



It is necessary for entire national people to remain vigilant with nationalistic awareness

It is necessary for the entire national people to remain vigilant with nationalistic awareness that the old and new colonialists alike bent on occupying or holding sway over our Union have hatched wicked schemes to weaken our national solidarity, which is the foundation of the Union, and attempted and are still attempting to dissolve the national strength.

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

(From message sent on the occasion of 58th Anniversary Union Day)

People in Chin State urged to make more concerted efforts than those of other regions

Prime Minister General Thein Sein tours Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Prime Minister General Thein Sein accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo

Lwin of Kalay Station, the director-general of Government Office and departmental heads on 4 February morning met the medical superintendent, specialists, doctors and nurses of 200-bed Kalay People's Hospital.

Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister

General Thein Sein and party left Kalay by helicopter and arrived in Tiddim at 10.30 am. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Chin State PDC Brig-Gen Hong Ngai and officials.

At Kamhauk Hall in Tiddim, the Prime Minister met with departmental personnel, members of social (See page 6)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets with departmental personnel and members of USDA and social organizations at nursing training school in Falam.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 7 February, 2008

For perpetuation of the Union

The significance of the Union of Myanmar is that national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan plus other ethnic groups live in unity and amity.

The national races have social and traditional customs, culture and languages of their own. Based on Union Spirit, they are like national brethren born of the same parents.

Myanmar regained her sovereignty and independence with the strength of unity of all national races who have been safeguarding the State. The people are participating in the tasks of building a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The government is building a new democratic nation with the active participation of the people in accord with the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Only when there is national unity will there emerge a peaceful modern developed nation. Therefore all the national people will have to safeguard the Union forever.

All national brethren have to work hard and discharge the national duties while preserving the Union's characteristics with noble traditions in order that a peaceful prosperous nation will last forever.



Players of Blue Boy and Filipino competing in Horizon League Basketball Tourney.

NLM

People's Desire

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

Teak plantations, value-added wood products factories inspected in Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung arrived at Bowdi Tahtaung nursery in Monywa on 1 February and inspected establishment of nurseries along Bowdi Tahtaung-Kyaukkar-Shwemyintin mountain ranges.

On 2 February, the minister visited Alaungdaw Kassapa national park.

In Paukintaung reserve forest in Kani Township, the minister viewed thriving 4,400-acre physic nut plantations of a private company. He also looked into thriving 1,200-acre teak plantations of private companies in Sabei Natha forest in Kanbalu Township on 3 February.

Afterwards, minister and officials paid homage to Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kanbalu and made cash donations.

After inspecting

Ingyin Park in Kanbalu, the minister visited the museum in Chatthin sanctuary.

On 4 February, minister inspected value-added wood product factories at the industrial zone-1 in Pyigyidagun Township and another one value-added wood products factory in Kyaukse. — MNA

Minister inspects factories in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee In-charge of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected UPG paints factory of United Paints Group Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone 1 on 4 February. He instructed entrepreneurs to make efforts for penetrating international market and take measures for factory security and prevention of fire.

Next, the minister looked into Beans Mill of Akar Oo Company and instructed them to preserve quality of exporting products, make efforts for gaining more market share in international market and take measures for factory security and prevention of fire.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects furniture of valued-added wood product factory in Pyigyidagun Township.—MNA

Chairman of CSSTB inspects written examination centres

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, accompanied by officials concerned, inspected written examination

centres held at No 5 and No 6 Basic Education High Schools in Nay Pyi Taw and No 1 and 2 BEHSs in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, here, on 2 February. The written examination was

held for the posts of head of branch-2/third secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A total of 1516 candidates sat for the examination.

MNA



CSSTB Chairman Dr Than Nyun inspects written examination centres held at BEHSs in Nay Pyi Taw and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana. —MNA

Kenya death toll hits 1,000, parties talk

NAIROBI, 6 Feb — The death toll from Kenya's post-election bloodletting has risen to 1,000, the Red Cross said on Tuesday, as political rivals began the toughest part of their negotiations so far.

Fighting in west Kenya in recent days between rival ethnic gangs had increased the number of deaths, the Red Cross said.

"One thousand

plus have died since the conflict started," Red Cross head Abbas Gullet told a conference in Nairobi.

Most of the deaths, in one of Kenya's darkest moments since independence from Britain 44 years ago, have come from cycles of ethnic killings, police clashes with protesters, and looting.

What started as a

dispute over the December 27 re-election of President Mwai Kibaki has laid bare decades-old divisions over land, wealth and power, dating from colonial rule then stoked by Kenyan politicians.

Some 304,000 Kenyans have been displaced by the crisis, the Red Cross said, though that figure was likely to rise.

MNA/Reuters



Children displaced during post-election violence stand in line to receive food at their temporary shelter outside Tigon police station, near Nairobi, on 4 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Republican Huckabee wins tight race in Georgia primary

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—Republican Mike Huckabee won a closely fought battle in Tuesday's presidential primaries in Georgia where 72 delegates are at stake, US networks Fox and NBC projected.

Huckabee, an ordained Baptist preacher, drew first blood in the Super Tuesday primaries,

winning in West Virginia, the first state to report its results in the biggest nominating contest in history.

He was also projected to have won in Alabama and his home state of Arkansas, putting him firmly back into the race against rivals John McCain and Mitt Romney.—Internet



Mike Huckabee

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNSC condemns attacks against Chad's Govt

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Feb—The UN Security Council strongly condemned Monday attacks against the Chadian Government by armed groups this past weekend. In a presidential statement read out by Ricardo Alberto Arias of Panama, the Council's president for this month, the 15-member body called on all states in the region to cooperate in putting an end to the activities of armed groups and "their attempt to seize power by force" in the central African country.

The Council also welcomed a decision by the African Union to mandate the Libyan leader, Colonel Moammar Kadaffi, and President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo to engage the Chadian parties with a view to ending the fighting and forging a lasting solution to the crisis. The Council expressed its concern regarding the direct threat that the combats pose for the safety of the civilian population, including internally displaced persons and refugees.

The Council also expressed its concern over the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, UN personnel and European Union personnel and material deployed in Chad. — MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bomber hits anti-al-Qaeda group in N Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 6 Feb—A suicide bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint manned by anti-al-Qaeda group members in a village in north of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing several of the group members, police said.

"A suicide bomber blew up his explosive vest at a checkpoint outside the house of Sheikh Shather al-Obeidi, head of a Sunni tribe that formed an Awakening Council group in the Awad Village in Taji area, 30 kilometres north of Baghdad," the source said on condition of anonymity.

The source could not immediately give exact number of human casualties by the attack, but

confirmed that several members of the group were killed and others wounded, the source said.

The Awakening Council fighters are armed groups of tribesmen and local neighbourhoods, including some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups, who have turned their rifles toward the al-Qaeda network after the latter adopted a hardline Islam and exercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities.—MNA/Xinhua

Deadly tornado sweeps southern US; at least five killed

NASHVILLE, 6 Feb—Tennessee: Severe storms blasted the mid-south United States late Tuesday, killing at least five people and damaging buildings, local reports said. Areas near the Tennessee state capital of Nashville were on alert after a tornado reportedly made landfall west of Memphis and swept east, local media said. The city's *Commercial Appeal* newspaper reported that a man in his seventies was found dead in his car. NBC news reported a total of two people killed in the state.

Fox News said three deaths in neighbouring



A tornado in handout photo from the United Nations Environmental, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).—INTERNET

Arkansas were blamed on the tornado, citing local sheriffs. At Union University in the town of Jackson, in western Tennessee, the tornado collapsed roofs,

trapping students under rubble in their dormitory. No deaths and only minor injuries were reported, local channel WSMV said.

Internet



A man rides by a bicycle a destroyed tank in the capital city N'Djamena, on 5 Feb, after a weekend of heavy fighting between government forces and rebels. Underlying the Chad conflict is a struggle to control the country's oil resources, which while not extensive are nonetheless vital to the future of one of Africa's most impoverished nations. — INTERNET

Obama, Romney lead in California on Super Tuesday

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama surged to a big lead over Hillary Clinton in California hours before “Super Tuesday” voting began in 24 states, according to a Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby poll released on Tuesday.

In the Republican race, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney held a 7-point advantage on Arizona Senator John

McCain in California, while McCain added to commanding double-digit leads in New York and New Jersey.

On a sprawling day of coast-to-coast voting, the biggest ever in a US primary race, the US presidential contenders in both parties were fighting to win a huge cache of delegates to this summer’s nominating conventions.

In California, which alone provides more than one-fifth of the Democratic delegates needed for the nomination, Obama led Clinton by 49 per cent to 36 per cent, the poll found. The margin of error was 3.3 percentage points.

Clinton pulled into a 5-point lead in New Jersey, 46 per cent to 41 per cent, after being tied on Monday. Obama held a 45-per-cent to 42-per-cent edge on Clinton in Missouri.

Both polls had a margin of error of 3.4 percentage points.

Obama had a 20-point edge in Georgia, aided by a more than 3-to-1 lead among Black voters.

MNA/Reuters

Two factories in S Israel hit by Palestinian rockets

GAZA, 6 Feb — Palestinian militants fired two rockets from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel on Tuesday and hit two factories in Sderot Town.

Both the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), a radical militant group, and an armed wing of Fatah claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement faxed to the press, the fighters said the rocket attacks came in response to the killing of Amer Qarmout, a senior PRC Commander by Israeli Air Force on Monday.

Fatah’s armed wing of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades said the rockets were fired at 8:00 am (0600 GMT). They also pledged more rocket attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

Five jailed for helping 2005 terror plot in London

LONDON, 5 Feb — Five men who helped the bombers in the aftermath of the failed London attacks on 21 July, 2005 have been jailed on terror charges, local media reported Monday.

The five men provided the plotters with safe houses, passports, clothing and food, Kingston Crown Court heard, BBC reported. The five — Muhedin Ali, 29, Wahbi Mohammed, 25, Ismail Abdurahman, 25, Siraj Ali, 32, and Abdul Sherif, 30, all from London — were given between seven and 17 years.

The five men, all originally from Africa, were convicted of 22 charges of failing to disclose information about terrorism and assisting an offender.

Siraj Ali and Mohammed were also convicted of having prior knowledge of the plot to explode devices on the London transport network. —MNA/Xinhua



Bhutto party reveals will naming husband as successor

NAUDERO, 5 Feb — The party of slain Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto released her will to the public on Tuesday to prove that it names her husband as her political heir. The move follows a whispering campaign that Bhutto had not handed the leadership of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) to her spouse Asif Ali Zardari, and that she instead picked their 19-year-old son Bilawal.

