Conviction to be always kept in hearts

All the national races must always keep in their hearts the conviction “It is important for all of us to nurture Union Spirit regardless of the place we are residing. Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism that will ever protect and safeguard all the national races”.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message sent to 59th Anniversary Union Day)

Religious objects enshrined into Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb — A ceremony to enshrine religious objects at the seven reliquaries and at the central reliquary and to erect the pivot at Uppatasanti Pagoda was held here today.

Chairman of the leading committee for construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tha Aye Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the ceremony and enshrined the religious objects at the reliquaries and erected the pivot of the pagoda.

It was attended by members of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Ovadacarya Sayadaws for the construction of the pagoda, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Maj-Gen Hla Hla Htay Win and Maj-Gen Maung Shein of Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, deputy ministers, members of the leading committee and working committee of the construction of the pagoda, departmental heads, chairmen of district/township Peace and Development Councils, donors, responsible personnel from religious organizations and invited guests.

Sadhamma Jotika Dhaja U Thura of the Ministry of Religious Affairs acted as master of ceremonies.

Bodhi Tree and Buddha Image

Afterwards, on behalf of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Tha Aye Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented a replica of Bodhi Tree and Buddha Image which will be enshrined in the pagoda to Sayadaw Agga Maha Panditta Bhaddanta Tejosara Bhivamsa. Members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

Relics and religious objects

Afterwards, a ceremony to enshrine relics and religious objects at the seven reliquaries and to erect the pivot was followed and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence Konagamana Buddha Image; Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence Konagamana Buddha Image; Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence Konagamana Buddha Image; Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung Gotama Buddha (See page 8)
Further forge Union Spirit through national solidarity

Originated from high mountain ranges northernmost of the nation, various rivers and creeks merge together to form the Ayeyawady river flowing down to the delta that is adjacent to the sea in the south. Covered with green forests, the whole regions of Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers are rich in natural resources. In those regions, there are Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan national races who have been living in the Union in unity and amity since time immemorial. They are national brethren whose culture, customs, traditions and dialects are flourishing in different geographical features. Some have culture and traditions in common as well.

With fine tradition of living in the Union through thick and thin for years countable by the thousand, the national races drove out colonialists and fascists and managed to regain independence. They are committed to safeguarding the independence they had regained at the risk of their lives in order not to lose it again.

The history has shown that national solidarity is a prerequisite for perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar. The entire national people do accept the concept. Living in the Union in unity and amity is a sense of Union Spirit of the entire national people.

Now, the government is making all-out efforts for development of infrastructures in political, economic, education, health, sectors etc. for the emergence of a new democratic nation in line with Myanmar culture and character. And the entire national people are participating in the nation-building endeavours together with the government by doing their bit.

At such a time, all the national brethren are to further forge Union Spirit through mutual respect and understanding, and only then, will peace and development in the nation be perpetual.

Booth of Myanmar Pioneer Star Co Ltd seen in Myanmar Acquatic Products Fair (2008-2009).—MNA

Agriculture-cum-livestock farms developing in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb — Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut also visited Kaukkwe Dam being constructed by the Irrigation Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation near Manhsu Village in Lashio Township. They went to Hsinsweli Sugar Mill of Ngwiyi Pearl Co Ltd in Nawngkho Township and inspected production process of sugar, packaging and storage of sugar at the mill. MNA

A farmer planting rice with the use of planting machine in Lashio.

MNA

Myanmar Pioneer Star displays its product calcium carbonate

YANGON, 9 Feb—Organized by Myanmar Fishery Federation, Myanmar Aquatic Products Fair 2008-2009 has been held at MFF on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township from 7 to 10 February. Myanmar Pioneer Star Co Ltd has displayed the calcium carbonate (CaCO3) compound at the fair.

Calcium carbonate, Zeolite, Dolomite and Probiotics produced by the Myanmar Pioneer Star Co Ltd can be used in water and land preparations for fish and prawn ponds.

Enzymix containing amino acids, vitamins, minerals and four kinds of effective micro-organisms can be used in the fish breeding.

Myanmar Pioneer Star Co Ltd is giving free services to conduct the water and soil tests at the breeding ponds and farms of entrepreneurs. For information, contact No. 92 on Bahlo Road in Ward 3B, Ngwelyarayn Yeiktha, South Okkalapa Township, Tel: 01-577040 and 0951-49997; Fax: 01-577040 and email: mps@baganmail.net.mmn.—MNA
**US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,239**

**WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—**As of Sunday, 8 Feb, 2009, at least 4,239 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,400 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 178 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Two killed in bomb attacks in northern Baghdad

**BAGHDAD, 9 Feb—**Two people were killed and 13 others injured on Sunday morning when two bomb explosions hit Shi’ite pilgrims during their days-long march to a shrine for a major religious gathering, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb explosion struck a group of Shi’ite pilgrims who were traveling on foot in Baghdad’s northern district of Qahira on their way to the holy city of Karbala, 110 km southwest of Baghdad, killing two pilgrims and wounding 11 others, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Another roadside bomb went off at the Nahdha area in central Baghdad wounding two people, the source said.

In a separate incident, more than five mortar rounds landed on a US base in the Baladiyat neighborhood in eastern part of the capital, the source added, without giving further details about the attack.—INTERNET

**Suicide attack targeting Afghan troops kills two in South**

**KANDAHAR, 9 Feb—**A suicide bomber Sunday exploded himself near one vehicle of Afghan National Army (ANA), killing one soldier and another civilian nearby in Nimruz Province of southern Afghanistan, said an Afghan official.

Mohammad Hashem Noorzai, chief of Khash Rod district in Nimruz Province, told Xinhua that the incident occurred at around 6:30 pm (1400 GMT) when a suicide attacker with explosives strapped to his body blew himself up as walking close to the vehicle of ANA.

