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Monday, 14 February 2005

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

National solidarity is the strength of the nation

The building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation plays a basic role in shaping the nation into a democratic one. According to the experiences of the entire people, the strength of the people is the most basic requirement for progress of the nation.

In the Myanmar history, when the national solidarity was high, the strength of the entire national people was at its peak, with a fine tradition that the nation was safeguarded and protected through the unity of the entire people. Thus, national solidarity is indeed the strength of the nation.

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

(From the address delivered at the Annual General Meeting 2004 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association)

Installation of CNG engines discussed in Mandalay Division

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint spoke on the occasion. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi said the fuel price has risen in the world and the Ministry of Energy began installation of CNG engines in motor vehicles under the guidance of the Head of State. As the first step, CNG engines will be installed in passenger buses with the aim of saving fuel.

Technicians from the ministry will install CNG engines in the vehicles in cooperation with the industrialists of the committee for assembling vehicles in Mandalay Industrial Zone, he said.

CNG filling stations will be opened as soon as possible, he added.

Next, Chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn, Chairman of Mandalay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung and officials took part in the discussions. The commander and the minister replied to the queries raised by those present.

The commander and party inspected display of CNG conversion kits, CNG engines and three-wheel cycles of UD Group in Mandalay Industrial Zone.—MNA

National Convention delegate groups arrive

YANGON, 13 Feb — National Convention delegates of respective groups arrived here by air and by car to attend the National Convention which is to resume on 17 February at the Nyaungmhin Camp.

The delegates arriving today included 23 from Kayah State, 32 from Shan State (North), 14 from Shan State (East), 25 from Kayin State and 46 from Mon State. They were welcomed and accommodated by the invitation, reception and accommodation sub-committee for convening of National Convention Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials. — MNA

National Convention delegates from Shan State (North) arrive at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 14 February, 2005**

**Strive for improvement of socio-economic life of local people**

The government is fulfilling necessary requirements to bring about equitable and harmonious development across the nation. In doing so, local people on their part are participating in the drive for improvement of their socio-economic life in cooperation with the government.

To ensure development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well, the government and the people have exerted concerted efforts resulting in marked progress in the agricultural sector.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein met members of agricultural supervisory committees and farmers who are engaged in cultivation of summer paddy in Phanwein Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) on 8 February and gave instructions. He said that efforts are to be made to generate more income and meet the demand by means of shifting from single cropping to multiple cropping.

Summer paddy acreage of Shan State (East) has increased from 13,000 in the past to over 20,000 to date. In addition to monsoon paddy, local farmers are now engaging in cultivation of summer paddy plus quality Shweyinaye paddy that suits the region.

They are also giving priority to growing of rubber which has ready foreign market and can serve the long-term interest. Therefore, farmers of Shan State (East) are to place emphasis on multiple cropping and applying fertilizer for self-sufficiency in rice. In the process, a variety of cultivation methods are to be applied to meet the demand of growing population.

Moreover, strenuous efforts are to be made for development of agriculture as the base for satisfying of food, clothing and shelter needs, the basic requirement of their region as well as improvement in education, health and social sectors.

The government is striving for opening of a specialist hospital in the region to provide health care services to the people and prevent the outbreak of common diseases.

Hence, at a time when the government is striving for improvement of socio-economic life of local people, the residents on their part are to make earnest efforts for regional development.

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**Rural gravel road opened in Sittway**

**YANGON, 13 Feb —** As a gesture of honouring the 58th Anniversary Union Day, the ceremony to put the gravel road into service was held in Kywite Village of Sittway Township on 10 February.

Present were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, commanding officers of regiments and units, departmental officials, social organization members and local people totalling over 3,500.

Deputy Director U Mya Soe of Sittway Township Development Affairs Committee reported on construction of the road.

Rakhine State DAC Director U Ohn Thwin presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials.

Chairman of Sittway District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col San Huay and Director U Ohn Thwin formally opened the road.

The road, 6.5 furlongs long and 12 feet wide, links Yangon-Sittway Highway and Kywite Village. The Township DAC has spent K 5,866,000 on construction tasks. Later, the commander paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikkha of Ywama Monastery in the village. —MNA

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**Dry day inspection teams check Tatmadaw, departmental vehicles**

**YANGON, 13 Feb —** Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party supervise functions of a dry day inspection team.

Kyu and members Vice-Adjointant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers and departmental heads led by Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, supervised functions of the dry day inspection teams at the main points in Yangon City this morning and afternoon.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver’s licence and wheel tax bill of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles, wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of traffic rules from 7 am to 5 pm. —MNA

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**New design clothes of He & She Fashion Co introduced**

**YANGON, 13 Feb —** He & She Fashion Co today introduced new design clothes at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road.

Journalists and guests attended the ceremony at which models of Talents & Models Agency introduced and showed the new design clothes. He & She Fashion Co has produced various kinds of clothes for both men and women, and they are now available at reasonable prices at the sales centre, No 171/181, 28th Street, Pabedan Township. MNA

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**INTERNATIONAL SEPAKTAKRAW CHAMPIONSHIP - 2005 (MYANMAR)**

**18 - 25 FEBRUARY 2005**

**NATIONAL INDOOR STADIUM (1) THUWUNNA, YANGON**

The Launching ceremony of He & She Fashion Co clothes in progress. —MNA

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Rich nations urged to fight poverty more energetically

MUNICH, 12 Feb—German President Horst Koehler urged on Friday wealthy nations to help poor nations more energetically and enter dialogue with them in order to achieve a long-term solution for their own future.

Speaking at a welcoming dinner on the eve of the 41st Munich Security Conference, Koehler said that unless we tackle global poverty, long-term security will remain elusive. A strategy for development is by far the best form of conflict prevention.

While poor nations must bear responsibility for their own future, wealthy nations should increase support for the poor to make a real long-term difference for their life, he said. He appealed the industrialized nations to raise their development aid to 0.7 per cent of Gross National Product which they pledged 30 years ago. The gap between aid pledged by wealthy nations and real fund given every year is 100 billion US dollars, he said.

