Auspicious and historic Day

“Union Day” is an auspicious and historic day, on which the Union of Myanmar, through the might of unity of national people, managed to throw off the yoke of servitude under the colonialists who enslaved the nation for more than one hundred years, and the nation became an independent and sovereign nation again.

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

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host Union Day commemorative reception and dinner

NAO PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a reception and dinner to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day at City Hall Square here this evening.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing were welcomed at City Hall Square by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and officials.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party greeted Union Day delegations from states and divisions, national race cultural troupes, members of social organizations and special guests.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted the dinner to the guests. It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khan Win, Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Khan Win, Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Kyi Kyin Ohn, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General and their wives, members of the central committee and management committee for observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Myanmar Police Force, the directors-general of the SPDC Office and the Government Office and departmental heads, Union Day delegates from states and divisions, national race cultural troupes, representatives of social organizations and guests.

Before and during the dinner, national races and vocalists to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athanmodern music troupe presented music and songs to the guests.

After the dinner, gold medalists of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, national race cultural troupes of Kayin, Kayah, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States and Taninthayi Division and artistes of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture entertained those present with dances at open air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

Senior General Than Shwe greets Union Day delegates from states and divisions, national race cultural troupes, members of social organizations and special guests. — MNA
Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

62nd Anniversary Union Day marked in Yangon

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint reads out the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day. — MNA

194 drug-related cases exposed in January

Splendida Furnishings Gallery opened

Available at the showroom are a wide range of furnishings of classical and contemporary designs for offices, homes, assembly halls, cinemas, home theatres and gymnasiums, along with CCTV cameras and security system. The gallery receives special orders and provides free designs for orders. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 13 February, 2009

Work hard together for perpetuity of the Union

In the course of its long history, Myanmar has stood tall as a sovereign nation in the international community. Diverse national races have been living in harmony, sharing highs and lows of the Union.

The entire national brethren believe that at the core of ensuring perpetuation of the sovereignty lies Union Spirit. Union Day is celebrated at the national level every year to ensure that the entire people cherish and appreciate the value and essence of national unity and amity, which is the character of a union.

The message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day (2009) says, “In successive periods, national brethren managed to repulse all the attacks of internal and foreign troops in unity, and our country was able to stand tall as the Union of Myanmar, as a result. Therefore, the entire national brethren are under the bounden duty of upholding with Union Spirit Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty.”

Now, the government is trying with great gusto to achieve the goal of building the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one. As a result, the whole Union has seen tangible results in the political, economic, education, health and social sectors, and the people have been enjoying the taste of peace, stability and progress.

At the same time, the government is implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map step by step. Now, the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been approved with the support of the great majority of the people. The entire people have to work hard together in doing their bit in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation in conformity with the new constitution.

The entire people are, therefore, under the obligation to immerse themselves in the drive for perpetuity of peaceful and prosperous Union, while shouldering steadfastly national duties in conformity with the fine traditions of building national unity and having a sense of Union Spirit.

62nd Anniversary Union Day marked in Yangon

It was attended by Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, members of the leading committee and working committee, senior military officers, departmental officials, representatives of the social organizations and national brethren from the National Culture and Five Arts University.

After taking the salute of the Guard of Honour, the commander and people saluted the flag of the Union of Myanmar.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb.—A ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day was held at People’s Square on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

YANGON, 12 Feb.—The Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 194 drug-related cases in January.

They seized 44,451 kilos of opium in 40 cases, 148.5455 kilos of heroin in 68 cases, 3,2843 kilos of opium oil in five cases, 1,0705 kilos of low grade opium in five cases, 5,7972 kilos of marijuana in 14 cases, 55582.5 kilos of opium speciosa in nine cases, one litter of opium speciosa liquid in one case, 101.2 kilos of ephedrine in two cases, 14,000 diazepin tablets in two cases and 8 other cases.

Action was taken against 284 persons — 246 men and 38 women — in 194 drug related cases in January 2009. — MNA

YANGON, 12 Feb.—A press conference on Splendida Furnishings Gallery at No (5) on Pyay Road, Hline Township, yesterday afternoon.

Director of Splendida Furnishings Gallery Showroom Daw Yu Yu Khine delivered an introductory speech. Journalists observed the works displayed in the showroom. Responsible persons replied to the questions of the journalists.

Available at the showroom are a wide range of furnishings of classical and contemporary designs for offices, homes, assembly halls, cinemas, home theatres and gymnasiums, along with CCTV cameras and security system. The gallery receives special orders and provides free designs for orders.
US military expert says war in Afghanistan ‘could be lost by summer’

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb — A leading US military expert has warned that the war against the Taleban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan will be lost by the end of the summer, if dramatic changes in counter-insurgency strategy fail to take place.

Colonel John Nagl, an Iraq veteran who helped devise the successful strategy there under the guidance of General David Petraeus, who is now the CENTCOM commander, told The Telegraph that the gains made by the Taleban over the past two years need to be reversed by the end of the traditional fighting season in Afghanistan, around late September or early October, or else the Taleban will establish a durable base that would make a sustained Western military presence futile.

“Counter-insurgency campaigns have no momentum. Like a football game when the crowd senses something before it happens. Right now the Taleban has that momentum,” said Nagl, who co-authored the recently published US Government Counter-insurgency Guide.

Nagl is consulting the US Government as it conducts four separate policy reviews on Afghanistan, and his warning comes amid fears that unless the militants’ advance is halted, Afghanistan will become the new president’s Vietnam.

Two US sailors charged with murder in Mexico

TIJUANA, 12 Feb — Two US sailors have been charged with the murder of a prostitute and the attempted murder of another in this northern border city, Mexican state prosecutors said.

Witnesses and a hotel camera place the two men at the same hotel where a 19-year-old prostitute was shot dead on 17 Jan, the prosecutors said on Tuesday.

On 4 Feb, prosecutors say, police found the men in a bloodstained hotel room with a prostitute and a hotel employee, both of whom had suffered stab wounds.