The handwritten will — dated 16 October, two days before the former premier returned to Pakistan from exile — also says that she feared for Pakistan’s future in the face of extremism and dictatorship.

“I would like my



The party of slain Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto released her will to the public on 5 Feb to prove that it names her husband as her political heir on 6 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

husband Asif Ali Zardari to lead you in this interim period until you and he decide what is best. I say this because he is a man of courage and honour,” said the will, unveiled at the Bhutto home in southern Pakistan. Bhutto was assassinated at a political rally on 27 December.

The party named Zardari and Bilawal as co-chairmen three days later, after the will was read out to senior party members, but not to the public.—Internet

US forces kill 3 family members north of Baghdad

TIKRIT (Iraq), 6 Feb — The US forces allegedly killed three people and wounded a fourth from one family in a town in Salahudin Province, north of Baghdad, on Tuesday, a source from the US and Iraqi liaison office said.

The incident took place at dawn in the town of al-Dowr, 30 kilometres north of the provincial capital of Tikrit, the source from the provincial Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

He said that an interpreter working for the US troops informed the branch of the JCC in the town of the killing and asked them to collect two bodies in a house in one of the town’s neighbourhoods.

An Iraqi police force headed to the scene and found three bodies — those of a man and his wife in their 40s as well as their 18-year-old son. All of the three were killed with gunshots in the head, he said.

The police also found many spent cartridges of weapons used by US troops at the scene, he added.

Residents at the neighbourhood told the police force that they heard gunshots at dawn and saw US military vehicles leaving the neighbourhood later, the source said.

He also said that a 16-year-old daughter of the family made a call with a mobile phone for help as she was injured and taken by the US troops to a medical facility in a US base in the province.

MNA/Xinhua

Two dead, five missing in landslide in Indonesia’s Central Java

JAKARTA, 5 Feb — A landslide triggered by heavy rains on the north coast of Indonesia’s Central Java has left two people dead and five missing, a health ministry official said Wednesday.

The landslide slammed into houses in Sindangwangi village shortly after dusk on Tuesday, said Rustam Pakaya, who heads the health ministry’s Crisis Centre.

Two bodies have been recovered while a search for five other people who were in the three buried houses continued, he said



A rescuer digs the mud to search for landslide victims.—INTERNET

in a telephone text message. Six other houses were seriously damaged and two bridges were destroyed, the official said, adding that one person was also injured.

Internet

Chavez warns of nationalizing food companies

CARACAS, 6 Feb — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez warned on Monday he could nationalize large food distributors caught hoarding amid widespread shortages of groceries, saying he was hoping for an “excuse” to take them over.

Despite unprece-

dent oil income, the OPEC nation has struggled for months to keep food on supermarket shelves, a problem businesses blame on government price controls.

Authorities attribute the shortages to hoarding by unscrupulous capitalists.

“I hope they give me the excuse I need to intervene and expropriate the big chains ... of food production and distribution,” Chavez said during a televised speech.

“We are going to keep an eye on the big ones, that’s where the most ferocious capitalism is.”

MNA/Reuters



An iPhone is displayed at an Apple Store in San Francisco, California. Apple on 5 Feb rolled out new iPhone and iPod Touch models with beefed-up memories and bumped-up prices.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Survey shows eurozone business activity weakest in over three years

BRUSSELS, 5 Feb—A service sector slump in January plunged business activity in the nations sharing the euro to the lowest level in over three years, a widely watched survey showed Wednesday.

An NTC Research survey of business leaders fell to 51.8 points in January from 53.3 points in December for the lowest reading since November 2004.

The result fell short of an initial estimate of 52.7 points but was still above the 50-point level that indicates expansion.

However, the index of service sector activity fell even more sharply, catching economists off guard and raising fears that



Men work at a construction site in Germany.

growing headwinds facing the 15-nation eurozone economy were taking their toll.

The service sector index fell to a four-and-a-half-year low of 50.6 points in January, down from a first estimate of 52.0 points and a reading of 53.1 points in

December.

“The substantial downward revision in the January eurozone service sector business activity index is an absolute shocker,” economist Howard Archer said at consultants Global Insight.—Internet

India may raise fuel prices this week

NEW DELHI, 6 Feb—India is set to raise retail petrol and diesel prices this week for the first time in 20 months, a senior Oil Ministry source said, as the government risks political capital to ease losses at state oil refiners.

The source, who did not wish to be identified ahead of a decision by the Cabinet, said on Monday that petrol prices were likely to rise by 4.6 and diesel by 3.3 per cent, small adjustments that are unlikely to add significant inflationary pressures.

But the decision, which follows months of debate, could trigger protests from Communist allies who provide the ruling coalition with a parliamentary majority. “The decision will be taken at a Cabinet meeting this week,” the ministry official said of the expected price revision.

The Cabinet usually meets on Thursday but can be convened earlier. If it approves the measure, petrol will go up by two Indian rupees (0.05 US dollar) a litre and diesel by one rupee.

World crude oil prices that hit a record above 100

US dollars last month retreated to below 89 US dollars a barrel last week but are still sharply higher than a year ago, forcing many Asian nations to increase their heavily subsidized domestic pump prices.

MNA/Reuters

Volvo to recall 1,502 S40 sedans imported into China

BEIJING, 5 Feb—Swedish automaker Volvo will recall 1,502 S40 sedans imported into China because of an electronic component rust problem, according to China’s top quality watchdog.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said that an electronic module that controlled gas flow in the fuel pump could be corroded when exposed to damp. In worst case it could cause engine stalling.

The sedans to be recalled were produced between 16 September, 2004 and 22 August, 2005. Those produced afterwards did not have the problem, AQSIQ said.

The company would replace the electronic part for free and adjust its position to eliminate potential danger.

MNA/Xinhua

Crude-oil falls below \$89

NEW YORK, 5 Feb—Crude-oil futures fell below 89 US dollars Tuesday as a services-sector benchmark of the US economy came in much weaker than anticipated, sparking recession worries and generating fresh questions about prospects for energy demand.

Crude for March delivery declined 1.61 dollars, or 1.8 percent, to 88.41 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It dropped to an intraday low of 87.50

dollars earlier.

The non-manufacturing side of the US economy, which had been the firmest pillar of the economic expansion, buckled in January, according to data reported Tuesday by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM).

The ISM non-manufacturing index fell to a reading of 41.9 percent last month, down from 54.4 percent in December, the largest one-month drop in the index’s history.

Internet

Vietnam’s coal export down in January

HANOI, 5 Feb—Vietnam shipped abroad 2.5 million tons of coal worth 77.6 million US dollars last month, posting respective year-on-year declines of 10.7 per cent and 3.2 per cent, according to a local trade agency on Monday.

Vietnam is estimated to export some 25 million tons of coal worth 850 million dollars, mainly to China, Japan, South Korea, and some North-west European countries, this year, the Trade Information Centre under the Ministry of Industry and Trade said, predicting that coal export prices would increase some 30 per cent in 2008 against 2007.

The Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment has asked the government to reduce coal exports in the coming years to ensure supplies for local energy-thirsty industries like electricity and cement.

MNA/Xinhua



A horsewoman performs during the horsemen’s festival in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 3 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

People in Chin State urged to make...

(from page 1)
organizations, local people and heard reports on works being carried out for the development of Tiddim, thriving over 3000-acre tea plantation and 20000-acre physic nut plantation and breeding of over 4000 mythuns presented by Chairman of Tiddim Township PDC U Aung Zaw Moe.

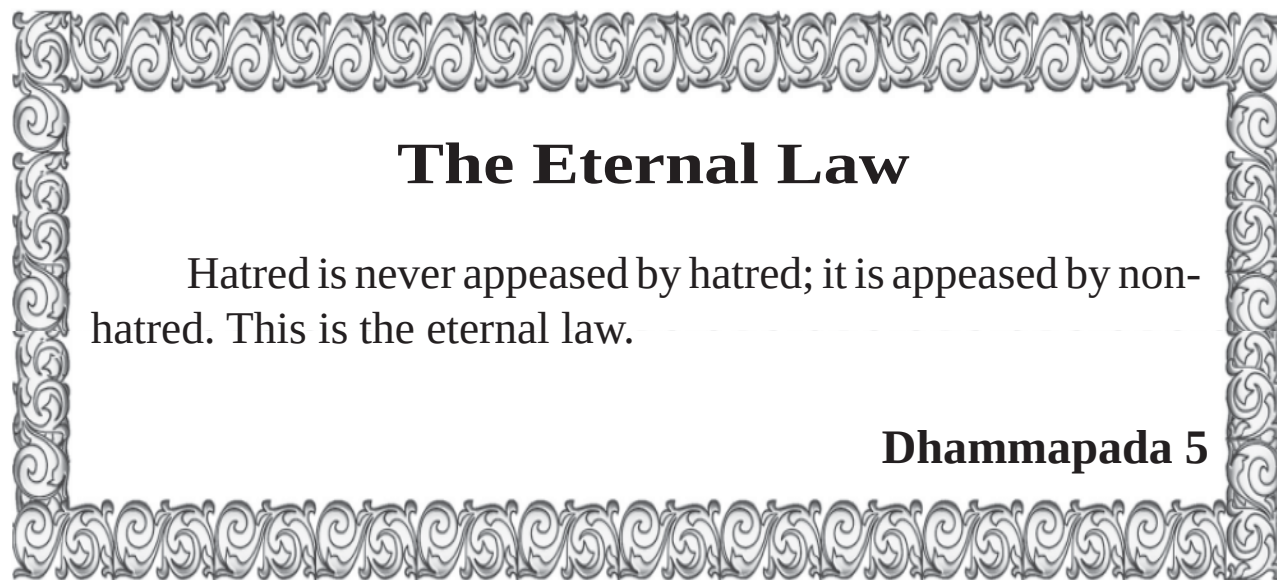
In his speech, the Prime Minister explained the purpose of his inspection tour of Chin State, political, economic, education and health matters, rice sufficiency in Chin State, emergence of tea State, improvement of living standards of local people, dynamism of Union Spirit and attended to the needs.