He also urged the developed nations to “take a vigorous action to speed the creation of a fair trade regime worthy of the name. Fair trade is still the most important contribution the international community can make to the fight against poverty in Africa,” he said.

The German President also listed dialogue of different cultures as an important condition for greater global security. “We need to engage with other cultures in a process of mutual discovery. This can only be done through dialogue. We can look for common ground, be we must also accept and respect differences,” he said.

More than 250 officials and scholars from more than 40 countries attended the 41st Munich Security Conference were present at the dinner.

Some Arab countries to null Mideast peace

MANAMA, 12 Feb—Officials of some Arab countries will meet in the Syrian capital of Damascus in the next few days to discuss the Mideast peace, the Jordan Times reported on Friday.

The meeting is expected to focus on means to revive the Arab Peace Initiative, Jordanian Foreign Minister Hani Mulqi was quoted as saying following a visit to Syria on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Mulqi said that Jordan, Palestinian, Syrian, Egyptian and Lebanese officials are to attend the meeting in Andlot to push forward the Middle East peace process in the Mideast peace process, particularly the Arab initiative, launched at an Arab summit in Lebanon in 2002.

The Arab Peace Initiative calls for Israel’s withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, the establishment of a Palestinian state and a comprehensive solution to the refugee issue in line with UN resolutions.

The German President also listed dialogue of different cultures as an important condition for greater global security. “We need to engage with other cultures in a process of mutual discovery. This can only be done through dialogue. We can look for common ground, be we must also accept and respect differences,” he said.

More than 250 officials and scholars from more than 40 countries attended the 41st Munich Security Conference were present at the dinner.

He noted that it is more difficult for him to draw the budget for the 2005-06 financial year, while meeting with news practitioners who called at his residence to wish him a happy new year.

Tang said he is currently busy with drawing the budget, which will be more difficult than the previous one. He explained that as Hong Kong is experiencing economic recovery, people consequently raise their expectations of the government.

He pointed out that the 20 billion HK dollars (2.56 billion US dollars) the government has gained through issuance of bonds is to be paid back, and cannot be used to cover the recurrent costs.

Philippines, Japan hold first political-security dialogue

MANILA, 12 Feb—The Philippines and Japan have concluded their first political-security dialogue in Manila with an agreement to boost cooperation on counter-terrorism and disaster prevention, The Philippine Star reported on Friday.

The local newspaper quoted officials from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as saying that the dialogue was particularly focused on enhancing maritime security and counter-terrorism.

The Philippines has been asking Japan to provide new equipment and help improve the communication infrastructure of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Philippine and Japanese officials also discussed other initiatives for strengthening Philippine-Japanese interagency cooperation such as Air Transportation Office of the Philippines and its Japanese counterpart to improve aviation security and search and rescue operations.

They also discussed ways to cooperate in reducing damage caused by future natural disasters such as earthquake and tsunami, according to the report.

HK will not propose tax increases unless necessary

HONG KONG, 12 Feb—Hong Kong’s Financial Secretary Henry Tang promised here Thursday he would not try to propose further increase in taxes in the budget for the new financial year.

He noted that it is more difficult for him to draw the budget for the 2005-06 financial year, while meeting with news practitioners who called at his residence to wish him a happy new year.

Tang said he is currently busy with drawing the budget, which will be more difficult than the previous one. He explained that as Hong Kong is experiencing economic recovery, people consequently raise their expectations of the government.

He pointed out that the 20 billion HK dollars (2.56 billion US dollars) the government has gained through issuance of bonds is to be paid back, and cannot be used to cover the recurrent costs.

A money changer in Manila Airport on 12 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

A Hmong girl carries her sister on her back as they make their way to a market in Kasi, Laos recently. —INTERNET

1,457 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb—As of Saturday, 12 Feb, 2005, at least 1,457 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 1,111 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 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, 1,319 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,002 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR. Monday, 14 February, 2005

MNA/Xinhua

A money changer in Manila Airport on 12 Feb, 2005.
Chinese officials urged to implement “scientific concept of development”

BEIJING, 12 Feb — Chinese President Hu Jintao has urged local officials to fully implement the “scientific concept of development” and to protect the fundamental interests of common people and to build “a harmonious and well-off society”, as he wound up his five-day visit to southwest China’s Guizhou Province.

During the Spring Festival, China’s traditional family reunion holiday, President Hu, who is also General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), visited the mountainous, multinational Guizhou Province in southwest China and spent the holiday with local farmers, workers and fire fighters. He also visited ethnic villages, urban communities, construction sites and a telecommunications company.

Hu also heard the work report of the provincial government and the provincial committee of the CPC during his visit and delivered an important speech. He said the “scientific concept of development” is important not only for economically developed areas but for economically backward areas as well.

He said the central government will continue to push forward the development of western areas by giving more favourable policies, intensifying capital input and adjusting industrial structure.

He urged local officials to strengthen and improve macro-economic control policies, speed up the readjustment of economic structure, convert the economic growth mode and stick to the “sustainable development” strategy.

He told local officials to stabilize and strengthen policies favourable to the development of agriculture and to intensify their efforts to promote grain production and increase farmers’ incomes.

Poverty reduction work should also be stepped up, he said. “People and officials in poor areas should uphold a self-dependent spirit, reasonably utilize local resources and vigorously develop industries with local characteristics.

At the same time, the central government will intensify funding for poverty relief, step up work conditions for people in poor areas, solve the problems of food and clothing for people in poor areas as soon as possible,” he said.

Hu said building a socialist harmonious society is in the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the country’s people and is an important strategic task for the government and the CPC.

“Governments at all levels should do their best to safeguard people’s legitimate rights and interests and to maintain social stability,” he said.

Bangladesh improves maritime security record

Dhaka, 12 Feb — Bangladesh has improved its record among the maritime operators as the number of pirates and armed robberies declined in 2004, the Financial Express reported on Saturday.

