Live more unitedly and work more collaboratively than before

It is essential for the Union to be consolidated and firm, for all national races not to believe what aliens say, and to maintain friendly relations among the national brethren and to live more unitedly and work more collaboratively than before. Only when the national unity is consolidated and firm, will the independence or sovereignty be steadfast perpetually.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the Annual General Meeting (1997) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association)

Racism, localism and dogmatism are quite contrast to Union Spirit and can bring all the national races to the abyss of poverty, so the delegates should stay away from such evil spirits and ideas.

National solidarity fundamental to non-disintegration of the Union
Entire national people are to make collaborative efforts and to prevent any acts that can harm national unity

Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with Union Day delegates

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein extends greeting to delegates to 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebration. — MNA

YANGON, 9 Feb — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary of Union Day Celebrations Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein today met with delegates to the 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations at National Sports Stadium -1 here. At the meeting, he said all national races have lived in the nation from time immemorial. Although there are differences of dialects and customs and traditions of national races, they have shared them and lived harmoniously in the nation since yore. (See page 6)

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

Friday, 10 February, 2006

Actively take part in national, regional and rural development endeavours

The government of the Union of Myanmar is implementing the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. The Union Solidarity and Development Association, being a major national force, is actively taking part in national development endeavours. And it has been conducting various kinds of courses to hone the skills and abilities of its members and broaden their horizons.

The Myanmar and International Studies Course No 11 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the USDA training school in Hmawby Township on 8 February and it was attended by Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the USDA Prime Minister General Soe Win. In his address on the occasion, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that USDA members were required to try to be good citizens who could take the lead in the realization of the national goal and good organizers who could serve as a bridge between the State and the people, heroes who could ward off the danger to the State and the people and good sons and daughters of the nation who were always at one with the people.

At the training courses being conducted to improve the skills and abilities of the members of the Association, lectures on the national policy, political, economic and social development of the nation, national prestige and integrity and the value of peace and stability, the rule of law and the unity of national people living in the Union are given.

Rural development tasks are included in the national development endeavours that are being carried out by the Union Solidarity and Development Association. Now, in the rural areas, special priority is being given to cultivation of physic nut as physic nut oil can be used as bio-diesel to power agricultural machines, generators, water pumps and trawler-Gs. Therefore, it is necessary for the USDA members to organize the people in all rural areas to grow physic nut widely and to produce and use its oil as bio-diesel.

We would like to call on all the members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association to actively take part in the national, regional and rural development endeavours and in the realization of the national goal.

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**Medical students visit Early-Childhood Development Centre**

**YANGON**, 9 Feb — Final year (part 1) students of the Yangon Institute of Medicine (1), led by Lecture Dr Daw Tin Tin Aye of the institute paid a visit to the Early-Childhood Development Centre of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) this morning.

Chairperson of the association Daw Khin Khin Win extended greetings to the students. Vice-Chairperson Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint briefed them on the constitution and functions of the association.

The chairperson, the vice-chairperson and CEC members replied the queries raised by the students.

Vice-Chairperson of Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Linn Myint briefs on activities of MMCWA. — MMCWA

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**State-owned factories to be privatized**

**YANGON**, 9 Feb — No 1 Loikaw Marble Slab Factory (Branch) located on Thiridaw Road, DawUkhu Ward, Loikaw will be sold at a reserve price of K 58,368 million, and No 15 Thangangyun Textile Factory located on 1.35 acres at No 20 on U Ba Han Street in Thangangyun Township at a reserve price of K 165,557 million through auction system.

Individuals or organizations may purchase forms as from 16 February 2006 at Privatization Commission Office, Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department, No 313, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, here, and the furnished forms should be submitted to the office on 16 March 2006 between 11 am and 4 pm.

For further information, interested persons may dial 245506, 245516 and 245537 at Privatization Commission Office (Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department).

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**Union Day delegates and cultural troupes visit Union Day Exhibition**

**YANGON**, Feb 9 — The Union Day delegates and cultural troupes who are here to attend the 59th Anniversary Union Day celebrations, accompanied by the Union Day Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee, visited 59th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall this morning and officials conducted them round the exhibition. — MNA
China firmly opposes US defence review

Beijing, 8 Feb—China has expressed firm opposition to a US defence review to play up the “China military threat”, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a Press conference on Tuesday that China has lodged serious representation with the US side on the China-related content in the Quadrennial Defence Review (QDR).
The QDR, issued by the US Department of Defence on 3 February, irrationally criticized China’s normal defence construction. The move “interfered in China’s internal affairs” and could “mislead public opinion”, Kong said. Ruon Zongze, deputy head of the China Institute of International Studies and an expert on China-US relations, said the report criticized China as lacking military transparency. “The criticism is unacceptable,” said Ruon.
China has publicized white papers on its national defence annually for many years and issued a first-ever white paper on its peaceful development in December 2005.
Kong said China is taking a straight path toward peaceful development and is adopting a national defence policy of a defensive nature, thus constituting an important force to promote the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.
“China has never threatened any country in the past and at present, and will never do so in the future,” he said.
He urged the US side to correct its viewpoints and actions, saying it should “review China’s peaceful development from an objective perspective and stop its random and irresponsible remarks on China’s normal defence construction”.
Instead, the United States “should do more to promote the healthy and steady growth of Sino-US relations”, he said.
Ruon noted that compared with the previous report issued in 2001, this QDR specified China’s military potential to challenge the United States.
The United States is paying more and more attention to China’s military issues.

Venezuela blasts US proposal to boost anti-Chavez broadcasts

CARACAS, 8 Feb—Venezuela on Tuesday blasted a US budget proposal to boost broadcasts against President Hugo Chavez, stoking the tension between a major world oil producer and its importer in the same hemisphere.
The Venezuelan Communications Ministry denounced the US broadcast of “many messages critical of President Hugo Chavez”, saying the practice is a “crass intervention” and a waste of US taxpayers’ money. US President George W. Bush announced on Monday that his 2007 budget proposal calls for the Voice of America to increase television and radio broadcasts of international and US news to Venezuela, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.
“This application is part of an interventionist policy spearheaded by Florida legislators linked to Miami’s anti-Cuba mafia and terrorists like Luis Posada Cariles, a self-confessed and convicted torturer, murderer, aircraft-bomber and drug trafficker,” the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill three Iraqis northeast of Baghdad

