It is important for all of us to nurture Union Spirit regardless of the place we are residing. Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism that will ever protect and safeguard all the national races on which the Union of Myanmar, through the might of unity of national people, managed to throw off the yoke of servitude under the colonialists who enslaved the nation for more than one hundred years, and the nation became an independent and sovereign nation again.

Moreover, it is also the day which reflects the national essence that the nation, exerting the strength of the absolute unity of national races born in the Union, and the Union Spirit, could achieve a triumph over stark deception and the driving of a wedge by the colonialists, with national conviction and awareness. From time immemorial, national brethren have been living together in the Union of Myanmar through thick and thin with friendship to one another, mutual help and reliance, forbearance, mutual collaboration based on family spirit and Union Spirit.

All the national races should notice and preserve the fine tradition of Myanmar Community that a tribe that has come into being since early history while in search of better place and condition settled down in groups in the area that would become the Union of Myanmar and they thrived into more than one hundred races.

(See page 6)
Strive for national development through unity

The 12th February 2006 (today) is the 59th Anniversary of the Union Day of the Union of Myanmar. The Union of Myanmar is a land where national races are living together in unity and amity.

A significant characteristic of the Union of Myanmar is that the national brethren have been living in unity and amity since yore. The national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan are kindred living in the same land and partaking water from the same source although they are different in ethnic groups and dialects.

The national brethren who have been living in the Union for years countable by the thousand are endowed with Union Spirit. With this fine tradition, they have consolidated themselves as a people in the simple and single term ‘Myanmar’.

The Panglong Agreement was signed on 12 February 1947, in the time of independence struggle, and as a result, the entire nation had been able to show unity and Union Spirit. Throughout the course of history, Union-born ethnic groups have stood in solidarity and crushed all the external dangers posed to the nation. The nation thus came into being as an independent and sovereign nation.

The Union Day (the 12th February) is a day of historical significance for the entire national people. The ceremonies to mark the Union Day are held on a grand scale yearly all over the country.

Nowadays, taking lessons from the past, the government is giving priority to national consolidation for shaping the future of the nation. The country is now on the right path of development.

Thanks to concerted and integrated efforts of the entire national people under the right leadership of the government, remarkable progress has been made in all aspects of the nation.

Extended building of dams and reservoirs, roads and bridges, health and education infrastructures highlight the goodwill of the government towards the people.

Such being so, the entire national people are to uphold the fine tradition of living in unity and amity, sharing weal or woe, while striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Work Co-ord meeting on smooth and secure transport held

YANGON, 11 Feb — The work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport took place at the meeting hall of Yangon Command yesterday afternoon with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hay Win.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Hay Win made an opening speech. Later, rectors, pro-rectors and principals of universities and colleges, and officials of all Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon) reported on matters related to ferry for universities and colleges, reduction of traffic accidents.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, military region commanders, station commanders, and secretary and members of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council. — MNA

Gravel roads put into service in Nyaungdon, Maubin

YANGON, 11 Feb — A ceremony to put Themla gravel road into service was held in Nyaungdon this morning.

After the ceremony, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and party inspected the road measuring 3,500 feet by 12 feet. Officials formally opened the road.

The minister and party also attended the ceremony to open the repaved Myothit 3rd Road in Maubin. Next, the minister explained rural and urban development tasks to the local people.

In Tarpat West Village of Maubin Township, the minister and party joined the ceremony to inaugurate the gravel road linking Maubin-Kyaiklat road.

After the opening ceremony, the minister and party inspected the road. — MNA

7th Leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour 14-17 Feb

YANGON, 11 Feb — The Seventh Leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour, to be jointly organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, and to be sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd, will take place at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) from 14 to 17 February.

The tour will be categorized as professional golfer division and amateur division (handicap 0-12). Those wishing to take part in the tour may enrol at Han Golf Master Pro-Shop and Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) Office, Tel: 635563, and 099972554, not later than 4 pm on 12 February.

