A symbol of unity of entire national races

Throughout history, the Union people were able to set up the fine historical traditions of living together with Union Spirit on the same land and drinking water from the same source, with eggs and nest intact, and warding off in unity all the dangers befalling the nation. These fine traditions have firmly existed as a symbol of unity of national races of the entire Union of Myanmar for many years.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From the message sent to the 53rd Anniversary Union Day)

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), longest and largest in Myanmar, emerges to serve interests of State and region

Senior General Than Shwe attends inauguration of the bridge

YANGON, 5 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day, Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the longest and the largest in Myanmar, was successfully commissioned into service on a grand scale this morning.

The ceremony to inaugurate Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) linking Mawlamyine, city of Mon State, and Mottama, was held at the pandal near the bridge on Mawlamyine bank at 8 am today, with greetings extended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe They, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, employees who participated in construction of the bridge, local people, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, MWAF, MCWA.

It is important to build strength of solidarity, community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order whatever difficulties the country encounters. Difficulties can be overcome through these two strengths.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Work in coordination to make National Convention a success

In line with the national policy, the State Peace and Development Council is doing everything it can to turn the Union of Myanmar into a perfect modern and developed nation. In this process, priority has been placed on national reconsolidation, stability and peace, and the enforcement of law and order, and success has also been achieved.

Now, the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map that will give rise to a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation in conformity with the background history of Myanmar, culture, and tradition. As part of the efforts to take the first as well as most vital step embodied in the Road Map, the National Convention was held successfully from 17 May to 9 July last year.

Preparatory measures are being taken to continue the National Convention on 17 February this year.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Working Committee, and the National Convention Convening Management Committee held their Work Coordination Meeting No 2/2005 at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp, Yangon Division, on 4 February, NCCC Chairman and also State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the meeting.

In his speech, the Secretary-1 stressed the need of the Work Committee to get ready the matters that will be submitted to the coming National Convention. He also pointed out steps are to be taken in full measure since it is the time when legislative, executive and judicial powers, the three powers of the State, are under discussion.

The delegates to the National Convention are educated and experienced persons. Furthermore, the delegate group of national races constitutes a diversity of national people. That group’s 633 delegates representing different states and divisions are men of repute in their respective regions.

The National Convention will come up with the new State constitution, which is now being formulated through the discussions of basic principles, and which is the only thing that can grant the long-term guarantee of national solidarity and prolonged sovereignty of the Union in future and will create the equal interests of the entire national people.

Now, some saboteurs inside and outside the country are making attempts to undermine the National Convention, which has been in progress. It is therefore necessary for all the national people to remain vigilant at all times.

All in all, the onus is on the officials concerned to make concerted efforts in a systematic way to ensure the smooth holding of the National Convention, while the seven-point Road Map is being implemented for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation as desired by the entire national people.

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**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

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**Ministry of Cooperatives holds coord meeting**

**Yangon**, 5 Jan — The coordination meeting of the Ministry of Cooperatives was held at the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning with an address by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min. Also present on the occasion were the directors-general, the deputy directors-general, the acting managing director and officials of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

In his address, the minister urged the officials to strive for boosting the agricultural and industrial production, exports and development of cooperative enterprises. Afterwards, Chairman of Central Cooperative Society U Win Sein, Chairman of Cooperative Bank U Khin Maung Aye, deputy directors of State/Division Cooperative Departments, the chairmen of cooperative societies and principals of Cooperative Degree College and colleges reported on sectoral works. Next, the directors-general of the Cottage Industries Department and Cooperative Department and the acting managing director gave supplementary reports.

Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

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**Education Minister inspects university, college and basic education schools in Hpa-an Township**

**Yangon**, 5 Feb — Minister for Education U Than Aung and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung met educational staff at Kyauktada Basic Education High School No 2 on 3 February.

At Hpa-an Education College in Kayin State, Minister U Than Aung held a meeting with faculty members and trainees. Next, he inspected Hpa-an BEHS No 3. At Mya Thanlwin Hall of BEHS No 1, the minister gave instructions to local authorities, education staff and officials.

On arrival at Hpa-an University, the minister heard reports on academic and management matters of the faculty by Rector U Saw Han Shein. Later, the minister inspected the computer training centre and language lab.

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**Ministry Col Zaw Min speaks at the coordination meeting. — COOPERATIVES**

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**UDNR trainees continue excursion tour**

**Yangon**, 5 Jan — The trainees of BEd Course No 36 of the University for Development of National Races led by Pro-rector (Academic) Daw Khin Si Si left No 1 Transit Centre on Bayinnaung Road, here, on 31 January morning to continue their excursion tour of Thayawady, Padaung, Taungdwingyi, Magway, Bagan-NyaungU and Popa regions.

At Thayawady Ceramics Factory, the trainees were welcomed by local authorities and departmental officials. Next, officials explained salient points of the factory.

The trainees proceeded to Padaung. At No 1 Agricultural Equipment Factory, Managing Director Col Myo Tint extended greetings and General Manager of the factory U Khin Zaw explained facts about the factory. Seven groups of the trainees visited the factory.

On 1 February, they arrived at ancient Beikhtanho city and viewed excavation of the city and artifacts of Pyu age in Beikhtanho Museum.

In Magway, they visited the Myathalun Pagoda and made cash donations.

On 2 February, they arrived at the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan-NyaungU. Director of the Archaeology Department (Bagan) U Myo Nyunt briefed them on the history of the pagoda. The trainees also visited pagodas in Bagan, Myanma Lacquer College, Archaeological Museum and Mount Popa.

Then the trainees visited Kyatmauktaung Dam and factories in Kyaukse. — MNA
Malaysia’s export of manufactured products up in 2004

Kuala Lumpur, 5 Feb — Malaysia’s export of manufactured products increased by 18.9 per cent in 2004, with all product sectors registering double digit growth, a minister said on Thursday.

