Always safeguard national policies

National policies to be embraced and implemented by successive generations of all the national people of the Union have already been laid down with aims at perpetuation of the future Union and promotion of the interests of the Union by the entire national people of the Union. Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty are national convictions and national concepts of all national races of the Union, and accordingly these convictions and concepts are the most important national policies that must always be safeguarded by all Union nationals.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From the message sent to the 52nd Anniversary Union Day)

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Iran

YANGON, 11 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2005. — MNA

It is necessary to place emphasis on extended farmlands and double cropping with the use of high yield paddy strains and fertilizers for ensuring township-wise and region-wise food sufficiency.

Local farmers urged to grow rubber for long-term benefit

Secretary-1 inspects regional development in Kengtung

YANGON, 10 Feb — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by ministers, the deputy minister for Home Affairs, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by air on 8 February morning and arrived in Kengtung, Shan State (East), at 11 am. The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed at Kengtung Airport by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with local farmers and officials at Phanwein Village, Yanlaw Village-tract in Kengtung Township. — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects arrangements for 58th Anniversary Union Day Dinner

YANGON, 10 Feb — Accompanied by responsible officials, Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day 2005 State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein this evening inspected arrangements for hosting a dinner and the full-dress rehearsal of the traditional culture troupes for the 58th Anniversary Union Day Dinner in the Presidential House on Ahlon Road.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party were welcomed at the Presidential House by Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of the central committee, the management committee and departmental officials.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein looked into the arrangements for the dinner to mark the 58th Anniversary Union Day and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 saw over the rehearsal performance of the cultural troupes for the Union Day Dinner.

Next, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted members of the cultural troupes. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Safeguard development infrastructures

The Tatmadaw Government took urgent measures to build peace and security as soon as it assumed responsibilities of the State. Then, it laid down the border area development plan, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks and has been implementing them.

As a result, the entire national people are now able to enjoy the fruits of development endeavours by the government.

As universities and colleges of computer studies and technological universities and colleges have been built all over the nation, the youths of various national races are now able to pursue education on computer and technology in their own regions.

As a gesture of hailing the 58th anniversary of Union Day, the main building of the Government Computer College (Kengtung) was inaugurated in Kengtung in Shan State (East) on 9 February.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, said in his address at the opening ceremony that, as the government was executing State duties conscientiously, it was necessary for the local people to serve the interests of the nation, of their respective regions and of their own in cooperation with the government. Only then would there be constant national development and the entire national people always be able to share the fruits of development equally, he added.

Remote border areas were once behind the back of the government. The Tatmadaw Government has now a new airport, a 200-bed hospital staffed by the national people to safeguard such development has now a new airport, a 200-bed hospital staffed by the national people to safeguard such development, and an international airport of the Ministry of Transport and Promotion of National Education building with trust and conviction, to render assistance for the requirements of the local people, and to be equipped with goodwill and a positive attitude in contributing to regional development tasks.

After the members had presented reports on future tasks and requirements, the secretary-general attended to the needs and provided cash assistance to be spent in regional development tasks. — MVA

Secretary-General of USDA meets executives in Mon State

YANGON, 10 Feb — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Mya-Gen Huay Oo met executives of Mon State and Mawlamyine Township USDAs at Thanlyin Hall of Mon State USDA on 7 February afternoon.

During the meeting with the members, the Secretary-General urged them to work harder for stability of the state, strengthening the citizens’ economy and promotion of national education building with trust and conviction, to render assistance for the requirements of the local people, and to be equipped with goodwill and a positive attitude in contributing to regional development tasks.

The Minister for USDA Development Training Centre and inspected the training of the trainees, hostels and plantations of the training centre.

On arrival at the Vocational Training Centre for Women, the minister inspected learning of the trainees and tarring tasks being carried out by Kengtung Township Development and gave instructions on meeting the set standards.

The road is 2,900 ft long and 12 ft wide and the State contributed K1.4 million to the road construction. — MVA

Development affairs tasks inspected in Kengtung

YANGON, 10 Feb — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt arrived at Kengtung on 8 February and heard the reports on development affairs by officials of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee and gave necessary instructions.

The Minister proceeded to Kengtung Township Border Areas and Nationalities Youth Development Training Centre and inspected the training of the trainees, hostels and plantations of the training centre.

On arrival at the Vocational Training Centre for Women, the minister inspected learning of the trainees. Yesterday morning, he looked into construction of Myitta Road and tarring tasks being carried out by Kengtung Township DAD and gave instructions on meeting the set standards.

Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt inspects repaving Myitta Road in Kengtung Township on 9-2-2005. — PBANRDA

Union Day delegates visit downtown Yangon

YANGON, 10 Feb — The Union Day delegates from states and divisions, who are going to attend the ceremony of the Union Day and dinner, led by Chairman of the Accommodation Subcommittee for Observing the 38th Anniversary Union Day Commandant of No I Transit Centre Lt-Col Tin Kyai went on an excursion of downtown Yangon this morning.

While they were paying homage to the Lawka Chanta Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Shein Aung Bo explained salient points on the pagoda. The delegates donated cash to the pagoda. They viewed white elephants on Mindahma Hill. They observed the exhibits at the Drugs Elimination Museum. They later rehearsed dance. — MVA

New tube-well put into service in Yesagyo

YANGON, 10 Feb — Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day, Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department attended the opening ceremony of a tube-well in Myenigon Village, Yesagyo Township, Magway Division, on 5 February.

Present on the occasion were Director of Magway Division Development Affairs Committee U Nyo Win Myint, departmental officials and local people.

The tube-well, 2-inch diameter and 270 feet depth, can pump 960 gallons of water per hour. It cost over K6.95 million in 2004-2005 financial year. As a result of sinking the tube-well, 96 houses of 545 people and nearby villages will have access to clean water. — MVA
China to surpass US economically by 2025

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb — China’s unprecedented rise, fuelled by foreign investment and technology, has put the Asian giant on a path to surpass the United States economically by 2025, the author of a new book on China said on Tuesday.

US pressure on Chinese authorities to revalue the yuan currency will bring only a brief respite from the fusion of cheap-but-skilled labour, imported technology and economies of scale that make China so competitive, said Oded Shenkar.

His book The Chinese Century, represents neither a China-bashing book nor the 1980s Japan as Number One genre, the Ohio State University business management professor said.

“The rise of China is a watershed,” Shenkar told a reporter in an interview. “I compare it to the rise of the United States in the late 19th Century.”