Two sailors were taken into custody and charged with attempted murder. Authorities say they later found evidence linking them to the January killing.

Death toll rises to 16 in Baghdad car bombing

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb — The death toll from a car bomb attack in a southern Baghdad parking-lot on Wednesday, rose to 16 and up to 43 people wounded, an Interior Ministry source said. The latest reports said that up to 16 people were killed and 43 others injured when two booby trapped cars detonated at about 3:30 pm (12:30 GMT) in a quick succession in Baghdad’s Baiyaa parking-lot, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Earlier the source said that a booby-trapped car detonated at the parking-lot and put the toll at five killed and some 20 others injured.

The powerful blast charred some 10 nearby cars and minibuses and destroyed many others at the crowded parking-lot where dozens of minibuses carry passengers from southern Baghdad to different neighbourhoods of the capital.

Most of the passengers were either burned, killed or wounded inside the minibuses and other civilian cars, the source said.

The attack took place during the rush hour of the day when government employees return to their houses in the heavily populated neighbourhoods of southern Baghdad.

Suicide car bombing kills Iraqi soldier in N Iraq

MOSSUL, 12 Feb — At least one Iraqi soldier was killed and five people were injured in a suicide car bomb attack targeted a joint US and Iraqi Army patrol in the volatile city of Mosul, a well-informed local police source said.

“A suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car into a joint US and Iraqi Army patrol in the Hadbaa neighborhood in northern Mosul,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The powerful blast resulted in the killing of an Iraqi soldier and the wounding of two others, along with wounding three bystanders, the source said.

The source could not say whether the US soldiers sustained any casualty as the troops sealed off the area preventing Iraqi security forces from approaching the scene. US helicopters could be seen flying overhead, the source said.

Nineveh Province, with its capital city of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, is said to be one of the last strongholds of al-Qaeda fighters in the war-torn country.

UN chief condemns deadly attacks against gov’t offices in Kabul

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon slammed on Wednesday the terrorist attacks against government buildings in the Afghan capital, Kabul, which took the lives of at least 20 people and injured many more.

“The secretary-general is appalled by the heinous coordinated attacks targeting the people and institutions that are committed to building a better future for Afghanistan,” his spokesperson said in a statement.

“The horrendous crime was committed against innocent civilians with total disrespect for human life and dignity. The United Nations stands shoulder to shoulder with the Afghan people and government in condemning today’s attacks,” the statement added.

Government buildings, including the Justice Ministry, were hit on Wednesday by terrorist attacks carried out by Taleban militants, killing 20 people and wounding 57 others, the Interior Ministry said.

Afghan commando forces arrive at the building of Justice Ministry after suicide bombers attacked it in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 11 Feb, 2009. A series of terrorism attacks targeting several government buildings on Wednesday morning. The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attacks. — INTERNET

An injured Iraqi man is wheeled out of the local hospital after being treated for injuries following a twin bombing attack in central Baghdad. Twin car bombings ripped through a Baghdad bus station on Wednesday. — INTERNET
17 injured, houses damaged after strong quake in Indonesia

Jakarta, 12 Feb—At least 17 people were wounded and dozens of houses and a hospital were damaged after a 7.4 magnitude quake rocked North Sulawesi province in eastern part of Indonesia on Thursday, Health Ministry said.

At least 17 people were injured after the roof of a building in a hospital compound collapsed.

The quake also damaged 32 houses and one hospital, head of the Health Ministry’s crisis center Rustam Pakaya told Xinhua.

Earlier reports said two churches were also damaged in the quake.

The quake struck at 00:34 Jakarta time (1734 GMT) with the epicenter at 112 km southeast of Melongue and at 10 km under seabed, local meteorology agency said.

The quake was felt at 4 to 5 MMI (Modified Mercally Intensity) at Melongue town, Sange town and 3 to 4 MMI in provincial capital Manado.

China’s software export hit $14.2 bln in 2008

BEIJING, 12 Feb—China’s software export soared 39 percent last year to 14.2 billion US dollars from 2007, despite the international financial crisis, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) on Wednesday.

The export included 1.59 billion dollars from outsourcing services, up 54.3 percent year on year.

MIIT said the software industry maintained a rapid growth last year, with the business revenue increasing by 29.8 percent to 757.3 billion yuan (110.8 billion US dollars). The growth rate was 8.3 percent points higher than a year earlier.

Brazil to build one million houses to boost construction, create jobs

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 Feb—The Brazilian government will build one million houses by 2010 to reactivate the domestic construction sector and create more jobs, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Wednesday.

The plan doubles the previous house-building number Lula announced last week on the inauguration of a Growth Acceleration Programme (PAC) project.

The housing project is part of a package being developed to stimulate the construction sector, Lula said.—Xinhua

Shipbuilders to get government ballast

BEIJING, 12 Feb—China’s State Council, or the Cabinet, yesterday approved a stimulus package for the country’s shipbuilding industry in a bid to help the emerging sector better weather the global economic downturn.

The government said it will encourage financial institutions to lend more to ship buyers and also offer incentives for purchasers of ocean-going ships until 2012. The country will also support the industry in technology upgrades, it said.

The government will limit new capacity in the industry and is working on a policy to scrap outdated ships. It will also encourage construction of advanced ships and promote mergers and acquisitions within the industry.

Guo Yalin, an analyst with CITIC Securities, said the stimulus package comes as a boost to a sector that has been struggling for new orders and in retaining old ones.

New orders for domestic shipbuilders are expected to fall to 20-30 million deadweight tons in 2009, compared to 58.18 million deadweight tons in 2008, according to the China Association of National Shipbuilding Industry.—Xinhua

Researchers discover new technology that could reduce spread of rice virus

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb—Building on plant virus research started more than 20 years ago, two US biologists have discovered a technology that reduces infection by the virus that causes Rice Tungro Disease, a serious limiting factor for rice production in Asia.