The tour will be co-sponsored by KBZ Bank Ltd, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Srixon, Yangon Golf Club, Kachin Golfers Group, Jade Myanmar Co Ltd, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, and London. Han Event Management will organize the functions of the golf tour. — MNA

U Kyaw Naing-Daw Ei Ei Cho and family of Punhlaing Housing Estate in Kyimyindine Township present K 100,000 to Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hanbzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board recently. — MNA
Russia, unlike US supports Asia for top UN post

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Feb — Russia said a successor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan should be an Asian and threw cold water on US suggestions that the next top UN diplomat could come from any region in the world.

“We prefer to follow the traditional way of tackling the issue, of handling the matter of election of new Secretary-General,” Russia’s UN Ambassador Andrei Denisov said on Thursday. He added that it was Asia’s turn for job.

Denisov also disagreed with US Ambassador John Bolton’s proposal that the selection process be completed by midyear, saying it might sideline Annan, who completes 10 years in office on 31 December.

“We do not consider Mr. Annan as somebody considering retirement,” Denisov told a news conference. “He is active and working effectively and must work until the end of his term.”

“Some items of the (UN) reform agenda have been delayed, like enlargement of the Security Council,” Denisov said.

“We are fed up with aggravations by starting discussions on a Secretary-General right now. It will only bring a mess to the reform process,” he added.

Some envoys have suggested a job description but Denisov said that too was unnecessary. Past office holders have been drawn from the diplomatic corps, he said.

Three killed as German school bus collide with truck

BERLIN, 10 Feb — A German school bus collided with a truck on Thursday, killing at least three people, German police said.

The accident took place in the town of Coppenbruegge in the state of Lower Saxony, a local police spokesman said. “A truck travelling in the opposite direction slid into oncoming traffic and sliced the bus open from the driver’s seat to the back,” he said.

An off-duty police officer with the German Federal Police and a passenger inside the bus died at the scene, police said.

Up to 15 killed in northern Pakistan blast

ISLAMABAD, 10 Feb — At least 15 people were killed and several others injured in northern Pakistan Thursday in an apparent suicide bomb blast in a procession by Shiite Muslims observing their holiest day, a Shiite leader said.

The accident occurred as Shiite Muslims were holding the traditional Muharram procession to mark the slaying of Hazrat Imam Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad.

Afghan avalanches kill 19 villagers

Mazar-i-Sharif (Afghanistan), 10 Feb — Avalanches swept away 19 homes in Afghanistan’s Hindu Kush mountains, killing 19 people, most of them children, a provincial official said on Wednesday.

The avalanches struck in remote parts of Sar-i-Pul Province on Monday and Tuesday after heavy snow over the weekend, said the province’s governor, Sayed Jalal Munir.

Last month, about 20 people were killed in avalanches in Badakshan Province, in the northeast. NATO-led peacekeepers have airlifted emergency supplies into the mountainous area. — MNA/Reuters

Three killed as German school bus collide with truck

Ex-official says White House missed Iraq intelligence

Washington, 11 Feb — A former CIA official who coordinated US intelligence on the Middle East during the Iraq invasion accused the White House of missing prewar intelligence to justify its case for war.

Paul Pillar, who was national intelligence officer for the Near East and South Asia from 2000 to 2005, also said the Senate intelligence committee and a presidential commission overlooked evidence that the Bush administration politicized the intelligence process to support White House policymakers.

“Official intelligence on Iraqi weapons programmes was flawed but even with its flaws, it was not what led to the war,” Pillar said in an article written for the March/April issue of Foreign Affairs and posted on the magazine’s Web site on Friday.

If the entire body of official intelligence analysis on Iraq had a policy implication, it was to avoid war — or, if war was going to be launched, to prepare for a messy aftermath,” he said. Pillar was not immediately available for comment.

A CIA spokesman said Pillar was expressing his own personal point of view and not the official views of the spy agency.

The CIA and other agencies that make up the US intelligence community have been widely criticized for prewar Iraq intelligence including the claim that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, which was a main justification for the war. No such weapons have been found. — Internet

Police seize 425 kilos of cocaine in SW Colombia

Bogota, 10 Feb — Colombian authorities said Thursday they had seized 425 kilos of cocaine hidden in an all terrain vehicle bound for the Pacific coast port of Tumaco, southwestern Colombia.

