The Union of Myanmar— home to various national races

Our country, the Union of Myanmar, is home to various national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and so on residing together sharing joys and sorrows in friendship for many years countable by the thousand.

The national brethren, throughout history, have resided together with the Union Spirit inherent in them and put up resistance unitedly against any danger that befall the nation as the saying goes, blood is thicker than water.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From the message sent to the 51st Anniversary Union Day)

YANGON, 4 Feb — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win received Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr Alexander Yu Alekseev at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun and Russian Federation Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Oleg V Kabanov and officials of the Embassy.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Russian Deputy Minister
Mr Alexander Yu Alekseev and party. —MNA

YANGON, 4 Feb—A mass rally to hail Union Day and support the National Convention took place at the sports ground in Minywa model village, Thanatpin Township, Bago District, Bago Division, this morning. It was attended by secretaries, joint-secretaries, executives, organizers and members of USDA of Bago District, townships, wards and villages, officials, members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, students and local residents totalling more than 9,000.

Bago District USDA Secretary U Aung Soe chaired the meeting together with Thanatpin Township MCWA President Daw Htay Htay. Thanatpin Township Organization for Women’s Affairs member Daw Khin Thein, Thanatpin Township WVO Chairman U Than Ngwe and village elder U Aye Win of Minywa model village, while Thanatpin Township USDA Executive Daw Wai Wai Aung acted as MC and Thanatpin Township USDA Executive Daw The Myat Wai, co-MC.

The meeting chairman in his speech said that since yore, Myanmar has stood tall among the international community with own monarchs and sovereignty alongside fine cultural traditions. However, Myanmar came under three aggressive wars waged by the British colonialists, and was under alien subjugation for more than 100 years.

Myanmar had to sacrifice many lives, blood and sweat of its people to regain independence. The invaders drove a wedge and sowed discord and hatred (See page 7)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Counter the malevolent intentions with veracity

The government, since its assumption of the State duty, has pinned hope on the establishment of a modern and developed nation. It is also making all-out efforts to realize the goal after laying down Our Three Main National Causes as a national policy, to which every citizen should adhere.

In this process, top priority has been given to stability, the enforcement of law and order, robust economic growth, and the development of human resources. As part of the efforts to carry out the first phase of the seven-point Road Map, the government has committed itself to the successful holding of the National Convention so as to ensure a smooth transition to a discipline-flourishing, modern and developed democratic nation.

At a time when combined efforts are to be exerted on the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy as desired by the people, it is however found that there surface some accusations and allegations against Myanmar to make the world take a dim view of the country.

The pessimists are hatching wicked schemes to lure the United Nations Organization into taking action against the country and bringing her to the limelight of the world body on the pretext of democracy and human rights.

The Committee for Prevention of Recruitment of Minors for Armed Forces held its fourth coordination meeting at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konnyittha on 3 February this year. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the Committee and also Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said “some big powers will keep on making accusations against Myanmar in various spheres so long as the destructive elements bearing a grudge towards the country remain in existence. And it is therefore needed to rebut all the baseless accusations to eliminate misunderstanding between the international community and the country”.

Now, harmonious endeavours between the government and national people have resulted in the prevalence of peace and stability across the country.

The entire national people are now enjoying the taste. Concerted efforts are to be made to refute the false allegations and accusations, so the international community will realize the prevalence of peace and stability, the entire national people to takings.

The government and national people have resulted in the prevalence of peace and stability across the country. And it is therefore needed to rebut all the baseless accusations to eliminate misunderstanding between the international community and the country.

The entire national people are now enjoying the taste. Concerted efforts are to be made to refute the false allegations and accusations, so the international community will realize the prevalence of peace and stability, the entire national people to takings.

The government and national people have resulted in the prevalence of peace and stability across the country. And it is therefore needed to rebut all the baseless accusations to eliminate misunderstanding between the international community and the country.

The entire national people are now enjoying the taste. Concerted efforts are to be made to refute the false allegations and accusations, so the international community will realize the prevalence of peace and stability, the entire national people to takings.

The government and national people have resulted in the prevalence of peace and stability across the country. And it is therefore needed to rebut all the baseless accusations to eliminate misunderstanding between the international community and the country.

The entire national people are now enjoying the taste. Concerted efforts are to be made to refute the false allegations and accusations, so the international community will realize the prevalence of peace and stability, the entire national people to takings.

The government and national people have resulted in the prevalence of peace and stability across the country. And it is therefore needed to rebut all the baseless accusations to eliminate misunderstanding between the international community and the country.
Chinese Vice-President meets leaders of Caribbean countries

KINGSTON, 3 Feb—China hopes to further tighten friendship and cooperation via the China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum with the Caribbean countries, said Vice-President Zeng Qinghong here Wednesday.

Zeng said this in meetings, on separate occasions, with leaders of Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican, Cuba, Suriname and Barbados, who are here to attend the opening ceremony of the first Ministerial Meeting of the China-Caribbean Forum that opened here earlier Wednesday. This is in the fundamental interests of the two sides, he said, adding it will have positive impact on promoting the South-South cooperation.

Zeng said the Chinese side is convinced that the forum will play a positive role in enhancing China-Caribbean cooperation with efforts of all parties concerned. — MNA/Xinhua

Singaporean Minister urges local companies to adapt themselves

SINGAPORE, 3 Feb—Singapore’s Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang on Wednesday urged local companies to adapt themselves to the trend of globalization while maintaining a strong home base.

Speaking at the International Enterprise Forum 2005, Lim asked Singapore businesses to overcome three major challenges in order to compete more vigorously in overseas markets.

“First, we must expand our export of services. Second, as more Singapore companies venture overseas, we must be able to cope with the cultural diversity of the different markets. Third, we must be able to manage global talents,” Lim said.

He added that local companies should partner one another to share risks and pool limited resources so as to compete abroad in services sectors, especially in transportation and logistics.

Lim stressed the importance of China, India and the Southwest Asia region to Singapore’s economic growth and advised local companies to develop creative products and services to meet the needs of different markets. Lim also suggested that Singapore-based firms take advantage of varied sources of knowledge and talent from different parts of the world to generate innovation and opportunities.

To avoid the “hollowing out” of its home base, Lim said, Singapore should shift to more productive and higher-value activities and maintain itself an attractive outsourcing destination.

G-20 meet in India to chock out WTO strategy

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—India will host a meeting of the Group-20 countries March 18 to chalk out a common strategy ahead of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meet in Hong Kong in December, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Tuesday.

G-20 is a group of WTO member countries on agriculture. The decision to host the meeting follows a consensus to this effect among members at the meeting of the G-20 held in Davos on 29 Jan”, IANS quoted Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath as saying.

Ministers of the participating countries suggested that besides focusing on agriculture, the G-20 discussions could also cover other areas of interest such as non-agriculture market access and services, he said.

Several G-20 countries like Pakistan, Chile, South Africa and others have strongly supported the proposal.

Kamal Nath said it had also been decided to hold a meeting of the G-33 (a group of WTO member countries that are pushing for special products, special safeguard mechanisms and market access) in New Delhi on 19 March.

Two policemen dead, 36 missing after attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb—Two Iraqi policemen were killed, 14 wounded and at least 36 were missing after an ambush while they were on their way to Baghdad from southern Iraq on Thursday, police said.

They said the policemen had been travelling from Diwaniya, 112 miles south of Baghdad, to the capital to collect new vehicles when they were ambushed. Officials in Diwaniya confirmed that a large group of policemen had left the town to travel to Baghdad.