BAQUBA (Iraq), 8 Feb—Three Iraqis were killed in separate attacks during the past 24 hours in Baquba, some 60 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, police said on Tuesday.
“Armed men attacked a police checkpoint in Baquba City on Tuesday morning, killing a policeman and wounding several others,” said a statement by the Joint Coordination Centre of Diyala, obtained by Xinhua.
The Iraqi police detained an unspecified number of suspects after the attack, the statement said. In a separate incident, another policeman was killed on Monday night when gunmen attacked him near the Awqaf Street in central Baquba, the statement added.
A third civilian victim was killed outside Baquba, when gunmen opened fire at him and stole his car, said the statement.—MNA/Xinhua

100 hutments gutted in Delhi fire

NEW DELHI, 8 Feb—Over 100 hutments were gutted when a major fire broke out in a shanty area in south Delhi in the early hours of Tuesday, New Delhi Television (NDTV) reported here.
There were, however, no casualties. Fire officials said over a dozen fire-fighting vehicles were used for over two hours to control the rising flames.
“We managed to rescue some people who were trapped and no one was injured,” NDTV quoted RC Sharma, the chief fire officer, as saying.
He said this was the second time this year when a fire had broken out in this slum cluster. There are over 500 hutments in the area.
“There are illegal electrical connections in the cluster which was the cause of the earlier fire,” said Sharma.—MNA/Xinhua

US military deaths in Iraq brings toll to 2,264

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—As of Wednesday, 8 Feb, 2006, at least 2,264 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes six military civilians. At least 1,772 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.
The AP count is two fewer than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 am EST.
Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,125 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,666 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—Internet

Turkish, Indian engineers killed in Afghan mine explosion

KARL, 8 Feb—Four engineers, one Turkish, one Indian and two Afghans, were killed on Tuesday in a bomb explosion in Afghan southwestern province of Farah, a local official said.
“Today a vehicle belongs to the US construction company named Louis Berger hit a landmine in Bala Blok area.
Four engineers, one Turkish, one Indian and two Afghans, were killed in the explosion,” an official told Xinhua under the condition of anonymity.
The Louis Berger Group in Afghanistan is providing engineering,

A girl plays at a Disney shop in Shanghai on 8 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET
Official says Russia stands ready to help Iran

MOSCOW, 8 Feb — Russia stands ready to help Iran if it is interested in a Moscow proposal for creating a joint venture to enrich uranium on Russian territory, a senior Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

“Our proposal remains in force. If Iranian colleagues are interested, we are ready to help,” Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

Moscow’s proposal can “help Iran allay all concerns over its nuclear programme,” Kislyak said.

Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said on Monday that Russia’s proposal was a “good step toward solving the problem.”

Kuwait Emir names brother as Crown Prince

KUWAIT, 8 Feb — Kuwait’s new Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah on Tuesday appointed his brother Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah as the new Crown Prince and heir of the US-allied Gulf Arab oil producer.

State news agency KUNA and state television said Sheikh Sabah also appointed a nephew, Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, a minister-in-charge of the Emiri Diwan (royal court), as the new Prime Minister.

The latest move effectively does away with a long-held political tradition that the position of the emir and other top posts should rotate between the family’s two wings. Sheikh Sabah, Sheikh Nawaf and Sheikh Nasser are all members of the Jabir clan of the Sabah dynasty.

“We have issued a decree nominating His Highness Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah to assume the post of Crown Prince,” Sheikh Sabah said in a decree read on state television.

Nawaf, 69, had been acting Prime Minister since the former premier Sheikh Sabah was named emir late last month following the removal by Parliament of ailing Emir Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah, who had headed the Salem branch.

Swiss Customs reports fall in cases of drugs smuggling

GENEVA, 8 Feb — Swiss Customs officers uncovered 3,192 cases of drug smuggling in 2005, 240 fewer than in 2004, the Federal Customs Office said on Tuesday.

The volume of cocaine seizures dropped more than 100 kilos to 167 kilos in 2005, while the heroin haul sank from 97 kilos to 57 kilos, said the office in an annual report. It added, however, that 2005 was a bumper year for cannabis smuggling, with Customs stopping almost twice as much of the drug as in 2004 at 296 kilos. Greater quantities of ecstasy, LSD and amphetamines were also found.

Badawi reminds media not to abuse Press freedom

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Feb — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Tuesday reminded the media to deal with sensitive issues with care and not to abuse the freedom of Press.

“Issues such as integrity and religion must be approached with care. And we know that matters pertaining to religion are so sensitive for Muslims, Hindus or those professing other faiths,” Badawi told reporters.

Badawi, who was also Minister of Internal Security, made the remarks after the monthly assembly of the ministry.

The freedom of Press has its boundaries and unbridled freedom could also lead to chaos and suffering for everyone, said Badawi.

He described as “insensitive and irresponsible” the reprinting of those insulting cartoons about Prophet Mohammed by a local English-language newspaper.

An editor of the Sarawak Tribune reproduced those cartoons on Saturday’s edition. On Sunday, the publisher and the editorial committee issued a joint statement, expressing their profound regret over the matter while stressing the editor on duty had resigned after admitting his oversight and deciding to take full responsibility for it.

Nevertheless, the group editor and senior management of the newspaper have been asked to explain the matter to the Internal Security Ministry on Tuesday.

“In this case, I appreciate the attitude of our newspapers which use self-censorship as an approach that reflects their sense of responsibility,” Badawi said.

Self-censorship does not mean compromise of the Press freedom, said Badawi, adding that media should take into account the rights and sensitivities of other communities before deciding on the content of their newspapers.

Spanish police arrest major drug dealing suspect

MAJOR, 8 Feb — Spanish police have arrested a 21-year-old man suspected of being one of the biggest hashish dealers in France, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

Nahil MA, born in the Spanish North African enclave of Ceuta, was arrested near Cadiz on the south coast on an international arrest order from France.

He is suspected of leading a ring trafficking in luxury cars and drugs, which shipped large quantities of drugs to Spain from Morocco, hid them in fast cars and took them to Bordeaux, northern France and Belgium for distribution, the ministry said.

Anti-US protest blocks Sheraton Hotel in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 8 Feb — Protesters waving Cuban flags blocked the entrance to a US-owned Sheraton Hotel in Mexico City on Tuesday, calling for it to be closed because it evicted Cuban officials on orders from Washington.

About 30 people shouted “Yankees out” as they demonstrated outside the hotel over its eviction of the 16 Cubans who were staying there last week for a conference with US energy companies.

Presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilar said Mexico was looking into the evictions and would apply the full force of the law against the Sheraton if a crime had been committed.

