Hundred fruits from a common stem

In the Union of Myanmar where national races are residing, the culture, traditions and customs, language and social systems may appear to be different but in essence they are all based on the common blood of Union kinship and Union Spirit like a hundred fruits from a common stem.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From the message sent to the 46th Anniversary Union Day)

Entire national races developing Myanmar with their united strength under leadership of Government
Hmawby Township hails Union Day, supports National Convention

Yangon, 31 Jan—A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention was held at the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

Present were Secretary of Yangon Division Solidarity and Development Association U Aye Myint, Joint-Secretary U Tha Win, executives, the secretaries and executives of Yangon North District USDA and Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya, Hlegu, Htatinbin, Hmawby and Taikkyi Township USDAs, organizers and members, members of War Veterans Organization, MWAF, MCWA, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people totalling 2,500.

Shwepyithit and Panglong columns comprising members of USDA and social organizations and local people marched to the sports ground.

Yangon North District USDA Secretary U Kyee Maung presided over the ceremony together with members of the panel of chairmen — Secretary of Hmawby Township WVO U Nyunt Aung, Chairperson of Hmawby Township Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Nu Nu, Patron of Hmawby Township MCWA Daw Aye Aye and local older U Soe Min of Bantbwegon Village. Reserved Executive Daw Tin Marlar Myint of Mingaladon Township USDA acted as MC and Hlinethaya Township USDA Executive Daw Ei Mon Soe as co-MC. Before the ceremony, those present saluted the State Flag.

Yangon North District USDA U Kyee Maung delivered an opening address. He said in the Union of Myanmar all the national races have been living together sharing weal and woe for thousands of years. Better foundations on morale such as sacrifice, tolerance, mutual assistance and confidence and reliance have been built among them in the Union. Now the entire national races are building a nation with their united strength under the leadership of the government. The Union of Myanmar will perpetuate forever as long as mutual friendship and amity have been forged among nationalities.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards efficient execution of nation-building work

Peace, stability, strong economy and high education standard are the sine qua non for our endeavours to build the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and developed democracy. Therefore, accelerated measures are being taken for peace, stability and strong economy and educational plans are being implemented for high education standard.

A dinner hosted by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the Central Panel of Patrons of Union Solidarity and Development Association, in honour of the trainees of BEd Course No. 36 of University for Development of National Races, was held at the Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel in Yangon on 30 January.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the graduates of UDNR should properly train their students along the line of our national policy, commonly known as Our Three Main National Causes, and instil correct convictions in them. The youths should be trained in such a way that they can become educated, well-disciplined, patriotic, highly-educated, good and able citizens. Only all-round youths will be able to effectively carry out national development work and the development of the Union will be possible only with such youths.

The Union of Myanmar was ruled by colonialists for more than one hundred years. To get rid of the evil legacy of the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists from the minds of the national brethren, it is necessary to strengthen their national unity and Union Spirit.

At the same time, it is important to preserve the traditions and culture of national races and to prevent the penetration of alien cultures.

For this, youths of national races will have to be trained in such a way as to become citizens deeply imbued with Union Spirit and patriotism. Good sons and daughters thus trained will have to take over the responsibilities of the State sometime in the future and they themselves will have to take part in all national endeavours. Therefore, we would like to urge the new generation youths to prepare themselves well so as to be able to execute the nation-building work efficiently.

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

USDA S-G receives Korean youth delegation

Yangon, 31 Jan — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received a 27-member youth goodwill delegation led by Mr Chung Sang Ok of the Republic of Korea at the USDA headquarters this evening.

Also present at the call were CEC members Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Than Shwe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein.

They cordially discussed friendly relations and cooperation of youths between the two countries.

Hsihseng Township
USDA office opened

Yangon, 31 Jan — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein attended a ceremony to open Hsihseng USDA office in Shan State (South) on 29 January and delivered an address on the occasion.

During the ceremony, he gave instructions on participation of the members in implementing the seven-point Road Map and presented cash donation for education and rural library.

Victorious Band of 55 LID honoured

Yangon, 31 Jan — The band representing the No 55 Light Infantry Division which won the first prize in the C-class Band Contest and the C-class Conductor Contest of the 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 arrived back in Kalaw on 28 January evening.

The band troupe members were welcomed back at Kalaw Station by Commander of No 55 LID, officers and other ranks and family members, local people, students and bands.

At the hall of the LID, the LID commander presented prizes to members of the band troupe. The band manager handed over the first prize shield to the LID commander. Later, the LID commander hosted a dinner to those present.

UDNR trainees leave for Hsindê

Yangon, 31 Jan — The trainees of BEd Course No 36 of University for Development of National Races, accompanied by Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Rector of UDNR Col Zaw Min Thein, Pro-rector Daw Khan Si Si and officials, left here for Hsindê this morning after completion of their visit to Yangon.

Before their departure, Chairman of the Reception and Accommodation Sub-committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint met them. Next, Brig-Gen Myo Myint and Daw Khan Si Si exchanged commemorative pennants. Later, the leader of the excursion tour supervisory group expressed gratitude.

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

All this needs to be known

Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board Joint-Secretary U Thein Thein accepts K 600,000 donated by Mr Pien-Yen-Yu of China (Taipei) recently. — MNA
Chinese Vice-Premier meets
Swiss President, WEF Chairman

DAVOS (Switzerland), 30 Jan — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju, who is here to attend the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), met with Swiss President Samuel Schmid and WEF Chairman Klaus Schwab separately Friday evening.

While meeting with Schmid, Huang said that the Sino-Swiss relationship in general has been developing smoothly. The two countries are keeping a close relationship at the high level, which has promoted bilateral exchanges and cooperation in politics, economics and culture, he said. Huang told Schmid that China would like to enhance collaboration with Switzerland in areas such as science and technology, finance, energy, environmental protection and tourism.

He also asked the Swiss Government to provide convenience and adopt favourable policies for Chinese companies to invest in Switzerland. Schmid told Huang that he is deeply impressed by China’s rapid development. He said Switzerland would work to keep pushing the bilateral ties forward and further expand cooperation with China in economy, trade and tourism.

The President also invited Chinese companies to invest in his country in the near future.

When meeting with Schwab, who is also the founder of the WEF, Huang said that China and the WEF have maintained good relations since 1979. He praised the Geneva-based organization for its positive role in boosting exchange and cooperation among governments and companies around the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Fire ants confirmed in HK

HONG KONG, 31 Jan — The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation received Saturday a verbal reply from experts in the Chinese Mainland confirming that the specimen of ants that had been submitted for their examination was Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA).

According to the US Department of Agriculture, red fire ants (solenopsis invicta) bite repeatedly when their nests are disturbed. Repeated stings from a swarm could lead to chest pains, nausea, shock or, in extremely rare cases, coma or death. Taiwan reported its first death from red fire ants last October.

Hong Kong discovered its first suspected fire ant mounds in Wetland Park in Tin Shui Wai Wednesday. Since then, more and more suspected mounds have been reported.