Commander of the Colombian Pacific Ocean Navy Jairo Pena suspected the cocaine was being transported to Tumaco to be shipped abroad.

Highway police arrested three people, including a minor, an officer added. Colombian Army data indicates that some 3.5 tons of cocaine have been seized in the first six weeks of this year, while around 62 tons were recovered last year.

Mexican police seize 7.7 tons of marijuana

Mexico City, 10 Feb — Mexican police have confiscated about 7.7 tons of marijuana in an articulated truck in the west state of Durango, local media reported on Thursday.

Police officers seized the drugs when they searched the truck that violated registration regulations. The marijuana was hidden in a secret compartment of the truck and packed into 1,310 bags, the Federal Preventative Police said.

Three killed as German school bus collide with truck

Ex-official says White House missed Iraq intelligence

Police seize 425 kilos of cocaine in SW Colombia

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Police seize 425 kilos of cocaine in SW Colombia

Mexican police seize 7.7 tons of marijuana
China, ASEAN agree on joint safeguard of S China Sea’s peace

SANYA, 10 Feb—China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed on joint safeguarding the peace and stability of South China Sea, a two-day meeting which concluded here Thursday was told. The meeting all agreed that promoting the pragmatic cooperation in South China Sea is of great significance to pushing forward the development of the China-ASEAN strategic partnership.

Participants to the meeting also reached agreement on relevant cooperation projects, and made a working plan for the China-ASEAN joint working group in 2006.

Nine killed in bus crash in central Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 10 Feb—At least nine passengers were killed when a tanker truck overturned and hit their bus before exploding in the central Mexican State of Guanajuato on Thursday, local radio reported.

The truck, which was carrying flammable fuel, was leaving Guanajuato for Mexico City when the collision occurred. Lieutenant Salvador Lopez of the Federal Preventative Police said his forces had closed Federal Highway 90 at the scene of the incident, about five kilometres from La Piedad, a city in Guanajuato, 290 kilometres west of the capital. Lopez said police were continuing their rescue attempts and hoped to reopen the highway soon. One of the drivers was rescued from the wreckage, he added.

More than 100 policemen have been taking part in the rescue mission and the Mexican Army has been called in to make safe the truck’s remaining fuel.

Three US soldiers killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Feb—Three US soldiers were killed in separate incidents in western Iraq, US military said on Thursday. A US Marine died of a non-hostile traffic accident while conducting combat operations near the Qaim area on 7 February, the military said in a statement.

A second Marine was killed when his vehicle hit a makeshift bomb near the Baghshodi area on February 6, the military said in a separate statement.

A third US soldier was killed when a roadside bomb struck his vehicle during combat operations in the Anbar Province on 5 February, the military said in another statement.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, according to the statements.— MNA/Xinhua

Blair’s Labour Party suffers surprise poll defeat

LONDON, 10 Feb—Britain’s ruling Labour Party suffered a shock defeat to the leaderless Liberal Democrats in a Scottish by-election on Friday.

Prime Minister Tony Blair’s Labour had a strong 11,500 majority in the eastern seat of Dunfermline and West Fife overturned by Britain’s third party.

The result was a blow for Blair, struggling to face down rebels in his party over key reforms, and his Finance Minister Gordon Brown, who took part in the election campaign.

Labour had been expected to retain the seat comfortably, while the Liberal Democrats are still reeling after a string of scandals involving senior party members.

“This is truly a historic victory,” winning candidate Willie Rennie said in a speech. “The people... have sent a powerful message to the Labour government that will rock the foundations of Downing Street.”

The Liberal Democrats were shaken last month by the departure of their leader, Charles Kennedy after he admitted having a drug problem.

Two weeks later, Mark Oaten, one of Kennedy’s possible successors, quit the leadership race after he admitted seeing a male prostitute. Another potential leader, Simon Hughes, admitted he had misled the media over his homosexuality.