“It is an unacceptable application of a foreign law in our country, which goes against all principles of international law,” Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Derbez said in a radio interview.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide Inc., which owns Sheraton hotels, said it had been asked by the US Treasury Department to tell the Cuban officials to leave the hotel because of the terms of the US Embargo on the island.

People walk under heavy snowfall in a park in Russia’s southern city of Stavropol at temperature of 15 Celsius (5 Fahrenheit), on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Iraqi soldiers inspect a vehicle that exploded while the convoy was driving past, in Baghdad, on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET
China, India biggest challenges to British economy

In a study conducted by Deloitte/YouGov, optimistic attitudes of British people to global economic competition, 79 per cent of 2,704 people identified China as the largest threat to the British economy over the next five years, a new survey has found.

A separate Deloitte report said Britain could fall from sixth to the 12th most competitive global economy by 2010. The survey found that 64 per cent of respondents expressed a negative reaction to off-shoring, and a quarter also held the opinion that existing off-shoring and a quarter also held the opinion that existing off-shoring programmes should be reversed. Just 6 per cent said they supported their continuation.

“The survey results clearly show the uncertainty that exists among British population when it comes to the growing prowess of India and China,” said Deloitte’s head of consulting, David Owen. “There needs to be a great understanding among the public that the transfer of certain jobs to other locations is a trend that is likely to continue and bring with it opportunities as well as threats. British-located companies should benefit from, rather than be threatened by, the increasingly global nature of the product and services markets,” he said.

To help boost British competitiveness, 75 per cent of the survey’s respondents said there should be greater investment in education and training.

Africa, Asia Literary Conference to start from 15 February

NEW DELHI, 8 Feb— Around 40 writers from Africa and Asia will discuss issues of legacy, identity and assertion in the post-colonial period and strategize to counter “new age imperialism” in a two-day seminar to be held in Neemrana, Rajasthan starting on 15 February.

To be organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), “The Africa Asia Literary Conference” seeks to celebrate the spirit of the Bandung Conference held in Indonesia 50 years ago to promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation and oppose colonialism or neo-colonialism by the United States.

“Impact of colonialism, the effect on cultures and influence on the people will be discussed and the writers from various countries will seek to forge an identity. “The discussions will be independent and of substantive process”, Pavan K. Varma, director general, ICCR, told reporters here Tuesday. Some of the writers who will be part of the conference include Gulzar, JAVED Akhtar, Tarun Tejpal and U.R. Anantha Murthy from India, Ahmad Faraz from Pakistan, Kaseer Haq from Bangladesh, Don Mattera, Charles Mungoshi and Miral el Tahawi from Africa and Cai Cehai from China.

CIA counter-terrorism chief steps down

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb — The head of the CIA’s counter-terrorism centre has been forced to step down as part of efforts by the spy agency to bolster its pursuit of al-Qaeda, current and former intelligence officials said on Tuesday.

Robert Grenier, 51, told colleagues in an e-mail on Monday that he had been asked to move on from the helm of the unit that plans and executes CIA counter-terrorism operations and provides analysis on terrorism issues.

It was not clear whether Grenier planned to leave the spy agency and there was no immediate word on who would succeed him in the counter-terrorist post.

The CIA has been criticized for failing to track down al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and his second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, who are believed to be somewhere along Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan.

A failed CIA attempt to eliminate Zawahiri with a missile strike last month in Pakistan was condemned in Islamabad and set off anti-American protests across the country after 18 civilians including women and children died in the attack.

The CIA’s counter-terrorism centre has recently lost stature as the result of the intelligence reforms that created the National Counter-terrorism Centre to oversee strategic planning and serve as a clearinghouse for intelligence and analysis for the entire intelligence community in that area.

An intelligence source, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the departure, said Grenier was asked to step aside by the CIA clandestine service chief, whose identity is secret.

“There is a sense that he was not necessarily aggressive enough or forward leaning enough, that this is a good officer but there might be a better choice for this post at this time,” the source said.

76 Romanians frozen to death since 15 Jan

BUCHAREST, February 8 — Eleven people were frozen to death in Romania in the past three days, raising the number of cold victims to 76 since January 15, the Romanian news agency Rompres reported on Tuesday. Aged between 29 and 86, most of the dead had heart problems or had been overdrunk. Twenty-one of them were homeless.

The county of Ploiesti, 70 kilometres north of the capital Bucharest, reported nine deaths from cold, representing the largest number of cold victims in 41 counties. Three people frozen to death in Bucharest. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi health workers collect ducks from local village farms, on 8 Feb, 2006, on the outskirts of Salaaumiyah, 260 kilometres (160 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. — INTERNET

Vietnamese from Phu Ung village take part in a traditional spring festival 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Hanoi on 8 Feb, 2006. — INTERNET

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Moderate tremor jolts Islamabad, northern cities

ISLAMABAD, 9 Feb — A moderate aftershock of 5.01 intensity on the Richter Scale jolted the Pakistani capital and some northern cities on Wednesday, head of the meteorological department said:

Tremors lasting a few seconds were felt at 5:57 pm local time in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, as well as Peshawar, Mansehra, Balakot and Abbottabad, the cities hit by the devastating earthquake of October 8, which had killed more than 73,000 people.

French police hold two in Madrid bombing probe

PARIS, 8 Feb — French police have arrested two suspects wanted in connection with the 2004 Madrid train bombings, a Paris radio station said on Tuesday. France Info radio said two Egyptians were arrested in the Paris region earlier on Tuesday, suspected of having helped another Egyptian, now in prison in Italy, whom Spain suspected of being involved in the Madrid bombings. A police spokesman said two suspected Islamists had been arrested in France but declined to give further details. — MNA/Reuters

13 rescued in ship collision at China’s Qiongzhou straits

HAIKOU, 8 Feb— Thirteen fisherman on aboard a sunken fishing boat after a collision with a Cambodian cargo ship were salvaged by rescuers on sea areas at the Qiongzhou Straits in south China this Tuesday.

A passing-by fishing boat coming into rescue salvaged the victims. Sources with hospital in Haikou, capital of the southernmost China’s Hainan Province said that the victims suffering injuries were still receiving medical treatment. — MNA/Xinhua
In his guidance of Senior-General Than Shwe given at the meeting with the trainees of University for Development of National Races of course No 37 BEU, said National races do not live in the nation separately race-wise or region-wise. But all the national brethren have lived harmoniously in each and every region of the nation since yore.

All trainees are to enhance Union Spirit already inculcated into the youths. Only when the people are fully equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the Union of Myanmar exist perpetually.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, all national races living under the flag of the Union are to strive for peace and development of the nation joining hands with one another.