US forces sealed off the site of the ambush, near the Abu Graha area on Baghdad’s western fringes.

Internet

Two Marines among 28 killed in Iraq as lull ends

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb—As officials released partial returns on Thursday from Sunday’s elections, guerrillas shattered a brief period of calm with attacks across Iraq that killed at least 28 people in a 36-hour period.

On a road near the northern city of Kirkuk, guerrillas stopped a convoy of Iraqi army recruits Wednesday night, forced a dozen of them to lie on the road and shot them in the head. The attackers then ran over the soldiers with an automobile, said Salih Sabawi, a local farmer who said he ran to the scene after hearing gunfire. Two US Marines died Thursday in separate incidents in Anbar province, and guerrillas staged an ambush on a road south of Baghdad, killing two policemen, wounding 14 and leaving at least 16 missing, the Associated Press reported.

British soldiers set up a roadblock outside the southern Iraqi town of Safwan recently. Seven British soldiers are to be charged with the murder of an Iraqi civilian in a further blow to the reputation of the country’s armed forces.— INTERNET

China launches satellite TV service in Asian region

BEIJING, 3 Feb—China launched its satellite television service in Asia on Tuesday, marking another step pushing its television programming into the international market.

“The launch aims to meet the growing demand of overseas Chinese for Chinese-language programmes and open a showcase to China for the English-speaking audience in the region,” said Li Jian, president of the China International TV Corp.

The Great Wall TV Package, featuring 11 channels including CCTV-4, CCTV-9, CCTV-Chinese Opera channel, Beijing TV, Shanghai TV in English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Min dialect are now available in Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.— MNA/Xinhua

SAARC summit postponed

ISLAMABAD, 3 Feb — Pakistan’s Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said on Wednesday that the 13th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit was postponed.

Masood Khan, who was in Dhaka to represent Pakistan in the SAARC officials’ meeting to review agenda for the summit, told the local Geo television that the summit of the seven-member SAARC will be rescheduled.

Under the SAARC charter the summit cannot be held if a member country refuses to attend.

“We have received information that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will not be able to travel to Dhaka for the summit,” he said.

“Pakistan being the SAARC Chairman and Bangladesh as the host are holding consultation following the Indian decision,” the Pakistani spokesman said. — MNA/Xinhua
Indonesian fishery industry to grow in 2005

JAKARTA, 2 Feb—The Indonesian fishery industry is expected to grow significantly this year as the government plans to capitalize on current fishery resources and protect local fishermen from foreign expansion.

Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Freddy Numberi was quoted Tuesday by the Jakarta Post as saying that the local fishery industry would be worth over 100 trillion rupiah (11 billion US dollars) this year, or about 5.5 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP).

At present, the value of the local fishery industry remains low at about 46.6 trillion rupiah, or 2.21 per cent of the GDP.

“...the industry can grow larger and create more employment as we have devised a number of strategies to help revitalize it,” Freddy said.

One of the strategies is to gradually reduce the number of foreign fishing vessels operating in Indonesian waters and to prevent illegal fishing, the retired Navy admiral added.

At present, 705 registered foreign fishing vessels are operating in Indonesian waters, with some 302 vessels from Thailand, 286 from China and 117 from the Philippines.

The ministry will also reduce the number of local and foreign fishing vessels operating in the northern and eastern Java Sea, due to a shortage of resources and for fish to propagate.

The government will instead encourage fishing vessels to operate in the Arafura Sea and the South China Sea.

MNA/Xinhua

Nissan Motor Co to invest $420m in Britain

TOKYO/LONDON, 2 Feb—Nissan Motor Co will invest 223 million pounds (420 million US dollars) at its Sunderland, Britain plant to build a new, small crossover vehicle there starting December 2006, Japan’s second-biggest car maker said on Tuesday.

The part-minivan, part-hatchback model based on the Qashqai (pronounced “cash-kye”) concept unveiled in Geneva last year is the second new model in six months that Nissan has said it would manufacture at the Sunderland plant.

Nissan, owned 44 per cent by France’s Renault SA, said the move would add 200 jobs to the 4,100-strong workforce.

Initial production of the unnamed model will be around 130,000 units a year, bringing the factory’s total annual production to 400,000 units. The vehicle, which was designed and developed in Britain, will hit showrooms in 2007.

The Sunderland plant, in northeast Britain, can build a maximum 500,000 vehicles a year in three shifts, and now builds the Micra and the Primera sedan.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangkok subway reopens after collision

BANGKOK, 2 Feb—The Bangkok subway reopened on Tuesday morning with authorities hoping the number of travelers will be back to pre-collision levels within a week.

The underground public commuting system was shutdown for two weeks after an empty train ran into a loaded passenger train on 17 January. The accident caused almost 200 people injured.

Investigation concluded that the accident was caused by avoidable human error.

Passenger volume was expected to be down about 30 per cent in days ahead, but the number would rise again within weeks because the system is a most convenient form of travel, Transport Minister Suriya Jungrumreangkit was quoted by the newspaper The Nation as saying.

In a bid to boost public confidence in the Bangkok subway, the Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday travelled by the system with Cabinet ministers and a group of celebrities.

Despite concerns of public refraining from the underground train, the subway reopened with a certain number of passengers.

MNA/Xinhua

China makes its first state information-oriented strategy

BEIJING, 2 Feb—A senior Chinese official said here Tuesday that China will make its first state information-oriented strategy this year.

The strategy would be published in 2005, the Informatization Office will also work on legislation to create a good environment for informatization, including creating laws dealing with information safety and the protection of minors online.

China will continue to promote online government forums and information, e-commerce and development of information resources, Zhao said.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to host international bird flu meeting

HANOI, 2 Feb—Experts from some 20 countries and international organizations will discuss new measures to control bird flu in a meeting to be held in Vietnam in late February, a United Nations (UN) official told Xinhua on Tuesday.

The meeting, to be financially sponsored by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health, will take place on February 23-25 in Ho Chi Minh City, said Anton Rychener, FAO chief representative in Vietnam. Experts from the World Health Organization and such countries as Thailand, China, Cambodia, the United States, Canada and India will discuss new measures to cope with bird flu, evaluate the old ones implemented by affected countries over the past 12 months, and review scientific advances in research into the disease.

MNA/Xinhua

Documents reveal US condoned Iraq oil smuggling

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—Documents obtained by CNN reveal the United States knew about, and even condoned, embargo-breaking oil sales by Saddam Hussein’s regime, and did so to shore up alliances with Iraq’s neighbours.

The oil trade with countries such as Turkey and Jordan appears to have been an open secret inside the US government and the United Nations for years.

The unclassified State Department documents sent to congressional committees with oversight of US foreign policy divulge that the United States deemed such sales to be in the “national interest,” even though they generated billions of dollars in unmonitored revenue for Saddam’s regime.

The trade also generated a needed source of oil and commerce for Iraq’s major trading partners, Turkey and Jordan.

“We was in the national security interest, because we depended on the stability in Turkey and the stability in Jordan in order to encircle Saddam Hussein,” Edward Walker, a former assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, told CNN when asked about the memo documents.

“We had a great amount of cooperation with the Jordanians on the intelligence side, and with the Turks as well, so we were getting value out of the relationship,” said Walker, who served in both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

MNA/Xinhua
China, Jamaica forge friendly partnership of common development

KINGSTON, 3 Feb — China and Jamaica decided on Tuesday to establish friendly partnership of common development.

The announcement came following a meeting between visiting Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong and Jamaican Governor-General Howard Felix Hanlan Cooke.

