Strengthen national unity

Our Myanmar nationals, while fighting for the independence of the nation with anti-colonialists sentiment, Union Spirit and nationalism, managed to strengthen national unity at the Panglong Conference which was held by the leaders of national races on 12 February 1947. As a result, Myanmar independence was regained on 4 January 1948, and the nation has become an independent Union standing tall in the world.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From the message sent to the 54th Anniversary Union Day)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects site of Sittoung Bridge (Mopalin), tasks of Kataik Dam Project in Mon State

YANGON, 6 Jan — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Thha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, the ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by car for Mon State at 8.15 am on 4 January.

At 10 am, the Senior General and party arrived at the briefing hall of Sittoung Bridge (Mopalin) construction project of Public Works near Sittoung model village in Kyaihto Township.

Senior General Than Shwe views the site for construction of Sittoung Bridge (Mopalin) near Sittoung Model Village in Kyaihto Township. —MNA

Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Thha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, the ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by car for Mon State at 8.15 am on 4 January.

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The upper structure of the Sittoung Bridge (Mopalin) will be of steel frame and the lower, of reinforced concrete piles. The main bridge will be 1,365 feet long and the whole bridge in length will be 2,392.7 feet.
Make efforts for upkeep of infrastructures for development of the Union

To ensure that all the regions in the Union enjoy equitable prosperity, the government is building infrastructures in all spheres with the aim of narrowing the development gap between one region and the other and raising the living standard of the national people.

In this process, the Tatmadaw government has relied on its own strength as well as on that of the people and service personnel. Now, the combined and harmonious efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw have resulted in the emergence of much-needed infrastructures.

The country’s economy has grown to a certain extent. So has the technology. With these achievements in hand, measures are being taken to construct bridges, small, medium and large. Now, the Tatmadaw government has written a success story in its history by inaugurating a historic as well as largest bridge which was constructed through an accumulation of experience and technology. As the longest and largest in Myanmar, the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) spanning the Thanlwin River in Mawlamyine, Mon State, was commissioned into service on 5 February this year as a gesture of hailing the 58th Anniversary of Union Day.

State Peace and Development Council Chairman and also Defence Services Command-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe himself graced the opening ceremony with his attendance and extended greetings. He said the government is doing everything it can to bring prosperity to all regions of the Union; and that the Tatmadaw government has written a success story in its history by inaugurating a historic as well as largest bridge which was commissioned into service.

Among the completed bridges, the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is the longest and largest in Myanmar with 11,575 feet in length. Now, it will speed up the momentum of regional development and raise the socio-economic life of the local people. All in all, the onus is on the entire national people to maintain the development infrastructures and ensure their long-term use.

Organizational set-up of MWAF explained in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 6 Feb — The organizational set-up of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was explained in Bago Division (West) at the meeting hall of Bago Division Peace and Development Council (West) on 2 February morning.

Present on the occasion were Patron of Bago Division (West) Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Naing Naing Maw and members of Pyay and Thayawady District and Township Organizations, and guests.

Daw Naing Naing Maw extended greetings and Additional Commissioner of Bago Division (West) General Administration Department U Pe Thant explained the organizational set-up of the federation. Next, those present took part in the discussions and U Pe Thant gave concluding remarks.

The signboard to mark supply of potable water for rural people in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Division.— MNA

Water supply signboard put up to haul Union Day

YANGON, 6 Feb — As a gesture hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day, a ceremony to put up a signboard to mark supply of potable water took place at Pwintbyu on 4 February.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint, the Secretary of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, departmental officials at division, district and township levels, members of social organizations and local people.

First, the director-general and the chairman of Minbu District PDC formally unveiled the signboard. During the ceremony, the director-general delivered an address.

Next, locals U Aung Naing and U Sein Hlaing expressed thanks.

Second Leprosy Elimination Day held

YANGON, 6 Feb — A ceremony to commemorate Second Leprosy Elimination Day was held at the hall of Institute of Nursing (Yangon) this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo. Also present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general, rectors, medical superintendents, directors, officials of WHO resident representative’s office and JICA, chairmen of social organizations, matrons and nurses and guests.

After the ceremony, the deputy minister and party viewed around educational booths of leprosy elimination.

CEC member inspects regional development tasks in Kayah State

YANGON, 6 Feb — USDA CEC Member Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the opening ceremony of the rural telephone exchange and a gravel road hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day in Dimawhso and Loikaw townships respectively.

Yesterday morning, CEC member Brig-Gen Thein Aung went to Loikaw Township, Myoma Mingala Pariyatti Monastery and made cash donations to the monastery. Next, he attended the opening of Basic Education High School in Nannakhaion village in Dimawhso Township and heard the reports on the tasks of Union Day. Similarly, Brig-Gen Thein Aung also attended the opening ceremony of Htaygalya-Bado gravel road measuring 5,400 ft and 12 ft.

The second Leprosy Elimination Day in progress at Institute of Nursing (Yangon).— MNA

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
China from Marco Polo travelogue becomes prosperous again

BEIJING, 5 Feb—Marco Polo described China as a prosperous nation in his record of his 13th Century visit, and, after seven centuries, it has become prosperous again, said Piergiorgio Togni, general manager of the Italian State Tourist Board (ENIT), during the first Italian tourism promotion in China.

In 1275, Marco Polo arrived in Beijing, the then capital of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). When he returned home, he wrote the famous travel account, depicting the wealth of Beijing, Hangzhou and Quanzhou and attracted the attention of the West.

Historians said the account is an important masterpiece of West-East exchanges. Even the difference between Chinese noodles and Italian macaroni can be found in the book.