Despite the party’s troubles, Rennie emerged as a comfortable winner in the Scottish election.

He polled 12,391 votes to secure a 1,800 majority over Labour’s candidate Catherine Stihler, who finished second.

The seat became vacant after the area’s Labour MP Rachel Squire died from cancer last month.

14 wounded in explosion in Istanbul

ANKARA, 10 Feb—At least 14 people were wounded in a bomb explosion in Istanbul on Thursday, the largest city of Turkey, police said.

Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah confirmed that six police officers and eight civilians were wounded in the explosion, which occurred in an Internet cafe in Istanbul on Thursday.

The blast scene was at the cafe at the Ort'a Mahalle Zambak Street in Buyrampasu District of Istanbul at 2:00 pm (1200 GMT), Cerrah was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

The Internet cafe is frequented by police officers from the nearby local headquarters, said Cerrah, adding that the wounded have been taken to Saklikent State Hospital.

There was no immediate report on the motive of the blast and no immediate claim of responsibility, either. — MNA/Xinhua

An Iraqi child lies in a hospital after getting wounded from a car bomb attack in Doura district in Baghdad on 10 Feb, 2006. — Internet

Chavez says Britain should give Falklands to Argentina

CARACAS (Venezuela), 10 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez took another swipe at British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday, saying Britain should give back the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

Chavez used Thursday’s speech to President George W Bush again, calling him a “nut case”.

The fiery Venezuelan leader said US ally Britain had violated the sovereignty of various nations.

He cited the case of the tiny Falkland Islands off the coast of Argentina, which Britain and Argentina went to war over in 1982.

“We have to remember the Falklands, how they were taken away from the Argentinians,” Chavez said in the western Venezuelan city of Maracaba. “Those islands are Argentina’s. Return them, Mr Blair, those islands are Argentina’s.”

Britain still controls the Falklands, which Argentine troops invaded in 1982, setting off a three-month war against colonial ruler Britain in which hundreds were killed on both sides and more than 1,000 wounded. Blair said on Wednesday that countries like Venezuela and Cuba should realize they had to much to gain from the principles of democracy.

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Irrigation facilities, physic nut nurseries inspected

YANGON, 11 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo made an inspection tour of Magway and Mandalay Divisions on 5 February.

He inspected irrigation facilities at Mezali Diversion Dam in Pwintbyu Township, Tanyaung river water pumping project in Salin Township, and Kyaukku river water pumping project in NyaungU Township.

While in NyaungU, the minister oversaw thriving physic nut saplings at the nursery with the use of irrigation facilities from the river water pumping project.

At the dry region central crops research farm in NyaungU, the minister looked into nurturing of 120,000 physic nut saplings on 100 acres of land. — MNA

Minister inspects saw mills in industrial zone

YANGON, 11 Feb — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected saw mills in Wataya Timber-based Industrial Zone in Yangon Division yesterday.

On arrival at furniture factory of Htoo Trading Co Ltd, the minister heard reports on furniture produced for Europe market and the minister inspected the production of the factory.

Later, the minister arrived at No-6 furniture factory and inspected the procedure of the factory and the products of the factory for export. — MNA

Myanmar Music Asiayon responsible for preserving and promoting national cultural heritage

YANGON, 11 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with newly-elected executives and members of the Myanmar Music Asiayon at the Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road here yesterday.

The minister in his speech said that the Myanmar Music Asiayon had been reconstituted with new members to accelerate its functions.

The ministry recognized the conscientious performance of the old members in the tasks of the association and in the national tasks during the tenure, he said.

In serving the interests of members of the music world and the nation and the people, the new executives are to make collaborative efforts to achieve the targets.

Myanmar has fine traditions in the music field with high quality. He urged them to preserve the fine traditions — (1) possessing national characters with own styles, (2) being endowed with essence in all aspects with high standard, and (3) conscientiousness in national duty throughout the history.

As today is the knowledge age, every sector is improving rapidly, Myanmar music, culture and arts are facing challenges. So, it is required to preserve and safeguard the national cultural heritage. In that regard, the government organizes traditional cultural performing arts competitions yearly.