The two sides also declared that Jamaica recognizes the full market economy status of China, which in return lists Jamaica as a tourism destination for its citizens.

Zeng noted that since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 30-plus years ago, bilateral relations have been developed steadily and contacts at various levels have been frequent.

China is satisfied with the development of the relations, Zeng said, noting that bilateral cooperation is fruitful in the political, economic and cultural sectors and in international affairs.

China appreciated Jamaica’s adherence to the one-China policy on the Taiwan issue, Zeng said, adding that China is ready to join hands with Jamaica to enrich the contents of the friendly partnership of common development.

Cooke, for his part, said the friendly bilateral ties have benefited the two peoples and Jamaica hopes that this relationship will become better and closer.

Also on Tuesday, Zeng held talks with Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Noel James Patterson. Zeng called for efforts from both sides to expand economic and trade cooperation and further promote bilateral partnerships. The Chinese Government encourages Chinese companies to conduct various forms of economic and trade cooperation with Jamaica, Zeng said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese art attracts more overseas galleries

SEOUL, 3 Feb — The increasing numbers of Chinese art collectors and their growing purchasing power are attracting more attention in the world’s art market and many foreign galleries and art institutions have applied to participate in an art exposition slated for May in the Chinese capital.

“The enthusiasm of some world-famous galleries for this exposition is almost beyond our expectation,” said Dong Muyang, chief executive of the Second Annual China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE). “This shows their confidence in the Chinese art market.”

The four-day exposition, beginning 2 May, is under full preparation after last year’s success. Participants are mainly galleries from China, Japan and South Korea, including Court Yard Gallery, Shanghart Gallery, Elite Gallery and Hiromi Yoshii.

The number of galleries from America, Italy and Germany has also increased.

“The booths are almost fully booked and to guarantee the good quality of the fair, we have to balance the number of galleries in different countries,” Dong said.

Some South Korea galleries feel they are strongly dependent on the Chinese market and they need events like the CIGE to promote and exchange, Dong said, adding, “The Chinese art market is entering the mainstream of the international art trade.”

At the First Annual China International Gallery Exposition last year, artwork was sold for 10 million yuan (1.2 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Nepali King unveils new Cabinet

KATHMANDU, 3 Feb — Nepal’s King Gyanendra announced the lineup of a new Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, Wednesday morning.

Members of the new Cabinet are listed as follows:

- Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation: Buddhi Raj Bajracharya;
- Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare: Mrs Durga Shrestha;
- Minister for Information and Communications: Tanku Dhakal;
- Minister for Home and Law, Justice and Parlia-
- Minister for Finance: Madhav Nar Shumsher JB Rana. — MNA/Xinhua

UN takes action against top Iraqi oil scam suspect

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb — UN Secretary-General Koofi Annan has ordered disciplinary action against the head of the UN oil-for-food programme in Iraq, who was sharply criticised in an investigation that accused him of a “grave conflict of interest” and “undermining the integrity” of the UN.

The investigation report said oil-for-food chief Benon Sevan solicited oil allocations from Saddam Hussein’s regime on behalf of a trading company between 1998 and 2001, and it raised concerns he may have received kickbacks for the help.

Based on the report, Annan has decided to discipline Sevan and another UN official, Joseph Stephanides, who was chief of the UN Sanctions Branch, said Mark Malloch Brown, Annan’s new chief of staff.

Brown said the type of disciplinary action would be announced early next week but gave no details.

In its report released yesterday, the investigation led by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker accused Sevan of “tainting” bidding for an oil-for-food contract. Stephanides now heads the Security Council Affairs Division in the UN Department of Political Affairs.

Allegations of corruption in the oil-for-food programme — which allowed sanctions-bound Iraq to sell oil to buy humanitarian supplies — have raised steady criticism from members of the US Congress. — Internet

PSC hails Philippines-China cooperation on training

MANILA, 3 Feb — The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Wednesday hailed that the recent Philippines-China Sports Cooperation meeting made a huge success.

PSC officer-in-charge William “Butch” Ramirez, who went to Beijing last week with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and former PSC Chairman Butch Tuason to meet with Chinese sports officials, said that China has agreed to receive Filipino athletes and coaches in 10 focus sports for specialized training.

The sports include athletics, archery, badminton, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, table tennis, volleyball, weightlifting and wushu.

Ramirez said Filipinos will be sent to different part of China for the training, including Xiamen where those from volleyball and wushu will be sent.

Meanwhile, Chinese coaches and experts will be brought to the Philippines to lend their expertise to their local counterparts, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Special CPC official meets Albanian guests

BEIJING, 3 Feb — A senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official, met here Tuesday with Ilir Zela, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Albanian Parliament and member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party of Albania, and other Albanian guests.

Wang, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, gave a positive appraisal of the smooth growth of Sino-Albanian relations. The CPC attaches great importance to friendly exchanges with the CPC. — MNA/Xinhua

Japanese kindergarten kids pelt an ‘ogre’ with beans at the Zojoji temple in Tokyo on 3 Feb 2005. The bean-scattering ceremony was held to celebrate the upcoming arrival of spring and to drive out bad luck. — Internet


UN takes action against top Iraqi oil

scam suspect

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb — UN Secretary-General Koofi Annan has ordered disciplinary action against the head of the UN oil-for-food programme in Iraq, who was sharply criticised in an investigation that accused him of a “grave conflict of interest” and “undermining the integrity” of the UN.

The investigation report said oil-for-food chief Benon Sevan solicited oil allocations from Saddam Hussein’s regime on behalf of a trading company between 1998 and 2001, and it raised concerns he may have received kickbacks for the help.

Based on the report, Annan has decided to discipline Sevan and another UN official, Joseph Stephanides, who was chief of the UN Sanctions Branch, said Mark Malloch Brown, Annan’s new chief of staff.

Brown said the type of disciplinary action would be announced early next week but gave no details.

In its report released yesterday, the investigation led by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker accused Sevan of “tainting” bidding for an oil-for-food contract. Stephanides now heads the Security Council Affairs Division in the UN Department of Political Affairs.

Allegations of corruption in the oil-for-food programme — which allowed sanctions-bound Iraq to sell oil to buy humanitarian supplies — have raised steady criticism from members of the US Congress. — Internet

PSC hails Philippines-China cooperation on training

MANILA, 3 Feb — The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Wednesday hailed that the recent Philippines-China Sports Cooperation meeting made a huge success.

PSC officer-in-charge William “Butch” Ramirez, who went to Beijing last week with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and former PSC Chairman Butch Tuason to meet with Chinese sports officials, said that China has agreed to receive Filipino athletes and coaches in 10 focus sports for specialized training.

The sports include athletics, archery, badminton, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, table tennis, volleyball, weightlifting and wushu.

Ramirez said Filipinos will be sent to different part of China for the training, including Xiamen where those from volleyball and wushu will be sent.

Meanwhile, Chinese coaches and experts will be brought to the Philippines to lend their expertise to their local counterparts, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Senior CPC official meets Albanian guests

BEIJING, 3 Feb — Wang Jiarui, a senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official, met here Tuesday with Ilir Zela, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Albanian Parliament and member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party of Albania, and other Albanian guests.

Wang, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, gave a positive appraisal of the smooth growth of Sino-Albanian relations. The CPC attaches great importance to friendly exchanges with the CPC. — MNA/Xinhua

Japanese kindergarten kids pelt an ‘ogre’ with beans at the Zojoji temple in Tokyo on 3 Feb 2005. The bean-scattering ceremony was held to celebrate the upcoming arrival of spring and to drive out bad luck. — Internet

Preparatory work being ...

