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Friday, 13 February, 2009

Auspicious and historic Day

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

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



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

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

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife

Daw Kyaing Kyaing were welcomed at City Hall Square by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and officials.

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

guests.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted the dinner to the guests.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Min-

ister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the ministers, the

Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General and their wives, members of the central committee and management committee for observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the deputy ministers, the director-general of Myanmar Police Force, the directors-general of the SPDC Office and the Government Office and departmental heads, Union Day delegates from states and divisions, national race cultural troupes, representatives of social organizations and guests.

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

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



Senior General Than Shwe greets Union Day delegates from states and divisions, national race cultural troupes, members of social organizations and special guests.—MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 13 February, 2009

Work hard together for perpetuity of the Union

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

62nd Anniversary Union Day marked in Yangon



and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, members of the leading committee and working committee, senior military officers,

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

Afterwards, the commander read the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and



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

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

It was attended by Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace

departmental officials, representatives of the social organizations and national brethren from the National Culture and Five Arts University.

Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day.

MNA

194 drug-related cases exposed in January

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

They seized 44.4511

kilos of opium in 40 cases, 148.5455 kilos of heroin in 68 cases, 3.2443 kilos of opium oil in five cases, 1.0705 kilos of low grade opium in five cases, 5.7972 kilos of marijuana in 14 cases, 55582.5

simulant tablets in 40 cases, 7.621 kilos of opium speciosa in nine cases, one litter of opium speciosa liquid in one case, 101.2 kilos of ephedrine in two cases, 14,000 diacebin tablets

in two cases and 8 other cases.

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

MNA



Splendida Furnishings Gallery opened

YANGON, 12 Feb — Sinma Furnishings Co Ltd held a press conference on Splendida Furnishings

Gallery at No (5) on Pyay Road, Hline Township, yesterday afternoon.

Director of Splendida Furnishings Gallery Showroom Daw Yu Yu Khine delivered an introductory speech.

Journalists observed the works displayed in the showroom. Responsible persons replied to the questions of the journalists.

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

MNA

*A press conference
on Splendida
Furnishings Gallery
in progress.*

MNA



US military expert says war in Afghanistan 'could be lost by summer'

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

Colonel John Nagl, an Iraq veteran who helped devise the successful strategy there under the guidance of General David Petraeus, who is now the CENTCOM commander, told *The*

Telegraph that the gains made by the Taliban over the past two years need to be reversed by the end of the traditional fighting season in Afghanistan, around late September or early October, or else the Taliban will establish a durable base that would make a sustained Western military presence futile.

"Counter-insurgency campaigns have momentum. Like a football game when the crowd senses something before it hap-

pens. Right now the Taliban has that momentum," said Nagl, who co-authored the recently published US Government Counter-insurgency Guide.

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

Internet



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

Personnel inspect the aftermath of a car bombing in Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 Feb, 2009. Seven civilians were killed and 37 others were wounded in the blast.

INTERNET



Two US sailors charged with murder in Mexico

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Suicide car bombing kills Iraqi soldier in N Iraq

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

"A suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car into a joint US and Iraqi Army patrol in the Hadbaa neighborhood in northern Mosul," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The powerful blast resulted in the killing of an Iraqi soldier and the wounding of

two others, along with wounding three bystanders, the source said.

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

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

Internet

Death toll rises to 16 in Baghdad car bombing

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

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

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

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

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

Internet



An injured Iraqi man is wheeled out of the local hospital after being treated for injuries following a twin bombing attack in central Baghdad. Twin car bombings ripped through a Baghdad bus station on Wednesday.

INTERNET



An Afghan policeman searches a man in downtown Kabul, the day after an attack by Taliban militants on 12 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET

Four die in light plane crash in SW Britain

LONDON, 12 Feb—Four people died on Wednesday when two light aircraft crashed in mid-air in southwest Britain.

Two Air Training Corps cadets and trainers from the Royal Air Force were killed near Porthcawl, a seaside resort in south Wales just before noon, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported. Two female teenage cadets who were cousins also died in the collision. At least one of the twin-seater planes was on fire when emergency services arrived at the scene.—Xinhua

Navy personnel seen near the Garden Island Naval Base in Sydney Harbour on 11 Feb. An Australian navy diver was seriously injured as he fought off a shark in a rare attack in Sydney Harbour, officials have said.—INTERNET



China's software export hit \$14.2 bln in 2008

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

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

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

Xinhua

17 injured, houses damaged after strong quake in Indonesia



File image shows Indonesian meteorological officials checking a seismograph screen in Jakarta.