Today Chinese people are not only the producers of silk and refrigerators and TV sets to the world, among which Chinese noodles and Italian macaroni can be found in the book.

Marco Polo became rich after his trip to China, while today his hometown people wait for the generous consumption of Chinese travellers,” said Giacomo Chiappori, board of director of ENIT.

He said after the European Union became an approved destination for Chinese travellers last September, more than 4,100 Beijing tourists have visited Italy, with 1,000 visas issued on average every month. More than 300,000 Chinese tourists went to Italy last year, many of whom went to Venice, Polo’s hometown.

In order to welcome Chinese tourists, many Italian travel agencies hire Chinese employees, and the Chinese language can also be seen in scenic spots, said Wu Di, ENIT representative in China.

Toyota expects fresh record annual profit

Tokyo, 5 Feb—Toyota Motor Corp is expected to reap a record-high fiscal year profit for the second consecutive year after the top Japanese carmaker announced a net profit of 296.53 billion yen (2.85 billion US dollars) in the fourth quarter of 2004.

The quarterly profit, up 3.5 per cent from a year before, helped to push the April-December net profit to 880.57 billion yen (8.47 billion US dollars).

Toyota garnered a group net profit of 1.16 trillion yen (11.15 billion dollars) in fiscal 2003 which ended on March 31, making itself the first Japanese company to exceed the one trillion yen landmark.

For the same three-month period, Toyota posted an operating profit of 422.90 billion yen (4.07 billion US dollars), up 5.3 per cent, and a 5.9-per-cent rise in sales to 4.64 trillion yen (44.62 billion US dollars).

The company said measures on cutting costs helped to drive down negative impacts, including stronger yen and rising material prices.

In addition, brisk sales in domestic market as well as in the United States and Europe also were credited with the profit boom.

Toyota expects fresh record annual profit

BEIJING, 5 Feb—More than 300,000 members of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army and the Chinese People’s Armed Police donate blood each year to help ensure blood supply in hospitals across the country, according to the military headquarters.

The military said leading blood-donation groups have been set up at all units at the regiment level and above, and regional blood donation management committees have been established in areas where troops are stationed.

Meanwhile, emergency blood donation plans have been worked out by these military units, and many of these volunteers donate 400 mililitres or more of their blood annually.

More US and other casualties in Iraq

Baghdad, 6 Feb—Two US soldiers and four Iraqi policemen were killed in various incidents in different parts of Iraq late Friday and early Saturday.

A US army statement said the American casualties occurred when roadside bombs exploded near an army convoy near Biji, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) north of Baghdad Friday night.

Two soldiers were killed and five others wounded in the blast.

Iraqi security sources said four the police officers died and 10 others were injured in an explosion that cut through their convoy in a suburb of the southern Iraqi city of Basra early Saturday.

The Shi'ite-populated Basra, which is controlled by some 12,000 British troops, has been relatively calm recently.

Police officers were reportedly also targeted in attacks by guerrillas armed with automatic guns in various parts of Baghdad, but no other casualties were reported.

1,447 of US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

Washington, 6 Feb—As of Saturday, 5 Feb, 2005, at least 1,447 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,105 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths: Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,309 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 996 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Middle Easterners do not believe in American-style democracy

TEHERAN, 4 Feb—Iran denied on Thursday US President George W Bush’s repeated charge that it is pursuing nuclear arms, describing accusations in his State of the Union address as “baseless”, official news agency IRNA said.

In his speech on Wednesday, Bush called Iran the “world’s primary state sponsor of terror” and again accused it of seeking to develop atomic weapons.

“These claims have no basis,” IRNA quoted Foreign Minister Spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi as saying.

Bush’s remarks enraged Iran’s conservative state-controlled media. State television accused Bush of trying to capture Middle East oil under the pretext of promoting democracy in the region.

“All their slogans are tricks to dominate the oil resources of this region and other strategic areas. Why is Bush only interested in promoting democracy in oil-rich region?” asked one radio commentator.

Washington accuses Teheran of having a covert weapons programme, but Iran says its nuclear facilities would only be used for peaceful power generation.

The European Union is also keeping a close watch on Iran’s nuclear programme, although it does not publicly accuse the country of pursuing weapons. Germany, France and Britain, acting for the EU, are trying to persuade Iran to scrap processes that could be used to make atomic bombs in return for a package of incentives including trade deals and help with a civilian nuclear programme.

Iran’s state television accused Washington of inconsistency in its approach to atomic weapons development in the region.

“Such remarks show America’s double standards. Why are they silent about Israel’s nuclear arsenals?” state television said.

Showing pictures of civilians killed in neighbouring Iraq, state television demanded Washington rethunk policies which it said were creating anger in the Middle East.

“Middle Easterners have experienced America’s support for democracy. They do not believe in American-style democracy,” it said.—MNA/Reuters

Chinese acrobats from Dalian, China perform their acrobatic ballet during the celebration of the Mines Lantern Festival 2005 near Kuala Lumpur on 4 Feb. 2005. This event is part of Chinese New Year celebrations.—INTERNET

Russian PM meets Chinese State Councillor

MOSCOW, 4 Feb—Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov met with visiting Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan in the government building here on Thursday.

At the meeting Tang said that China, paying high attention to the development of the Chinese-Russian strategic and co-operation partnership, wants to fully increase the mutually-beneficial cooperation with Russia in every sphere.

China hopes for a breakthrough made by the two sides in some key fields of cooperation, including economy and trade, the energy sector, science and technology and investment, said Tang. He also noted that both China and Russia should make full use of the governmental and non-governmental ways to well open the markets, enlarge the trade scale and create perfect trade structures in order to achieve the goal that the volume of bilateral trade would reach 60-80 billion US dollars in 2010.