(from page 16)

national races included in
633 delegates of national
races and they are from
various states and
divisions. They all are
delegates with a well-es-
divisions. They all are
delegates with a well-es-

divisions. They all are
delegates with a well-es-

ary, the management
committee is to make ar-
rangements to be able
to meet them at airports,
ports, bus terminals and
railway stations.

Arrangements are
to be made in advance
for ensuring messing
rooms, meals, sports fa-
cilities, entertainment
and welfare shops for the
deleagues.

The work commit-
te is to fully compile
matters to be presented at
the ongoing National
Convention. Systematic
measures are to be taken
for the emergence of a
peaceful modern devel-
oped democratic nation,
it is needed to have a se-
curity awareness.

The commission and the respective
committees are to make inte-
grated and well-coords-
nated efforts for the suc-
ful holding of the Na-
tional Convention.

Afterwards, Chair-
man of the Work Com-
mittee Chief Justice U
Aung Toe reported on
work carried out by panel
of alternative chairmen
and the work committee
since discussions are fo-
cused on legislation, ex-
ecutive and jurisdiction,
the three branches of the
State power.

Officials con-
cerned are to cooperate
with departments that
mark the seven-point Road
Map being implemented
by the government for

the 58th Anniversary Union Day objectives

— For all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-
disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
— To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
— For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
— To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive
elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
— For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-
point future policy programme

Yangon South District USDA honours Union
Day, supports National Convention

YANGON, 4 Feb — Yangon South District
USDA held the cer-
emony to honour the
Union Day and support
the National Convention,
in Kumnoodein model
village in Kayan Town-
ship this morning.

U Lwin Oo, Sec-
retary of Yangon South
District USDA, presided
over the rally together
with members of the
panel of chairmen.

Those present sal-
listed the State Flag.
Next, Meeting Chairman
U Lwin Oo spoke on the
occasion. Afterwards, Dr
Thein Zaw Myint, Sec-
retary of Twantay Town-
ship USDA, discussed
honouring the Union Day
and Yangon South Dis-
trict USDA Executive
Daw Moe Moe Ei, in
support of the National
Convention. Yangon
South District USDA Ex-
ecutive U Tin Lin re-
ported on matters con-
cerning rural develop-
ment tasks in the district.

Kayan Township USDA
Secretary U Myint Oo
seconded the motions ta-
bled by three representa-
tives. The Meeting Chair-
man sought approvals of
those present for honour-
the National Convention
and supporting the National
Convention and rural de-
velopment tasks. The cer-
emony ended with chants
of the slogans.

As there have
been destructive ele-
ments with ulterior mo-
tives who are jeopardis-
ing the National Con-
vention, the first and the
most important step of
the seven-point Road
Map being implemented
by the government for

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the preparation at the meeting hall for group-wise discussions. — MNA

As there have been destructive elements with ulterior motives who are jeopardising the National Convention, the first and the most important step of the seven-point Road Map being implemented by the government for

NCC Work Committee Chairman
Chief Justice U Aung Toe. — MNA

NCC Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung. — MNA

Mass rally in progress at Kumnoodein village, Kayan Township, Yangon South District. — MNA
Yangon, 4 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence arrived at Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon Township yesterday morning.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials welcomed him.

At the bridge, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports by officials on flow of water in Ayeyawady River and maintenance of the bridge. Accompanied by the commander and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected thriving summer paddy plantation in Kyaungbagon Village, Pathem Township. Pathem Township has completed cultivation of 32,503 acres of summer paddy against the target of 63,640 acres in 2004-2005. Out of 1,731,545 targeted acres in 2004-2005, Ayeyawady Division has put 919,523 acres of land under summer paddy cultivation. The division has cultivated 1,522,941 acres of pulses and beans against the target of 1,424,760 acres, 89,341 acres of fruits and vegetables against that of 66,992 acres, 82,021 acres of chili against that of 35,000 acres. And, 352,194 acres of edible oil crops and 131,919 acres of maize have been grown.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected repair of Thanbyuetoon-Hlaygyi section on Pathein-Thabaung Road. At the site of 200-ton Pulp Mill Project (Thabaung), he met with officials of the mill. The project site is located near Hlaygyiyet Village of Thabaung Township. The Government has signed the agreement together with China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation (MCC) on 31 August 2000. The project started on 1 November 2001. Test run of the mill was carried out on 1 July 2004 and it will be opened soon.

Next, they attended the ceremony to open the multimedia teaching centre at Thabaung BEHS. On arrival at Thabaung Township Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the wards and comforted the patients. In the afternoon, they attended opening ceremony of the new building at Uto BEPS in Pathem Township, donated by Max Myanmar Co Ltd.

After the ceremony, Director U Soe Tint and U Ohn Kyaw of Max Myanmar Co Ltd presented K 10 million for the education sector of Ayeyawady Division and K 10 million for Tatmadaw families of regiments and units. The school building, 60 feet long and 36 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 12.5 million. — MNA

Sagaying District holds rally in honour of Union Day, support of NC

Yangon, 4 Feb — Sagaying District Union Solidarity and Development Association held a mass rally to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention at Wampyae Village in Myinmu Township, Sagaying Division, yesterday morning.

Secretary of Sagaying District USDA U Htay Aung presided over the meeting. After announcing the start of the ceremony, those present saluted the State Flag.


Next, the meeting chairman sought the approval of the participants, after which the rally ended with the chanting of slogans. — MNA

Only when National Convention is completed...

(from page 1)

among the national races with the intention of undermining national unity, culminating in the Panglong Agreement, covering all parts of the nation was signed with the unanimous approval of the entire people. Therefore, the 12th of February 1947, on which the agreement was signed, has been designated as Union Day and the day has been celebrated annually after laying down objectives.

After its assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw held the National Convention for the emergence of a permanent State Constitution. But, the NC was adjourned temporarily in 1996 for various reasons. The government adopted the State’s seven-point Road Map and reconvened the NC on 17 May 2004. Only when the NC is completed successfully, will a new State Constitution emerge. In this regard, the onus is on the entire national people to realize the goal of transforming the nation into a modern developed democratic one.

In conclusion, he called for discussions on honouring Union Day and supporting the National Convention.

Thanatpin Township Joint-Secretary U Ko Ko put forward a motion, calling for hailing Union Day.

Next, Bago Township Executive Daw Moe Moe Khaing proposed a motion, calling for support of the National Convention.

Afterwards, Bago District Executive U Kyaw Htwe Oo gave an account of rural development tasks being implemented in Bago District.

Bago District Joint-Secretary U Kyaw Kyaw Naing handed over the documents on tasks carried out by USAs at different levels to staff officer of Thanatpin Township Development Affairs Committee U Myint Wai; documents on education tasks to Thanatpin Township Education Officer U Kyaw Win; and K 8 million for implementation of rural development tasks to Thanatpin Township Education Officer U Po Zaw. Thanatpin Township Education Executive seconded the motions tabled by the three representatives.

The meeting chairman sought the approval of those present, and announced it. The rally came to an end later that morning with the chanting of slogans. — MNA

Bago District holds ceremony to hail Union Day and support the National Convention. — MNA

Members of the USDA, service personnel and local residents marching to the mass rally. — MNA
Hail the 58th Anniversary Union Day: Mon State marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thida Aung

The government has built Aizin and Winphoton dams in Mudon Township, Wapa Dam and Zaikkeye and Kyonhtaw sluice gates in Thaton Township, Shwenattaung Dam in Mawlamyine Township, and Bilin Dam in Bilin Township, and the facilities are irrigating over 60,000 acres of land.