XINHUA

JAKARTA, 12 Feb—At least 17 people were wounded and dozens of houses and a hospital were damaged after a 7.4

magnitude quake rocked North Sulawesi province in eastern part of Indonesia on Thursday, Health Ministry said.

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

The quake also damaged 32 houses and one

hospital, head of the Health Ministry's crisis center Rustam Pakaya told Xinhua.

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

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

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

Xinhua

Shipbuilders to get government ballast

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

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

The government will limit new capacity in the



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Researchers discover new technology that could reduce spread of rice virus

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

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

Xinhua



Lightning flashes above Gaza city as the first rain of this year starts to fall on 10 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency



Most Czechs against US radar

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

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

65 percent of Czechs, the same percentage as in December.

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

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

erendum on the issue.

Most Czechs are afraid that the radar base could become the target of a terrorist or military attack in the event of a conflict of the United States with another country.

The radar base tends to be supported by the voters of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), while those who reject it most vehemently are supporters of the opposition Social Democrats and the Communists.—MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 11 Feb, 2009 shows the fog-wrapped buildings in Yantai City, east China's Shandong Province. An advection fog hit Yantai on Wednesday. —XINHUA



Visitors examine the EJ200 engine of a Rafale battleplane at an airshow in Bangalore, India, on 11 Feb, 2009. —XINHUA

One French soldier killed, one wounded in Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

US, Russian satellites collide in space

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

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

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

MNA/Reuters

hibition" held in Teheran.

He pointed out that "all the materials and parts employed in the country's missile industries are Iranian."

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

Police detain two about wildfires

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

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

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

Internet

Russian arms exports hit record \$8.35b in 2008

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

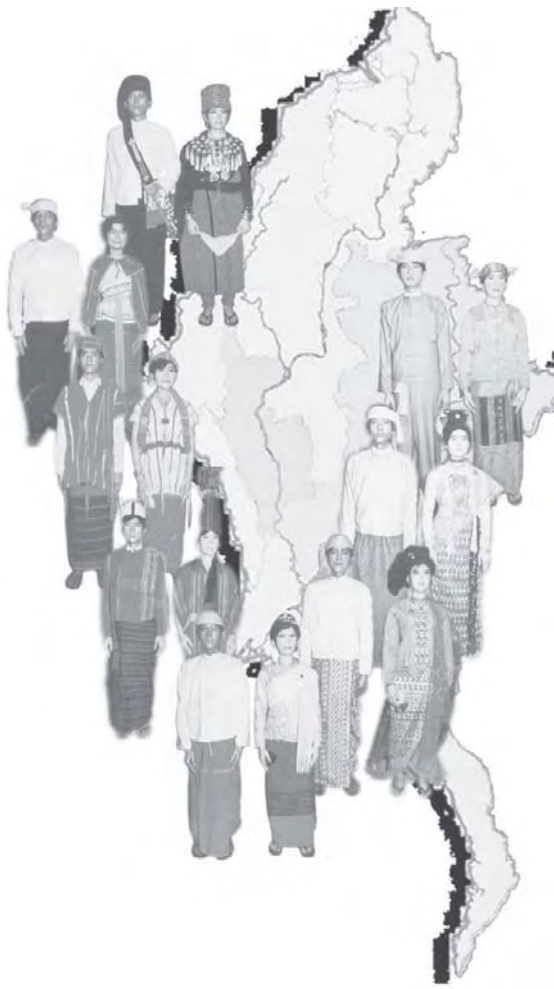
"The total volume of deliveries exceeded 8.35 billion US dollars, 800 million US dollars more than" in 2007, Medvedev told a meeting of senior ministers. "It is clear that this year will not be easy as the entire world is enduring a financial crisis."

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

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

Sluggish motorcycle sales and the strong yen are expected to push Japan's Yamaha Motor Co into loss for the first time in 26 years in 2009, the company warned Thursday. INTERNET



Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day**Work hard together to transform consolidated Union into modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation***Ngar Min Swe*

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

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

As circumstances smiled on salt farmers of Ye Township again, they restored their businesses that had been out of operation for long. However, they did not have enough capitals, so they had to seek investments by selling out or mortgaging some of their belongings, or borrowing money from their relatives and friends. They started the groundwork in September, and they were exhausted in December. Only in February would the salt be at harvest. By then, they would be able to earn money from their businesses. When it came to their knowledge, local authorities and the Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise made arrangements to provide loans for salt farmers. The chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council the commander

of Southe-East Command and the minister for Mines coordinated a plan to fulfil the financial requirements of local salt farmers. Salt farmers were informed to appear at the office of Mon State Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise in Mawlamyine on 12 January to get loans at the rate of 50,000 kyats an acre. Some salt farms of Ye Township might come to a halt if they did not get loans in January.