In announcing the trade figures here, Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz said manufactured products accounted for 78.4 per cent of total exports.

The country’s total merchandise exports reached a record high of $126.5 billion US dollars last year, up 20.5 per cent over the previous year, she said.

Rafidah said last year’s exports growth was almost two folds the 10.8 per cent growth rate forecast for developing economies by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Rafidah said exports of electric and electronic products continued to be the major contributor to manufactured exports, increasing by 14.4 per cent to $63.54 billion US dollars.

However, she said the share of E.E products within manufactured exports had declined from 66.7 per cent of total manufactured exports in 2003 to 64 per cent in 2004, due to expansion of other manufactured products.

Other major manufactured exports that recorded significant increases included chemicals and chemical products that went up to $6.56 billion US dollars from $4.98 billion US dollars and machinery, appliances and parts which rose to $4.09 billion US dollars from $3.26 billion US dollars, according to the minister.

Malaysia’s exports value to the United States, the country’s top export destination last year, stood at $23.73 billion US dollars, up 15.6 per cent from the figures in 2003.

Malaysia was ranked as the 10th largest source of imports for the United States, having surpassed Ireland and moving up from the 11th position in 2003.

The top five products exported to the United States were E.E products, wood products, textiles and clothing, optical and scientific equipment and rubber products.

The country’s other main export markets last year were Singapore, Japan, China and European countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Bus service between Kathmandu, Lhasa to start in May

KATHMANDU, 5 Feb — The agreement signed between the governments of Nepal and China to link Kathmandu with China’s historical city of Lhasa by bus is expected to be materialized from 1 May as preparations are near completion, a Nepali official said.

“We are all set to begin a weekly direct bus services between Kathmandu and Lhasa from 1 May,” Radio Nepal on Friday quoted Mukunda Raj Satyal, executive chief of Sahja Yataay, the government owned transport company, as saying.

The two-way flow of enthusiastic Nepali and Chinese travellers across the border in recent years has prompted the two governments to begin a shuttle service, Satyal said. The bus service will enable many Nepali to make affordable trips to Lhasa, as the transport fare will come down significantly, he noted.

Travellers have to pay 28,000 Nepali rupees (about 400 US dollars) to go to Lhasa from Kathmandu by air, but once the road transport begins, they will pay only about 5,000 rupees (about 71.4 dollars) for one way travel.

“Our corporate will soon sign a contract with private transport entrepreneurs to operate luxury coaches to the historical city of Lhasa in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China,” Satyal said.

It will take Nepali 20 hours to reach Lhasa by land, as the narrow Arniko Highway makes the road travel time consuming. Therefore, a team of Chinese experts will travel along the highway to assess the road condition in the coming weeks, said Satyal. — MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to host international meeting on biodiversity

BANGKOK, 5 Feb — Thailand is scheduled to host two international conferences on biodiversity next week, aimed at establishing common guidelines on how to protect local biodiversity.

Thailand will hold the 10th meeting of the international adviser teams on scientific, academic and technology, or the SBSTTA, on February 7-11, and the 3rd meeting of the committee on access and interest sharing on February 8-14, the secretary-general of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Nisakorn Kositrat, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying Friday.

Both of the conferences will be held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok.

At the meetings, Thailand aims to promote a common understanding between countries on the access and sharing of the benefits of biodiversity, she said.

In the past, countries with advanced technology have been able to exploit the benefits of biodiversity of other countries, particularly developing and less developed nations, by registering the legal rights to these natural resources, and claiming that they had found them first.

This happened, for instance, in the case of two Thai local herbs, Kwow Krua and Ploa Noi, Nisarat said.

“The meetings, we hope, will help protect more of our natural resources in the future,” she said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq’s Sadr and Sunni clerics call for end to US troop presence

KUFA, 4 Feb — Iraqi Shiite rebel cleric Moqtada Sadr and Sunni clerics in Baghdad called Friday on all political forces that took part in the country’s election to push now for an end to the US troop presence.

At the grand mosque in Kufa, south of Baghdad, the firebrand young cleric Sadr sent an emissary to read a message on his behalf to the thousands of worshippers gathered for the traditional weekly prayers.

“I call on all religious and political powers that pushed towards the elections and took part in them to issue an official statement calling for a timetable for the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Iraq,” Sayed Hashim Abu Ragheef told the faithful.

Sadr gave notice that he would no longer hold his tongue about political developments in Iraq after keeping quiet for months according to the message read by Abu Ragheef.

“I stood aside for the elections and did not stand against them as I did not want to show disobedience toward the Marjaiyah (senior clerics). I did not join these elections so that I wouldn’t be one of the West’s pawns.

“The West is so proud that they have held the elections but I would ask: who is responsible for the blood that day?” he asked. — Internet

Czech Army modernizes 20 tanks

PRAGUE, 4 Feb — The Czech Army has modernized 20 tanks, while 10 others are to be completed by the end of 2006, a spokesman of the Defence Ministry said Thursday.

Along with the modernized T-72M4 CZ tanks, the Army will continue to use more than 100 old tanks which will not be upgraded, spokesman Petr Sykora said.

The modernized tanks are equipped with an Italian system of guided fire. US automatic machine gun and new ammunition, with a total cost of about 174 million US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Japans second biggest automaker Nissan on 4 Feb, 2005 said it will return to the market in Pakistan after five years, saying the country had a fast-expanding appetite for cars. — Internet
Emergence of network of roads and bridges across the nation makes publications covering literary knowledge reach far-flung regions

Prizes presented for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship Award and Pakokku Library Book Award

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung addresses prize presentation ceremony of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship Award and Pakokku Library Book Award. — MNA

YANGON, 5 Feb—A ceremony to present prizes to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship Award and Pakokku Library Book Award for the year 2004 was held at the National Theatre on Myanma Aung Street in Dagon Township at 2 pm today, with an address by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Co-operatives Col Zaw Min, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Ministers for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and U Thein Sein, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, departmental officials under the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and executives, well-wisher U Ohn Pe, members of U Ohn Pe Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee, literati, social organizations and others.