Next, the Prime Minister presented gifts to Tiddim Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Wel-

inspected progress of Kyikhar which is situated in fur flung area, construction of departmental office buildings and 16-bed People's Hospital. They also looked into telecommunications office of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

Next, the Prime Minister met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people and asked about regional developmental matters and requirements of the region. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw made a supplementary report on condition of Kyikhar at the office of Kyikhar General Administration Department.

The Prime Minister presented cash and kind to local people of the town through Township Officer U Thet Lwin and officials, saying that Kyikhar is a border town, so local people have to live in unity. He stressed



The Eternal Law

Hatred is never appeased by hatred; it is appeased by non-hatred. This is the eternal law.

Dhammapada 5

inspected 16-bed Tonzang Township People's Hospital. The township health officer and staff conducted the Prime Minister and party round the hospital and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo gave accounts of the hospital.

In meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at the township hall, Chairman of Tonzang Township PDC U Soe Win reported to the Prime Minister on tasks carried out for



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents cash assistance to an official.— MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein looks into Women's Vocational Training School in Tiddim.—MNA

fare Association, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, cash assistance for the development of the township through officials and viewed the gifts presented by respective ministries for the township. The Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Kyikhar of Tonzang Township from Tiddim by helicopter and

the importance that the town should possess all characters of a town, calling for improving the education and health sectors of local people. He said that administrative mechanism has been set up. He dealt with measures for giving assistance to local people, ensuring prevalence of law and order, effectiveness of administrative machinery and rural development.

They proceeded to Tonzang by helicopter and

the development of the region based on the fulfillment of the State level officials who were in Tonzang, progress of cultivation of 200-acre mulberry tree plantation and 1400-acre tea plantation and breeding of 1200 mythuns.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister called for substitution of highland cultivation in slash and burn system for ensuring local food sufficiency, extended cultiva-

tion of tea plant and breeding of mythum, better transport and realization of national unity and presented gifts and cash assistance.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back Tiddim by helicopter.

On 5 February, the Prime Minister and party visited vocational training school for women of Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Tiddim.

Principal Daw Aye May and teachers reported

on conducting courses on knitting, basic and advanced tailoring, cane and bamboo.

The Prime Minister and party visited learning of the trainees and observed handicraft.

They went to Border Area and National Race Youth Development Training School and met the trainees.

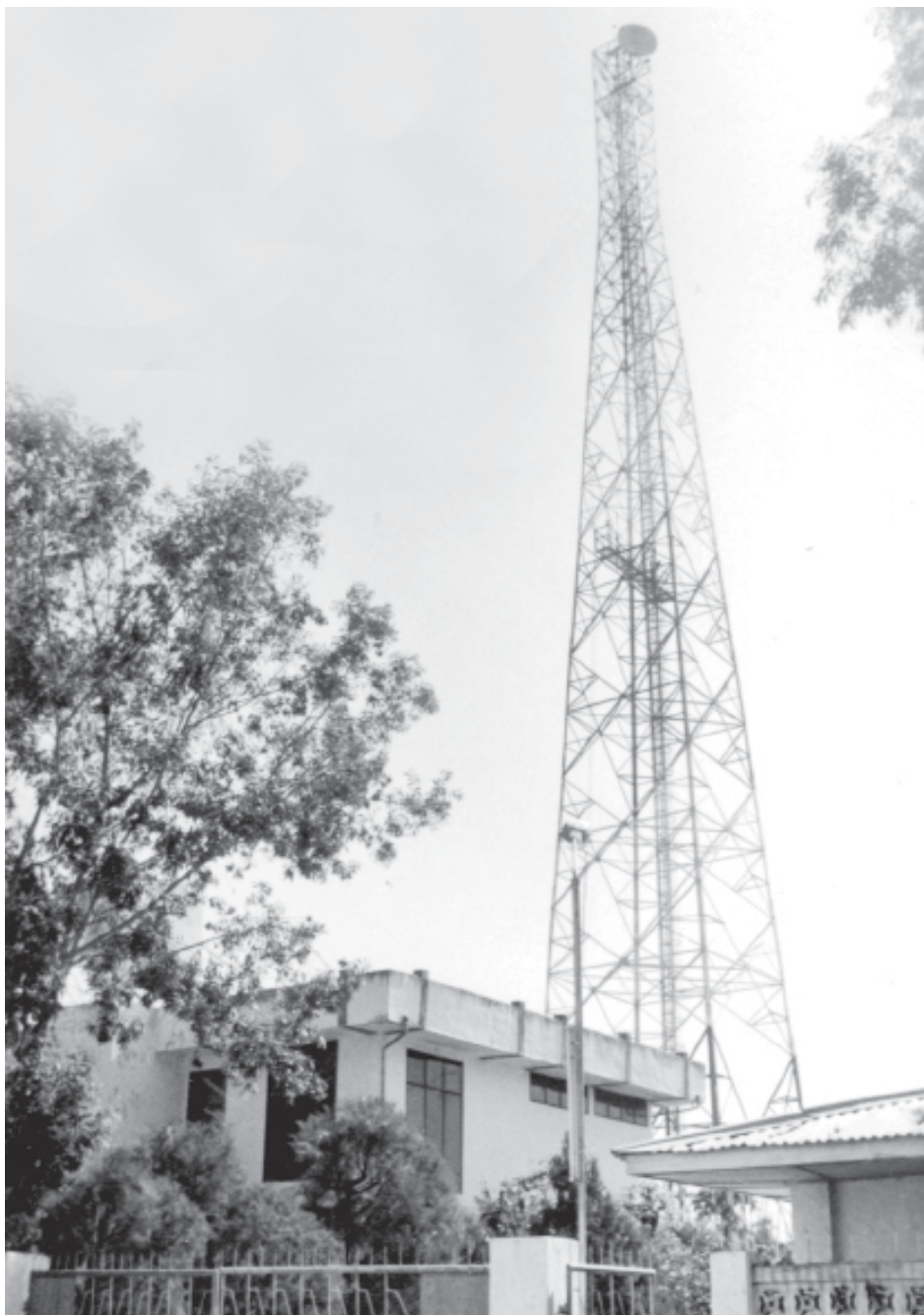
Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe reported on admission of the trainees and conducting courses.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets personnel, social organization members and local people at Thantlang Town Hall.— MNA

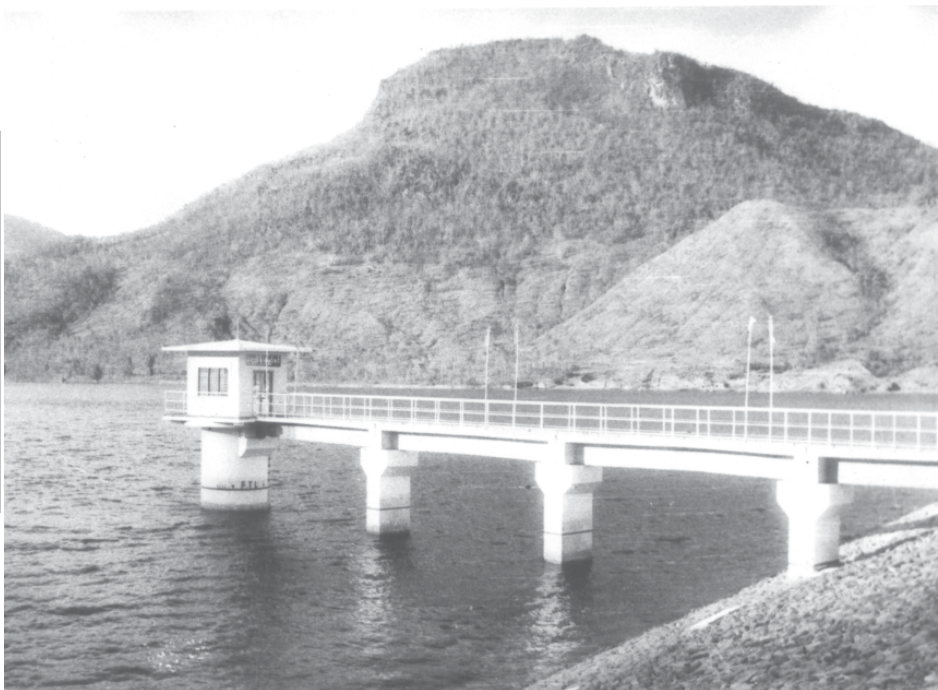
Kayah State which has developed significantly in the time of Tatmadaw Government



The photo shows microwave station built in Loikaw of Kayah State for ensuring smooth communications between Kayah State and other parts of the nation.

Sr.	Subject	Unit	1988	2007	Progress
1.	Arable land	acre	89992	169163	79171
2.	Dam	number	28	50	22
3.	River water pumping station	number	-	3	3
4.	Reserve forest	Sq mile	74	270	196
5.	Protected public forest	Sq mile	-	2180	2180
6.	Railway station		-	1	1
7.	Rail track	mile	-	101	101
8.	Motor road	mile	396	581	185
9.	Bridge (above 180 feet)		6	9	3
10.	Post office	office	11	13	2
11.	Telegraph office	office	10	11	1
12.	Telephone station		3	15	12
13.	Microwave station		-	1	1
14.	Hydropower station		1	2	1
15.	Basic education school	school	333	388	55
16.	University/college		-	3	3
17.	Hospital		15	16	1

Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day



A general view of Loinanpha Dam constructed to irrigate farmlands of Dimawhso Township in Kayah State.



The main building of Loikaw University built as an education facility in Loikaw for enabling university students in Kayah State to easily pursue higher education.

HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Union of Myanmar will enjoy peace and development through solidarity of national races

Tekkatho Myat Thu



**WILL REMAIN EVER UNITED
WHOEVER CONSPIRES TO DIVIDE US**

The Union Day reflects the consolidated unity and cohesion of national races of Myanmar as well as the prestige of national brethren living in the Union.

The term “Myanmar” comes from a combination of clan, and tribe or minority or nationality who have been living in the same land in the course of history through thick and thin. **Myanmar people lived in the nation peacefully, were not aggressive to and never invaded any other nation, and repulsed alien intrusion. Myanmar national races showed their nationalistic spirit, patriotic spirit and national solidarity in the first intrusion (1824), the second intrusion (1852) and the third intrusion (1885).**

British colonialists realized the patriotic spirit, unity, nationalistic fervour, and the strength of national solidarity of national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. The British had to send tens of thousands of troops from India to suppress the armed revolt of patriotic guerrillas of various national races from 1885 to 1900s. The British brutally killed local people of national races through the scorched-earth method.