Paddy production in Mon State has exceeded the local demand thanks to the cultivation of over 100,000 acres of summer paddy in addition to monsoon paddy.

Kadaik Dam, with a well-rounded modern economy.

Self-sufficiency in nearly 200,000 acres of the project is the emergence of nearly 200,000 acres of double-cropping farms. In 1988, there were only Kaizang Dam, benefiting 300 acres in Bilin Township, and Phanon Sluice Gate irrigating 290 acres in Kyakmaraw Township. The Tatmadaw Government has built Aizin and Winphoton dams in Mudon Township, Wapa Dam and Zaikkeye and Kyonhtaw sluice gates in Thaton Township, Shwenattaung Dam in Mawlamyine Township, and Bilin Dam in Bilin Township, and the facilities are irrigating over 60,000 acres of land.

Paddy production in Mon State has exceeded the local demand thanks to the cultivation of over 100,000 acres of summer paddy in addition to monsoon paddy.

Kadaik Dam, with a well-rounded modern economy.

The government has built Aizin and Winphoton dams in Mudon Township, Wapa Dam and Zaikkeye and Kyonhtaw sluice gates in Thaton Township, Shwenattaung Dam in Mawlamyine Township, and Bilin Dam in Bilin Township, and the facilities are irrigating over 60,000 acres of land.

Paddy production in Mon State has exceeded the local demand thanks to the cultivation of over 100,000 acres of summer paddy in addition to monsoon paddy.

Kadaik Dam, with a well-rounded modern economy.

Self-sufficiency in nearly 200,000 acres of the project is the emergence of nearly 200,000 acres of double-cropping farms. In 1988, there were only Kaizang Dam, benefiting 300 acres in Bilin Township, and Phanon Sluice Gate irrigating 290 acres in Kyakmaraw Township. The Tatmadaw Government has built Aizin and Winphoton dams in Mudon Township, Wapa Dam and Zaikkeye and Kyonhtaw sluice gates in Thaton Township, Shwenattaung Dam in Mawlamyine Township, and Bilin Dam in Bilin Township, and the facilities are irrigating over 60,000 acres of land.

Paddy production in Mon State has exceeded the local demand thanks to the cultivation of over 100,000 acres of summer paddy in addition to monsoon paddy.

Kadaik Dam, with a well-rounded modern economy.
Development in Mon State after 1988

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day

Padonmar Soap Factory built in Paung Township creates many job opportunities for local people living in Thaton District, Mon State.

Winphanon Dam built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Mudon Township, Mon State benefits 13,000 acres of farmland.

Chainchaung Bridge linking Bilin Township and Zokthok village in Mon State contributes much towards better transportation.

Ye Bridge with the length of 857 feet was built by Myanmar Railways in Ye Township is rail-cum-road facility. — MYANMA ALIN
Mon State marching to...

(from page 8)

**Forest conservation**

The area of reserved forests, protected forests and wildlife parks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2012-2-05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uplift of industrial power</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- industrial zone (Mawlamyine)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- industries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- private factories</td>
<td>1535</td>
<td>2221</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- cottage industries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- State-owned factories</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table G</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2012-2-05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic education</td>
<td>- number of schools</td>
<td>1205</td>
<td>1394</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- multimedia classroom</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- e-Learning Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of teachers</td>
<td>8619</td>
<td>11367</td>
<td>2748</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of students</td>
<td>258892</td>
<td>339168</td>
<td>80276</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- KG enrolment</td>
<td>71.42%</td>
<td>98.71%</td>
<td>27.29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- adult literacy rate</td>
<td>79.18%</td>
<td>92.10%</td>
<td>12.92%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School dropout rate</td>
<td>39.99%</td>
<td>13.44%</td>
<td>26.55%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- primary school level</td>
<td>40.80%</td>
<td>16.30%</td>
<td>24.50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- middle school level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>- arts &amp; science university</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- college</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- education college</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- e-Learning Centre</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- academic programmes</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of teachers</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of students</td>
<td>7256</td>
<td>23376</td>
<td>16120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Human resource development centre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Road and transport sector**

Mon State is upgrad- ing the existing roads in- cluding the Myainggale-Zathabyin road and increasing the number of bridges for en- suring smooth and secure transport to a greater de- gree. In the past, the state had only three over 180- foot bridges — the 200- foot Khawa Creek Bridge, the 470-foot Ye Creek Road Bridge and the 648-foot Bilin Creek Bridge. The Government has built the 180-foot Wiphanon Bridge, the 180-foot Deepadaw Bridge, the 190-foot Kayah Bridge and the 180-foot Thebyu Creek Bridge.

The Government put into service the 1,420-foot Attaran River Bridge on Mawlamyine-Zathabyin-Hpa-an road in Mawlamyine Township on 26 March 1998. The fa- cility is covered by the State’s special projects. It is also building two 180- foot bridges — one is Nine Mile Bridge on Yangon-Myeik road in Ye Township, and the other is Kyatan Bridge on Yangon-Mawlamyine road — and the 2,393-foot Sitrogung River Bridge (Mokpalin) on Yangon-Mawlamyine road in Bilin Township.

The Tamdaw is also building new trans-regional railways and new railroad bridges in the state. It opened the 600- foot Dontham rail-cum- road Bridge on Thaton - Mawlamyine road in Bilin (Mokpalin) on Yangon-Mawlamyine road in Bilin Township.

The Tamdaw is also building new trans-regional railways and new railroad bridges in the state. It opened the 600- foot Dontham rail-cum- road Bridge on Thaton - Mawlamyine road in Bilin (Mokpalin) on Yangon-Mawlamyine road in Bilin Township.

The Tamdaw is also building new trans-regional railways and new railroad bridges in the state. It opened the 600- foot Dontham rail-cum- road Bridge on Thaton - Mawlamyine road in Bilin (Mokpalin) on Yangon-Mawlamyine road in Bilin Township.

The Mon State is producing...
Lt-Gen Maung Bo on inspection tour of regional development in Mon State

YANGON, 4 Feb — Accompanied by Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thu Myint Aung and officials, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, left Ye on 1 February morning.

They proceeded to the combined office of Lamayang Town General Administration Department and inspected departmental offices.

At Lamayang Hospital, Lt-Gen Maung Bo oversaw units of the hospital and gave instructions on setting up the medical trust-fund for the hospital. On arrival at Lamayang Administrative Department, they viewed classrooms and inspected construction of the school building.

Next, they went to Thanbyuzayat BEHS No 2 and attended the ceremony to open the multimedia classrooms. Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the multimedia classrooms and viewed round it.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Thu Myint Aung delivered an opening address. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented teaching aid to the headmistress. Similarly, wellwishers donated cash for school development to the headmistress. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party posed for documentation photo with teachers, members of the school board of trustees and students.

They continued their inspection tour of Mudon and arrived at the 1,000 acres of summer crops special zone. After looking into the paddy straws, Lt-Gen Maung Bo instructed officials and local people to extend cultivation of paddy to meet the target of 1 million acres of monsoon paddy. Out of 701,600 acres of monsoon paddy, Mon State has harvested 701,400 acres. The state has put 49,164 acres of land under summer paddy, 61,686 acres under pulses and beans and 25,017 acres under edible oil in 2004-2005. — MNA

Ceremony to honour Union Day, support National Convention held in Mohnyin District

YANGON, 4 Feb — A total of 3,500 USDA members and local people from Mohnyin, Moguang and Phakant Townships participated in the discussions honouring the Union Day and supporting the National Convention organized by Mohnyin District USDA in Pinbaw Village of Moguang Township on 1 February.