In Saturday’s operation, the West Bank of Kowloon Cultural District area and a former bus terminal in Tai Kok Tsui became the latest habitats of fire ants, making the total number of mounds found so far in various sites amounting to 187.

Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food York Chow Yat-ngok said Friday the fire ants might settle in Hong Kong permanently.

“I cannot rule out this possibility ... they might have been in Hong Kong for some time,” he said.

An interdepartmental taskforce led by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has been set up to coordinate patrol efforts by various departments which will report findings to the agriculture department. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippine police discover explosive device in Metro Manila

MANILA, 30 Jan — Philippine police said on Saturday that local terrorm groups could be the owner of some powerful explosive devices discovered in a parking lot on Friday in Cubao, Quezon City in Metro Manila. Tension gripped at a parking lot in Cubao, Quezon City where police discovered numerous explosive devices Friday afternoon, police said.

An initial report reaching the Central Police District Office said at least five rocket-propelled grenade launchers and a grenade launcher were found at the parking area.

Some security guards were conducting their routine security checks in the area when they found a plastic bag containing the explosive devices. — MNA/Xinhua

1,429 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — As of Sunday, on 30 January, 2005, at least 1,429 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,087 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The AP count includes four military civilians and is 18 higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday. The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,291 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 978 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The Chinese newspaper was sponsored by the Federation of Chinese in the Philippines. In a written congratulatory message to the first issue, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Ma Zhixue said, “Where there are Chinese, there is the Great Wall.” The newspaper has said it will be dedicated to promoting Chinese culture and reporting general situation of China and the Philippines.

Up to 15 British personnel feared dead in Iraq crash

LONDON, 30 Jan — Up to 15 British troops were killed on Sunday when a transport plane crashed near Baghdad in what could be Britain’s biggest single loss of life of the Iraq campaign, a British military source said.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said a number of Britons died when the C-130 Hercules transport plane crashed. He gave a higher figure but the source said about 10 were dead and it could rise to 15.

“We are investigating and our thoughts are with the families of those who were on board the plane,” the source said. There was no comment on the cause of the crash or whether the plane had been shot down. US officials said helicopters had spotted wreckage strewn over a wide area.

The plane crashed at around 5.25 pm (0925 EST) some 20 miles northwest of Baghdad, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. It was on its way from Baghdad to Balad, a major US military air transport hub, when it crashed.

It was not clear why there was still doubt about the casualty toll, although darkness would have hampered any search of the wreckage. Military transport flights around Iraq often pick up personnel at short notice if they have space available. Before Sunday’s accident, 29 British troops had been killed in combat in Iraq and 43 more had died in non-combat incidents. — Internt

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.
At least 232 civilians die doing US work in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—At least 232 civilians have been killed while working on US-funded contracts in Iraq and the death toll is rising rapidly, according to a US government audit released Sunday.

The quarterly report sent to Congress by the inspector general appointed to audit US-funded work in Iraq said security problems were the biggest obstacle to Iraq’s reconstruction and workers faced grave risks daily.

“One cannot spend a day in Iraq without quickly gaining a profound respect for all engaged in this endeavour,” said Stuart Bowen, a former White House lawyer and now Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

“Their work and sacrifice in Iraq make all the more crucial our success in promoting economy, efficiency and effectiveness in preventing fraud, waste and abuse,” he added in the report, released after Iraqis voted in elections bloodied by attacks.

People working on US-funded projects in Iraq increasingly have been the targets of kidnapping and assassination by guerrillas, who view them as collaborators with the US military that invaded Iraq and ousted ex-President Saddam Hussein in 2003.

More than 1,400 US troops have been killed in Iraq but the US government does not keep an official tally of the number of civilians slain while working on US-funded projects there and in support of US forces. —Internet

Venezuela, China sign 19 cooperation accords

CARACAS, 31 Jan—Venezuela and China signed 19 documents Saturday on issues ranging from economic cooperation to visa procedures following talks between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and visiting Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong.

The documents include a letter of intent on China’s investment in the construction of an agricultural special economic zone on Guara Island and Venezuela’s telecommunications network.

The two countries signed memorandums of understanding on the peaceful utilization of the outer space, on ocean shipping, and an agreement on oil and gas exploitation. They also agreed to simplify visa procedures for officials engaged in governmental cooperation programmes.

Zeng, at the invitation of his Venezuelan counterpart Jose Vicente Rangel, arrived here Friday for an official visit.

China, Venezuela should expand cooperation

CARACAS, 31 Jan—China and Venezuela should implement cooperation projects in the key sectors of energy, agriculture, infrastructure and high-technology, said China Vice-President Zeng Qinghong here on Saturday.

In a meeting with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Zeng said China and Venezuela should expand cooperation by encouraging contacts in politics, culture, the Press, and science and technology.

China and Venezuela should also enhance dialogue and consultations in international affairs so that they can coordinate their positions, Zeng added.

Since the two countries announced to forge a strategic partnership of common development in 2001, Zeng said, bilateral friendly cooperation in various fields have advanced rapidly.

During Chavez’ recent visit to China, leaders of the two countries reached important consensus on bilaterial ties, laying a new foundation for furthering the relations, he said.

Zeng hoped his visit will help implement the consensus so as to give new impetus to mutually beneficial cooperation.

Chavez agreed on Zeng’s viewpoints, noting bilateral ties are based on equality, mutual benefit and respect.

Cooperation in agriculture, energy, science and technology between the two countries is developing rapidly, he said.

The Chinese economy is growing at a fast pace and Venezuela is also striving to develop its economy, offering a good opportunity for the two to reinforce cooperation, he said.

A woman checks the foreign exchange rates at a money changer in Kuala Lumpur recently. —INTERNET

Malaysia Airlines launches Kuala Lumpur-Kolkata flight

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Jan—The first Malaysian Airlines flight from Kolkata, India, to Kuala Lumpur with 157 passengers on board arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) Saturday.

The introduction of the Kolkata-Kuala Lumpur route is in line with Malaysia Airlines’ focus on building its strategy to expand its network in India and to reaffirm its position as a global carrier. Malaysia National News Agency reported.

The national carrier currently flies to six destinations in India — New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

Kolkata is the 7th destination, Malaysia Airlines public affairs manager for corporate communications Mohd Shah Khalid was quoted as saying.

He said the thrice-weekly direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Kolkata will utilize a two-class configured Airbus A330-300 passenger aircraft.

Malaysia Airlines began air links between Malaysia and India on 1 July, 1974 with its inaugural flight from Kuala Lumpur to Chennai. — MNA/Xinhua

State assets watchdog not to intervene

CAO bailout plan

BEIJING, 30 Jan—A spokesman with China’s state assets watchdog said here Friday that the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) will not bail out China Aviation Oil (Singapore) Corp.

Du Yuqian said the CAO restructuring plan was submitted to the Singapore High Court on Monday.

The Singapore-listed company, which suffered a massive loss in derivatives trading, is now seeking investors who are interested in helping the company.

In line with laws of Singapore and international business practice, Du said, the company is looking for an appropriate solution, which might settle the debts and minimize deficits.