Myanmar people engaged in independence struggles such as mass movements, political means or national politics from the 1900s till the nation regained sovereignty on 4 January 1948. In the Anti-Fascist Resistance, patriotic people of various national races showed their bravery.

The strategy the British laid down in 1886 and applied till they completed the occupation of the whole Myanmar was to rule the regions of Myanmar national races separately with specific administrative systems and different laws in order that national races would not meet or deal with each other. It was “divide and rule” policy. These schemes indicated they were frightened by the strength of solidarity of national races.

The British renamed hilly regions of highlander national races variously for racial discrimination against national races residing in the highlands. That was part of their divide and rule tactic. They renamed hilly regions the regions that less developed regions before Di-archy Rule period (1923), scheduled areas in Di-archy Rule period, separate regions in the 91-division rule period (1937), and “frontier areas” after they re-entered

Myanmar (after Myanmar had driven Fascist Japanese troops in post-World War II). They did not guarantee better administration to the highlanders, but continued to practise the divide-and-rule policy. Whenever hilly regions were renamed, the British commissioner for hilly regions tightened the laws for the highlands.

The major intention of why the British occupied Myanmar was to exploit the natural resources at minimum costs. At that time, the British were already industrialized, but they did not have enough raw materials, fuel or work force. Moreover, the number of customer countries who purchased its products was not enough, either. So, more than 100 nations including Myanmar fell under the rule of colonialists.

In spite of the divide and rule policy and various restrictions, Myanmar people became cohesive with national awareness and harmoniously launched independence movements one after another. The colonialists constructed transport facilities that were just enough to transport Myanmar’s natural resources and products for their benefits. They deliberately failed to construct roads or schools in the regions from which they could not benefit, especially in the hilly regions, far-flung areas and border areas. It also made those regions suffer grinding poverty and created situations that local people of those regions would die of hunger unless they made the choice of poppy cultivation. In consequence, many Asian regions including Golden Triangle Region and Golden Crescent Region came to see a large number of poppy plantations of the British, Portuguese and French. The British opium trade became so high that the Anglo-China opium war broke out. According to the west media, at that time a huge sum of income gained from opium trade flowed into the treasury of the King or the Queen of England. Myanmar national races still have to struggle to their utmost to wipe out the evil legacy of poppy the British left on purpose.

In the periods of repulsing of alien intrusion, independence struggles and Anti-Fascist Resistance, Myanmar national races became more united. In safeguarding independence and implementing national development tasks, the people worked together with Union Spirit.

The British colonialists (including today’s neo-colonialists) drove a wedge among Myanmar national races. The British government promulgated Frontier Crossing Regulation designed to impose border-crossing restrictions on the people in their own land. Even Buddhist monks had to ask the British high-ranking officials for traveling from one region to another, and they could do so only when they were granted permission, let alone politicians. In the hilly regions, locals were under complete oppression of feudal lords and the British frontier officer. Local residents who violated the Frontier Crossing Regulation had to pay taxes twofold, were accused of being thieves, robbers and drug addicts and were sent into exile.

The British also placed restrictions on the youth from hilly regions who went to plain regions, especially those who came from Shan State to Yangon to pursue tertiary education and kept them only in Ava hostel. Furthermore, they were not allowed to deal with other students. Ava hostel was under the administration of Englishman Dr Peacock. However, in the end, patriotic people who were engaging in independence struggles kept in touch with Shan students, despite the British restrictions. They also published political literary works to rekindle the people’s patriotism and nationalistic spirit, and inspired them to regain independence.

That was not all. They also gave anti-colonialist talks to organize the people. In that way, they managed to make the people become more politically awakened. As a result, the people of various national races became united with the strong feelings of anti-feudalism, anti-British government sentiment, and cooperation of plain and hilly regions to regain independence.

Independence movements picked up momentum thanks to the organizing measures of Doh Bamar Asiayon (our Myanmar organization). The British government could no longer resist the people’s aspiration to regain independence. At the end of 1946, a Myanmar delegation under the leadership of Bogoyoke (Major-General) Aung San held a meeting with Prime Minister Clement Attlee in London for independence. It was the British that occupied the whole Union of Myanmar, however they were hesitant when there was no choice but to grant Myanmar independence. With the intention of dividing Myanmar into parts, they said that the people of hilly regions had not known how to rule themselves, so they would continue to keep the regions as scheduled areas, and they would grant independence to the mainland (plain regions) only.

At the instigation of British hilly regions high commissioner Stephenson, some Shan sawbwas (chieftains) sent a telegram to London, saying that Bogoyoke Aung San was just a Bamar representative, and if the British wanted to know the stance of Shan nationals, they should invite Shan representatives to London. Nonetheless, Shan patriotic youths with anti-Shan feudalism sentiment and aspiration to regain independence held a mass rally in Taunggyi, and made a decision that Bogoyoke Aung San also represented Shan nationals, and Shan nationals would win back independence together with Bamars. And they sent a telegram of their decision to London.

In February 1947, the conference of various national race leaders was held in Panglong in Loilem District to express the strong desire of national people. It was also known as Panglong Conference. Secretary for colony affairs Bottomley sent from London and British commissioner for hilly regions Stephenson instigated some Shan sawbwas to disrupt Panglong Conference. The second session of Panglong Conference took place in February 1947. The first session was held in conjunction with the handicraft exhibition in Panglong in March 1946. At that time, the British said that Myanmar had regained semi-independence and persuaded the country to get dominion. Galon U Saw was one of the attendees at the first session of Panglong Conference. Shan patriotic youths leader U Tin E (later known as Associate Professor of Myanmar Department of Yangon University U Tin E) bluntly said that he wished the attendance of Galon U Saw a good presence. If the purpose of U Saw’s visit to Shan State was to introduce dominion in Shan State for which he had not achieved any success in Yangon in that regard, U Saw should go back to Yangon as soon as possible. And what the people of Shan State really wanted was none other than absolute independence, he added. Independence the entire Myanmar people wanted at that time was absolute independence.

The session of Panglong Conference commenced on 3 February 1947. National race leaders and the people passed a resolution that the entire nation was to regain independence together. At Panglong Conference, Stephenson interfered that it would be safe if Shan State

(See page 9)

HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY**Union of Myanmar will enjoy peace and development through solidarity of national races****Tekkatho Myat Thu**

(from page 8)
agreed to regain independence separately and joined the British Common Wealth. If so, the British would provide all necessary assistance, and it would provide five million kyats plus small arms if Shan State wanted to. If Shan State made a wrong decision and got independence together with the mainland, it would have committed mistakes that could not be remedied.

Besides, he told Shan nationals that Bamars complied with their wishes excessively, so there might be something dishonest. Bogyoke Aung San was still under the influence of Japan. So, Shan State might fall under the Fascist rule.

However much the colonialists instigated, the people from all the four corners of the nation, especially those from Shan State held mass rallies, demanded absolute independence, and claimed that hilly and plain regions would enjoy independence together.

Regarding the stance of all national races to regain independence together, Sawbwa Sao Khun Pan Sein of Palaung Mountain in Namhsan, northern Shan State, who presided over Panglong Conference and played a leading role in organizing the conference delivered a speech, saying that **it was not strange that every colony wanted to regain independence, and Myanmar also wanted to regain independence. It was a long time highlanders had longed for independence. However, they were not in a position to do anything to put their wishes into reality because of the domination of the colonialists. And the people were not able to carry out any development tasks due to the British oppression of the nation. The Shan people would never accept any consultancy**

council supported by the British, he said.

His speech echoed the voice of Panglong Conference. In spite of Stephenson and Bottomley dissuading the national race representatives from signing the Panglong Agreement, national race leaders and AFPFL leaders signed the agreement on 12 February 1947. The British colonialist government (including the London government) were pleased with the thought that Panglong Conference would not reach any agreement. They also resorted to all possible ways to disrupt the agreement. They opened a temporary telegraph office in Panglong with the hope of receiving the failure of Panglong Agreement immediately. However, London government on 12 February was shocked by the telegraph saying that the conference had successfully completed and the agreement had been signed.

Panglong Conference laid a resolution that Myanmar people would not accept the British plan to divide Myanmar into parts and grant semi-independence and that all the regions the British had annexed in 1885 would enjoy absolute independence together. In other words, the conference passed Myanmar resolution to regain independence and that made the strength of national solidarity that ensured the emergence of sovereign and independent Union of Myanmar known to the international community.

But, the British had not given up their plan. They again gave an excuse that all the national races had not signed the agreement, so it was not the stance of all the national races. So, it sent a commission with British Parliament MP Ree William as chairman to Myanmar to ascertain the wishes of all the national races from hilly regions and plain regions. The commission asked leading questions and dissuaded national races from

accepting Panglong Agreement. The reply of all national races given to the commission was the same "We national races all want absolute independence".

Myanmar, home to over 100 national races, has stood as a union since time immemorial. Now, people of various national races live in each of the states and divisions together. All the people assume that the Union is home to over 100 national races (56 million national people).

The world started to see capitalism and colonialism due to the covetousness of the capitalists from the western hemisphere based on Europe. Myanmar people know well colonialist and neo-colonialist countries, whose people do not want the collapse of their nations or unions, but are anxious to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and revive old colonialism.

The US as well as certain European countries that occupied 77 per cent of the world and 75 per cent of world people and deprived the peoples of the colonies of human rights and democracy. These countries are conspiring again to interfere in the internal affairs of and occupy the old colonies, using sweet-to-hear words of democracy, human rights, and rights of ethnic minorities to secede from the Union concerned, and to break up the developing countries.

In the US where various peoples from different countries attacked the native Red Indians, and enslaved the Blacks, Hawaii, the 50th state, saw native people of Hawaii (an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean) demanding for independence. Southern states that had been annexed to the US tried to secede from the country. President Abraham Lincoln sent troops there to suppress the movements, culminating in the civil war of the US around 1860 that claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of

people. Unions of southern states are still active to secede from the nation. I do not want to point out that the measures taken by successive US

governments to ensure non-disintegration of the Union are unfair, and consider that they are their internal affairs. The US media branded secessionists of southern states enemy of the people.

The British (Englishmen) people came from Europe and established England. They occupied the regions of Wales and Scotch and western Ireland island into United Kingdom (UK). Such prefix words as united, union and federal mean Union. Ireland rebels, Ireland bombers, Sinn Fein and IRA engaged in the struggles in the 19th and 20th centuries for liberation from the rule of the British. It unavoidably granted independence to a part of an Ireland island that is made up of 25 southern districts. It keeps Northern Ireland (five districts) under the British union. British media brand the revolutionaries as terrorists and rioters.