Data from the Piracy Reporting Centre of the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) showed that incidents of piracies and armed robberies along Bangladesh’s coastline came down to 17 in 2004, accounting for one-third of the cases in 2003, said the report. IMB reported 58 piracy incidents in 2003 in Bangladesh and then bracketed the territorial waters of the country as the second most dangerous place after Indonesia in Asia. At present Bangladesh improved its position to number three among Asian countries with 17 incidents, according to an IMB report.

Indonesia still retains its top position with 93 piracy incidents, followed by the Malacca Straits with 37 incidents which separates Indonesia from Malaysia, added the report.

The IMB data further shows that the number of seafarers killed by pirates surged in 2004, even though the number of armed robberies on the high seas fell all over the world. Worldwide actual or attempted piracy attacks declined to 325 from 445 in 2003, but violence against seafarers continues and remains at high levels.

Director General of the Department of Shipping AKM Shafiquallah was quoted as saying that Bangladesh’s position improved slightly in rating as the authority managed to reduce the incidents of piracy substantially.

Singapore, Australia to discuss open skies agreement

SINGAPORE, 13 Feb — Singapore’s Transport Minister Yeo Cheow Tong will begin to pay a four-day visit to Australia on Sunday to discuss the open skies agreement (OSA) with his Australian counterpart John Anderson, according to a statement by the Ministry of Transport on Saturday.

Singapore Airlines (SIA) may launch flights to destinations in the United States using Australia as a stopover if the OSA will be reached as expected. Local media reports said on Saturday that the two countries expanded bilateral aviation links in 2003, which allowed Qantas, Australia’s national carrier, to use Singapore as a base to fly to Europe and beyond.

However, the Australian Government denied SIA the reciprocal rights, citing the negative effects of the September 11 terror attacks on local aviation industry as an excuse, said the reports, adding that the Australia-Los Angeles route, operated by Qantas now, is profitable.

Syria calls for comprehensive peace on all tracks in Mideast

DAMASCUS, 13 Feb — Syria reasserted the importance to realize a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks in the Middle East in efforts to achieve security and stability in the region, the official SANA news agency reported.

During talks with his visiting Canadian counterpart Pierre Pettigrew, Syrian Foreign Minister Fawouk al-Shara stressed the importance of reviving the Arab peace initiative, which was endorsed at Arab Summit in Beirut in 2002.

In this regard, Pettigrew voiced Syria’s country’s support to the Palestinian refugees’ right to return home in accordance with UN Resolution 194.

On the issue of Iraq, both sides shared similar views over the significance of completing the political process after the elections in a way that secures a full participation of the Iraqi people.

On bilateral relations, the two sides expressed the desire to further develop these ties in all fields.

Pettigrew arrived in Damascus earlier in the day for an official visit, during which he was also received by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Prime Minister Mohammad Naji Otri.
India expects to import Iranian gas from end-2009

NEW DELHI, 12 Feb — India is expected to start importing gas from Iran via pipeline through Pakistan from end-2009, the Indo-Asian News Service quoted Petroleum Secretary S C Tripathi as saying here on Friday.

“If all goes well, the Iran-India pipeline should be operational by the end of 2009. In fact, work on the proposed pipeline via Pakistan should start in two years’ time,” Tripathi said.

Earlier Friday, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, who met Iranian Ambassador to India S Z Yaghoubi, said he would visit Tehran in June to conclude the pipeline deal.

According to Tripathi, a feasibility and financial study on the pipeline would now be conducted to determine the project cost and the quantum of supplies. The pipeline project, covering some 700 kilometres of Pakistan’s territory, is currently estimated to cost 4.5 billion US dollars.

The petroleum secretary said the proposal envisages import of 60 million metric standard cubic metres of gas per day — half of it for Pakistan. But if the neighbouring country desired more gas, the pipeline’s capacity could be enhanced.

On the other issues related with the Iran-India pipeline project, Tripathi said while India would sign what is called a “take or pay” contract, Iran would be expected to sign a reciprocal “supply or pay” agreement.

For the moment, the Indian Government is considering a corporate guarantee for the pipeline, but a sovereign guarantee can also be considered if desired by the countries involved, the petroleum secretary said.

Talks, he added, would also start with Turkmenistan for a third pipeline, while Australia has also shown interest in supplying Liquefied Natural Gas to India.

UN top official calls on globalization to work for mankind

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Feb — UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette said on Thursday the current challenge facing the world is to make globalization work for all the people.

Frechette made the remarks at the opening of the 43rd session of the commission for social development, which will last 8 days. She said globalization, which has brought tremendous benefits to large parts of the world, may seem as immutable as a force of nature.

“But that does not mean it cannot be shaped through choices and actions,” she noted, saying that if today there are winners, losers and people excluded, that need not be the case tomorrow.

“Our challenge is to make globalization work for all the world’s people,” she stressed.

Developing countries must take steps to promote good governance and focus on practical public investments in health, education and other basic services that allow people to participate in market economies, and pursue social policies to lessen inequality and exclusion, Frechette said.

The 43rd session of the commission, which marks the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995, will review and renew in international development cooperation.

Russia rejects US objections to plans to sell arms to Venezuela

MOSCOW, 12 Feb — Russian officials on Friday rejected US objections to Moscow’s plans to sell automatic rifles and helicopters to Venezuela, dismissing as “unfounded” concerns that the weapons could be used by leftist rebels.

US State Department spokesman Lou Fintor said on Thursday that Washington was concerned that 100,000 Kalashnikov guns and a number of helicopters due to be sold to the Latin American state could fall into the hands of leftist guerrillas in the region.

“We have been puzzled by the State Department’s concerns,” Interfax news agency quoted an unnamed Foreign Ministry official as saying. The ministry often uses such format to express its views without issuing a formal statement.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, asked by reporters about the deal, replied tersely: “Our bilateral cooperation does not violate laws and obligations. There is nothing to comment on.”