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

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

That night I did not sleep well due to my being excited for loans. I had invested about 20 million kyats in about 200 acres of salt farms. So, I had to borrow that money from my parents, relatives and some friends. I would have to invest about 10 million more kyats. I did not think I should borrow some more money from my parents and friends. If I were not provided loans for some reasons, I would not be able to go on my business. Like

me, most of the salt farm owners in Ye Township are going through tough times. I woke up at about 3 o'clock the next morning. I went to the bus terminal with Aung Myint at about 5 o'clock.

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

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

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

We were greeted by the Technological University as we passed through Pha-auk village, 10 miles from Mawlamyine. Students were found happy with uniforms. (See page 7)

The entire people need to have a sense of Union Spirit for ever and work hard together in order that our country will achieve its ultimate goal soon. If the people work hard with Union Spirit, Myanmar will become a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic one in the near future.

**Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day****Work hard together to transform consolidated Union into modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation****Ngar Min Swe***(from page 6)*

Ye-Mawlamyine Road has six lanes on it from Pha-auk Village to Mawlamyine, so our Hilux bus was running at over 100 kilometers per hour. We arrived at Mawlamyine at 10.30 in the morning. We proceeded to the salt office of Mon State by cycle taxi. We met some salt farmers from Ye Township U Wah Tin, Daw Kyi Lwin, Ko Me' Tone, and Ko Myo Khaing there. Some time later, Manager U Win Thein of Mon State Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise arrived, and with smiles he gave away bank cheques to each of the salt farmers. He said that salt farmers may draw money from Ye Bank after they had their cheques signed by the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council. Only with bank cheques in their hands could salt farmers breathe a sigh of relief.

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

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

Our country still has a large number of acres of

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

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

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

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

Translation: MS**Kadaik Dam in Paung Township, Mon State, has the capacity to irrigate 10,000 acres of crops.****62nd Anniversary
Union Day Objectives**

- For all the national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements attempting to undermine peace and stability of the State and national development
- For all the national races to make endeavours for building of a new modern developed discipline flourishing democratic nation in accord with the State Constitution massively approved by the people
- For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map

POEM:**The strength of Union**

- * Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin
Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan
And all other national races
Brethren and strength of Union
And of the same Myanmar family
- * Myanmar race we proclaim
Faithful to our noble race
When it comes to Union's interest
We remain ever united
And always keep in fore Union Spirit
- * Union enters new era
With peace and prosperity
Due to intellectual and physical strength
Brethren of Union family have
The strength of Union
Renowned and dignified

Pyinnya Thu (Trs)**Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day**



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



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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein...

(from page 16)
directors-general of the SPDC Office and the Government Office, departmental heads, national race representatives, serv-

ice personnel, the chairman and executives of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association, gem entrepreneurs, construction entrepreneurs, social

organization members and guests.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Mayor Col Thein Nyunt and representative U Zaw

Bo Khant of MGEA and wellwishers opened the archway and the gate of the Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

The Prime Minister unveiled the stone plaque and the museum. Next, he sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

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

The Prime Minister, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials visited the Hsinbyudaw water fountain roundabout and the coral reef and pearl booth in the compound of the museum.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed the

stone waterfall booth at the entrance to the museum.

On the first floor, the Prime Minister heard reports on exploration of gems at the gems lands, mining of gold and copper, and production of pearl presented by officials.

The Prime Minister and party viewed the mosaic paintings of Shwedagon Pagoda, Mogok Gems Land and Phakant Gems Land, jade settee, jade table, jade chair and jade bed.

At the museum, the Prime Minister also looked into the 6.2 centimetres long and 3 centimetres high world largest natural pearl weighing 45.06 momme, (845 carats or 929.50 rati) decorated with three female celestial beings, the most

valuable Myanma culture pearl weighing 9.8 mommes (104.39 carats), the valuable Myanma jade stone weighing 69 kilos, the Myanmar orchestra and ornaments made of jade, the largest Myanma ruby weighing 21,450 carats and other ornaments made of ruby, quartzes, Myanmar gold and silver wares and jewellery and uncut Mogok gem stones, various uncut gem stones and granite stones. Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and officials conducted the Prime Minister round the museum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA



Nay Pyi Taw observes 62nd Anniversary Union Day...

