

To enable the motherland to stand tall in global society



All the national people are to come together hand in hand to ward off dissension, instigation and inducement, which are the deliberate attempts of the neo-colonialists who have every intention of disintegrating the Union by weakening it. The onus is therefore on the national people to ensure the perpetual existence of the country the same as that of the world and to enable the motherland to stand tall in the global society.

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)

Announcement Nos 1/2008 and 2/2008 issued

Approval of the Constitution draft will be sought in a National Referendum to be held in May 2008

In accordance with the forthcoming State Constitution, the multi-party democracy general elections will be held in 2010

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—*The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued Announcement Nos 1/2008 and 2/2008 yesterday. The following is the full text of the announcements—*

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
(Announcement No 1/2008)
3rd Waxing of Tabodwe, 1369 ME
(9th February 2008)

1. As a new Constitution is required to bring about multi-party democracy aspired by the people in the nation, the National Convention was convened in 1993. Due to various reasons, it was temporarily adjourned in 1996. Then, it was reconvened in 2004 and successfully completed in 2007.
2. The National Convention was participated by over 1,000 delegates of eight delegate groups such as Delegate Group of Political Parties, Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, Delegate Group of Peasants, Delegate Group of Workers, Delegate Group of State Service Personnel, Delegate Group of National Races, Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, and Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.
3. The delegates included those from every township representing over 100 national races residing in the nation. Likewise, representatives of national race armed groups which had returned to the legal fold were permitted to take part in the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.
4. The National Convention has unanimously adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for drafting a new Constitution. Now, the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution which was assigned duties under Announcement No 2/2007 by the State Peace and Development Council has been drafting the new Constitution in accordance with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention and it is to be completed soon.
5. Hence, in accordance with the fourth step of the seven-step Road Map, the approval of the Constitution draft will be sought in a National Referendum to be held in May 2008.

By order,
Sd/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myin Oo
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
(Announcement No 2/2008)
3rd Waxing of Tabodwe, 1369 ME
(9th February 2008)

1. The Tatmadaw Government had to unavoidably take over State responsibilities due to the unrest and disturbances in 1988.
2. Since then, it restored community peace and tranquillity as well as the rule of law while enabling the people to earn livelihood freely and peacefully.
3. For development of agricultural sector in view of bringing about economic development of the nation and the people, clusters of dams and reservoirs were built; river water pumping projects and underground water tapping projects were implemented; all-round efforts were made to ensure food sufficiency for the entire people; and conventional farming is being transformed into mechanized farming.
4. Moreover, the State has established heavy industries and encouraged private-owned industries by setting up industrial zones in order to transform the agricultural country into an industrialized one.
5. To bring about market-oriented economic system as aspired by the people, efforts have been made hand in hand with the people for development of internal and external trade.
6. Border areas and national races development projects were implemented for ensuring region-wise development in the country while infrastructures were built for better transportation to overcome natural barriers in order that national people will make closer contacts in amity.
7. To narrow down the gap in human resource development as much as possible in the nation, 24 special development regions were designated and universities, institutions and schools were opened. Similarly, to uplift health and fitness of the entire people, specialist hospitals, hospitals and rural hospitals were constructed and upgraded.
8. Although such endeavours to build up good foundations for the nation and the national people have not completed yet, required basic foundations have already been constructed.
9. As such necessary good foundations have been established, it is most appropriate to transform the administration of Tatmadaw into democratic administration of the people. Thus, in accordance with the forthcoming State Constitution, the multi-party democracy general elections will be held in 2010.

By order,
Sd/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 11 February, 2008

Extend cultivation of marketable seasonal crops

Vegetables and fruit produced in Myanmar are very popular in foreign markets because of less content of chemical agents. Cultivation of vegetables and fruit with the use of modern agricultural techniques not only satisfies local consumption but also promotes export.

About 100 kinds of vegetables, kitchen crops and flowers and over 70 kinds of fruit are grown in favourable conditions in Kachin State, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions.

Crops such as beans and green gram, onion and vegetables such as mustard, cabbage, tomatoes and carrots are grown in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and its environs. Various kinds of flowers from Yamethin and nearby villages and plums from Meiktila region are sold well.

Sunflower, an edible oil crop and green pea are grown together with beans and pulses in Kayan and Thongwa Townships as their harvest time is nearly the same. Other oil crop niger is grown a lot in Taunggyi, Hopong, Hsihseng, Kalaw, Aungban, Pinlaung, Pindaya, Ywangan, Loilem and Langkho in southern Shan State. As the amount of consumption of niger oil has increased in the region, extended cultivation of the crop is being undertaken instead of groundnut, sesamum and oil palm.

Mandalay region and Aungban, Taunggyi, Kalaw, Pyin Oo Lwin, Kyaukme, Nawnghkio, Hsipaw and Lashio regions in Shan State are chilli cultivation areas. Now efforts are being made for export of quality chilli beginning March, the chilli cultivation season.

Agricultural companies and farmers need to utilize modern methods in cultivation of vegetables and fruit and extend the sown acreage of crops so that their income will surely increase.

Fireworks display in HK celebrates Year of Rat

HONG KONG, 10 Feb—Tens of thousands of people in Hong Kong watched here Friday evening a resplendent fireworks display to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year, of the Year of the Rat.

Starting 8.00 pm in Vietories Harbor, one of the world's most famous barbors, the display lasted for 23 minutes and 25 seconds. A total of 40,000 firing shells were discharged in the display from four barges in the extravaganza consisting of 10 scenes.

The opening scene, packed with colorful displays of festive celebration, symbolized a prosperous year ahead. The fifth scene lighted up the sky with the Chinese characters for "Beijing" and "2008", and the seventh scene celebrated the hosting of the Olympic equestrian events in Hong Kong. In the 10th scene, at which the fireworks display reaches its climax, fast and rhythmic firing of shells created a stunning visual impact.—MNA/Xinhua

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

Foreign Minister felicitates Iranian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—On the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2008, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to HE Mr Manucher Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.—MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 10 Feb— A Myanmar delegation comprising Chairman Dr Win Sithu of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association, Secretary U Zaw Moe Khine, Joint-Secretary Dr Thin Nwe Win, CEC member Dr Myo Thant, executives U Khin Maung Aye, U Pyae Sone Aung and U Hla Htay left for India this afternoon to attend the India-ASEAN Pharmaceuticals Meeting, organized by Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India

Dr Zaw Tun Aye. The Myanmar delegation will meet with pharmaceutical entrepreneurs from India



Myanmar delegation seen at the airport before their departure for India.

H

(Pharmexcil) in Hyderabad of India.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by CEC members Dr Saw Mya Aung and

and ASEAN countries and discuss matters on import of quality pharmaceuticals and promotion of trade volume.

H

Three killed, 36 wounded in car crash

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Shwetaga express with number plate 1 Ka/6906 driven by Aung Win, 40, son of U Han of Zaypaing Ward, Kyauktaga Township in Bago Division heading for Yangon and a Nissan ten-wheeled truck with plate number plate 9 Kha/4408 on its way from Yangon to Toungoo collided head-on near Kaukyway Village in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Division at about 5.30 am yesterday.

One male passenger and two females died on the spot and 17 males and 19 females were wounded in the accident. Medical treatment and necessary assistance were provided to the injured.

MNA

Commander inspects preventive measures against DHF in Thakayta

YANGON, 10 Feb —Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected educative talks, preventive measures against dengue fever, spraying of insecticide and sanitation carried out by departmental personnel, social organization members and local people along Manpyay road in Manpyay ward, from Thalawady 1st to 6th streets in ward-14 and Pyidawnyunt street in Thakayta Township yesterday morning.

Next, the commander proceeded to Shwe Sanpya fresh water prawn breeding farm of Yangon Command in Mingaladon Township and looked into production process of the farm. — MNA

ASEAN Youth Performance Award winner arrives back

YANGON, 10 Feb — Daw Cho Thiri Maung, CEC member of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, attended the ASEAN Youth Meeting and ASEAN Youth Performance Award Presentation Ceremony held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, from 5 to 8 February.