Fradkov, for his part, expressing satisfaction with the recent-year development of the Russian-Chinese relations, said Russia attaches importance to deepen the real cooperation with China in all fields, and agreed to make the fields of economy and trade, the energy sector as main cooperation projects of the two countries.

The Russian Premier said that Russia will carry out the accords reached by the two sides during the 9th regular meeting of the two premiers in 2004, provide favourable conditions to promote economy and trade and investment communication between the two countries, and make every effort to realize the trade goal set by Russia and China.

Tang arrived in Moscow on February 1 for a four-day visit. During the visit he also had a meeting with Russian Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov on crucial international issues and the problem of regional security. They created and used the Chinese-Russian consultative system of state security.

Chinese acrobats perform their acrobatic ballet during the celebration of the Mines Lantern Festival 2005 near Kuala Lumpur on 4 Feb. 2005. This event is part of Chinese New Year celebrations.—INTERNET

Uzbek-Chinese ties develop smoothly

TASHKENT, 4 Feb—Relations between Uzbekistan and China have been developing steadily in politics, economy and culture, Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Sodyk Safayev said here Thursday.

During an interview with a delegation of Chinese journalists, Safayev said his country and China signed scores of agreements on cooperation during Chinese President Hu Jintao’s visit to Uzbekistan last June, elevating bilateral ties to a new level. As a big country, China plays a special role in the world and represents a crucial factor in maintaining security and stability in Central Asia, he said.

The two countries have identical or similar views on international and regional issues, Safayev said. The minister reiterated the country’s adherence to the one-China policy and its willingness to have close cooperation with Beijing in jointly combating separationism, religious extremism and international terrorism.

He said national interest is at the core of Uzbekistan’s foreign policy and that its priority is to safeguard stability and security in the region and to maintain economic relations with all other countries.

Italian seized in Iraq, vote counting continues

BAGHDAD, 4 Feb—Gunmen kidnapped an Italian journalist in Baghdad on Friday, the latest in a series of brazen abductions but the first since Iraq’s election.

Giuliana Sgrena, a journalist with communist Rome newspaper Il Manifesto, was snatched from the street as she conducted interviews near Baghdad University. Gunmen pulled up alongside her vehicle, forced her driver and an Italian journalist out at gunpoint and drove off with Sgrena, police sources said.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Italy was already working to negotiate her release.

The kidnapping comes just five days after Iraq held a historic election and amid evidence of a decline in militant attacks since the vote, when millions of Iraqis faced down guerilla threats to cast their ballots.

Radio journalist Barbara Schiavulli said she was speaking to Sgrena on the telephone as she was being abducted.—MNA/Reuters

China, Japan should start talks on free trade pact

OKYO, 4 Feb—China and Japan should start talks on a free trade pact, China’s ambassador to Japan Wang Yi was quoted as saying on Thursday, a remark made against the background of a surge in bilateral trade despite chilly political ties.

Japan, keen not to lose ground to China, has been stepping up its pursuit of regional and bilateral free trade agreements (FTA) and is in talks with Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and South Korea.

Japan signed an agreement with Mexico last September on its second FTA and the first to include politically sensitive farm products.

“The scale of trade between China and Japan is expanding. Liberalizing trade will have mutual benefits and have a large positive effect for the Japanese economy,” Wang was quoted by Kyodo news agency as telling a business seminar in Kobe in western Japan.

“China is taking a positive attitude towards an FTA with Japan,” Wang was quoted as saying. “It is necessary for China and Japan to start FTA negotiations,” Wang said.

The Japanese Government has been taking a cautious stance on the possibility of an FTA with China due to issues related to intellectual property rights, Kyodo said.

MNA/Reuters

Gold bars specially issued for the 2008 Beijing Olympics are displayed in a shopping centre in Beijing on 4 Feb, 2005. The gold bars, different in colour and theme, represent the five-ring Olympic logo. Each set of goal bars includes four 99.99 per cent pure gold bars weighing 50g, 100g, 500g and 1kg respectively.—INTERNET

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, right, and Ukraine’s President Leonid Kuchma look at 80 pairs of gold bars as they are displayed at a Tokyo department store on Thursday. Japan and Ukraine have signed a deal to exchange gold bars. —Kyodo

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, right, and Ukraine’s President Leonid Kuchma look at 80 pairs of gold bars as they are displayed at a Tokyo department store on Thursday. Japan and Ukraine have signed a deal to exchange gold bars. —Kyodo

Song Kangho, a film actor from South Korea, holds a platter of gold bars during a ceremony at the landmark Tokyo department store Gaien on Thursday to check the weight of the bars under a deal between Japan and South Korea. —Kyodo

Edited by AM}

Middle Easterners do not believe in American-style democracy

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MNA/Reuters

Edited by AM
Matters coordinated to upgrade Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo

YANGON, 6 Feb — A coordination meeting of the committee for full round upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo took place at the Agricultural Museum on Myay-padetha Island this afternoon, with an address by Committee Chairman Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

At the meeting, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe, directors general and officials reported on their respective sectors for the upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo. Next, the commander gave necessary instructions. The commander and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the upgrading tasks in the garden and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Yangon West District holds mass rally to honour Union Day, support National Convention

YANGON, 6 Feb—Yangon West District held a mass rally to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Sethsain Village, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Division, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and members of USDAs from the district, townships and villages, members of Union Peace and Development Committees, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations from the district, townships and villages, members of War Veterans Organizations and members of social organizations, Women Affairs Committee, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people numbering over 5,000.