(from page 16)
families of the station, representatives of Nay Pyi Taw District and Township USDAs, War Veterans Organization, Red

Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, totalling over 4,300.

Departmental personnel, social organizations and people took the

designated positions in the square beginning 5 a.m.

At 5.30 a.m., the State Flag was hoisted. Next, the Guard of Honour of Defence Services

(Army, Navy and Air) took the position at the square in front of the City Hall.

The Secretary-1 took the salute of the Guard of Honour from the dais. Next, the Secretary-1 and those present saluted the State Flag. Meanwhile, the national anthem was played.

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

MNA

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



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

MNA



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

Roundtable Talks on Supply Chain & Value Chain on 15 Feb

YANGON, 12 Feb —Jointly organized by Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a roundtable talks on Supply Chain, Value Chain (Marketing development of products by constructing balanced and appropriate supply and value chains) will be held at 2 p.m. at Mingala Hall, on

the first floor of UMFCFI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lanmadaw Township here on 15 February.

Deputy Director Dr Htain Lin of Directorate of Trade will preside over the talks and UMFCFI Senior Researcher Dr Maung Aung, Deputy General Manager U Kyaw Myint (Retd) of Myanma Agriculture Service, Associate Profes-

sor Dr Daw Soe Thu of Management Department, Institute of Economics (Yangon) and Lecturer Dr Daw Ohnmar Thein will give lectures.

Enthusiasts and executives, members and imports and export entrepreneurs of UMFCFI and affiliated associations and businessmen of Bayintnaung Brokerage may attend the talks.1

MNA

Strong earthquake jolts outside of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued the news today that a strong earth-

quake of intensity 7.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter about 2,300 miles southeast of Kaba Aye seismological ob-

servatory outside of Myanmar (Indonesia) was recorded at 00 hrs 12 min and 28 sec MST on 12th February 2009.—MNA



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

NLM



Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of Thebyu Creek Bridge in Mon State.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspects bridge construction in Mon State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and departmental officials, inspected works being carried out at war veterans ward of Thudamma Myothit in Thaton Township, Mon

State on 7 February and presented cash assistance to veterans families.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected Bilin sugar mill and Industrial Spirit Factory of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries in Bilin.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye proceeded to construction site of Thebyu creek bridge in mile post No. 77 of road section five on Mottama

Theein-Kyapan-Winkan district-to-district road.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected construction of Bailey bridge, Kadat creek bridge in mile post No.82 miles/4 furlongs, Saungnainggyi creek bridge in mile post No. 84 miles/four furlongs and Khawah creek bridge (Sindwin) between mile post No. 91miles/7 furlongs and 92 miles.—MNA

MNMA Plenary meeting slated on 18 Feb

YANGON, 12 Feb — The plenary meeting 2009 of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association will be held at the main building of University of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here at 8

a.m. on 18 February (Thursday). Invitation cards were sent to members of central committees in States and Division, representatives and observers. They are to register to attend the meet-

ing not later than 18 February. For further information, contact Chairman of the association Prof. Dr Nann Htwan Hla (Ph: 09-50-37443), Joint Secretary (Ph: 388631).

MNA

Winners of MCTT 2009 awarded

YANGON, 12 Feb — The final match of Myanmar Championship Tennis Tournament 2009 took place at Theinbyu Tennis court here yesterday afternoon.

Executives of Myanmar Tennis Federation presented prizes to winners in double event and singles event (above

60 years), single event (above 55 years) and singles (above 45 years).

Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports U Zaw Win presented prizes to winners in double and single events (above 35 years) and MTF U Zaw Zaw presented first and second prize to winners in women's singles event (open) and winners in men's doubles event (open) and first, second and third prizes to winners in men's singles event (open).

MNA



President U Zaw Zaw presents prize to first prize winner in Myanmar Championship Tennis Tournament-2009.—MTF

Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits ICT Exhibition-2009

YANGON, 12 Feb—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening ceremony of "ICT Exhibition-2009" of Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation Ltd, which was held at ICT Park in Myanmar Info-Tech on Hline University

campus, here, this morning.

Managing Director of the Myanmar Info-Tech explained matters related to ICT Exhibition-2009.

Chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the

Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of the Myanmar Info-Tech opened the exhibition.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and officials visited the booths.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence views the booths at opening ceremony of ICT Exhibition-2009.—MNA

Energy Minister meets Russian Ambassador



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi meets with Russian Ambassador Mr Mikhail Mgeladze to Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met with Ambassador of the Russian Federation Mr Mikhail Mgeladze to the Union of Myanmar at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They cordially discussed the energy sector of

the two nations.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, directors-general, managing directors and officials of the Ministry.