She accepted the ASEAN Youth Performance Award presented by Secretary-General of Lao Youth Union Mr Khamphan Sithidampha on 7 February and arrived back Myanmar by air on 8 February.—MNA



Daw Cho Thiri Maung accepts ASEAN Youth Performance Award presented by Secretary-General Mr Khamphan Sithidampha of Lao Youth Union. MWEA

Obama wins two contests, Huckabee takes Kansas

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — Barack Obama won Democratic presidential contests in Nebraska and Washington state on Saturday, striking blows in a bruising back-and-forth battle with Hillary Clinton for the party's nomination.

Nebraska and Washington, with a combined 102 delegates at stake, were the latest battlegrounds in a deadlocked race between Obama and Clinton where every delegate to this summer's nominating convention has become

crucial. Louisiana Democrats also voted.

Among Republicans, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee easily won the presidential contest in Kansas, showing signs of life in a nominating race front-runner John McCain has nearly sewed up.

Huckabee, whose campaign has made inroads with social and religious conservatives, captured about 60 per cent of the vote in Kansas, more than double McCain's total.

Louisiana and Washington also voted on Saturday in the Republican race to choose a candidate in November's presidential election, and Huckabee and McCain were running close in early returns in both. —MNA/Reuters



A man walks over a snow covered park on the outskirts of Srinagar, India, on 9 Feb, 2008. Avalanches killed at least 14 people, 12 from just two families, and forced hundreds more to leave their snowbound villages in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir, officials said.—INTERNET

Fire erupts in N London market with no injuries



A fire spreads through Camden Lock and market area in London on 9 Feb, 2008. —XINHUA

LONDON, 9 Feb — Hazardous response teams were sent to battle a major fire broke out in Camden Town market, northern London, on Saturday evening, with no injuries reported. The flames, which is said to have leapt up to over 10 metres in the air, started at about 19:20 local time in Camden Market, one of the biggest tourist attraction in London.

Up to 100 firefighters and 25 fire engines were sent there for the fire fight, which lasted about three hours.

There are no reports of casualties so far but London Fire Brigade said earlier people were reported trapped in the fire.

Police sealed off roads near the blaze and some houses and flats are being evacuated.

Hawley Arms, a popular Camden pub which is frequented by celebrities was damaged by the fire.

London Ambulance Service said it has ambulances and a hazardous response team at the sence.

Explosion were heard when the fire started but the cause of the fire was not yet clear.—Internet

Waterboarding should be prosecuted as torture

MEXICO CITY, 10 Feb — The controversial interrogation technique known as waterboarding and used by the United States qualifies as torture, the UN human rights chief said on Friday.

“I would have no problems with describing

this practice as falling under the prohibition of torture,” the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, told a news conference in Mexico City.

Arbour made her comment in response to a question about whether

US officials could be tried for the use of waterboarding that referred to CIA director Michael Hayden telling Congress on Tuesday his agency had used waterboarding on three detainees captured after the 11 September attacks.

Violators of the UN Convention against Torture should be prosecuted under the principle of ‘universal jurisdiction’ which allows countries to try accused war criminals from other nations, Arbour said.

“There are several precedents worldwide of states exercising their universal jurisdiction...to enforce the torture convention and we can only hope that we will see more and more of these avenues of redress,” Arbour said.

MNA/Reuters



An Israeli Arab woman holds up a photograph during a demonstration against Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip in the northern Israeli Arab town of Nazareth on 9 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



Pakistani policemen inspect the suicide attack site in Charsadda. A suicide bomber killed 20 people at an opposition rally in Pakistan on 9 Feb, 2008. INTERNET

Suspected suicide blast kills 20 at Pakistan election rally

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), 10 Feb — A suspected suicide blast ripped through an opposition election rally in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 25, officials said.

The attack happened at a rally of the Awami National Party (ANP), an ethnic Pashtun nationalist party, in the town of

Charsadda in troubled North West Frontier Province, they said.

The bombing has further raised fears for the security of general elections on 18 February, which have already been delayed by the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto at a rally in December.

“According to initial

reports, 20 people were killed and 25 were injured. One of the injured told me in hospital that it was a suicide attack but I cannot confirm it officially,” provincial health minister Syed Kamal Shah told AFP. Interior Minister Hamid Nawaz said the attack was likely carried out by a suicide bomber.

Internet

Putin warns of new worldwide arms race

Moscow, 9 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin said here Friday that the world is facing a new arms race, *RIA* news agency reported. “A new round of the arms race is developing in the world,” said Putin,

who chaired a meeting of the consultative State Council on Friday to outline the concept of strategic long-term development of the country up to the Year 2020. “Unfortunately, this

does not depend on us. It is not our country that started it,” said the President, who will step down after eight years in office following the 2 March presidential elections.

Putin said the developed countries, relying on their technological superiority, are channeling billions of dollars into the designing of the next generation of defensive and offensive weapon systems.

“Their allocations in the defence sector exceeded Russia’s allocations dozens of times,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

University students in Beijing get stipends, part-time jobs

BEIJING 9 Feb — During China’s Spring Festival holiday, which runs from 6 February to 12 this year, about 12,000 university students in Beijing will not return home for various reasons, and they will get government subsidies and part-time jobs, local media reported.

About 300 students were stranded by the bad weather in their hometowns, and they have priority on the government’s assistance list.

About 2.3 million yuan (about 328,571 US dollars) in subsidies were extended by the city government to the stay-behinds, twice the money given last year. Also, 1,200 part-time paid jobs

were offered.

In addition, universities provided services to these students, such as holding parties and opening libraries and gyms for them.

MNA/Xinhua

Six dead in Missouri city hall shootings

KIRKWOOD (Missouri), 8 Feb — A gunman killed two police officers and three city officials on Thursday night when he stormed into a city council meeting in a suburb of St Louis, police said.

The gunman, who was later shot dead by police, killed one police officer in the parking lot outside City Hall in Kirkwood and another inside the building. He rushed into the council meeting and began shooting people, including council officials and Mayor Mike Swoboda, who suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was in critical condition, police said.

“He shot three other people who were attending the council

meeting. They also are deceased,” the St Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper quoted Officer Tracy Panus as saying. Two of

the dead were council members and the other was an engineer, police said.

MNA/Reuters



Crime scene tape is removed from around Kirkwood City Hall by a Manchester police officer (left) and another unidentified man on 8 Feb, 2008, in Kirkwood, Mo. A gunman opened fire at a meeting of the Kirkwood City Council in suburban St Louis on Thursday night, killing five people before being shot and killed by police. — INTERNET



This undated handout photo received from the Government Pharmaceutical Organization in Bangkok in 2007 shows a Thai pharmaceutical worker checking the quality of anti-AIDS medicines during production. — INTERNET

Five US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Feb — Five US soldiers were killed in attacks in Iraq on Friday, the US military said on Saturday.

Four of the soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol northwest of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. The other soldier was killed by an explosion near his vehicle during an operation in northern Iraq, it said. Thirteen US soldiers have been killed in Iraq this month, according to *icasualties.org*, an independent website that tracks military deaths in the country. — MNA/Reuters

Two killed in gas explosion in S Russia

MOSCOW, 10 Feb — A gas explosion killed two people at an apartment building in southern Russia’s Krasnodar region early Friday, *RIA* news agency reported. Rescuers recovered the body of a 20-year-old man at 10:20 am local time (0720 GMT), three hours after the body of a 61-year-old woman was pulled out from the debris, *RIA* cited a local emergencies official as saying.

Death toll could continue to rise as eyewitnesses claimed that another woman could have been in the building at the time of the blast. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan legislator dies of motor accident

COLOMBO, 10 Feb — Sri Lankan legislator Sripathi Sooriyarachchi who led a revolt against President Mahinda Rajapakse in early 2007 died of a motor accident on Saturday, police said.

The jeep he was travelling hit a tree near Tambuttegama, about 177 kilometres north of Colombo in the North Central Province at about 1:15 pm local time (0745 GMT).

Two of his security personnel died on the spot while Sooriyarachchi died on the way to the hospital, officials from the Tambuttegama hospital said.