Two people, one soldier and another civilian, were killed in the blast, Noorzai said. “Two more civilians were also wounded in the blast.”

No group or individuals have yet to claim responsibility while Taleban militants, keeping mounting pressure on the Afghan government and international troops, have frequently carried out such attacks, particularly in the shape of suicide and roadside bombings.—INTERNET

**Bomb explosion kills four including two US advisors in S Afghanistan**

**KABUL, 9 Feb—**Four persons including two US advisors were killed as a remote-controlled bomb exploded in Nadalai district of Helmand Province in south Afghanistan on Sunday, Kamaludin Khan, deputy to provincial police of Helmand Province said.

“The police found a mine in Nadalai district at 10:00 am local time (0530 GMT) when police and American advisors went to the site to defuse it and suddenly it was exploded by remote control killing four persons including two American advisors, their local interpreter and a police,” Khan told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, US-led Coalition forces confirmed that they were aware of the incident in a statement issued here later on the day, but adding “currently details about how many individuals may have been injured or killed is unconfirmed.”

Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, the purported Taleban, told Xinhua he was in charge of the Taleban’s diplomatic section and claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Conflicts and Taleban-linked insurgency claimed over 5,000 peoples’ lives in the country in 2008.—INTERNET

**Afghanistan seen tougher challenge than Iraq**

**MUNICH, 9 Feb—**Bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan will be much tougher than in Iraq, the newly appointed US envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan said on Sunday. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Richard Holbrooke said he had never in his political career seen any situation as difficult as the one involving Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“In my view, it’s going to be much tougher than Iraq,” said Holbrooke, who will travel to the region this week.

Holbrooke was in Munich as part of a high-level US delegation that also included Vice President Joe Biden and National Security Adviser James Jones to discuss international conflicts such as Iraq, the Middle East and Afghani-stan.

European allies have been watching out for requests from the new US administration for more troops to help reverse a growing insurgency in Afghanistan that has escalated to the highest levels since the invasion that toppled the Taleban.

The United States has been waging a war against Taleban militants in Afghani-stan since shortly after the 11 September, 2001 attacks on New York City and Washington.—INTERNET
Obama faces tough week; stimulus, bailout on tap

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—President Barack Obama plunges into a difficult test of his leadership this week, struggling to get a divided Congress to agree on an economic recovery package while pitching a new plan to ease loans to consumers and businesses.

The Senate’s $827 billion stimulus legislation seems assured narrow passage by Tuesday. Harder work for Obama and the Democrats comes in the days ahead, when the House and Senate attempt to reconcile differences in their two versions. Obama and Democratic Party leaders had hoped to have a bill ready for the president’s signature by 16 Feb—a deadline that grows more challenging by the day.

At the Treasury Department, Secretary Timothy Geithner delayed the unveiling of a new bailout framework for financial institutions from on Monday to Tuesday to let the administration focus on the Senate legislation.

Geithner is considering steps to broaden the use of a new lending facility at the Federal Reserve, provide government guarantees to help banks deal with their troubled assets, and continue direct infusion of capital into banks in exchange for securities and tougher accountability rules.

For Obama, the economy has become a two-front engagement, with one effort aimed at creating or saving jobs and the other at unfreezing the credit markets.

Amid the urgency created by nearly 600,000 last month and new bank failures, Obama’s economic prescriptions are coming under critical scrutiny by both Congress and the American public.

Karzai calls on moderate Taleban members to join national reconciliation process

MUNICH, 9 Feb—Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Sunday called on moderate Taleban members not linked to terrorist groups to join the process of national reconciliation, which he said will be crucial for Afghanistan to achieve peace and stability.

“There is no way we can succeed the way we want to in the right time without some form of reconciliation,” said Karzai during a speech at the 45th Munich Security Conference, which concludes later on Sunday, calling on those Taleban members who are not related to the al-Qaeda terror networks to return home to live a normal life.

“We must and will vigorously pursue reconciliation as an important element of the strategy for stabilizing Afghanistan and defeating the terrorism upsurge,” said Karzai, adding that the upcoming presidential elections will provide valuable opportunities to give a new impetus to the reconciliation agenda.

Karzai, 29, has been in custody after he threw his shoes at Bush during a joint statement with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Baghdad on 14 Dec, 2008. Late on December, Zaidi was supposed to face an Iraqi court, but his defence team head Diyaa al-Saadi won a postponement after he presented an immunity from a weak won currency, which gives it an edge in price competition with rivals in Japan and other countries, the company is taking steps to cut costs by about 3 trillion won ($2.19 billion) this year, Nam said.

LG Elec to cut $2.2 billion costs

SEOUL, 9 Feb—South Korea’s LG Electronics Inc (665700.KS) aims to cut $2.2 billion in costs and expects about a 20 percent sales decline in dollar terms this year amid the spreading global recession, its chief executive said on Monday.

LG, which makes mobile phones, televisions and appliances, has no immediate plans for job cuts but may eliminate some jobs as it reorganizes its global production bases, CEO Nam Yong told a news conference. The company has about 82,000 employees worldwide.

“In dollar terms, we saw sales falling 17 percent in January. Sales fell 20 percent in November for the year is likely to be around that level,” Nam said, when asked about the 2009 sales outlook.

Although LG is benefiting from a weak won currency, which gives it an edge in price competition with rivals in Japan and other countries, the company is taking steps to cut costs by about 3 trillion won ($2.19 billion) this year, Nam said. 

Iraqi court sets date for Bush shoe thrower

BAGHDAD, 8 Feb — The Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at former US President George W Bush will appear at an Iraqi court on 19 Feb, a judicial official said on Sunday.

Muntadhar al-Zaidi, a reporter of Cairo-based Al Jazeera TV channel, will stand trial on charge of assaulting a foreigner, Abdula Sattar al-Begdadi, spokesman of the Higher Judicial Council, told reporters.