Mohnyin District USDA Secretary U San Lin presided over the ceremony. All the participants saluted the State Flag. On the occasion, Phakant Township USDA Executive U En Faung Gam submitted reports on honouring the Union Day. Moguang Township MCWA Chairperson Dr Mo Than Nu briefly them on supporting the National Convention.

Mohnyin District USDA Executive U Phyo Si discussed tasks of rural development.

Next, Mohnyin Township USDA Executive U Mya Ohn handed over K 1.8 million for rural water supply task to Moguang Township Development Affairs Committee Assistant Director U Win Naing. U Yin Haing of Haing Gamy Co Ltd of Phakant donated K 2.5 million for construction of tarred road, bridge, station hospital, operation theater and delivery room in Namti Village of Moguang Township to Moguang Township USDA Secretary U Myint Tun. Similarly, Mohnyin District USDA Executive U Mya Ohn handed over K 12 million for construction of the building at Haungpa Affiliated BEHS in Phakant Township to Secretary of Phakant Township USDA U Sai Thein Tun.

Later, Joint-Secretary of Moguang Township USDA U Tin Htay seconded the motions of three representatives. Later, the Meeting Chairman sought approval of the participants in honouring the Union Day, in the support of the National Convention and rural development tasks. — MNA

Union Day honoured, National Convention supported in Mandalay District

YANGON, 4 Feb — A ceremony was held in Yaykyikuapau village, Amarapura Township, Mandalay District to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention, attended by members of USADAs and local people numbering to more than 12,500. Mandalay District USDA Secretary U Thawng Wai chaired the ceremony along with Amarapura Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Hla Hla Htay, WAO member Daw Mya Mya Aung and WVO Chairman U Thein Aung and township U Than Swe, Amarapura Township USDA Executive Daw Hnin Shwe Sin emceed the ceremony, and member Daw May Thuzu Win acted as co-MC. After the presiding chairman announced the start of the ceremony, those present saluted the State Flag. Next, the chairman spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, Mandalay District USDA Executive Daw Wai Wai Mya Soe, Pyigyitagon Township USDA Executive U Maung Maung and Mandalay District USDA Executive U Than Tun OStabled their motions, calling on those present to commemorate the Union Day and support the National Convention and rural development tasks being implemented in the district.

Later, the presiding chairman passed resolutions after seeking approval from those present, and the ceremony came to a close with the chanting of slogans. — MNA

The mass rally in progress in Pinbaw village, Moguang Township, Mohnyin District, Kachin State. — MNA

POEM

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Toward Victory at the Winning Post

* Throughout the Union land
With eye on the New Nation
People who are Patriots
Are supporting
The Constitution
In unison we get together
Thinking of peace in the future
Toward success of the Convention
We look forward.

* As the rays of peace go shimmering
Our significant Myanmar nation
With true brethren citizens
In solidarity throughout the Union
Blood brothers congregate
No secession from the Union
Not to let go of hands held firm
For our Union to be modern
With brothers in song of amity
Let’s all hail it.

* The auspicious Union Day
We hail in commemoration
The seven-step Road Map
Is noble and let it be successful
Only if we get together and safeguard it
Will the nation be peaceful and stable
Each must do his duty
So as to be dutiful
To take this victory to the winning post
Making equal strides in unity
We the people, let us commemorate.

Tekatho Tin Kha (Trs)
ITALIAN Health Minister calls for efforts against child obesity

ROME, 3 Feb — Fresh from victory in his war on public smoking, Italian Health Minister Girolamo Sirchia on Wednesday planted himself at the forefront of a new battle against obesity.

Sirchia, who has obtained a high profile in the public eye by spearheading a smoking ban, expressed particular concern about child obesity levels in Italy and indicated that the first step in his latest campaign would be to cut food advertising on the telly.

The 71-year-old minister told a food and diet conference here that TV food advertising were “excessive, obsessive and dis- tortive” and that this was “not ethical”.

He said children were being left to watch TV on their own and that they are consequently “feoodadver-tised at all hours of the day”.

“This is why we have this child obesity problem in Italy,” said Sirchia, a haematoelogist and transplant expert. Sirchia said child obesity had reached “pandemic” proportions in the industrialized world and said food companies had a “moral and ethical duty” to help combat the problem.

“We must work to- gether to stop economic development from becom- ing a public health prob- lem,” he said.

“ar have to work with parents and schools and establish a code of behavour with regard to advertising.”

Sirchia’s remarks were not only a call for a stricter code of advertising to children but also a challenge to foreign food companies operating in Italy to show that they were not profiting from the children’s health.

Listening to music at bedtime best way to get restful night

LONDON, 3 Feb — Having trouble sleeping? Don’t bother with a cup of cocoa or counting sheep — just put on some Mellow Delivery Station and drift off into shallow sleep.

A team of researchers at the University of Advanced Nursing, a team from Taipei’s Tzu Chi University have found that all the people aged between 60 and 80 who had difficulty sleeping.

Half were given relaxing music to listen to for 45 minutes at bedtime and half were given no help to sleep.

The team found that those who listened to a selection of slow, musique experienced physical changes that aided restful sleep, such as lower heart and respiratory rates.

Kuwait Parli approves law against illegal weapons

KUWAIT CITY, 3 Feb — The National Assembly of Kuwait on Tuesday unanimously approved a draft law on search for and seizure of illegal weapons which is to be effective for two years. The Kuwait News Agency reported. The new law, proposed by the government to fight against terror, was approved at a National Assembly session held to discuss the security situation.

The law grants the general prosecutor or a deputy to issue search warrants on private homes as well as public and pri- vate areas and transporta- tion. Those who hand over illegal weapons to the au- thorities within three months of putting the law into effect would be ex- empted from the set pen- alties.

The law will come into effect as of the date of its announcement through the official gazette. It also obliges con- cerned authorities to boost control over land, Marine and airports to curb smugg- ling of illegal weapons and ammunition.

VATICAN CITY, 3 Feb—Pope John Paul was rushed to hospital with breathing difficulties on Tuesday night after about a week of influenza suddenly worsened.

The Vatican said the 84-year-old Pope had suffered an acute attack of laryngospasm, a blockage of air to the lungs, and needed urgent medical attention. The frail leader of the Roman Catholic Church, who is also afflicted by Parkinson’s disease, was taken to the Gemelli Hospital in an ambulance but the Vatican said his condition did not warrant him being placed in the intensive care unit.

“The flu condition that has afflicted the Holy Father for the past three days deteriorated tonight with an acute laryngospasm. For this reason, it was decided to urgently take the Pope to the Gemelli Hospital,” a statement said.—MNA/Reuters

NASA X-ray telescope finds missing cosmic matter

LOS ANGELES, 4 Feb—The Chandra X-ray Observatory of US space agency NASA has found the best evidence yet that a vast cosmic web of hot gas contains the long-sought missing matter, scientists reported on Wednesday.

In their latest study, researchers led by Fabrizio Nicastro at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics said the Chandra X-ray Observatory has discovered two huge intergalactic clouds of such hot gas. Their paper will appear in the journal Nature.

Various measurements give a good estimate of the mass-density of the baryons, namely the neutrons and protons that make up the nuclei of atoms and ions, in the Universe 10 billion years ago. However, sometime during the last 10 billion years a large fraction of the baryons have gone missing.