MNA/Xinhua

Journalist shot dead in S-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 Feb — An unidentified gunman on Saturday shot dead a journalist in southwest Pakistan, the News Network International (NNI) news agency reported.

The NNI quoted police officer Muhammad Akbar as saying that Dr Chishti Mujahid was ambushed by a single assassin as he came out of his residence and was sitting in his car in Quetta, capital city of Balochistan Province. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident so far and the motives behind the killing were not clear.

MNA/Xinhua

China discovers five major gold mines in 2007

BEIJING, 10 Feb — The China Geological Survey Bureau (CGS) announced on Friday that in 2007 the country's gold prospecting efforts made a series of significant findings, with five major gold mines discovered.

The CGS said that the five mines include the copper-gold mine in Gandise of Tibet Autonomous Region, the Dachang gold mine in Qinghai Province, the

Yangshan gold mine in southern Gansu Province, the Sizhuang gold mine in Shandong Province and the Baolun gold mine in Hainan Province.

In addition, a number of gold deposits have been found on the peripheries of some lead and zinc mines.

The five mines boast a combined gold reserve of some 600 tons, and there is still great potential for further prospecting, the

CGS said.

The Shandong peninsular in east China is one of the country's most important gold producers, with a proved gold reserve of over 1,000 tons so far.

In 2007, China overtook the United States to become the world's second largest gold producer with an output of 270.491 tons, only next to South Africa, which produced 272 tons of gold in 2007.—MNA/Xinhua



Participants dressed up as Norman Warriors take part in an event to re-enact the 1066 Battle of Hastings at Battle Abbey, East Sussex in 2006. The Duke of Wellington's descendants could be forgiven for wanting to put the boot in after blundering mapmakers said he led the 1066 invasion of England, newspapers reported on 9 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Poland, Russia agree to differ on gas pipeline

Moscow, 10 Feb — Poland and Russia agreed to differ on Friday over a disputed Russian gas pipeline project, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on a visit designed to heal rifts between the two countries.

Tusk's talks with

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov hit an early hitch when a reporter accompanying him was briefly detained by Russian security officials.

Ties between Russia and Poland have never been cordial and hit a low

over the last two years because of disputes over energy, trade and a US plan to station elements of its proposed missile defence shield on Polish soil.

Tusk wants Russia to drop a plan to build the Nord Stream gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea to Germany, bypassing Poland. He is proposing an overland route through Poland instead.

"We have amicably agreed that our points of view on this issue are different," Tusk told reporters after meeting Zubkov.

"But at same time we agreed that Polish-Russian gas cooperation has been solid and both sides will ensure future gas policy will be beneficial for both Poland and Russia."

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia to revise down economic growth target

JAKARTA, 10 Feb — The government of Indonesia plans to revise the economic growth target down from 6.8 per cent stated in the 2008 state budget amid soaring global prices for oil and staple food commodities, local English newspaper the

Jakarta Post reported on Saturday. "A downward revision is a must, but we will consider all the plus and minus factors," Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said on Friday. However, she declined to give an exact figure for the new forecast.

On Monday, the central bank of Indonesia said the country's economy would grow between 6.2 per cent

and 6.8 per cent this year.

Mulyani said the latest forecast on the country's macroeconomic fundamentals showed mounting inflationary pressure as domestic consumption continued to suffer from global price increases.

"The rising price of staple foodstuffs will hurt the people's purchasing power," she said.

MNA/Xinhua



Living statues : Performers dressed as bronze statues in old Chinese dress walk through a street fair on the second day of the Chinese New Year holiday in Beijing. — INTERNET

Nigeria approves new rules for natural gas

LAGOS, 9 Feb — Nigeria's President Umaru Yar'Adua has approved a new gas policy and gas pricing regime designed to raise domestic supply for power generation and industry, the presidency said on Thursday.

The OPEC member has the seventh largest proven reserves of gas in the world, at about 180 trillion cubic feet, but low prices and a lack of regulations have prevented any investment in domestic gas-powered industries. Redirecting natural gas from export to power is key to giving more Nigerians access to electricity. Lack of power is one of the main obstacles to growth cited by investors, and a major source of popular dissatisfaction with the government.

At present, Nigeria

exports about three billion cubic feet (bcf) per day, flares about 2.5 bcf due to lack of facilities to use it, and supplies only 0.5 bcf to the domestic power sector.—MNA/Reuters

Japanese, US financial leaders talk over global eco

TOKYO, 10 Feb — Japanese Finance Minister Fukushiro Nukaga and US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson talked over global economy and agreed to work together closely on Saturday in Tokyo before a meeting of Group of Seven financial leaders.

Nukaga and Paulson "had a frank exchange of views on such topics as the global economy, the US and the Japanese economies, financial markets and climate change," Japan's Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The two financial chiefs agreed to continue to cooperate closely and to keep a good working relation, said the statement.

The finance ministers and central bank governors from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States are gathering in Tokyo for a one-day meeting, with a focus on measures to ease the current financial market turmoil stemming from the US subprime crisis. —MNA/Xinhua



Painted dancer : A dancer of the "comparsa" C1080 shows off her make-up for her performance in the Llamadas, part of the carnival festivities that originated from the Afro-Uruguayan community and unites dancers, drummers and spectators for a parade in Montevideo.—INTERNET

Two-storey ward for 200-bed...

(from page 16)

Beginning 2003, medical students from third year to final part 2 are studying at the hospital. House surgeons are being trained at the hospital beginning 2006.

There are operation theatre, obstetrics and genealogy unit and child ward in the hospital. Specialists are giving treatment to patients.

Construction of new ward started on 30 March 2006 and completed at the end of 2007. The ward was built at a cost of K 378.02 million by Myanma Industrial Construction Services of the Ministry of Industry-2.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe attended a ceremony to distribute traditional medical boxes for villages at the city hall in Magway.

They presented the medical boxes for villages in Minbu, Yenangyoung, Chauk and Pwintphyu Townships in Magway Division and Pakokku District to officials.—MNA

Union Day ceremony to be telecast live

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) will telecast live a ceremony of the 61st Anniversary Union Day, which falls on 12 February, to be held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, starting from 7 am on that day. — MNA

USDA holds coord meeting on youth affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The Union Solidarity and Development Association held a coordination meeting on youth affairs at Nay Pyi Taw this morning with an opening address by USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo.

Secretariat Member (Youth Affairs In-charge) U Thein Zaw, CEC members U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Swe and Dr Chan Nyein gave necessary instructions on youth affairs.

Those in charge from States and Divisions gave accounts of youth affairs activities.

First, the Sagaing Division youth affairs in-charge reported on Moeyan Hma Kyai tour-2 of Naga Hills for the development of the region and the secretaries of Kachin State and Shan State (North), matters related to tours which will be organized coming summer.

The Secretary-General, the Youth Affairs In-charge and CEC members attended to the needs and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Secretary-General U Htay Oo. — MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses coord meeting on youth affairs. — MNA

False thinking does not arrive at essential

Viewing the non-essential as the essential and the essential as the non-essential they, nourished on false thinking, do not arrive at the essential.

Dhammapada 11

Commander, Minister attend opening of paddy-husk fired power station



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint visit Kamarmat model village BEHS in Kayan Township.— MNA

YANGON, 10 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day, opening ceremonies of Kamarmat model village, paddy-husk fired power station and new school building were held at Kayan Township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.

First, the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the village. Next, the opening of paddy husk-fired power station was held and Deputy Chief Engineer of Yangon City Power Supply Board U Khin Maung Win briefed on construction of the power station and power supply.

Next, the commander formally unveiled the

signboard of the power station and the minister inspected round it. Next, they attended the ceremony to open the new school building in Kamarmat model village. Afterwards, the commander and the minister accepted cash K 5.3 million for the new school and K 1.85 million for rural health centre donated by the wellwishers. — MNA

Indian Foreign Secretary and wife leave for Home

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — At the invitation of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Kyaw Thu, Foreign Secretary Mr Shivshankar Menon of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and wife Mrs Mohini paid an official visit to the Union of Myanmar from 7 to 10 February.

The Indian delegation led by Mr Shivshankar Menon called on Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo at the hall of the SPDC Office on 8 February morning.