Zaidi, 29, has been in custody after he threw his shoes at Bush during a joint statement with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Baghdad on 14 Dec, 2008. Late on December, Zaidi was supposed to face an Iraqi court, but his defence team head Diyaa al-Saadi won a postponement after he presented an immunity from the charges against his client.

Saadi wanted to reduce the charge of "assaulting a foreign head of a state during official visit" to simply an insult to Bush. However, the spokesman confirmed that the assault charge, which is an offense that carries a prison term of between five to 15 years under Iraqi law, will stand.

5,000 gallons of oil sludge spills near Chicago

ROCKDALE, 9 Feb — A holding tank at a Caterpillar facility in a Chicago suburb broke on Sunday, spilling about 65,000 gallons of oil sludge and contaminating a 3-mile section of the Des Plaines River, officials said.

The substance was reported to be hydraulic and cutting oil, said Maggie Carson, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

“It is being contained, and there is no evidence of a fish kill or harm to water fowl,” Carson said in an e-mail.

Most of the sludge spilled on land, but 6,000 gallons seeped into Des Plaines River water, US Coast Guard Petty Officer William Mitchell said. He said the oil waste poses no risk to human health but may eliminate some wildlife, has no immediate plans for job cuts and expects about a 20 percent sales decline in dollar terms this year amid the spreading global recession, its chief executive said on Monday.

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China-Saudi strategic friendship deepens with frequent high-level visits

RIYADH, 9 Feb—Chinese President Hu Jintao will set foot on Saudi Arabia Tuesday, highlighting the importance China attaches to the strategic friendly relations between the two nations.

Hu’s three-day state visit, at the invitation of King of Saudi Arabia Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, is his second one to the Arab state since April 2006.

The visit is aimed at furthering China’s friendship and cooperation with the country and strengthening its cooperation with the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said.

Since 1990, the two countries have witnessed rapid development in exchanges and cooperation in political, economic, cultural, educational, religious and other aspects.

In recent years, their political mutual trust and exchanges of high-level visits have also been on the rise.

King Abdullah paid a state visit to China in January 2006, the first official overseas visit after his succession as king, and also the first visit to China by Saudi king since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1990.

Deflation instead of inflation expected to hit US economy

LOS ANGELES, 9 Feb—After years of worrying about inflation, some economists fear the opposite could soon happen: deflation, an extended period of falling prices that indicates the economy is in a backward spiral, it was reported on Sunday.

As the recession deepens, more and more Americans have less to spend on food, clothes, gasoline, cars and shelter, the Los Angeles Times said.

Despite discounts at the store and the car dealership, a lowering of rents and a near-historic drop in the price of houses, people just aren’t buying much, the paper said. The net worth of millions of Americans has also shrunk, it noted.

“This is the kind of downward spiral that worries policymakers,” the paper said.

Economists and politicians alike are divided about what to do. Taken as a whole, prices in the US economy increased last year, but only a tiny bit. Inflation registered only 0.1 percent in 2008, the smallest increase in 19 years.

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Bird flu hits another province of Vietnamese

HANOI, 9 Feb—Bird flu hit Vietnam’s Hau Giang Province, another province in southern Mekong Delta last week, raising the total number of provinces with disease to four, said the Department of Animal Health of Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development here on Monday.

In Hau Giang Province, a flock of 400 ducks raised at a local farm died early last week, said the department. The ducks are about 45 days old and had not been vaccinated.

Belgian businessman kidnapped in Mexican Caribbean

MEXICO CITY, 9 Feb—An armed group had kidnapped a Belgian businessman at a night-club in the beach of Mexican Caribbean, local daily Milenio reported Sunday.

Kurt Jansen, who is well-known in social and business circles in the state of Quintana Roo, was taken away early Tuesday morning by a group of “strongly armed men” who were dressed in black, the paper said.

Jansen was the owner of the Bocaccio nightclub where he was kidnapped. The kidnappers were demanding two million US dollars of ransom.

Luís Felipe Ortiz Seca, director of the local Judicial Police, told reporters that Jansen’s relatives had decided not to call the police, in case that Jansen’s life would be at risk.

So, judicial authorities from the Preventive Police and from Public Security of the state are out of the issue now because there is no intervention request.

Somali pirates release Chinese fishing vessel

BEIJING, 9 Feb—A Chinese fishing vessel held by pirates in Somali waters since last year was released Sunday, with 24 crew on board safe, the Foreign Ministry said here in a statement.

The vessel Tianyu No 8, owned by China’s Tianjin Ocean Fishing Company, was safely released at around 5 pm Beijing time on Sunday, and was “under the protection” of the Chinese naval escort fleet patrolling the Gulf of Aden after it was released, said the ministry.

The crew of 16 Chinese and 8 foreign sailors, was going to get provisions and a physical examination, said the statement.

The escort fleet would also accompany Tianyu No 8 to safe waters, said the ministry.

The Chinese government had expressed solicitude for the crew released, said the statement.

After the incident, in coordination with Tianjin municipal government, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture directed several parties in relief work including Chinese embassies in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, as well as relevant enterprises, said the statement, with no further details released.
Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

Union nation where Union Spirit flourishes

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

Two kinds of nation

Today, some global family members are union nations, and some are unitary nations. After regaining independence, Myanmar became the Union of Myanmar.

Lessons of the Union

In the post-independence period, Union Spirit should have flourished throughout the Union. Instead, more than 10 years after the regaining of independence, Union Spirit of the people was going downhill and the Union was on the point of collapse in consequence of the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists. In the course of the pre-independence struggles, the people remained cohesive and harmonious in chanting the motto ‘First priority is independence, second priority is independence, third priority is independence’. So, the nation managed to regain independence. However, throughout the post-independence period, the entire people had not been able to chant the motto in unity ‘First priority is non-disintegration of the Union, second priority is non-disintegration of the Union, third priority is non-disintegration of the Union’.