In his address, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung said that we are grateful to members of the Supervisory Committee appointed by the Ministry of Information and members of the Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee as well as well-wishers for their help. Likewise, it is heartening to witness enthusiasm and spirit of cherishing literary heritage through the unity of those from the literary world while striving for human resources development.

This will contribute much to bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

The emergence of a network of roads and bridges in all parts of the nation makes the publications covering literary knowledge reach far-flung regions. Only then, will the Union of Myanmar make up of 14 states and divisions be fully equipped with the five strengths.

In conclusion, the minister stressed the need for the writers to widely contribute literature capable of serving the national interest, to cherish and safeguard the literary heritage through the unity of those from the literary world, to pave the way for youths to be able to study literary and to participate in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a modern developed democratic nation.

Next, Well-wisher U Ohn Pe presented K 5 million for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe life-long literary and Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary award for University of Culture and Arts and Pakokku U Ohn Pe School Award (in Geography, History, Economics and Optional Myanmarsar and English); Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award (in Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Biology); Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, to Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award (in Geography, History, Economics and Optional Myanmarsar). Later, prizes were presented to those who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award.

Next, well-wisher Pakokku U Ohn Pe spoke words of thanks. — MNA
Far-sighted national leaders...

(from page 16)

the symbol of national solidarity of the Union of Myanmar for centuries. When there was national solidarity, the State was strong. It is obvious that when the Union spirit was weak, political, economic, social and security conditions were low. The historic Panglong Agreement was signed due to the Union spirit, patriotism and nationalistic spirit in the country.

He said Myanmar became a sovereign nation again on account of national solidarity and strong desire not to lie under servitude. The government has laid down the national policy of non-dis-integration of the Union, non-dis-integration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty and is marching towards a peaceful modern developed nation. Far-sighted national leaders firmly built national solidarity and Union Spirit.

He said now the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. As a first step, the National Convention is in session and all the citizens are to take part in the respective roles. The National Convention will lay down basic principles which guarantee political, economic and social privileges of various national races in constituting the future State. The entire people welcomed the forth coming National Convention which will resume on 17 February, he added.

He urged the national races to implement the tasks for emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Next, Secretary of Kengtung District USDA U Sai Huan Nwe recounted historical backgrounds of the Union Day. The national objectives of the 58th Anniversary Union Day are full of political essence and permanent work guidelines to be followed for perpetuation of the Union. With the political stability, prevalence of law and order, peace, national solidarity can be built.

Next, executive of Kengtung District USDA Daw Nan Hla Yin tabled the motion calling for hailing the National Convention.

The meeting chairmen seen at the rally to honour Union Day and support National Convention in Kengtung Township.— MNA

The meeting chairmen seen at the rally to honour Union Day and support National Convention in Kengtung Township.— MNA

Kalay District people, USDA members honour Union Day, support National Convention

YANGON, 5 Feb — USDA members and local people attended the ceremony to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Letpanchaung Village BEMS in Kalay Township yesterday.

Those present saluted the State Flag. Secretary of Kalay District USDA U Thein Hlaing, presiding over the ceremony, gave a speech. Pinlon Ward Organizer Chin national race U Mi Mi San of Kalay Township welcomed the Union Day and U Kyaw Win of Kalay submitted the report on supporting the National Convention. Kalay District USDA Executive U Than Aye presented rural development tasks in Kalay District and future tasks. Kalay Township USDA Secretary U Yu Tin Win seconded the motions of three representatives.

Chin national race U Kam Mar of Letpanchaung Village handed over 23,820 USDA membership applications to District USDA Executive U Tin Hlaing.

Afterwards, District USDA Reserve Executive U Zaw Myo Hlaing handed over documents related to rural development to Deputy Director of Town- ship Development Affairs Committee U Tin Ko and the documents concerning education sector to District Education Officer U Shwe Thaung.

Before concluding the ceremony, all the participants approved to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention and rural development tasks.— MNA

Meeting on offering gold plates to Shwedagon Pagoda held

YANGON, 5 Feb — The meeting to offer gold plates and foils to Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the prayer hall of the pagoda this morning.

The Chairman of the Leading Committee for All-round Perpetual Renovation of the pagoda and members, deputy ministers and officials discussed systematic offering of gold plates and foils, maintenance of the Htidaw and the pagoda.

Wellwishers are permitted to offer gold plates and foils to the pagoda till 17 April, Myanmar New Year Day of 1367 ME.

Arrangements are being made for those wishing to donate gold plates to the pagoda in person and for the gold foils offering ceremony with the use of the floating carriage. The plan is under way to complete the offering gold plates before fullmoon of Kason, 1367 ME.— MNA

Union Day delegates arrive

YANGON, 5 Feb — Members of cultural delegations of States and Divisions and Union Day delegates who are USDA members arrived here by air this afternoon to attend the 58th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony and the dinner.

