Certain powerful countries desirous of gaining dominance over the Union of Myanmar are stirring up racial conflicts to break up national unity and cause the recurrence of armed conflicts. Moreover, they are imposing economic sanctions against the nation and making political interference in the internal affairs to slow down the national economic growth. So, national people are to develop the national awareness.

**True patriotism**

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

**Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Iranian President**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mahmud Ahmadenejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February, 2009.—MNA

**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San attend 9th Buddha Pujaniya Festival, rice offering ceremony of Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attended the ninth Buddha Pujaniya Festival and rice offering ceremony of Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu, Shwebo District of Sagaing Division yesterday morning and offered rice and alms to the members of the Sangha.

It was also attended by 45 members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Pakhan Kyawtaikkyi in Shwebo State Ovadacaryya Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabhivamsa and Chairman of Sagaing Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Silananda, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe, the ministers, division level departmental officials, departmental officials in Shwebo District and townships, wellwishers, members of the social and religious organizations and local people.

Before the ceremony, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate offertories to a Sayadaw at ninth Buddha Pujaniya Festival and rice offering ceremony of Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu.—MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Wednesday, 11 February, 2009**

**National unity, essential for perpetuation of the Union**

National brethren have been living in the Union, sharing ups and downs and demonstrating a sense of oneness with one another since time immemorial. In the Konbaung period, the nation lost national unity due to the discord and hatred sown by the colonialists among the people. In consequence, the people came to get equipped with Union Spirit decreasingly, and the nation fell under the political control of the colonialists for more than 100 years.

At Panglong Conference held in Shan State on 12 February 1947, the entire people unanimously showed nationalistic spirit, with which they enjoyed independence only together.

Thanks to the sense of nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit conceived in Panglong, Myanmar regained independence. It is thousands of years, the national races have made Myanmar their home together. They live in various parts of the Union with diverse cultures, but they share fine characters of compassion, honesty, helpfulness, and forgiveness.

National unity is essential for perpetuity of the sovereign power of the motherland, home to various ethnic groups.

The nation has achieved national unity greater than ever owing to the hard work the Tatmadaw government is exerting with benevolent attitude to the people in carrying out regional development tasks across the nation including border areas.

The entire people are, therefore, exhorted to see to the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, while protecting the Union against any forms of dangers with patriotic fervour and Union Spirit.

---

**Yangon-Mandalay market vessel leaves on 19 Feb**

**Yangon, 10 Feb** — Mya Aye Yar vessel, a Yangon-Mandalay market vessel of Goods Transportation Department (Branch) of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport, will start her maiden voyage from Wadan (No-2 Jetty), here, on 19 February.

Those who want to deal in goods may contact either Goods Transportation Department (Branch) on Botataungay Zay street or Ph 292199, and 292319.

If dealers want to load goods from rural townships, they may contact Township Manager’s offices of Inland Water Transport in Maubin, Danya, Hinthada, Myaung, Kyangin, Pyay, Thayet, Aunglan, and Magway.—MNA

---

**Managing Director U Wai Lwin extends greeting at ceremony to introduce Bravia LCD TV**

**Yangon, 10 Feb** — TMW Enterprise Ltd introduced a new generation of Bravia LCD TV, a product of Sony using new modern technologies, at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday.

After his greeting, Managing Director U Wai Lwin of TMW Enterprise Ltd together with Mr Spencer of Sony Singapore introduced Sony Bravia New Z series with Motion Flow 200 Hz.

These series include Bravia Z450A, Bravia X450A and Bravia T Series.

Thanks to the use of world’s first technology 200 Frames Per Second Motion Flow, 10-bit LCD Panel and Live Colour Creation Technology, Bravia can granteen shape, pictures and exciting colours. And the elegant-and-slim-cut designs of the TV may make it make living room graceful. Moreover, Picture Frame Mode of X450A will be developed.

52", 46", 40" size Bravia Z450A series, 46", 40" size Bravia X450A series, and 32", 19" size Bravia T series can be bought at showrooms and agent’s of TMW Enterprise Ltd, which is a legitimate agent of Sony.

Bravia LCD TV can be got at special price at Sony Showrooms at No (90, A/B), Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Ph:546002, 546003 and 546004, at No. (173/175), Panodan street, Kyauktada Township, Ph: 250596 and 250597, and at No. (20, A/B), Yawmyingyi Street, Dagon Township, Ph: 245311.—MNA

---

**Regional sale manager Mr Naoya Harada of Fujitsu General (Asia) Ltd presents awards to a best sale agent.—MNA**

---

**Fujitsu introduces world’s first Air-Deodoriser**

**Yangon, 10 Feb** — Jointly organized by Fujitsu General Ltd and Golden Orchid Ltd, a ceremony to introduce General air-con and the world’s first Air-Deodoriser produced by Fujitsu and present prizes to General Air-Con best sale agents for 2008 was held in conjunction with New Year Promotion 2009 at Park Royal Hotel (Grand Ballroom) here on 6 February.

Director Dr Thant Lwin Maung of Golden Orchid Ltd and General Manager Mr Takahiro Endo of Fujitsu General (Asia) Ltd of Japan made speeches on the occasion. Afterwards, regional sale manager Mr Naoya Harada of Fujitsu General (Asia) Ltd explained the facts about General Air-con with the use of power point.

Air-Deodoriser to be sold by Fujitsu General Ltd is the world’s first one. It can filter 99.9 percent of bacteria in the wind.

Afterwards, Mr Naoya Harada presented awards to five best sale agents and sale manager U Aung Aung of Golden Orchid Ltd explained facts about New Year Promotion 2009. The promotion programme will be held starting from 7 February to 31 March. A safeguard will be given as a gift if the customers buy one air-con.

The customers may contact No.83/91, Bo Aung Kyaw Road (Lower Block), Kyauktada Township, Yangon, (Hot Line:01-706223 and 371906). In addition, they may contact service Hot Line:01-704375, 706223 for repairing, maintenance and servicing.

On 7 February, Technological discussion and air-con installation and maintenance course were held in the hall of Grand Ballroom. Fujitsu General (Asia) Ltd presented the certificates of installation of General Air-Conditioners including inverter technology to those who attended the course.—MNA
Suicide attack kills four US soldiers in Mosul

BAGHDAD, 10 Feb—A suicide car bomber struck a US patrol in northern Iraq on Monday, killing four American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter in the deadliest single attack against US forces in nine months.

The blast occurred as US vehicles were passing near an Iraqi police checkpoint in Mosul, Iraq’s third largest city and the last major urban battleground in the war against al-Qaida and other Sunni militants. American casualties have fallen to some of their lowest levels of the war since thousands of Sunnis abandoned the insurgency and US and Iraqi forces routed Shiite militias in Baghdad and Basra last spring. Only five of the 16 US service members who died in Iraq last month were killed in action.