A foreign purchase of Kalashnikov guns and helicopters under an arms pact announced last year by Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez, Venezuela is also evaluating Russian MiG-29 fighters as possible replacements for its F-16s. — MNA/Reuters

Car bombs claim 18 lives in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Feb — Car bombs killed 18 people in Iraq yesterday and injured 24 others. The first blast in a mostly Shiite Muslim town south of Baghdad killed 17, and US troops backed by tanks battled guerrillas in the country’s third largest city as the insurgency showed no sign of abating after national elections.

The second car bomb exploded in an eastern Baghdad neighbourhood as a US military convoy passed, killing an Iraqi woman and wounding three others but causing no American casualties, Iraqi police said. The bomb exploded about a kilometre from a US Army base.

The car bomb south of Baghdad exploded near the main hospital in Musayyib, a mostly Shiite town 60 kilometres south of Baghdad along the Euphrates River. The town is in a religiously mixed area that has been the scene of frequent attacks by guerrillas.

It appeared the attack was part of a campaign by extremists against the country’s Shites — an estimated 60 percent of Iraq’s 26 million people — who stand on the verge of a major victory as officials finish the final counting from the 30 Jan national elections.

In Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city, two gunmen assassinated a prominent Iraqi judge who served under Saddam Hussein.

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A foreign purchase of Kalashnikov guns and helicopters under an arms pact announced last year by Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez, Venezuela is also evaluating Russian MiG-29 fighters as possible replacements for its F-16s. — MNA/Reuters
Yangon, 13 Feb—A ceremony to open the centenary Buddha Pujaniya of Atuladhipati Mahamuni Thakya Koedatgyi Pagoda Buddha Image was held at the prayer hall of the pagoda here this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung graced the ceremony by attending it.

Also present on the occasion were members of Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddharmajotika Dhaja Thayer Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, the director-general of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the chairmen of Yangon East District and West District Peace and Development Councils, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, social organizations and religious associations and guests.

First, the congregation led by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received the Five Precepts from Bhaddanta Kesara.

Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials concerned presented offerings to members of the Sangha.—MNA

Three-storey building for Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik inaugurated

Yangon, 13 Feb—A ceremony to open a three-storey building constructed with the contributions of well-wishers at Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik on Arzarni Street in Bahan Township was held in conjunction with the merit-sharing ceremony at the Three-storey building for Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik inaugurred

Yangon, 13 Feb—For the observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Commandant of No 1 Transit Hall Lt-Col Tin Kyaungtaik this morning. It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyay Bonsan Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharaththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddharmajotika Bhaddanta Patinda Bhivamsa and Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Col Than Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General of Religious Affairs Dr Myo Myint and departmental officials, the chairman of Kyaungtaik Board of Trustees and memenbers, well-wishers and guests.

The opening ceremony was held in front of the Kyaungdawgyi and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Col Than Myint formally opened the three-storey building.

Next, Secretary of Kyaungtaik Board of Trustees U Aung Kyi unveiled the stone inscription of the Kyaungtaik.

Next, Chairman of Kyaungtaik Board of Trustees Lt-Col Ba Than (Retd) handed over the related documents to Bhaddanta Sujana.

This was followed by the cash donation ceremony.

The cash donation for Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik included K 8 million by Bhaddanta Sujana, K 12.2 million by U Kyi Soe-Daw Hla Aye and K 7.5 million by U Toe-Daw Tin Tin, Daw Than Than and family.

The cash donation for Nyaungdon Kyaungtaik in Bahan Township and Dhamma Lankara Aye Kyaungtaik in Yenangyoung Township included K 100,000 each by Bhaddanta Sujana.—MNA

Union Day delegates visit MRTV, markets

Yangon, 13 Feb—Led by Secretary of the reception and accommodation subcommittee for the observance of the 58th Anniversary Union Day Commandant of No 1 Transit Hall Lt-Col Tin Kyaungtaik this morning. It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyay Bonsan Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharaththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddharmajotika Bhaddanta Patinda Bhivamsa and Mingalar TaungdawU Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Col Than Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General of Religious Affairs Dr Myo Myint and departmental officials, the chairman of Kyaungtaik Board of Trustees and members, well-wishers and guests.

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The cash donation for Nyaungdon Kyaungtaik in Bahan Township and Dhamma Lankara Aye Kyaungtaik in Yenangyoung Township included K 100,000 each by Bhaddanta Sujana.—MNA

Union Day delegates of States and Divisions visit Bogyoke Aung San Market.—MNA
**Minister Inspects Fuel and CNG Filling Stations in Mandalay Division**

**Yangon, 13 Feb**

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 11 February inspected Filling Station No 0606 in Chanayethazan Township and Fuel Station No 0613 in Amarapura Township.

On 12 February, the minister proceeded to Palek CNG Filling Station and oversaw sales of CNG to vehicles and installation of a new compressor. The minister gave instructions on installation of the compressor as soon as possible. On arrival at the fuel station of Mandalay International Airport in TadaU, Managing Director Col Sein Tin Win of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise and the division manager reported on filling of fuel and storage condition. Brig-Gen Lun Thi instructed them to always check maintenance of the bowsers. Next, he inspected the bowsers, storage system and the control room.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects Filling Station No 0606 in Chanayethazan Township.— Energy MNA

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**First Triathlon Contest held**

**Yangon, 13 Feb** — A ceremony to open the First Triathlon Contest co-organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Swimming Federation was held at the entrance to Kandawgyi Natural Park, here, this morning, attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Among the spectators were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Maw Thein, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Sports and Tourism Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint. Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Maw Thein, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Sports and Tourism Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

A total of 70 athletes took part in the contest by participating in the triathlon contest. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented K 800,000 to first prize winner Aung Kyaw Moe (SPEI) in Triathlon Contest. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also gave away seventh winners. Dr Khin Shwe explained the purpose of the contest. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepted K 4 million donated by and launched the triathlon contest. Athletes participated in the contest by swimming 1,000-metre event, by cycling 25,000-metre event and by running 6,000-metre event in succession.

After the contest, Commodore Maw Thein presented tenth, ninth and eighth prizes to three winners. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded first, second and third prizes to Aung Kyaw Moe (SPEI-Yangon), Win Hlaing (Yangon Command) and Chit Oo (South-West Command) respectively.