As owner of China Aviation Oil Holding Company (CAOHC), which parents CAO, the SASAC will ask CAO to abide by rules in restructuring the company, but will not directly engage in the bailout plan, Du said.

Du said the SASAC hopes the CAO restructuring plan would be understood and accepted by its creditors. Singapore’s state investment vehicle Temasek Holdings is willing to participate in the restructuring. — MNA/Xinhua

WB offers $600m loan for Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 31 Jan—The World Bank (WB) said Saturday that it will grant a loan of 600 million US dollars to Guatemala for education, the fight against corruption and other projects.

The loan is expected to be disbursed in four years. But it is up to the WB board in Washington to decide in April whether the amount will be delivered in totality.

The money will be repaid in 15 to 20 years with an interest rate of 5 percent. The loan was announced at the end of a visit to the Central American country by a WB mission, reports Jane Armitage, WB Director for Central America, said the mission had held meetings with representatives of the Guatemalan Government, Congress, businessmen, civil society and universities in a bid to evaluate the country’s economic realities.

China, Malaysia Airlines launch Kuala Lumpur-Kolkata flight
China committed to following scientific concept of development

China is committed to following a scientific concept of development and applying this concept to guide socio-economic development, Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here on Saturday.

Addressing the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Huang said that in 2020 China’s gross domestic product will reach 4 trillion US dollars, quadrupling that of 2000, and its per capita GDP will reach 3,000 dollars.

“Those jumps from 1,000 dollars to 3,000 dollars in per capita GDP will be a critical stage in China’s modernization drive and an important period of profound changes in socio-economic structure,” said the Chinese leader.

To address the problems in the process of development, the Chinese Government has drawn up policies and measures, the most fundamental of which is to follow a scientific concept of development, he added.

Huang said that China’s scientific approach to sustainable development includes the following points:

— to adopt a human-centred development strategy and bear in mind people’s fundamental interests in the course of development;
— to take economic development as a central task and promote economic, political and cultural advancement in an all-round way to achieve comprehensive socio-economic development;
— to balance urban-rural development, regional development, socio-economic development, harmonious development of man and nature, and domestic development and opening-up;
— to coordinate economic development with population growth, resource availability and environmental protection, and stick to a road of sustainable development consistent with the characteristics of a modern society.

Huang arrived at the Swiss ski resort on Friday. He met with Swiss President Samuel Schmid and WEF Chairman Klaus Schwab separately on Friday evening.

Bird flu death in Vietnam rises to 11

HANOI, 30 Jan— A 13-year-old girl from Vietnam’s southern Dong Thap Province, who was confirmed to contract the bird flu virus H5N1 by the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, died on Saturday, bringing the total fatalities in the country since late December 2004 to 11, a local doctor said.

“The patient was admitted to our hospital on January 20. She lived in Cao Lanh Town where dead poultry were detected,” a doctor at the Pediatric Hospital No. 1 in Ho Chi Minh City said, declining to be named.

The patient’s 35-year-old mother, also an H5N1 carrier, died on 21 January after 10 hours of treatment at the city-based Hospital of Tropical Diseases, the doctor noted, adding that the woman often had a bath in a canal which contained dead chickens.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said further investigations into the mother and her daughter are needed to explore right sources of exposure and look for signs of illness in family members, other close contacts, and the general community.

“In view of the six-day interval between dates of symptom onset in the mother and her child, limited human-to-human transmission, as seen during similar events in the past, cannot be ruled out at this stage,” the WHO said in a statement posted on its web site on Friday.

Now, the Pediatric Hospital No. 1 is treating a bird flu patient — a 10-year-old girl from Tan Thanh District of southern Long An Province.

Before being admitted to the hospital on 20 January with symptoms of high temperature and breathing difficulty, she had contacted with dead chickens, said the doctor.

Australia shifts diplomatic staff in Iraq after bomb attack on embassy

CANBERRA, 31 Jan— Australia’s diplomatic staff in Iraq have moved from central Baghdad to a safer location in a US military base following a car bomb attack on their embassy on 19 January, the government said.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the US military and US officials to deal with such an attack.

Although the overall crime rate fell last year, there was a 13-per-cent rise in domestic violence, Lee said. The police have enhanced the training for officers to deal with such cases.

The police are also planning to revamp their computer system so as to allow officers to trace the information of callers, Lee added.

Fallujah residents too bitter to vote

FALLUJAH, 31 Jan— Iraqis in the city of Fallujah, devastated by a US assault on guerrillas in November, say they are too bitter to vote in Sunday’s election.

“This election is clearly an American game. We fear that the Americans, knowing that people here are not willing to vote, might force us to,” said lawyer Abdul Latif al-Dulaimy, 50.

“They might just enter our houses with the Iraqi police and make us vote from home, but it won’t be a good democracy.” — MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong enjoys significant drop in crime in 2004

HONG KONG, 31 Jan— Hong Kong has witnessed a significant drop in thefts, robberies and burglaries in 2004, proving that police efforts in combating crime are paying off, Hong Kong Commissioner of Police Dick Lee said here Saturday.

Although the overall crime rate fell last year, there was a 13-per-cent rise in domestic violence, Lee said. The police have enhanced the training for officers to deal with such cases.

The police are also planning to revamp their computer system so as to allow officers to trace the information of callers, Lee added.
Hydel power turbine set up into service in Htilin Township

YANGON, 31 Jan — USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 25 January attended the ceremony to launch the hydel power turbine built at a cost of over K6 million on a self-reliant basis by USDA and local people in Htanbingon Village of Htilin Township.

The turbine, built at Maw Creek near Htanbingon Village, can generate 7.5 kilowatt of electricity. Apart from power supply functions, the turbine powers a small rice mill.

While in Htilin Township, the minister met with local people and presented cash and gifts for the Township USDA, schools, BEPSs and local people. And, he accepted USDA membership applications.

Similarly, the minister joined local people in Gangaw Township and accepted USDA membership applications. Next, he presented stationery, books and personal goods to the school, the library and local people.

Speaking on the occasions in Htilin and Gangaw Townships, the Secretariat Member said that today’s Tatmadaw government is carrying out all the development tasks and cooperation in rural development among the State, local people, and USDA and wellwishers.

He continued to say that as Myittha Dam project will be implemented near Gangaw villages can enjoy irrigation facilities for agricultural purpose. In addition, the dam project will contribute to generating hyro-electric power from the river. Likewise, the plan is under way to implement Manipur Dam Project for supplying water to some areas of farmland and generating electricity as well.

The Head of State has inspected the project and gave guidance on development of Gangaw District. That is why the

The head of State and local officials then launched the ceremony to launch the hydel power turbine set up into service in Htilin Township, the minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said the project will emerge in the region soon.

He added, “However, he cautioned, acts of internal and external destructive elements using various means and ways and their confrontation policy will harm regional development and obstruct the plan to realize democracy system which the people desire. As Myanmar is rich in natural resources, all the people should be aware of the danger of neo-colonialism. At present, village libraries were established one after another for ensuring dissemination of knowledge to the people so as to have a chance to be talented by reading media presentation. The Ministry of Information performs its dynamic functions of entertainment and education for the public and publishes a journal namely “Doh Kyeywa” for the rural people without taking into account on the profit. In conclusion, he said as today is the education age, all the people are to try hard to serve the interest of the State and themselves by learning and applying advanced technologies.”