However, fighting continues in Mosul and elsewhere in northern Iraq—a conflict which US officials say is driven in part by ethnic rivalries between Sunni Arabs and Kurds. Many Sunni ex-tremists are believed to have fled north after being driven from longtime strongholds in Baghdad and central Iraq.

A US statement said three US soldiers were killed at the scene of Monday’s attack. A fourth soldier and the interpreter died of wounds at a military hospital, the US said.—Internet

Obama says no decision on changing Iraq, Afghanistan policies

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb—US President Barack Obama on Monday said there is no decision yet on how to change Iraq and Afghanistan policies.

He made the remarks at his first prime time White House press conference as president. “I do not have yet a timetable for how long that’s going to take. What I know is I’m not going to make—I’m not going to allow Al-Qaeda or bin Laden to operate with impunity, planning attacks on the US homeland,” he said, responding to a question on what’s his timetable to withdraw troops from Afghanistan.

“With respect to Afghanistan, this is going to be a big challenge,” Obama said. On Iraq, the president also stopped short of mentioning the timetable.

“We just saw an election in Iraq that went relatively peacefully and you get a sense that the political system is now functioning in a meaningful way.”

Car bomb explodes at trade fair centre in Spain

MADRID, 10 Feb—A car bomb believed planted by the armed Basque group ETA exploded at a business park on Madrid’s outskirts Monday, but no one was injured, police said.

The bomb went off shortly after 9 am (0800GMT; 3 am EST) at the park in the Campo de Las Naciones trade fair centre about 90 minutes after the Spanish Red Cross received a warning call, a police spokesman said.

The explosion blew a meter-deep (3-foot) hole in the ground, destroyed some 30 cars and blew out windows at nearby offices, but no one was hurt, the spokesman said.

US, allies, Kabul government losing ground

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb—Support for the Kabul government and the United States and European troops trying to bolster it against insurgents is plummeting among the Afghan people, a new poll reports.

The decline is striking particularly in the last year, the poll shows, even as the Obama administration and NATO allies weigh moves to strengthen forces in the struggle with Taleban and other radical groups.

President Barack Obama has assigned high priority to the conflict and the administration is weighing whether to send another 30,000 US troops there, almost doubling the 32,000 present.

His election, however, does not appear to hold much promise among the Afghan people: Two in ten think he will make things better for the Afghan people and nearly as many think he will make things worse. The rest either expect no change or are waiting to see.

The poll, conducted by ABC News, the BBC and ARD German TV found, for instance, that the number of Afghans who say their country is headed in the right direction has dropped from 77 percent in 2005 to 40 percent now. That new and lower level is the first time less than half the Afghans polled were found to approve.

On top of that decline, while 83 percent of Afghans expressed a favorable opinion of the United States in 2005, just 47 percent feel that way now.

There was an 18 percent drop this year alone, according to polling results.

Suicide car bombing targets US military convoy in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Feb—A suicide car bombing against US military convoy in Afghanistan’s eastern Khoot Province on Tuesday caused panic among residents, a senior police officer Guldad said.

A US soldier is seen beside a damaged police vehicle following an attack by Taliban militants on Jalalabad-Kabul highway, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 7 Feb, 2009.—Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,243

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb—As of Monday, 9 Feb, 2009, at least 4,243 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 3,406 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.—Internet
Egypt invites rival Palestinian groups to meet

CAIRO, 10 Feb — In a sign of progress on a deal to end the Gaza crisis, Egypt has invited rival Palestinian factions to a reconciliation conference in Cairo this month, a Palestinian official said on Monday.

Egypt is trying to broker two key agreements in the sensitive region. One is a long-term truce between Israel and Gaza’s militant Hamas leaders in place of a temporary cease-fire after Israel’s devastating three-week offensive in Gaza last month. The other is an end to the bitter divide between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which worsened after the militant group expelled its rivals from Gaza more than a year and a half ago.

The Palestinian Authority controls the West Bank. The groups received invitations for the 22 Feb reconciliation meeting, said Abdel Rahim Malouh, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

In Paris, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressed hope for “a return to calm” in Gaza by next week, after he and French President Nicolas Sarkozy discussed efforts for a one- or two-year truce in the Palestinian territory.—internet

British military plane crashes in Cyprus

NICOSIA, 10 Feb — A British military aircraft crashed on Monday at one of its two “sovereign bases” in southern Cyprus, but two pilots survived the accident.

“There has been an incident involving a military aircraft in RAF Akrotiri,” confirmed British Bases Spokesman Stewart Bardsley, adding “there have been no fatalities as a result of the accident.”

The pilot and co-pilot managed to eject from the jet and are currently being treated for “non-life-threatening injuries,” said the spokesman.

The aircraft was on a training exercise when it crashed on the runway of the British Base of Akrotiri on the south coast of Cyprus.—internet

A car pulls a trailer full of goats, sheep and llamas away from the community of Kinglake West, northeast of Melbourne after fires devastated the area.—internet

Beijing blaze caused by “unlicensed” fireworks

BEIJING, 10 Feb — A fire that swept through a large festive firecrackers“CCTV hired staff from a fireworks company to ignite several hundredowler that overflowed from the on-site collection pits at Caterpillar’s Rockdale, Ill. plant on 8 Feb.—internet

US stock futures fall; uncertainty on “bad bank” plan

HONG KONG, 10 Feb — US stock futures fell on Tuesday on uncertainty about a White House financial rescue package after a CNBC report of an altered form of a “bad bank” plan to buy toxic assets from commercial banks.

Investors were waiting for a speech later by US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner in which he is expected to unveil details about the plan.

CNBC initially reported the “bad bank” aspect was being dropped, but later updated its report to say a new form of the plan will essentially combine public and private resources to take bad assets off banks’ books.—internet

Canada bankruptcies up over 12% in 2008

OTTAWA, 10 Feb — The number of individuals and businesses going bankrupt in Canada in 2008 totaled 96,774, up 12.3 percent from the 86,140 recorded in 2007, according to local media reports on Monday.

For the fourth quarter, bankruptcies totaled 26,436, up 9.3 percent from the previous quarter and 25.3 percent higher than the fourth quarter of 2007, federal monitoring agency the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy reported on Monday.

However, the number of individuals and businesses going bust dropped in December compared with November.—internet

Oil below $40 as investors eye US stimulus

SINGAPORE, 10 Feb — Oil prices languished below $40 a barrel on Tuesday in Asia even as investors looked to a massive US stimulus package as a possible tonic for flagging crude demand.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose 35 cents to $39.91 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract fell 61 cents overnight to settle at $39.56.

The Senate passed an $838 billion economic stimulus bill in a key test vote on Monday, setting up final approval on Tuesday.

The plan will then have to be reconciled with an $819 billion package from the House of Representatives.

The measure nearing approval in the Senate calls for more tax cuts and less spending than the House bill.—internet
DEVELOPMENT OF KAYIN STATE IN THE TIME OF TATMADAW GOVERNMENT

Cement plant (Myainggalay) ensures regional development in Kayin State and creates job opportunities for local people.