Altogether 30 members of the cultural delegations and three USDA members of Chin State, 30 Dawei cultural troupe members and four USDA members from Taninthayi Division and five USDA members of Shan State (East) arrived at the airport where they were welcomed by Chairman of the Sub-committee for Reception and Accommodation Commandant of Defence Services Records Office and Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint and members. The Union delegates and cultural troupe members were accommodated at respective hostels. — MNA

A mass of people attend the rally to honour Union Day and support National Convention in Kalay Township.— MNA
Another Sittang River Bridge...
(from page 16)

Directorate of Military Engineers under the Ministry of Defence, 7 bridges; the Ministry of Rail Transportation, 7 bridges; and the Ministry of Electric Power, one bridge. Arrangements are under way to construct a bridge spanning the Sittang River and linking Mon State and Bago Division. Moreover, bridges will also be constructed in other places as necessary.

In line with the guidance and encouragement of the Head of State, there have emerged 14 major bridges — four bridges spanning the Thalwin River — the Hpa-

The State has so far built 14 bridges across four major rivers.

an Bridge in Kayin State, the Tahsan Bridge and the Takaw-et Bridge in Shan State; seven bridges spanning the Ayeyawady River — Nawady (Pyay) Bridge, Bala Min Htin (Myitkyina) Bridge, Bo Myat Tun Bridge, Maabin Bridge, and Dedaye Bridge in Ayeyawady Division; Anawrahta (Chauk) Bridge, Magway Bridge; two bridges spanning the Chindwin River — Hsaphushin Bridge and Monywa Bridge; and Sittang river-crossing Shwekyin-Madauk Bridge.

The government is constructing the bridges with the aim of ensuring easy accessibility between one region and the other and raising the socio-economic life of national people.

Before this bridge has come into existence, people travelling to Mawlamyine found it difficult in crossing the Thalwin River. Z-craft and ferries were the only transport means. It took long to reach the other bank. Down on luck, travellers had to spend the night there. It was also risky to cross the river in the rainy season. Now, these obstacles are a thing of the past.

Furthermore, Mon State will boom in trade with neighbouring regions. For instance, Hpa-an is only a few hours drive from Mawlamyine.

Now, a network of transport has linked the east with the west, and the north with the south. The total miles of roads have increased to 56,600 at present from 21,400 in 1988. More and more agricultural infrastructures are being established across the country just as the number of transport infrastructures is on the rise.

The same thing can be said of the education and health sectors. Measures are being taken to promote the education and health standards through the establishment of development zones. At the same time, development tasks are also being carried out in rural and border areas.

The steps now being taken are aimed at narrowing the development gaps between one region and another. In other words, these measures are the efforts to ensure social advancement. In this process, the government is building infrastructures needed for economy, education, health and transport in cooperation with the people. In a sense, they are the fruitful results stemming from the concerted efforts made by the government and the people.

The Tatmadaw government led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has never lost sight of public interests. It always pays special attention to it. Now, the Head of State gave guidance, saying that infrastructures needed for national development have now been established; that continued efforts are to be made to make the most of them; and that hope must be set on the establishment of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Now is the time that the Tatmadaw and the people should go hand in hand to serve the interests of the country. History has proved that armed insurrections are detrimental to the development of socio-economic life.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, arrangements are made to enable armed groups to return to the legal fold and to participate in the national-building tasks. As a result, a total of 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold. They are now lending themselves to the development tasks in their respective regions in concert with the government. Thus, a good legacy of solidarity and prosperity can be handed down to posterity.

Our Three Main National Causes in a sense are patriotism or Union Spirit. It is also a national policy that will never go wrong at any given time. The 12 political, economic and social objectives are also correct working guidelines. By implementing these policies, regional development has to be undertaken to enable the country to stay in touch with the international community.

The seven-point Road Map was laid down to ensure a smooth transition to a democracy relevant to historical background, topographical conditions, and cultural tradition of the country.

It is historic concern for the people to join hands with the government for realizing the correct political work programmes. Only then will the discipline-flourishing democratic nation emerge.

In conclusion, it is necessary for the entire national people living in Mon State to stand in solidarity and to maintain the development momentum.

Later, General Thura Shwe Mann urged local people to actively participate in the shaping of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation and to maintain the newly-constructed transport facility for its long-term use.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivered a speech. He said the Ministry of Construction is building transport infrastructures in the country with

(See page 7)
goodwill. In accord with the goodwill of Head of State Senior General Than Swe, geographical survey was conducted in 1998 to construct Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). The bridge construction started after the stake-driving ceremony took place on 18 March 2000. It is the 179th of the bridges with the length of over 180 feet built by the ministry. It is the longest and largest one with 28 bole piles built with technical help of Caisson Type Foundation, the minister said. The minister vowed that the ministry will keep road and bridge construction to further develop the transport sector of the State.

In his remarks, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myin Aung said the bridge emerged due to the efforts of Myanmar engineers, which was just a dream in previous eras. The inauguration of the bridge is a great honour for all national people of the country, particularly for those in Mon State.

In conclusion, he said, on behalf of local people, he thanked the government for building the bridge to help develop the sectors ranging from economy, education, health to transport of the state. Local people on their part are urged to maintain the bridge as long as Mon State exists.

Later, U Tin Soe Moe Naing, a local, spoke words of thanks.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe extended greetings to the people at the opening ceremony. He said he came to Mawlamyine to attend the inauguration of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) and he conveyed best wishes to those present.

He said it has been a long time that the government would like to build such bridge that is useful to the region and the country. However, the bridge construction project could not be implemented immediately because of some difficulties, especially financial constraints and technological problems. The government waited for appropriate time and circumstances.

Now economy of the country has improved to a certain extent. As small, medium and large bridges could be built technologically, the government gained technical know-how and experiences. Therefore it is capable of building such kind of bridge, he said.

It is important to build strength of solidarity, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order whatever difficulty the country encounters. Difficulties can be overcome through these two strengths. The bridge has emerged because of the two strengths, he said.

Continuing, he said, the government built this bridge with the aims of ensuring regional development and promoting socio-economic life of local people. Local people can now go easily from one place to another through the bridge in a short time.