Myaungmya District holds Union Day and support National Convention

YANGON, 6 Feb—Myaungmya District held a mass rally to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Kanyin Kaing Village, Myaungmya Township, Yangon Division, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and members of USDAs from the district, townships and villages, members of War Veterans Organizations and members of social organizations, Women Affairs Committee, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people numbering over 5,000.

YANGON, 6 Feb — The Dolphin Restaurant was opened in the Education Zone of Kandawgyi Gardens this morning.

YANGON, 6 Feb—The Dolphin Restaurant opens

Dolphin Restaurant opens

Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun greets Chief of Staff (Navy) Capt Nyan Tun and wife at the reception to mark Chinese New Year on 6-2-2005—MNA

MNA
Senior General Than Shwe inspects site of Sittoung Bridge...

Old one. In addition, the motor road was built on the beams protruding from the main bridge. As the bridge is no longer suitable for the loaded-vehicles, arrangements are being made for construction of a new one. The upper structure of the Sittoung Bridge (Mokpalin) will be of steel frame and the lower, of reinforced concrete piles. The main bridge will be 1,365 feet long and the whole bridge will be 2,392.7 feet in length.

At 3.15 pm, the Senior General and party proceeded to the site of Kataik Dam Project being implemented by Construction-6 of Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, on Kataik Creek, two miles from Kataik Village of Paung Township. They were welcomed there by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and officials. In the briefing and Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thu, on supply of fuel for the project.

In response, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on timely completion of the tasks with might and main and feasibility study on water sources to be conducted for irrigation facilities.

Next, the Senior General and party oversaw progress of Kataik Dam project. The dam, 5,200 feet long and 134 feet high, will be an earth one. The dam can store 56,000 acre-feet of water. On completion, the dam can irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland.

After viewing the tasks at the dam project, Senior General Than Shwe and party left for Mawlamyine by car over Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).
Senior General Than Shwe pays…

(from page 16)

Mawlamyine and arrived Kyaikmaraw where they inspected development undertakings.

On arrival at Hsutaungpyi Pagoda in Kyaikmaraw, Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and officials.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party paid homage to Hsutaungpyi Pagoda and made cash donations towards the funds of the pagoda.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed round renovation work being carried out at the pagoda.

At the office of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo reported on renovation of the pagoda with the aid of documentary photos.

After giving necessary instructions, Senior General Than Shwe signed in the visitors’ book.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party left Kyaikmaraw by car and inspected Kyaikmaraw-Kyauktalon motor road and Mudon-Mawlamyine motor road and their environs.

A ceremony to hail the Union Day and to support the National Convention took place at Mongli village, Hsenwi township, Lashio district, Shan State (North), this morning.

The mass rally attracted 2,600 people from all walks of life.

Lashio District Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary Dr La Sai presided over the rally. Lashio Township USDA Executive Daw Nan San Twam Kham and Mongli Village USDA Organizer Daw Nan Kyein Kham acted as masters of ceremonies.

The rally started with an address of the chairman. He said it is necessary for the entire national people to adhere to Our Three Main National Causes.

Now is the time when the seven-point Road Map is being implemented to ensure a smooth transition to a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

As is known to all, efforts are being made to ensure equitable development in all regions by implementing the border area development project, the 24-zone development project, and the five-point rural development project. Later, he called upon those present on the occasion to hail the Union Day and support the National Convention unanimously. Next, U Sai Sein Aung, secretary of Mongyi Township USDA, proposed a motion to support the National Convention.

The collective participation of the entire national people is needed for implementing every phase of the Road Map. Now, all the people across the country are holding rallies in support of the National Convention.

Later, Daw Nan Khin Hmwe, joint secretary of Taungyi Township USDA, proposed a motion in support of the National Convention.

Shweli hydel power plant is being built in Namhkam Township and it will generate 400 megawatt of electricity so as to supply power to the region.

(See page 11)
Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Shan State marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

Shan State with a total area of 60,155 square miles is situated in eastern part of Myanmar. Kachin, Kokang, Taunggyi, Danu, Paluang, PaO, Bamar, Lihsu, Wa, Akhkar and Intha are residing in Shan State together with Shan nationals. At present, as the population of Shan State is about 5,263,000 the population density is 88 in one square mile. Being the hilly region, its mountain ranges ranging from north to south are about 3,000 feet average in height. Some mountains are as high as over 7,000 feet. There are also Heho, Hsipaw and Kengtung plains amid mountain ranges.

Head of State Senior Than Shwe during his inspection tour of Shan State in April 2002 had given guidance, saying that education, health, economy Table A