Mr Shivshankar Menon also met with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and discussed matters related to mutual interests at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the afternoon, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and wife Daw Lei Lei Kyi hosted a luncheon to the Indian Secretary at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

While in Myanmar, Mr Shivshankar Menon and wife Mrs Mohini made a cultural tour of Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan, and they left Yangon by air this morning. — MNA





A rig seen at the worksite in exploring natural gas offshore in Rakhine State.

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

Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day



With the aim of supplying water to arable lands and local people Hinywet Dam was built in An Township of Rakhine State.

Government Technological University (Sittway)

The photo shows three-storey main building of Government Technological University (Sittway) built in Sittway of Rakhine State to create opportunity for local students to pursue advanced technology in the region.

Sr.	Subject	Unit	1988	2007	Progress
1.	Arable land	acre	860937	1257174	396237
2.	Dam (big/small)		2	7	5
3.	River water pumping project		-	4	4
4.	Reserve forest	Sq mile	116	287	171
5.	Protected public forest	Sq mile	-	1818	1818
6.	Motor road	mile	448	1060	612
7.	Bridge (above 180 feet)		19	35	16
8.	Post office		12	48	36
9.	Telegraph office		18	27	9
10.	Telephone station		16	37	21
11.	Microwave station		7	13	6
12.	Hydropower plant		-	2	2
13.	Private-owned factory		126	2141	2015
14.	Basic education school		2391	2709	318
15.	University/college		1	2	1
16.	Technological university/college		-	1	1
17.	University of Computer Studies		-	1	1
18.	Hospital		36	53	17

The photo shows Minkyaung Creek Bridge constructed on Yangon-Sittway Highway in Rakhine State.



HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Seeing disunity as danger

Hlaing Aung



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

I have noticed recently that daily newspapers have been carrying a lot of international news with photos to catch the attention of readers. I am glad to be informed of such international events in this rapidly changing world whether they are good or bad news.

When I read international news events in the papers, I have noticed one point that violent acts of terrorism are rife in the world. Every day we have to read in the papers disgusting news such as the death of a minister by a bomb blast in Sri Lanka, the cancellation of a ceasefire agreement as Sri Lankan government pressured the Tamil Tiger rebels, fierce fighting between Israelis and Palestine's Hamas on Gaza Strip, fighting between the Hamas group and the Fatah group, the deaths of the Sunni region leader

and many people due to suicide bomb attacks in Iraq, the US Air Force's dropping 18 tons of bombs on the bushes of date palms where Al Qaeda are assumed to have been stationed in ten minutes, massacre of many people including foreigners at a five-star hotel in Afghanistan in a Taliban suicide bomb attack, bomb explosions in Lahore and Karachi in Pakistan and many deaths and casualties in the northern border of Pakistan due to fierce fighting between the government troops and tribal groups.

What I have noticed is that most of the attacks were targeted at the people of the same country. The reason behind why they killed each other was the colonialists.

The most easy and effective way to colonize other countries has been the use of divide and rule policy and it is popular till today. The root cause of each other's killings and hatred is the evil legacy of the colonialist period. For example, the conflict between Tamil Tiger rebels, who have been demanding the succession from Sri Lanka, and Sinhali Central Government stemmed from the fact that the British colonialists brought Tamil workers of cheap labour from India to grow coffee on Ceylon. Obedient Tamils were taught English at missionary schools and trained as bureaucrats under the leadership of the colonialist government. And this caused divides between the Sinhali majority and minority Tamils. As a result of the divide and rule policy of the colonialists, more than 7,000 people have died so far and grudge between the two sides will never disappear.

Similarly, Israel-Palestine crisis resulted from secretly sending Jews to the territory of the British-controlled Palestine under the Balfour Declaration.

That problem still costs countless number of deaths and it is far away from being solved.

Besides the colonialists' evil legacies, many problems can still be found in West Asia regions such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan at the instigation of the neo-colonialists. In those countries, a large number of innocent civilians have been killed owing to forcible interference of some powerful nations and their sowing of discord among the civilians, the attacks of foreign troops and the attacks among the people of the same country. Study has shown that there have been between 151,000 and 600,000 deaths in Iraq after 2003.

In whatever era, old or new, the most effective way for the colonialists to dominate other countries is to drive a wedge in order to cause disunity in a targeted organization or country. If there is a crack, water can penetrate it. If there is a bruise with an opening, it can be infected with virus. The US won the Afghan war in 2001 only with the use of some special troops without using any tank, artillery or infantry. The Americans won because they were able to persuade the armed tribal groups of the western Afghan region.

Under any circumstance, who is the winner when the people of a nation fight among themselves? There can no way be any benefits.

If we study the internal conflicts, it can be found that they all last long — the Palestine issue (from 1948 to date; 60 years), the Sri Lanka issue (from 1963 to date; 45 years), the Afghan issue (from 2001 to date; 7 years), and the Iraq issue (from 2003 to date; 5 years). If a question is asked when those conflicts will end, I think no one will be able to give a definite answer.

So who can gain benefits due to the endless conflicts? The conflict of a nation is like a bruise that is breeding. With the bruise bleeding, the sufferer will lose strength gradually. When he becomes infected with virus, he may become unconscious with his bruise incurable.

Likewise, there are some countries that have almost broken up due to conflicts, for example, Somalia and Rwanda. There were also some unions that broke up like Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. I have never heard that a nation became prosperous because of its conflict. Instead, it became poorer and poorer. As mentioned above, all the nations faced with crisis such as Palestine, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Rwanda as well as Sudan and Kenya, whose issues have been

(See page 9)

At a time when the people are facing the neo-colonialists, they should know that a trap is a trap. It is an important point. Those with unclear outlook, especially those who think they know everything would assume that the trap or the net of the imperialists is a golden flower. The people cannot get out of the trap of the imperialists. The imperialists themselves drive a wedge among the people in order to break up the unity.

HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Seeing disunity as danger

Hlaing Aung

(from page 8)

popular in the newspapers, are getting bogged down. The real winners who gained benefits from the conflicts are none other than the colonialists.

For instance, since the foreign troops invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, they started deploying their troops in those countries citing instability and disunity. The puppet governments are not able to restore peace in their countries and drive out the foreign troops. They have to act under the command of others. In addition, it is colonialists who are flattering and persuading Albanians in Kosovo, which has been recognized as a sovereign region of Serbia by the UN Security Council resolution, to declare unilateral independence. If Kosovo seceded from Serbia after declaring its independence, international forces would still deploy there for the sake of an international protectorate. The incoming puppet government to rule Kosovo lack of natural resources will also be a lackey of others. And consequently, there will be clashes with minority Serbs allowing to cause bloodshed.

One can take lesson from the story of a boar and a lion. In the story the two animals fought

each other because both of them wanted to drink water from a pond first. When they saw a vulture sitting on the tree-stump, they realized that if they went on fighting they would be eaten.

Therefore they realized that it would be very useful for them if they shared water together. Otherwise, their lives would end in the mouth of the vulture.

I have read an article in a popular military science journal entitled "Instability of the world serves the interest of our country" by a high-ranking military officer of a super power nation. Those who study history know that who gained benefits in the two world wars.

Neo-colonialists have cleverer ways than the old ones. They usually practise more gentle, subtle ways. In the past, the imperialists enslaved the entire country with the use of

warships and they captured the king like a chicken. Nowadays the imperialists do not use obvious method of enslavement. They use various ways and means to break up the country through the remote control method. In other words, they employ the network centric imperialism which includes economic sanctions; subversive political methods such as spreading rumours and creating uprising; terrorist acts such as bomb explosion and killing innocent people; enslaving the people through the media; military method with the use of force if necessary; putting pressure on the country through diplomatic means; political methods of seeking international and local recognition for the puppets under their control and driving a wedge among the

national races, religious faiths and mass and classes.

At a time when the people are facing the neo-colonialists, they should know that a trap is a trap. It is an important point. Those with unclear outlook, especially those who think they know everything would assume that the trap or the net of the imperialists is a golden flower. The people cannot get out of the trap of the imperialists. The imperialists themselves drive a wedge among the people in order to break up the unity.