The Myanmar Music Asiayon is responsible for preserving and promoting cultural heritage of Myanmar music and taking innovative measures in accord with the changes in order that traditional culture should not be influenced by aliens.

He proposed to lay down five objectives: (1) to place emphasis on improvement and solidity of Myanmar music world, (2) to take a leading role and to provide assistance for development of production of Myanmar music works, (3) to help raise social life of members of music world, (4) to supervise innovation of own style, own tune, and (5) to join hands with the government and the people in national duties in line with the motto “Develop the nation through the might of music”.

In conclusion, the minister pledged the ministry will render necessary assistance in various spheres in accord with the frame of the policy for the development of the music.

Chairman of the Myanmar Music Asiayon U Maung Maung Latt, Secretary Playboy Than Naing, Executive U Ko Ko Lwin and Patrons Accordion U Ohn Kyaw and Hinthada U Myint Ngwe presented the reports on the association. The minister assessed the reports and delivered concluding remarks. — MNA
It is important for all of us to nurture Union Spirit regardless of the place...

Living together across the Union of Myanmar as well as in each and every part of the nation, various national races have possessed a common socio-economic life and shared joys and sorrows throughout the history. Therefore, a national race or a part of the Union cannot be separated from national races or from the Union. And fruitful results will come out only when the entire Union and all the national races are taken into account together. This indicates a significant characteristic of the Union.

So, all the national races are to accept that stability, peace, development and existence of the Union of Myanmar encompassing all the national races completely rely on the strength of national solidarity and flourishing of Union Spirit.

And with the sound foundations as the base, the government laid down the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation:

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — and has re-consolidated the national unity. Thanks to the national policy, the entire nation including border areas are witnessing peace and stability and sound foundations of cooperation and unity and political, economic and social developments as the State Peace and Development Council was able to end armed conflicts in the whole Union.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the entire people of the nation in all seriousness to implement the following objectives of the 59th Anniversary Union Day in harmony and union and with firm resolve, while always cultivating Union Spirit, which is the true patriotism, and always striving to further consolidate national solidarity for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation:

— 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 Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;

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

— for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme of the State. — MNA
Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyawing Kyawng... (from page 6)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win presented robes and alms to State Ovadaçariya Bahan Thirimanta Sankyau Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Rajindabhivamsa.

Members of the State Peace and Development Council, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and party also donated robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyawing Kyawng and party shared merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

After the ceremony, the ‘soon’ offering ceremony followed. While Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyawing Kyawng and party donated ‘soon’ and other alms to 108 members of the Sangha, Mingala Drum Troupe of Thirikhema Wut Association sang the religious songs.

Likewise, the Ministry of Defence, State Peace and Development Council Office, the Prime Minister’s Office, Adjutant-General’s Office, Quartermaster-General’s Office, Commander-in-Chief (Navy)’s Office, Commander-in-Chief (Air)’s Office, ministries, Supreme Court, Attorney-General’s Office, Auditor-General’s Office, Civil Service Selection and Training Board Office, Yangon Command Headquarters, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office, Yangon City Development Committee, District and Township PDCs and wellwishers donated provisions and alms worth K 16.5 million to members of the Sangha.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyawing Kyawng offer an alms bowl to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer alms to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, offering an alms bowl to a Sayadaw. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer an alms bowl to a Sayadaw. — MNA
Honouring the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

Towards everlasting Union Spirit

Hundred fruits from a common stem—Our Union

'Union' is a term that should always be kept on record for Myanmar literature, Myanmar culture and Myanmar people. History has also seen 'Myanmar' and 'Union' as in divisible as water.

From historical point of view and literature 'union' was born in Bagan era, forming districts and regions into a nation. The term 'Union' has been chronicled through the unity of national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Bamar and Shan under the leadership of King Anawrahta.