University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an) in Kayin State.

Gyine (Zathapyin) bridge over Gyine River constructed in Kayin State for smooth transportation and speedy flow of goods.

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arable land</td>
<td>acre</td>
<td>470839</td>
<td>986348</td>
<td>515509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dam</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>River Water pumping projects</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Forest Reserve</td>
<td>sq-mile</td>
<td>1633.32</td>
<td>1752.32</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Protected Forest</td>
<td>sq-mile</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1733.46</td>
<td>1733.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Road</td>
<td>mile</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>1445.1</td>
<td>891.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Over 180 feet long bridges</td>
<td>bridge</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Post office</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Telegraph office</td>
<td>office</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Telephone office</td>
<td>office</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Microwave station</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>State-owned factory</td>
<td>factory</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Private-owned factory</td>
<td>factory</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Basic Education School</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>1149</td>
<td>1269</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Technological University</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>University of Computer Studies</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of the unitary and union countries, some are developed ones as well as political and economic powers, whereas some are poor ones, stemming from disunity of the people. So, it can be deduced from the points that concept of the people is more dominant in terms of national unity, military power and development than geographical features and the structures of the nations. Even in a unitary country, the central government will get along with the self-administered areas if the people show mutual interest, understanding, trust and respect towards one another. And if in the same situation, the union government will get along with state governments; the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (parliament), with state Hluttaws; and the Amyotha Hluttaw, with the Pyithu Hluttaw in dealing with each other and sharing powers in a union country.

Smooth relations of a nation’s political forces rest mainly on their political maturity, priority to national interest rather than to self-interest and the interest of the party concerned, and to national politics rather than to power, money and political influence, and on mutual respect and interest and friendly relations between political forces. In other words, a nation can enjoy the taste of national unity, peace and stability, and development only if all the human societies including political communities build the relations based on loving-kindness among them.

Today, the world has seen rising instabilities, armed conflicts, suicide bomb attacks, and interior destructive acts due to prejudices against each other between countries, or human societies of a country, along with too much priority to self-interest, racial and religious and social discrimination, hegemony, discrimination by the majority against the minority, and jealousy and ill will harboured by weak forces towards stronger ones. For instance, the recent incident that took place in Gaza region revealed that the Middle East at the center of three continents will have a prosperous future if investments and technology of Israel, oil deposits of Arabian countries and cheap labour of Palestine are combined. Nonetheless, the countries are still well far from peace due to the circle of prejudices and retaliation, oppression on the weak countries by stronger ones, and suicide bomb blasts.

Iraq under the political control of other country is still going through the hell of doomsday scenarios due to disunity of the people caused by religious and racial discrimination between Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims. Similarly, Afghanistan is still facing untold miseries due to alien intervention, following national disintegration caused by wars for territorial possession and power between Pushtoon people in the southern part and Uzbek, Takmin and Tajik ethnic groups. Long ago, the country used to earn a good reputation as Gandhara Province or the academic hub of the world, but now it is like an outlying country as a result of losing national unity.

Some other countries that have seceded from their unions such as Kosovo and Georgia are still witnessing battles. Still running high are a variety of problems and disputes between a region with its own ethnic groups, language and religious faith and another region with different ethnic groups, language and religious faith in non-union countries. Likewise in Southeast Asia, the Philippines is facing an issue on Moro ethnic group; Thailand, southern region issue; Indonesia, Maluku islets issue, and in southern Asia, Sri Lanka is facing rebellion of Tamil Tigers.

All national races remained united in repulsing the alien invasion of the motherland in the successive periods. They immersed themselves in the drive for unifying the nation into the First, Second and Third Myanmar empires that attracted respects and admiration from neighbouring countries.

So, ensuring non-disintegration of the Union and national unity is of greater importance for the union countries that are constituted with states with different cultures. So far, of the 34 union countries, seven countries or about 20 per cent could not stand as union countries long. Being convinced of the union system’s advantages of unity and harmonious combination of different cultures and traditions, many unitary countries have changed themselves into union ones. Some countries like the United Kingdom came to practise unitary executive system and the union power-sharing system in combination, according to their conditions. Some sovereign European countries came to realize the benefits of the union system, they had striven for (See page 7).
Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day:

Union and amicable relations

Yan Gyi Aung

The Union of Myanmar is, indeed, the land where diverse national races have been living in harmony for aeons. To put it another way, it is the union where national brethren have been living in amity, sharing joys and sorrows since its birth.

All national races remained united in repulsing the alien invasion of the motherland in the successive periods. They immersed themselves in the drive for unifying the nation into the First, Second and Third Myanmar empires that attracted respects and admiration from neighbouring countries.

In the time of the colonialists, they launched anti-colonialist struggles in harness. The armed insurrection launched by some armed groups due to the discord sown by the colonialists, the divide-and-rule policy, lack of relations between national races, and economic gap has ceased. Inspired by the knowledge of benefits from unity, they no longer have animosity and are joining hands with the people in the tasks for national development. Thanks to the harmonious cooperation of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the whole nation has seen a large number of roads, bridges, hospitals, educational institutions, irrigation facilities and electric power stations.

Such a great achievement is the fruitful result of unity and amicable relations between national brethren. Surely the Union of Myanmar will be able to stand tall as a strong one in the world so long as amity and national unity, the essence of the Union, flourish in it.

Translation: MS

Panglong the soul of Myanmar

* Witness the history
  Our forefathers from hills and plains
  Joining hands and set up
  Kingdoms with capitals
  Bagan, Konboung, Toungoo
  Myinsaing, Sagaing, Pinya,
  Inwa and Bago
  So powerful they were

* Anti-colonialist struggle they launched
  With the Panglong spirit as the soul
  People from all over the country
  Joined hands to free her
  Driving out the colonialists
  Flying high was the flag of victory

* Born and bred in the same territory
  Helping one another with amity
  Living in weal or woe
  In hearts we all have
  Love for Union our heritage
  Trophy of our history

* If we are divided
  The wicked will attack
  As the wicked is still wicked
  We with same interest and goal
  Will never let ourselves divided

* In mind the strength of unity
  We all pledge with truthfulness
  To discharge our duty
  And to march on own path
  Developing our country
  Is our own right
  We are ready to show
  Our courage and might
  To ward off attempts
  To interfere in our internal affairs
  And harm our country’s glory
  With wicked intention

* Till the world’s end
  We will defend our country
  Unity and amity we strengthen
  Still marching in unison
  For race and nation
  With Panglong as the soul
  Glory for future Myanmar

Zaw Min Min Oo (Trs)

Zichaung Dam in Kyauktaw Township. — MNA

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day
Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu.—NNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer rice and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife offered day meal to the members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimalabhi-vamsa delivered a sermon and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and congregations shared the merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three times of Namo Tassa.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife offered day meal to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Acara. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye supplicated on matters related to the needs of the monastery and oversaw the conditions of the monastery.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party attended the ceremony to pay respects to elder persons who are at the age of above 85 at Maha Shwesigyi Sasana Beikmantaw in Kanbalu and they paid respects to the aged.