It is necessary for the people to understand the real danger. They have to struggle out to free themselves from the trap of the old and neo-colonialists so that they can enjoy happiness blessed with self-determination.

(Translation: ST)

61st 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 defend and safeguard the Union for the perpetual existence;
- For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development;
- For all the national races to make endeavours for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, and
- For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

POEM:

Reciprocity

- * Leaves and branches
Touching one another
Thriving with serenity
For years of many
Flourishing a tree is
- * Deep spreading roots has it
And stem so hefty
Firmly thriving is the tree
- * Myanmar-born kin and kith
Like branches and twigs
Representing Myanmar
The tall and magnificent stem
Haven for national brethren
- * Deep spreading roots
Symbol of patriotism
- * Thrive will leaves and branches
Roots if develop well
And strong is the stem
Depends on thriving branches
Robustness of stem
A reciprocal trend.

(Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day)

Maung Maung Moe Aung (Trs)

Union Spirit



Min Min

Why so impenetrable!



Neo-colonialist



People are seen in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands. Pacific islands are in the midst of a crisis of obesity and its associated dangers of diabetes, strokes and heart disease. World Health Organization figures show Pacific Island nations make up eight of the world's 10 most obese countries.—INTERNET

IRC says return home by Iraq's internal refugees slows

BAGHDAD, 9 Feb — The number of Iraqis returning to their homes from refuge elsewhere in the country has slowed markedly as fears over security remain, the latest report by the Iraqi Red Crescent (IRC) says.

Its findings echo those of a new UN study which said most Iraqis returning home after fleeing to Syria were doing so not because they felt Iraq was safer but because they could no

longer afford to live abroad.

Violence has fallen sharply across Iraq after a series of security crackdowns last year. The Iraqi Government and the US military say attacks are down by 60 per cent from last June.

But the IRC's report for January, seen by *Reuters* on Thursday, said the number of internally displaced people (IDP) returning home had

slowed sharply.

The number of registered IDPs fell by 110,000 in October, but dropped by fewer than 3,000 in December, it said.

Recent Turkish bombing raids on Kurdish guerillas in northern Iraq, an area previously seen by Iraqis as a safe haven, had led thousands to flee their villages, compounding the refugee problem in the area, the IRC said.

MNA/Reuters

Sri Lankan troops kill 30 rebels as fighting grinds on

COLOMBO, 9 Feb — Sri Lankan troops have killed at least 30 Tamil Tiger rebels including an area leader in fresh fighting in the island's north, the military said on Friday.

Thursday's clashes along a "border" that separates government from rebel territory in the far north was the latest violence in a 25-year civil war analysts say neither side is winning.

"Navy troops attacked a group of terrorists in Peraru in Trincomalee (in the northeast). A search found two LTTE dead bodies and one of them is an area leader," a military spokesman said, asking not to be named in line with policy.

Troops also killed 28 Tiger rebels and wounded 24 others in clashes in the northern districts of

Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar, he added, saying one soldier was killed and eight were wounded.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are fighting for a separate state in the Indian Ocean island's north and east, were not immediately available for comment.

MNA/Reuters

US military loses records for Bin Laden's driver

GUANTANAMO BAY, US NAVAL BASE. (Cuba), 9 Feb — The US military has lost a year's worth of records describing the Guantanamo confinement of Osama bin Laden's driver, a prosecutor said at the Yemeni captive's war court hearing on Thursday.

Lawyers for the driver,

Salim Ahmed Hamdan, asked for the records to support their argument that prolonged isolation and harassment at the Guantanamo Prison have mentally impaired him and could affect his ability to aid in his defence against war crimes charges.

"All known records have been produced with

the exception of the 2002 Gitmo records," one of the prosecutors, Navy Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Stone, told the court. "They can't find it." He said the military was still looking for the records kept at the remote US naval base in southeast Cuba, which he referred to by its nickname.—MNA/Reuters

Pakistani police use water cannons as lawyers march towards the residence of deposed chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry during a protest rally in Islamabad on 9 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET



Israel arrests 17 Palestinians in West Bank

RAMALLAH, 9 Feb — Israeli Army arrested 17 Palestinians in an overnight raid on the West Bank, Palestinian security sources said Thursday.

The sources said the detentions took place in West Bank cities of Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron and the detainees were taken for interrogation at Israeli detention facilities inside a West Bank settlement.

MNA/Xinhua

Harsh winter kills over 750 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Feb — More than 750 people have perished as a result of severe cold and heavy snowfalls this winter across Afghanistan, a government official said on Saturday.

The cold spell, the worst in decades in the impoverished and mountainous central Asian country, has also killed nearly 230,000 cattle, said Noor Padshah Kohistani of the National Disaster

Management Commission. "Across the country, 763 people have died since the start of the winter due to cold weather and severe snowfalls," he told *Reuters*. The snowfalls have destroyed more than 500 houses and damaged more than 40,000, a disaster commission statement said.

The worst affected areas were the western provinces of Herat and Badghis where

some people had to have amputations because of frostbite, according to the state media.

Several families sold their children recently because they were unable to care for or feed them, media reports said.

Many key roads linking districts with provincial capitals have been blocked because of snow, hindering deliveries of supplies.

MNA/Reuters

Wild elephants stray into B'desh village, kill man

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh), 10 Feb — Wild elephants straying into a Bangladesh village killed a man, injured another and trampled several homes on Saturday, forest officials said.

The incident occurred at a village near Ramu, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka, said an official of Bangladesh Forest Department. Villagers, who were caught off guard, fled their homes, but later returned with drums and firecrackers to scare off the herd of around six elephants.

The elephants also devoured rice stocks, fruits and soft plants and destroyed some standing crops in the tiny village. —MNA/Reuters

"I do not want to exaggerate and give more hope than necessary," said Moussa, who has been trying to broker a deal under an Arab states' initiative to end the crisis. "I am leaving with some hope," he added.

The two sides have agreed on Army chief General Michel Suleiman as the next head of state, but have been unable to agree on the make-up of a new Cabinet.

MNA/Reuters

Lebanon vote delayed for 14th time, mediator leaves

BEIRUT, 10 Feb — Lebanon's presidential election has been postponed to February 26 from Monday, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said on Saturday, announcing the 14th delay in the vote caused by the country's political crisis.

The conflict between the governing coalition and an opposition alliance led by the powerful Hizbollah has left Lebanon without a head of state since November. The crisis is the

worst since the 1975-90 civil war.

Berri announced the postponement in a statement. The president is elected by Parliament, which cannot convene without a political deal between the US-backed governing coalition and the opposition, which is supported by Syria. Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa left Beirut on Saturday after mediating talks that failed to yield a breakthrough.



An artist's impression of the A2 aircraft. British engineers have unveiled plans for a hypersonic jet which could fly from Europe to Australia in less than five hours.—INTERNET



Members of a High School affiliated to the Renmin University of China perform as they parade through central London during the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rat celebrations in London, on 10 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



Fast ice : Overall view of the icering shows Netherland's Ireen Wuest(C) racing to a second place in the women's 500m event of the ISU World Allround Speed Skating Championships in Berlin.—INTERNET

Naked mole rats live in dark underground tunnel systems and are native to the tropical grasslands of Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

INTERNET



Images of the Day



Indian villagers compete in a horse cart race during the Kila Raipur sports festival on the outskirts of Ludhiana, in the northern Indian state of Punjab, on 10 Feb, 2008. The festival, also known as the 'Rural Olympics', is held annually in the northern city and the competition attracts athletes from all over India.—INTERNET



Heng Zhang, a project manager with Microsoft Corp's ad Center Labs, demonstrates prototype 'Air Wave' advertising technology on 5 Feb, 2008, in Redmond, Wash. The advertising technology uses surface computing to reward consumers who complete a brief game, such as finding and 'touching' fish that pop up in an aquarium as shown here, with a printable discount coupon.—INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12 February 2008 (Union Day) being the public Holidays. Goods will be received, shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday fees.

Pilots stabbed in attack
on New Zealand plane

WELLINGTON, 9 Feb — A woman passenger on a New Zealand commuter plane stabbed both pilots and threatened to blow up the 19-seat aircraft, police said on Friday. The attack on the pilots, who were not seriously hurt, happened about 20 minutes into the flight between the South Island centres of Blenheim and Christchurch, police said.