MNA

Self-reliant libraries opened

YANGON, 12 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the opening of self-reliant libraries of

Zaydan Ward, West Ward, East Ward, North Ward, Bantphe Ward, Yonewin Ward, and Kwetthit Ward in

Pinlaung took place along with the setting up of trust funds at the libraries on 7 February.

MNA



DEVELOPMENT OF MON STATE IN THE TIME OF TATMADAW GOVERNMENT



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

Sr.	Subject	Unit	1988	2008	Progress
1.	Arable land	acre	891596	1518349	626753
2.	Dam	number	3	5	2
3.	River water pumping station	station	-	5	5
4.	Protected public forest	sq-mile	-	61.66	61.66
5.	Railroad	mile	195	331.33	136.33
6.	Road	mile	409	451	42
7.	Over 180 feet long bridge	bridge	4	16	12
8.	Post office	number	58	64	6
9.	Telegraph office	office	3	7	4
10.	Telephone office	office	11	32	21
11.	Government-owned factory	factory	-	16	16
12.	Private-owned factory	factory	1124	2512	1388
13.	Basic education school	number	1205	1361	156
14.	Education college	number	-	1	1
15.	Technological university	number	-	1	1
16.	University of computer studies	number	-	1	1
17.	Hospital	number	20	30	10

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



**Honouring
the 62nd
Anniversary
Union Day**



Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), longest one of its kind all over the nation, reflects concerted efforts of government, Tatmadaw and people.

**ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက်
စက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း**

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်- မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား

500W TV Transmitter 2-Sets

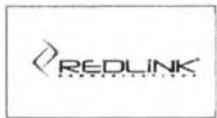
၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၂၅-၂-၂၀၀၉)ရက် (၁၆:၃၀)နာရီတွင် ပိတ်ပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထွဲရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်လုပ်ငန်း
အမှတ်(၂၈) ကုက္ကိုင်းရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ဖုန်း-၅၃၆၀၂၉၊ ၅၃၄၅၇၄

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**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in JP¥ ;

Tender No.	Description	Quantity
I/MR/Rail Bus(M)	In-Service Rail Buses	20-Nos
2008-2009	(Used but still in good operating condition)	

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

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 13.2.2009 during office hours and for further detail please call Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985.

Threats send California octuplets mom into hiding



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

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—California's octuplets mom, already jobless and receiving food stamps, has gone into hiding with her six older children because of death threats, her spokesman said on Wednesday.

Nadya Suleman, 33, has

come under mounting public ridicule for expanding her already large family via fertility treatments that led to the 26 January birth of six boys and two girls at a Los Angeles-area hospital. That criticism has mushroomed as it was reported

that she was divorced, living with her parents, unemployed for several years, receiving disability checks for three of her children — one of whom is autistic — and collecting nearly \$500 a month in food stamps.

She acknowledged those circumstances in a series of NBC television interviews but insisted in a segment aired on Tuesday on "Dateline NBC" that she was "not living off any taxpayer money" and that assistance she now receives is temporary. The broadcast drew the highest "Dateline" ratings since a 2007 interview with Britain's Prince William and Prince Harry.

Internet

Florida store giving away Valentine's jewellery

ST PETERSBURG, 12 Feb—You may have lost your job or home but you can still get a Valentine's Day gift for your sweetheart, thanks to a Florida jewellery store.

Diamonds Direct of St Petersburg is giving away 100 sterling silver pendants worth \$99 (68 pounds) each to anyone who comes into the store with a job termination or home foreclosure notice. The store announced the offer on Tuesday and by Wednesday had given away 75 of the necklaces, according to marketing director Christine Joyner.

Joyner said many of those seeking the free jewellery had lost professional or technology jobs because of the poor economy. "We've had so many heart-breaking stories," she said in an interview. Joyner said she knew of about 35 jewellery stores across the country that were making similar offers. —Internet

Drive with care

Mobile connections pass 4 bln worldwide



A file photo shows city workers make phone calls outside the London Stock Exchange in Paternoster Square in London at lunchtime. —INTERNET

AMSTERDAM, 12 Feb—The number of connections on mobile phone networks has crossed the 4 billion mark worldwide, industry association GSMA said on Wednesday, forecasting further growth to 6 billion by 2013.

The number of connections does not translate directly into the number of users, however, because in many mature markets, one user may have two mobile phones, or a phone and a mobile data device, which would both count as two connections.

tions.