ICT Exhibition 2009 on 12 Feb

YANGON, 7 Feb — Organized by Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Corporation Ltd, the ICT Exhibition 2009 (Yangon) will be held at the compound of Myanma Info-Tech in Hline Township from 9 a.m to 5 p.m daily from 12 to 15 February.

Ferries will be arranged for the convenience of those who want to visit the exhibition, free of charges at Kyaunggye bus-stop on Pyay Road and Thama junction bus-stop.

In Exhibition, 120 showrooms of 50 companies will display computer accessories, communication accessories, electronics, software, documents related to computer technology training schools and books at the exhibition. Moreover, games such as Dota and Counter Strike competitions will be held at the exhibition and every one may visit the exhibition.

MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, ...

Firstly, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San cordially greeted eye patients who were receiving treatment at the hospital.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party heard reports on performing surgeries, providing medicines and examining eye patients in the townships of Shwebo, Monywa and Katha Districts presented by Eye Specialist Lt-Col Dr Yupar Aung.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party accompanied by Professor U Mya Aung and Prof. Daw Myint Khine of the Ministry of Health gave free medical treatment to patients with eye complaints at the hospital from 2 to 8 February. They provided health care services to 3,992 eye patients, performed major surgeries to 443 eye patients and minor surgeries to 181 eye patients and examined 2,373 eye patients. At a total of 1,865 eye patients were presented glasses. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San speak words of comfort to eye patients. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Thaphanseik Dam. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Thaphanseik Dam ...

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to Thaphanseik Dam which was inaugurated in Kyunhla Township in 2001. At the briefing hall of the dam, Director of the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation U Soe Nyunt reported to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye on facts about the dam.

During the tour, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the storageage of water and the intake and output channels of the dam.

Before Thaphan-seik Dam was constructed, Kaboe Dam irrigated about 280,000 acres of rice fields in every rainy season. On completion, Thaphan-seik Dam has irrigated over 800,000 acres rice fields in the rainy and summer yearly via Kaboe and Kintat diversion dams.

Besides, the dam has supported water to the Hydropower plant constructed at the dam to generate electricity and the dam has become the multi-purpose one. After the inspection tour of the dam, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to Seikphumyaung Shwegu Myint Pagoda.

They attended a ceremony to open a self-reliant clinic in the village of Natpay. Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein and wife formally opened the clinic and Head of Sagaing Division Health Department Dr Kyaw Shein unveiled the signboard of the clinic. After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the clinic. They also went to the monastery in the village and donated offerings to the Sayadaw of the monastery. At the meeting with local people at the monastery, CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Dr Chan Nyein thanked local people for their participation in implementing the development the village in self-reliant basic.

Afterwards, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Minister Dr Chan Nyein and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented gifts to local people. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected Thaphanseik Dam. — MNA

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presents gifts for people of Natpay village through a responsible person. — MNA
Kayah State gets Technological University (Loikaw)

Education is essential for expanding the horizons of the people

Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivers an address at opening ceremony of new building for Technological University (Loikaw). — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — To scale up State’s economy and to produce intellectuals and intellectuals in mechan- ical engineering, the opening of new school building for Technological University (Loikaw) of Technical and Vocational Education Department under the Min- istry of Science and Tech- nology in Loikaw, Kayah State was held in front of the building this morning.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the ceremony and pressed the button to open the stone plaque of the building.

Also present were Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig- Gen Ya Pyae, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Chairman of Kayah State PDC Brig-Gen Win Myint, the director-general of Government Office and de- partmental heads, state/district/township level depart- mental officials, the rector and the acting principal and faculty members and stu- dents of Loikaw University and University of Compu- ter Studies, Acting Prin- cipal Dr Thida Win of Tech- nological University (Loikaw), the heads of de- partments, faculty members and students, staff, teach- ers and students of basic education schools, mem- bers of social organizations, national cultural troupes, nurses and guests, members of drum band and pom-pom dance group, na-

tional race music bands and local people.

Firstly, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Minis- try of Defence, Com- mander Brig-Gen Ya Pyae and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung opened the building.

Next, the Prime Min- ister and party took desig- nated places to grow tree at designated places.

Next, the Prime Min- ister and party posed for a document- ary photo to- gether with the acting prin- cipal, faculty members and students and national cul- tural troupe members.

Afterwards, the Prime Min- ister pressed the button to open the stone plaque of

Kayah State has al- ready got a university for computer studies apart from the technological uni-

versity for human resource development. Now, Kayah Sate has been equipped with arts and science uni-

versity, technological uni-

versity and the university for computer studies that it has never got.

The Tatmadaw gov-

ernment is implementing plans for raising the na-

tion’s education standard and human resource devel-

opment in its bid to gener-

ate a promising future of the nation. High education standard is essential for sustainable development of the human society, staying in touch with the changes, and long-term survival of the human society. Educa-

tion is essential for ex-

panding the horizons of the people, so lagging be-

hind in education means all other sectors lag behind in development.

He cited the guidance of the Head of State, say-

ing that education is the fundamental of develop-

ment of a people. Only with high education stand-

ard can a citizen broaden his horizons and serve the interests of the nation and the people.

The government has estab-

lished an arts and sci-

ence university, a techno-

logical university and a university for computer studies each in 24 special development regions to ensure that the youth have equal opportunity to pur-

sue education in their re-

gions.

Now, the regions have enjoyed the fruits of the pru-

dent project. The old edu-

cation system, under which higher education was avail-

able only in Yangon and Mandalay, has been re-

placed with the new system. So, the opportunity to pur-

sue higher education has stretched out not only to other states and divisions but also to other strategic regions.

Today, the world has seen rapid changes in the science and technology and electronics. So, it is re-

quired of the youth to catch up with the technological changes for development of the nation and their regions.

Educated population have to work hard together to help scale up national development and improve the living standards of the people. Loikaw Technologi-

cal University needs to try to produce more and more engineers much needed for the nation and the region, and experts who cherish their nation and the people.

Now, the nation is making reforms at speed for smooth transition to a new system. The govern-

ment is working hard re-

tentlessly for building pol-

itical, economic, educa-

tion, health and transport infrastructures, and as a result, the nation is enjoy-

ing fruitful results sector-

wise and region-wise.

Photo shows the new building for Technological University (Loikaw). — MNA

(See page 11)
Kayah State gets Technological...

(from page 10)

Moreover, states and divisions are all making progress in parallel. Of the 14 states and divisions, Kayah State has smaller area and population than any other one, but its development is gaining momentum.