The plane landed at Christchurch, where police with dogs boarded it and arrested a 33-year-old woman, who is originally from Somalia.

The woman was in police custody in Christchurch but the motive for the attack was still unclear, Canterbury District Commander Superintendent Dave Cliff told *Reuters*.

The flight took off from Blenheim at 7:20 a.m (1820 GMT) and the pilots sent a distress call at 7:40 a.m. The plane landed at Christchurch 26 minutes after the distress call was made.

Christchurch Airport was closed to all flights for about three hours after the incident.

MNA/Reuters

Poll shows over 41% of
Poles use Internet

WARSAW, 10 Feb — In 2007 41.5 per cent of Poles over 15 used the Internet, according to a recent NetTrack survey conducted by SMG/KRC between January and December 2007. It shows 65.7 per cent of Poles use the Internet everyday or almost everyday, 19.1 per cent a few times a week, and 7.2 per cent once a

week, Polish news agency *PAP* reported Friday. Over 80 per cent of Poles use the Internet at home, 26.4 per cent at work and 12.6 per cent at school or university. Poles access the net mainly by means of direct connection (72.2 per cent), only 3.7 per cent use modems. — MNA/Xinhua

Tenth of China's forests
damaged by blizzards

BEIJING, 10 Feb — About one-tenth of China's forests were damaged by recent winter storms, the worst in at least five decades, and in the hardest-hit regions nearly 90 per cent of forests were ruined, *Xinhua* news agency said on Saturday.

The State Forestry Administration (SFA) said total losses reached

17.3 million hectares of forest in 18 provinces in southern China, said *Xinhua*.

The agency did not give any value of the losses, but in an earlier report the administration said by the end of January the storms had caused about \$2.5 billion of damage to China's forests.

Blizzards across central, southern and eastern China — areas not prepared for severe winter weather — cut power to 169 counties, killed scores of people and caused unprecedented havoc for tens of millions of people travelling ahead of the Lunar holidays.

MNA/Reuters

Australian murderer kept body for 23 years

CANBERRA, 10 Feb — An Australian man was convicted on Saturday of killing his wife and then hiding her body in a metal drum in his garage for 23 years.

A Supreme Court jury in the southern Victoria state found Frederick Boyle, 58, killed his 30-year-old wife Edwina Boyle in October 1983, and then hid her body in the large metal drum.

The trial heard the

murder came to light when Boyle's son-in-law opened the drum and found a bag of women's clothing during a clean-up of the family home in 2006. Two weeks later he found human remains in a garbage bin in the garage.

Boyle had pleaded not guilty to the murder and said he hid the body after finding his wife dead in bed. He told their children his wife had left him and run off with a truck driver.

MNA/Reuters

Ecuador farmers evacuated
again from volcano area

COTALO (Ecuador), 9 Feb — Hundreds of poncho-clad Ecuadorean peasants were evacuated from their hamlets near the roaring "Throat of Fire" volcano on Thursday only hours after they had been allowed to return to their homes.

The latest crisis at the volcano, called Tungurahua in the native Quichua language and located 80 miles (130

kilometres) south of capital city Quito, started early on Wednesday when it belched molten rock and ash, forcing more than 1,200 people to seek safety in nearby shelters.

They started returning early on Thursday but their homecoming was short-lived.

"The volcano started a new phase of intense eruptive activity," the National Geophysics

Institute said in a statement on Thursday afternoon.

During the cold night leading to Thursday morning, evacuees slept in schools and churches as activity at the 16,460-foot (5,020-metre) volcano slowed.

Scientists warned it remained unpredictable even as local residents tried to go back to their farms.

MNA/Reuters



Show attendee Brian Weinberg plays *Guitar Hero III* on a Dell laptop during the Consumer Electronics Show. — INTERNET

Mass arrests in anti-Mafia sweep
in US, Italy

NEW YORK, 9 Feb — US authorities arrested 54 organized crime suspects on Thursday including what they considered three high-ranking members of the Gambino crime family in an operation in New York and Italy, officials said.

A number of arrests had also been made in Sicily, judicial sources in Italy said.

Charges were being

filed against 62 people including the street boss, the under boss and the members of the Gambino family — the three highest ranking members not already in prison, a US law enforcement source said.

Fifty-four were arrested early on Thursday, mostly in the New York area, on accusations of murder, racketeering, extortion,

loan-sharking and labour violations including pension fund embezzlement, the source said.

The US source, who had direct knowledge of the operation, asked not to be identified because the US Attorney's office in Brooklyn was due to announce the arrests in a news conference later on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters



A woman carries a baby before boarding a military vehicle to evacuate her village in Palictahua, Ecuador, on 8 Feb, 2008. Residents from several villages in the Tungurahua volcano area have been persuaded to definitively leave their homes and move to a new housing project in the town of Penipe, built by the Ecuadorian government to provide more security in case of further eruptions. — INTERNET

Study says children, 4 yrs, starting school too early

LONDON, 9 Feb — Starting school at the age of four is “stressful” to children and does not help their education, according to a major review of English primary schools which also concluded kids take too many tests too early.

The Cambridge University review noted that some English children start at primary school two years earlier than in other countries.

By law, they must start full-time education in the term after their fifth birthday — although the report found many start at the age of four.

In Denmark and Finland, for example, they start school at the beginning of their seventh year. The review, incorporating several reports from other research organizations and universities, also found a negative culture of testing in English schools, which it said was because the system is too preoccupied with standards.

Testing happens more often, at a younger age and in more subjects, putting unprecedented pressure on students while having questionable benefits, it concluded. It was also critical of increased uniformity of school curriculums, teaching methods and assessment. — MNA/Reuters

Nepal to lodge three cases against Indian kidney kingpin

KATHMANDU, 9 Feb — The Nepali police is lodging three cases against Indian national Dr Amit Kumar, the alleged kingpin in the kidney transplant racket, reported the local media house’s website eKantipur Friday.

Kumar, the kidney racket mastermind from India, was made public during a Press conference organized by Metro-politan High Commis-sioner Office in

Nepali capital Kathmandu after he was nabbed on Thursday afternoon from a Sauraha-based hotel in Chitwan District close to the Indian border, some 100 kilometres south of Kathmandu.

The police also seized euro 145,000, 18,900 US dollars and a draft worth 936,000 Indian rupees (around 23,400 US dollars) from Kumar.

MNA/Xinhua

EU, US seek arbitration in biotech crops row

GENEVA, 10 Feb — The European Union and United States said on Friday they were seeking arbitration at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in their long-running row over the EU's ban on biotech crops.

But the two trading powers told the WTO's dispute settlement body they

Brunei lifts ban on firecrackers

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Feb — Brunei has lifted ban on setting off of fire-crackers during the Chinese New Year this year, according to reports reaching here on Saturday.

The Brunei Government announced the lifting of the ban before the Chinese New Year eve and sounds of firecrackers were heard nationwide in the sultanate as the Chinese communities there were celebrating their traditional festival with joy. —MNA/Xinhua



A tourist photographs an Oscar statuette with his Apple iPhone, as fifty Oscar statuettes to be presented at the 80th Academy Awards, are showcased in a public display ‘Meet the Oscars’ at the Hollywood & Highland Centre in Los Angeles on 8 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

France to step up contacts with Kazakhstan

ASTANA, 10 Feb — French Prime Minister Francois Fillon sought to step up energy contacts with Kazakhstan on Friday and said he had discussed independence in the energy sphere on a visit to the oil-rich former Soviet republic. Europe sees the region, which lies on some of the world's biggest energy reserves, as a potential new source of oil and gas to bypass Russia, which has disrupted flows in the past.

"We would like to increase contacts," Fillon, the first senior French official to visit Kazakhstan since 1993, told reporters during a visit to the capital Astana.