In Western Europe, about a fifth of connections are estimated to be due to one user having more than one device, a figure that probably applies to many developed markets, a GSMA spokesman said. In developing countries, by contrast, phones are often shared.

In the run-up to the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona — the wireless industry's biggest trade show which starts next Monday — the GSMA said some 100 million connections were "mobile broadband" connections. This refers to mobile data connections using the high-speed HSPA standard.

Internet

Russia indicates nuke cooperation deal with Japan may soon be signed

MOSCOW, 12 Feb—The head of Russia's state-run atomic power company Rosatom Nuclear Energy State Corp said on Wednesday that Russia can soon prepare documents to sign a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Japan that is under negotiation between the two governments. Sergei Kiriyenko, president of Rosatom, indicated in a written interview with Kyodo News that an agreement may be signed during a planned visit to Japan by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

The nuclear deal is expected to pave the way for Japan to export the latest

nuclear electric power generation plant to Russia. Tokyo and Moscow are arranging for Putin to visit Japan "early this year," according to government officials.

Kiriyenko said both sides have already reached

a full agreement in working-level talks on the text of the agreement.

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



A Balinese health official sprays disinfectant to bird cages for suspected bird flu contamination at a bird market in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, on 11 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET



Oklahoma governor declares state of emergency

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

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

Henry told media that he talked Wednesday morning with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Na-

politano, as well as members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation. "Secretary Napolitano pledged to deliver any and all assistance as

Oklahoma responds to and recovers from the deadly storms that shook our state last night", Henry said.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman watches a YouTube video in Hong Kong showing a firefighter giving water to a koala after a huge blaze in Australia.—INTERNET

Singapore's semiconductor company net income down 73% in 2008

SINGAPORE, 12 Feb—Singapore's semiconductor company STATS ChipPAC announced on Wednesday that its net income in 2008 dropped 72.6 percent compared with 2007.

The company said in a statement that its net income for the whole year of 2008 stood at 25.7 million US dollars, while its revenue in 2008 registered 1,658.2 million US dollars, up slightly by 0.4 percent over prior year.

In the fourth quarter of 2008, the revenue was 324.6 million US dollars, down by 31.9 percent over a year ago.

Internet

British group heads to Guantanamo to free resident

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

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, meanwhile, announced that a doctor and other British officials would visit Binyam Mohamed at the US prison camp on Cuba's eastern tip. Mohamed has been on a hunger strike for more than a month and is being

force-fed. He launched the strike to protest his continued detention. Charges against him were dropped last year.

"The visit will help us make preparations for his return," said Miliband,

after talks with Mohamed's military lawyer, Air Force Lt Col Yvonne Bradley, who appealed to Britain to pressure President Barack Obama's administration for Mohamed's release.—Internet

US cruiser seizes seven suspected pirates in Gulf of Aden

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

The US cruiser Vella Gulf first heard a distress call from the merchant vessel Polaris, which reported that men in a small boat had attempted to come aboard on a ladder, according to a written statement from US Naval Forces Central Command.

As this was happening, the Vella Gulf changed its course and increased speed to rendezvous with the Polaris. En route, the cruiser intercepted the small boat and took 7 suspected pirates on board into custody.

The suspects will finally be transferred to Kenya, where a new court system is being set up to try and punish pirates.

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



Glass works are displayed in a showroom at the Linea Vetro Murano company on the island of Murano near Venice. Murano glass has been prized through the centuries for its refined beauty, but the credit crisis is threatening to shatter the fading Italian craft industry. Relentless competition from China and other producers and a strong euro that killed the US market for its fine glass are the key culprits in cutting sales in half and the loss of about 75 percent of the sector's jobs in the last few years. But the financial crisis has dried up even the reduced sales at the glassmakers that line the canals of the Venetian island of Murano and raised stark questions about the future of the 700-year-old industry itself.

Police find 60 pounds of pot in double-parked car

It's not a good idea to have a lot of marijuana in a car if it's double-parked. Police in West Philadelphia stopped to question a woman who was double-parked without her car's hazard lights on early on Wednesday morning.

As the officers spoke with the woman, a male passenger fled from the vehicle on foot. He got away, and police said an officer suffered minor injuries chasing him.

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

Man boldly robs Colo store with Star Trek sword

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

Investigators say the man took an unknown amount of cash from a 7-Eleven store on Wednesday but left empty-handed when he tried to rob another store about 25 minutes later.

Police Lt David Whitlock says no one was injured.