Guests and local residents at the opening of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) spanning Thanlwin River. The bridge is the longest and the largest facility of its kind in Myanmar. — MNA
Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union

Facing the Bay of Bengal in the west, Rakhine State is the westernmost sector of the Union of Myanmar. On its 14,200 square miles of territory live Rahhines and Bamaras alongside Chin, Mro, Thet, Khami, Dainet, and Manaung islands and a number of islets. At the Special Projects

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Livestock and fisheries

Livestock breeding has been extended for Rakhine State to produce an adequate amount of food for local consumption. The state is raising four million heads of livestock, up from two million in 1988. A significant development of the state at present is in water andrawn farming. The industry is showing encouraging signs for local distribution as well as for export. The industry did not exist in the state in the past, but now it is running 155,533 acres of prawn farms.

Forest conservation

The forest conservation project of the state is developing alongside...
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.
Rakhine State (from page 8)

in 1988 managed to grow only 100,000 saplings, but now the local people have planted over eight million saplings. The Table B has something more to tell readers about the development in forest conservation.

Table F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>1992-2-05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic education</td>
<td>- number of schools</td>
<td>2391</td>
<td>2716</td>
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<tr>
<td>- multimedia classroom</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- e-Learning Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of teachers</td>
<td>8729</td>
<td>12107</td>
<td>3378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- number of students</td>
<td>24437</td>
<td>430454</td>
<td>186097</td>
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<tr>
<td>- KG enrolment</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>32.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- adult literacy rate</td>
<td>59.78%</td>
<td>72.90%</td>
<td>13.12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>School dropout rate</td>
<td>- primary school level</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- middle school level</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45.98%</td>
<td>14.73%</td>
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<td>Higher education</td>
<td>- arts &amp; science university</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- college</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- education college</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- e-Learning centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- academic programmes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>99</td>
<td>228</td>
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<tr>
<td>- number of students</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>20115</td>
<td>19185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human resource development centre</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Table C documents the transport development of the state.

Road and transport sector

The colonial government totally ignored the transport sector of the state, with mountains, forests and rivers, because the matter was out of its interest. And during the post-independence period, the matter was out of reach due to certain reasons.

The Tatmadaw Government is always thinking about plans to assist and develop all the seven states and seven divisions of the Union and to make them prosper and stronger.

The Government has opened the new chapter of 42.5-mile Pyu road Pyinwun-Mingalaung road, the 592-foot Thazintan-Creek Bridge, the 703-foot Minpya Bridge on Yangon-Champheng bridge, and the 592-foot Thazintan-Punpak Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu highway in Yanbye Township, and the Kyaukpyu Bridge on Yangon-Sittway highway in Sittway Township. Furthermore, Wunphaik Bridge will emerge on Yangon Kyaukpyu Road soon.

The Table D documents the transport development of the state.

Communications

The Government has developed and facilitated the transport and communications sectors of the state. The Table D compares the present situation and that of the 1988.

Electricity

"If there are mountains, roads will be built on them, and they will be beautified with forest plantations and highland farms. Likewise, bridges will span rivers and creeks and their waters will be harnessed for electricity", and that is the conviction and resolve of the Government to serve public interest.

While building miles of roads and a large number of bridges in the state, the Government is also implementing the 100-megawatt Thahtay Creek Hydel Power Project in Thahtay and the 703-foot Minpya Bridge and the 592-foot Thazintan-Punpak Bridge in the state have been built under the special projects of the Government. There are four more large bridges under construction. They are the 2,704-foot Minpyaunghlaung Creek Bridge, the 703-foot Thahtahmye Bridge and the 592-foot Thazintan-Creek Bridge.

The bridges have been built on rivers and creeks, and the bridges have been built through courses, sometimes, roads and creeks, and the bridges have been built through courses, sometimes, roads and creeks, and the bridges have been built through courses, sometimes, roads and creeks, and the bridges have been built through courses, sometimes, roads and creeks.

The Tatmadaw Government has built 583 rural bridges.

The Table E serves as the educational indicator showing the sector’s development.

Science and technology sector

The Government has been paving the way for local youths to get access to professional institutions of higher learning in their own regions to produce a larger number of engineers and computer experts. Thus, youths in Rakhine State also get the opportunity to attend classes at a government computer college and a government technological college in Sittway and a government technological institute in Thandwe. Up to now, the state has produced 1,184 technocrats. Table F shows the opportunities of youths in the state to study science and technology.

Health

The number of hospitals in Rakhine State has reached 42. There is one teaching hospital, three 100-bed hospitals, seven 50-bed hospitals, seven 25-bed hospitals, five 16-bed hospitals and 25 station hospitals. In the past it was 36.

The Government has assigned 105 more doctors and 382 extra health staff to the state. A 50-bed traditional medicine hospital and 12 traditional medicine dispensaries are treating patients in the state. There are now two nursing schools in the state.

The Table G attests to the health development of the state.

Urban and rural development

There are now 224 miles and six furlongs of urban roads in the state. Of them 76 miles and six furlongs are tarred facilities. In the past, the state had 184 miles and four furlongs of urban roads.

The state has also maintained 543 urban bridges. Rural roads have also been extended and upgraded in the state, which now has 456 miles and six furlongs of rural roads, up 183 miles and four furlongs from 273 miles and two furlongs in 1988. To this date, the state has built 583 rural bridges.

(Table E serves as the educational indicator showing the sector’s development.

Table F documents the transport development of the state.

Table G attests to the health development of the state.

Table H documents the urban and rural development of the state.)
Another Sittaung River Bridge... (from page 7)
The bridge will serve the interests of the State and the region. He said another Sittaung River Bridge is under construction near the existing old Sittaung Bridge for the development of Mon State and Taninthayi Divi-
sion. The government is doing its best with the aim of developing all parts of the regions in the Union.