Kayah State enjoyed annual average economic development by over 11.7 per cent in the third five-year plan (2001-2005), nearly 10 per cent in the first year (2006-2007) and by about 11 per cent in the second year (2007-2008) of the second five-year plan. Due to the launch of cultivation of summer paddy, it increased total paddy sown acreage to over 100,000 in 2007-2008 from just over 60,000 in the past. In addition, it is growing edible oil crops extensively. As a result, supply of rice and edible oil has met the demand in Kayah State.

Nearly 60,000 local youths are pursuing education in 388 basic education schools in Kayah State. It has got 55 more basic education schools: seven high, six middle, and 42 primary schools.

As to the health sector, a 200-bed hospital, six 25-bed hospitals, eight station hospitals, 27 rural health care centres and a 16-bed traditional medicine hospital have been established to provide better health care to the people. Regarding the transport sector, Aungban-Loikaw Railroad was constructed in 1993, so Kayah State is now accessible not only by car and by air but also by train. Funds have been set up yearly to maintain such roads as Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado-Loikaw, Loikaw-Punchaung-Shardaw, Bawlake-Ywathit-Swutpaing, and Phasung-Mesel, and construct bridges.

Smooth transport lies at the core of expediting regional development tasks, and smooth transport and trade links for stability, peace and security of the whole state. Without the rule of law, stability and peace, it is impossible to progress in improving the living standard of local people.

Despite unprecedented development, Kayah State is still facing armed insurgent groups and that poses a barrier to regional development. Local people need to notice that point.

It is of great importance that local people can lead a peaceful life. The state has low population and its contribution to national economy is somewhat low, but the government has never showed disregard for it. It is required to restore stability and peace in the state in order that the government can work harder to enable it to keep abreast of other states and divisions in terms of development.

With this concept in view, the government has opened the peace door for remnant national race armed groups to join hands with the people in the frame of the law for national rereconciliation, and stability, peace and development of the nation. Many evidences have revealed that mutual trust, understanding, forbearance, compassion and cooperation among national races serve as an engine for building the nation.

It is public knowledge that the government is working hard for equitable development of all parts of the nation, without any discrimination against or in favour of a particular one.

The Head of State in his guidance said that the people of the 14 states and divisions are all national brethren. So, the government is taking measures for physical and mental well-being of each citizen. The government is working hard in various sectors for well-being and a prosperous future of national races, regarding itself as the parent and national brethren as children. The people of the Union are all national brethren. So, the government really wants to see prosperity of all the children without discrimination against any particular race.

And it is tangible result that all sectors are making progress both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Had not certain countries of the West Bloc imposed economic sanctions and leveled groundless diplomatic accusations against Myanmar, the nation would have enjoyed development at a greater rate.

Anyhow, the government will keep on seeing the already-laid down policies to generate prosperity of the nation. Democratic transition processes are being implemented step by step. Now, the new state constitution has been approved with the support of the great majority of the voters. The government will continue to mobilize the public participation in the processes, so the nation’s good future is certain.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on the universities of Loikaw to nurture the youth and produce more and more human resources capable of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation and ensuring perpetuity of the nation, and to become prestigious educational institutions both in form and in quality.

Acting Principal of Technological University (Loikaw) Dr Thida Win reported to the Prime Minister on the history and matters related to teaching and administration of the university.

The Prime Minister awarded the six winners of the debate and the essay contest which were held as a gesture of hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day.

On behalf of the students, Ma Sao Myat Marlar, a second-year student of the university, thanked the government for the construction of the new building for the university.

After the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present at the opening ceremony.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Commander Brig-Gen Ya Pyae and Minister U’ Thaung formally open new building for Technological University (Loikaw). — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets local people at ceremony to open new building for Technological University (Loikaw). — MNA

Kayah State gets Technological...
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th February 2009 (Union Day) being the public Holiday Goods. Will be received shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday Fees.

Satellite problem disrupts TV programmes

BEIJING, 10 Feb—Transmission of 150 satellite TV channels in China was interrupted Monday morning by satellite problems, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) said.

A malfunction occurred in Zhongxing 6b satellite around 10:59 am and lasted 47 minutes, disrupting transmission of China Central Television (CCTV), China Education Television and 23 provincial satellite TVs, SARFT said. Channel by channel transmission resumed from 11:47 am to 01:11 pm.

As central radio and TV programmes were transmitted through the Xinnuo 3 Satellite and the administration’s special network, these programmes were not affected, it said. SARFT has apologized to viewers for the interruption.

The malfunctioning satellite has resumed normal operations, it said, adding the satellite’s operator China DBSat was investigating the cause and taking measures to ensure transmissions. —Internet

NEW YORK, 10 Feb—Trans-Atlantic stock exchange operator NYSE Euronext said Monday it recorded a $1.34 billion loss during the fourth quarter as it was forced to take a charge related to its 2007 acquisition of European exchange Euronext.

NYSE Euronext lost $1.34 billion, or $5.06 per share, during the fourth quarter, after a profit of $156 million, or 51 cents per share, during the same quarter a year earlier.

The exchange operator would have reported a profit had it not been for the $1.59 billion write-down on goodwill left over from the 2007 combination. The write-down was due to collapsing equity markets during the final three months of 2008 as the global economic crisis grew.

NYSE Euronext was formed in a combination. The write-down left the company in line with the lower earnings multiples that analysts and investors are assigning for stock exchange operators.

The lower multiples come as equity markets have tumbled amid the ongoing economic turmoil. NYSE Euronext reviews goodwill values every year during the fourth quarter and believes the write-down during the last quarter is sufficient to match the company’s expected future cash flow, Geltzeiler said in an interview.

The company’s chief financial officer, said the write-down brings the value of the company in line with the lower earnings multiples that analysts and investors are assigning for stock exchange operators.

The lower multiples come as equity markets have tumbled amid the ongoing economic turmoil.

NYSE Euronext reviews goodwill values every year during the fourth quarter and believes the write-down during the last quarter is sufficient to match the company’s expected future cash flow, Geltzeiler said in an interview.

Internet

Orangutans in Indonesian suffering from illegal trade, rampant hunting

JAKARTA, 10 Feb—More than 500 Kalimantan’s orangutans (Pongo Pygmaeus) are trafficked illegally in the Indonesian market every year, while rampant hunting is predicted to threaten the extinct in the next 50 years, said an activist.

Those traded are their babies. Hunters kill the mothers in order to catch them,” the national Antara News Agency on Tuesday quoted Arbi Valentinus of the Orangutan Conservation Service Programme (OCS) as saying.

He reiterated that orangutan’s habitat in Kalimantan continued decreasing by about 3 square kilometer a year, making the animal one of the endangered species included in appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Law No 5 /1990 on Bio-diversity and Ecosystem. According to the law, orangutan is in the list of protected species, and unlicensed domestication is a violation.

“There were only four great ape species in the world; three of which were found in Africa while the other one in Indonesia and Malaysia, namely orangutan,” he said.