Racism, localism and dogmatism are quite contrast to Union Spirit and can bring all the national races to the abyss of poverty, so the delegates should stay away from such evil spirits and ideas, he said.

Dating back to the history, as a result of building consolidated unity of national races, King Anawrahta founded the First Myanmar Empire in 1044, King Bayintnaung the Second Myanmar Empire in 1551 and King Alaungphaya the Third Myanmar Empire in 1752. So, Myanmar achieved a dominant position in Asia region and won respect and admiration of neighbours.

But, in the Kongbaung Dynasty, there was disintegration of royal family members owing to the wedge driven by the colonialists and it harmed the Union Spirit subsequently, culminating in falling under subjugation of the colonialists.

The colonialists were bent on employing a variety of wicked means to sow downright suspicion among the national races and to undermine national solidarity to prolong their rule over Myanmar and oppress national people. They resorted to such destructive acts with the intention of suppressing patriotic spirit, the spirit of loving motherland, nationalistic fervour and anti-colonialist spirit of national people.

It has been common knowledge that the invaders practised the divide-and-rule policy in ruling the mainland and hilly regions. In consequence, hilly regions lagged behind in development all the more.

Even when it was inevitable the colonialists had to grant independence to the nation, they kept on driving a wedge among national races to break up unity between the people living in the mainland and those in the hilly regions with the intention of their continued colonization of hilly regions as their dominions.

With the efforts of visionary leaders of national races and the firm resolution to regain independence the Union Day. So, Union Day celebrations are held on a grand scale after laying down national objectives the length and breadth of the nation.

After Myanmar regained independence, neo-colonialists incited racial conflicts and deceived national people dogmatically, fanning the flames of internal armed struggle line. Therefore, almost of the nation was under the domination of multi-coloured armed insurgents and the recently-independent Myanmar was on the verge of becoming a minion of the neo-colonialists.

Then, the Tatmadaw standing by the people with loyalty and duty conscientiousness discharged the demanding tasks steadfastly, and the majority of urban regions enjoyed the taste of peace and stability. But, rural regions especially border areas withstood trials and tribulations of armed insurgency. National people in these regions had to live in a state of alarm for years, and misunderstanding and suspicions among national races cost lots of lives and blood and sweat.

Successful previous governments could not achieve success in rebuilding the torn nation. And nation rebuilding programmes did not work at all because of destructive acts.

Despite abundant natural resources such as fertile farmland, forests with full of valuable wood, oil and natural gas deposits, various kinds of minerals and precious stones, rivers, creeks and lakes and marine resources, Myanmar lagged behind in development if compared with neighbouring countries owing to lack of cohesion, peace and tranquility.

Some neo-colonialist powers using national traitors as tools trying to break up national solidarity
People must ward off the danger with national awareness

After taking over State duties, the Tatmadaw Government made a thorough review about various conditions of the nation of many periods. Then, it was deduced that Myanmar was a union nation, so the Union with sovereignty would be existing as long as the Earth did only when unity could be erected among the national races living in the Union. So, the government laid down the national policy of Our Three Main National Causes “non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, and since then it has given the priority to national reconsolidation and perpetually flourishing Union Spirit.

When the government’s correct leadership, benevolent attitude to national races and effective drive met with national races’ clear outlook and objectives, the majority of national race armed groups returned to the legal fold. Then, the nation emerged from a state of armed conflicts for more than four decades.

National solidarity is fundamental to non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty.

In this context, entire national people are to make collaborative efforts and to prevent any acts that can harm national unity.

The government has spent a large amount of cash to build transport infrastructures to ensure close relations among the national races that will help strengthen national solidarity. It has built a network of roads and bridges to overcome geographical barriers. It is required to narrow the development gap between one region and another for equitable progress in the whole nation to terminate all doubts among the national people.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the government has been simultaneously implementing border areas and national races development project, 24 special regions development project and rural development project with greater momentum.

The projects cover all-round progress of all the sectors of national races, and as long as they are benefiting the grassroots including those in the border areas, they bring development to the nation.

The projects ensures equitable progress and they have interrelations with national solidarity.
Some neo-colonialist powers…

(from page 6)

At present, the government is in the process of implementing the seven-point Road Map for prosperity and perpetuation of the Union and emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic state, which is the people’s genuine desire. It has been successfully convening the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map. The national people are urged to play a part in implementing the national task from the convening of the National Convention to the realization of all the steps of the Road Map, with the firm conviction that consolidation and perpetuation of the Union is as important as their life. The present era sees national unity enjoying greater consolidation, the people and the government harmoniously implementing nation-building projects, with oneness, and the National Convention, the lifeblood of the nation, gaining more ground. But on the other hand, some neo-colonialist powers using national traitors as tools are trying to break up national solidarity, delay progress and disturb and destroy the National Convention. All the people must ward off the danger with national awareness. The people should serve the Union’s interest more, while accepting the following Union Day objectives as directives:

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

The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the Union Day delegates. — MNA

Dagon Overpass put into service on Alanpya Pagoda Road

YANGON, 9 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day, the ceremony to put Dagon Overpass into service was held at Dagon Basic Education High School No 1 on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htaw Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu, Chairman of Yangon West District PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, the chairman of School Board of Trustees of Dagon BEHS No 1, the headmaster, teachers, students and wellwishers.

First, Director-General U Aye Kyu, SBT Chairman U Hla Tint and wellwishers sprinkled scented water on it. The commander pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the overpass. The commander formally opened the overpass. The commander, the mayor, the deputy minister and officials passed through the overpass and applauded.

The overpass is 52 feet long, 6 feet wide and 18 feet high. Thanks to the construction of the overpass, safety is ensured for students within school hours.

Booths, shops opened at Gyobyu Sports Ground

YANGON, 9 Feb — The ceremony to open booths and shops in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary Union Day were held yesterday at the Gyobyu Sports Ground in Taikkyi Township where the Union Flag will stop over for a night.

Taikkyi Station Commander Col Win Maung, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min and Taikkyi Township PDC Chairman U Myat Kyaw formally opened the ceremony. Booths of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Industry-2 and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association are put on display.

Furthermore, Documentary Film and Shwe Mymno Anyeint Troupe will present entertainment to the local people from 8 to 12 February.

Construction of approach railroad at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) inspected

YANGON, 9 Feb — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing heard reports on progress in construction of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) by Senior Engineer U Myo Win from Mottama bank, and Senior Engineer U Tin Lwin from Mawlamyine bank and construction of approach railroad and the station by Engineer U Zaw Min Oo of Myanna Railways at the construction site on 6 February afternoon.