Table A

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<td>168.25</td>
<td>468.72</td>
<td>300.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>- miles of railroad</td>
<td>186.55</td>
<td>501.63</td>
<td>315.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- passenger</td>
<td>14950/0</td>
<td>19480/0</td>
<td>4530/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- miles of passenger transport</td>
<td>8420/5/5</td>
<td>8649/1/1</td>
<td>2293/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- tons of cargo</td>
<td>380/0</td>
<td>723/0</td>
<td>143/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- miles cargo transport</td>
<td>617/4/5</td>
<td>111/1/1</td>
<td>493/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- stations</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- above 5000 ft runway</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- under 5000 ft runway</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>upgrading</td>
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Table B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>12-2-05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land resource</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of vacant and virgin land</td>
<td>6292285</td>
<td>5648376</td>
<td>643909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of forest land</td>
<td>9962</td>
<td>150324</td>
<td>140362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of forest land</td>
<td>3481</td>
<td>496/0</td>
<td>141/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of industrial plant</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>121/5</td>
<td>115/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of commercial plantation</td>
<td>228/0</td>
<td>507/5</td>
<td>48/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of village plantation</td>
<td>3481</td>
<td>4961</td>
<td>41480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of watershed plantation</td>
<td>3601</td>
<td>424/5</td>
<td>388/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of Thitseint plantation</td>
<td>3050</td>
<td>3050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Table C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>12-2-05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- rice (acre)</td>
<td>10427/0</td>
<td>17426/0</td>
<td>6999/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- paddy (acre)</td>
<td>13702/1</td>
<td>173190</td>
<td>36169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acre of commercial plantation</td>
<td>228/0</td>
<td>507/5</td>
<td>48/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of village plantation</td>
<td>3481</td>
<td>4961</td>
<td>41480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of industrial plantation</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>121/5</td>
<td>115/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of commercial plantation</td>
<td>228/0</td>
<td>507/5</td>
<td>48/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of village plantation</td>
<td>3481</td>
<td>4961</td>
<td>41480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of industrial plantation</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>121/5</td>
<td>115/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of watershed plantation</td>
<td>3601</td>
<td>424/5</td>
<td>388/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- acres of Thitseint plantation</td>
<td>3050</td>
<td>3050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>12-2-05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock and fisheries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- live cattle</td>
<td>10/0</td>
<td>15/0</td>
<td>5/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- pigs</td>
<td>1/0</td>
<td>1/0</td>
<td>1/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- goats</td>
<td>1/0</td>
<td>1/0</td>
<td>1/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- poultry</td>
<td>1/0</td>
<td>1/0</td>
<td>1/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>12-2-05</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity consumption maximum load</td>
<td>24,285</td>
<td>186,372</td>
<td>162,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- capacity (megawatt)</td>
<td>5,310</td>
<td>45,720</td>
<td>44,140</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Heavy Hydel Power Project to be implemented Tahsan (Thanlwin) 7110 megawatt (large-scale)
Development in Shan State after 1988

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day

Maternity ward built in Lashio People's Hospital in Lashio, Shan State (North) provides better health care services to the local public. — MYANMA ALIN

Magnificent Panglong University in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State (South). MYANMA ALIN

The left photo stands witness to the fact that Mongla in the border region in Shan State (East) has developed significantly. MYANMA ALIN
Shan State marching to...

(from page 8)

2.1 million fish are now being distributed.

Forest conservation

One Million logs taken for development for the forest sector in Shan State to keep pace with development of agricultural livestock and tree planting. As efforts are being made for development of agriculture, meat and forest sectors the area of protected public forest and natural forest has been on the increase. In 1988, the government in cooperation with the people has been able to grow over 500,000 saplings but in the time of the Tatmadaw government over 47 million saplings have been planted. Extended establishment of forest plantations is being launched with added momentum. Calculations were extended for greening of the environs of Inlay Lake and preservation of rivers and creeks. The forest sector of Shan State covers commercial plantations, plantations for village use, plantations for industrial raw materials and Thaiseman plantations.

Transport sector

The government is making efforts in all seriousness for improving better transport in states and economic areas while striving for improvement of socio-economic life of the entire national people. There were only Mandalay-Nawng-hkio-Lashio-Kengtung road route and Meiktila-Thazi-Shwenyaung route as gateways of Shan State in 1988. People in the region had to travel between in Shan State— Till 1988. People in the region had to travel between Thazi-Shwenyaung route and Namghkio-Kyaukme-Namlap and the Silu. Shweli hydel power plant to generate 400 megawatt in Shan State (North) and Kengtawng hydel power plant to generate 54 megawatt in Shan State (South) are under implementation. Arrangements are being made for implementing Thanlwin (Thanwin) hydel power project in Shan State to generate 7,110 megawatt. Table E compares figures in 1988 and the present.

Industry

In building the nation into a modern and developed one, the government is striving for the industry to stand tall among the national brethren to get closer and become strong. In the time of the Tatmadaw government a major network of roads and bridges were built and upgraded in Shan State. As a result, the Hsipaw-Namlap-Pankhetu road and the Yawksawk-Kyangwun-Nawng-hkio road linking directly to Shan State (North) and Shan State (South) have emerged. Moreover, the Haungmyu-Mysyuy-Wangyan road and the Pinlaung-Pyinmana road linking Mandalay Division and Shan State have also emerged. Local people in Shan State has now been enjoying the fruits of better transport.

A total of 453 miles of motor roads including 396 miles long tarred roads were built in Shan State. In the past, there were only two major bridges—the Kunlong Bridge and the Takaw Bridge but in the time of the Tatmadaw government the Thanlwinn Bridge (Takaw-et) and the Thalawinn Bridge (Tahsan) were added. In addition, special bridge projects—Narath bridge in Kunlong Township, Matan bridge in Laikha Township and Langkho bridge in Linnkho Township were also constructed.

Tarpa bridge (Kutkai), Dokhawady Bridge (Nawng-hkio), Shweli bridge (Namkhiam) and Hsawt bridge (Mongkai) are under construction. Arrangements are being made for construction of Shweli bridge (Myitthun) in Nawnghkio Township.

In the past, the length of railroads was only 166.29 miles but it has now doubled. The 101.92-mile Aungban-Pinlaung-Lonkaw railroad, the 37.50-mile Shwenyaung-Yawksawk rail road and the 165.06-mile Shwenyaung-Namphsaw railroad have contributed much to ensuring better transport in the region. Moreover, the number of airport at which jet aircraft can land and take off has increased from four to six. The Lashio-Muse railroad, the ASEAN highway and the Asian highway will soon emerge in Shan State. Table C shows progress made in the transport sector.