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

NEWS ALBUM



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

Mammoth remains found at Calif construction site

Workers digging at a downtown San Diego construction site have uncovered the prehistoric remains of an 8-foot-long mammoth.

A backhoe operator working at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law site unearthed a 20-foot-long tusk on Wednesday.

School spokesman Chris Saunders says experts called in from the San Diego Natural History Museum uncovered the animal's skull and other bones.

Museum paleontologist Pat Sena says it's a "pretty important find" and that it's rare to find mammoth remains with such an intact skull, foot bones and tusk.



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

SPORTS

Spain cut England down to size



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

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

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

Messi steals show as Argentina beat France

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

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

And the majority of the sellout 60,000 crowd will have recognised that the French were deservedly beaten as the 'albiceleste' won with an opener four minutes before half-time from Jonas Gutierrez and then a Messi special eight minutes before the end.

"My lads played really well," Maradona told French television as he commiserated with Domenech. "I am really happy with their performance." —Internet



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

Serena and Jankovic back in the groove at Paris Open tennis

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

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

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

The American made an uncertain start, double-faulting twice and having



US Serena Williams hits a return to her Czech opponent Iveta Benesova during their 17th WTA French Open tennis match in Paris. —INTERNET

to save two break points in her opening service game, before breaking Benesova in the third game and running away with the first set in just 19 minutes.

Internet

Trap salutes captain marvel Keane

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

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

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

Trapattoni said his skipper had displayed real character.

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

Internet

Second-seeded Juan Martin del Potro.

INTERNET

Nadal moves on with French foreign legion

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

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

"I deserved this win," said Nadal. "I had all of the chances and he didn't. I also had two match points. I picked up my



Spanish Rafael Nadal returns a forehand to Italian Simone Bolelli during the ATP Tennis Tournament in Ahoy Rotterdam. —INTERNET

game in the third set and started serving better." "I found my rhythm, but I had a bad game in the first set before I started playing better. I'm in the second round and I expect a better result. I'm hoping to play better." —Internet

Wie to make debut as LPGA Tour member

KAHUKU, 12 Feb—At nearly every turn at Turtle Bay, there are posters of Annika Sorenstam covered in leis, proudly celebrating the 70th of her 72 titles in her spectacular LPGA Tour career. With the 2008 SBS Open champion enjoying retirement, several youngsters are vying to make their mark, including a special class of so-called "rookies."

The group includes Jiyai Shin, Stacy Lewis, Vicky Hurst and Michelle Wie, who was happy to be home, confident and looking for a fresh start to her career when play begins Thursday in the season-opening event. "These four rookies that we talk about headlining the rookie class, every single one of



Michelle Wie, right, pretends to throw punches in a play fight with her caddie Tim Vickers while waiting for her turn to hit on the third tee during the Pr-Am for the LPGA Tour SBS Open golf tournament at Turtle Bay Resort on 11 Feb, 2009 in Kahuku, Hawaii. —INTERNET

them feel capable of sweeping the LPGA," tour commissioner Carolyn Bivens said. "They're fearless. They're not typical rookies." —Internet

Del Potro, Blake advance in San Jose tennis

SAN JOSE, 12 Feb—Second-seeded Juan Martin del Potro slipped into the second round of the 600,000-dollar ATP hardcourt tournament

here, as third-seeded James Blake bull-dozed his way through.

Argentina's del Potro edged Andrea Stoppini of Italy 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5)

in a match that couldn't have been closer. Neither player was able to earn a break of serve in the match that lasted 1hr, 48min.

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

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

Internet





Exercise 'cuts colon cancer risk'

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

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

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

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

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

"We know that around half of all cancers could be prevented by changes to lifestyle.

"Maintaining a healthy bodyweight is one of the best ways to lower the risk of bowel and other cancers -potentially helping to avoid an estimated 13,000 cases each year."—Internet



Roxy is hoping to find love this Valentine's Day.