Anawrahta can be defined as a king who was never against his subjects, and the city “Arimaddanapura” he founded was meant to protect the people from any kind of enemy and danger. The king, and the people strove to ensure the perpetuity of Arimaddanapura. Moreover, King Anawrahta held a ceremony at which the king, the servicemen and the people made a solemn vow to work together for the country. One of the important points in their pledges stated that one should never harm the interest of the people and the State through instigation of the aliens. It was King Anawrahta who gave birth to Union Spirit, not going against the people at all.

In Taungoo period also, like Tabin Shwe Hti, King Bayintnaung underscored the importance of national solidarity. In the regions where he won victories, the king secured the allegiance of leaders and restored their positions. He consulted with Mon, Bamar, and Shan ministers in deciding State and defence affairs.

Bayintnaung as well as his son King Nanda called their great country Hanthawady Kingdom of Yamanga region. Therefore, the minds of the people in of King Bayintnaung were equipped with Union Spirit.

With Union Spirit, the Panglong Agreement that was the pillar of unity was signed on 12 February 1947. Thanks to the agreement, independence that belongs to the entire national people was regained on 4 January 1948.

That is Union Spirit which is very important for the nation. All of you, Comrades, know that our nation is one made up of various national races. When all nations were united, our nation was prosperous and strong. You will realize if you study Bagan, Taungoo and Konbaung periods. During that time, we were able to win the respect of our neighbours. So, the value of Union Spirit is enormous.

Union Spirit is such that bonds all citizens in unity no matter in which section, which region they may reside.

With Union Spirit, the Panglong Agreement that was the pillar of unity was signed on 12 February 1947. Thanks to the agreement, independence that belongs to the entire national people was regained on 4 January 1948.
Mon State is located in the south-eastern part of the Union of Myanmar. As Mon and Bamar national races are residing in the state on 4749 square miles of land together with Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Pa-O, Rakhine and Shan, it is like a mini-union. The population of Mon State is about 2,822,000 and population density of the state is 596 persons per square mile.

Mountain ranges with the height of 1500 feet and plains are adjacent to each other in the state and coastal plains are situated between Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers. Zinkyak and Taung-nyo mountain ranges are running from north to south while Sittoung, Bilin, Attaran, Gyaing, Thanlwin and Ye rivers flow through the state.

With goodwill, the government is not sparing its efforts for fulfilling the needs in the sectors of agriculture, livestock breeding, transportation, education, health, etc. of the state and thus people living there are now witnessing fruits of these endeavours.

Now is the time when efforts are being made on self-reliant basis for equitable development of all states and divisions. The table indicates progress made in Mon State during the period from 1988 to the present.

**Development of Mon State**

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<tr>
<td>Oilfield/natural gas (offshore)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas production (cubic feet in million)</td>
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<td>211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric power</td>
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<td>Electricity consumption (unit in million)</td>
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<td>201</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Basic Education</td>
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<td>Middle school</td>
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<td>High school</td>
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<td>Traditional medicine hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
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<td>Information and Public Relations</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Self-reliant village library</td>
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With goodwill, the government is not sparing its efforts for fulfilling the needs in the sectors of agriculture, livestock breeding, transportation, education, health, etc. of the state and thus people living there are now witnessing fruits of these endeavours. Now is the time when efforts are being made on self-reliant basis for equitable development of all states and divisions. The table indicates progress made in Mon State during the period from 1988 to the present.
YANGON, 11 Feb — The exhibition to mark the 59th Anniversary of the Union Day continued at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall here for the fourth day today. The exhibition organized by the sub-committee for holding the 59th Anniversary Union Day was packed with enthusiasts including students. Moreover, enthusiasts also took part in computer quiz at the exhibition which will last till 16 February from 9 am to 5 pm daily. — MNA

YANGON, 11 Feb — Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander hosts dinner in honour of Union Day delegates and family hosted a dinner at his home in honour of the delegates who will attend the 59th Anniversary Union Day ceremony. Before dinner, the commander cordially greeted the delegates and presented gifts to them. Then the dinner was hosted to the guests. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer provisions to a Sayadaw. (News on page 1) — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe donate alms to a Sayadaw. (News on page 1) — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate offerings to a Sayadaw. (News on page 1) — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate alms to a Sayadaw. (News on page 1) — MNA