Communications

The government is making all-out efforts for development of the communications sector of Shan State. At a time when information and communications technology of states and mineral resources are being made in the transport sector.

Table F shows progress made in the communications sector of Shan State.

Table F shows progress made in the communications sector of Shan State. For village use, plantations for industrial raw materials and forest plantations are being extended for greening of the environs of Inlay Lake and preservation of rivers and creeks. The forest sector of Shan State covers commercial plantations, plantations for village use, plantations for industrial raw materials and Thaiseman plantations.

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Collective participation...

(from page 7)

With regard to the transport sector, he said that there was only Kunlong suspension bridge crossing Thanlwin River in Shan State (North) in the past. Now, Namthong Bridge and Nyinaung Bridge have been built for better transport of the local people. And, Tarpa suspension bridge across Thanlwin River and Dokhtawady River Bridge are under construction.

The organizer presented his report covering development of road transport, water supply, education, health and agriculture sectors in Lashio District. Furthermore, he said that Mongli Village, his native place, has been upgraded to the model village and that local people of 200 households enjoy facilities of departmental personnel and local people at Shwethaungyan Hall of the town. Executive Officer of Shwethaungyan Town U Aung Swe submitted reports on matters related to the town. The commander gave a supplementary report on development of Shwethaungyan.

At Shwethaungyan Police Station, Ayeyawady Division Police Station Col Than Tun and officials briefed him on tasks being carried out. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with local people at Wetthay Village BEPS and attended to the requirements. Similarly, he joined teachers and local people at BEHS (Branch) in Ohnchaung Village of Thegon Village-tract. He fulfilled the requirements of the local people.

MNA

POEM

Clear Water From Chin Shwe Haw

* Clear Water From Chin Shwe Haw
* Past Kunlong, get to Chin Shwe Haw
* Invited by intimate friends
* Arrived there with peace of mind
* At wintry time that invites prose.
* To the north lies Pakhehaw
* With new hydro-electric power
* Electrification lights up whole new town

Greyish to the south is the Namting
* The mountain ridges go up and down
* Inviting scene to the east
* Across the border is the Namphahaw
* A bridge spans it to their land
* Right behind on the west
* Kunlong can be seen slightly
* The scene is truly breath-taking.
* In Kokang language
* A translation is made
* “Chin” means clear
* “Shwe” is water
* And “Haw” is spout
* The rendition is surely lovely
* Town where clear water spouts.
* It’s named ChinShweHaw.
* 0… Silvery mist, wafted by the breeze
* Buckwheat in bloom among greenery
* On way to Laukkai back and forth
* No tiredness but joy in ChinShweHaw
* Happily rested if for just a while
* Tranquility in area because there’s peace
* Fragrant and fresh, goodwill flowers
* Those bloomed in that place
* Let the water be clear forever.
* Let it fit the town’s name.
* Let it last eternally.

Mynnmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs.)

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MNA

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MNA

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MNA
CNOOC expects 19% growth in oil production in 2005

BEIJING, 5 Feb—The China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) expects to put nine newly-developed offshore oil projects into operation this year, targeting a 19-per-cent increase in crude production from 2004.

According to CNOOC president Fu Chengyu, some 16 offshore oil projects are expected to begin operation between 2005 and 2016, nine of which are expected to be completed by the end of this year. CNOOC’s investment in offshore oil development project is budgeted at about 2.2 billion US dollars this year, a 33-per-cent increase from 2004, and its exploration budget is expected to hit 260 million US dollars, Fu said.

The offshore oil giant is planning to explore mainly in new offshore areas as well as in deep-water blocks for more potential reserves.

Fu said CNOOC’s projected net offshore oil production this year is about 141 to 146 million barrels of oil equivalent (BOE), a 19-per-cent increase over the 118 to 123 million BOE in 2004.

He also said the company’s Indonesian unit is expected to gain a net entitlement volume of about 19 million BOE.

Yang Hua, the company’s CEO, said CNOOC will “strive to maintain a competitive cost structure” and “take all necessary measures to ease upward pressure” on its CNOOC will further improve its aggressive gas development strategy this year, Fu said, adding that it will maintain the status of leading gas supplier in the country’s coastal areas and play a major role in the country’s LNG import.

In 2004, the corporation completed the purchasing of a continental shelf gas project in Australia and increased its share holding in a gas project in Indonesia.

Indonesia to raise fuel prices soon

JAKARTA, 5 Feb—The Indonesian Government will raise fuel prices by up to 30 per cent in the first quarter of this year in a bid to lower the fuel subsidy.

The government aimed to limit the inflationary impact, Bank Indonesia, the central bank, has indicated it would raise interest rates or absorb the circulation of base money.

“The first quarter of this year is the best time for us to increase fuel prices ... We are still considering if a 30-per-cent hike is suitable at the moment,” State Minister for National Development Planning Sri Mulyani Indrawati, indicated Friday by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

“The sooner the better... The government has been burdened by the costly fuel subsidy, which has soared due to the jump in global oil prices,” she said.

The government allocated a whopping around 6.6 billion US dollars for the fuel subsidy last year because of rising global oil prices, against an initial projection of 1.6 billion dollars. In comparison, eight billion US dollars was allocated for development spending last year.

The fuel subsidy has been set at about 2.1 billion US dollars for 2005, but with global oil prices showing little sign of declining, it is expected to rise unless the government begins to lift the fuel subsidy.

Japan confirms first case of human variant of BSE

TOKYO, 5 Feb—Japan on Friday confirmed its first case of the human variant of mad cow disease, a fatal brain disease thought to be contracted by eating infected beef.