Roger N Beachy, a Washington University in St Louis (WUSTL) professor of biology in Arts & Sciences and president of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St Louis, and Danforth Center research scientist Shunhong Dai, demonstrated that transgenic rice plants that overexpress either of two rice proteins are tolerant to infection caused by the rice tungro bacilliform virus (RTVB), which is largely responsible for the symptoms associated with Rice Tungro disease.

All items from Xinhua News Agency
**Most Czechs against US radar**

**Prague, 12 Feb**—Some two thirds of Czechs are against the stationing of a US radar base in the Czech Republic, according to a poll conducted by the polling institute CVVM in January and released on Wednesday.

The opposite view is held by 29 percent of Czechs, and the balance has been stable in the long run. According to the poll, the idea to station the US radar base in the Czech Republic was opposed by 65 percent of Czechs, the same percentage as in December.

The poll also showed that most Czechs believe that a referendum should be held to decide on the radar base. The view is shared by 72 percent of Czechs, two percentage points more than in the previous poll.

The referendum is mainly opposed by the proponents of the radar base. About 57 percent of them have refused the referendum on the issue.

**Iran builds long-range anti-aircraft system**

**Teheran, 12 Feb**—Iran’s Defence Minister Brigadier General Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said Wednesday that Iran has built a long-range anti-aircraft system, the semi-official Fars news agency reported. Iran “has built a long-range anti-aircraft system capable of spotting, tracking, in-teerupting and destroying multiple targets simultaneously,” Fars quoted him as saying on the sidelines of “Inventions and Innovations Exhibition” held in Teheran.

He pointed out that “all the materials and parts employed in the country’s missiles industries are Iranian.”

Earlier this month, Iran’s Secretary of the Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaie said that his country was the first power in the region from the viewpoint of defence and security matters.

**Police detain two about wildfires**

**KINGLAKE, 12 Feb**—The federal government said on Thursday it will clear away hurdles that have stalled a nationwide fire alert telephone system, after thousands of people were caught off-guard by the deadliest wildfires in Australia’s history.

Privacy laws and bickering between state officials over funding had snarled the plan for years, The Australian newspaper reported Thursday. But there is a new urgency after the weekend blazes in Victoria State killed at least 181 people. Officials said the death toll could exceed 200.

Police detained two suspects Thursday after they were reported acting suspiciously in an area burned out by last weekend’s fires, some of which authorities suspect were set by arsonists. But it was unclear if authorities suspected them of setting fires, or of some other wrongdoing after the fires started.

**One French soldier killed, one wounded in Afghanistan**

**PARIS, 12 Feb**—A French officer was killed and another soldier wounded Wednesday in a clash in Afghanistan, the French president’s office and the Defence Ministry said.

President Nicolas Sarkozy’s office said the soldier, Afghan interpreter was also killed in the morning attack in Logar Province, south of the capital, Kabul.

In a separate statement, the Defence Ministry said the French soldiers were conducting joint patrol with a unit of the Afghan army when a roadside bomb exploded. The deadly clash followed.

Sarkozy is quoted as expressing his condolences to the families of the victims and reiterating “France’s determination to continue working for peace in Afghanistan.”—Internet

**US, Russian satellites collide in space**

**WASHINGTON, 12 Feb**—One privately owned US communications satellite collided with a defunct Russian satellite in space shooting out a pair of massive debris clouds and posing a slight risk to the international space station, NASA said on Wednesday.

It was the first such collision in space, NASA spokesman Kelly Humphries said, adding that the magnitude of the accident was still unknown.

NASA will take weeks to determine the full magnitude of the crash, which occurred Tuesday near 790 km over Siberia, an altitude used by satellites that monitor weather and carry telephone communications among other things.

**Russian arms exports hit record $8.35b in 2008**

**MOSCOW, 12 Feb**—Russia exported a record 8.35-billion-US-dollar worth of weapons in 2008, President Dmitry Medvedev said Tuesday, and he said that the global financial crisis would make it difficult to match that figure this year.

“The total volume of deliveries exceeded 8.35 billion US dollars, 800 million US dollars more than” in 2007, Medvedev told a meeting of senior ministers. “It is clear that this year will not be easy as the entire world is enduring a financial crisis.”

Russia’s previous record was last year’s 7.4 billion US dollars, according to the Federal Service for Military Technical Cooperation.

One of a few sectors where Russian products are competitive worldwide, arms exports have grown steadily in recent years as Moscow expanded into new markets. — MNA/Reuters

**Iran has achieved its independence through its capabilities and it is among the 10 world major countries regarding security and defense issues,” Rezaie, the former chief commander of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.**

**Russian interpreter was also killed in the morning attack in Logar Province, south of the capital, Kabul.**
Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

Work hard together to transform consolidated Union into modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Ngar Min Swe

It was on 9 January 2009, seawater was being pumped with the use of Aung Min Brand locally-made eight-inch-diameter pump at salt farm (5) in Palangki village, Ye Township, at the rate of 60,000 gallons an hour. Sixty thousand gallons of seawater contain about 2000 viss of salt. It was very pleasant to view the salt farm filled with seawater. However, I could not enjoy the view because my manager U Thein Aung said that the diesel was just enough for two days. At that time, I did not have enough money to buy diesel. I would have to pay over 40 workers over four million kyats on 15 January.

About 90 per cent of salt farms in Ye Township had been out of operation for five years due to labour shortage, poor transport, and low demand. The cyclone 'Nargis' destroyed so many salt farms in Ayeawady Division, culminating in high demand of salt and salt price was going up. The neighbouring country was facing economic crisis, so the flow of national job seekers to that country came to a halt, and some of the national workers there returned home. So, my difficulty of labour shortage was no more. The Myanmar Railways operates two runs of express passenger train and one run of cargo-passenger train between Ye and Mawlamyne daily. So, I no longer needed to worry about transport of my goods.