Myanmar produces bio-diesel from physic nut

Guidance of the Head of State
During his inspection tour of PyinOoLwin on 15 December 2005, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe held a meeting with officials from Kachin State, Bago, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, Shan State (North) and Shan State (South) and gave guidance on putting 500,000 acres under physic nut in each state and division in three years, totalling seven million acres the length and breadth of the nation. Physic nut grows naturally in various regions in Myanmar. Local people failed to make a careful study of the benefit of the crop and regarded it as a wild plant. Physic nut thrives in Myanmar

Physic nut grows well in Myanmar and it can enhance the interests of the region, the State and the people. In particular, it thrives in arid zones and temperate regions.

In the past, the crop was grown along the lines of fences of farms, houses and villages in the arid zones of Myanmar — Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions. Now, it is planted on a large scale across the states and divisions in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State on producing physic nut oil (bio-diesel) from physic nut.

To exceed targeted sown acreage
It is easy to grow physic nut that thrives in every region of the nation. So, respective states and divisions are taking measures for exceeding the targets of sown acreage by growing the crop on a small scale and reclaiming the vacant lands.

For instance, previously, there were about 500,000 physic nut plants in NyaungU District, Mandalay Division, and 29.5 million grafts can be thus obtained from those plants. So, additional 30,000 acres can be put under physic nut in the region.

Physic nut grows well in Myanmar and it can enhance the interests of the region, the State and the people. In particular, it thrives in arid zones and temperate regions.
Prime Minister attends…

(from page 16) The delegates and cultural troupes to the 59th Anniversary Union Day celebrations, accompanied by Joint-Secretary of Reception and Accommodation Sub Committee Maj Saw Hlaing and officials, visited National Museum and Defence Services Museum.

The Prime Minister and party went to Kengtawng Basic Education High School and inspected equipment at the laboratory and practical experiment by students. The Prime Minister also inspected multimedia classrooms and observed skill demonstration of students.

The Prime Minister and party attended the ceremony to share merits for construction of two-storied building of Sasana Rekkhita Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Kengtawng.

Also present were Sayadaws led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara and members of the Sangha and local people.

The Prime Minister presented alms to the Sayadaws. The Magway Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the Prime Minister and party shared merits for the donation.

The building was constructed in 1305 Myanmar Era. Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye during his inspection tour of Kengtawng gave instructions on renovation of the building without compromising its original style.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister attended the ceremony to sow physic nut seeds and grafts at the Panglong General Administration Department in Loilem Township and viewed documentary photos on growing physic nut plants. A total of 110,000 seeds and grafts were grown at the ceremony.

Yesterday morning, the Prime Minister attended the hoisting of Htidaw (tiered and ornamented finial) atop the Maha Rathhabha Samaggi Pagoda in Panglong. Then, he flew back here.

Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-General U Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min and CEC Member U Tin Naing Thein who accompanied the Prime Minister held a meeting with town elders, the secretary and executives of Shan State USDA, secretaries, executives and members of USdas of districts and townships in Loilem and Langkho Districts yesterday evening at Loilem District USDA office. They fulfilled the requirements in response to the reports presented.

Prime Minister General Soe Win and party receiving Nine Precepts from Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects classroom of Kengtawng Basic Education High School. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win views physic nut grafts growing by Tatmadawmen and family members at the farm of Tatmadaw (Air). — MNA

Union Day delegates and cultural troupes visit National Museum and Defence Services Museum

YANGON, 11 Feb — The delegates and cultural troupes to the 59th Anniversary Union Day celebrations, accompanied by Joint-Secretary of Reception and Accommodation Sub Committee Maj Saw Hlaing and officials, visited National Museum and Defence Services Museum this morning.

At the National Museum, the delegates and cultural troupes were welcomed by Director-General of Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Thein Swe and officials and they viewed round the museum.

Next, they proceeded to Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road and viewed the booths at the museum. — MNA

Union Day delegates and cultural troupes visit National Museum. — MNA
Union Flag conveyed from Taikkyi to Kyimyindine

YANGON, 11 Feb — The Union Flag that rested for a night at Gyobyu Sports Ground in Taikkyi Township arrived at Salin Sports Ground in Kyimyindine Township today.

