament debutante Pauline Parmentier, ranked 104, 6-4, 6-4. Cornet’s loss left her tournament career mark at 0- 6 and she blamed pre-match nerves which hung heavy on her throughout her loss to Mattek-Sands.—Internet

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

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Dustin Johnson chips from the rough to the 18th green during the rain-delayed second round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles, on 6 Feb, 2010. Johnson sunk the chip for a birdie.—Internet

US player Melanie Oudin returns the ball to Pauline Parmentier of France during their Fed Cup Group World Cup round match in Lievin, northern France. Internet
Real Madrid coach Pellegrini praises fit again Higuain

Monday, 7 Feb — Real Madrid coach Manuel Pellegrini praised striker Gonzalo Higuain after the Argentinean marked his return from injury with a goal.

Higuain played the last 20 minutes of his side’s comfortable 3-0 win against Espanyol and scored the last goal of the night in the final minute.

He collected Rafael Van der Vaart’s pass, rounded Espanyol goalkeeper Carlos Kameni and slotted the ball into net in the final minute.

“Has he never been out of my starting line up. He lost his place because of injury and today it was not convenient for him to have played more time.”

“It’s not a question of today he has earned a place in the side, he never stopped being first choice,” said the Madrid coach in Sunday’s edition of sports paper Diario AS.

Former star soccer player Edison Arantes do Nascimento, Pele, holds up the FIFA World Cup trophy in Rio de Janeiro, Saturday, 6 Feb, 2010. The trophy is in Rio de Janeiro as part of its nine-month world tour. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 7th February, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (7°C) to (9°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (5°C) to (6°C) below February average temperatures in Shan State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-3°C), Loilem (-2°C), Namsam and Lashio (1°C) each, Pinlaung (3°C) and Putoa (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 6-2-2010 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 7-2-2010 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 7-2-2010 was 66%. Total sun shine hours on 6-2-2010 was (9.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-2-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (5) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 6-2-2010.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8th February 2010: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-2-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-2-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-2-2010: Generally fair weather.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends upgrading of Htongyi BEHS in Bago Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye attended the ceremony to upgrade Basic Education High School in Htongyi Model Village of Bago Township yesterday.
Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Hla Min, the director-general of No. 1 Basic Education Department and the chairman of School Board of Trustees formally opened the ceremony.
Lt-Gen Tin Aye unveiled the plaque and sprinkled scented water on it.
(See page 10)

Lt-Gen Tin Aye views documentary photos and learning aids displayed at the hall.
MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 63RD ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Today, neo-colonialists are resorting to all possible ways and means and tactics and driving a wedge among national races to undermine national unity, and disrupt the nation’s political, economic and social development.

SHWE EIN SI

Only the unity
Kith and kin in harmony
People of the Union
Any enemy they never yield to
Fear never they for having unity
Defeating every enemy
In the 550 Jatakas also
Small creatures with united strength

Article
Poem
Cartoon