Acts of internal and external destructive elements using various means and ways and their confrontation policy will harm regional development and obstruct the plan to realize democracy system which the people desire.

The sky of the Union

* Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Kayah and Citizens all together.
  Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan All of one mind.

Many years have passed
We never part from this land.
Eggs not broken, nest undisturbed
Hands held firmly together.

* One helps, another rallies
Lending helping hands in unison
The strength of Myanmar.
Roads and bridges step by step
Like flowers they bloom one by one
‘Tis specially encouraging.

* When Myanmar is green and lush
The tune of song of peace
Is fragrant and comely
What’s famous throughout the world
Ruby and sapphire
Jade and all else
The resources of our nation
‘Tis so plentiful.

* Citizens, brethren, all of us
The Union is their sky
Sun, moon, stars all brightly glittering
All bright and clear.
There may be a hundred fruits
But all out of a single stem.
Both younger brother
And elder are no different
For Myanmar our land to prosper
Let’s all try together.

Sue Moe (Pathein) (Trs)
Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging peaceful and stable, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a peaceful and stable, free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.

Entire national races developing...
(from page 1)

He said all the national people are to safeguard independence and sovereignty and honour fine traditions of the past and essence of the Union Day. The national goal is emerging, free, modern and developed nation.

The national goal is emerging, he said, as a free, modern and developed nation.

It also launched rural development, health to officials concerned. The USDA also reported their respective USDA members and local people marching to the sports ground in Bantbwegon Village of Hmawby Township.
Kachin State is located in the northwestern part of the Union of Myanmar with an area of 34,379 square miles in total. It is like a small union, home to various national races such as Kachin, Chin, Bamar, Shan and Naga. Its population is 1,433,000 people, and so in the region, population is 1,433,000 people, and so in the region.

The mountainous region has Mount Khakaborazi (19296 feet) and Mount Galanayazi (19142 feet), which are higher than any other mountains in the nation. These mountains are always capped with snow. Largest area is Hugaung valley in Malika river basin, the surrounding regions of Myitkyina and Bhamo, Indawgyi Lake, and surrounding areas of Moaunga Creek and Kaukkway Creek.

During his inspection tour of the region in April 1995, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to the officials, saying “In the past, Kachin State lagged behind in development owing to lack of peace and stability in the region for many years. So, local people should not apply traditional methods any longer but must hard much more than ever before for regional development. Now, peace has been restored well and it is thus the most opportune time to speed up the implementation of tasks for boosting production through effective use of the natural resources,” he added.

Now, Kachin State has caught up with other states and divisions in various sectors thanks to the assistance and encouragement of the government, and united and harmonious efforts of local national race leaders and people. Local national people in Kachin State are enjoying fruits of development. The conditions before and after 1988 are compared in this article.

### Agriculture

The total sown acreage of Kachin State was 443,160 only in the past. At that time, altogether 275,709 acres were put under paddy and the output was 13,466 baskets. Now, the sown acreage of monsoon and summer paddy has nearly doubled with boosting per acre yield, so the paddy production has increased two times. In consequence, the region’s agricultural production has been in surplus. The following table shows the progress of the sown acreage of paddy and other crops in the region.

### Livestock and fishery

The government production of fish in the long run.

### Forest conservation

The government paid attention to conservation

### Transport sector

In the past, with poor transport, the region had to mainly rely on railway and airway. At that time, Shwebo-Myitkyina Road, the remaining roads were in poor condition. So, local people had to cross forests in Kachin State. So the area of forests has risen nearly thirty times. The area of afforestation has surged nearly 70 times. In 1988, a total of 10,000 saplings were planted in mass activities. Now, over 6.6 million saplings have been grown in the region.

### Land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005-2006 Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sown acreage</td>
<td>443,160</td>
<td>518278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin (acre)</td>
<td>518278</td>
<td>480651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply task</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam, reservoir</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water pumping station</td>
<td>14811</td>
<td>14412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damming river, creek</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground water tap</td>
<td>14811</td>
<td>14412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double cropping acreage</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sown acreage extension</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsoon paddy (acre)</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per acre yield</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer paddy (acre)</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per acre yield</td>
<td>23837</td>
<td>93380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Production</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food sufficiency</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans &amp; pulses (acre)</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize (acre)</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber (acre)</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil palm (acre)</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea (acre)</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper (acre)</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible oil crop (acre)</td>
<td>13466</td>
<td>26460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### lacking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005-2006 Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvested Reserve Forest</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected public forest</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural forests</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of forest plantation</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Commercial plantation</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Village firewood plantation (acre)</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Watershed plantation (acre)</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Thitseint plantation (acre)</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total output - baskets (in thousand)</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development in Kachin State after 1988

Kandawyan diversion weir
Kandawyan diversion weir built by the State in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State supplies water to 12,000 acres of farmland.

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day
Bhamo Degree College
Bhamo degree college built in Bhamo, Kachin State.

With the length of 2688 feet, Bala Min Htin bridge was built across Ayeyawady River in Myitkyina, Kachin State.
Kachin State marching to new... (from page 5)

The government is taking systematic measures in order to effectively tap natural resources in abundance. The following table shows the progress sector of Kachin State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>12-2-2005 progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postal office</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegraph office</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facsimile</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer telegraph</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- telephone office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- telephone line</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td>13340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- exchange</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- direct line</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>10920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- auto/manual telephone</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>8225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- cellular telephone</td>
<td></td>
<td>2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- telephone density</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>8.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microwave station</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural telephone exchange</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail internet</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satellite station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- VAST</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- iPSTAR</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(one in 1000 people)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modernization and industrial development of Kachin State are being made. With the encouragement of the government, the number of joint ventures has gone increased. Jade and gold are now being mined more than ever. More private entrepreneurs are engaged in those tasks in the interest of the State.

**Science and technology**

- The present-hydel power plants in Kachin State will be able to generate 48.196 megawatt. Thus, the present-hydel power plants in Kachin State will be able to generate 34.5 megawatt. Thus, the present-hydel power plants in Kachin State will be able to generate 48.196 megawatt.

**Industries**

As efforts are being made for ensuring development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well there have been good foundations for industrial development.

Kachin State Marching to New... (from page 5)

Government is implementing Kyunwadaw bridge, Kaunghmloin suspension bridge, and Nantii bridge (Kanbla) projects in the region.