The time of the Tatmadaw government

Unlike in the past, all parts of the Union are now enjoying equitable development thanks to the strenuous efforts the Tatmadaw government has made with fore sight in various sectors from sunup to sundown to accomplish the projects, restore peace, stability and development of hill regions and plains, and imbue the people with Union Spirit.

Inspection tour for development of the Union

Prime Minister General Thein Sein made an inspection tour of Rakhine State with his entourage on 24 January 2009. The people were pleased with Kayin, Bamar, Mon, Chin, Rakhine and Pa-O; Magway Division, home to Bamar, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Shan; Mandalay Division, home to Bamar, Shan, Danu, Lisu, Palaung, Kayin and Chin; Yangon Division, home to Bamar, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan; and Ayeyawady Division, home to Bamar, Kayin and Rakhine. So, it is fair to say that the Union of Myanmar really has the character of a union nation.

Character of the Union

He said that in consequence of the divide-and-rule policy the colonialists exercised in the colonial days, national races held suspicions and doubts over each other and that was followed by racism such as Rakhine and Bamar. He added that in fact, Rakhine State was a part of the Union of Myanmar like a mini-union where various national races such as Rakhine, Bamar, Pyu, Kanyan and Thet had been living in harmony since time immemorial.

Rakhine was a Myanmar people that lived in Myanmar, so it was imprudent to regard a national race as a different one from the others such as Rakhine or Bamar, he noted.

From the time of the First Myanmar Empire to date, various national races have lived together in each of the regions across the nation, and it was a sign that the Union of Myanmar will exist as long as the world does.

States or mini-unions

It is evidenced by the fact that today the states of the nation are like mini-unions. Kachin State, for example, is home to various national races such as Chin, Bamar, Shan and Naga in addition to Kachin. Kayah State also has various national races such as Kachin, Chin, Pa-O, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Innthar apart from Kayah, Kayan, Mono, Kayaw, Yintale, Gaykho and Gaybar. Similarly, Kayin State has Kayin, Pa-O, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan. Chin State has Chin ethnic groups, Myo, Khami and Bamar. In Mon State, Mon, Bamar, Chin, Kayin, Chin, Pa-O, Rakhine and Shan national races live in unity. Rakhine State is a land that Rakhine, Bamar, Chin, Myo, Thet, Khami, Daingnet, Maramargyi and Kaman make their home. In Shan State, Kachin, Kokang, Taunggyo, Danu, Palaung, Pa-O, Bamar, Lisu, Wa, Akha and Inntha national races live together with Shan.

Divisions or mini-unions

Moreover, the divisions of the nation are like mini-unions. Sagaing Division is home to Bamar, Shan, Naga, Chin, Kadu and Kanarethic groups; Tanintharyi Division, home to Bamar, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Salon national races; Bago Division, home to Kayin, Bamar, Mon, Chin, Rakhine and Pa-O; Magway Division, home to Bamar, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Shan; Mandalay Division, home to Bamar, Shan, Danu, Lisu, Palaung, Kayin and Chin; Yangon Division, home to Bamar, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan; and Ayeyawady Division, home to Bamar, Kayin and Rakhine.

It is common knowledge of Rakhine State dwellers that the projects the Tatmadaw government has implemented and is implementing with tenacity in Rakhine State are particularly designed to strengthen amicable relations between national races, and bring about development of the region concerned, equitable development of all parts of the Union; they are not for economic gains.
Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day:

Union nation where Union Spirit flourishes

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

(from page 6)

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“Prospects of Rakhine State”

The explanations and reports presented by the ministers who accompanied the Prime Minister on the tour will help chart a prosperous future of Rakhine State.

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on the guidance of the Head of State on plans to form a network of railroads that covered all the states and divisions, and earlier construction of new railroads in Rakhine State; feasibility study being conducted to Minbu-Padan-An Railroad in compliance with the guidance; and work progress in constructing Minbu-An-Sittway Railroad and follow-up programmes to construct 26-mile Sittway (Mingyang)-Ponnagyun section, 34-mile Ponnagyun-Kyauktaw section, 32-mile Kyauktaw-MraukU section, and 16-mile MraukU-Minbya section totaling 99 miles.

Minister for Electric Power (1) Col Zaw Min reported on the tasks being undertaken through the three programmes: to ensure electric power plants operated at full capacity, seek water sources to generate hydroelectricity, and to complete the ongoing projects; and potential for supply of more electricity to Rakhine State when Thahtaychaung and Anchaung hydropower projects.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Khaw Hsan reported on the plans the Ministry of Information was carrying out for development of human resources to contribute towards national development through TV and radio programmes, self-reliant village libraries and newspapers; programmes to upgrade present TV retransmitting stations in Rakhine State in order that the dwellers could watch TV programmes with clear sound and high resolution pictures; arrangements made for Sittway to watch MRTV-4 programmes; plans to install new machines to get clear radio programmes and FM programmes at reasonable fees by 2009; disaster preparedness measures that could be taken in Rakhine coastal regions through FM weather reports; requirements for establishment of more self-reliant village libraries and their sustainable development; establishment of Sittway sub-printing house for local people to be able to read newspapers the same day; and arrangements to be made to improve the quality of the newspapers.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun also presented reports on work progress ministry-wise. So, there are many ongoing projects in Rakhine State designed to paint a rosy picture of life of the dwellers.

Assessing the reports, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and gave concluding remarks. I would like to present an excerpt.

“Our country is a multicultural land, so the entire people need to have a sense of Union Spirit forever.”

I wish various national races a greater momentum in enhancing relations between them and equipping themselves with Union Spirit.