The commander attended to the needs and instructed them to make efforts for timely completion of the tasks meeting the set standard.

Next, the commander inspected construction of the approach structure and approach railroad, and laying of rail tracks in Kyaiaphne Ward in Mawlamyine. At Mawlamyine Station, the commander looked into the station facilities and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

March with unity towards modern and developed nation

Myint Soe

The 12th of February 2006 is the 59th Anniversary Union Day of the Union of Myanmar.
It is a pride for us that over 100 national races including Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have resided in the country with a common name called Myanmar in harmony and amity since many years ago. Like a family, the Myanmar people have been living through thick and thin, and sharing joys and sorrows, a tradition defining their high civilization and prestige.

Lying in the south-east of Asia, Myanmar emerged as a sovereign and independent nation over 2000 years ago. She shares a common land border with China in the north and north-east, Laos and Thailand in the east and south-east, and Bangladesh and India in the west and north-west, and touching Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal in the south.

Having an area of 261,228 square miles, the nation is 582 miles in its widest part from east to west, and 1,275 miles from the northern tip to the southern end. Of her 5,200-mile long border, the 3808-mile section is the land border sharing with her neighbours, and the other 1,385-mile section is the coastline. She possesses a special offshore economic zone with an area of over 14,000 square miles. Forests cover over 130,000 square miles or 51 per cent of the land area. Myanmar is formed with mountain ranges, rolling mountains and plains and through her valleys and basins flow large and small natural waterways. Of the four major rivers — the Ayeyawady, the Chindwin, the Thanlwin and the Sittaung — the Ayeyawady is over 1,000 miles long.
Myanmar is made up of seven divisions — Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi and Magway — and seven states — Kayin, Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. Having lived in those states and divisions in unity and harmony since yore are the over 100 national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, and so close and cordial is their relationship like 100 fruits from a common stem.

At his meeting with trainees of No 37 Course (BEJ) of the University for Development of National Races at Pyithu Hluttaw on 20 January this year, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, “National races do not live in the nation separately race-wise or region-wise. They have lived harmoniously in each and every region of the nation since yore. It is their nature that the national brethren live together in amity without having any enmity against one another.

“It is your duty to enhance Union Spirit already inculcated into the youths. Only when people are fully equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the Union of Myanmar exist in perpetuity.”

“Union Spirit is not based on an organization, a race or an ideology, but on the nationalistic fervour that concerns the entire country. Likewise, Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — is the national duty requiring the involvement of all the nationalities to implement.”

“The drive for flourishing of Union Spirit needs integration of practical work as it cannot be implemented with concepts and ideologies only. So, the government is putting efforts into the harmonious implementation of border areas and national races development project, 24 special development regions project, and the rural development project.”

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union

Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)

Strength of the Union

* You and I, I and you
Blood-brothers, true relatives
Help each others as companions
No talking behind back, we by ourselves.

* Relatives who dwell in plains, related
Those who dwell on hills, relatives
Water, land, may be barriers
But Union-born nationals
Undivided, like you can’t divide water.

* Union-born nationals
Living together on one land, drinking water from same source,
One is all, many hands
Many heads put together, if they accomplish
No pessimist, axe-handle or any other
We’re not afraid, won’t kneel down.
Won’t put our hands up, no matter who threatens.

We’ll make it to the winning post.

(Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day)

Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)

* Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union: non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — is the national duty requiring the involvement of all the nationalities to implement.

Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)

The drive for flourishing of Union Spirit needs integration of practical work as it cannot be implemented with concepts and ideologies only. So, the government is putting efforts into the harmonious implementation of border areas and national races development project, 24 special development regions project, and the rural development project.”

Kyunmon: 9-2-2006
Kayin State witnesses sustained progress in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Like a mini-union, Kayin State with an area of 11,730 square miles is home to Kayin, Pa-O, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan nationals. The population of Kayin State is 1,653,000 and population density of the state is 145 persons per square mile.

Kayin State is a land of plains, mountain ranges and forests. In the east of the state are mountain ranges running from north to south and plains are located in the west of the state.

Such major rivers as Thanlwin, Thaung-tin, Attaran and Gyaing are flowing through the state. Blessed with land and water resources coupled with encouragement given by the government and efforts made by locals, agricultural capacity of the state has increased. Moreover, infrastructures which will help raise the social standard of national people residing in the state have emerged one after another. Kayin state is marching towards its goal of development in parallel with other states and divisions. The table indicates development of Kayin State during the period from 1988 to the present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/Livestock breeding</td>
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<td>Sown acreage of summer paddy</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Self-reliant village library</td>
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</table>
Irrigation facilities in Kyangin, Kanma Townships inspected

YANGON, 9 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hlay Oo oversaw progress in construction of Maday Dam in Kanma Township. — MNA

Murderers nabbed within two days after robbery

YANGON, 9 Feb — Yangon Division police nabbed two robbers within two days after they had committed a crime on 6 February in which the men killed an elderly couple.

Than Khaing Oo and his neighbour Aye Lwin (a) Kalar killed the couple, U Tin Kyu, 83, and Daw Kyin Nu, 78, when Daw Kyin Nu did not yield to their demand to give them some threads of hair, suspicious-looking objects and note books.

When the police investigated the house, they found an 11-inch-long blood-stained Chinese knife, also stuck with some threads of hair, suspicious-looking objects and note books.

Based on the evidences they had found and public information they had received, the police were able to arrest Than Khaing Oo, 24, son of U Chit Hlaing at his house at No 306, Thumana 5th Street, Ward 5, Thakayta, on 7 February and Aye Lwin (a) Kalar, 28, son of U Tin Win, at 2.30 pm the following day.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thwin Swe and wife Daw Mya Theingi host a dinner to Union Day delegates. — TRANSPORT

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and wife Daw Khin Huay Myint host a dinner to Union Day delegates. — FORESTRY

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hlay Oo oversaw progress in construction of Maday Dam in Kanma Township. — MNA

Dinner hosted to Union Day delegates by Ministers’ families

YANGON, 9 Feb — A dinner in honour of the delegates to the 59th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations was hosted at the residence of the Minister for Transport on Zawgyi Road in Kamayut Township yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, wife Daw Mya Theingi, departmental heads and their wives.

First Minister Maj-Gen Thwin Swe extended greetings. The minister and his wife, departmental heads and wives presented souvenirs to the delegates.

U Tun Min of Rakhlone State expressed gratitude. Later, the Union Day delegates were served with dinner.