After the World War II, Germany collapsed into two parts — East Germany (Socialist) and West Germany (Capitalist). The US-Britain efforts led to the downfall of the Socialist government of East Germany. Then, the two countries combined

Love the Union

- * Love the Union
National races are relatives
Too close with so much amity
Only we love our land
No alien can
- * Union we love
Our Three Main National Causes
National duty of ours
Love and unity, new strength
Far not is the goal
- * Love our Union
Road Map with seven steps
That's everyone's duty
New Constitution
Enduring fundamental principles it has
- * Love the Union
Panglong spirit in hearts
Vigorous strength we have
Hands joined for sixty-one years
And a thousand more years to come.

(Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day)**Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)**

into German Federal Republic.

I wonder why the capitalist countries try to ensure their perpetual existence and resort to various means to break up other union nations. The reason is that they want to exercise colonialism with the divide-and-rule tactic, and to exploit natural resources of the old colonies.

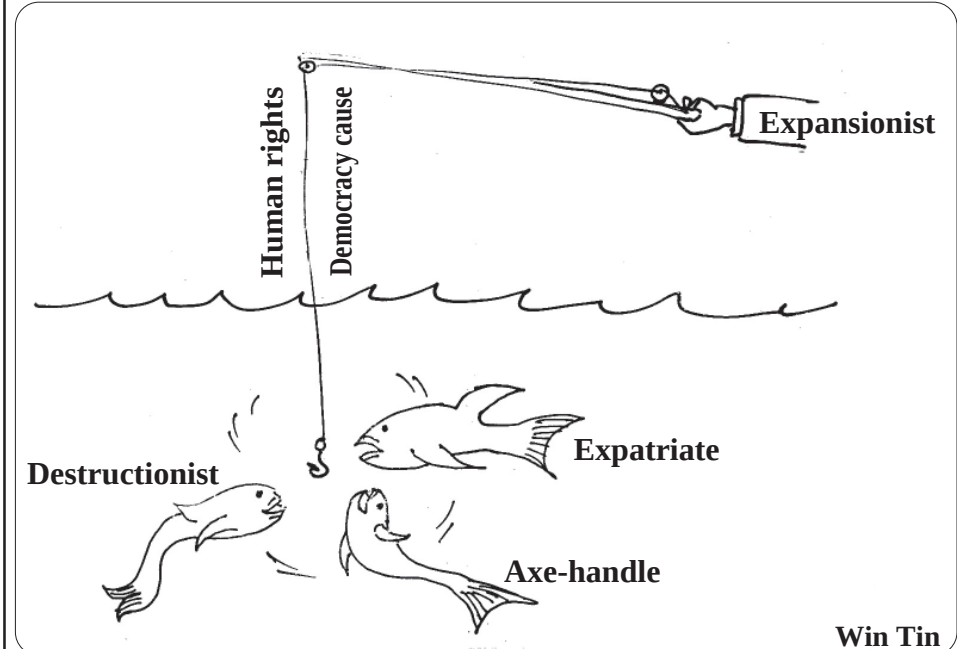
Now, the US and Britain invaded Iraq under the pretext of searching weapons of mass destruction in the nation, ensuring freedom and democracy for Iraqis. And they have monopolized the oil resources of the nation. They divided the nation into three parts—Kurds, Sunny Muslims, and Shiites. In consequence, hundreds of thousands of innocent people have lost their lives and many people have lost their property. Their invasion of Iraq will

turn five years soon. They also occupied Afghanistan under the name of anti-terrorist war. Oil pipelines were laid for US oil companies and plans were set up to produce oil from landlocked countries, north to Afghanistan. The war, which was launched seven years ago, costs tens of thousands of innocent Afghans.

The people of national races do not accept any form of attempts to break up the Union.

Today, the Union of Myanmar has developed in various sectors along with peace and stability. And democratic processes have come to fruition to an extent. The consolidated unity of national races is, indeed, the greatest strength that defends and safeguards the nation.

**Translation: MS
Kyemon: 6-2-2008**



People in Chin State urged to make...

(from page 6)

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and provided cash assistance to the principal of the school.

He also visited Tiddim People's Hospital and asked after health of the patients.

The Prime Minister urged the doctors and health staff to provide health care services to the people at the grassroots level. He presented cash for the fund to officials.

The Prime Minister and party went to Reedkhoda in Tiddim by helicopter.

The Prime Minister discussed transport, agriculture, livestock breeding, border trade and highland cultivation in meeting with officials, members of social organizations and local people.

Next, he presented gifts and cash for Reedkhoda USDA and social organizations to officials.

He also inspected de-

velopment of Reedkhoda, cultivation of tea and physic nut and Reedkhoda hospital.

The Prime Minister went to Falam and met departmental officials, USDA and social organization members and local people.

Chairman of Falam Township Peace and Development Council U Zaw Win Htay reported on implementation of the guidelines given by high-ranking officials during their inspection tour and requirements.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of agricultural and livestock breeding sectors, extended cultivation of paddy and maize for food sufficiency in the region, community peace and tranquillity and regional development.

The Prime Minister presented gifts and cash for the associations and the township to officials. He went to nursing train-

ing school and greeted the trainees.

He also inspected 150-bed Falam District People's Hospital and called on the doctors to carry out the measures on health with wider outlook.

The Prime Minister presented cash for District People's Hospital and Training School to officials concerned. He inspected thriving tea plantation in front of the hospital and its environs.

The Prime Minister and party went to Thantlang and inspected 16-bed Township People's Hospital and presented cash for the fund of the hospital.

They toured the township and met departmental officials and local people.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Khun Hlay Thang reported on development of the town, breeding of mythum, cultivation of 1,400 acres of



Prime Minister General Thein Sein comforts a patient at Falam Township People's Hospital.—MNA

tea and upgrading the hospital to 25-bed one.

In his discussion, the Prime Minister spoke of the need to find out water resources that can generate hydro power as there is insufficiency of power supply in Chin State.

He said development of agriculture in Chin State cannot be achieved easily due to geographical conditions. Therefore it is necessary for the people in

Chin State to make more concerted efforts than those of other regions and to upgrade livestock breeding from manageable scale to commercial one, he said.

His said endeavours are to be made for raising

of living standard, ensuring smooth transport and prosperity of the state through peace.

The Prime Minister and party greeted departmental officials and local people and left for Haka. MNA

Tarred roads opened in Nyaungdon, Einme



Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends opening of Anawrahta tarred road in Einme Township.—MNA

YANGON, 6 Feb—Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day, a ceremony to inaugurate Arzarni tarred road section built by Nyaungdon Township Development

Affairs Committee was held in Nyaungdon on 4 February, attended by CEC member of USDA Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development

Affairs Col Thein Nyunt. Officials cut the ribbon to open the new road section which is convenient for local people. The one-mile and one furlong road is linking

Yangon-Pathein highway. The minister and party viewed the new road section.

The minister also attended the opening of tarred Anawrahta road in Einme Township.

The road, 3,350 feet long and 18 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 19,120,000 by Einme Township Development Affairs Committee.

The USDA CEC member met the Chairman of the township PDC, the Secretary of the township USDA and departmental officials and fulfilled the requirements. —MNA

Basic education schools inspected in Kyaukse Township

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Director-General U Aye Lwin of No 2 Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education met with the township education officer, heads of Basic Education High Schools and senior assistant teachers at

the meeting hall of BEHS No 1 in Kyaukse yesterday afternoon.

He explained matters related to teaching and learning tasks, supervision of teachers, pass rate of matriculation examination, subject-wise pass rate, preparations for

the matriculation examination, implementation of plans for improving pass rate in the examination.

Later, the Director-General looked into construction of Basic Education Middle School (Myoma).

MNA

5th Leprosy Elimination...

(from page 16)

Although UNICEF stated in the report that there were 104 deaths out of 1000 under-five children in Myanmar, WHO (SEARO) issued that the mortality rate of Myanmar stood at 66.1 every 1,000. In Timor Leste, UNICEF stated 55 mortality rate of children out of 1,000 and WHO (SEARO), 130. Hence, it can be seen that there were some discrepancies between the two UN organizations.

The minister said that whatever it may be, the Ministry of Health will make all-out efforts for ensuring health and fitness of the entire nation and the ministry continues to join hands with the UN agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, etc, INGOs and NGOs. In conclusion, the minister urged those present to maintain accomplishments of leprosy elimination in cooperation with the entire people and to take part in rehabilitation tasks for the patients and their families.

Afterwards, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe presented prizes to the winners in the Leprosy Elimination Day contests. The minister and party visited the booths on prevention against leprosy and rehabilitation for disabilities of the leprosy patients.

Later, the paper-reading session on leprosy prevention and rehabilitation followed. — MNA



Delegates from States and Divisions arrive at Nay Pyi Taw to attend 61st Anniversary Union Day ceremony.—MNA

Seminar of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists benefits public health

Article by Maung Maung Myint Swe,
Photos by Thein Win Lay

Efforts are being made for improvement of therapy methods in Myanmar while various treatments have been developing in the world. As part of efforts



We will discuss otorrhoea and damage of tympanic membrane and eardrum and perform demonstrations.

Leader of Thai Specialists Group

for the improvement of medical treatment methods in Myanmar, conferences, paper reading sessions and researches have been organized in the country and workshops and practical operations were carried out with the participation of specialists and health experts from foreign countries.

In an effort to improve the skills of the new generation of ear, nose and throat specialists, the workshop on ear surgery and demonstration were held at Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital in Yangon from 4 to 7 February and ear, nose and throat specialists from Myanmar Medical Association, Thailand and England participated in the workshop.

In an interview at the opening ceremony of the workshop on 4 February, Dr Sai Lu, medical superintendent of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist

Hospital, explained the aim of the workshop. He said that with the aim of producing more qualified ears, nose and throat specialists in the country, ear, nose and throat surgeries were carried out in Myanmar with the cooperation of specialists from foreign countries. Ear, nose and throat specialists from Yangon and other states and divisions were participating in the workshop.

Professor Dr Thein Tun of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital said, "Eight specialists from England and 19 from Thailand are attending the

We will perform demonstrations on nose and throat surgeries. Leader of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists Group from England



workshop and Thai specialists will demonstrate how to perform ear surgeries with the use of special microscopes for ear surgery. It is very difficult to perform an ear surgery. That's why Thai specialists will demonstrate how to use microscopes in ear surgeries."