Translation: MS

POEM:

Joyful land of brethren

With traditional bags and drums
Shans dancing in harmony
So pleasant is the Taunggwe Pagoda
Kayah, the land of Keinnmayi, Keinnaya birds
Blossoms of red Rhododendron
Icon of misty Chin hills
Beauty is the Ngapali
Rakhine tradition we preserve
So joyful and merry
Kayins dancing ‘don’ in harmony
Mons have traditions
Noble and honourable
Come visit Bagan of Bamars
Our cultural heritage
In the land of Kachin people
Is the joyous harvesting festival
Cherished is our Myanmar
Unity is the land of brethren

Khin Hsan Oo (Myanmarsar) (Trs)

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day
Religious objects enshrined into...

(from page 1)

Image; Maj-Gen Thein Htike of Ministry of Defence the relics of Buddha and Three Tipitaka; Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint of Ministry of Defence eight prerequisites, silver tree and religious objects; Maj-Gen Soe Maung of Ministry of Defence four silver replicas of Shwedagon Pagoda; Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win of Ministry of Defence three silver replicas of Shwedagon Pagoda; Maj-Gen Maung Shein of Ministry of Defence three silver replicas of Shwedagon Pagoda and Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin a jade Buddha Image around the pagoda clock-wise. Ministers Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Maj-Gen Khin Kyaw Hsan, Maj-Gen Maung Myint, Colonel Thein Nyunt, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, and Minister Col Thein Nyunt enshrined Buddha images, other images, eight replicas of the Shwedagon Pagoda, and other religious objects into the reliquary.

The Secretary-1 scattered stones of various gems inside the reliquary. Maj-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence closed Satta Thana reliquary.

The Secretary-1 and laypersons sprinkled scented water onto it. Members of the Sangha recited Jaya Mangala Gatha.

Maj-Gen Sein Lin of the Ministry of Defence opened the middle reliquary and Col Thet Soe offered lights.

The Secretary-1 laid down the silver Bodhi tree at the site of the jade podium, and Kakusandha Buddha image at the south corner of the middle reliquary.

(See page 9)
Religious objects enshrined into... (from page 8)

Family members of the Head of State laid down Konagamana Buddha image at the west corner; and Adjutant-General Li-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Kassapa Buddha image at the north corner of the reliquary.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin placed Gotama Buddha image, Dhatu and Dhamma stupas, gem casket, religious objects and replicas of the Shwedagon Pagoda at the east corner; and Minister Col Thein Nyunt, replicas of the Shwedagon Pagoda, jade Buddha image and religious objects in the reliquary.

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Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun of the Ministry of Defence closed the middle reliquary.

The Secretary-1 and laypersons sprinkled scented water onto the reliquary. Members of the Sangha recited Jaya Mangala Gatha.

The installation of the pivot followed atop the pagoda. The Secretary-1, family members of the Head of State, Adjutant-General Li-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin set up the pivot atop the pagoda. Members of the Sangha recited Jaya Mangala Gatha, followed by the sharing of the merits gained.

The ceremony ended at 9:50 a.m.

The Secretary-1 performed gold and silver showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

The Secretary-1, laypersons, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander and party offered alms food to members of the Sangha.

Mawlamyine, Hpa-an enjoy progress

NAV PVI TAW, 9 Feb—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and departmental officials, inspected development task of Mawlamyine Township in Mon State on 3 February.

During the tour, Lt-Gen Tha Aye met with employees of the Mawlamyine General Hospital and donated cash and medicine. He later inspected construction of 3-storey ward of the Children Hospital, and production process of Concrete Sleeper Factory in Mottama in Paung Township. Next, he visited Fish and Cold Storage Factory of Holdings Ltd in Mawlamyine Township. At Hotnei-2 River Water Pumping Station near the Htonei Village in Hpa-an Township, the Assistant Director of Water Resources Utilization Department reported to him on river water pumping tasks and Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min gave supplementary reports.

Next, he inspected ploughing, fertilizer scattering on paddy fields in the catchment area and spraying devices for pesticide. Next, he inspected thriving pea plantations, vegetable farms, oil crop plantations on both sides of Hpa-an and Htonei motor road and oil crop plantations of farmer U Paung La in Kawhlike Village in the township.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thiya Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and the congregation receive Nine Precepts at a ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the seven reliquaries and the central reliquary and to erect the pivot at Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

On behalf of Chairman of SPDC Senior-General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thiya Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo offers Bodhi Tree to Sayadaw.—MNA

Chairman of the leading committee for construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thiya Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo conveys Bodhi Tree to be enshrined in the pagoda.—MNA

Li-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence looks into cabbage plantations of farmer U Myo Tun of Mainmahalukyayun in Hpa-an Township.—MNA
**Software Engineering for IT enthusiasts**

**MPEC**  
*Myanmar Professionals Education Centre*

**Software Engineering**

**Yangon, 9 Feb** — A training course on Software Engineering will be conducted for IT graduates and diploma certificate holders to become professional applications developer in the works. Technical Director U Zaw Moe Tun and experienced technicians of Myanmar Information Technology Ptd Ltd will provide practical and theoretical courses to the trainees. The courses will be conducted for IT enthusiasts.

**Opportunity to attend London Hotel School**

**Yangon, 7 Feb** — Star Resources and London Hotel School co-provide youths with services to attend HND Diploma in Hospitality Management (UK) in London. After the course, a trainee may enjoy five-year work permit there, and attend a one-year course for B.A (Hons) (Hospitality Management — UK).

**SAY NO TO DRUGS**

**8th Buddha Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image held**

**Yangon, 9 Feb** — The 8th Buddha Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image and rice offering ceremonies were held at the Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township today.

First, the State Ovadacarriya Sayadaw, Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and members of the Sangha consecrated the Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.