The winning post isn’t far ahead.

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**Poem**

Honouring the 58th Anniversary Union Day:

**The Haven of Peace**

* When we were young, we were taught A verse in which it is said... “On the way to the big place Many a banyan tree grew, full of shady boughs... The leaves enmeshed, and provided shade...”

* These days, many people Brethren all, find a meeting place An abode where there are smiles Modern, developed, in national interest Nurtured, tended to, prominently At this place called “Twin Banyans” Thus it is called and for journey onward There’ll be more leaves and also more shade To strive for national interest all the more Surely it is, a haven of peace Loving brethren, true brothers Helping each other forever continue the journey Then only with we, be ably stride and hold The winning post isn’t far ahead.

U Aung Mon (MA) (Trs)

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**Over 3,000 people visit Union Day Exhibition**

**Yangon, 13 Feb** — The 58th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continued for the sixth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, here.

Over 3,700 monks, teachers, students and people visited the exhibition. The booths on Myanmar empires, royal buildings and gradual progress of Myanmar are put on display. At the booth of present modern and developed nation, en- deedors of the State are being displayed at ministerial booths.

Anybody may visit free of charge from 9 am to 5 pm daily up to 16 February. — MNA
It is said that everybody writes his or her own history. The history of Myanmar is that of the entire national people as well as that of each Myanmar national. Each and every citizen should consider doing a thorough review of his or her past and present evidences and envisage possible consequences of their deeds. In doing so, the people come to realize the historic evidences and major requirements of the nation.

It has been known to the entire national people that in the present period the ultimate goal of the Union of Myanmar is nothing but the building of a peaceful, modern and nothing but the building of the Union of Myanmar is the nation-building tasks playing respective roles in a peaceful, modern and advanced nation. Each and every citizen should shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to you by the State. You must deeply love your race and your nation based upon the knowledge of the nation’s history and traditions. Our cherished nation is made up of river basins, low plains, high mountain ranges and high plateaux, rivers beginning and ending with our land, rich alluvial soil, precious gems and abundance of natural resources, naturally advantageous seacoasts and a temperate climate. Since time immemorial our ancestors have cleared the land by the sweat of their brow and worked and lived on our lands.

Table A

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Table B

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<td>241.16</td>
<td>45.71</td>
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Table E

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<tr>
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<td>195.45</td>
<td>241.16</td>
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</table>

* Six bridges of special project
1. Aungmye Bridge (Insein)
2. Maha Bandoola Bridge (Parandaung)
3. Ngamoeik Bridge (Thingangyun)
4. Hline River Bridge (Shweprahtha)
5. Hline River Bridge (Myochara)
6. Dawle River Bridge (Begyathone)

* Seven bridges under construction
1. Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge-2
2. Bawchaung Bridge (Thanlyin)
3. Pannalang Bridge (Hlinkhata)
4. Shwelling Bridge (Hlinkhata)
5. Twantay Bridge (Twanget)
6. Ngamoeik Bridge (Kamakyi)
7. Rakhinegno Bridge (Twanget)
Development in Yangon Division after 1988

The main building of Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division.

Honouring the 58th Anniversary Union Day

Import-substitute items are produced at the factories in Hlinethaya No-3 Industrial Zone, in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division.

Aungzeya Bridge linking Insein and Hlinethaya Townships is 3786 feet long.
Yangon Division marching to...

Division. With a total area of 3,927 square miles, Yangon Division is like a miniature union where Bamar and other national races have been living in unity. Its population is 6,369,000 and its population density is 1,622 people per square mile.

Bago Yoma mountain range stretches from north to south in Yangon Division, and so there are small laterite hills in Thanlyin, Twantay and Kungyangon townships. Passing through the eastern part of Yangon Division, Bago River empties into the Yangon River. Ngamoeik Creek in the central part of Yangon Division flows from north to south into the Bago River. In the western part, Bawle River and Panhaing River meet Hlme River into Yangon River. According to its geographical features, Yangon Division is designated as a delta. Yangon City, the Capital of Myanmar, lies at the confluence of Yangon River and Bago River, 21 miles from the Sea.

Agriculture

Yangon Division is surrounded by fertility rural regions. In the past, the region could not cultivate crops at its full capacity because there were no large dams in the region. So, the government had to fulfil the region’s needs of food sufficiency, extended cultivation of beans and pulses, and growing of industrial crops and perennial crops. The government has constructed 15 dams in 16 years. Taunglonmyang Dam was built in 1993 and Ngamoeik Dam in 1995 in Hlegu Township, and Nangaeik Dam benefits 70,000 acres of farmland. The government also built Tabulha Dam that benefits 52,000 acres in Taikkyi Township. Again in 2004, the government completed Kungyangon Sluice Gate Project that benefits 21,400 acres in Table F.

Kungyangon Township and Moemakha Sluice Gate Project that benefits 40,000 acres in Twantay. It also constructed Laganlyin Dam (22,000 acres) in 2001, Kaikhaw Dam (9,000 acres) in 2003, and Mahuya and Paungdins in 2004 in Hlegu Township.

After 1988, the living standard of Yangonites became higher and its population was on the increase. Therefore, the government established more new towns and villages. That led to reduction of nearly 20,000 acres of farmlands. However, the government managed to speed up the agricultural work in the division, so the multiple-cropping area doubled. Measures were taken to put more than 160,000 acres under summer paddy and to gain per acre yield of 80 baskets, boosting production in the region.

It has constructed eight water pumping stations in the region so as to extend multiple cropping. Three more water pumping stations are under way, and 12 more projects will be launched soon. It has also constructed Kayan Sluice Gate that contributes to 39,000 acres in Thanlyin Township, and Thongwa Sluice Gate that irrigates 29,000 acres.

Tatmadaw members and respective departments are lending themselves to the Yangon 30-mile Radius Greening Project to fulfil the requirement of kitchen crops and other crops of Yangon Division. Table A shows the progress of the region’s agricultural sector.