Likewise, member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Theni hosted a dinner to the Union Day delegates at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries on 7 February in which the men killed an elderly couple.

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First Confucius Institute opens in Canada

VANCOUVER (Canada), 9 Feb— The first Confucius Institute on Tuesday opened in Vancouver and was warmly acclaimed by both the Canadian and Chinese sides.

Visiting Chinese State Councilor Chen Zhili inaugurated the opening of the institute, which was also attended by a group of Canadian officials. The opening of the institute not only strengthens Canada-China relations but also benefits Canadians, especially those interested in doing business and tourism with the fast-growing Asian country, according to officials from both countries at the inauguration ceremony.

“I believe the Confucius Institute would serve as another important bridge between Canada and China and further enhance understanding and cooperation between the two countries,” said Chen who inaugurated the Confucius Institute at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

Chen’s remarks were echoed by Shirley Bond, Deputy Premier and Education Minister of British Columbia, a province reputed as Canada’s major gateway to international trade with Asia. “As bilateral trade and exchange between B. C. and China grows, we have to strengthen all our opportunities including education,” Bond said.

“The Confucius Institute at BCIT builds on our ongoing relationship with China, a relationship I look forward to making even stronger in the future,” She said.

The Confucius Institute, established in February 2006 by the BCIT with the support and accreditation of the National Office of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language under the Chinese Ministry of Education, is housed on the eighth floor of BCIT’s downtown Vancouver campus. —MNA/Reuters

Suspected drug gunmen storm Mexico newspaper

NUEVO LAREDO (Mexico), 9 Feb— Gunmen thought to be working for a drug cartel shot and seriously wounded a reporter during a raid on a Mexican newspaper near the violent US-Mexico border, reporters at the paper said on Tuesday.

At least two hooded men burst into El Manana newspaper in Nuevo Laredo, over the Rio Grande River from Laredo, Texas, late on Monday, tossing a grenade in the lobby and raking the newsroom with automatic weapons fire, they said. —MNA/Reuters

Ecuador says unlikely to extend US air base deal

QUITO (Ecuador), 9 Feb— Ecuador is not likely to extend a deal that allows the United States to use an anti-narcotics air base on its territory due to a surge in sentiment against the American military presence, its Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations said on Wednesday.

Deputy Minister Diego Ribadenoe said in a television interview that the Andean country’s major parties would probably block the ratification of a deal on US use of the Manta military base beyond 2009.

“I think it will be very difficult for a foreign minister to extend a deal on US use of the Manta military base beyond 2009. “I think it will be very difficult for a foreign minister in 2009 to ratify this agreement,” said Ribadenoe.

Since 1999, the United States has used the Manta air base 161 miles (260 kilometers) southwest of Quito to fight drug trafficking in the region. —MNA/Reuters

Official says China to ban new cigarette factories

BEIJING, 9 Feb— China will not allow new cigarette factories, including joint ventures with foreign partners, as part of efforts to reduce smoking in a country that puffs its way through almost 2 trillion cigarettes a year.

Beijing would also impose strict controls on existing tobacco production, including taxes on tobacco leaf and industry reorganization, Xinhua news agency quoted Sha Zukang, the Ambassador to UN agencies in Geneva, as telling a conference.

China is the world's largest cigarette producer and the world's most enthusiastic smokers, with a growing market of about 320 million making it a magnet for multinationals and focus of international health concern.

Chinese cigarettes are also among the cheapest in the world—a packet can cost as little as $0.08 cents—and smoking kills 1.2 million people a year in China, according to the World Health Organization.

In December, Philip Morris, a unit of Altria Group Inc, announced a joint venture to produce Marlboro cigarettes in China. Its partner is state-owned China National Tobacco Corp.

China’s health officials, including some by a spokesman for the country’s State Tobacco Monopoly Administration early in 2005, and it was unclear how the Philip Morris deal would be affected.

Philip Morris declined comment, apart from reissuing a statement from last December announcing the China deal.

Shia was speaking at a meeting on implementing the WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which China signed in 2003 and ratified in 2005.

The convention aims to reduce tobacco consumption, including through a ban on advertising and promotion.

“The Chinese Government will follow the relevant stipulations of the convention to improve its related laws and regulations, strictly control smoking in public spaces and strengthen regulation of tobacco production and business activities,” Sha said.

The WHO said the convention’s measures could help save 200 million lives by 2050 if they achieve the goal of cutting smoking and fresh recruits to smoking by a half.

MNA/Reuters

British parents face soaring childcare costs

LONDON, 9 Feb— The cost of a full-time place at a private nursery school in England has soared 27 per cent over the past five years, almost four times the rate of inflation, childcare charity Daycare Trust said on Wednesday.

A typical full-time nursery place for a child under two now costs 142 pounds a week, or nearly 7,400 pounds a year, the charity said in an annual survey of childcare costs. Parents in inner London face the highest costs, with nurseries charging an average 197 pounds a week for children under two. The lowest fees were in the Midlands and the northeast.

Many parents send their children to childminders, with charges averaging around 130 pounds a week, and up to 161 pounds in London.

The government provides help with the cost of childcare through its tax credit system. Many parents can also get tax relief through their employer, through a government scheme introduced in 2005. But the charity said many families still struggle to meet the costs. It said British parents pay around 75 per cent of their childcare costs, compared with parents in Europe who only pay around 35 per cent.

“We urgently need a review of the funding system for childcare to ensure that all children have access to good quality services, regardless of their family income,” said Daycare Trust Chief Executive Christine Walton.

The Education Minister Master Beverley Hughes said the government had made a huge investment in childcare, spending 17 billion pounds since 1997. “We are focused on providing help for families with affordable childcare, in particular for families who need it most.”

She said the Childcare Bill, currently going through Parliament, placed a duty on each local authority to provide sufficient childcare in their area. —MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi soldier secures the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

59th Anniversary Union Day objectives

— For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

— To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people.

— For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence.

— To prevent, through national solidity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development.

— For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.
China urges further talks to resolve Iran issue

BEIJING, 8 Feb—China said on Tuesday the Iranian nuclear standoff could still be defused through negotiations without a showdown in the United Nations, and urged countries to intensify efforts for a diplomatic compromise.

China voted for an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution on Iran because it believed that decision would encourage further talks.

“The Iranian nuclear issue should be appropriately resolved through diplomatic negotiations,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told reporters in Beijing.

“We still hope that this kind of resolution will help promote diplomatic resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue within the framework of the IAEA,” he said.