Next, the congregation led by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Huy received the Nine Precepts from Secretary of SSMNC Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilawka Bhivumso of the Ywama Pariyatti Sarthiha. Members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Huy and officials concerned donated provisions to Sayadaw. Secretary of SSMNC Mandalay Chanthagy Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Jotikadjaya Bhaddanta Jotica Bhivamsa delivered a sermon and congregation offered rice and provisions to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

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**Traditional Medicine Kits distributed to 13 townships in Yangon Division**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Feb** — A ceremony to hand over Traditional Medicine Kits, jointly organized by Traditional Medicine Department under Ministry of Health and the Nippon Foundation of Japan was held at the hall of No. 2 Basic Education High School in Kungyangon, Yangon Division on 7 February.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay made a speech on the occasion and donor Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation explained the purpose of donation.

The deputy minister, officials and Mr Yohei Sasakawa presented the kits through village-tract representatives.

Also present on the occasion were officials of Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Health, Yangon Command and Yangon South District Peace and Development Council, members of social organizations, townsenders, guests and representatives from the Nippon Foundation.

At the ceremony, altogether 500-kits were distributed to 500-villages of 13 townships in Yangon Division.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and officials fed polio vaccine to children at Kungyangon No. 2 BEHS where the Second National Immunization Days were held.

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**SAY NO TO DRUGS**
DEVELOPMENT OF KAYAH STATE IN THE TIME OF TATMADAW GOVERNMENT

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Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

Three-storey main building of Loikaw University upgraded from degree college to university in Loikaw, Kayah State.

Loikaw Station
Magnificent Loikaw Railway Station in Loikaw, Kayah State.

No. 1 Bilu Chaung Hydropower Plant on right bank of Bilu Creek, 13 miles south-east of Loikaw, Kayah State. The plant generates 200 million units a year.
Texas 'bath tub killer' to be executed

DALLAS, 9 Feb— The Texas man convicted in a 1996 case in Arlington known as the bath tub murders is to be executed. The Dallas Morning News reported on Saturday that, 13 years after the crimes, the state plans to execute 35-year-old Dale Devon Scheanette.

He was found guilty of killing Wendie Prescott, 22, and Christine Vu, 26, who were found strangled in the upstairs bathtub of the Arlington home on Dec. 24, 1996. The Texas man, convicted in the 1996 case in Arlington known as the bathtub murders is to be executed.

Texas 'bath tub killer' to be executed

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Kitten sentenced to year in prison

REDWOOD CITY, 9 Feb— A 33-year-old man was sentenced to a year in jail and then will be deported to Mexico for stowing a kitten to death in Redwood City. The kitten, named Pucci, died of multiple fractures. In testimony, the girl’s uncle said he saw Calderon-Franco grab the kitten by the neck, squeeze it, throw it outside and then stomp on it. A necropsy showed the kitten, named Pucci, died of multiple fractures.

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Somali journalist stabbed; 2nd attack in less than a week

Mogadishu, 9 Feb — A Somali journalists’ union on Sunday condemned the multiple stabbing of a radio director — the second targeted attack on a Somali journalist in less than a week.

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) demanded the ethnic elders of the “known attackers” punish him for the attack, which left radio director Hassan Bulhan Ali seriously wounded.

On Saturday, the attacker stabbed Hassan Bulhan five times in the stomach and heart during a tribal reconciliation meeting in the central town of Abudwaq, located in the Galgadud region, according to NUSOJ. Hassan Bulhan, 38, is the director of Radio Abudwaq.

Three days earlier, gunmen shot and killed Said Tahlil Ahmed, the director of independent HornAfrik Radio in Mogadishu, in a broad daylight attack in broad daylight.

A journalist who was with Tahlil at the time of the killing said the gunmen were from the Islamist militia Al-Shabaab.

Tahlil was on his way to a meeting called by Al-Shabaab when he was attacked. The gunmen also threatened the journalist who witnessed the attack. That journalist declined to disclose his name for security reasons.—Internet

170 al Qaeda suspects released in Yemen

San'a, 9 Feb — Yemen released 170 men it had arrested on suspicion of having ties to Al Qaeda, security officials said on Sunday, two weeks after the terror group announced that Yemen had become the base of its activities for the whole Arabian peninsula.

The announcement also comes as government forces say they are poised to sweep through the northern city of Marib to combat an entrenched Al Qaeda presence that includes both Yemenis and Saudis.

The officials who announced the release spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not allowed to speak to the press.

The men were freed on Friday and Saturday after signing pledges not to engage in terrorism — a strategy the Yemeni government has often used with those suspected of fighting in militant causes abroad.

Local tribal leaders are also expected to guarantee the good behavior of the released.

The practice stems from the powerful role played by the tribes across the rugged Yemeni countryside as well as the comparatively weak presence of the central government.

In the past, such releases have raised concerns in the United States and increased its reluctance to release Yemeni detainees from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

Yemen has said it expects most of the 100 remaining Yemenis at Guantanamo to be sent home after President Barack Obama ordered the prison shut within a year.

Indian cyclists fighting for pedal power revolution

In India, where the car is king, the only cyclists tend to be delivery men, heaving the pedals of ancient, rusting, single-gear machines laden with milk churns or tied-up bales of newspapers.

But the country’s small, yet vocal, band of cycling enthusiasts is hoping to change all that, by taking to the streets in a regular celebration of pedal power to show that push bikes exist and also have rights on the road.

“Cycling is always treated as a poor man’s transport in India,” Anoop Rajan, 24, told AFP. “One thing that we have to change is that if you cycle and you have a good bike, it should be something prestigious.”

Famous fossil secretly scanned in Texas

Archaeologists at the University of Texas at Austin were given top secret look at a tiny, one of the world’s most famous fossils.

The 3.2 million-year-old hominid skeleton, found in Ethiopia in 1974, made a 10-day stop at UT’s High-Resolution X-ray Computed Tomography Facility in September after an eight-month exhibition at the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences.