Britain, the leading power of that era, did not take its former American colony seriously despite the geopolitical implications of the US emergence. China aims to regain the world preeminence it had before the modern era, he said.

More than becoming a new Japan, “China will be overtaking the United States between 2020 and 2025,” Shenkar said. The Israeli-born researcher said he put China’s emergence as the world economic power about two decades earlier than most analysts by measuring purchasing power rather than nominal figures to measure output and growth.

“I believe first of all that the Chinese economy is actually larger than the numbers would suggest,” he said.

Cambodian garment exports up in 2004

PHNOM PENH, 10 Feb — Cambodia’s garment exports increased in 2004, local media reported on Wednesday. The value of garments exported last year was 1.95 billion US dollars, up 24 per cent from 1.57 billion US dollars in 2003, The Cambodia Daily quoted Commerce Ministry Secretary of State Sok Siphana as saying.

Cambodian Investment Board figures showed that approved direct investment increased in the garment sector in 2004, despite total approved investments in Cambodia declining during the year.

According to the board, 55 projects, ranging from hotels to tobacco factories, were approved in 2004, promising to bring 216 million US dollars in fixed assets. That compares with 47 projects in 2003 bring 216 million US dollars in fixed assets.

India has potential to win bigger offshoring contracts

LONDON, 10 Feb — India, already on top of a list of leading outsourcing destination, has the potential to win even bigger offshoring projects, according to CEO Briefing, a report written by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

“India and China are already the leading destinations for off-shoring, and have the potential to win an even bigger share of off-shoring projects if they address remaining weaknesses in their business environments,” said Daniel Franklin, editorial director of the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The report, which includes a new ranking of 60 global off-shoring environments and a survey of 500 senior executives, concludes that companies will redistribute more service functions to Asia and Eastern Europe over the next three years.

India tops the new ranking followed by China and Czech Republic. Singapore is in the fourth place followed by Poland, Canada, Hong Kong, Hungary, Philippines and Thailand. USA is in the 20th place and Britain 29th. According to its key findings, Asia increases its off-shoring dominance.

Sydney to host 2007 APEC leaders’ meeting

CANSBERRA, 10 Feb — Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced here on Wednesday that the 2007 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting will be held in Sydney.

“This will be, although in aggregate numbers not the largest assembly of world leaders in Australia’s history, but in terms of the weight and influence … it will certainly be the most significant international meeting to be hosted by Australia,” he said.

The meeting, which attracts some of the world’s most important leaders including China, Japan, Russia and the United States, is likely to be held in September, according to Howard. He said other meetings associated with the APEC meeting would be in other Australian cities “as much as possible”. Howard said it was the quality of Sydney’s facilities that led him to choose Sydney for the main meeting. The annual APEC leaders’ meeting is to be held in Busan in South Korea for 2005 and Vietnam in 2006.

Crashed British C-130 in Iraq likely attacked, US general says

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb — A senior US general said he believes that the 30 January crash of a British C-130 aircraft in Iraq was due to an attack rather than a technical problem with the aircraft.

Lieutenant General Lance Smith, deputy commander of the US Central Command in Iraq, emphasized that it was his personal impression, and not the result of an ongoing enquiry into the incident, which killed nine members of the Royal Air Force and another soldier.

“I personally believe that there may have been hostile action or something that happened inside the aircraft, but I don’t think it was mechanical in nature,” Smith told reporters at the Pentagon.

Smith said that the Royal Air Force transport plane could have been victim of small-arms fire, or even “a lucky shot from an RPG”, or rocket-propelled grenade. “I don’t believe that the airplane went down from a (shoulder-fired) missile,” he said.

The cause of the crash of the C-130 Hercules plane just northwest of Baghdad on 30 January, which resulted in Britain’s largest single-day loss of life since it helped launch the Iraq war in March 2003, is still being investigated.
**Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:**

- Let us seek out and destroy all kinds of destructive enemies
  * Beloved youths
* All young brother of same blood.
* Our land, our abode
  * Is abundant in natural resources
  * Teak, Inn, Pynkadoke and other woods
  * Food cereals and precious stones
  * And mineral you call Black Gold.
* Our scenery, in our land
  * Sometimes golden, sometimes emerald
  * The green and gold, fields create the scene
  * A land of gold unmatched.
* The Myanmar race
  * Tops in religion, all hilltops have spires
  * There’s tunneling inside mountains
  * Bridges are built across rivers
  * Dams and embankments are aplenty
  * I’d like Bagan Golden Era, King Anawrahta
  * And King Kyansittha to see all these.
* So developed is our land
  * That with avarice, burning with passion
  * Steeped in greed, this alien hunter
  * And internal axe-handles, with deep dirty thoughts
  * Despicable whenever seen
  * All kinds of destructive danger
  * Let us seek out and destroy them.

- **Baby show contest held**

  **Yangon, 10 Feb** — Mingala Taungnyunt Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association conducted a baby show contest to hail the 58th Anniversary Union Day at the Myanmar Medical Association in Yangon East District this morning.

  It was attended by Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee President Daw Khin Thet Htay and Executive of Gangaw District USDA on 6 February to support the National Convention and Executive of Gangaw District USDA Daw San San Myint presented reports on honours for rural development tasks.

  Afterwards, Executive of Magway Division USDA U Aung Min presented cash donation K 2.5 million to Joint-Secretary of Gangaw District USDA U Bo Htwe and Secretary of Saw Township USDA U Htay Maung seconded the three motions.

  The meeting chairman sought the approval of the attendees. The mass rally hailed the Union Day and supported the National Convention unanimously and it ended with the chanting of slogans. — MNA

- **Ceremony to honour Union Day and to support National Convention in Gangaw District**

  **Yangon, 10 Feb** — A ceremony to honour the Union Day and to support the National Convention was held at Yoneshe village, Gangaw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division on 6 February morning.

  Present on the occasion were local people, members of Women’s Affairs Organisation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organisation, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and township and ward USDA in the district numbering over 1,850.

  During the ceremony, Secretary of Gangaw District USDA U Aung Myint presided over the meeting.

  Member of Gangaw Township USDA Daw Kyi Kyi Aye acted as MC and Executive of Gangaw Township USDA, co-MC.

  After members of the USDA had sung songs to honour the ceremony, those present saluted the Union Flag.

  In the evening, Myawady anteyntrope entertained the people with the programmes.