Livestock and fishery

Now, Yangon Division is extending the breeding of fish and prawn to provide sufficient fish and prawn for the local people. In 1988, there were 927 acres of fish breeding ponds, but now there are 50,786 acres of fish breeding ponds. The area of prawn breeding ponds has increased to nearly 10,000 acres, up from about 30 acres in the past. The paddy-plus-fish project is making progress year by year. Table B indicates the progress of its livestock and fishery sector.

Forest conservation

The government is growing trees and forming forests for greening of the (see page 11)
Yangon Division (from page 10)

Central Myanmar including Ngapali, Ngapali, Ngamyoueik Bridge (Owngweik), including six large bridges, each of which is a new addition to the region's transport network. The bridges are located at the confluence of several rivers, including the Shwepyitha River.

Transport

Yangon Division enjoyed significant transport improvements in the past. There are local and inter-city roads that link the region to major cities such as Mandalay and Sagaing. The region's transport infrastructure has improved significantly, with a focus on improving the quality of roads and bridges.

Table J

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* Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon), Institute of Medicine-2 (Yangon), Institute of Dental Medicine (Yangon), Institute of Nursing (Yangon), Institute of Pharmacy (Yangon) and Institute of Paramedical Sciences (Yangon)

Table L

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Table N

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Yangon Division marching to...

(from page 11)

Yangon East University, Yangon West University, National Management College, Yankin Education College, Hlegu Education College, and Thingyan Education College in Yangon Division.

Now, the primary school enrolment rate of Yangon Division has risen to 99.30 per cent and the adult literacy rate, 97.40 per cent. Table I shows the division’s progress of the education sector.

Science and technology

To the graduation parade of the 7th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy which was held in PyinOoLwin, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the Tatmadaw Government has laid down and implemented the economic objective — Development of agriculture as the base and for all-round development of other sectors of economy as well. Thanks to the collective efforts of the Tatmadaw, the Government and the people, clusters of infrastructures have already been built in all necessary places. More infrastructures will be built in the future, too. Because of the energetic efforts to extend sown acreage, increase per-acre yield, and introduce new crops, species, the nation now is enjoying surplus rice. As the nation is able to produce enough food for the people, we will have to establish an industrial nation for the prosperity of the national people. But the setting up of an industrialised nation needs a large number of qualified human resources. Hence, the Government has established 24 development zones, the project covering the task to develop human resources simultaneously in the entire nation. The rural development tasks are being attached to the project for development of all regions of the nation. Now, all the nationalities have the opportunity to get access to science and technological studies in their own regions.

In addition, the Government is giving priority to increased generation of electricity for industrial development. In this situation, you will have to strive as the human resources building a developed nation, while striving to further promote the science and technological sectors of the Tatmadaw. As the saying, which goes, ‘The taller the person, the longer his shade’, the task to build an industrial nation will be swifter and speedier, only if you try to enhance your ability. These words of guidance are signs of good prospects for the nation.

Now, concerted efforts are being made to produce qualified human resources to build a modern, developed nation. Table J shows the number of universities related to science and technology built in Yangon Division.

Health

Nowadays, public health care services are being provided as a priority to give medical treatment and take disease control measures. Hospitals (200-bed) have been built in the 24 development regions. All hospitals have been upgraded into 200-bed ones complete with all necessary facilities.

Hospitals in every township have also been upgraded. Public health care services are being carried out by appointing specialists for 12 specialised subjects in all 200-bed hospitals. Table K shows the development of health sector of Yangon Division.

Development of human resources and the Union

New generation youths are the ones responsible for accelerating the momentum of building a modern, developed nation. They will have to shoulder their duties in the interests of the nation and people. It is the duty of our entire national people to safeguard our motherland. The State is producing human resources to serve the interests of the Union throughout their life. The table ‘L’ shows the sector of development of human resources.

Development affairs

The State and the people are making combined efforts for rural and urban development. The people are now contributing to the supply of rural drinking water, rural education sector and rural health sector by using their raised funds. Table M shows the development of rural regions in Yangon Division.

Information and public tables

The Tatmadaw Government is working hard side by side with the people to improve the socio-economy of all the people of the country. It can be seen now that Myanmar engineers are actively participating in the projects for construction of dams, power stations and bridges.

Similarly, all people including those from rural areas, pensioners, academics and technicians are co-operating in the efforts for development of education and health sectors.

Table N shows the number of facilities built in the division for the development of mass media.

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(Translation: TTA+MS+ST)

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Table M

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<td>184/2</td>
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Table N

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NC delegates from Kayin State arrive at Nyaunghnatpin, Hmawby. — MNA

NC delegates from Kayah State arrive at Nyaunghnatpin, Hmawby. — MNA

NC delegates from Shan State (East) arrive at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

NC delegates from Mon State arrive at Nyaunghnatpin, Hmawby. — MNA
Tuvalu is showcase of global warming’s worries

SYDNEY, 13 Feb—Landers on tiny Tuvalu in the South Pacific last week saw the future of global warming and rising sea levels, as extreme high tides caused waves to crash over crumbling sea-walls and flood their homes.

“Our island is sinking together with our hearts,” wrote Silaflaga Lalua in Tuvalu News (www.tuvalulands.com).

Tuvalu is a remote island nation consisting of a fringe of atolls covering just 25.9 square kilometres (10 square miles), with the highest point no more than 5 metres (17 feet) above sea level, but most a mere 2.5 metres (6.5 feet).

Global warming from greenhouse gas pollution is regarded as the main reason for higher sea levels, now rising by 0.08 in. (0.08 in) a year, which could swamp low-lying nations such as Tuvalu and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean if temperatures rise too high.

On February 16, a landmark UN pact to curb global warming comes into force. Under the Kyoto Protocol, developed countries are meant to cut emissions of carbon dioxide, largely from burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil in power plants, factories and cars, by an average 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels during 2008-12.

But the world’s biggest greenhouse gas polluter, the United States, has refused to join Kyoto, while nations such as Spain and Portugal, which have increased greenhouse gas emissions by up to 40 per cent over 1990 levels, have stayed out under Kyoto.