With guards standing close watch, UT scientists were allowed to make 35,000 computed tomography images of the ancient fossil. While US researchers conducted a scan on the fossil in the 1970s, the new scans provide the first high-resolution data on the early human ancestor, the Austin (Texas) American-Statesman newspaper said.

74-year-old US reservist being deployed

Carrollton, 9 Feb — US Army Reserve Lt Col John Burson, a 74-year-old Georgia doctor, is headed for his third overseas combat tour.

The ear, nose and throat specialist from Carrollton has been assigned to an infantry unit in the 101st Airborne Division in war-torn Afghanistan. “When you’re 70, where are you going to find that kind of excitement?” he asked.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Sunday that Burson hung up his active duty uniform in 1985. Then when the Army found it needed medical personnel in 2005, Burson said he heeded an inner calling and went on to serve two tours in Iraq.

“I’m a kid from the Deep South. I lived through tough times and made it,” he said. “I lived the American dream. Other people made the sacrifices.”—Internet

Long-hidden Bugatti sells for $4.5 million

A 1937 Bugatti that sat in an English doctor's garage for almost half a century without being driven has sold at auction in Paris for almost $4.5 million.

The 1937 Type 57S was one of 17 built. Dr Harold Carr of Newcastle bought it in 1955 and drove it for a few years before moving it into his garage in 1960.

Carr’s heirs did not realize he owned the car and other vintage automobiles until after his death two years ago, the BBC reported. The original owner was Earl Howe, founder of the British Racing Drivers Club. He sold it in 1945.

For a 72-year-old vehicle, the Bugatti has remarkably low mileage, with only 26,284 miles on the odometer. Carr apparently never started the engine after 1960.

In the Bonhams catalogue, buyers were told they would have the thrill of “hearing that turbine-like sound that so excited Earl Howe when he collected this car from Sorel in 1937.”

This extremely rare 1937 Bugatti Type 57S Atalante is inspected by vintage car specialist Nicholas Benwell at Phoenix Green garage in Harlton Wintney, in Hampshire, England

Two employees of DP World supervise uploading the containers at the Jebel Ali port terminal, 1 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 8 Feb, 2009.

Indian cyclists pedal during a Critical Mass bicycle ride through the streets of Mumbai.

One way of increasing the profile of cycling around the world has been through Critical Mass rides, where cyclists meet and ride en masse through cities, often with loud music and whistles for accompaniment.

A Christie’s employee poses with a Bodendick table-fountain and a selection of gilt cups at Christie’s auction house in London. The German gilt table-fountain is estimated to fetch 150,000-200,000 Euros ($197,000-$262,000) when it is auctioned in Paris. Haute-couture fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent bequeathed the collection to the Pierre Berge - Yves Saint Laurent Foundation, to be sold to create a new foundation dedicated to scientific and AIDS research.

A 10-day stop at UTA’s High-Resolution X-ray Computed Tomography Facility at Lucy, one of the world’s most famous archaeological sites, was conducted a scan on the fossil in the 1970s, the new scans provide the first high-resolution data on the early human ancestor, the Austin (Texas) American-Statesman newspaper said.
Sports

Kaka to miss Milan derby

Rome, 9 Feb—Brazil star Kaka will miss the Milan derby after injuring his foot in Saturday’s 1-1 home draw with rock-bottom Reggina. AC Milan confirmed on Sunday that Kaka’s top scorer with 11 Serie A goals this season, netted a penalty in the match and finished the game but immediately afterwards it became clear that he had a problem. Milan issued a statement on Sunday saying that tests showed he has sprained rather than broken his foot but that he faces at least two weeks on the sidelines.

The news could not have come at a worse time with the rossoneri’s crucial clash against neighbours Inter Milan at the San Siro next weekend. Milan dropped to second placed side after injuring midfield Cristiano Ronaldo (R) in their draw as Inter won 3-0 at Lecce on Saturday. Anything other than a second victory over Inter this season — Ronaldo scored the winner with a rare header in a 1-0 success in September — could see Milan’s title hopes all but disappear.

Giggs fires United back to summit

London, 9 Feb—Manchester United hammered out a statement of intent to their title rivals as the champions returned to the top of the Premier League with a 1-0 win at West Ham on Sunday.

Sir Alex Ferguson’s side had arrived in London in second place after Liverpool’s late 3-2 fightback at Portsmouth 24 hours earlier. But United showed they have no intention of relinquishing their crown as Ryan Giggs’ second half goal sent them two points clear of Rafael Benitez’s second placed side.

By the time Liverpool are next in action that lead will have extended to five points if United win their game in hand against Fulham on February 18. The Old Trafford outfit are beginning to have the look of champions again and this was the kind of obdurate display that has become their hallmark this season.

Arsenal’s Ivory Coast player Emmanuel Eboue (2nd right) holds his head as referee Mike Dean (2nd left) sends him off during their Premier League football match at White Hart Lane in London, England.

Goal-hungry Eto’o keeps Barca bandwagon rolling

Madrid, 9 Feb— Samuel Eto’o scored twice as Barcelona beat Sporting Gijon 3-1 at Camp Nou on Sunday to re-establish their 12-point advantage over Real Madrid at the top of the Spanish table.

Eto’o scored in the 23rd and 40th minutes to take his personal tally to 21 for the season with Valencia’s David Villa his nearest rival on 17. Brazilian Dany Alves added a third in the second half as Barcelo-

Katherine Hull wins Australian Masters

Gold Coast, 9 Feb—Australia’s Katherine Hull won the Australian Ladies Masters on Sunday, closing with a 4-under 68 for a five-stroke victory. The 26-year-old, the Canadian Women’s Open winner last year on the LPGA Tour, had a 1-under 272 total on the Royal Pines course.

Australia’s Tamie Durdin (70) and South Korea’s Ryu So-yeon (67) tied for second. Six-time winner Karrie Webb shot a 73 to tie for 30th at 1 under.