- **Ceremony to hoist Union Flag to be telecast live**

  **Yangon, 10 Feb** — A ceremony to hoist the Union Flag on the 85th Anniversary Union Day which falls on 12 February will be held in People’s Square. Programme of holding the Union Day will be telecast live starting 7 am on that day by Myanma Radio and Television. — MNA

- **Union Flag relayed to Thanlyin Township**

  The flag was conveyed to Thanlyin Township through Thingan-gyun Township. The flag was handed over to the team led by Yangon South District USDA Joint-Secretary U Tin Khaing.

  **Yangon South PDC Chairman Li-Co Aung Pyae** and local people salute the Union Flag. — MNA

- **Students waving miniature flags to welcome the Union Flag on board Union Boat.** — MNA

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**Students waving miniature flags to welcome the Union Flag on board Union Boat.** — MNA
Government achieving…

( from page 16 )

Khorn Nu, member of Waingmaw Township Material and Child Welfare Association Daw Tin Oo and U Aye Tun of Khatcho Village. First, all the participants saluted the State Flag.

Next, Meeting Chairman Secretary of Myitkyina District USDA U Nyan Thein said that the Panglong Agreement signed by the national race leaders on 12 February 1947 had led the nation to free herself from under the yoke of colonialists, that occupied the nation for more than 100 years. As the national races are living in unity and amity under the sovereign power of the nation, they will have to safeguard the Union with the spirit of unity to help one another and to ensure peace, stability and progress in the nation. The Government is achieving success in its national development drive as it always keeps in the forefront the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. It is the duty of all the national people to ward off all attempts to harm Union Spirit and national unity. The Government is in the process of materializing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state. It will continue to implement the remaining steps of the Road Map after the successful conclusion of the National Convention.

The Government will continue to implement the remaining steps of the Road Map after the successful conclusion of the National Convention. If the so-called democracy activists, dreaming of a democratic system that is unsuitable for the nation, at home and abroad will take part in the task with positive attitude, the task of materializing the Road Map will become faster.

The members of the USDA and other social organizations will have to take part in the task of materializing the seven-point Road Map, the main driving force towards reaching a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state. The Government has been implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24-zone development projects and the rural tasks for progress of all the regions of the Union. Waingmaw Township USDA Secretary U Min Kyi submitted matters to the audience.

Min spoke on the occasion. U Kwam Wa Naw Aung, executive of Machanbaw Township USDA, tabled a motion commemorating the Union Day; and Daw Shi Ko Heh, a motion hailing the National Convention. U Dein Khan Dawi, executive of Putao District USDA, gave an account of rural development tasks being carried out in the district.

Next, cash and kind were donated for the tasks for supply of electricity as well as for repair and construction of roads and bridges in rural areas. Later, U Yani, executive of Putao Township USDA, seconded the motions, which drew unanimous approval from the audience.

The rally then approved the three motions and it came to an end successfully.

Secretary-I Lt-Gen Thein Sein views full-dress rehearsal dances of traditional cultural troupe. (News on page 1) — MNA

Local people marching to the rally to honour Union Day and support National Convention in Khatcho Village of Waingmaw Township. — MNA

Putao District commemorates Union Day, hails National Convention

YANGON, 10 Feb — A ceremony to commemorate the Union Day and to support the National Convention took place in the compound of KaungHmuLon Pagoda in Machanbaw Township, Putao District, Kachin State, on 7 February.

Present on the occasion were executives and organizers of the Union Solidarity and Development Associations of Putao and Machanbaw Townships, members of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the War Veterans Organization, the auxiliary fire brigade and the red cross brigade, and local people totalling over 920. U Phone Yi Min, secretary of Putao District USDA, presided over the mass rally. Daw Moe Thanda Win and Daw Thida Phone Maw eneeced the rally. U Phone Yi
Local farmers urged…
(from page 1)

senior military officers and officials.

Accompanied by the commander and officials, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to the construction site of the office of Shan State (East) Organization for Women’s Affairs and inspected it.

At Kengtung Degree College, Principal U Aung Nyunt and Vice-Principal U Chit Swe reported to the Secretary-1 on academic and management matters and construction of the lecture halls. Minister for Education U Than Aung gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions on nurturing qualified persons on whom the State can rely and construction of the buildings for admitting an annual increase of students in accord with the master plan of the degree college. He inspected the construction site of the two-storey lecture hall.

In the afternoon, Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party went to Kengtung General Hospital (200-bed) where they were welcomed by Additional Head of Shan State Health Department Dr U Myint Aung, Medical Superintendent Dr U Kyi Soe, doctors and officials. They oversaw wards of the hospital and comforted patients. The Secretary-1 instructed officials to uplift health care standard of the local people and control seasonal diseases.

In Phanwein Village of Yanlaw Village-tract in Kengtung Township, the Secretary-1 met with local farmers. Shan State Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service U Aye Thein reported on cultivation of over 14,000 acres of summer paddy in Shan State (East) in 2004-2005, growing of summer paddy on 5,420 acres of land in Kengtung District alone and arrangements for putting land under summer paddy in Shan State (East) to meet the target of 20,000 acres.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that Shweyinaye paddy strain is suitable for the region and it can yield over 100 baskets per acre. In the past, Shan State (East) cultivated 13,000 acres of summer paddy, but now there are over 20,000 acres. It is necessary to place emphasis on extended farmlands and cultivation of double cropping with the use of high yield paddy strains and fertilizers for ensuring township-wise food sufficiency. In this regard, cultivation tasks are to be carried out by various ways, considering the increasing rate of population.

Apart from basic needs of the people, efforts are to be made for meeting social requirements. Therefore, tasks for single cropping must be exerted on double and triple cropping so as to earn surplus income. In addition, manageable scale of livestock breeding should be undertaken. Furthermore, the farmers are to grow export item rubber for their long-term benefit, and local authorities are to give necessary assistance to them.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected crops plantation of the camp commandant’s office of Triangle Region Command.

A total of 1,788 acres of rubber plantation being grown by local entrepreneurs are thriving in Monglat Village of Kengtung Township.

On 9 February morning, the Secretary-1 attended the ceremony to donate provisions to Pariyatti monasteries in Kengtung, at Sasana Beikman in Kengtung. The Secretary-1 and party offered rice and alms to the Sayadaws. At the ceremony, 100 bags of rice, 10 containers of edible oil and provisions were donated to the monasteries.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party left Kengtung and arrived back here in the afternoon.
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents Union Shield to Mandalay Division Team

Yangon, 10 Feb — The final football match for Golden Jubilee Inter-State and Division Football Tournament (Men) and its prize presentation ceremony took place at Youth Training Camp (Thowanna) this evening. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, officials of Myanmar Football Federation, footballers and fans.