**Electric Power**

The government is taking systematic measures in order to effectively tap natural resources in abundance. The following table shows the progress sector of Kachin State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>12-2-2005 progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic education sector</td>
<td>1178</td>
<td>1315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- school population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- multimedia classrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- e-Learning centre</td>
<td>4873</td>
<td>8376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- strength of teacher</td>
<td>142248</td>
<td>281336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- student population</td>
<td>62.13</td>
<td>94.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- primary enrolment rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- adult literacy rate</td>
<td>72.71</td>
<td>92.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School dropout rate</td>
<td>45.35</td>
<td>8.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- primary school level</td>
<td>44.93</td>
<td>10.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- middle school level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education sector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- university</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- degree college</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- college</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- e-Learning centre</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- teaching programme</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of faculty member</td>
<td>1252</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resource development centre</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kachin State Marching to New... (from page 5)

Regional roads and rural regions in Kachin State have been doubled. At present, efforts are being made for ensuring water supply to another seven towns. The length of village-to-village roads has increased from 468 miles in the past to 862 miles to date for regional development. This includes 53 miles and 2 fur- longs of tarred road. To ensure potable water supply to rural regions, tasks for water supply were carried out in 388 villages out of 678 villages.

In the past, measures were taken for ensuring water supply to two towns.
**Seven-point Road Map hope of people as well as the policy they desire**

YANGON, 31 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention was held at Alegon village, Kanaingda village-tract, Dawei Township, Dawei District, Taninthayi Division, yesterday.

At the ceremony, Secretary of Dawei District Union Solidarity and Development Association U Hein Win said that the nation fell under subjugation after facing three aggressive wars of the colonialists. But the national races daringly fought back the intruders with any available weapons. The nationalities were able to sign the Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947, and the 12th of February has been observed as the Union Day to symbolize the solidarity of the national people. The national goal of the people is to build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing state. The seven-point Road Map is the hope of people as well as the policy they desire. The holding of the National Convention, the most important part of the Road Map is in the process at present. The entire nation willingly supports the National Convention that will resume soon. Over 65 per cent of the nation’s population are rural dwellers, and the USDA is energetically taking part in the five rural development tasks. The USDA is winning the support of the entire nation willingly supports the National Convention.

Secretary of Yebyu Township USDA U Pe Than tabled a motion hailing the Union Day, Secretary of Launglon Township USDA U Wunna Zaw support-
Preston police officers to be sent to Egypt for training

CAIRO, 30 Jan — Some 40 Palestinian police officers will come to Egypt for training next week as part of Egypt’s contribution to the new security arrangements in Gaza, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said on Saturday.

Egypt will also receive delegations from the Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Which new Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is trying to coax into a truce with Israel, he told Reuters after talks between Abbas and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Under an earlier plan, Egypt had offered to mediate a dialogue between the Palestinian Authority and the militants but Shaath said that would no longer be necessary.

Putin says Russia to reach new level of interaction with NATO

MOSCOW, 30 Jan — President Vladimir Putin said Saturday that Russia is prepared to reach a new level of interaction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and expand military-technical cooperation with it. This organization and NATO are mutually complementary elements of global and regional security systems.

Combining their potentials could produce a significant positive result,” Putin said.

Putin meanwhile reiterated that Russia was concerned over the North Atlantic alliance’s enlargement and was willing to talk to NATO and Russia.

The President thought one of the new ways for the cooperation could be the arrangement of direct working contacts between NATO and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, that consists of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. This organization and NATO are mutually complementary elements of global and regional security systems. Combining their potentials could produce a significant positive result,” he said.

Putin said that it was not conducive to our foreign policy if they had a nuclear or biological or nuclear attacks, Ridge said the other day. “I do think, when we talk about global terrorism, (it is better) that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

“There are a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations and there are quite a few. There is a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I think it’s better that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

Ridge believes another attack on US inevitable

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — Departing Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Friday he believed there was another attack on the United States was inevitable, and warned that America should not focus just on al-Qaeda, but also on similar groups that could carry out attacks.

“I have accepted the inevitability of another attack or attacks,” Ridge said in an interview on the military forces of his department launched two years ago to guard against another attack like that of September 11, 2001.

“It could be al-Qaeda or it could be al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I do think, when we talk about global terrorism, (it is better) that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

“It’s not just on al-Qaeda,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I think it’s better that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

Ridge believes another attack on US inevitable

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — Departing Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Friday he believed there was another attack on the United States was inevitable, and warned that America should not focus just on al-Qaeda, but also on similar groups that could carry out attacks.

“I have accepted the inevitability of another attack or attacks,” Ridge said in an interview on the military forces of his department launched two years ago to guard against another attack like that of September 11, 2001.

“It could be al-Qaeda or it could be al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I do think, when we talk about global terrorism, (it is better) that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

“There are a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations and there are quite a few. There is a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I think it’s better that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

Ridge believes another attack on US inevitable

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — Departing Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Friday he believed there was another attack on the United States was inevitable, and warned that America should not focus just on al-Qaeda, but also on similar groups that could carry out attacks.

“I have accepted the inevitability of another attack or attacks,” Ridge said in an interview on the military forces of his department launched two years ago to guard against another attack like that of September 11, 2001.

“It could be al-Qaeda or it could be al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I do think, when we talk about global terrorism, (it is better) that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

“There are a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations and there are quite a few. There is a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I think it’s better that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

Ridge believes another attack on US inevitable

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — Departing Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Friday he believed there was another attack on the United States was inevitable, and warned that America should not focus just on al-Qaeda, but also on similar groups that could carry out attacks.

“I have accepted the inevitability of another attack or attacks,” Ridge said in an interview on the military forces of his department launched two years ago to guard against another attack like that of September 11, 2001.

“It could be al-Qaeda or it could be al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I do think, when we talk about global terrorism, (it is better) that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”

“There are a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations and there are quite a few. There is a lot of al-Qaeda-like organizations,” said Ridge, who departs on February 1. “I think it’s better that America doesn’t focus just on al-Qaeda.”
Hopes of a world record bring out China’s extraordinary citizens

BEIJING, 30 Jan — It is hard to stand out in a country of 1.3 billion, but on Friday hopes of a world record brought out some of China’s most extraordinary citizens.

Standing at more than 2.4 metres (7 feet 10 inches), Zhan Junchai said he thinks he may be the world’s tallest. He said he readied himself for a performance alongside the longest-haired woman, the man who made the world’s smallest scissors and a group of Mongolian wrestlers.

Though he has made a career of performing for advertisements, Zhan says his height is more burden than point of pride, surrounded by a people not known for their large size. “Being taller than others isn’t convenient,” the 39-year-old said, holding his head in his giant hands.

“My family is all like you. It’s only me who is this tall,” he said. The Guinness World Records website (http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com) lists Tunisia’s Radhouane Charbib, measured at just under 2.4 metres, as the world’s tallest living man.

Xie Qipeng, from the southern city of Shenzhen, is proud of her five metres of hair, a small tiara adorned with 100,000 precious stones. Xie travels with an assistant to hold her hair for her. “It’s no trouble at all. I’m used to it,” she said.

“But you need patience and you need to hold yourself straight when you have hair like this,” said Xie, who began growing her hair when she was a little girl. For others, striving for records takes a certain kind of personality. Performer Dan Leaping, his head wrapped in a blue spanked turban, pulled out a case full of instruments and began playing a flute with his nose, a wad of cloth stuffed up his other nostril.