As circumstances smiled on salt farmers of Ye Township again, they restored their businesses that had been out of operation for long. However, they did not have enough capitals, so they had to seek investments by selling out or mortgaging some of their belongings or borrowing money from their relatives and friends. They started the groundwork in September, and they were exhausted in December. Only in February would the salt be harvested. By then, they would be able to earn money from their businesses. When it came to their knowledge, local authorities and the Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise made arrangements to provide loans for salt farmers. The chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council the commander of South-East Command and the minister for Mines coordinated a plan to fulfil the financial requirements of local salt farmers. Salt farmers were informed to appear at the office of Mon State Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise in Mawlamyne on 12 January to get loans at the rate of 50,000 kyats an acre. Some salt farms of Ye Township might come to a halt if they did not get loans in January.

At about 5 p.m. on 11 January, I made a motorcycle ride to Ye from Palaingki salt farm. In the past, traveling by train was the only means of transport from Palangki to Ye. Now, a number of rural roads have been constructed with Ye in the centre. So, Ye is now accessible by car and by motorcycle at any time. Long ago, those regions used to be abandoned lands and were often reverberated with sounds of gun fires and bomb blasts owing to disunity among national races. Now, all the lands along the road are covered with rubber plant farms belonging to local Mon, Kayin and Bamar nationals. Some rubber plants at the age of about 10 years are already yielding latex. The rubber plant farms have generated many job opportunities, and helped boost per capita income of local people. Local national brethren have enjoyed the taste of unity. The voices of songs being sung by the workers clearing wild plants among rubber plants were music to my ears. In those regions, sounds of gun and artillery fires are no more, and local people are in a position to lead a peaceful life due to the fruits of national reconsolidation.

I arrived at the home of U Aung Myint, one of my school friends, in Aungmyitta Ward, Ye. His native town is Kyakkadi, he has salt farms in Palangki Village, Ye Township, Mon State, and Theikpangongyi Village in Labutta Township, Ayeawady Division. He had arrived home from Labutta about five days ago. I said to him, "Hey, Aung Myint. I have heard salt farmers in Ayeawady no longer have financial problems because they have been provided with loans at the rate of 300,000 kyats an acre. "Yes, Min Swe, they have resumed their work. One hundred and fifty thousand kyats is well enough to run a race, because when salt is harvested, they will get back some money, selling their product. But, the government provided loans at the rate of 300,000 kyats an acre. If they have nothing special to spend money on, they even do not need to sell salt for investments. "I am glad to hear that news, friend. Some salt farmers in Mon State said that they would get loans at the rate of 50,000 kyats an acre. So, I will have to go to Mon State Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise in Mawlamyne tomorrow. I have applied for loans on your behalf. You will also have to go to Mawlamyne tomorrow."

That night I did not sleep well due to my being excited for loans. I had invested about 20 million kyats in about 200 acres of salt farms. So, I had to borrow that money from my parents, relatives and some friends. I would have to invest about 10 million more kyats. I did not think I should borrow some more money from my parents and friends. If I were not provided loans for some reasons, I would not be able to go on my business. Like me, most of the salt farm owners in Ye Township are going through tough times. I woke up about 3 o’clock the next morning. I went to the bus terminal with Aung Myint at about 5 o’clock.

I heard from some people in the tea shop that it was colder than previous years in Ye. But I did not feel worried about getting frostbite. At about 5.30, the Hilux set out. Just as we left Ye, I noticed rubber plant farms along Ye-Mawlamyne Road. Workers were found tapping latex from rubber plants. A two-acre farm needs a worker to collect latex. That means reclaiming 100,000 acres of rubber plant farms can generate 50,000 job opportunities. Myanmar still has millions of acres of fallow lands to grow rubber plants on. So, the Prime Minister on one occasion said that the nation would be able to create job opportunities for the Myanmar people working abroad when they returned to the nation. Myanmar produces a lot of rubber, but has yet to establish many more rubber-based industries, and if so, there will be a large number of job opportunities.

The Hilux stopped for about half an hour at the junction of Arunya mountain to get some more passengers. It again stopped for about half an hour at Mawt-kanin Village. The road used to be a gravel facility till 1988. Before 1988, the road was not used widely due to its poor quality and lack of peace and stability. I have traveled along that road for two times: in 1981 and 1987, and in both times, I faced some KNU members at Kanin Kamaw village. Now, Ye-Mawlamyne Road has been upgraded to a tarred one. Peace and stability have been restored, and so the trains in the region are always on time.

On the bus, I thought of the development of peace and stability was very sweet.

I also noticed many model villages along Ye-Mawlamyne Road, that came into existence after the houses of national races such as Mon, Kayin and Bamar scattering in nearby forests had moved to those areas. Some of the houses in the model villages are fine ones. There, even a house of poor quality is a wooden one. School buildings are roofed with corrugated iron sheets with brick walls. I also saw health care centres and libraries. While living in the forests with their houses scattering, their children did not have access to education. Now, their children are pursuing education in the model villages. When sick, they can go see doctors in hospitals and health care centres easily. In the past, their family business was high land farming, but now they have got rubber plant farms. They had to stay hiding in the forests, but now they lead a peaceful life along the road. I was glad that they have got model villages and farms along Ye-Mawlamyne Road. Local people have been enjoying the fruits of unity, peace and development. As a result, local people have been able to build unprecedented national unity.

We were greeted by the Technological University as we passed through Pha-ruk village, 10 miles from Mawlamyne. Students were found happy with uniforms.

The entire people need to have a sense of Union Spirit for ever and work hard together in order that our country will achieve its ultimate goal soon. If the people work hard with Union Spirit, Myanmar will become a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic one in the near future.
Ye-Mawlamyine has six lanes on it from Pha-uk Village to Mawlamyine, so our Hilux bus was running at over 100 kilometers per hour. We arrived at Mawlamyine at 10.30 in the morning. We proceeded to the salt office of Mon State by cycle taxi. We met some salt farmers from Ye Township U Wah Tin, Daw Kyi Lwin, Ko Me’ Tone, and Ko Myo Khaing there. Some time later, Manager U Win Thein of Mon State Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise arrived, and with smiles he gave away bank cheques to each of the salt farmers. He said that salt farmers may draw money from Ye Bank after they had their cheques signed by the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council. Only with bank cheques in their hands could salt farmers breathe a sigh of relief.