The IAEA decision made on 4 February calls for its chief Mohamed ElBaradei to report to it by 6 March on Iran’s response to demands that it suspend nuclear enrichment activities and improve cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog.

ElBaradei may send his report to the Security Council after the IAEA meeting in early March.

But Kong said the resolution did not oblige the IAEA to refer Iran to the Council, and he urged all the sides to intensify diplomatic efforts and called for Iran to abide by the resolution.

“There is still room to resolve the issue through diplomatic negotiations,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

India should get nuclear power from thorium reserves

MANILA, 8 Feb—With complexity gripping talks between India and the US on the nuclear deal, India's President, who has said energy independence should be the country’s top priority and suggested development of nuclear power using thorium which is abundantly available at home.

“Nuclear power generation has been given a thrust by the use of uranium-based fuel (which US is set to supply to India if the deal comes through). However, there would be a requirement for ten-fold increase in nuclear power generation even to attain a reasonable degree of energy self-sufficiency for our country,” Kalam said at the Asiatic Society gathering here on Sunday.

“Hence, energy independence has to be India's top priority and highest priority. We must be determined to achieve this within the next 25 years, that is by the year 2030—a 25-year national mission must be formulated, funds guaranteed and leadership entrusted without delay,” the President said.

He also urged banks to come out with financial support for these programmes.

Kalam said that while energy security, which means ensuring India getting its citizens a supply of lifeline energy at affordable costs, is a very important need, “it must be considered as a transition strategy as the ‘real goal is energy independence’.

Setting a target of around 200 billion US dollars by 2008 for India's market share in IT services, IT enabled services and Business Process Outsourcing, Kalam said the target was an achievable one. — MNA/PTI

Uganda to procure thermal power plants to address power crisis

KAMPALA, 8 Feb—The Ugandan Government is in the process of procuring thermal plants to generate 150 megawatts (MW), as an emergency measure to address the current power shortage the country is facing, a senior government official has said.

The permanent secretary from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Fred Kagambame, was quoted by local Press as saying on Tuesday that the installation of the first thermal generators that will generate 50 megawatts will be accomplished by June this year. He said of the 150 megawatts, 50 megawatts will be supplied by an inde-pendent power producer and will be installed in four months.

Uganda needs about 340 megawatts, but the country's two major dams, Kirwa and Nalubaale, are generating 180 megawatts, supplemented by Aggerek's 50 megawatts of thermal electricity.

Kagambame attributed the cause of the shortfall to reduce water levels at the two dams due to prolonged drought, delays in setting up of the 250 megawatts Bujagali power project that was to start in 2004 and increased demand.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam detects seven cross-border drug transporting cases

HANOI, 8 Feb—Vietnam’s border guards have recently uncovered seven cases of transporting narcotics via borders into the country, arresting 23 people.

They also seized nearly 1.6 kilos of heroin, 1.5 kilos of opium, 3,028 lab-made drug pills, 0.4 kilos of explosives, and some hot weapons when detecting the seven cases during the Lunar New Year Festival from 27 January to 2 February, local newspaper People’s Army reported on Tuesday.

Four cases were unearthed in the two northern provinces of Son La and Lao Cai, and the southern province of Binh Phuoc. Border guards in Binh Phuoc detected a case of transporting lab-made drugs from Cambodia to Vietnam. By early 2004, Vietnam had a total of 160 drug addicts, of whom 30.5 per cent are from 13 northern mountainous provinces. According to law of the country, trafficking more than 600 grammes of heroin is punishable by death or life imprisonment.

MNA/Xinhua

Government workers confiscate a bird in a village near Sualaimantya, about 331 km (210 miles) north of Baghdad, on 8 Feb, 2006.
**Vietnam seeks big investment for aviation development**

HANOI, 8 Feb—Vietnam needs 12 billion US dollars to develop its aviation sector in the 2005-2025 period, local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Tuesday.

To obtain the large money, the country should have better policies on luring foreign investment, as domestic sources remain poor, the paper quoted local experts as saying.

“The state budget meets only one-fifth of the total capital,” said head of the Planning and Investment Department under the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam, Dinh Viet Thang. Vietnam has intensified attracting both foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA) resources in the aviation sector. But, foreign capital now constitutes a small portion of the sector’s investment.

Since half of the needed money will be spent on upgrading aviation infrastructure, many foreign investors are wary of investing in projects that do not promise short-term profit. In terminal construction, investors may receive profit only when the number of passengers annually going through the terminal is at least six million, but now only Tan Son Nhat International Airport in southern Ho Chi Minh City reaches the figure. This year, Vietnam will build a new terminal in Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi capital, expand Tan Son Nhat and upgrade Chu Lai Airport in central Quang Nam Province into a cargo transport center capable of handling 4.5 million tons per annum.

Vietnam has put 1.57 trillion Vietnamese dong (roughly 99.4 million dollars) into upgrading its three international airports in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and central Da Nang City, and 22 airports nationwide since 1993.

**SingTel reports nearly 78 m mobile subscribers in Asia**

SINGAPORE, 8 Feb—Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) said on Tuesday that its mobile subscriber base in Asia grew by 26 per cent last year to reach 77.79 million as of the end of 2005. “This is the largest mobile customer base in Asia outside of China,” said a statement released on Tuesday by the company, which is one of the leading telecom services providers in the city state and Asia.

SingTel’s five regional mobile associates in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand reported a total of 69.87 million an increase of 29.8 per cent over the previous year.

Its Australian subsidiary Optus expanded the user base to 6.35 million as of the end of 2005, up 1.6 per cent from a year ago, the statement said, adding that it “was achieved despite intense competition in the Australian mobile market”. At home, the number of SingTel’s mobile customers rose by 5.2 per cent from 2004 to reach 1.62 million at the end of last year, which included some 55,000 users of the third generation (3G) mobile services.—MNA/Xinhua

**Toshiba develops fastest speed, highest density chip**

TOKYO, 8 Feb—Japan’s major electrical machinery maker Toshiba Corp announced on Tuesday it has developed a new chip that features the world’s fastest operating speed and highest density.

The device, titled as Ferroelectric Random Access Memory, or FeRAM, has a 64-megabit storage capacity and can read and write 200 megabytes per second. It is “the most advanced combination of performance and density yet achieved,” Kyodo News quoted the company announcement as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

**Cab carrying film actor hits girl in W India**

NAQPUR, 8 Feb—A taxi, in which Indian film actor Salman Khan was travelling, Tuesday hit a teenage girl near Bhandara here in West India, police said.