The most disappointing thing about the day was I felt really good going to the first tee,” Webb said. “I actually believed that I could shoot something that would give me a chance if the wind got up.”

Spurs frustrated by 10-man Arsenal

London, 9 Feb—Robbie Keane’s return to Tottenham Hotspur was not enough to prevent Sunday’s North London derby ending in a frustrating scoreless draw despite Arsenal being reduced to ten men following Emmanuel Eboue’s first half dismissal.

Ultimately Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was relieved his under-manned side managed to escape with a point but they now lie four points off fourth-placed Chelsea with growing doubts surrounding their hopes of Champions League qualification.

Spurs manager Harry Redknapp, meanwhile was left to contemplate a wasted opportunity for his team to drag themselves four points clear of the relegation zone.

Redknapp claims Keane’s arrival back at White Hart Lane from Liverpool has given his beleaguered squad an instant lift.

Adams facing the axe from Portsmouth

London, 9 Feb—Tony Adams’ future at Fratton Park was under scrutiny again on Monday amid media reports that the Portsmouth manager is facing the axe, after less than four months in charge.

The Telegraph and the Daily Mail newspapers reported that the former Arsenal and England defender would be sacked later Monday, and the Sun claimed the decision had already been taken.

Portsmouth have been in freefall since Adams replaced Harry Redknapp, who took over at Tottenham earlier this season. The team has managed just two wins in 15 league games since he took charge on October 28, and has slid to within one point of the relegation zone.

The Sun reported a source saying that chief executive Peter Storrie broke the news to Adams on Sunday afternoon, and it came as “a complete surprise to him as he had previously been told he was safe until the end of the season.”

Russians swamp Chinese at Fed to book Italian semi

Paris, 9 Feb—Defending champions Russia wrapped up a 5-0 thrashing of China to book a Fed Cup semi-final against Italy in a repeat of the 2007 final after the Italians dispatched France in Orleans.

The Russians have dominated the tournament in recent years and on current form look set to retain their title in the past six years after Anna Chakvetadze motored past Yan Zi 6-1, 6-2 for the decisive third point before debutant teen Alisa Klebanova crushed Tian-Tian Sun 6-1, 6-1.

Star pair Elena Dementieva, the Beijing Olympic champion, and Svetlana Kuznetsova completed the whitewash with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 for their fifth title in the tournament.

Internet

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Landslide leaves scores homeless in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 9 Feb.—A landslide completely destroyed five houses and damaged six others in Afghanistan’s northern Baghlan province leaving scores homeless, an official said Monday.

“A mass of earth slide Sunday night in a village outside Pul-e-Khumri, the provincial capital of Baghlan, utterly smashed five houses and damaged six others leaving scores of people homeless,” head of Red Crescent Society in the province Hamid Niazi told newsmen at the site of the incident.

He also added that no one was killed in the natural incident because the earth slipped slowly to make the dwellers of the affected village evacuate their houses.

Niazi said that around 100 homeless people including women and children in this chilly weather were in need of aid.
Development of Kayah State in the time of Tatmadaw Government

YADANASI SAYADAW (LOILEM)

All national races were the same, national brethren, who live in the single Union, so it was mandatory for every citizen to have a sense of oneness with fellow citizens.

A view of Thabyegon Roundabout.

Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee is immersing itself in the plan for upgrading Nay Pyi Taw to an international level city. As a result, Nay Pyi Taw has seen cumulative progress with many fine roads, well-organized housing estates, ministerial offices, educational institutions, markets and hospitals.

At the junction of Nay Pyi Taw-Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road and Yazathingaha Road is a 200-foot-diameter Thabyegon Roundabout, with landscaping plants, lamps and lamp posts and is surrounded by lush and green hillocks.

Razathingaha Road is an eight-lane facility with traffic islands of landscaping plants such as Cuba coconut palms and oleanders along with lamp posts on both sides.

It was very pleasant to view green sceneries from the car moving on the concrete road. Razathingaha Roundabout located at the junction of Yazathi Road and Razathingaha Road is like a beautiful picture. The Upptasanti Pagoda is on Razathingha Road joins Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinnama.

Director U Kyaw Myint of Road and Bridge Department under Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee said, “Yazathi Road is larger than any other main road. It will be a 20-lane facility when it is completed. Up to now, we have constructed four lanes on each side. All the main roads in Nay Pyi Taw are eight-lane ones.”

Under the special development project, fine concrete roads and eight above 180-foot-long reinforced-concrete bridges are being constructed to form a network. Establishment of Ottara Thiri Town is in progress now such as construction of new roads, reclamation of lands to establish housings, setting up lamp posts, and digging drains.

From the north of Ottara is Thaikchaung Road that joins Yangon-Mandalay Highway at Thaikchaung model village. Now, lands are being reclaimed in Block (3) of the town with houses and staff quarters for service personnel. We got a good view of Nay Pyi Taw Station from Block (3).

Yazathingaha Road and Zeyahtani Road meet near Ottara Thiri. Zeyahtani Road branches off several roads leading to offices of the ministries. Khayay, Padauk and Gangaw staff quarters are made up of four-storey modern buildings with good ventilation.

Then we reached Thabyegon Roundabout, our starting point. Shopping Complex is south of Thabyegon Roundabout on Razathingaha Road. Beyond Shopping Complex are the hotel zone, the airport, and Dekkhina Thiri new town being established.

Shopping Complex is constituted with Myanmar Economic Bank, Myawady Bank, Sibinthaya Bank and Thiri Yadana Market. We left Shopping Complex along Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road and saw Gangaw Housing Estate, 1000-bed hospital, herbal garden and Central Post Office.

Now, the tasks Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee is implementing for development of Nay Pyi Taw are in full swing. Therefore, Nay Pyi Taw will soon become an international level city.

Translation: MS

Myanmar Alin: 3-2-2009

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