The same day (12-1-2009), salt farmers returned to Ye. When we got home, it was already 6 p.m. The following day, Aung Myint and I went to Ye Township PDC office. When we met Township Chairman U Thein Zaw, he greeted and led us to his room. He said, “Ko Me’ Tone and his fellows have just gone out. You are late for some time, U Min Swe. Give me your cheques, please.” Then he signed our cheques. He said, “By the way, U Min Swe, I have heard that we can use CDMA phones here. Have you applied for one?” “Not yet, Mr chairman.” He then said, “Many have applied for long, and phones will be issued soon. Apply for one. Surely, entrepreneurs of seaside regions like you will get first.” He was right, as mobile phones are much-needed in seaside areas that may face tsunami waves and tidal waves triggered by storms. According to him, I may get a CDMA phone if fortune smiles on me. In 2007, I wrote an article “Phar Min Swe rides bicycle, uses public phone”, but in 2009, I should write an article “Ngar Min Swe rides motorcycle, uses mobile phone”. I was very pleased because I, like others, was enjoying the taste of national development. Now, many people in the areas along have got access to CDMA phones.

After drawing loans, I put them into my haversack, and went to my salt farm by motorcycle. I would pay wages to my workers. And I would buy diesel to pump seawater, and replace old engines with new ones, and have my old salt godowns repaired. The loans the government has provided for salt farmers of Mon State are like fuel for a car that is going to run out of fuel on its way to the destination. So, I was out of joy, and returned home by motorcycle. On my way, I happened to make views on the prevailing conditions of the Union of Myanmar.

Our country still has a large number of acres of vacant lands to grow rubber plants. Rubber is a raw material in high demand. Our country has yet to establish a large number of rubber-based factories. And salt is also a raw material for industries. Myanmar produces about 300,000 tons of salt a year, but the country can use only about 30,000 tons of it. Each of some neighbouring countries with industrial development uses about 600,000 tons of salt as a raw material a year. Due to the favourable geographical conditions, our country can produce one million more salt a year if necessary. Our country is rich in industrial raw materials and mineral resources. And it produces industrial raw materials on a large scale. It has many sources to produce fuel and electricity necessary for industries, sufficient number of human resources for factories. In addition, it has built roads and bridges for transporting industrial raw materials and finished goods. The whole nation has seen peace, stability and the rule of law.

So, it can be said that almost all the basic foundations have been constructed to transform the Union of Myanmar into an industrialized one. Here, the entire people need to have a sense of Union Spirit for ever and work hard together in order that our country will achieve its ultimate goal soon. If the people work hard with Union Spirit, Myanmar will become a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic one in the near future.

All national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan have managed to build up consolidated unity among them at the unprecedented level. In its time, the Tatmadaw government built networks of irrigation facilities, roads and bridges, and communication systems that cover the whole nation. Those infrastructures have made the country more integrated. So, the people just need is to keep on working hard in building a modern and developed nation, taking the advantages of national unity. So the people have approved the State Constitution that is the most suitable and conforms best with the prevailing conditions of the nation. And the people are now working together to transform the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the new constitution.

In conclusion, I would very much like to call on all those who are resorting to various means to disrupt the massively-approved constitution to have positive views on the national goal and join hands with the people in building a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Translation: MS

Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

62nd Anniversary Union Day Objectives

— For all the national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty

— For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people

— For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements attempting to undermine peace and stability of the State and national development

— For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map

Kadaik Dam in Paung Township, Mon State, has the capacity to irrigate 10,000 acres of crops.

The strength of Union

* Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan
And all other national races
Brethren of Union family
And of the same Myanmar family

* Myanmar race we proclaim
Faithful to our noble race
When it comes to Union’s interest
We remain ever united
And always keep in fore Union Spirit

* Union enters new era
With peace and prosperity
Due to intellectual and physical strength
Brethren of Union family have
The strength of Union
Renowned and dignified

Pyinnya Thu (Trs)
Prime Minister General Thein Sein views gems, pearl and jade on display at Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

Gems, pearl, jade, Myanmar gold and silver wares seen at Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein...  
(from page 16)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein views gems, pearl and jade on display at Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

Bo Khant of MGEA and wellwishers opened the archway and the gate of the Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw). The Prime Minister unveiled the stone plaque and the museum. Next, he sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, the ministers and gem entrepreneurs sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

The Prime Minister, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials visited the Hsinbyudaw water fountain roundabout and the coral reef and pearl booth in the compound of the museum. Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed the mosaic paintings of Shwedagon Pagoda, Mogok Gems Land and Phakant Gems Land, jade settee, jade table, jade chair and jade bed.

At the museum, the Prime Minister also looked into the 6.2 centimetres long and 3 centimetres high world largest natural pearl weighing 45.06 momme, (845 carats or 929.50 rati) decorated with three female celestial beings, the most valuable Myanmar culture pearl weighing 9.8 mommes (104.39 carats), the valuable Myanmar jade stone weighing 69 klos, the Myanmar orchestra and ornaments made of jade, the largest Myanmar ruby weighing 21,450 carats and other ornaments made of ruby, quartzes, Myanmar gold and silver wares and jewellery and uncut Mogok gem stones, various uncut gem stones and granite stones. Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and officials conducted the Prime Minister round the museum.

A book decorated with jade tiles is placed on the jade table together with jade chair. The Prime Minister signed in the book with the use of jade ball-pen. Afterwards, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials also put their signatures in the jade book.

Next, the Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo together with responsible persons of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association.

On the ground floor, they visited the jade and gems shops.

The Prime Minister met with the gem entrepreneurs and gave necessary instructions.

The Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) is kept open to the public free of charge from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily up to 18 February.

The museum is located on 12.5 acres of land. The main building, 250 feet long and 170 feet wide, was built with the use of steel bars and glasses. The construction of the museum started in July 2008.

The Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) decorated with jade is the largest gems museum in Myanmar. Over 60 shops that measure 20 square feet each can be opened around the museum. A car park can accommodate over 40 automobiles. For public visits, the museum will be kept open from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except every Monday and gazetted holidays.—MNA
Nay Pyi Taw observes 62nd Anniversary Union Day…

(from page 16)

families of the station, representatives of Nay Pyi Taw District and Township USADAs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, totalling over 4,300. Departmental personnel, social organizations and people took the designated positions in the square beginning 5 a.m. At 5.30 a.m., the State Flag was hoisted. Next, the Guard of Honour from the Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) took the position at the square in front of the City Hall. The Secretary-1 took the salute of the Guard of Honour from the dais. Next, the Secretary-1 and those present saluted the State Flag. Meanwhile, the national anthem was played.

The Secretary-1 read the message to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, and the ceremony came to a close. On the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the government offices and buildings, the City Hall, the junctions and roundabouts, schools and staff quarters were illuminated in Nay Pyi Taw.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued the news today that a strong earthquake jolted outside of Myanmar. The Richter Scale with its epicenter about 2,300 miles southeast of Kaba Aye seismological observatory outside of Myanmar (Indonesia) was recorded at 00 hrs 12 min and 28 sec MST on 12th February 2009.—MNA

Roundtable Talks on Supply Chain & Value Chain on 15 Feb

YANGON, 12 Feb—Jointly organized by Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a roundtable talks on Supply Chain, Value Chain (Marketing development of products by constructing balanced and appropriate supply and value chains) will be held at 2 p.m. at Mingala Hall, on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lamnawad Township here on 15 February.

Deputy Director Dr Htain Lin of Directorate of Trade will preside over the talks and UMFCCI Senior Researcher Dr Maung Aung, Deputy General Manager U Kyaw Myint (Retd) of Myanma Agriculture Service, Associate Professor Dr Daw Soe Thu of Management Department, Institute of Economics (Yangon) and Lecturer Dr Daw Ohnmar Thein will give lectures. Enthusiasts and executives, members and importers and export entrepreneurs of UMFCCI and affiliated associations and businessmen of Bayintnaung Brokerae may attend the talks.1

MNA

The State Flag hoisting ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day observed at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

People seen at the State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to mark 62nd Anniversary Union Day.

Government offices, city hall, roundabouts, schools and staff quarters being illuminated in Nay Pyi Taw to mark 62nd Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

RESPECTS PAID: The respect paying ceremony of graduates from Institute of Dental Medicine (1972-79) was held in conjunction with the get-together at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 8 February morning. Photo shows old students presenting gifts to former faculty members.

NLM
Tennis court here yesterday took place at Theinbyu Tennis Tournament 2009 Myanmar Championship. The final match of Aung San Street here at 8 a.m. on 18 February held at the main building of University of Nurses and Midwife Association will host central committee of the association Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Hlaing and observers. They are to register to attend the meeting.

Winners of MCTT 2009 awarded

President U Zaw Zaw presented first and second prizes to winners in men’s singles event (above 35 years) and single events (above 55 years), third prizes to winners in men’s doubles event (open) and first, second and third prizes to winners in double event (open) and first, second and third prizes to winners in single events (above 45 years). Zaw Win presented prizes to winners in women’s singles event (open), second prize to winners in women’s doubles event (open) and first, second and third prizes to winners in single events (above 55 years) and single event (60 years), single event (open) and women’s singles event.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspects construction in Mon State

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspected construction of Thebyu Creek Bridge in Mon State.— MNMA Plenary meeting slated on 18 Feb—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of Thebyu Creek Bridge in Mon State.— MNMA On 7 February 2009, Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, in the capacity of Commander of the Ministry of Defence, visited Mon State Peace and Development Council of Mon State Peace and Development Council. Mon State Peace and Development Council was established on 7 February 2009. Lt-Gen Tha Aye presented cash assistance to veterans families.

Self-reliant libraries opened

Self-reliant libraries opened on 7 February. As a gesture of hailing the 62nd Anniversary of self-reliant libraries, Energy Minister meets Russian Ambassador

Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint visited ICT Exhibition-2009

Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint visited ICT Exhibition-2009 opened at Union Square, Yangon, on 7 February 2009. He inspected the booths and exhibition stalls after the opening ceremony.
### DEVELOPMENT OF MON STATE IN THE TIME OF TATMADAW GOVERNMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>River water pumping station</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Protected public forest</td>
<td>sq-mile</td>
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<td>331.33</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Over 180 feet long bridge</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Post office</td>
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<td>58</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Telegraph office</td>
<td>office</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Government-owned factory</td>
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<tr>
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<td>University of computer studies</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>number</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An oil rig of Yadana natural gas project offshore Mottama benefits the State by exploring land and water resources.

Yannyin Sluice Gate contributes to extending sown acreage of summer paddy and beans and pulses in addition to monsoon paddy in Mon State.

Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), longest one of its kind all over the nation, reflects concerted efforts of government, Tatmadaw and people.
Threats send California octuplets mom into hiding

Nadya Suleman (L), mother of the octuplets born 26 January in Bellflower, California, said she had long craved a "huge family" and tried for years to get pregnant before conceiving her first child through in vitro fertilization. — Internet

Los Angeles, 12 Feb — California’s octuplets mom, already jobless and receiving food stamps, has gone into hiding with her six older children because of death threats, her spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

Nadya Suleman, 33, has come under mounting public ridicule for expanding her already large family via fertility treatments that led to the 26 January birth of six boys and two girls at a Los Angeles-area hospital. That criticism has mushroomed as it was reported that she was divorced, living with her parents, unemployed for several years, receiving disability checks for three of her children — one of whom is autistic — and collecting nearly $500 a month in food stamps.

She acknowledged those circumstances in a series of NBC television interviews but insisted in a segment aired on Tuesday that an agreement with the Russian government "will pave the way for future deals and that assistance she now re-ceives is temporary."
The broadcast drew the highest "Date-line" ratings since a 2007 interview with Britain’s Prince William and Prince Harry.