A profile of Chen Yuxue, who has created what are thought to be the world’s smallest scissors, as well as a miniature ivory abacus and carvings on grains of rice, says he is obstinate by nature, “always trying to do what others cannot do”. Even when the attributes are God-given, they seem to breed a competitive spirit. Tall Zhan scoffs when asked if he knows Chinese basketball star Yao Ming. “I’m certainly taller than him!”

MNA/Xinhua

Shanxi Province reports big malleable iron export

TATYUAN, 30 Jan — China’s biggest malleable iron production centre Taigu County in Shanxi Province achieved 31-milion-US-dollar export turnover last year, a record high.

Located in north China’s Shanxi Province, Taigu possesses 126 malleable iron companies. It produced more than 300,000 tons of malleable iron in 2004, accounting for one quarter of China’s total, said an official with the local government.

The official said the companies invested more than 18 million yuan (about 2.2 million US dollars) in tackling pollution last year and spent about 100 million yuan (about 12 million US dollars) in developing their new products.

A comprehensive production structure has taken shape in the malleable iron centre and the companies are turning from labour-intensive types to technology-intensive ones, the official said. MNA/Xinhua

Iranian Supreme Leader reports US threat

TEHERAN, 30 Jan — Iranian Supreme Leader Seyed Ali Khamenei on Saturday retorted some recent accusations and threats made by senior US officials against Iran, terming them as “nonsense” and calling on the country to resist, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“US officials, speaking nonsense, accuse Iran of racism, supporting terrorism and violating human rights. However, everyone knows that the Americans themselves deserve these accusations,” Khamenei was quoted as saying at a religious occasion of Shiite Muslims.

Khamenei also called on the whole nation to retort US officials’ verbal hostility.

“US politicians, who are the highest symbols of the world arrogance, stupidly think that the Islamic nation will surrender to their blurring and intimidation,” Khamenei said.

“However, this nation is by far stronger than the first years of the Islamic Revolution and by relying on their faith, determination and unity, will never be intimidated by any threats,” he warned.

Recently, US senior officials, including President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, made some hostile comments against Iran, which has raised wide imagination that Washington might launch attacks upon Iran in the near future.

Iran has warned that it would strongly stand up to any aggression. Iran and the US, who had been close allies in 1970’s, turned into enemies after the Islamic Revolution of Iran took place in 1979. The US accused Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons and sponsoring terrorists and imposing harsh sanctions on the country.

Iran, in return, termed the US as enemies of the whole Islamic world.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian assure approved e-mails to transmit important messages

ROME, 30 Jan — Italy approved on Friday a decree allowing the use of certified e-mails to transmit important information and documents.

The new decree would give certified e-mails the same legal status as recorded delivery letters. “Certified e-mail is a major innovation,” Innovation and Technology Minister Lucio Stanca said, adding that it would greatly simplify formal communication between the public administration and Italians.

He noted that the total cost for sending an official letter would reach about 20 euros (26 US dollars), while sending a certified message via the Internet would cost only two euros (2.6 US dollars).

Under the decree, Internet service providers will have to offer a reasonable price for the service if they want to be included in a government list of certified e-mail handlers.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese official says Asia becomes positive force of global eco

DAVOS (Switzerland), 30 Jan — With its dynamic model of cooperation, Asia has become a positive force on the rise in the world economy, a senior Chinese official said here Friday.

The development in Asia, which has drawn worldwide attention amid growing globalization and regional integration, has three features, said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang, who is accompanying Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju to attend the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

First, Asia’s overall development has been led by economic cooperation and trade, Shen said while addressing a WEF-hosted dinner titled “Asia’s New Balancing Act”.

Though regional economic cooperation began quite late in Asia, it has become very flexible, diverse and fast growing and has promoted trade within the region, he added.

The second feature, Shen said, is that political dialogue and security cooperation have led to more political mutual trust among countries in the region. “Given their diversity, Asian countries have to seek harmony without uniformity in regional cooperation,” he said.

The third feature, according to the senior Chinese diplomat, Asian countries have taken joint actions to meet challenges collectively.

The Asian financial crisis, the avian flu, the SARS epidemic and the Indian Ocean tsunamis have all heightened the region’s awareness of danger, strengthened cohesion and highlighted the pressing need for cooperation, Shen said.

He said that the cooperation among Asian countries, based on the recognition of and respect for their diversity, has expanded common interests and generated tangible benefits to all countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Living standard improves in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 30 Jan — The Nepal Living Standard Survey released Saturday by the Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal shows that average household income in the country has grown by more than 80 per cent during the past eight years.


The annual per capita consumption has increased from 6,802 rupees (97.2 dollars) to 15,848 rupees (226.4 dollars) during the same period.

The survey states that the growth in per capita consumption is 91 per cent for the bottom quintile of the population and 177 per cent for the top quintile over the last eight years as a result of an impressive growth across all population groups.

The share of farm income in total income has declined from 61 per cent to 48 per cent, while that of non-farm income increased from 22 to 28 per cent among others.

Income from migrants increased from 16 to 25 per cent during the review eight years.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian Supreme Leader reports US threat

TEHERAN, 30 Jan — Iranian Supreme Leader Seyed Ali Khamenei on Saturday retorted some recent accusations and threats made by senior US officials against Iran, terming them as “nonsense” and calling on the country to resist, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“US officials, speaking nonsense, accuse Iran of racism, supporting terrorism and violating human rights. However, everyone knows that the Americans themselves deserve these accusations,” Khamenei was quoted as saying at a religious occasion of Shiite Muslims.

Khamenei also called on the whole nation to retort US officials’ verbal hostility.

“US politicians, who are the highest symbols of the world arrogance, stupidly think that the Islamic nation will surrender to their blurring and intimidation,” Khamenei said.

“However, this nation is by far stronger than the first years of the Islamic Revolution and by relying on their faith, determination and unity, will never be intimidated by any threats,” he warned.

Recently, US senior officials, including President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, made some hostile comments against Iran, which has raised wide imagination that Washington might launch attacks upon Iran in the near future.

Iran has warned that it would strongly stand up to any aggression. Iran and the US, who had been close allies in 1970’s, turned into enemies after the Islamic Revolution of Iran took place in 1979. The US accused Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons and sponsoring terrorists and imposing harsh sanctions on the country.

Iran, in return, termed the US as enemies of the whole Islamic world.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian assure approved e-mails to transmit important messages

ROME, 30 Jan — Italy approved on Friday a decree allowing the use of certified e-mails to transmit important information and documents.

The new decree would give certified e-mails the same legal status as recorded delivery letters. “Certified e-mail is a major innovation,” Innovation and Technology Minister Lucio Stanca said, adding that it would greatly simplify formal communication between the public administration and Italians.

He noted that the total cost for sending an official letter would reach about 20 euros (26 US dollars), while sending a certified message via the Internet would cost only two euros (2.6 US dollars).

Under the decree, Internet service providers will have to offer a reasonable price for the service if they want to be included in a government list of certified e-mail handlers.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese official says Asia becomes positive force of global eco

DAVOS (Switzerland), 30 Jan — With its dynamic model of cooperation, Asia has become a positive force on the rise in the world economy, a senior Chinese official said here Friday.