"One litre of oil out of 10, and one tonne of uranium of out 12 consumed by France, are supplied by Kazakhstan. So our economic relations are developing and there's huge potential for further growth." Kazakhstan, Central Asia's biggest economy which aspires to join the world's top 10 oil producers in a decade, sees itself as the most stable country in the region and has attracted billions of dollars of foreign investment. — MNA/Reuters



Ugandan people work on harvested coffee, at Barjobi village Lira district. The temperature is rising a little too quickly in Uganda — and coffee farmers are getting worried. Growers say that global warming is damaging production of coffee, Uganda’s biggest export.— INTERNET

Heidi Fleiss arrested for drug possession

LOS ANGELES, Feb — Former Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss was arrested and charged with possession of prescription drugs and driving under the influence on Thursday morning outside Las Vegas. A statement issued by Nevada’s Nye County Sheriff’s office said

deputies responded to a possible drunk driver a little after 9 am Thursday morning in the town of Pahrump.

Deputies stopped Fleiss and found drugs but no prescription. A passenger, John Owen, also was arrested on charges of being under the influence

of controlled substances and possession of marijuana.

Reached by phone, Fleiss told Reuters she was stopped in a parking lot when an officer approached her. She had taken Owen, a plumber, to a hardware store, she said.

MNA/Reuters



Chadian refugees walk back into N’Djamena, Chad, on 8 Feb, 2008. Chadians were streaming back into their capital on Friday, saying life in Cameroonian refugee camps was too harsh. The UN estimates at least 30,000 Chadians had fled across the Chari River to the Cameroonian town of Kousseri after rebels and government forces clashed over the weekend in Chad’s capital, N’Djamena. Aid was just starting to reach the refugees in Cameroon, and Chad’s capital has been calm since Wednesday.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Everton tighten grip on fourth

LONDON, 10 Feb — Everton tightened their grip on fourth place in the Premier League and the prospect of Champions League football with a 1-0 win over Reading on Saturday.

Phil Jagielka headed the winner at Goodison Park to condemn Reading to a seventh consecutive league defeat which left them in the relegation zone for the first time this season.

Everton have 47 points, three more than Aston Villa who moved into fifth after a John Carew hat-trick sealed a 4-1 hammering of Newcastle United, who had led at halftime.

The title race resumes on Sunday with the Manchester derby at Old Trafford and Chelsea's home match against Liverpool. Leaders Arsenal are not in action until Monday when they host Blackburn Rovers.

Sunderland improved their survival chances with a 2-0 home defeat of fellow strugglers Wigan Athletic while Birmingham City edged out of the bottom three, above Reading, with a 1-1 draw at West Ham United, who had Lee Bowyer sent off. —MNA/Reuters

Egypt team spirit will prove crucial, says coach

ACCRA, 10 Feb — Egypt's team spirit will give them edge when they face Cameroon's Indomitable Lions in the African Nations Cup final on Sunday, coach Hassan Shehata said.

"We have a side that plays for each other and maybe even for me as coach," the former international said on Saturday.

"I think there is an understanding that we have, a special bond. I think we will win," added Shehata, who is seeking to become only the second coach to win successive Nations Cups.

Shehata, who has spoken rarely at the tournament, leaving interviews to his assistant Shawky Gharib, said he would not sleep the night before the final at the Ohene Dan stadium.

"I never sleep the night before the game. I have hardly slept at all this tournament. Not even pills help me."

Asked whether he felt his team was better than the side which won the title at home two years ago, Shehata said that was for the critics to decide. "That is not up to me." —MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	S	E	N	Z	A		F	U	M
7	S		L		E		C		S
10	P	R	I	V	A	T	E		H
	A		A		L			E	A
12	T	A	N	G	O			E	A
	E				U		R	D	U
17	A	M	U	S	E		N	O	T
21	C		A				A	N	T
25	O	B	S	C		U	R	E	
	M		O		L		X		R
29	M	A	N	I	C			U	N
	A		I		E		S		C
31	S	C	A	R	F			W	H



West Ham United's Fredrik Ljungberg, left, runs for the ball with Birmingham City's Damien Johnson during their English Premier League soccer match at the Upton Park stadium, London, on 9 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Heerenveen stay with chasing pack after 1-1 draw at PSV

AMSTERDAM, 10 Feb— In-form Heerenveen held Dutch league leaders PSV Eindhoven to a 1-1 draw on Saturday to stay amongst the quartet trying to close the gap at the top.

Youngster Otman Bakkal gave PSV a dream start when he headed home a free kick from Balazs Dzsudzsak after 43 seconds.

Gerald Sibon set up US international Michael Bradley early in the second half to equalise with his 13th goal this season.

With 10 matches remaining PSV remain top with 53 points, nine ahead of second-placed Ajax Amsterdam, who travel to Roda JC Kerkrade on Sunday.

Heerenveen stay third, also with 44 points, on goal difference above Feyenoord, 3-1 winners at Graafschap Doetinchem, and NAC Breda, who won 1-0 at home to Utrecht. —MNA/Reuters

Leaders Rangers ease to 2-0 win over Falkirk

GLASGOW, 10 Feb — Rangers grabbed a 2-0 win against Falkirk in their Scottish Premier League clash on Saturday to stretch their lead over title rivals Celtic to seven points.

Kris Boyd crashed in a 20-metre free kick for Rangers's first goal in the 23rd minute and substitute Stevie Naismith drove in the second, two minutes from time.

Rangers have 56 points from 23 games while second-placed Celtic, on 49, are at Aberdeen on Sunday. Dundee United are third in the standings with 39 points from 25 matches following their 1-1 draw with Hibernian. — MNA/Reuters

Roma beat Reggina to trim Inter's lead

ROME, 10 Feb — Christian Panucci and Mancini scored as second-placed AS Roma beat strugglers Reggina 2-0 on Saturday to trim Inter Milan's lead at the top of Serie A to five points.

Italy defender Panucci headed in a Francesco Totti cross from a tight angle in the 21st minute to put the Romans on their way to burying the memory of last week's 3-0 defeat at Siena.

They doubled the lead in the 76th minute when Brazilian midfielder Mancini fired home the rebound from a Ludovic Giuly shot after some fine dribbling.

Reggina's Edgar Barreto had a goal disallowed for offside before Mancini's effort and Nigeria striker Stephen Makinwa hit the crossbar just after it.

MNA/Reuters

Panathinaikos stretch lead as AEK lose

ATHENS, 10 Feb — Panathinaikos stretched their lead at the top of the Greek Super League to four points after beating Veria 1-0 on Saturday.

Austria captain Andreas Ivanschitz scored the only goal of the game when he fired home a direct free kick from 20 metres in the 71st minute.

The win puts Panathinaikos, who face Rangers in the UEFA Cup next week, on 46 points, four clear of AEK Athens who slipped to a surprise 1-0 defeat at the hands of Larissa. It was their second successive league loss.

AEK had Portuguese defender Geraldo Alves sent off after 64 minutes and their fate was sealed 11 minutes from time by Polish striker Maciej Zurawski who scored his first goal for Larissa since joining from Celtic in the transfer window. —MNA/Reuters

Leverkusen draw with fellow challengers Hamburg

BERLIN, 10 Feb — Title hopefuls Bayer Leverkusen and Hamburg SV played out a 1-1 draw in the Bundesliga on Saturday, a result that will have delighted top two Bayern Munich and Werder Bremen ahead of their meeting on Sunday. Rafael van der Vaart struck with his 10th goal of the season to give Hamburg the lead but a fine header from Manuel Friedrich in the second half earned a point for the home side. The result left the two teams in third and fourth respectively, level on 34 points.

Bayern lead the standings on 39 points, with Werder second on 36. A win for the Bavarians in Sunday's clash at the Allianz Arena would take them six points clear at the top. — MNA/Reuters



Ghana's Baffuor Gyan (R) challenges Ivory Coast's Siaka Tiene (C) during their African Nations Cup third-place soccer match in Kumasi on 9 Feb, 2008. At left is Ghana's John Painstil.—INTERNET

Xavi rescues point for Barca at Sevilla

MADRID, 10 Feb — Second-placed Barcelona failed to keep the pressure on leaders Real Madrid after scrambling a 1-1 draw at Sevilla in the Primera Liga on Saturday. Barca had a chance to move to within three points of Real, who host Valladolid on Sunday, but faced an uphill battle after Diego Capel put an impressive Sevilla ahead in the first half.