Orangutans in Indonesian suffering from illegal trade, rampant hunting

JAKARTA, 10 Feb—More than 500 Kalimantan’s orangutans (Pongo Pygmaeus) are trafficked illegally in the Indonesian market every year, while rampant hunting is predicted to threaten the extinct in the next 50 years, said an activist.

Those traded are their babies. Hunters kill the mothers in order to catch them, the national Antara News Agency on Tuesday quoted Arbi Valentinus of the Orangutan Conservation Service Programme (OCS) as saying.

He reiterated that orangutan’s habitat in Kalimantan continued decreasing by about 3 square kilometer a year, making the animal one of the endangered species included in appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Law No 5 /1990 on Bio-diversity and Ecosystem. According to the law, orangutan is in the list of protected species, and unlicensed domestication is a violation.

“There were only four great ape species in the world; three of which were found in Africa while the other one in Indonesia and Malaysia, namely orangutan,” he said.

Orangutans in Indonesian suffering from illegal trade, rampant hunting

JAKARTA, 10 Feb—More than 500 Kalimantan’s orangutans (Pongo Pygmaeus) are trafficked illegally in the Indonesian market every year, while rampant hunting is predicted to threaten the extinct in the next 50 years, said an activist.

Those traded are their babies. Hunters kill the mothers in order to catch them,” the national Antara News Agency on Tuesday quoted Arbi Valentinus of the Orangutan Conservation Service Programme (OCS) as saying.

He reiterated that orangutan’s habitat in Kalimantan continued decreasing by about 3 square kilometer a year, making the animal one of the endangered species included in appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Law No 5 /1990 on Bio-diversity and Ecosystem. According to the law, orangutan is in the list of protected species, and unlicensed domestication is a violation.

“There were only four great ape species in the world; three of which were found in Africa while the other one in Indonesia and Malaysia, namely orangutan,” he said.

Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 11 February, 2009

Satellite problem disrupts TV programmes

BEIJING, 10 Feb—Transmission of 150 satellite TV channels in China was interrupted Monday morning by satellite problems, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) said.

A malfunction occurred in Zhongxing 6b satellite around 10:59 am and lasted 47 minutes, disrupting transmission of China Central Television (CCTV), China Education Television and 23 provincial satellite TVs, SARFT said. Channel by channel transmission resumed from 11:47 am to 01:11 pm.

As central radio and TV programmes were transmitted through the Xinnuo 3 Satellite and the administration’s special network, these programmes were not affected, it said. SARFT has apologized to viewers for the interruption.

The malfunctioning satellite has resumed normal operations, it said, adding the satellite’s operator China DBSat was investigating the cause and taking measures to ensure transmissions. —Internet

NEW YORK, 10 Feb—Trans-Atlantic stock exchange operator NYSE Euronext said Monday it recorded a $1.34 billion loss during the fourth quarter as it was forced to take a charge related to its 2007 acquisition of European exchange Euronext.

NYSE Euronext lost $1.34 billion, or $5.06 per share, during the fourth quarter, after a profit of $156 million, or 51 cents per share, during the same quarter a year earlier.

The exchange operator would have reported a profit had it not been for the $1.59 billion write-down on goodwill left over from the 2007 combination. The write-down was due to collapsing equity markets during the final three months of 2008 as the global economic crisis grew.

NYSE Euronext was formed in a combination. The write-down left the company in line with the lower earnings multiples that analysts and investors are assigning for stock exchange operators.

The lower multiples come as equity markets have tumbled amid the ongoing economic turmoil.

NYSE Euronext reviews goodwill values every year during the fourth quarter and believes the write-down during the last quarter is sufficient to match the company’s expected future cash flow, Geltzeiler said in an interview.

The company’s chief financial officer, said the write-down brings the value of the company in line with the lower earnings multiples that analysts and investors are assigning for stock exchange operators.

The lower multiples come as equity markets have tumbled amid the ongoing economic turmoil.

NYSE Euronext reviews goodwill values every year during the fourth quarter and believes the write-down during the last quarter is sufficient to match the company’s expected future cash flow, Geltzeiler said in an interview.

Internet

Orangutans in Indonesian suffering from illegal trade, rampant hunting

JAKARTA, 10 Feb—More than 500 Kalimantan’s orangutans (Pongo Pygmaeus) are trafficked illegally in the Indonesian market every year, while rampant hunting is predicted to threaten the extinct in the next 50 years, said an activist.

Those traded are their babies. Hunters kill the mothers in order to catch them,” the national Antara News Agency on Tuesday quoted Arbi Valentinus of the Orangutan Conservation Service Programme (OCS) as saying.

He reiterated that orangutan’s habitat in Kalimantan continued decreasing by about 3 square kilometer a year, making the animal one of the endangered species included in appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Law No 5 /1990 on Bio-diversity and Ecosystem. According to the law, orangutan is in the list of protected species, and unlicensed domestication is a violation.

“There were only four great ape species in the world; three of which were found in Africa while the other one in Indonesia and Malaysia, namely orangutan,” he said.
Calif artist sues AP over image of Obama

New York, 10 Feb—An artist who created a famous image of Barack Obama before he became president sued The Associated Press on Monday, asking a judge to find that his use of an AP photo in creating the poster did not violate copyright law.

The lawsuit filed in US District Court in Manhattan said street artist Shepard Fairey did not violate the copyright of the April 2006 photograph because he dramatically changed the nature of the image.

The AP has said it is owed credit and compensation for the artist’s rendition of the picture, taken by Mannie Garcia on assignment for the AP at the National Press Club in Washington.

Lawyers for Fairey acknowledged that the artist used the photograph. But they said he transformed the literal depiction into a “stunning, abstracted and idealized visual image that creates powerful new meaning and conveys a radically different message.”—Associated Press

Paris airports shut as high winds lash France

Paris, 10 Feb—High winds lashed France on Tuesday, prompting authorities to shut Paris’ two international airports for the first time in 34 years.

Winds gusting at up to 140 kilometres (87 miles) per hour were recorded on France’s Atlantic coast, with forecasters saying they could reach up to 160 kilometres per hour. With gusts of up to 100 kilometres per hour expected to hit the Paris region, the authorities closed Paris’ airports from 8:00 pm on Monday until 10:00 am (0900 GMT) on Tuesday.

All flights to and from the city’s two main airports, Charles de Gaulle (Roissy) and Orly, have been cancelled within that time period and travellers were asked not to head to either of them.—Associated Press

Nissan shares jump seven percent after restructuring steps

Tokyo, 10 Feb—Shares of Nissan Motor Co (7201.T) jumped 7 percent on Tuesday morning, making up for a sharp slide a day earlier before the company forecast its first loss in years and laid out countermeasures to reverse the bleeding.