The development in Asia, which has drawn worldwide attention amid growing globalization and regional integration, has three features, said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang, who is accompanying Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju to attend the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

First, Asia’s overall development has been led by economic cooperation and trade, Shen said while addressing a WEF-hosted dinner titled “Asia’s New Balancing Act”.

Though regional economic cooperation began quite late in Asia, it has become very flexible, diverse and fast growing and has promoted trade within the region, he added.

The second feature, Shen said, is that political dialogue and security cooperation have led to more political mutual trust among countries in the region. “Given their diversity, Asian countries have to seek harmony without uniformity in regional cooperation,” he said.

The third feature, according to the senior Chinese diplomat, Asian countries have taken joint actions to meet challenges collectively.

The Asian financial crisis, the avian flu, the SARS epidemic and the Indian Ocean tsunamis have all heightened the region’s awareness of danger, strengthened cohesion and highlighted the pressing need for cooperation, Shen said.

He said that the cooperation among Asian countries, based on the recognition of and respect for their diversity, has expanded common interests and generated tangible benefits to all countries.

MNA/Xinhua
**S**

**Unseeded Aussies win mixed doubles Australian Open title**

Melbourne, 31 Jan—Unseeded Australians Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur beat Zimbabwean Kevin Ullyett and Liezel Huber of South Africa 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 to win the mixed doubles title at the Australian Open on Sunday.

The Australian pair raced through the first set but were pegged back by the fourth seeds in the second before they held their nerves in the tiebreak to clinch their first Grand Slam title.

Draper, who also made his professional golf debut this week, was a late replacement for fellow countryman Todd Reid, who pulled out on the eve of the event.

Ullyett had been bedding for his second Grand Slam crown in two days, having teamed up with fellow Zimbabwean Wayne Black to win the men's doubles title on Saturday.

**Safin wins Astraian Open**

Melbourne, 31 Jan—Fourth seed Marat Safin stared down the challenge of local hero Lleyton Hewitt to win the centenary Australian Open on Sunday.

Hewitt in turn broke Safin in a controversial second game of the third set. He set up his first chance when he outfought Safin in a long rally and then hit a forehand winner when Safin failed to put away a smash.

The tenacious Australian exploded in anger when, at deuce, a Safin forehand on the line was called out by a baseline judge but the call was overruled by chair umpire Carlos Ramos, who ordered the point to be replayed.

Hewitt seemed to be on top of the incident and broke Safin, who put a forehand wide at deuce. Hewitt then got a lucky break when he blocked a half-volley past the stranded Safin.

Safin in turn became enraged with his own game and slammed his racket into the court as Hewitt held serve for a 3-0 lead.

Safin then called for a trainer at the change of ends to massage his thighs. He in turn got angry over a corrected line call in the next game, arguing with Ramos in Spanish.

Hewitt desperately scrambled to save a break point in the sixth game but Ramos gave him a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct after the Australian aggressively pointed his finger at a baseline judge after hitting a forehand winner to get back to deuce.

Safin eventually broke Hewitt when he crunched a backhand winner down the line. After the point he argued again with Ramos, who warned both players they risked a point penalty if there were any further outbursts.

**Sparma beat Udinese 1-0 in Italian Serie A**

Rome, 30 Jan—Udinese suffered their third Serie A defeat in a row, when they lost 1-0 to Parma on Saturday.

The defeat, which followed losses to AC Milan and Reggina, meant Udinese remained a distant third in the standings on 34 points, 13 behind leaders Juventus, who play Atalanta on Sunday.

Udinese fell behind after 34 minutes, when Italian striker Alberto Gilardino nodded a deflected cross past keeper Morgan De Sanctis for his 10th goal of the season.

Udinese looked more dangerous after the interval, but Antonio Di Natale's wild header over the bar from Michele Pazienza's inviting cross summed up their frustrating night.

The best chance to equalise arrived 10 minutes from the end, when midfielder Mirko Pieri failed to make contact with a Marek Jankulovski cross that bounced up at the far post.

In the final minute Gilardino nearly grabbed his second goal, breaking forward alone before firing against the post.

In an earlier match, Chievo Verona climbed six points clear of the relegation zone with a 1-0 win over Livorno.

The result lifted Chievo to 13th on 25 points in the 20-team division.

Livorno failed to reproduce the form that earned them a 1-0 win over champions AC Milan last weekend, and rarely looked likely to score.

**S**

**Serena Williams wins Australian Open tennis title**

Melbourne, 30 Jan—Professional misery and personal heartache over the past two years drove Serena Williams right through the pain barrier to the Australian Open crown, the American said on Saturday.

The seventh seed staged a stunning comeback to beat Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 at Melbourne Park before saying she had been through much in the past two years to consider giving in to a back injury which struck at the start of the match.

The 2003 champion suffered the injury in a controversial opening game of the final but bravely fought back to defeat world number one Davenport in a display of heart and determination.

“She was killing me in the first set but I just thought, ‘Enough... I’m not going to lose,’” Williams said.

“Lindsay had me on the run. I was running for a ball on my backhand and my back went out. I’m not as young as I used to be,” the 23-year-old smiled.

The remarkable comeback gave Williams her seventh Grand Slam title and her first since Wimbledon in 2003. It was soon after that victory that Williams endured a bleak period in her life which included the death of one of her elder sisters, the separation of her parents and an extended lay-off after knee surgery.

She won tournaments in Miami and Beijing after her comeback last year but also endured the disappointment of being beaten in the finals of Wimbledon and the season-ending WTA Championships, losing to Russian teenager Maria Sharapova both times.

Williams said those experiences had made her more determined to battle back and that she drew strength from them in the final. “It means a lot to me. I went to a few finals last year and I went so close and didn’t win, so I really didn’t want it to happen again,” she said.

Davenport, the 2000 champion, raced to a 4-0 lead in the first set after only 11 minutes, with Williams leaving the court for treatment when she trailed 4-1. The former world number one returned to court and ground her way back before a pivotal fifth game in the second set.

The Williams gamely held off six break points against her serve in that game before slamming a service winner to hold for 3-2 in what proved to be the turning point of the match.

**Chelsea agree eight-year sponsorship deal with Adidas**

London, 31 Jan—Premier League leaders Chelsea have agreed an eight-year kit sponsorship deal with German sportswear manufacturer Adidas-Salomon.

The club's web site said the deal would begin on July 1, 2006 and would be worth around 12 million pounds (22.59 million US dollars) a year to Chelsea.

“We believe a global partnership with Adidas will be a huge step in helping the club achieve its long-term strategic goals. Together we can become a formidable team,” Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon said.

British sportswear manufacturer Umbro said this month that its kit contract with Chelsea was being terminated five years early in 2006. —MNA/Reuters

**Zimbabweans win Australian Open men's doubles**

Melbourne, 30 Jan—Zimbabweans Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett upset seed pairs Bob and Mike Bryan 6-4, 6-4 to win the Australian Open men's doubles on Saturday.