Russia indicates nuke cooperation deal with Japan may soon be signed

Moscow, 12 Feb — The head of Russia’s state-run atomic power company Rosatom Nuclear Energy State Corp said on Wednesday that Russia can soon prepare documents to sign a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Japan that is under negotiation between the two governments.

Sergei Kiriyenko, president of Rosatom, indicated in a written interview with Kyodo News that an agreement may be signed during a planned visit to Japan by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

The nuclear deal is expected to pave the way for Japan to export the latest nuclear electric power generation plant to Russia. Tokyo and Moscow are arranging for Putin to visit Japan "early this year," according to government officials.

Kiriyenko said both sides have already reached a full agreement in working-level talks on the text of the agreement.

He said the agreement would pave the way for cooperation between Rosatom and Toshiba Corp and other Japanese companies. — Internet

Ministry of Rail Transportation

Myanmar Railways

Invitation to sealed tender

1. Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in JPY:

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<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<td>In-Service Rail Bases</td>
<td>20-Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>(Used but still in good operating condition)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closing Date/Time - 15.5.2009 (Friday) - (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 13.2.2009 during office hours and for further detail please call Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Thaibnny Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone: 951-1-291904, 951-1-291985.
Oklahoma governor declares state of emergency

Houston, 12 Feb — Governor Brad Henry of Oklahoma declared on Wednesday a state of emergency for 17 Oklahoma counties that were affected by Tuesday’s devastating tornadoes. “The state of emergency declaration strengthens our efforts to help those areas, but it also serves as a first step toward seeking federal assistance,” Henry said.

It is believed that, under the declaration, state agencies are allowed to make emergency purchases and acquisitions needed to expedite the response to the disaster. Meanwhile, Henry asked federal authorities in Washington to provide assistance in responding to the deadly tornado that killed at least eight people in southern Oklahoma.

Henry told media that he talked Wednesday morning with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, as well as members of Oklahoma’s congressional delegation. “Secretary Napolitano pledged to deliver any and all assistance as Oklahoma responds to and recovers from the deadly storms that shook our state last night”, Henry said.

British group heads to Guantanamo to free resident

London, 12 Feb—A British court met on Wednesday to reconsider a case regarding a British resident being held in Guantanamo — a lawsuit that stands to embarrass the American and British governments over torture allegations.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, meanwhile, announced that a doctor and other British officials would visit Binyam Mohamed at the US prison camp on Cuba’s eastern tip. Mohamed has been on a hunger strike for more than a month and is being force-fed. He launched the strike to protest his continued detention. Charges against him were dropped last year. “The visit will help us make preparations for his return,” said Miliband, after talks with Mohamed’s military lawyer, Air Force Lt Col Yvonne Bradley, who appealed to Britain to pressure President Barack Obama’s administration for Mohamed’s release.—Internet

US cruiser seizes seven suspected pirates in Gulf of Aden

Washington, 12 Feb — A US navy cruiser captured 7 suspected pirates on Wednesday in the Gulf of Aden, the US military said on Thursday.

The US cruiser Vella Gulf first heard a distress call from the merchant vessel Polaris, which reported that men in a small boat had attempted to come aboard on a ladder, according to a written statement from US Naval Forces Central Command. As this was happening, the Vella Gulf changed its course and increased speed to rendezvous with the Polaris. En route, the crew intercepted a small boat and took 7 suspected pirates on board into custody. The suspects will finally be transferred to Kenya, where a new court system is being set up to try and punish pirates.

Many countries have sent naval ships to the Gulf of Aden and the waters off the coast of Somalia to combat pirates. The US navy has set up an anti-piracy “armada,” of which the cruiser Vella Gulf is flagship.—Internet

Police find 60 pounds of pot in double-parked car

Man boldly robs Colo store with Star Trek sword

Police continued to question the woman who, they said, appeared to be under the influence. She handed over an expired license and was taken into custody.

Colorado police say a man with too much “Star Trek” in his mind used a sword modeled after the weapon carried by Klingon warriors to demand money from two convenience stores.

The StarTrek.com Web site says the double-pointed sword used by the Klingons on “Star Trek” is crescent-shaped and about a yard long. Police did not specify what material it was made of.

Railway workers inspect a train standing at a platform at East Croydon railway station, south London. Heavy snowfall overnight in Britain caused widespread travel delays across the country, including disruptions to flights and London’s rush hour on Monday morning, and forced the closure of dozens of schools.

Michael Kandler, left, and Thomas Ulrich, right, measure a sand tiger shark (Charcharias taurus) at the Ocean Center at Burg on the Island of Fehmarn at the Baltic Sea, northern Germany. The about 1,500 maritime animals are counted and measured presently for the annual inventory.
**SPORTS**

Spain cut England down to size

Spain’s forward Fernando Llorente(L) heads the ball to score Spain’s second goal against England as his teammate Sergio Ramos looks on during their friendly football match in Sevilla. —INTERNET

SEVILLE, 12 Feb—Spain handed England a sharp reminder of the limits of the progress they have made under Fabio Capello by strolling to a 2-0 friendly victory here on Wednesday. Goals from David Villa and second-half substitute Fernando Llorente delivered the victory and the margin was a fair reflection of their comfortable superiority.

On a night that saw David Beckham equal the late Bobby Moore’s mark of 108 caps — the record for an outfield player — England were given an indication of how far they still have to go if they are to mix it with the best at next year’s World Cup finals in South Africa. —INTERNET

**Messi steals show as Argentina beat France**

MARSEILLE, 12 Feb—Diego Maradona milked the adulation of the home fans beforehand but it was Lionel Messi who stole the show, capping a virtuoso performance with a goal as Argentina beat France 2-0 at Marseille’s Stade Velodrome on Wednesday.