Nissan, owned 44 percent by Renault SA (RENA.PA), said after the market closed on Monday that it expected an operating loss of 180 billion yen ($1.97 billion) in the year to March and a net loss of 265 billion yen to pay for a series of steps to weather the worst downturn in the global car market in decades.

The stock ended the morning up 7.3 percent at 280 yen, bucking a fall in many other Japanese auto stocks.

Smelly feet man wins legal bid to study

A student has won a ten-year legal battle to return to lectures after he was banned from university because of his smelly feet.

Teunis Tenbrook was reportedly thrown out of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam after staff and students complained that he could not concentrate because of the pungent odour.

A court has now ruled that smelly feet is no excuse to ban a student from a university, according to Ananova.

The judge said: “Our considered opinion is that the professors and other students will just have to hold their noses and bear it.” Tenbrook had earlier told the court that his attempts to continue with his philosophy studies were stifled when he was also banned from the library.

Blue Chip poll cuts forecast for second half 2009

Washington, 10 Feb—The recession-bound US economy is still expected to resume growing in the second half of this year, but at an even slower pace than previously thought as consumers spend cautiously, the Blue Chip survey of 52 economists said on Tuesday.

A poll on 4-5 February

A Lhasa Apso is groomed before competing during the first day of the 2009 Westminster Dog Show in New York on 9 Feb, 2009. Internet

A woman works on a contemporary sculpture depicting the life of the people in Mumbai at the Annual Kala Ghoda Arts Festival in Mumbai.

56-year-old becomes 1st woman to swim Atlantic

Jennifer Figge pressed her toes into the Caribbean sand, exhilarated and exhausted as she touched land this week for the first time in almost a month.

Reaching a beach in Trinidad, she became the first woman on record to swim across the Atlantic Ocean—a dream she’d had since the early 1960s, when a stormy trans-Atlantic flight got her thinking she could don a life vest and swim the rest of the way if needed.

The 56-year-old left the Cape Verde Islands off Africa’s western coast on 12 Jan, battling waves of up to 30 feet (9 metres) and strong winds.

In this undated photo released by David Higdon, friend of swimmer Jennifer Figge, she’s shown posing for a picture after her arrival to Chacachacare Island, in Trinidad, on 5 Feb, 2009. Figge, of Aspen, Colorado, is the first woman to swim across the Atlantic Ocean, after leaving the Cape Verde Islands off Africa on 12 Jan, swimming roughly 2,100 miles (3,380 kilometres) to arrive in Trinidad. She plans to swim from Trinidad to the British Virgin Islands in the last leg of her journey.

Woman claims McDonald’s drink contained chemical

A Baltimore woman said when she ordered an iced tea at a local McDonald’s restaurant last year, employees gave her a cup containing a cleaning chemical. Caryl Jones has filed a $100,000 lawsuit in Baltimore City Circuit Court.

The lawsuit alleges negligence and breach of warranty. Jones’ attorney, Patricia Steiger, said the cup contained a sanitizer used on kitchen equipment.

Chips survey of 52 economists February/2009 US economy is still expected to resume growing in the second half of this year, but at an even slower pace than previously thought as consumers spend cautiously, the Blue Chip survey of 52 economists said on Tuesday.

A poll on 4-5 February

For the monthly Blue Chip Economic Indicators February newsletter scaled back forecasts for second-half growth from those made in January but continued to predict the United States will come out of recession in 2009.

The Blue Chip economists now forecast a 0.8 percent gain in third-quarter US gross domestic product, down from the 1.2 percent gain they estimated in January. Fourth-quarter growth is seen at 2.0 percent rather than 2.2 percent.

The economy officially slipped into recession in December 2007. Many economists expect the combination of a sinking labor market, falling stock prices and a severe housing downturn will make it the most severe recession in decades.

“The year-over-year contraction in real GDP this year now is expected to equal the decline registered in 1982 that was the largest in the post-World War II era,” the Blue Chip economists said.—Associated Press

News Album
**S P O R T S**

**Scolari sacking could prove costly for Chelsea**

**LONDON, 10 Feb—** Chelsea’s decision to sack Luiz Felipe Scolari as their manager could cost the Premier League side up to 15 million pounds (22 million dollars) in compensation. Scolari, who guided his native Brazil to World Cup glory, was booted out of Stamford Bridge here on Monday just eight months in to a three-year deal worth an estimated annual six million pounds.

Getting rid of Jose Mourinho as manager in 2007 and then firing his successor Avram Grant, a deal worth an estimated four-year deal, would not have come cheap, even to a club bankrolled by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.

The total cost of sacking these three managers could be as much as 40 million pounds, a sum which threatens to make a mockery of Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon’s oft-repeated assertion that the London club will become “operationally independent” by 2010.

In the meantime Abramovich’s money, never mind the current squad, should still make Chelsea an enticing prospect for their would-be managers.—Internet

**Nadal still convinced Federer top-shelf**

**ROTTERDAM, 10 Feb—**A week after winning the Australian Open with a fifth consecutive victory over Roger Federer, number 1 Rafael Nadal hasn’t bided from his belief that he’s still just the world’s second-best player. “I’m getting tired of this question,” said the top seed on Monday as he opened with a loss in doubles alongside fellow Mallorcan Ignacio Coll. Ruidavets at the Rotterdam Open.

“When someone has 13 slams and 14 Masters titles, there is no discussion about who is the best,” he said respectfully of number 2 Federer, who has not beaten him since the Shanghai Masters Cup in November, 2007. Nadal has plunged back into the ATP top 10.

In his absence, Serbia’s Mladen Krstajic will take over as world number 23 Kaia Kanepi on Monday.

In his absence, Serbia’s Mladen Krstajic will take over as world number 23 Kaia Kanepi on Monday.

Schalke skipper Bordon out with a broken hand

**GELSENKIRCHEN, 10 Feb—**Schalke 04 announced Monday they will be without captain Marcelo Bordon this weekend after the Brazilian broke his hand during last Saturday’s win over Werder Bremen.

Bordon, 33, had surgery in Gelsenkirchen on Saturday night to insert four screws into his left hand after damaging it during the 1-0 win over Bremen and will miss Saturday’s match at Bochum. “It looks like he will miss Saturday’s game,” said Schalke coach Fred Rutten.

In his absence, Serbia’s Mladen Krstajic will take his place. Schalke 04 are eighth in the Bundeslaga table and nine points off leaders Hoffenheim.—Internet

**Murray left peed over at ATP dope testing system**

**ROTTERDAM, 10 Feb—**World number four Andy Murray continued to criticise the ATP drug testing system on Monday after he underwent his third test in just over two weeks. The Scot, who had to wait for 90 minutes to produce the specimen - said there was one system for the top players and another for the journeymen and said that had to change.

“This is the third time I’ve been tested over the past 16 or 17 days. And we still have to do that (declare our whereabouts),” moaned Murray.