“A witness of all the baryons in stars and gas inside and outside of galaxies accounts for just over half the baryons that existed shortly after the Big Bang,” Nicastro explained, “now we have found the likely hiding place of the missing baryons.”

Computer simulations of the formation of galaxies and galaxy clusters have indicated that the missing baryons might be contained in an extremely diffuse web-like system of gas clouds from which galaxies and clusters of galaxies formed, researchers said.

MNA/Xinhua

Species of animals face extinction due to global warming

EXETER (England), 3 Feb—Whole species of animals from frogs to leopards, living in vulnerable areas and with nowhere else to go, face extinction due to global warming, scientists said on Wednesday.

And the faster the temperature rises the worse it gets.

Steve Schneider from Stanford University, California, said there was clear proof that species were reacting to the 0.7 degrees Centigrade warming of the atmosphere that had already taken place over the past century.

“This is a harbinger — nature is already responding,” he told reporters at a meeting on climate change. “There is a direct threat to the viability of many species on the planet.”

The complication with species change is that there is no need to speed up the rate of adaptation, mostly through moving territory, but that at the margins, like at the poles or high up in mountains, there was nowhere to go and human settlements may lie in the way.

“The only way rapid climate change can affect species is through extinctions,” Schneider said.—MNA/Reuters

Radioactive iodine can wipe out usually fatal form of cancer

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—A single dose of antibodies laced with radioactive iodine can wipe out a usually fatal form of cancer in the lymphatic system, researchers reported on Wednesday.

A new treatment for advanced-stage follicular lymphoma known as the Bexxar therapeutic regimen was found to shrink tumours in 95 per cent of patients, researchers said. And it took a fraction of the time of traditional chemotherapy with fewer side effects.

The non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma affects about 60,000 people in the United States and is not considered curable using traditional treatments. Even when patients initially respond to treatment, the disease almost always comes back and becomes more difficult to treat.

Lymphoma is a cancer that affects immune cells in the lymphatic system, which helps filter out germs and is important in fighting disease. The Bexxar treatment is already approved for people with follicular lymphoma once conventional chemotherapy has failed.

This week’s New England Journal of Medicine was designed to see if the treatment should be given as a first line of attack.

Lead study author Mark Kaminski of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Centre said the results rival any treatment for follicular lymphoma, including chemotherapy. The Bexxar therapy takes about a week to complete compared to many months for chemotherapy regimens.

“This antibody drug has been primarily relegated by most clinicians as a last-ditch effort,” Kaminski told Reuters.—MNA/Reuters

Research finds effects of cell phone use on driving

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—Drivers who talk on cell phones end up driving like elderly people, with slower reaction times and a tendency to miss what is right in front of them, US researchers said on Wednesday.

Even when they used “hands-free” devices, young drivers who normally have the quickest reflexes drove like 70-year-olds, the team at the University of Utah found.

If you want to act old really fast, then on a cell phone while driving, said Frank Drews, an assistant professor of psychology who worked on the study.

“If you put a 20-year-old driver behind the wheel with a cell phone, their reaction times are the same as a 70-year-old driver who is not using a cell phone,” added David Strayer, a psychology professor who led the study and who has been studying the effects of cell phone use on driving for years.

“Writing in the journal Traffic and Psychology, Strayer’s team said they tested people aged 65 to 74 against drivers aged 18 to 25. Preliminary tests showed older people were slower in processing information, which is normal and expected.

Then the volunteers used a driving simulator with dashboard instruments, a steering wheel and brake and gas pedals, surrounded by three screens showing freeway scenes and traffic. An image showed a car in front repeatedly hitting its brakes.

Each volunteer drove four simulated 10-mile freeway trips lasting about 10 minutes each, talking on a cell phone with a researcher assistant during half the trips and driving without talking the other times.

Only hands-free devices were used. The older drivers hit the brakes more slowly to avoid the car in front, tended to hit the brakes twice, took longer to regain speed and had a greater following distance.

Cell phone use made older people drive even worse and younger drivers act like elderly drivers. “Once drivers on cell phones hit the brakes, it takes them longer to get back into the normal flow of traffic,” Strayer said.

“The net result is they are impeding the overall flow of traffic.”—MNA/Reuters

A chimpanzee is seen at a zoo in New Delhi on 1 Feb, 2005. Chimpanzees, also called chimps, are the common name for two species namely the Common Chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes) and the Pygmy Chimpanzee (Pan paniscus).—INTERNET

Comedian Judy Tenuta arrives at the 2005 Funny Ladies We Love Awards in West Hollywood, California, on 2 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET

Icy roads kill five in Germany

BERLIN, 3 Feb—Heavy snowfall turned traffic into chaos in southern and western Germany on Tuesday, killing at least five people and wounding dozens of others. According to reports reaching here, more than 170 road accidents occurred alone in Bavaria, as snowfall, as heavy as half a metre in some areas, swept across the state.

Besides Bavaria, road traffic accidents were also reported in the states of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Niedersachsen and Rheinland-Pfalz, reported in the states of those areas, swept across the past century.

“The flu condition that has afflicted the Holy Father for the past three days deteriorated tonight with an acute laryngospasm. For this reason, it was decided to urgently take the Pope to the Gemelli Hospital,” a statement said.—MNA/Reuters
Real Betis defeat Gramenet 4-3

MADRID, 3 Feb — Real Betis ended Third Division Gramenet’s record-breaking King’s Cup run on Wednesday with a thrilling 4-3 home win to book their place in the semifinals alongside Osasuna. Betis were looking for an easy victory after quick-fire strikes from Fernando and David Ruivas put them 2-0 up but giant-killers Gramenet scored three second-half goals to set up a nail-biting finale. Trail-ing 2-0 at the break, midfielder Miki Albert put Gramenet back in the tie against Betis when he turned the ball in from close range after Aaron Bueno had cut a fine pass across the face of the goal.

The home side restored their advantage just before the hour was up, in-form Brazilian striker Ricardo Oliveira volleying into the top corner after an attempted clearance dropped into his path. Gramenet were not going to give up without a fight, however, and substitute Ruben Blaya kept their hopes alive when he poked home from a metre out after Betis keeper Pedro Contreras had spilled a free kick. — MNA/Reuters

AC Milan crush Messina 4-1

ROMA, 3 Feb — AC Milan cut Juve’s lead at the top of Serie A to five points when they won 4-1 at Messina and Juve lost 1-0 at home to Sampdoria on Wednesday.

Juventus’ second Serie A defeat of the season left them on 50 points from 22 matches with champions Milan on 45 from the same number of games played. Inter Milan held on to third place with a 1-0 home win over bottom club Atalanta. Fourth-placed Udinese ended a run of three defeats with a comfortable 3-0 victory against Chievo Verona.

Juventus’ smooth progress at the top faltered as Sampdoria midfielder Aimo Diana grabbed the only goal with the simplest of tap-ins after 33 minutes at the Delle Alpi stadium. Juve found themselves battling against a well-organized Sampdoria side inspired by a superb individual performance from goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli. The leaders almost grabbed an early advantage, when David Trezeguet tipped a Trezeguet shot round his post and then twice denied Zlatan Ibrahimovic from close range to preserve his side’s lead. — MNA/Reuters

Campbell will be sidelined for two weeks

LONDON, 4 Feb — Arsenal defender Sol Campbell will be sidelined for two weeks after sustaining an ankle injury in the 4-2 defeat by bitter rivals Manchester United on Tuesday.

The England centre back will miss games against Aston Villa and Crystal Palace as well as the international friendly against the Netherlands at Villa Park on February 9. Campbell, who gave away possession to give United the chance to score their opening goal, limped off in the 79th minute with a twisted ankle.