Therefore, the Senior General urged each and every citizen to safeguard State-owned properties including this bridge that contributes towards the interests of the region and the people as their own and maintain them for durability.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted those present.

At the auspicious time, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min cut the ribbon to open the bridge.

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung addresses the opening of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. — MNA

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister returns home
YANGON, 5 Feb — Mr Alexander Yu Alekseev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation who visited Myanmar at the invitation of U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, left here by air this afternoon.

The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister was seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Oleg V Kabanov and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Russian Embassy.

During his visit to Myanmar, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on Prime Minis-
ter Lt-Gen Soe Win on 4 February and attended the regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same day.

At the consultations, the two sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on the current interna-
tional situation, foreign affairs of the two countries, domestic developments, regional cooperation and pro-
motion of Myanmar-Russia relations and bilateral cooperation among others.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. — MNA

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister returns home

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

POEM

The Dream Bridge
* At this place, the current is swift
Gulf of Mottama, where five rivers meet
They flow gracefully, the Thanlwin
Aso Gyaing, together with Attaran
Plus Kyonde, known as Myitkadoe
With cleft of waves, making much noise
* The meeting of waters creating a whirlpool
Like and island, the crags crop up
Gives the appearance of faint emerald
Gaungsay island as centrepiece
Vying with the water surface, rocks are to be seen.
* Rough is the journey
Tiredness and difficulties abound
Always have to meet, as if an elephant in mosh
Have to take due care, in going back and forth
Become much danger abound.
* Big rivers in competition, swirling waters
Meet like octopus
Amid the rocks, like a mast
To set up a monument, we have
Seldom had a dream
* Today, throughout the nation
To facilitate easy communications
Build series of bridges, and straight roads
The network nationwide connecting all parts of nation
For all-round development
We strive toward building the New Nation.
* Known as Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)
It’s become well-known
For all our kin
Dream Bridge, has become reality
Fame unmatched ever
Fragrant victory, our nation’s
Bridge unmatched.

Hla Min (Electrical) (Trs)
Symbian unveils new software

AMSTERDAM, 4 Feb—British mobile phone software maker Symbian, part-owned by Psion, unveiled on Wednesday a new version of its operating system that supports high resolution cameras and three-dimensional games graphics.

The software, which runs on faster processors based on designs from British chip developer ARM, comes with reference designs and other tools to help mobile phone producers save time and cut costs when developing new models.

The software can process pictures of two million pixels and more, it can send stereo music to a wirelessly connected headset and can import MP3 songs from a desktop computer without the need for additional synchronization software.

The first phones with Symbian “operating system version 9” will be introduced in the second half of 2005, with volume sales expected by Christmas, said Symbian spokesman Peter Bancroft.

Symbian is the world’s biggest producer of software for so-called smartphones, a new category of versatile phones that can have built-in music players and video recorders, and which run computer-like applications such as enterprise customer relationship software, car navigation programmes and e-mail.

Today its software is the engine of some 20 million phones, available through 200 mobile operators around the world.

Symbian was set up with financial backing from the world’s biggest mobile phone vendors, including Nokia, Motorola and Sony Ericsson, who wanted a strong alternative supplier to Microsoft.

What Symbian aims for is to supply smartphones that work well with other Microsoft software on office computers. Symbian is looking for big volume sales in the mass consumer markets where multimedia and video phones are becoming more popular with the advent of faster networks.

“Symbian is a volume business,” Bancroft said, adding that his company has also added functions that enable companies to more easily manage the security of their employee’s phones, and which make it more convenient to access corporate e-mail and calendars.

A market licence fee is unchanged from version 8, Symbian hopes its tools to lower development costs will accelerate the price erosion of smartphones, which is already happening as a result of cheaper components, thereby creating a bigger market for advanced software.

Market research group IDC forecasts 130 million smartphones will be sold in 2008 alone. Symbian receives between five US dollars and 7.25 US dollars for every phone that contains its software, depending on sales volume.

MINA/Reuters

Japanese industries failing targets for reducing greenhouse gas

TOKYO, 4 Feb—More than a third of major industries in Japan, host of the Kyoto meeting on global warming, could fail to meet targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a 2010 deadline, a Trade Ministry survey showed on Wednesday.

Eleven out of 30 major industries, including oil and coal industries, will have to struggle sufficiently cutting emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), it showed.

The Kyoto Protocol, which came into force in the mass consumer electronics market in 2005, has added functions to手机 phones, and which has also added functions that enable companies to more easily manage the security of their employee’s phones, and which make it more convenient to access corporate e-mail and calendars.

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MINA/Reuters

China congratulates VCP on 75th anniversary

BEIJING, 4 Feb—The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) sent a congratulatory message Thursday to the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party on the occasion of the latter’s 75th founding anniversary.

The message expressed the principles of long-term stabilisation and good-neighbourliness and friendship between the two nations.

China has also added functions that enable companies to more easily manage the security of their employee’s phones, and which make it more convenient to access corporate e-mail and calendars.

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MINA/Reuters

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MINA/Reuters
Yangon, 5 Feb—Pathein District held a mass rally at Shwe Ayeyar ground near Dahka Bridge in Dahka Village, Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Division, this morning as a gesture of hailing Union Day and supporting the National Convention.

Present on the occasion were Ayeyawady Division USDA Secretary U Than Tun, the secretary of Pathein District and executives, secretaries, executives and members of USDAOs of townships, wards and villages, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society and auxiliary fire brigade, local people numbering more than 9,400.

Pathein District Secretary U Nyan Lin chaired the meeting together with Pathein Township WVO Township USDA Executive Daw Myo Zin Mar Nyo.