In the final event, Mandalay Division football team beat Shan State (South) 2-1. After the event, General Secretary of MFF U Tin Aung presented a prize for man of the match in the event to Aung Aung of Mandalay Division. Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung presented the third prize to Sagaing Division and the second to Shan State (South) General Secretary of MOC Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaik also presented prizes to best players.

Next, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented consolation prize K 1 million to fourth prize winning team Mon State, K 1.5 million to third prize winning team Sagaing Division, K 2 million to second prize winning team Shan State (South) and gold medals to individual players of Mandalay Division, the champion team.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein presented the Union Shield together with cash of honour K 2.5 million to officials of Mandalay Division. — MNA

Nanattaw Overpass put into...

(from page 16)

enabling the motherland to stay in touch with the global nations, and raising the social and living standards of the people. As a result, the entire nation has seen remarkable progress in the agribusiness, industrial, education, health, meat and fish, forestry, roads and bridges, rail transportation, air and water transport, communication, electric power, technological, border areas development, and information sectors. Similarly, Yangon Division has enjoyed fruitful results of significant development in diversified areas due to the active participation of the Yangonites in the nation-building undertakings.

He quoted the Head of State as giving guidance that smooth transport plays an indispensable role in the improvement of the economic, social and management sectors and further cementing the unity among the national races. It is needed to ensure fine transport links inside and outside a region for its process. With the economic development of the world nations, the economically strategic regions become more and more populous and the roads have to cope with increasing traffic, resulting in frequent traffic jams. So they have to seek ways and means of their own to overcome such problems. Yangon City, the capital of Myanmar, also has to address similar cases.

The government is therefore taking measures for convenience of the travellers and passengers by means of extended construction of roads, and building of overpasses at the level crossings.

The government is therefore taking measures for convenience of the travellers and passengers by means of extended construction of roads, and building of overpasses at the level crossings. In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to the Myanmar Railway who were engaged in the project. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min also delivered an address.

The project was launched on 2 November 2004 and completed on 2 February 2005. The reinforced concrete facility is 581 feet long and 56 feet wide with a 48-foot-wide motorway and two walkways on it. It can withstand 60-ton loads and its clearance area is 15 feet high.

The facility was illuminated at nights of on the eve and the opening day.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

Yangon, 11 Feb — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Ihor Humennyi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Union of Myanmar, in succession to Mr Rostislav Mitrofanovich Bilodid. Mr Ihor Humennyi was born in 1956. He graduated from Kyiv State University in 1979. He served with the State Committee of Statistics of Ukraine from 1979 to 1990 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations in New York from 1990 to 1998. Subsequently from 1998 to 2002, he served as Head of the Department for Financial Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. He was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Kingdom of Thailand in 2004. Mr Ihor Humennyi is concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Union of Myanmar, and will reside in Bangkok. He is married and has two daughters.

AIDS is a national concern.
Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

Magway Division marching to new golden land of unity and amity

Thiha Aung

Magway Division proudly declares that unity is strength.

Magway Division

Located in the central part of the nation, Magway Division is sharing a common land border with Sagaing Division in the north, Mandalay Division in the east, Bago Division in the south, and Shan State in the west. The 17,306-square-mile division is home to various national races including Bamar, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, and Shan. As it has a population of 5,118,000, its population density is 296 persons per square mile. Ayeyawady River has formed large stretches of plains along its course in the division. Its other regions are monsoonous. Over 3,000-foot high Ponya range runs from north to south in the northwestern sector. Minbu and Taungdwingyi plains are the largest in the division, where a number of creeks including the Yaw, the Salin, the Mone, and the Mann are flowing.

Agriculture

In the past Magway Division and some of its surrounding areas were known as the arid region. Later they were called the dry region. The Yawtada government has been developing Magway Division to help it enjoy prosperity and adequate amount of water supply for multi purposes. With goodwill, the Government has made efforts to ensure abundant supply of water for the division. It has beautified the division’s landscape and built irrigation facilities for success of its agriculture. The phrase “a cluster of dams” is popular in the division after 1988.

(See page 10)
Development in Magway Division after 1988

Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day

Ayeawady Bridge (Magway) is 8989 feet long and lies on Magway-Minbu road spanning the River Ayeawady in Magway Township, Magway Division.

MYANMA ALIN

Mone Creek multipurpose dam, 200 feet high and 6490 feet long, is located about two miles to the north of Sedoktara in Minbu District, Magway Division. — MYANMA ALIN

Students in Magway Institute of Medicine have an opportunity to pursue their education through satellite system. — MYANMA ALIN
Magway Division marching to... 

(from page 8)

Three new dams in the division — the Khaungtaw in Taungdwingyi Township, the Salepakhangnhe in Chauk Township, and the Dangin in Aunglan Township — now irrigating 20,800 acres of land in 1991. The Government has been building more dams in the division including Bokchaung Dam in Myothit Township, Pwethe Dam in Aunglan Township, and Taungchauk Dam in Pauk Township and Myaingchaung Dam in Myaing Township in 1992. Gazumma Dam in Seikphyu Township and Taungkhaung Dam in Gangaw Township in 1993, Hsinchaung Dam in Yegaygyo Township in 1994, Natmauk Diversion Dam and Natmauk Dam in Natmauk Township in 1995, Bangon Dam in Taungdwingyi Township in 1996, Yaw Creek Dam in Pauk Township in 1997, Hsadam Dam in Myothit Township and Mann Creek Dam in Ngaphe Township in 1998, Ngamin Dam in Taungdwingyi Township in 1999, and South Yama Dam in Myaing Township in 2000. Kyetmauk and Leti in Myaing Township, Yanpwe Dam in Taungdwingyi Township, Sunchaung and Palin dams in Myothit Township, Salin Dam in Salin Township, Naga Dam in Yenangyoung Township, Kyauktaga Dam in Natmauk Township and Bwetgyi Dam in Aunglan Township are also helping develop the agricultural sector of the division.

Moen Creek Multipurpose Dam, commissioned into service on 29 December 2003, is the 33rd dam built by the Government. The facility is generating electricity and supplying cool and clean water and water for the division. A dam is irrigating over 100,000 acres of crops year-round, the people of Magway are striving to double their crop production as they now have adequate amount of water supply which is the most important requirement for them. And there are more. The four dams under construction — one each in Pwinythu, Kanma, Gangaw and Seikphyu townships — will irrigate over 22,000 acres of land, and Myakhtetang Dam and a series of weirs on Yaw Creek will come out soon to add irrigation capacity of the division. The facilities will bear fruits till posterity.