GCC defence bill highest in world as ratio of GDP

ABU DHABI, 13 Feb—The six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) spent 277 billion US dollars on defence and security over the last eight years, accounting for some 12.7 per cent of their gross domestic products (GDP), the highest ratio in the world, the Gulf News daily reported on Saturday.

The latest figures provided by the General Exhibitions Corp (GEC) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) show that in 2003 alone, the defence spending by the GCC was 25.38 billion dollars, irrespective of high or low oil revenues.

Among the GCC states, Saudi Arabia spent the highest in 2003 on defence, totalling 18.40 billion dollars, while Oman came next with 7.22 billion dollars.

Kampala, 13 Feb—The Ugandan Ministry of Health has disclosed that there has been an outbreak of cholera in six districts of the East African country, killing at least two people.

Commissioner for Community Health of the Ministry Dr Okware Sam said that cholera was registered in Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kabalore and Hoima in all western Uganda. Busia (eastern Uganda) and Gulu (northern Uganda) districts have also been affected.

He said that in the last two weeks, 10 cases with two deaths were reported in Busia, but it was not clear if the deaths were caused by cholera or malaria.

Okware noted that in Hoima District, 10 cases were reported, and 13 people fled to the border of Kenya. Four other cases were reported in Kasese.

New cholera outbreak reported in parts of Uganda

MONTEVIDEO, 13 Feb—Officials from Argentina and Uruguay will meet next week in Montevideo to continue discussion on energy integration in South America.

Uruguayan energy minister Israel Cameron and Energy Director Juan Mera, on 17 February announced the meeting.

The officials will analyse the process of energy integration of the region and the situation of each country’s energy sector undergoes.—MNA/Reuters
Inter move into third spot by beating AS Roma 2-0

ROME, 13 Feb—Two Sinisa Mihajlovic free kicks gave Inter Milan a 2-0 victory over AS Roma on Saturday and moved them into third spot in Serie A.

Inter jumped two points ahead of Udinese to 42 from 24 matches, eight behind leaders Juventus, who play Udinese on Sunday.

The 35-year-old defender broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute, when he curled the ball past Ivan Pelizzoli from a wide position outside the area.

Roma pressed forward in search of an equalizer and only a last-ditch tackle by defender Ivan Cordoba prevented Vincenzo Montella finishing from close range just before the break.

They continued to look lively in the second half though were unable to find a chink in the home side's defence and their hopes ended in the first minute of stoppage time, when Philippe Mexes was sent off for a second bookable offence and Mihajlovic rifled in the resulting free kick to seal victory.—MNA/Reuters

Schalke defeat VfL Wolfsburg 3-0

FRANKFURT, 13 Feb—Schalke 04 moved level on points with Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich on Saturday as they roared back to form with a 3-0 win at home to VfL Wolfsburg.

Gerald Asamoah headed Schalke ahead in the 13th minute, Ebbe Sand doubled the lead with another header 10 minutes before halftime and Mike Hanke wrapped up Schalke's first win in three games with the third in the 85th minute.

Schalke even had the luxury of an Ailton penalty miss 27 minutes earlier that claimed a victory that they kept in second place with 41 points from 21 games, behind Bayern on goal difference.

Bayern can move back into a three-point lead if they win at Arminia Bielefeld on Sunday.

Wolfsburg, beaten in their first three games in 2005, proved to be the perfect victims as their defensive weakness allowed Schalke to enjoy a comfortable win.

Asamoah, making a quick recovery from the injury he suffered in Germany's friendly against Argentina in midweek, was given a free header from Lincoln's free kick in the resulting free kick to seal victory.—MNA/Reuters

Chelsea come out on top thanks to Gudjohnsen's second-half goal

LONDON, 13 Feb—Striker Eidur Gudjohnsen kept Chelsea on course for their first league title in 50 years with the winner in a scrappy 1-0 victory over 10-man Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Gudjohnsen scored a headed 20 minutes from time when some poor defending from Everton allowed Chelsea to stoke a late goal. Beattie's deception saw a goal by midfielder Pascal Theve two minutes from time. Monaco were lucky to reach the next round as Libourne

Rangers on top of Scottish Premier League

GLASGOW, 13 Feb—Croatia striker Dado Prso scored twice in a 3-0 win over third-placed Hibernian which put Rangers on top of the Scottish Premier League on Saturday.

Rangers, with 62 points, lead on goal difference from Glasgow rivals Celtic, who play at Inverness Caledonian Thistle on Sunday.

Hearts, in fourth, beat Kilmarnock 2-0 and Aberdeen (fifth) went down 2-1 at Dunfermline Athletic.

Rangers dominated the game and could have scored a hatful of goals if Hibernian goalkeeper Simon Brown had not been in superb form. Brown saved a penalty by Nacho Novo just before halftime after Novo was fouled. Prso hit the woodwork after scoring his first goal with a header from a corner.

Monaco beat Libourne Saint-Seurin 4-2

PARIS, 13 Feb—A Javier Saviola hat-trick helped Monaco labour to a 4-2 victory at Third Division Libourne Saint-Seurin in the French Cup second round on Saturday.

The Argentina striker opened the scoring in the 25th minute before netting two more goals, including one in injury-time, to wrap up the match.

Libourne tried to live up to their reputation as giant-killers, after eliminating Olympique Lyon and Lille in 2001 and reaching the quarterfinals by defeating Bastia in 2002, and put up a brave challenge until the end.

They equalized through striker Roland Vieira just after the interval and reduced the deficit to 3-2 thanks to a goal by midfielder Pascal Theve two minutes from time. Monaco were lucky to reach the next round as Libourne

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Anderlecht suffer another blow

BRUSSELS, 13 Feb—Belgian champions Anderlecht, who sacked coach Hugo Broos on Monday, suffered another blow as they lost 1-0 at home to bottom club Oostende on Saturday.