Ear, nose and throat specialists from England and Thailand will perform surgeries on 21 patients these days, he said.

Dr Robbin Yang, a leader of ear, nose and throat specialists group from England, said their participation in the workshop and their demonstration were aimed at strengthening friendship, exchanging

The aim of the workshop is to produce more qualified ear, nose and throat specialists in Myanmar. Dr Sai Lu, Medical Superintendent of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital



views and coordination between specialists in Myanmar and England in surgeries. Specialists from England will perform nose and throat surgeries, he said. They had participated in workshops on ear, nose and throat surgeries and performed demonstrations for three times.

A leader of Thai specialists group said the

Eight specialists from England and 19 from Thailand are attending the workshop. Professor Dr Thein Tun of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital



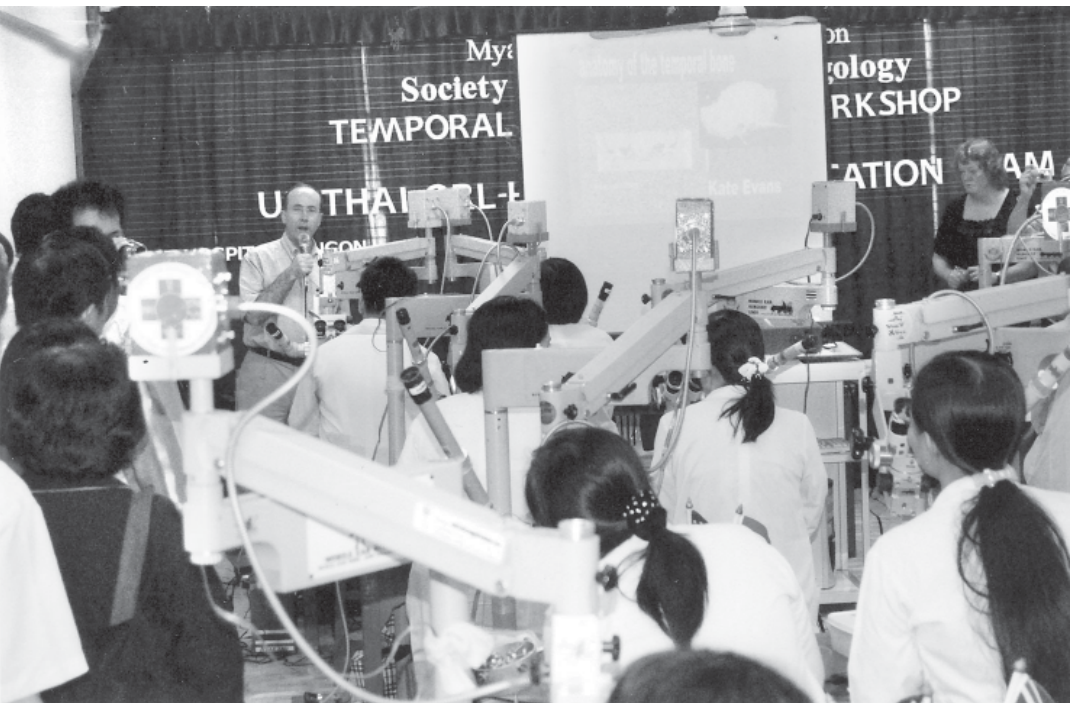
workshop aims to train local specialists in Myanmar so that they can receive good skills for ear, nose and throat surgeries. Thai specialists will mainly discuss the otorrhoea and damage of tympanic membrane and eardrum which have happened mainly in developing countries. A brain damage may occur due to otorrhoea, and that can cause even loss of life. That's why we have brought necessary equipment to perform such kind of surgeries and to demonstrate how to use them. Therefore, ear, nose and throat specialists in Myanmar can receive proper skills for surgeries, and that can produce good results in the country.

In other countries, an entrance fee to such workshop and demonstration costs US\$ 1500 per head. Now, 20 specialists are attending the workshop and we have saved almost US\$ 30,000, he said.

The cooperation of ear, nose and throat specialists of Myanmar, England and Thailand will certainly benefit Myanmar doctors and people.

Translation AMS

Myanma Alin: 5-2-08



A Specialist from England demonstrates how to use the equipment to conduct surgeries at the workshop on ear, nose and throat surgery and demonstration.

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Indonesian official
warns spread of
bird flu

JAKARTA, 5 Feb— The
spread of bird flu in Jakarta
has been much like the
spread of dengue fever and
tuberculosis which have
been difficult to contain
despite the city’s tough
bylaw on poultry control,
an official has said.
“This disease, this virus,
it’s no simple virus. It’s like
dengue fever or tuber-
culosis which are still
prevalent in this country,”
Bayu Krisnamurti, chief
executive of the National
Commission for Avian
Influenza Control, was
quoted Monday by local
newspaper *The Jakarta Post*
as saying. Dengue fever, a
mosquito borne disease,
claimed 86 lives among
31,682 reported cases in the
Indonesian capital last
year.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Spain’s Goya gives
out film awards

MADRID, 5 Feb—
Spain’s Goya academy
published its list of film
awards Sunday, with “La
Soledad” (Solitude) taking
the trophy for the best
domestic film and
Argentina’s “XXY” re-
ceiving the best Spanish
language foreign film
award.
“La Soledad,” directed by
Barcelona’s Jaime Rosales,
was a surprise winner for
the domestic category,
although it had already won
best director and best
newcomer for actor Jose
Luis Torrijo. It beat more
famous films “El Orfanato”
(The Orphanage), which
had won seven of its 14
possible awards, and “Las
Trece Rosas” (The 13
Roses), which won four of
its 14 possible awards.
“La Soledad” tells a
story of a divorced mother

played by Sonia Almarcha
and a widow played by
Petra Martinez. In the film
the two women want to
put their lives together to
care for their children.
Rosales dedicated his
awards to the children of
cinephiles, “who are the
future of cinema”. He
urged parents to take their
children to the cinema not
just to watch Disney films
but also to watch art films
like Vittorio de Sica’s
“Bicycle Thieves”.
MNA/Xinhua

Two skiers missing
in California after storm

LOS ANGELES, 5 Feb—Rescuers have launched a
search for two skiers believed to have become lost
following a storm at a resort in Northern California,
authorities said Sunday.
The skiers were reported missing Saturday night at
the Alpine Meadows resort just north of Lake Tahoe in
Northern California, said sheriff’s Sergeant Allan Carter.
The two skiers were last seen at a resort bar listening
to advice on skiing in different outlying areas, Carter
said. During the night, the storm dumped up to two feet
of snow in the area.
The authorities said the missing men were expert
skiers aged 32 and 35 respectively but would not
release their names or hometowns.
Carter said rescuers were searching a wide area
because the authorities were unsure where they went.
MNA/Xinhua

China fuel station collapse
kills four, injures 16

NANJING, 5 Feb—Four
people died and 16 were
injured when a snow-
laden fuel pump shelter in
Nanjing suddenly col-
lapsed on Sunday after-
noon, according to local
sources.
The accident took place
around 2:30 pm at the
Sinopec Wujiang fuel
pump station in Pukou
District of Nanjing, the
Jiangsu Province capital,

when one van, one sedan
and six motorbikes were
refuelling.
The station ceiling,
with a floor area of 1,430
square metres, suddenly
gave way to the thick snow
that had accumulated on it
over the past few days.
When it hit the ground, it
engulfed all the vehicles
and people beneath it, said
information from the city
government.

It was not immediately
known whether any
station service workers
were in the accident.
The victims were all
rescued from the debris
and rushed to hospital
immediately. Four later
died from their injuries.
The others were hospi-
talized.
The accident is under
further investigation.
MNA/Xinhua

Military says Sri Lanka
bus blast kills 12

COLOMBO, 5 Feb—At
least a dozen people were
killed in a suspected Tamil
Tiger bomb attack on a
civilian bus in north-east
Sri Lanka on Monday, the
military said. The blast
occurred just hours after
the Armed Forces held a
defiant show of military
prowess in the capital to
mark the country’s 60th
anniversary of indepen-
dence from Britain.
“It was a Tamil Tiger
claymore mine targeting a
civilian bus in Welioya.

Twelve were killed and 17
admitted to hospital,” a
military spokesman said.
Weli-oya is in the north-
eastern district of Polon-
naruwa, about 200 kilo-
metres (120 miles) from
Colombo.
Monday’s blast is the
latest in a series of bomb
attacks blamed on the
Liberation Tigers of Tamil
Eelam (LTTE), the rebel
group fighting to create an
independent state in the
island’s north and east.
Fighting between the

military and the rebels has
intensified since the
government scrapped a
truce agreement last
month, saying the rebels
were using it to rebuild and
re-arm and were not sincere
about talking peace.
Hundreds of people have
been reported killed in
recent weeks and analysts
say both sides tend to
exaggerate enemy losses.
An estimated 70,000
people have died in the
conflict since it began
1983.—*MNA/Reuters*



A lady shows a new-year picture at a rural fair in Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 3 Feb, 2008. People are engaged in purchasing new year goods ahead of the Spring Festival, which falls on 7 Feb this year. —XINHUA

Smoking kills 100,000
people every year in
Turkey

ANKARA, 5 Feb—Turkish Temperance
Association estimated on Tuesday that
nearly 100,000 Turkish people die of
diseases caused by smoking cigarettes
and other forms of tobacco every year,
the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency
reported. Turkey is ranked the fourth in
the world in tobacco consumption, the
association chairman Ahmet Sirri Arvas
said, calling on Turkish people to quit
smoking on the occasion of “Quit
Smoking Day” on 9 Feb.
“Three out of every four people, who
once try smoking, become addicted,”
Arvas said, reminding that smoking and
alcoholic beverages cause several
diseases, mostly cancer.
According to Arvas, Turkish people
spend almost 20 billion US dollars on
smoking and this amount of money
would significantly help heal most of
the patients in the country.—*Internet*

7,000 British
soldiers unfit to
fight on front line

LONDON, 5 Feb—Almost 7,000 British
soldiers are unfit to fight, leaving front-
line troops “dangerously exposed”, *The
Daily Telegraph* reported Monday.
Statistics from the Ministry of Defence
show that one in 14 soldiers is sick or
injured at a time when every regiment of
600 faces a shortfall of 100 men because
of problems with recruitment and the
numbers leaving the Army, the paper
quoted the report as saying.
The seriousness of the shortages faced
by the Army is highlighted in the spring
deployment to Afghanistan.
Troop shortages are so acute that at
least six battalions are being sent to do
the job of four battalions when the next
brigade deploys to Afghanistan this
spring, the report said.
Figures in the report show that the
2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment has
left behind 50 long-term sick troops while
the battalion is fighting in Helmand
Province.
While the 1st Regiment Royal Horse
Artillery had almost 10 per cent of its
388 gunners unfit for duty in Iraq last
year. —*MNA/Xinhua*

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး၊
သစ်ပင်ကို နှစ်စဉ်စိုက်
ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။

Russian ship seized off Somalia

MOSCOW, 5 Feb—A Russian tugboat has been captured by pirates off the coast of Somalia, Russian media reported Sunday.