Dams, waterworks and other water supply projects have helped increase sown area of 10.6 million heads of livestock, up from 7.2 million heads in the past. Fish farms have increased four times than that in the past.

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Table H

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Table I

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Extension of line number (under implementation) — 1 Myaing (500), 2 Gangaw(5000)

Paddy-plus-fish farming is gaining ground in the division. As farmers can grow rice in the region, its food production can now fulfill 71 per cent of local consumption, up from only 50 per cent in the past. Magway Division, renowned as the edible oil bowl of Myanmar, is extending cultivation of other crops. Table A has more about the agricultural developments of the division coming out as another reliable region of the nation.

Livestock and fisheries

“Assistance will have to be provided to farmers to raise livestock as their income will increase only if they can run live stock farms in addition to stock farms in addition to growing food crops. More efforts are needed. We will not lose our precious resources only if we see the project as a national task. Otherwise, the fish industry will become uninhabitable in 50 years. In this context, the Government will implement the project without fail for the people to enjoy its benefits till posterity.”

In the past, Magway Division could be called a dry region receiving less amount of rain annually because of the mountain ranges barring the monsoon winds to reach it. Now the division is covered by the Thirteen-District Greening Project. The Tables C and D show the development of the division’s regional greening project due to the harmonious progress of the forestry sector and the fish and meat sector.

Road and transport sector

Water flows from higher ground to lower places. The efforts of the people of the Union have reached all the backward places of the nation including those in Magway Division. The Government has built many bridges in the division. Although it is located in the central part of the nation, only some areas have good transport. Even the regions of the division lying on the east of the riverbed of Ayeyawady Division had few roads in the past. For the west bank the matter of good transport was out of the question.

The Government has built the 97-mile-seven furlong Palko-Pauk-Kyaikku-Mindat road and the 112-mile-seven furlong Seikphyu-Saw Kyauktaw -Mindat road both reaching Chin State, the 140-mile Pakokku-Magway road in the division, the 28-mile Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmauk road, the 62-mile four-furlong Magway-Natmauk-Pyawbwe road reaching Mandalay Division. It has also upgraded the Magway-Taungdwingyi-Kyaupadaung-Merikita road. The division now has 1,742 miles and five furlongs of roads including 985 miles and six furlongs
Magway Division marching to... (from page 10)

The government is also lightening the people to enjoy the entire people to enjoy health and longevity and to be free from diseases. It is taking preventive measures against diseases especially malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS, giving medical treatments and raising the health standard of local people in Magway Division. The government has built a teaching hospital and a 200-bed specialist hospital in the region. Now, there are two 100-bed hospitals, six 50-bed hospitals, five 25-bed hospitals, 11 16-bed hospitals and 11 station hospitals numbering 66, accounting for 10 more hospitals in the region. A total of 237 specialists and assistant surgeons have been appointed in these medical facilities. Seven dispensaries have emerged in the region.

The government has constructed an institute of medicine and a university of primary health in Magway with a view to producing physicians and medical experts. Table L reveals an increase of the number of the health staff and medical facilities of the region.

Development affairs

The urban and rural development sector is making progress in parallel with economic, educational and administrative development. The length of roads has increased to 454 miles and one furong including more than 123 miles of gravelled roads. The five rural development tasks are in full swing in the region. The length of roads has risen to 2,549 miles.

The water supply project has thoroughly covered 17 out of 25 towns so far. The government is also implementing the fresh water project effectively for supply of water to the villages in the division. Up to now, the project has benefited 1,292 out of 1,469 villages. Table M indicates progress of roads and water supply projects in Magway Division.

Information and public relations

The government is also realizing the information sector for local people to enhance their knowledge and culture. The sector has enlightened the people to a certain degree and serves as a better bridge between the government and the people. Table N shows the progress of the mass media of the region.

(Translation: TTM+ TTA + MS)
Astronomers report outcast star zooming out

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—An outcast star is zooming out of the Milky Way, the first ever seen escaping the galaxy, astronomers reported on Tuesday.

The star is heading for the emptiness of intergalactic space after being ejected from the heart of the Milky Way following a close encounter with a black hole, said Warren Brown, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics.

The outcast is going so fast — over 1.5 million miles per hour — that astronomers believe it was lobbed out of the galaxy by the tremendous force of a black hole thought to sit at the Milky Way’s centre. That speed is about twice the velocity needed to escape the galaxy’s grip, Brown said by telephone.

“We have never before seen a star moving fast enough to completely escape the confines of our galaxy,” he said. “We’re tempted to call it the outcast star because it was forcefully tossed from its home.”

The star used to be part of a binary pair, waltzing with its companion star close to the rim of the black hole. In this case, “close” is in a relative term; the actual distance was probably about 50 times the 93 million-mile (150 million-kilometer) distance between Earth and the sun.

As the two stars twirled around each other, they were pulled faster and faster toward the edge of the black hole, one of the monster black holes in space whose gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape once it is consumed.

While the companion star was captured by the black hole, the outcast continued on its whirling path around its debt.

Objects go faster the closer they get to black holes and this star was probably moving at an extraordinary speed, perhaps as high as 20 million miles per hour. That very speed, coupled with the speed of its orbit, sent the outcast zooming toward the edge of the Milky Way and beyond.

MNA/Reuters

Englishwoman breaks solo round-the-world yachting record

LONDON, 9 Feb—Englishwoman Ellen MacArthur braved bad weather and other hardships to establish a solo around-the-world sailing record on Monday.

The 28-year-old completed the 42,000 kilometres circumnavigation at 10.29 p.m. (2229 GMT) Monday by crossing an imaginary finish line between Ushant, France, and the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall on the south coast of England aboard her 23 metres long trimaran B&Q.

Her total journey time was 71 days, 14 hours, 18 minutes and 33 seconds.

It broke the record set by Frenchwoman Francis Joyon — 72 days, 22 hours, 54 minutes and 22 seconds, in February 2004 — by 1 day, 8 hours and 35 minutes.

The previous world mark was 93 days, 3 hours and 57 minutes, set by Michel Desjoyeaux in the 2000-01 around-the-world Vendee Globe race, in a 18-metre monohulls.

“I don’t think I see faces again that it’s really going to sink in,” she said on her web site. “It’s been an absolutely unbelievable journey both physically and mentally. I’m absolutely overjoyed.”