Having reminisced earlier in the week about how he almost joined Marseille from Napoli in 1989, Maradona was given a rapturous reception from the French fans, who were far less cordial towards their own handler Raymond Domenech, architect of their first-round exit at Euro 2008.

Argentina’s Lionel Messi(R) prepares to score against France during their friendly football match in Marseille, southern France. —INTERNET

**Serená and Jankovic back in the groove at Paris Open tennis**

PARIS, 12 Feb—Serená Williams began her third stint as world number one with a straightforward 6-1, 6-4 victory over Czech left-hander Iveta Benesova in the first round of the WTA Paris Open on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Jelena Jankovic, the woman Williams replaced at the top of the world rankings, bounced back from her fourth-round exit at the Australian Open with a hard-fought 7-5, 7-6(7/2) win against seventh seed Francesca Schiavone.

"I was okay. I wasn’t great, but I was so glad to win," Williams, the newly crowned Australian Open champion, said after her match. "This was a little better than Australia, because I didn’t play well in my first two rounds here."

"The American made an uncertain start, double-faulting twice and having to save two break points in her opening service game, before breaking Benesova in the third game and running away with the first set in just 19 minutes." —INTERNET

**Trap salutes captain marvel Keane**

DUBLIN, 12 Feb—Ireland boss Giovanni Trapattoni has hailed Robbie Keane’s match-winning display against Georgia as proof of the quality that Liverpool failed to recognise.

Keane’s second-half double ensured Ireland claimed a controversial 2-1 win over the Georgians and moved joint top of group 8 alongside Italy.

It also served as a reminder of the striking qualities that appeared to go unnoticed during Keane’s unhappy six months at Liverpool prior to his recent return to Tottenham.

Trapattoni said his skipper had displayed real character.

"He has not played every week, but he played here tonight in front of 50,000 in a World Cup qualifier, and you could see he enjoyed it," the Italian said. "Robbie was very important for us."

**Del Potro, Blake advance in San Jose tennis**

SAN JOSE, 12 Feb—Second-seeded Juan Martin del Potro slipped into the second round of the 600,000-dollar ATP hardcourt tournament here, as third-seeded James Blake bull-dozed his way through.

Argentina’s del Potro edged Andrea Sassi of Italy 7-6(7/5), 7-6(7/5) in a match that couldn’t have been closer.

Neither player was able to earn a break of serve in the match that lasted 1hr, 48min.

However, del Potro survived the tiebreak test of nerves and emerged with a victory that included 10 aces to Sassi’s five.

Blake, in contrast, needed just 50min to dispose of fellow American Vincent Spadea 6-3, 6-4. —INTERNET

**Nadal moves on with French foreign legion**

ROTTERDAM, 12 Feb—Top seed Rafael Nadal, fresh from his Australian Open win, ousted Italian Simone Bolelli 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 to reach the second round of the Rotterdam Open on Wednesday.

The Mallorcan world number one, who now faces Bulgarian junior Wrablevsky and US champion Grigor Dimitrov, said he was un-ruffled after losing the opening set as he soon got into the swing of things thereafter.

"I deserved this win," said Nadal. "I had all of the chances and he didn’t. I also had two match points. I picked up my game in the third set and started serving better." I found my rhythm, but I had a bad game in the first set before I started playing better. I’m in the second round and I expect a better result. I’m hoping to play better." —INTERNET

**Wie to make debut as LPGA Tour member**

KAHUKU, 12 Feb—At nearly every turn at Turtle Bay, there are posters of Annika Sorenstam covered in leis, proudly celebrating her retirement.

However, on Thursday in the season-opening event. These four rookies that we talk about headlining the rookie class, every single one of them feel capable of sweeping the LPGA,” tour commissioner Carolyn Bivens said. “They’re fearless. They’re not typical rookies.” —INTERNET

**Spanish Rafael Nadal returns a forehand to Italian Simone Bolelli during the ATP Tennis Tournament in Ahoy Rotterdam. —INTERNET**
Exercise ‘cuts colon cancer risk’

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb—Taking exercise can cut the risk of the most common kind of bowel cancer by a quarter, research suggests.

US scientists, who reviewed 52 previous studies, calculated the most active people are 24% less likely to develop colon cancer than the least active.

Colon cancer is the most common form of bowel cancer, a disease which affects more than 36,500 people a year in the UK, causing 16,000 deaths.

The study took into account many different types of physical activity including occupational activity like manual labour, as well as more traditional leisure-time activity such as running or going to the gym.

Sara Hsiom, director of health information at Cancer Research UK, said: “One hundred people a day are diagnosed with bowel cancer in the UK alone, so it’s imperative that we all do what we can to prevent the disease.

“We know that around half of all cancers could be prevented by changes to lifestyle. “Maintaining a healthy bodyweight is one of the best ways to lower the risk of bowel and other cancers -potentially helping to avoid an estimated 13,000 cases each year.”—Internet

WEATHER
Thursday, 12 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Magway and Bago Divisions. Temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsam and Haka (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 11-2-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 12-2-2009 was 65°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST 11-2-2009 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 11-2-2009 was (9.2) hrs approx. Rainfall on 12-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at 13:30 hours MST 11-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13th February 2009:

Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the southern Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-2-2009: Generally fair weather.
Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Feb—The Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) of Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines was opened at the museum near Thabyegon Roundabout in Thabyegon Ward in Nay Pyi Taw Myoma at 8.45 a.m., today attended by Prime Minister General Thein Sein. It was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, (See page 8)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein unveils stone plaque of Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

Nay Pyi Taw observes 62nd Anniversary Union Day

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Feb—The State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day 2009 was held at the square in front of the City Hall, here, this morning, attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo who read the message to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day 2009 sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe. Also present on the occasion were senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of the Management Committee for Organizing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Ceremony the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, ministers, the Auditor-General, the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of the central committee and the management committee, heads of Central Offices and departmental heads, officials, local authorities, Union Day delegates and members of cultural troupes, service personnel, (See page 9)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo reads out the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe to 62nd Anniversary Union Day 2009.—MNA

Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

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