The ship, *Svitser Korsakov*, had six people on board, two Britons and four Russians, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

“The ship was seized by pirates near Somalia on February 1 at 1:17 pm GMT,” RIA Novosti quoted the Russian Far Eastern Rescue Centre as saying.

The boat, which had been launched only last month in St Petersburg and was intended for use on the Sakhalin II oil and gas project, was en route to the Sakhalin Island in Russia’s Far East through the Malacca Strait.

The pirates were probably running the tugboat toward Mogadishu, Somalia, said RIA Novosti, quoting the Russian Far Eastern Rescue Centre.

The Russian Navy has informed NATO naval forces about the incident.

MNA/Xinhua

Group says 65 journalists killed in world in 2007

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Feb—At least 65 journalists were killed around the world because of their work last year, the highest figure for 13 years, and nearly half of them died in Iraq, a leading media watchdog reported on Monday.

The figure compiled by the Committee to Protect Journalists, or CPJ, in its annual report, “Attacks on the Press,” was one more than that cited by the New York-based group in a 18 December statement and compares with 56 in 2006.

The 2007 toll is one lower than the 66 journalists killed in 1994 but that figure was swollen by the genocide in Rwanda.

Other groups have reported higher figures, with Paris-based Reporters Without Borders saying 86 journalists were killed last year. CPJ says it applies the strictest criteria for the work-related nature of deaths and is still checking 23 cases.

In Iraq, 32 journalists — the same figure as in 2006 — were killed last year, all but one of them Iraqis, as well as 12 media support workers, who include translators, fixers, guards and drivers, CPJ said.

The report called the Iraq war “the deadliest conflict for journalists in recent history,” with 125 journalists and 49 support workers killed since the March 2003 US-led invasion. — MNA/Reuters



“Lucky gourds”, with images of rats painted on, are displayed at the Chinese New Year market in Singapore’s Chinatown on 4 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

China combats price hikes, speculation in severe winter

BEIJING, 5 Feb—A former railway official in China’s central Hunan Province has been prosecuted for collaborating with ticket touts and making undeserved money.

Luo Zhongxing, a former railway station manager in Huaihua City, was suspected of using his power to reserve tickets for illegal scalpers.

A train ticket during the Lunar New Year holiday rush has for years proven a hot commodity in China.

Scalpers, some of whom have special connections within the railway system, often buy up tickets that they re-sell for great profit.

Across China, the worst winter storm in five decades has prompted governments to fight profiteering and maintain market order.

In the worst-hit Hunan Province, the local price bureau on Sunday issued an order demanding restaurants to keep their profit margins within 60 per cent after it received complaints of price increases.

On Friday, the price bureau in the neighbouring Guangdong Province also imposed a ban on profiteering by hotels and inns along the Beijing-Zhuhai Expressway, a key north-south trunk road.

MNA/Xinhua

A man holds a picture of Palestinian suicide bomber Loay al-Lahwani, 20, who blew himself up in southern Israel, in front of his house in Gaza on 4 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



Bird flu kills 103 out of 126 cases in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 5 Feb—A 29-year-old Indonesian woman from Tangerang, an outskirt city of Jakarta, has died on avian influenza and another 38 year-old woman from West Jakarta has been infected by the virus, putting the total death to 103 out of 126 contracted people, Health Ministry said here Monday.

All of their laboratory tests showed that all the women were positively infected by the lethal disease, said Lili Sriwahyuni Sulistyowati, head of information centre of the ministry.

“All their laboratories tests were positive on Sunday afternoon,” she said.

All of them had historical contact with fowls, said Sulistayowti. — MNA/Xinhua

Stampede leaves one dead in Guangzhou Railway Station

BEIJING, 5 Feb—A stampede in Guangzhou Railway Station of south China’s Guangdong Province has left one passenger dead as stranded passengers rushed to board trains after days of waiting. The Guangzhou police authority confirmed the death of Li Hongxia, a Guangzhou watch factory worker from Hubei Province, despite emer-

gency treatment on the early morning of Saturday.

Qi Xiaolin, deputy head of the Public Security Bureau of Guangzhou told a Press conference late Saturday night that this is the first such case in Guangdong Province during the current Spring Festival transport period.

This is the second reported death that happened in an

overcrowded railway station. On 13 January, Leng Jing, a student from the Anhui Normal University, was killed after being shoved off an overcrowded platform in a railway station in Wuhu, Anhui Province.

The head of the station, a deputy head and platform worker were sacked after the accident.

MNA/Xinhua

Spoonful of sugar eases babies’ vaccination pain

NEW YORK, 6 Feb— Giving infants a small dose of a sugar solution just before they get injections seems to make the pain more tolerable, a study shows.

“Administration of two millilitres of a 24-per-cent oral sucrose solution two minutes before routine

immunizations is effective in decreasing maximum immunization pain and shortens the time before returning to a near normal state in infants at two and four months of age,” the research team reports in the medical journal *Pediatrics*.

Dr Linda A Hatfield, at

the Pennsylvania State University School of Nursing in University Park, and her associates gave the sugar solution to 38 infants and plain water to 45 infants before they were to get a series of injections.

The first, second and third injections were administered at two minutes, five minutes, and seven minutes after the solutions were given.

To assess the babies’ experience of pain, the investigators used a validated composite pain scale that measures crying, facial expression, behaviour, body movement, and sleep. The scale goes from 0 to 5, with higher scores representing greater pain. Pain was assessed immediately after each injection, and at nine minutes.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Sebastian Blanco (L), Maximiliano Velazquez (C) and Agustin Pelletieri of Argentina's Lanus celebrate their team's third goal against Ecuador's Olmedo in the first stage of the Copa Libertadores soccer match in Buenos Aires, on 5 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

CAF deny Drogba, Kanoute award allegations

ACCRA, 6 Feb — African soccer's governing body has denied telling Didier Drogba and Frederic Kanoute that they had to attend last week's African Footballer of the Year award ceremony to have a chance of winning.

Chelsea's Ivory Coast striker Drogba opted not to travel to Togo and Mali's Kanoute, who did go, was declared the winner on Friday.

Drogba said afterwards that a Confederation of African Football official had warned him that the award would be given to Sevilla striker Kanoute if he did not go to Lome.

However CAF chief communications director Suleiman Habuba rejected that version of events.

"CAF have never called Didier Drogba or Frederic Kanoute to tell them that if they did not attend the ceremony they would not get the award," he told Reuters on Tuesday.

"However, I met Frederic Kanoute because I wanted to tell him that it was very important that he came to the ceremony in Lome," he added.

"I did that following the comment made by his coach (that he would not be allowed to go if Mali had qualified). Kanoute said that he had commitments with his club, but I assured him that everything would be done for a quick trip."—MNA/Reuters

Gerrard to captain England against Switzerland

LONDON COLNEY (England), 6 Feb — Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard will captain England in Wednesday's friendly against Switzerland, the team's first match under new Italian coach Fabio Capello.

Gerrard leads the side at Wembley in the absence of injured defender John Terry who was the regular captain under former manager Steve McClaren.

Capello told a news conference on Tuesday: "I will not name a permanent captain until we start the World Cup qualifiers against Andorra in September.

"But Steven Gerrard will be captain against Switzerland. He is the captain of Liverpool and has authority. He is important because he can transmit things and pass on things and inspire players on the pitch."

The honour comes as Gerrard was named as the England fans' Player of the Year for 2007.

Gerrard won the award from 42 candidates, polling 22 per cent of the votes. Manchester City defender Micah Richards finished second in the poll.

Gerrard also captained his country at the start of last year against Spain and skippered the side five times in the 11 matches he played for England last year.

Capello said he had been hugely impressed by the attitude of the players in the squad after his opening three training sessions with them.

"We have only just started working together and our objective is to form a group that will gel together before our match against Andorra.

MNA/Reuters



France's Amelie Mauresmo serves to US' Juli Ditty during their French Open Gaz de France tournament first round tennis match, in Paris on 5 Feb, 2008, Mauresmo won 6-1, 6-2.—INTERNET



Matian Fritzler (L) of Argentina's Lanus and Freddy Samaniego of Ecuador's Olmedo jump for a header during their first stage Copa Libertadores soccer match in Buenos Aires, on 5 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Benjani completes move to Manchester City

LONDON, 6 Feb — Manchester City have completed the signing of Portsmouth striker Benjani Mwaruwari for 3.87 million pounds (7.64 million US dollars), the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

The Zimbabwe striker passed a medical on Monday and has signed a 2-1/2-year contract.

City failed to clinch the signing of Benjani on transfer deadline day last Thursday when Portsmouth spent around nine million pounds on Tottenham Hotspur striker Jermain Defoe.

However, the Premier League have approved the deal which will rise to around seven million pounds if Benjani, Portsmouth's top scorer this season, starts 75 matches for City.

"I would like to thank Portsmouth Football Club, the Premier League and the Football Association for their help, understanding and assistance in enabling this transfer to be completed to the satisfaction of all concerned," City's chief executive Alistair Mackintosh told the club's Web site (www.mfc.co.uk).

Benjani could make his debut for City against champions Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

"I am delighted that we have signed such a quality player, and I am looking forward to working with him straight away," City manager Sven-Goran Eriksson said.

MNA/Reuters

Serbian FA Vice-President arrested

BELGRADEM, 6 Feb — Serbian Football Association (FSS) vice-president Dragan Dzajic and two other former Red Star Belgrade officials were arrested on Tuesday for alleged fraud and abuse of power.

Police said Dzajic, a former president of Serbian champions Red Star, was detained along with the club's former director of operations Vladimir Cvetkovic and secretary Milos Marinkovic.