Later, she told her control team that she never thought she would break Joyon’s record on the first try. “I feel absolutely exhausted but I’m elated and happy,” she said. “The whole voyage has been very draining, and there’s a lot of things going round in my head. It’s great that I can finally switch my brain off and relax in the company of others which I’ve really missed.”

MacArthur’s record will need to be ratified by the World Speed Sailing Records Council, whose official, Claude Breton, watched B&Q cross the line from the Ushant lighthouse.

MNA/Xinhua

Bahraini oil signs $1b deal to upgrade refinery

ABU DHABI, 9 Feb — The government-owned Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) on Monday signed a financing package worth 1.011 billion US dollars with a number of banks for the upgrading of the country’s sole oil refinery, the Arab News reported on Tuesday.

The package included 370 million dollars from the Islamic Development Bank, 330 million dollars from the Islamic lease facility and 311 million dollars of tranches guaranteed by Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Nippon Export Credit Agency.

Banks involved in the financing include BNP Paribas, HSBC Bank, Mizho Bank, Arab Banking Corporation, Gulf International Bank, National Bank of Bahrain, Kuwait Finance House, Dubai Islamic Bank and Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation, said the daily.

The financing is based on a commodity structured scheme which relies on both Bapco’s corporate strength and strong sovereign support, said Sheikh Issa bin Ali al-Khalifa, Bahraini Oil Minister and Bapco’s Chairman.

The money will be used for the upgrading of the Bahraini oil refinery as Japanese oil engineering company KCG Corporation has been awarded the construction contract of a $2.7 billion project with a capacity of 40,000 barrels per day (bpd) to produce low sulfur diesel.

MNA/Xinhua

US scientists develop nano-sized probes to see tumour target and visualize tumours, the researchers said.

We have shown that the dispersion of thousands of brightly emissive multi-porphyrin fluorophores within the polymersome membrane can be used to optically image tissue structures deep below the skin with the potential to go even deeper,” said Michael J. Therien, professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania who led the study.

“It should also be possible to use emissive polymersome vesicles to transport therapeutics directly to a tumour, enabling us to actually see if chemotherapy is really going to its intended target,” he added.

This work takes advantage of years of effort focused on the design of highly fluorescent compounds. Polymersomes, which were developed in the mid-1990s, function much like the bilayered membranes of living cells. Whereas cell membranes are created from a double layer of fatty phospholipid chains, a polymersome is comprised of two layers of synthetic co-polymers.

Like a living cell, the polymersome membrane has a hydrophobic core. The study has shown that the fluorophores evenly disperse within this core, giving rise to a nanometer-sized light-emitting structure.

The polymers are also larger than phospholipids, so that there is enough space for the fluorophores, which are larger than a cell membrane and that molecule is found inside cell membranes, the researchers said.

Survey shows 34% of S Africans seriously seriously

JOHANNESBURG, 9 Feb—Thirty-four percent of South Africans live in serious poverty, making poverty alleviation a critical priority for the country, a survey has found.

Of this 34 per cent, 12 per cent are experiencing “extreme hardship” and the worst hit are farm dwellers and those living in urban squatter shacks, according to Research Surveys, a research and marketing company.

A total of 3,504 South African adults were interviewed face-to-face on a range of issues such as the provision of basic services, access to telecommunications and transport, and adequacy of nutrition.

African workers living in quarters in rural areas were found to be the worst hit, with an unacceptably high average score of 93 per cent, local newspaper The Citizen said on Tuesday.

They were closely followed by urban squatter shack dwellers at 77 per cent, and those living in rural villages at 73 per cent.

While Blacks living in the townships and in informal areas score an overall average of 47 per cent, those living in the former White suburbs score only 8 per cent, the survey found.

Another research, conducted by the University of South Africa, also suggested that South Africa is among the most unequal societies in the world because income distribution is heavily skewed with the concentration of wealth in a small number of hands.

MNA/Xinhua

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Warner-Lambert Company LLC, formerly Warner-Lambert Company, 321 Harbor Road, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950, United States of America is the sole Owner and Proprietor of the patent entitled:—

“Stable oral C1-981 formulation and process for preparing same” U.S. Patent No. 6,126,971

Registered by Declaration of Ownership in the Office of the Sub-Registrar of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon in 2001 being No-272/91

The said owner claims all rights in respect of the above patent and will take all legal steps against any person, firm or corporation infringing their rights.


P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 11 February 2005

MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 11 February, 2005

LOS ANGELES, 9 Feb — US researchers said on Monday they have successfully used nano-sized particles embedded with bright, light-emitting molecules to visualize a tumour more than one centimetre below the skin surface.

A team of chemists, bioengineers and medical researchers based at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Minnesota has lodged fluorescent materials called porphyrins within the surface of a polymersome, a cell-like vesicle, to image a tumour within a cell-like vesicle, to

The dispersion of thousands of brightly emissive multi-porphyrin fluorophores within the polymersome membrane can be used to optically image tissue structures deep below the skin with the potential to go even deeper,” said Michael J. Therien, professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania who led the study.

“It should also be possible to use emissive polymersome vesicles to transport therapeutics directly to a tumour, enabling us to actually see if chemotherapy is really going to its intended target,” he added.

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Another research, conducted by the University of South Africa, also suggested that South Africa is among the most unequal societies in the world because income distribution is heavily skewed with the concentration of wealth in a small number of hands.

MNA/Xinhua
104 confirmed dead in jetliner crash in Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Feb — Afghan top security officials confirmed Tuesday evening that 104 people, including at least 12 foreign passengers, aboard the Afghan plane that crashed last Thursday in a mountainous area were dead.

“The cause of the crash was not revealed yet, nor the whereabouts of the black box which is the only key to the details of the accident,” said the spokesmen Adie Wardak.

Troops of Afghanistan National Army in conjunction with international peacekeepers located the wreckage of the passenger jet on Saturday afternoon but have yet to begin recovering the victims’ remains.

Govt to put in 31.5b rupees to re-shape Mumbai like Shanghai

Mumbai, 10 Feb — The Maharashtra Government of India’s western state has drawn ambitious plans, totalling 31.5 billion rupees, to refurbish Mumbai into an international city like Shanghai, Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh said here on Tuesday.

The centre has offered to provide 100 billion rupees to the various projects drawn for making the city another Shanghai, Deshmukh told PTI in an interview on the occasion of completion of 100 days of the Democratic Front government.

The 100 billion rupees assistance promised by the centre would be received in 20 billion rupees annual grant for five years, he said.