They improved after the break and 14 minutes from time Xavi equalized to leave the Catalans on 48 points, five short of Real.

"Real are the strongest team at the moment. We are in three competitions and have to concentrate on getting our own work done. We have to keep on working hard and accumulating points," Barca coach Frank Rijkaard said.

Earlier on Saturday, Guillermo Franco snatched a goal in added time for Villarreal to give them a 1-0 victory at lowly Real Murcia. They climbed to third with 42 points.—MNA/Reuters

Sri Lanka ranked 3rd deadliest place for journalists

COLOMBO, 10 Feb— Sri Lanka has been ranked as the third deadliest place for journalists in 2007 by the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), a leading English newspaper reported on Saturday.

According to the *Daily Mirror*, the Paris-based association said six journalists were killed in Sri Lanka last year while eight were killed in Somalia (2nd) and 44 were killed in Iraq (1st).

World-wide some 95 journalists and other media workers were killed in 2007 because of their professional activities, with Iraq and other conflict zones accounting for more than two-thirds of the deaths, said the WAN.

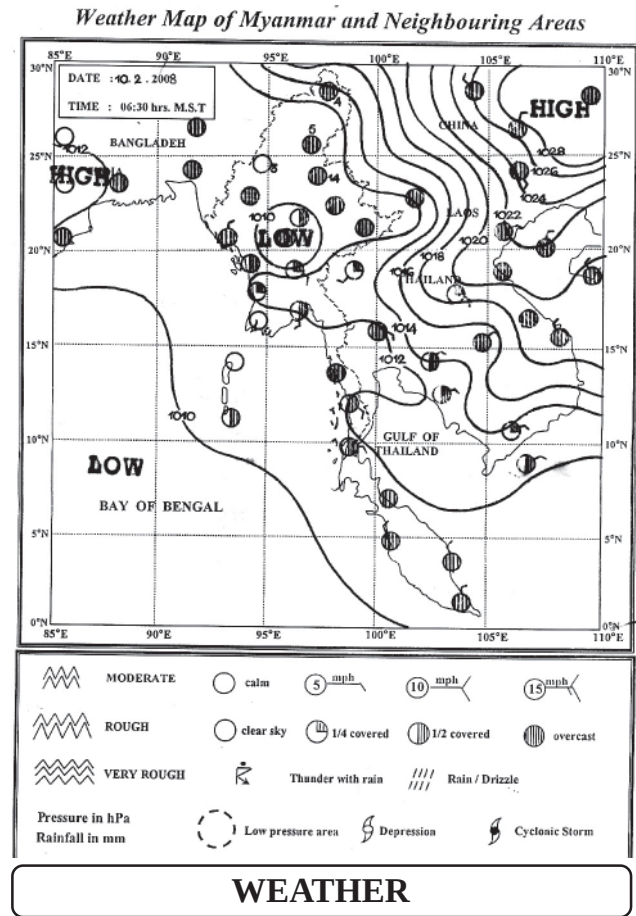
MNA/Xinhua

Palestinian population up 30% in a decade

RAMALLAH, (West Bank) 10 Feb— The Palestinian population in the West Bank, Gaza and Arab East Jerusalem grew by about 30 per cent in the last decade, according to census data published on Saturday.

The significant growth in numbers to 3.76 million from 2.89 million, may spur calls in Israel to give up occupied land in the face of a perceived Arab “demographic threat” to the Jewish state.

Palestinians — who want their own state in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital — hope the census will boost their case in negotiations with Israel for an independent state.



US space shuttle “Atlantis” docks with “ISS”

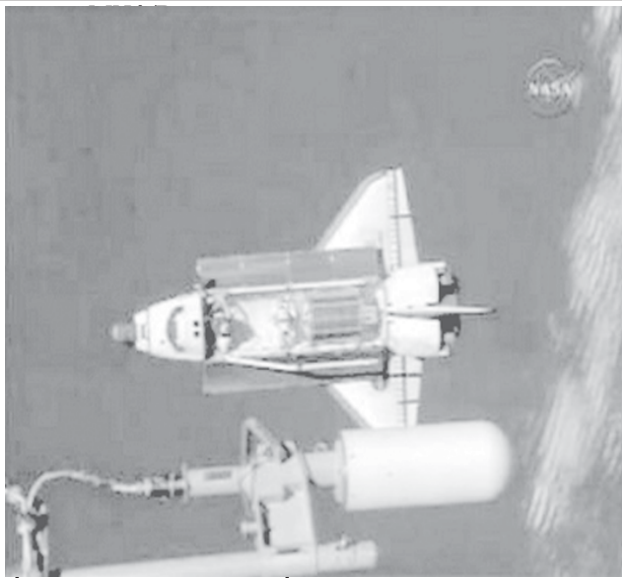
WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — US space shuttle *Atlantis* successfully docked with the *International Space Station* (ISS) on Saturday, kicking off a busy schedule of orbital work for the installation of the *Columbus* science laboratory.

The event occurred at 12:17 pm EST (1717 GMT), 342 kilometres above the Earth over the South Pacific Ocean. Guided by commander Stephen Frick, the 100-ton orbiter slowly and carefully pulled up to the ISS and latched on the

Harmony module of the station at the rate of 6.1 centimetres per second.

The docking took place after *Atlantis* performed a successful orbital back-flip below the station to see if there is any damage to the space shuttle’s heat-resistant tiles.

After several delays in two months, the seven-crew *Atlantis* blasted off on Thursday from the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, on a mission to deliver the European Space Agency’s *Columbus* laboratory to the ISS.— MNA/Xinhua



The space shuttle *Atlantis*, with the *Columbus* module visible in the foreground, approaches the *International Space Station* for docking in this image from NASA TV on 9 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

Radio Myanmar

Monday, 11 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music -Love thing
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music -A different kind of love
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music - Too fancy
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music -Loving every minute
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -With you -Did you really love me
- 9:00pm Spotlight on the stars -The Carpenters
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20pm Drug/Women Affairs
- 9:35 pm Vocal Gems -Love - You light up my life
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Monday, 11 February
View on today

- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am 5. Song of national races
- 8:05 am 6. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am 7. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm 4. Dance variety
- 5:00pm 5. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:10 pm 6. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:20pm 7. Songs and dance of national races
- 5:25 pm 8. “လှေကားသုံးထပ်ဆင်းတဲ့အခါ” (အရိုင်း၊ မင်းသူ၊ အေးသီတာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်(ဖီးနစ်))
- 5:35 pm 9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:50 pm 10.(၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm 11.Evening news
- 6:30 pm 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 13. အလှူမှမယ်၊ လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 6:55 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြို့မိုးဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်” (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
- 7:40 pm 15. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ်မပြတ် ရှင်သန်နိုင်မာရန်မှာဒို.ဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ရာအညှာတစ်ခု တို့ပြည်ထောင်စု)
- 8:00 pm 16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်” (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 20.The next day’s programme

People's Desire

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

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Iranian President

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb —Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mahmud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2008.—MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Parviz Davoodi, First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2008.—MNA

Two-storey ward for 200-bed People's Hospital in Minbu opened

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day the two-storey ward for 200-bed People's Hospital in Minbu was opened on 9 February.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe formally opened the ward.

The minister and party inspected cost-sharing unit, teaching hall, medical rooms and rooms for doctors and nurses.

Minbu Township People's Hospital was opened in 1949 and it was renovated in 1993. It was also designated as a teaching hospital of Magway Medical University in 2003 and it was then upgraded to 200-bed general hospital in November 2005.

(See page 6)



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Col Phone Maw Shwe formally open the two-storey ward for 200-bed Minbu Township People's Hospital.—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

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Article

Seeing disunity as danger



I have noticed recently that daily newspapers have been carrying a lot of international news with photos to catch the attention of readers. I am glad to be informed of such international events in this rapidly changing world whether they are good or bad news.

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



POEM:

Reciprocity

- * Leaves and branches
- Touching one another
- Thriving with serenity
- For years of many
- Flourishing a tree is

CARTOON