The rock hopper penguin is the most-adopted animal at London Zoo but he remains without a mate.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (13.2.2009) (Friday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

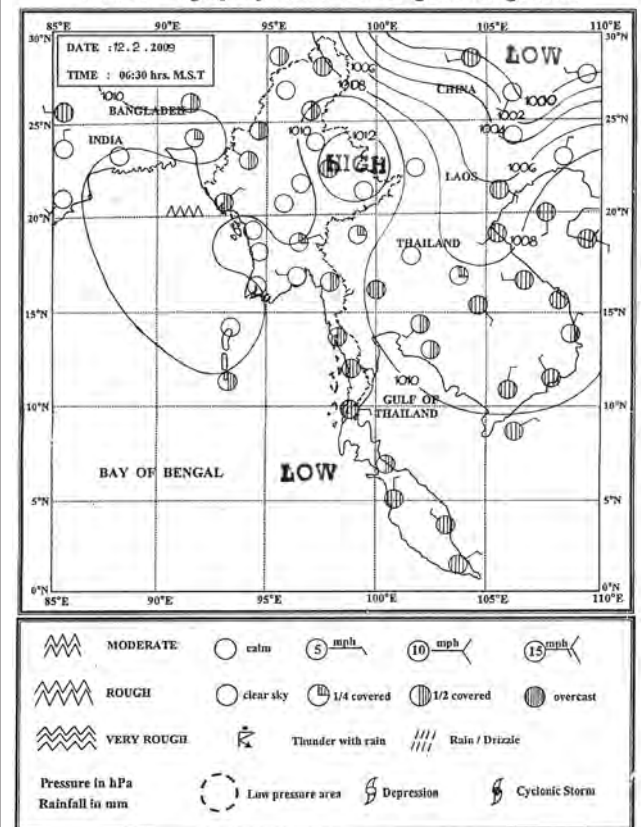
- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, Our Union (Sagaing Division)
- ☐ Oboe: Myanma Musical Instrument
- ☐ Building Dams for Posterity of the Nation
- ☐ Myanmar Modern Song
- ☐ A Wonderful Trip to Ngwe Hsaung
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, Our Union (Main Programme)
- ☐ Encourage Rural Floks to use Biogas widely
- ☐ Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges
- ☐ Intricate Art of Silversmith
- ☐ Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (Part-V) (Wang Mung Camps 2 and 4)
- ☐ Turtle! Our Heritage
- ☐ Creative Decoration for Creative Living
- ☐ Our Coffee Town
- ☐ Myanmar Modern Song
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, Our Union (Sagaing Division)
- ☐ Oboe: Myanma Musical Instrument
- ☐ Building Dams for Posterity of the Nation
- ☐ A Wonderful Trip to Ngwe Hsaung
- ☐ Butterfly Garden in Yangon
- ☐ SA-LE Monastery decorated with Handicrafts
- ☐ A Beautiful State decorated with Rubber
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 12 February, 2009

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

Maximum temperature on 11-2-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 12-2-2009 was 65°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 12-2-2009 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 11-2-2009 was (9.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 12-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (13:30) hours MST on 11-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



Friday, 13 February
View on today

7:00 am

- တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am

- Nice and sweet song

8:05 am

- “ကြိုဆိုလျက်ပါ”
(မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊
ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ နေထူးနိုင်၊
နေယံ၊ မိုးယံစွန်၊ နန်းဆုရတီစိုး၊
စင်စင်ဇော်မြင့်၊ သင်ဇာဝင့်ကျော်)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

8:15 am

- စက်မှုကုန်ကြမ်းသီးနှံရာဘာ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- The mirror images of the musical oldies

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- Dance of national races

4:15 pm

- မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား

4:35 pm

- Musical programme

4:50 pm

- ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (ဓာတုဗေဒဘာသာရပ်)

5:20 pm

- Song to uphold national spirit

5:25 pm

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:35 pm

- “တစ်လောကလုံးလင်းပါစေ”
(ပြေတီဦး၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊
မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ဝါဝါအောင်၊
ဧကန်ဖွင့်စေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-
စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)

5:50 pm

- Song of yesteryear

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“ကုန်သွယ်မှုနိမ့်တိုင်း”
(အပိုင်း-၅၂)

8:00 pm

- News

15. International news

16. Weather report

- ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်ထူးချွန် ဆုပေးပွဲအခမ်းအနားထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်

**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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends opening of Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw)

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) of Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines was opened at the museum near Thabyegon Roundabout in Thabyegon Ward in Nay Pyi Taw Myoma at 8.45 a.m., today attended by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

It was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, (See page 8)



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

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw observes 62nd Anniversary Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day 2009 was held at the square in front of the City Hall, here, this morning, attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo who read the message to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day 2009 sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were senior

military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of the Management Committee for Organizing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Ceremony the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association ministers, the Auditor-General, the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of the central committee and the management committee, heads of Central Offices and departmental heads, officials, local authorities, Union Day delegates and members of cultural troupes, service personnel,

(See page 9)

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



**Honouring the 62nd
Anniversary Union Day**

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**Article
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**National
Development
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