The meeting chairman delivered a speech, saying that Myanmar has stood as a sovereign nation with own monarchs for thousands of years. But, the entire nation was under the yoke of slavery following three aggressive wars launched by the British colonialists. During successive eras, the national races constantly launched battles against the intruders to regain independence. The invaders, which covered both the hilly regions and the plains, and it led to the Panglong Agreement.

With the decisive determination that all the national races would continue to live in unity and harmony, the Panglong Agreement was inked on 12 February 1947, which is a landmark in the nation’s history. So, the date was designated as Union Day, and it has been celebrated and honoured annually in the nation.

Our Three Main National Causes are the national policy necessary for the nation to transform itself to a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The Panglong Agreement is the national work programmes with which the nation can enjoy its fruits of the current situation.

With the decisive determination that the Ayeyawady Division have enjoyed fruits of remarkable progress in various sectors and among them, the 1,400-foot Dahka Bridge is a living proof. The National Convention resumed on 9 January 1993 with the eight groups of representatives. However, some parties did give priority to interests of their own rather than to that of the nation, and eventually, it led to temporary adjournment of the NC on 31 March 1996. Nothing but the NC can complete the State Constitution, and the entire national people are therefore to be wholeheartedly in support of the National Convention which will own active role in an attempt to ensure a new nation hand in hand with the government.

Division Committee for WAF Daw Malar Aung supported a motion, calling for honouring Union Day. Kangyidaunt Township USDA member Dr U Win Myint tabled a motion, calling for being in favour of the National Convention. Pathein District USDA member Capt Sein Maung (Retd), District MCWA Secretary Daw Marlar Kyaw, and townelder U Khin Maung of Dahka Village, Kangyidaunt Township USDA Executive Daw Naw Kaphaw Shee emceed the meeting together with Kangyidaunt Joint-Secretary U Soe Win tabled a motion, calling for supporting the rural development undertakings being implemented in Pathein District. Pathein Township MCWA Executive Daw Khin Htwe May seconded the motions.

Next, the meeting chairman sought the approval of the attendees, and the meeting ended with chanting of the slogans.

MNA
Davenport begins quest for Pan Pacific Open title

Tokyo, 4 Feb — World number one Lindsay Davenport began her quest for a record fifth Pan Pacific Open title with a comfortable 6-4, 6-3 win over Japan’s Saori Obata on Thursday.

Elena Dementieva, runner-up to fellow Russians Anastasia Myskina and Svetlana Kuznetsova in two of last year’s four Grand Slams, trounced Japan’s Akiko Morigami 6-2, 6-2 to join Davenport in the quarterfinals.

Defending champion Davenport, who lost the Australian Open final to Serena Williams last weekend, dropped her first two service games.

The American uncharacteristically threw down her racket in disgust after squandering five set points at 5-3 in the first set.


"To be honest, I still felt a little worn down," said Davenport, who suffered a loss to get over. I probably had the biggest lapse of my career and it’s going to take a few weeks to get it out of my system."

Fourth seed Dementieva had few problems against Morigami and will next face another Japanese player, Shinobu Asagoe, who overpowered Italy’s Roberta Vinci 6-0, 6-2.

Dementieva was beaten by Myskina in the French Open final last year and lost to Kuznetsova at the US Open but believes she could go one better this season.

"I feel much stronger now and I know what it takes to reach a Grand Slam final," said Dementieva. "I just feel I need to take one more step and I think I can do that this year."

Sixth seed Elena Likhovtseva battled past American Jill Craybas 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 to set up an all-Russian quarterfinal with Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova.

Manchester United defender Wes Brown believes the Red Devils have remained in the Premiership title race thanks to the never-say-die attitude of midfield king Roy Keane (pictured).

Dzidane will retire in 2007 at latest

Paris, 5 Feb — Real Madrid playmaker Zinedine Zidane will retire in 2007 at the latest.

"My contract runs until 2007 and I won’t go any further," the 32-year-old Frenchman said on Friday.

"At the latest I will end my career in 2007. Stopping before then is not on my agenda, but who knows? I won’t go further than 2007 but I would like to go all the way," he said.

Zidane, among the most gifted players of his generation, said it would be “nice to win another European Cup” with Real before calling it quits. Zidane put an end to his international career after Euro 2004 with 93 caps and 26 goals.

"I’m no longer part of France’s team but I watch them as a fan. The most important thing is for them to go to the World Cup,” he told French pay television channel Canal Plus.

Chilean, Argentine tennis players advance in Vina del Mar

Santiago, 5 Feb — Tennis players Fernando Gonzalez of Chile and Mariano Zeballos of Argentina are in the quarterfinals of the Vina del Mar tournament after their respective second-round victories.

Gonzalez, the defending champion and second favourite in the competition, defeated on Thursday Spaniard Nicolas Almagro 7-6 (7-4) and 7-5. Zeballos, the fifth seed, defeated Spanish player Santiago Ventura 6-4 and 6-3.

The Chilean needed an hour and a half to defeat his Spanish rival, who hurt his knee in the second set, but managed to complete the game.

At least four homegrown players to be included in UEFA matches

Nyon (Switzerland), 4 Feb — Clubs taking part in the Champions League and UEFA Cup will have to include at least four homegrown players in their 25-man squads from the start of the 2006-7 season.

The quota will increase to six players the following season, rising to a maximum of eight homegrown players by 2008-9 following agreement at a one-day conference of the presidents and general secretaries of UEFA’s 51 national members.

The ruling could be expanded to include domestic competitions at UEFA’s annual congress in Tallinn in April.

"The ruling could be expanded to include domestic competitions at UEFA’s annual congress in Tallinn in April," said Lars-Christer Olsson, chief executive of European soccer’s ruling body, told reporters.