The fifth seeds broke the Bryan twins once in each set to clinch their second Grand Slam title together, completing victory without dropping a set in the tournament.

Having broken for 3-2 in the second set, Ullyett held his nerve to serve out for victory and gain revenge for their defeat at the hands of the Americans in the final of the Masters Cup in Houston last year.

The Zimbabweans’ only other Grand Slam title came at the US Open in 2001. —INTERNET

**Russia's Marat Safin rides the front of a tram while coming at the US Open in 2001.**

Russia's Marat Safin rides the front of a tram while coming at the US Open in 2001.
Kachin State marching to new... (from page 10)

tranquillity in Kachin State’s two special regions is enjoying the fruitful results of development.

Those regions, which lagged behind in development in the past, are now making progress like big cities. The youth development training schools were opened in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Putao. Arrangements are being made to open vocational training schools in Bhamo, Putao, Dwingban and Dawmchen. Information and public relations

The information sector is sending news on efforts of the government serving the long-term interests of the state and the people and news on economic, social and science and technology to the people. Kachin State Information and Public Relations Department is taking the following measures for further cementing friendship among the national races.

(MNAXinhua)

OPEC poised to stick with existing oil supply limits

VIENNA, 31 Jan — OPEC is poised to stick with existing oil supply limits, deferring a decision on cutbacks to counter falling seasonal demand until March, oil ministers said on Saturday.

“We believe strongly that OPEC will roll over the production for the time being and see what’s going on in a few months from now,” Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah al-Attiyah told reporters ahead of Sunday’s meeting. US oil prices rose close to 50 US dollars this week, within 6 US dollars of record highs hit in late October, as harsher winter weather in the United States pumped up demand for heating fuel. OPEC’s President Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah of Kuwait said almost all OPEC members were agreed the group should leave current output quotas unchanged.

“We are starting to believe that almost all support to keep it where it is,” he told reporters.

Russia, US vow to maintain succession in relations

MOSCOW, 31 Jan — Russia and the United States have assured their common views on preserving succession and pace of development in bilateral ties, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The presidents of Russia and the United States had confirmed concrete fields for bilateral cooperation, including strengthening international security and strategic stability, dealing with new global challenges and threats, developing trade and economic ties and expanding social and civil contacts.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov addressed the members of the Russian-American Business Cooperation Council on Thursday, the text of which was published on the ministry’s web site.

Lavrov said that both sides could consolidate the foundation of partnership given the successful joint efforts, noting that a long-term joint action plan is expected to be reached during the upcoming summit meeting of the heads of the two states in late February.

However, the minister pointed out that Russia and the United States also have different views over approaches to settling world crises, but diversification is normal for world development.

WASHINGTON, 31 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Yangon and Thaninthriydi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

The significant night temperatures were Namsam and Hakha (4°C) each, PyinOoLwin and Heho (5°C) each and Lashio and Mogok (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-1-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 31-1-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-1-2005 was 76%. Sunshine hours on 30-1-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from Northeast at 8:55 hrs MST on 30-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-2-2005: Weather will be fair in the whole country.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.

WEATHER

MONDAY, 31 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Yangon and Thaninthriydi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Namsam and Hakha (4°C) each, PyinOoLwin and Heho (5°C) each and Lashio and Mogok (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-1-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 31-1-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-1-2005 was 76%. Sunshine hours on 30-1-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from Northeast at 8:55 hrs MST on 30-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-2-2005: Weather will be fair in the whole country.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 1 February

Tune in today:
8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Moonlight shadow perspectives
8:40 am Music: Samba De Jarnero
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music: Who do you think you are
9:15 am News/Slogan
Lunch Time Music: Woman/Lady
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Music: Lunch Time Music: Woman/Lady
Please don’t fall in love
10:00 pm News/Slogan
9:45 pm News/Slogan
11:00 pm/Billboard

Tuesday, 1 February

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 1 February

Tune in today:
8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Moonlight shadow perspectives
8:40 am Music: Samba De Jarnero
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music: Who do you think you are
9:15 am News/Slogan
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Music: Lunch Time Music: Woman/Lady
Please don’t fall in love
10:00 pm News/Slogan
9:45 pm News/Slogan
11:00 pm/Billboard

Monday, 31 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Yangon and Thaninthriydi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Namsam and Hakha (4°C) each, PyinOoLwin and Heho (5°C) each and Lashio and Mogok (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-1-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 31-1-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-1-2005 was 76%. Sunshine hours on 30-1-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from Northeast at 8:55 hrs MST on 30-1-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-2-2005: Weather will be fair in the whole country.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-2-2005: Fair weather.
Development tasks inspected in Maubin Township

YANGON, 31 Jan — A ceremony to donate cash for the renovation of MyoU Paw Dawmu Pagoda in Maubin, Ayeyawady Division, took place at the pagoda on 29 January morning.

It was attended by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and South West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htu Oo, town elders, well wishers, departmental staff and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Before the ceremony, the minister met USDA members of Maubin district and township and discussed regional development works.

Next, the commander and the minister made cash donations for the renovation of the pagoda. Twenty four well wishers also donated K 8.08 million. The commander and the minister accepted the donations and viewed the renovation tasks at the pagoda and construction of Sasana Beikmandawgyi in Maubin District. Afterwards, they met local farmers in Wataw village, Maubin Township, gave necessary instructions to them and inspected the plantations of soy bean, sun flowers and maize and grains.

In Maubin Township, over 330,000 acres of monsoon and summer paddy, maize, oil crops and various kinds of beans and pulses are being grown.

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

YANGON, 31 Jan — A ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention, Maubin District, on 29 January. Altogether 1500 attended the mass rally. U Ko Lay, secretary of the Union Development Association totalling 800.

Magway District USDA Secretary U Than Win handed over K 50,000 to the funds of the undertaking of rural development tasks in the district. USAD Executive U Zaw Myint, made explanation in connection with the undertaking of rural development tasks in the district.

Later, U Kyaw Moe sought the approval of the attendees of the ceremony. The mass rally came to a successful end with chanting of slogans. A similar ceremony took place in the compound of Kyaungdawya Pagoda in Pwintbyu township, Minbu District, Magway Division, on 29 January. Altogether 1500 attended the mass rally. U Ko Lay, secretary of Minbu District USDA, who presided over the rally and spoke on the occasion.

Ceremony to hail Union Day and support National Convention in progress in Hsat Thwa Village of Taungdwinyi Township, Magway District.— MNA

INSIDE

Now, Kachin State has caught up with other states and divisions in various sectors thanks to the assistance and encouragement of the government, and united and harmonious efforts of local national race leaders and people.

(See page 11)

Four economic objectives

* Proper development 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 political objectives

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

Union Day hailed, National Convention supported in Magway, Minbu, Pyay districts

Daw Thin Thin Khine, executive of Ngape Township USDA, tabled a motion honouring the Union Day; and Pwintbyu Township USDA Executive U Zaw Naing Win, a motion hailing the National Convention. Salin Township USDA Executive U Than Oo explained in connection with the undertaking of rural development tasks in the district. U Tin Aung Naing.

(See page 11)