"The three long-serving former Red Star officials have been arrested under suspicion that they have abused their positions and forged identification documents," a police statement said.

"In the period between 4 July 2001 and 15 March 2002, the three Red Star officials concluded a deal stipulating the club was to get 27 million German marks from the transfer of its player Goran Drulic to (Spanish club) Real Zaragoza," it said.

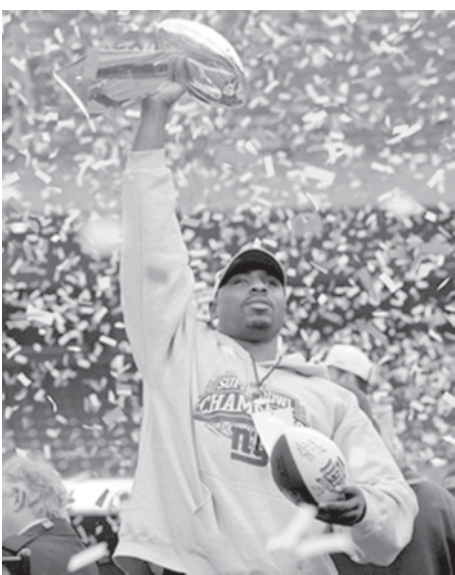
"They had forged documents to falsely show that Drulic was to receive 18 million German marks from the transfer.

"They then opened a bank account to Drulic's name without his knowledge and transferred the Spanish club's payment for the player in the amount of 6,127,104.24 euros (9.08 millionUS dollars) to Red Star's account.

"After doing that, they made several withdrawals by using Drulic's fake signature they had forged to make illegal profit for themselves."

Dzajic's lawyer Sveta Vujacic said the 62-year-old former Yugoslavia winger had been taken to the investigative judge for questioning and called his arrest "a disgrace for Serbia".

MNA/Reuters



New York Giants' Brandon Jacobs holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy at a celebration rally at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The New York Giants beat the New England Patriots 17-14 in Super Bowl XLII.—INTERNET

Malaysia call on Rush to solve striking woes

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Feb — Malaysian soccer chiefs are hoping to inject some Anfield magic into their forward line after recruiting Liverpool great Ian Rush to help solve the country's goalscoring problems.

The country's soccer federation is planning an upheaval of its national team after their embarrassing performance as co-hosts of last year's Asian Cup.

Malaysia suffered humiliating defeats in all three of their group matches and scored only one goal.

As part of the revamp, national team coach B. Sathianathan will spend three weeks with English Premier League champions Manchester United, working alongside former Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz, Alex Ferguson's number two. —MNA/Reuters

US abandons embassy in Chad

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — The United States has evacuated its embassy in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, due to the worsening situation in the central African country, the State Department said Monday.

“All the embassy staff has been moved out of the airport,” State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters. “We are working very closely with the French Government. Their flights have been coming and going and a number of American citizens, including the embassy personnel, have flown these flights,” he said.

“We are continuing to be in contact with other American citizens who are not at the airport and we are still talking to some of them who would like to come to the airport and transit out. “

The US Embassy, situated at downtown in N'Djamena, was reportedly hit by indirect fire during weekend clashes.

Following the eva-

cuation of all US staff members in the embassy, McCormack warned Chad's rebels not to enter the compound, which remains sovereign US territory.

“We plan to make it very clear that it is US Government territorial soil and that the embassy compound, if it has been entered, should immediately be exited and

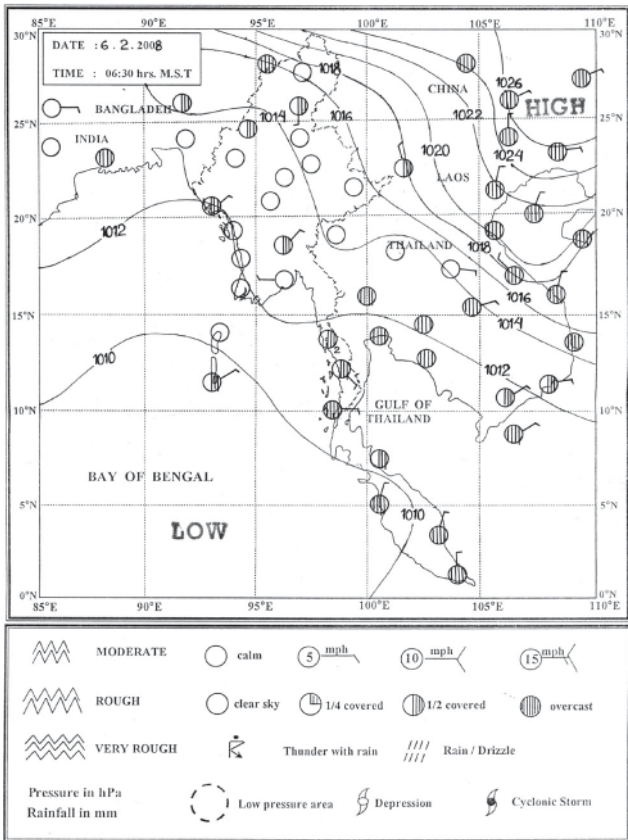
certainly they should not attempt to enter the chancery or the embassy,” he said.

The heavy fighting broke out last Friday near N'Djamena between government security forces and some 2,000 armed rebels.

Thousands of civilians fled N'Djamena on Monday after armed rebels pulled back from the city, following two days of fierce fighting in an attempt to overthrow President Idriss Deby.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 6 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers has been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperatures in Chin, Eastern Shan and Kayin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) below February average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above February average temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (0°C), Namhsam (1°C), Haka (3°C), Lashio, Pinlaung and Pyin Oo Lwin (4°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Dawei (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 5-2-2008 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 6-2-2008 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-2-2008 was 59%. Total sunshine hours on 5-2-2008 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 6-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (3) mph from West at (18:30) hours MST on 5-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%)

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 Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-2-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-2-2008: Fair weather.

Pirates seize Russians, British captain off Somalia

MOSCOW, 6 Feb — Pirates in Somalia have captured the Russian crew and British captain of a ship sailing off the Horn of Africa, a spokesman for the vessel's owner said on Monday.

Four Russian crew members, an Irish chief engineer and a British captain were aboard the *Svitzer Korsakov*, an Ice-

class tug vessel, when it was seized on Friday as it was making its way to Russia's Pacific Coast.

“We have been in contact with the master (of the ship), and subsequently also with the pirates,” said Patrick Adamson, a spokesman for Svitzer, the Danish firm that owns the ship.

“What we have heard

is that they are unharmed, they have got food, water and are getting some sleep. Morale is good,” he said by telephone from London.

Adamson declined to comment on whether the pirates had made any demands. “Discretion will be of the utmost importance to the safety of the crew,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

Israeli airstrike kills 6 in southern Gaza

GAZA, 6 Feb— Six Palestinians were killed and five others wounded on Tuesday afternoon in an Israeli airstrike at a base that belongs to Hamas' police forces in southern Gaza Strip, medics said.

Mo'aweya Hassanein, chief of Emergency and Ambulance Service in the Health Ministry of the deposed Hamas

government, confirmed it on the telephone and added that all casualties were taken to Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis.

Crowds at the hospital chanted for revenge, he said.

Palestinian witnesses said that Israeli warplanes fired two air-to-ground

rockets into the Hamas base in the town of Bani Suheila, east of Khan Younis.

The witnesses said the rockets had completely destroyed the base, adding that rescue teams managed to pick up the bodies of six Hamas police officers and pull out those injured.

MNA/Xinhua



Thursday, 7 February
View on today

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. Dance of national races

8:05 am
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am
7. Dance variety

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Let's Go

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use

4:40 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့ ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရှုကွေ့အထူးပြု) (ရှုကွေ့အထူးပြု)

4:50 pm
5. Cute little of dancer

5:30 pm
6. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်အတွက် မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်ထူးချွန်ဆုပေးပွဲ အခမ်းအနားကျင်းပပုံ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ်

8:00 pm
7. News

8:00 pm
8. International news

8:00 pm
9. Weather report

10:၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်အတွက် မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်ထူးချွန်ဆုပေးပွဲ အခမ်းအနားကျင်းပပုံ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ်

11. The next day's programme

People's Desire

- ★ **We favour stability.**
- ★ **We favour peace.**
- ★ **We oppose unrest and violence.**

5th Leprosy Elimination Day observed



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivers an address at the ceremony to mark the 5th Leprosy Elimination Day. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — A ceremony to mark the 5th Leprosy Elimination Day was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the Ministry of Health designated the motto "Sustain Leprosy Control Activities: Let's continue our efforts" for this year's 5th Leprosy Elimination Day. Some patients recover from leprosy after receiving the treatment of MDT, however some disabilities may remain in their body. Therefore, he said, measures are being taken for prevention against disabilities, rehabilitation of disabled persons, dissemination of health knowledge to the patients for taking self care and providing of suitable training courses in 20 townships of eight states and divisions. Furthermore, the plan is under way to carry out rehabilitation work in 20 more townships every year.

The minister said that efforts are being made for implementation of the appropriate plans for solving

health, social and economic difficulties of the former patients as much as possible. Concerning health, statistics, the minister said that recently, UNICEF issued a report entitled State of the World Children. The report stated that the child mortality rate of under-five children in Myanmar was 104 out of 1,000 in 2007. Some newspapers in the world reported that Health and Nutrition Section Chief Dr Osamu Kunii of UNICEF in Myanmar said that Myanmar is standing at the second position in the child mortality rate after Afghanistan in Asia. Dr Osamu Kunii sent a letter of apology to the Ministry of Health saying that some newspapers had wrongly stated some points regarding the annual report released by UNICEF, and misquoted the words he had not spoken. So, he said, he was sorry for the misunderstanding if that had adverse effects on the hard work of the Ministry of Health and the government.

Indeed, there were discrepancies in the figures for 2007 issued by UNICEF and WHO (SEARO).

(See page 10)

Dr Osamu Kunii sent a letter of apology to the Ministry of Health saying that some newspapers had wrongly stated some points regarding the annual report released by UNICEF, and misquoted the words he had not spoken.

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Article

Union of Myanmar will enjoy peace and development through solidarity of national races

The Union Day reflects the consolidated unity and cohesion of national races of Myanmar as well as the prestige of national brethren living in the Union.



Kayah State which has developed significantly in the time of Tatmadaw Government



POEM

Love the Union

* Love the Union
National races are relatives
Too close with so much amity
Only we love our land
No alien can

CARTOON