“Sol’s injury leaves us short in defence,” Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday. “I don’t know exactly what I will do yet but I have a bit more time to think about it.”

With Kolo Toure serving the last of a three-game ban and Philippe Senderos injured, Justin Hoyte could play in central defence at Villa alongside Pascal Cygan.

Caen shock Monaco to step into League Cup final

PARIS, 4 Feb — Caen stunned 10-man Monaco 3-1 on Wednesday to reach the final of the French League Cup versus Strasbourg.

Monaco coach Didier Deschamps paid the price for fielding a second-string team without strikers Javier Saviola and Mohamed Kallon, midfielders Lucas Bernardi and goalkeeper Flavio Roma.

Caen’s win was secured with first-half goals by Sebastien Mazure and Joseba Etxeberria had been called off because of a frozen pitch.

Monaco’s forward Senegalese Souleymane Camara (L) vies with Caen’s defender Nicolas Seube (R) during their French League Cup semi-final football match at Malherbe stadium in Caen. Caen stunned Monaco 3-1. — INTERNET

Athletic Bilbao beat Valladolid 1-0 in King Cup

MADRID, 4 Feb — A Fran Yeste penalty gave Athletic Bilbao a 1-0 win at Second Division Valladolid on Thursday that earned the Basque side a place in the King’s Cup semifinals alongside Real Betis and Osasuna.

Valladolid, who disposed of Real Madrid in the last round, pushed hard but were constantly frustrated by the well-organized Bilbao defence and the closest they came to breaking the deadlock was a sliced shot by Alvaro Anton in the opening minute. It was the visitors, accompanied by close to 5,000 travelling fans, who enjoyed the best chance of the half when Etxeberria raced clear after beating the offside trap only to see his angled shot bobbled wide of the far post in the 28th minute.

Brazzil qualify for World Youth C’ship

ARMSA (Colombia), 4 Feb — Brazil sneaked an injury-time winner against Chile to qualify for the World Youth Championship and Argentina joined them after holding hosts Colombia 1-1 in the South American Under-20 championship.

Colombia, who had already qualified for the finals in the Netherlands in June, opened the scoring on Wednesday with Hugo Rodallega, the tournament’s top scorer, converting an 11th minute penalty for his 10th goal in eight games. Argentina equalized when Ezequiel Garay scored direct from a free kick in the 27th minute.

Brazil striker Rafael Sobis also scored from a free kick in the 92nd minute as they beat Chile 2-1 in Manizales. Evandro had put the Brazilians ahead with a controversial penalty in the 22nd minute, Juan Lorca equalizing with seven minutes left. With one round of matches to play, Colombia, who were backed by a noisy 30,000 crowd, led the six-team final round with 10 points from four games. Brazil are second with nine, followed by Argentina (6), Chile and Uruguay (4) and Venezuela (0).

Chile and Uruguay face each other in their last match to decide who takes the fourth South American spot on Sunday.

Heineken Classic golf tournament

SYDNEY, 4 Feb — Australian Peter Lonard and South African Trevor Immelman fired matching six-under-par rounds to share the early clubhouse lead on the opening day of the Heineken Classic at Royal Melbourne on Thursday.

Winner of the Australian Open and Australian PGA titles in November and December, Lonard collected three birdies on the front nine and another three coming back in a flawless round of 65.

Imelman played the back nine first with a wet and windy day and went out in just 29 after making six birdies in seven holes.

The 25-year-old picked up another two shots on the way home to reach eight-under but a double-bogey in the par-three eighth hole saw him drop back to six-under.

Englishman Steve Webster joined them at six-under after 12 holes but slipped back to five-under with a bogey at 14 to trail by a shot with Australian Brad Lamb and Colombian Camilo Villegas, who were also still on course.

South African Ernie Els, chasing his fourth successive win in Australia’s richest golf tournament, shot a course-record 60 in the first round last year but could only manage a one-under-par 72 this time around.

The world number three made three birdies in four holes on the way home but spoiled his card with four bogeys.

Thursday’s tee off times were delayed by two and a half hours to allow tournament organizers to clean up after the course was drenched by 24 hours of heavy rain.

MNA/Reuters
Mon State marching to...

(from page 10)

Mon State are enjoying good health. The Government has built seven station hospitals, upgraded two 16-bed hospitals to 25-bed facilities and constructed a new 50-bed hospital in the state, which now has 28 hospitals including a 300-bed facility and a 100-bed facility.

It has also built two more rural health centres, two new regional health centres, appointed 415 more health staff and built one traditional medicine hospital. The number of traditional medicine dispensaries has reached 12. The state in running a nursing school and a mid-wifery school. Please see Table 1 to know the education development of the state.

Urban and rural development

The prospering urban and rural areas in Mon State are enjoying greater progress than in 1988. Networks of urban and rural roads have emerged in the state. As 157 miles of new urban roads have been built their total number at present has reached 396 miles and three furlongs, including 151 miles and seven furlongs of tarred roads. The number of urban bridges is 850. Of the ten towns projected to install water supply system, seven now have plumbing. Mon State has 625 miles and five furlongs of rural roads including 87 miles and six furlongs of tarred roads at present, up from 97 miles and two furlongs in 1988. The number of its rural bridges has reached 528. The village clean water supply project has covered 784 villages, and up to now, 550 units of waterworks have been completed in 388 villages.

Border areas and national races development

The developments in Mon State include the significant progress of a new sector opened by the Government to further cement national unity and foster Union Spirit. The border areas and national races development project involves the task of promoting the socio-economy of the national race families which have returned to the legal fold. A domestic science school is training youths of border areas to earn their living.

The Table J shows the Government’s good-will to ensure peace and progress of all the people of Mon State including those who have returned to the legal fold.

Booths of the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road are being renovated to conduct the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative exhibition — MNA

Table K

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>12.2.05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV retransmission station</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPRD offices</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPRD libraries</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>departmental libraries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rural libraries</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>548</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-library</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 5 February, 2005 15

WEATHER

Friday, 4 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Shan State, (6°C) below normal in Chin State and (3°C) above normal in Mon State, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night tempera-
tures were Hah (0°C), Namsu (2°C), Lashio and Pinlaung (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 3-2-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 4-2-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-2-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 3-2-2005 was (6.9) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 4-2-2005 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 8 mph from Northwest at (10:30) hours MST on 3-2-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in South Andaman Sea and generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5-2-2005: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in the Kachin State, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperature in Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-2-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-2-2005: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for first week of February 2005: During the coming weekend weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Earthquake report

(Submitted at 11.30 hrs MST on today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (400) miles North of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (02) hrs (43) min (20) sec MST on 4th February, 2005.

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 2230/3 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephone: Editors 296115, Manager 296664, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296616, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).
YANGON, 4 Feb—The work coordination meeting No 2/2005 of the National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee took place at the Pyidaunghsu Hall of Nyaungnapan Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division at 3 pm today with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present on the occasion were members of NCCC, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and work committee members, Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and management committee members, Joint-Secretary-2 of NCCC Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as MC.

In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that it had already been announced the National Convention to resume on 17 February; that preparatory work for the convention is being carried out sector-wise and it has been completed to a certain degree; that discussions are to be made at the meeting to fulfil the requirements; that arrangements are being made to fill in for the delegates who are not able to attend the convention on health grounds and delegates who have passed away; and that invitations had been sent to 1,086 delegates.

The delegates to the National Convention are educated and well-experienced persons. Various (See page 6)