UEFA defines homegrown players as those who, aged between 15 and 21, were developed at the club or by other clubs from the same national association for a minimum of three years.

The nationality of a homegrown player will be irrelevant in a bid to circumvent any opposition by the European Union on the grounds of freedom of trade.

Homegrown quotas are essentially an attempt by UEFA to find a way round the 1995 Bosman ruling which demolished restrictions on the numbers of foreigners playing in a team.

Since then top clubs have included fewer and fewer players from their own countries in their first teams.

English league leaders Chelsea had three English players in their starting team on Wednesday while Real Madrid had four Spanish players in their team at the weekend.

Sepp Blatter, president of world soccer’s ruling body FIFA, has accused clubs of creating a “high-stakes trade in humans” by hoovering up players from less developed areas of the world in a desperate search for talent.
Rakhine State
(from page 10)

Of the 17 town water supply projects, 11 have been completed. A total of 612 units of waterworks have already been erected in 470 villages. The entire project covers the task of supplying clean water to 922 villages.

Border areas and national races development

The Government’s Border Areas and National Races Development Project covers Rakhine State together with many other regions. Sitway has a youth development training school and Maungtaw has a vocational training school for development of local youths. The Table H marching to...

explains the Government’s endeavours to develop the socio-economy of Rakhine State to catch up with other regions, with exact figures.

Information and public relations

The Government has been developing the information and public relations sector to enable the people of Rakhine State to get in touch with everyday news about the national developments. The Table H shows how the state is improving its information sector in the drive towards reaching the golden land of unity and amity.

COMESA challenges member countries

LUSAKA, 5 Feb — The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has challenged manufacturers in the region to take an aggressive stance and export to member countries instead of defending their respective small local markets.

COMESA senior trade adviser Mwansa Musonda said in an interview on Thursday that the COMESA member countries can only improve their intra-COMESA trade by focusing and embracing their manufacturing capacities.

More aggression on the part of manufacturers in the grouping instead of complaining can improve market shares in the region, he added. He noted that potential for meaningful trade among member countries is enormous but has remained under-exploited.

“COMESA member countries have a very good avenue of trade in COMESA but sadly this vehicle of trade has remained under-utilized,” Musonda said.

Official says Afghan private airliner still missing

KARL, 5 Feb — An Afghan private airliner that was scheduled to land in the capital is still unaccounted for almost 18 hours later, an airline official said on Friday morning.

A representative from Kam Air who only gave his last name as Aziz, told Xinhua that the Boeing 737 is still missing after an overnight effort to locate it. “Earlier report that the plane has landed is no accurate,” he said.

Another official who worked with the Kam Air told Xinhua this morning that the plane has landed safely in Peshawar Airport and 36 of passengers on board will be flown to Kabul if weather permits. He promised to provide more details later.

According to Aziz, the airplane that has landed in Herat after a flight mission from Kabul in the morning, took off in Herat at 2.30 pm and should reach its destination one hour later. At 3.10 pm, the pilot radioed the air controller about the weather condition and asked for landing.

Then, it lost contact.

“I don’t know why it did not return back to Herak,” Aziz remarked.

The distraught airplane carried 96 passengers and eight crew members. The airline has contacted all neighbouring countries as well as ISAF and US-led coalition for help.

The Peshawar Airport authorities said later Thursday two airliners had landed in the airport, but later denied the information. Peshawar is the nearest airport that the Kam Airplane should land in.

According to Aziz, the airplane was bought recently, and all the pilots and air stewards were foreigners.

Kam Air is a private airline that started operation in November 2003. It has four Boeing 737s and some Russian-made airplanes. It is based in northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and has its maintenance base in Dubai. Except two Afghan air stewards, all of its crew were foreigners. A Russian airline also has a share in the venture.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 5 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

- During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division and Shan State, (6°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) above normal in Bago Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Lashio (4°C), Mogok and Pnilong (5°C) each.

- Maximum temperature on 4-2-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 5-2-2005 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 5-2-2005 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 4-2-2005 was 7.5 hours approx. Rainfalls on 5-2-2005 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 5 mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 4-2-2005.

- Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

- Forecast valid until evening of 6-2-2005: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

- Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

- Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-2-2005: Fair weather.

- Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-2-2005: Fair weather.
Another Sittaung River Bridge is under construction near the existing old Sittaung Bridge for development of Mon State and Taninthayi Division.

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

Four social objectives
1. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
2. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
3. Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
4. Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

YANGON, 5 Feb — Kengtung District held a mass rally to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Yanlaw model village, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) this morning. Present on the occasion were members and organizers of USDA from the district, townships and villages, nurses, members of social organizations, departmental officials, teachers, students and local people numbering 1,600. Kengtung District USDA Secretary U Sai Lon Hsaing presided over the mass rally together with Kengtung District WAO Chairperson Daw Myint Myint Ohn and MCWA Chairperson Daw Cho Cho, Kengtung Township War Veterans Organization Committee Chairman Maj Luka (Retd) and U Sai Kyauk of Yanlaw village. Kengtung Township USDA organizer Daw Nan Hwan Tit acted as MC and member Daw Aye Aye Aung as co-MC.

The moment the presiding chairman announced the start of the rally, those present saluted the State Flag. Chairman of the meeting Secretary of Kengtung District USDA U Sai Lon Sai extended greetings and said in the Union of Myanmar all the national races have been living together sharing weal and woe, drinking water from the same source in the course of history and they established noble traditions to fight against any danger detrimental to the Union. Such traditions have been (See page 5)

Far-sighted national leaders firmly building national unity and Union Spirit
Kengtung District holds mass rally to honour Union Day, support National Convention

The work will be difficult because of the mountainous terrain covered with thick evergreen forests and marked by a large number of rivers and creeks. (Page 8)