The projects planned to give the metropolis a facelift include Mumbai-Metro rail link, Trans-Harbour project, Ring Railway project and Wadala Truck Terminals project, removing encroachments, beautification of the whole island and the construction of a new international airport at Mumbai, Mumbai Urban Infrastuctural project and upgradation of King Edward Memorial Hospital, he said.

The state government has also urged the centre to make provision for Mumbai in the Union Budget.

Paralysed man to make world record bid racing wheelchair

SINGAPORE, 10 Feb — A paralysed man is aiming to set a world record by racing his wheelchair in seven marathons in 70 days in seven continents, including a stretch in Antarctica, Singapore media reported on Wednesday.

William Tan, a 48-year-old doctor, flies from Singapore to Saturday in Dar-es-Salaam, according to the rally coordinator.

Tan, who became paralysed at age two after contracting polio, has trained by doing 450 push-ups a day and racing his wheelchair over icy slopes in an indoor snow-making facility in tropical Singapore to gear up for the Antarctic leg.

The marathon record is held by able-bodied Briton Tim Rogers who ran seven in seven continents in 99 days in 1999, according to The Guinness Book of World Records.

Tan, a neuroscientist, is aiming to raise (914,600 US dollars) for the treatment of childhood cancer.

“I have a soft spot for children,” he said.

Child performers appear to float in the air as a crowd looks on at Beijing’s Dongyue Temple on the second day of Chinese New Year on 10 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET

Six crew missing in Icelandic cargo ship sinking

STOCKHOLM, 10 Feb — Six crew are missing after an Icelandic cargo ship sank with almost 2,000 tons of sugar north of the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic on Tuesday, the shipping company said.

A search by one cruiser from the Faroe Islands, part of Denmark, saved five crew members, Samskip said in a statement on its Internet web site. “Six crew members are still missing and the authorities from the Faroe Islands are leading a search.”

Six drivers expected to compete in Tanzanian motor rally

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 10 Feb — Forty-six drivers from seven countries are expected to compete in this year’s African Rally Championship to be flagged off on Saturday in Dar-es-Salaam, according to the rally coordinator.

The Tanzanian rally has been recognized by the Federation of International Automobile, the world’s governing body of motor sports, and is the first event this year on the African motor rallying calendar. Tanzania last held a continental rallying event in 1977.

Taxi accident kills 10 in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 10 Feb — Ten occupants of a minibus taxi died and five were critically injured on Tuesday when the vehicle hit a truck head-on between Kriel and Ogies.

Among the dead was the taxi driver. No one in the coal-carrying mine truck was injured, said a report of the SAPA news agency.

About 1,000 people were killed in minibus-taxi-involved accidents in South Africa last year, the Transport Department said in the mid December. The minibuses are a primary mode of transportation for millions of South Africans every day.

Heavy rains claim nine lives in north India

NEW DELHI, 10 Feb — Nine people have been killed and seven others injured as heavy rains and hailstorm lashed parts of northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the Press Trust of India quoted local police as saying Tuesday.

Three people were killed in Mirzapur District Monday, while two each were killed in Sonebhadra and Jaunpur districts, said the police, adding that one each perished in the downpour in Varanasi and Chandauli districts.

Seven persons were injured across the region and they were admitted to hospitals.
**Sports**

**First kickboxing tournament kicks off in Kuwait**

**Kuwait City**, 10 Feb — The first Kickboxing Tournament, organized by Kuwait Kickboxing Committee, will start on Friday in Qadsiyah Sports Club as part of Hala February activities. Reporters of the Kickboxing Committee Mohammad Dadjli said the tournament will continue until Monday, in which 65 players representing all sport clubs are participating.

Kickboxing is a modern martial art from Korea that is characterized by its fast, high, and spinning kicks. The game combines boxing with gloves and kicking. — **MNA/Xinhua**

**Spain demolish San Marino 5-0 in World Cup qualifier**

**Almeria** (Spain), 10 Feb — Spain eased their way to an unspectacular but productive 5-0 victory at home to part-timers San Marino in a Group Seven World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

Despite monopolizing possession throughout, Spain failed to take full advantage of their domination and would have claimed a far more emphatic win had it not been for some wasteful finishing from their strikers.

The victory lifted Spain into second place in the group with eight points from two games, two points behind leaders Serbia & Montenegro and ahead of Lithuania on goal difference. The modest team from the tiny republic in northern Italy held out for a quarter of an hour before the busy Joaquin opened the scoring.

The San Marino defence were wrong-footed by a deflected pass from Xavi and the Real Betis winger sent a firm right-foot shot skidding into the far post from the edge of the area.

But while Spain gorged themselves on the penalty, Basinas’ high drive left Sorensen no chance.

The Danish, who went close with a powerful shot by Thomas Gravesen in the 42nd minute, pegged back the hosts thanks to the halftime whistle when Rommedahl headed the ball in at a fumble by Greek keeper Antonis Nikopolitis. — **MNA/Reuters**

**US outclass Trinidad and Tobago 2-1**

**Port of Spain** (Trinidad), 10 Feb — The United States outclassed Trinidad and Tobago 2-1 thanks to first-half goals from Eddie Johnson and Eddie Lewis as they began the final round of CONCACAF World Cup qualifiers on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old Johnson scored on the half-hour mark when Pablo Mastroeni hit a 40-meter-dipping shot that forced goalkeeper Shaka Hislop to push the ball over the bar.

Johnson then opened the scoring when he ran unmarked into the area to nod home a Steve Cherundolo cross from 15 meters giving Hislop no chance. It was his sixth goal for the US and all of them have come in qualifying matches.

The visitors enjoyed the run of play for much of the opening half and dominated the midfield exchanges but Trinidad got on top later in the match as the US wilted in humid conditions.

Keller demonstrated why he remains the US number one as he was called on several times to deny Trinidad.

In the sixth minute, Keller went high to his right to thwart a header from Dwight Yorke, making his first appearance in a qualifier since 2001. Yorke was again foiled by Keller in the 34th minute when he deflected a low effort by the striker.

After 53 minutes Leslie Fitzpatrick was put through on his own only for Keller to make a brilliant stop as he deflected the ball and Yorke could only fire the loose ball over the bar. — **MNA/Reuters**

**South Korea beat Kuwait in World Cup qualifier**

**Seoul**, 10 Feb — South Korea defeated Kuwait 2-0 in World Cup Asian Zone qualification on Wednesday.

Striker Lee Dong-gook netted the goal into the left corner only 23 minutes into the game.

And after several failed South Korean shots at the net, PSV Eindhoven’s Lee Yong-gyo came through to add one more goal in the second half.