The Health Ministry said in a statement that a man had died last December after contracting variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD).

More than 140 people have died worldwide from definitive or probable vCJD after eating meat contaminated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Britain has been the worst hit by mad cow disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and thought to be transmitted among animals via feed containing bovine brains or spinal cord.

Cases of vCJD have also been reported in France, Canada, Ireland, Italy and the United States, according to the World Health Organization.

The deceased man spent about a month in Britain around 1990, Kyodo news said, quoting the Health Ministry. Scientists estimate the incubation period for vCJD as 10 to 20 years.

Around seven million animals had been slaughtered in Britain by the end of June 2004 under a scheme aimed at preventing the spread of the infection. Japan has reported 14 cases of BSE and banned imports of Canadian beef in May 2003 and US beef in December 2003 after cases of mad cow disease in those countries.

Kenya expresses optimism to meet UN education target

NAIROBI, 5 Feb—The Kenyan Government on Friday expressed optimism that it would hit the education target of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the next five years.

Kenyan Education Minister George Saitoti said he was more than certain that the country would meet the UN education target by 2015 as agreed by world leaders five years ago if donors deliver some 181 million US dollars pledged at the end of a week assessment mission and remove too much restrictions on any form of financial assistance.

“We are almost there. A number of children are in school and even though we are not able to achieve gender parity, we have managed to invest more in the education sector and we will now reassess ourselves at the end of the year,” Saitoti said.

The donors’ assessment mission, which met in Nairobi for two weeks to evaluate the East African nation’s education needs and chart the way forward, made a 26-point recommendation, urging all education bodies in the country to give clear objectives.

They would have clear objectives and purposes overall and each specific investment item should be made to help meet the goals,” the donors, which include key international financial institutions, said in its recommendation.

The donors, countries, including Britain and Canada, have pledged to increase funding to Kenya to enable the nation improve on the quality of education and science training.

Afghan crashed plane makes no contact with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 5 Feb—Pakistan’s Aviation said on Friday that the Afghan crashed passenger plane had not contacted any control tower in Pakistan.

An Afghan passenger jet with 104 passengers and crew members on board was missing on Thursday and confirmed to have crashed Friday afternoon after it failed to land at Kabul Airport and an official from Kam Air was quoted as saying that the plane was diverted to Pakistan due to bad weather.

“Now plane entered Pakistani air space,” Deputy Director of Pakistan Civil Aviation Abid Rao told the local Geo television. Rao said no plane has sought permission of landing from any control tower. Commercial flights said the plane was diverted to the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

China to continue fishing ban on largest freshwater lake

NANCHANG, 5 Feb—China will continue its spring fishing ban on Poyang Lake, the country’s largest freshwater lake, to improve its ecosystem and protect depleting fish resources.

This year’s ban, the 18th on the lake in east China’s Jiangxi Province, will last from 20 March to 20 June, said Qian Xin’e, who heads the provincial fishing affairs administration, on Friday.

Qian’s administration will join hands with the local public security, water resources management, commerce and law enforcement authorities to clear the lake of fishing boats and nets during the three-month ban.

Officials will be on 24-hour patrol along the embankments and all citizens are encouraged to dial a local hotline if illegal fishing activities are detected, said Qian.

The 330,000-hectare Poyang Lake was launched the first fishing ban in 1987. It was the first body of water in China to ban fishing in spring to increase fish stock.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, a fishing ban on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, China’s longest, started on 1 February and will last until 30 April. In the lower reaches, a ban will be in effect from 1 April to 30 June.
National goal of all citizens:… 

As a saying goes, “Blood is thicker than water”, national brethren ward off any danger detrimental to the Union at the risk of their lives, blood and sweat. On 12 February 1947, all the national races built the Union spirit and solidarity firmly in Panglong and it was designated as a significant day of the people. The country was under servitude for over 100 years and it became independence for over 100 years. The Union at the risk of any danger detrimental to the interest of the nation and its people and the Union Day is observed every year. He said the meeting highly values the Union Day with fine traditions.

Afterwards, Executive of Dimawhso Township USDA Daw Nyay Moh tabled a motion hailing the National Convention. He spoke at length on in-stability, lagging behind development due to the misunderstanding among races and it became independence for over 100 years. He said the meeting highly values the Union Day with fine traditions.

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Victory over Arsenal launches Man UTD on chase of Chelsea

Manchester (England), 5 Feb—Manchester United’s epic midweek win over Arsenal has launched them on a chase of runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea, manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

United’s 4-2 victory at Highbury on Tuesday took Ferguson’s side into the title race, and according to the rival managers, made them Chelsea’s sole rivals for the title.

“It is a tall order, nevertheless, with United, who meet Birmingham City at Old Trafford on Saturday 11 points behind Chelsea. “I don’t think we needed that (win at Arsenal) to emphasize the form we’re in. We are in great form and there is a confidence and determination about the league,” Ferguson told a news conference.

“What I think it does is take us a stride forward from Arsenal in terms of opportunity to win the league, and that was the situation before the game. “Both managers said whoever won had a chance and whoever lost was out of it and I think that’s exactly right. We just hope that Chelsea drop points, and if they do we’re ready to go in there.”

Ferguson has classed the Highbury match among the best Premier League games ever, adding on Friday: “To get that drama, intensity and excitement into one football match was amazing.”

“It had a level of football which you won’t match many times and I think that’s due to the 22 players on the pitch. They raised the bar and it was a fantastic game.”