The girl suffered minor injuries and was admitted to a hospital, they said. The actor was here to attend the birthday centenary of Manohar Bhai Patel, father of federal Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel.—MNA/PTI

**Japan’s Princess Kiko expecting 3rd child**

TOKYO, 8 Feb—Japan’s Princess Kiko, wife of the Emperor’s younger son, is pregnant, media said on Tuesday as the nation debates whether women should be allowed to inherit the imperial throne.

Public broadcaster NHK said the Imperial Household Agency was set to announce the pregnancy, but agency officials said there were no such plans and they could not confirm it.

The Princess’s husband is Prince Akishino, the second son of Emperor Akihito. Her pregnancy, if confirmed, is likely to affect a debate on changing the succession law, because opponents of any change will want to wait and see if the baby is a boy.

No boys have been born into the imperial family since 1965, and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has said he wants to revise the law — which allows only males descended from emperors to become sovereign — in the current session of Parliament.

Those opposed to changing the longstanding tradition insist on maintaining the male line, some even promoting the idea of reviving the princely houses abolished after World War II in an attempt to find a male heir.

Some officials at the Imperial Household Agency have said in the past that they were pinning their hopes on Kiko and Akishino having a boy, who would be third in line to inherit the Chrysanthemum throne after his father and Crown Prince Naruhito.

Both of Kiko’s two children are daughters. Kyodo News agency said she would likely give birth in September or October.—MNA/Reuters

**A mobile phone embedded with a computer chip is used to buy things at a kiosk by tapping it on a reading device marked with ‘Suica’ at Tokyo’s JR Shinjuku Station on 8 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET**

**Pilot Steve Fossett lifts off from the runway in the Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer aircraft as he attempts a record breaking flight from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Fla on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET**

**A bookcase, measuring 50 metres (164 feet) long, is suspended 10 metres (33 feet) above the floor in Nanjing, capital of east china’s Jiangsu Province on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET**
Turkey furious over “political” punishment from FIFA

ISTANBUL, 9 Feb — Turkish media responded angrily on Wednesday to FIFA’s punishment ordering Turkey to play its next six home matches abroad and behind closed doors, in a move seen as jeopardizing its chances of qualifying for Euro 2008.

The sanctions imposed by football’s governing body was in response to a fracas at their World Cup qualifier against Switzerland in Istanbul.

The committee was chaired by Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The sanctions, which apply to official matches and not friendlies, are among the most severe handed out to a national association and papers said it unfairly punished the fans.

“I feel more relaxed as I’m improving from one match to the other,” she added.

FIFA said in a statement on Tuesday that two Turk- ish players, Alpay Ozalan and Enre Belozenoglu, would be banned for six matches as would Switzerland’s Benjamin Loit in the quarter-finals.

The sanctions were seen as jeopardizing its chances of qualifying for Euro 2008.

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Safina reaches Paris Open quarterfinal

PARIS, 9 Feb — Russian Dinara Safina remained on course to retain her title, taming France’s Virginie Razzano 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals at the French Open tennis tournament at Pierre de Coubertin stadium in Paris on 8 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Turkey open over “political” punishment from FIFA

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Microsoft plans new PC security service in June

MICROSOFT'S Window's OneCare Live, a subscription-based, self-updating service, will push the software giant into competition with consumer security providers Symantec Corp and McAffee Inc.

The company downplayed a potential showdown with the PC security firms, including Trend Micro Inc, saying it did not see any other company offering an all-in-one service that included anti-virus, firewall and anti-spyware software along with backup and computer performance maintenance tools.

"As I look into this market right now, there is nobody else in this category," said Dennis Bonsall, director of Windows OneCare Live.

The Windows OneCare Live will be available via retailers and the web for an annual fee of 49.95 US dollars for up to three computers, targeting consumers and small businesses.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft started offering a test version of the security and maintenance service in November and said it has nearly 200,000 "beta" users of the product.

Established players in the PC security industry are already bracing for Microsoft's entry by bundling anti-spyware protection with anti-virus software. Last week, Symantec's CEO John Thompson said the company would make investments to fend off Microsoft and any other potential competitors.

Windows OneCare Live's business model of delivering services and products through the Internet reflects Microsoft's efforts to use the web to quickly and easily deliver new products and services to customers, a strategy employed by rivals Google Inc and Yahoo Inc.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Thursday, 9 February, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions.

The significant night temperatures were Pylaung (3°C), Lashio, Heho and Haka (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 8-2-2006 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 9-2-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 9-2-2006 was (78%). Total sunshine hours on 8-2-2006 was (3.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (17:30) hours MST on 8-2-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 10-2-2006:
Possibility of isolated light rain in Rakhine and Northern Shan States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-2-2006: Partly cloudy.
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

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

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

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**Union Flag arrives Dagon Myothit (South) Township**

**Yangon, 9 Feb** — The Union Flag that rested a night at Thihadipa Sports Ground in Thanlyin Township yesterday was conveyed to Dagon Myothit (South) Township by the Union Boat and flag relay teams this morning.

While the people together with Guard of Honour of Yangon Command saluted the Union Flag at the sports ground in Thanlyin, the Military Band of Yangon Command played the national anthem. Next, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyay took out the Union Flag from the silver bowl and carried it flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students and national races. At the archway of the sports ground, Lt-Col Aung Pyay handed over the flag to Chairman of Yangon East District PDC Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein.

Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein carried the Flag again and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais on board the Union Boat. Afterwards, the Union Flag was conveyed by the Union Boat to Dagon Myothit (South) Township representing Yangon East District.

Along the route, local people, authorities, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, war veterans, teachers, students, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, totalling over 120,000 in Thakayta, Dawbon, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships welcomed the Union Flag.

(See page 10)

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**Pyay road to be closed temporarily**

**Yangon, 9 Feb** — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council announced that Pyay road section between Ahlon road and Shin Saw Pu road will temporarily be closed to traffic from 6 am to 9 am on 12 February 2006 while the 59th Anniversary Union Day ceremony is being held. — MNA

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**Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day**

It is your duty to enhance Union Spirit already inculcated into the youths. Only when people are fully equipped with Union Spirit, will the territory of the Union of Myanmar exist in perpetuity.

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**MINT SOE**

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**INSIDE**

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**Guard of Honour of Yangon Command and local people salute the Union Flag at the sports ground in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA**

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**The Union Flag is being conveyed by flag relay teams. — MNA**

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**Dagon Myothit (North) Townships welcomed the Union Flag.**

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**Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein salutes the Union Flag. — MNA**