The result deepens the crisis at the Brussels team now coached by former assistant Franky Vercauteren as they remain 14 points behind leaders Club Bruges, who host charleroi on Sunday.

Oostende went ahead through Marco Njis in the 25th minute as he took advantage of an injury to Anderlecht central defender Hamu Tihinen, who was left laying on the ground. Njis was sent off in the 42nd minute for a second booking but Oostende battled throughout the match and picked up nine bookings in total, including the two for Njis

The win moves Oostende level on 15 points with Mons Bergen, before their home match with Liere on Sunday, and a point above FC Brussels who lost 1-0 at Westerlo.

Standard Liege versus Racing Genk and St. Truiden against Ghent were postponed on Saturday because of torrential rain.—MNA/Reuters

Feliciano Lopez of Spain returns a backhand to Joachim Johansson of Sweden during their semi-final match of the Open 13 tennis tournament in Marseille, southern France on Saturday.—INTERNET
**McDonald’s to pay $8.5m to settle lawsuit over cooking oils**

**San Francisco, 13 Feb** — McDonald’s has agreed to pay 8.5 million US dollars to settle a lawsuit over artery-clogging trans fats in its cooking oils, the company said on Friday.

McDonald’s over claims the firm did not properly inform the public that it had encountered delays in plans to lessen the trans fats in its cooking oils. Joseph said his site would receive 7,500 US dollars, as would another plaintiff in the case.

“McDonald’s has been successful in reducing TFA levels in our Chicken McNuggets, Crispy Chicken Sandwich, and McChicken Sandwich,” the fast food firm said. “McDonald’s continues to work hard on our initiative to reduce TFAs in our cooking oil.”

British-born Joseph first gained publicity for his cause by suing Kraft Foods two years ago to highlight the trans fat content of much-beloved Oreo cookies. The company has since moved to remove trans fats from its snack foods.

KENYAN employers are not optimistic about the economic growth in the East African country.

The Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) has ruled out the possibility of improved economic growth in the current financial year. Officials of the FKE said Kenya had become a hostile investment destination and could not therefore achieve a growth rate of above 3 per cent, The Standard newspaper reported on Saturday. Aram Mbui, the FKE chairman, said key sectors of the economy such as tourism, infrastructure development, security and the judiciary were performing below expectations.

According to Mbui, Kenya was losing out on new investment due to increased volatility on the political front and poor infrastructure. He said infrastructure remained a major source of concern for FKE members and that the problem had negatively impacted on the cost of doing business in Kenya. — MNA/Xinhua

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**WEATHER**

Sunday, 13 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

**MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division; weather has been generally fair in remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.23) inch. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below normal in Eastern Shan State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above normal in Mon State, Taninthayi Division and Upper Sagening Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lashio and Heho (5˚C) each and Kengtung Namsan (6˚C) each.

Maximum temperature on 12-2-2005 was 100˚F. Minimum temperature on 13-2-2005 was 59˚F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 13-2-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 12-2-2005 was (7.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 13-2-2005 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 m/s from East at (09:15) hours MST on 13-2-2005.

**Bay inference:** Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 14-2-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State and Upper Sagening Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas.

**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanamar waters. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Outlook for subsequent days:** Slight decrease of night temperatures are likely in Eastern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-2-2005:** Fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-2-2005:** Fair weather.
**Ministry of Information honours outstanding staff**

**Yangon, 13 Feb** — Ministry of Information honoured departmental staff members for their outstanding performance of work at the Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addressed the occasion and awarded honourable staff.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors, deputy directors-general, general managers, directors and chief editors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials and guests.

First, the minister delivered a speech. He said it was the ceremony to honour those who successfully performed the tasks of the Ministry of Information and film artists and musicians who participated in the media work of the ministry.

The functions of the ministry are wide, heavy and delicate and they are to be done in time or on time. The staff of the ministry and artists were honoured for their outstanding performance in these important functions, he said.

Media work cannot be done in a fixed way but it must be done through innovation for drawing attention of the people, he added.

The minister spoke on the need for media to be effective and dynamic.

He urged the staff to discharge the duties of respective departments and tasks of the ministry in accord with the 14-point guideline to be followed by the service personnel of the ministry and called on the artists to continue to take part in the implementation of the tasks of the ministry.

Next, the minister presented prizes for 10 outstanding staff of the office of the Ministry of Information to Head of Office Maj Ye Tint; prizes for 81 staff of MRTV to Director-General U Khin Maung Htay; prizes for 10 of Information and Public Relations Department to Director General U Chit Naing; prizes for 10 of Printing and Publishing Enterprise to Acting Managing Director U Thein Sein; prizes for 30 of News and Periodicals Enterprise to Managing Director U Soe Win; prizes for 18 of Myanmar (see page 7).

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**Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects Hngetawsan Rubber Farm. — INDUSTRY-1**

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected Hngetawsan Rubber Farm in Kawhmu Township this morning.

The minister met with staff at the office of Hsukalat Rubber Farm of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in Kawhmu Township.

The farm manager reported on salient points of the farm. Managing Director U Aye Mauk reported on other salient points.

Next, the minister gave instructions on upgrading of the Hngetawsan-Hsukalat-Kawhmu Road, producing rubber trees and extended growing of 118 acres. In his inspection tour, the minister cordially conversed with workers producing rubber latex at the two rubber farms.

On arrival at the Tapioca Plantation in Twantay, the minister heard a report on growing of the planting and matters related to the plantation.

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**42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium to be held in March**

**Yangon, 13 Feb** — With the aim of serving the interest of the State and the gem entrepreneurs, the Myanmar Gems Enterprise has made arrangements for holding the 42nd Myanmar Gems Emporium in March 2005.

The gem entrepreneurs will be able to generate their income more and more as gems and jewellery with a reasonable fixed reserve price will be sold through competitive bidding at the gem emporium.

MGE in cooperation with relevant departments will take necessary steps for sooner acquisition of proceeds, facilitation of export and other requirements.

The gem entrepreneurs are to contact the MGE’s Head Office to have their gems and jewellery accepted and prices fixed. — MNA