The victory is South Korea’s first win after a four-game losing streak.

South Korea put on a grand display dominating their opponents throughout the game despite the chilly conditions at the Seoul World Cup Stadium in western Seoul. Group A rivals Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan played to a 1-1 draw in Tashkent Wednesday while South Korea ahead in group qualifiers for the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

South Korea will take on Saudi Arabia on March 25 in Damman, Saudi Arabia. — **MNA/Reuters**

**Greece beat Denmark 2-1**

**Athens**, 10 Feb — Angelos Basinas scored Greece’s winner from the penalty spot as the European champions beat Denmark 2-1 to breathe new life into their World Cup qualifying hopes on Wednesday.

Despite several wasted chances from their own half, the Danes did not bite back after Basinas’ shot was parried by goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen’s left post.

Giorgos Karagounis could have scored four minutes later when curled his free kick over the wall but Sorensen diverted the ball to safety.

Zagorakis, busy in a tight Greek midfield before being replaced at halftime, made the breakthrough when he smashed home a free kick from 25 meters out.

Seven minutes later Thomas Gravesen pulled SteliosGiannakopoulos down inside the box and referee Pierluigi Collina awarded a penalty. Basinas’ high drive left Sorensen no chance.

The Danes, who went close with a powerful shot by Thomas Gravesen in the 42nd minute, pegged back the hosts thanks to the halftime whistle when Rommedahl headed the ball in at a fumble by Greek keeper Antonis Nikopolitis. — **MNA/Reuters**

**Japan beat N Korea in World Cup qualifier**

**Saatama** (Japan), 10 Feb — Substitute Masashi Oguro snatched an injury-time winner as Japan beat North Korea 2-1 in the first match of the final round of Asian 2006 World Cup qualifiers on Wednesday.

Oguro stabbed home from close range to give Japan a fortuitous victory after the Group B game in Saatama looked to be heading for a draw.

Japan took the lead in the fourth minute when Mitsuo Ogasawara curled in a free kick from 25 meters following North Korea captain Ri Myong-sam’s trip on Brazilian-born Alex.

North Korea equalized after 61 minutes when substitute Nam Song-chol smashed home a left-foot shot from an acute angle that beat goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kagawas at his near post.

The match was played amid tight security because of fears that bitter political divisions between two countries could spill over.

Japan had mobilized over 4,000 police and security officials but the crowd of 59,000 respectfully applauded the North Korean supporters and their team before the match.

North Korea fought back bravely after Ogasawara’s early strike and midfielder Mun In-guk’s diving header forced a superb save from Kagawas six minutes into the second half.

Nam’s equalizer was a just reward for North Korea’s efforts, though substitute Naohiro Takahara squandered two gilt-edged chances to restore Japan’s lead before Ogurapass late.

The teams last met in a World Cup qualifier in Doha in 1993 which Japan won 3-0.

North Korea had vanished from the international stage following their shock appearance in the 1996 World Cup quarterfinals. — **MNA/Reuters**
Spain considers Morocco as strategic market

MADRID, 10 Feb — Spanish Industry Minister Jose Montilla described Morocco on Tuesday as a "priority and strategic" market in view of the fast increase of trade between the two countries, according to local reports.

In a speech at the sessions on Investment Opportunities in Morocco, organized by the Association for Progress in Direction, Montilla said that in the first eleven months of 2004, 36.2 per cent of the Spanish exports to Africa went to Morocco, a growth of 15.5 per cent over the same period of the previous year.

Montilla added that 18 per cent of Morocco’s exports go to Spain, the second largest buyer of Morocco’s products in the world. He also expressed his confidence that good political ties between the two nations will surely help improve their economic cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria earned $287m from cocoa exports in 2004

IBADAN (Nigeria), 10 Feb — Nigeria earned about 38 billion naira (about 287 million US dollars) from cocoa exports in 2004, said Chairperson of the National Cocoa Rebirth Committee Erelu Ohosola Ohada here on Wednesday.

Speaking at a ceremony to launch the cocoa re-birth activities in Ibadan, capital of Nigeria’s south-western state of Oyo, Ohada said 4 billion naira (about 30 million dollars) was also realized from the sale of cocoa products last year. Meanwhile, an exhibition displaying cocoa seeds and cocoa products and related items for enhancing production of the crop, was also held in the capital city.

According to Ohada, Nigeria’s cocoa output would be increased by 600,000 tons in three years if the nationwide cocoa rebirth programme takes off successfully.

According to her, 50 per cent of the quantity will be consumed locally, while the remaining 50 per cent will be exported after being semi-processed into cocoa cake, butter and liquor, among others.

She said local consumption would be absorbed under the cocoa beverage for school children, a policy would be introduced soon by the Nigerian federal government.

The deputy governor on Nigerians, especially young, unemployed graduates to enhance production of the crop. The cocoa rebirth activities would be rounded off with a lunching of the programme across the country on Friday by President Olusegun Obasanjo, MNA/Xinhua.

Powerful earthquake jolts seabed near Vanuatu

CANBERRA (Australia), 10 Feb — A powerful earthquake rocked the Pacific seabed near Vanuatu early Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of damage, geologists said. A Pacific warning network issued a bulletin saying the quake did not generate a tidal wave.

The 7.7 magnitude 137-kilometre-deep quake occurred at 1:48 a.m. (1448 GMT Tuesday) about 250 miles north-northwest of Vanuatu capital Port Vila, according to the web site of the US Geological Survey. Although Vanuatu is on the same tectonic plate.

Earthquake report

(13:29-22.30 h MST at 11 February)

An earthquake of slight intensity (2.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (11) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (21) hrs (39) min (00) sec MST on 10th February, 2005.

WEATHER

Thursday, 10 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) above normal Rakhine State, upper Sagening and Tanintharyi Divisions, (3°C) to (6°C) below normal in Northern Shan and Kachin States, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin and Eastern Shan States and about normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (7°C), Lashio (10°C), Nampham and Pansau (7°C each) and Hbo (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 9-2-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 10-2-2005 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-2-2005 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 9-2-2005 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 10-2-2005 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 9 mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 9-2-2005.

Bay reference Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 11-2-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining areas. State of the sea: Seas will be slightly to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-2-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-2-2005: Fair weather.
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

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

YANGON, 10 Feb—The inauguration of Nanattaw Overpass constructed by the Myanma Railways under the Ministry for Rail Transportation took place as a gesture of hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day at the top of the facility at the junction of Baho and Nanattaw streets in Kamayut Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htae Oo, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lwin Thi, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Managing Director of...