“We’ve now done the double over Liverpool and Arsenal and that’s no mean feat. I don’t know if we’ve done that before in the premier division in the one season.”

United are without striker Alan Smith, midfielder Darren Fletcher and defender Mikael Silvestre for Saturday’s match.

Silvestre starts a three-match ban for his dismissal at Arsenal, while Smith faces a further two weeks out after a setback in his recovery from an ankle injury and Fletcher has a hamstring strain.

Heineken Classic golf tourney

Sydney, 6 Feb — Australian left-hander Nick O’Hern shot a flawless round of eight-under-par 63 to grab the outright lead after the third round of the Heineken Classic at Royal Melbourne on Saturday.

O’Hern ignored the pain of a leg injury that has been troubling him for two months to birdie three of the last seven holes and finish the day at 14-under 199, leading by a shot from fellow Australians Craig Parry and Jarrod Lyle.

South Africa’s defending champion Ernie Els was tied with Brett Rumford at 11-under while overnight leaders Peter Lonard and Colin Montgomerie slipped back in the field.

O’Hern, 33, underwent surgery to his right knee in December and has been suffering pain in his left leg which he has been favouring.

“It hasn’t affected my swing. Walking was the problem,” O’Hern said.

O’Hern drained eight birdies without dropping par to shot 63 at Royal Melbourne and his score of 63 was six under par, three ahead of the Australian pair.

Els, who finished at 15-under par, was surprised by the way O’Hern played.

“Australians have a really good chance at this year’s Open.”

Parry birdied the last three holes in a round of 65 while Lyle, who was diagnosed with leukaemia as a teenager six years ago, but made a full recovery, shot 66 for the second day running.

Lyle, 23, eagled the par-five second hole and got to 14-under with a birdie at 12 but dropped a shot on the 14th to finish the day just one off the pace.

“I’ve never been in this position before,” said Lyle, playing in his sixth professional tournament.

“To come here and shoot two under today was pleasing because I didn’t really know what to expect.”

Els, chasing his fourth successive win in Australia’s richest golf tournament, also eagled the second hole in a round of 66.

He finished the day tied with Rumford in fourth place and still in contention to win.

The in-form local Lonard, one of two joint overnight leaders, finished at 10-under after a round of 68 while Britain’s Montgomerie slipped back to eight-under after a round of 72.

Els also had a mixed day day, with his eagle, six birdies and three bogeys.

“My game’s not far off but it’s just a little frustrating when I’m getting myself in position and I make a couple of mistakes,” Els said.

“Hopefully get to the final round, and if we do we’re ready to go in there.”
Shan State marching to...

(college where 26,668 students are pursuing higher education. Markedly, primary school enrolment rate has increased up to 95.5 per cent.

Table 4 shows progress in 1988 and present.

Science and technology

Development of science and technology is imperative in ensuring human resources development. To bring about harmonious development across Shan State, the government has designated and is implementing the four development regions—Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung, and Panglong. One government technological college and one government computer college each were opened in those regions.

Progress figures are shown in Table H.

Table 1 indicates progress.

Urban and rural development

Unprecedented urban and rural development has been achieved in Shan State. In the past, the length of urban roads was 400 miles but it has now increased to 1,598 miles including 196 tarred roads with 986 bridges. A total of 1,341 water works were facilitated to 918 villages out

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</table>

Table 4 shows tangible results of border area development.

Information and public relations

Higher education standard and right concept of national people are essential for improvement of socio-economic life of the entire national people and transforming the Union into a modern and developed one. The government is improving its information sector that serves as a bridge between the State and the people in Shan State in the drive towards reaching the golden land of unity and amity. Progress made in this field may be seen in Table K.

Translation: (TS+TTA)

WEATHER

Sunday, 6 February, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Light winds were experienced (3°C) to (4°C) above normal Southern Shan, Kayah and Mon States, upper Sagain, Bagu and Taninthayi Divisions, and about normal in remaining states and divisions. The significant night rainfalls were Kaka and Mogok (5°C) each, Namsam and PyinOod win (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 5-2-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 6-2-2005 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 6-2-2005 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 5-2-2005 was 8.5 hours approx., Rainfalls on 6-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Northwest (14:10) hours MST on 5-2-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-2-2005: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-2-2005: Fine weather.
### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

### Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Yangon, 6 Feb**—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thih Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Naval) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, 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, ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, on 5 February morning, left for Hsutaungpyi Pagoda in Kyaikmaraw.

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**National goal of all citizens:** Emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed, disciplined, flourishing, democratic nation.

Loikaw District holds mass rally to honour Union Day, support National Convention

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**Yangon, 6 Feb**—Loikaw District held a mass rally to honour the Union Day and support the National Convention in Kandahaywun Park in Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were members and organizers of USDA from Loikaw district, towns and villages, nurses, members of social organizations, departmental officials, teachers, students and local people totalling 1,500.

Loikaw District USDA Secretary U Myint Thein presided over the mass rally together with Loikaw District Maternal and Child Welfare Association Joint Secretary Daw Mya Kyin and Executive of Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Kyi Khin May, War Veterans Organization member U Sein Min and U Ko Ye of Chikal village in Loikaw Township and Loikaw Township USDA member Daw Maw Hsumya acted as MC and Dimawhso USDA member Daw Dorish Myat Su Mon as co-MC.

First, the presiding chairman declared the rally open and those present saluted the State Flag.

Chairman of the meeting Secretary of Loikaw District USDA U Myint Thein delivered a speech. He said the Union of Myanmar is like a peaceful, pleasant home where national races have been living in unity drinking water from the same source. It is also like a garden with colourful flowers blooming in it.

(See page 7)