The Scot continued his criticism of a draconian new ruling which since January 1 has irritated Top 50 players who are now required to report their whereabouts for at least one hour per day - every day of the year to international anti-corruption authorities via online, phone or even SMS.—Internet

**Huntelaar wants to stay at Real Madrid**

**MADRID, 10 Feb—** Real Madrid’s Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar denied on Monday Spanish media reports that he wants to leave the club because he was given few chances to play by new coach Juande Ramos.

“There are rumours in some papers that are not true. I am at, and I want to stay at, Real Madrid. It is my goal to win prizes with this beautiful club. I certainly am not thinking of leaving,” he said in a message posted on his official website.

The 25-year-old signed a four-year contract with Real Madrid at the beginning of December 1997.

Real Madrid’s Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar

**Lippi ready for ‘Derby of the World’**

**LONDON, 10 Feb—** Marcello Lippi is in London preparing for his first ever encounter with Brazil and believes Tuesday’s match can be labelled as the Derby of the World.

The two nations have collected the World Cup nine times between them; Brazil leading the way courtesy of success on five occasions to date. Despite a long career in the game, Italian head coach Lippi has never faced a Brazilian side as player nor manager, and Tuesday’s exhibition fixture at Arsenal’s Emirates Stadium is one he is looking forward to.

“I think it is a great definition to call this the Derby of the World,” he said.—Internet

**Tight security planned for Spain-England friendly**

**PARIS, 10 Feb—** About 500 police will provide security during Wednesday’s friendly between Spain and England at The Emirates Stadium in London, is preparing for his first ever encounter with Brazil and believes Tuesday’s match can be labelled as the Derby of the World.—Internet

**Maradona wants to be own man with Argentina**

**MARSEILLE, 10 Feb—** Argentina coach Diego Maradona said on Monday he wanted to be his own man ahead of Wednesday’s friendly away to France.

The headstrong world champion player has been battling to impose his will on the Federation since his surprise October appointment but insisted that he doesn’t “want to resemble anybody” else as he bids to lead the team to next year’s World Cup.

If asked if he felt closer to 1986 World Cup-winning coach Carlos Bilardo or Cesar Luis Menotti, the 1978 chainsmoking world champion who gave him his bow as a teenage international Maradona said it was hard to pick either.—Internet

**Medina Garrigues tumbles out of Paris Open first round**

**PARIS, 10 Feb—** Spanish seventh seed Anabel Medina Garrigues became the first seed to exit the WTA Paris Open when she lost in three sets to Estonian world number 23 Kaia Kanepi on Monday.

Medina Garrigues survived five match points at 8-4 down in the deciding set but eventually lost 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Chinese number two Li Na was the first player to book her place in the second round after a 7-6 (8/6), 6-2 victory over last year’s losing finalist, out of form Hungarian 20-year-old Agnes Szavay.—Internet

**China’s tennis player Li Na returns a forehand to her Hungarian opponent Agnes Szavay during their WTA French Open tennis match. Li won 7-6 (8/6), 6-2.—INTERNET**
China bans organ transplant operations for foreign tourists

Brave, 10 Feb—The Ministry of Health (MOH) said on Tuesday that China prohibits organ transplants for foreign tourists carrying a tourist visa and the ministry will deal harshly with domestic medical institutions involved in illegal organ transplants.

China opposes organ transplant for foreign tourists in accordance with international practice, said MOH spokesperson Mao Qunan at a press conference.

Highlighting the lack of organ donors in the country, the official said that in China, organ transplants should be conducted for domestic patients who have an urgent need for the operation.

On 1 May, 2007, China issued the Provisions on Human Organ Transplant. So far, the ministry has granted over 160 medical institutions the license to conduct such operation. It has deprived some hospitals of the license.

The MOH has ordered domestic hospitals not to perform organ transplant for foreign tourists. Those who want to conduct such operations must acquire official approval from provincial health departments, and provincial health departments must report to the MOH before giving approval to the applications.

China has given approval to the applications.

MOH before giving approval to the applications.

and provincial health departments must report to the official approval from provincial health departments, who want to conduct such operations must acquire perform organ transplant for foreign tourists. Those granted over 160 medical institutions the license to Human Organ Transplant. So far, the ministry has an urgent need for the operation.

China bans organ transplant operations for foreign tourists

Brave, 10 Feb—The Ministry of Health (MOH) said on Tuesday that China prohibits organ transplants for foreign tourists carrying a tourist visa and the ministry will deal harshly with domestic medical institutions involved in illegal organ transplants.

China opposes organ transplant for foreign tourists in accordance with international practice, said MOH spokesperson Mao Qunan at a press conference.

Highlighting the lack of organ donors in the country, the official said that in China, organ transplants should be conducted for domestic patients who have an urgent need for the operation.

On 1 May, 2007, China issued the Provisions on Human Organ Transplant. So far, the ministry has granted over 160 medical institutions the license to conduct such operation. It has deprived some hospitals of the license.

The MOH has ordered domestic hospitals not to perform organ transplant for foreign tourists. Those who want to conduct such operations must acquire official approval from provincial health departments, and provincial health departments must report to the MOH before giving approval to the applications.

China has given approval to the applications.

MOH before giving approval to the applications.

and provincial health departments must report to the official approval from provincial health departments, who want to conduct such operations must acquire perform organ transplant for foreign tourists. Those granted over 160 medical institutions the license to Human Organ Transplant. So far, the ministry has an urgent need for the operation.

China bans organ transplant operations for foreign tourists

Brave, 10 Feb—The Ministry of Health (MOH) said on Tuesday that China prohibits organ transplants for foreign tourists carrying a tourist visa and the ministry will deal harshly with domestic medical institutions involved in illegal organ transplants.

China opposes organ transplant for foreign tourists in accordance with international practice, said MOH spokesperson Mao Qunan at a press conference.

Highlighting the lack of organ donors in the country, the official said that in China, organ transplants should be conducted for domestic patients who have an urgent need for the operation.

On 1 May, 2007, China issued the Provisions on Human Organ Transplant. So far, the ministry has granted over 160 medical institutions the license to conduct such operation. It has deprived some hospitals of the license.

The MOH has ordered domestic hospitals not to perform organ transplant for foreign tourists. Those who want to conduct such operations must acquire official approval from provincial health departments, and provincial health departments must report to the MOH before giving approval to the applications.

China has given approval to the applications.

MOH before giving approval to the applications.

and provincial health departments must report to the official approval from provincial health departments, who want to conduct such operations must acquire perform organ transplant for foreign tourists. Those granted over 160 medical institutions the license to Human Organ Transplant. So far, the ministry has an urgent need for the operation.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San visit eye patients at Kanbalu Township People’s Hospital

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San view eye surgery being performed by professors and eye specialists at Kanbalu Township People’s hospital. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend opening of self-reliant rural dispensary at Natpay village in Kanbalu Township. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of felicitations to Iranian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Parviz Davoodi, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February, 2009. — MNA