This morning, local people together with the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command saluted the Union Flag.

Afterwards, flag relay teams carried the Union Flag. Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min handed over the Union Flag to Chairman of Yangon West District PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Tint. Flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Police Officers and national races, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint carried the flag and planted in the silver bowl on the dais.

At the sports ground, booths and shops of ministries were opened. Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and officials viewed the booths and shops. At night, Documentary Film and Myawady Anyeint Troupe of Yangon Command entertained the local people at the sports ground.

A flag relay team carrying the Union Flag to Salin Ground in Kyimyindine Township. — MNA

Germany says Iran-Russia nuclear talks offer big chance

BERLIN, 11 Feb — Next week’s talks between Iran and Russia offer a great opportunity to resolve an international dispute over Teheran’s nuclear programme, Germany’s Foreign Minister said on Thursday.

“It represents a big chance,” Frank-Walter Steinmeier told a meeting of the foreign press association.

He declined to say whether the talks might be Iran’s last opportunity to end the dispute.

Russia has invited Iranian officials to Moscow on February 16 to discuss a Kremlin proposal to process fuel for Iran’s nuclear stations on Russian soil, offering Teheran a way to pursue atomic power but not divert fuel to weapons.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is aimed at generating electricity, but the United States and European countries have said it is seeking to build an atomic arsenal.

The United Nations’ atomic watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, voted on Saturday to report Iran to the UN Security Council over its nuclear programme.

The Security Council acknowledged the IAEA action and will wait for the IAEA’s board meeting on 6 March.

Steinmeier said on Friday that would then be the appropriate time to take any necessary action.

The European Union, China and Russia have urged Iran to use the month before then to address the atomic agency’s concerns and return to talks.

Iran’s first response after Saturday’s IAEA vote was to announce it would stop implementing a protocol giving the UN nuclear watchdog agency increased inspection powers in the country.

According to the White House, US President George W Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed the Iranian nuclear issue on Thursday.

“Both leaders emphasized the importance of working together to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapons capability,” White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

MNA/Reuters

MNA

Three murderers arrested in Ottwin

YANGON, 11 Feb — Three persons were killed in a robbery case in Bago Road (South Ward) at 9 pm in Ottwin on 22 January. The three were Township Department Head Daw Hla Hla Wai, 47, daughter of U Ohn Kyaing, Daw Kyi Aye, 42, daughter of U Paw Kyaing and Ma Ei Ei Nyein, 9, daughter of U Tu, all women. They lived in the office of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

According to the investigation, Maung Zaw (a) Than Zaw, 26, son of U San Hlaing of Bo Okkar Road in Ward 40 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township was arrested on 3 February and Pho Htawng (a) Kyaw Min Tun (a) Aye Zaw Min, 29, son of U Khin Thaung, and Myint Thein, 46, son of U Lay Maung on 5 February.

Maung Zaw (a) Than Zaw had been in jail due to a murder case in Pyapon Township.

Those who committed the above-mentioned murder case said that they plotted to rob something of Daw Hla Hla Wai, who was wealthy, residing in southern edge of the town. On that night, the three accused entered her house. Daw Hla Hla Wai and Daw Kyi Aye shouted, “thief, thief” while they were watching TV in the sitting-room. Hence, Pho Htawng stabbed Daw Hla Hla Wai with a sword, and Maung Zaw (a) Than Zaw did the same to Daw Kyi Aye. Furthermore, Pho Htawng killed Ma Ei Ei Nyein who tried to run away from the house.

Due to information given by duty-conscious people, the murderers were arrested. — MNA

Donate blood
Russia invites Iran to join proposed centre of uranium enrichment

MOSCOW, 10 Feb—Iran may take part in creating the first international centre for uranium enrichment for nuclear power plants, Russia’s top nuclear-energy official said on Wednesday.

President Vladimir Putin has proposed setting up a global network of nuclear fuel cycle services, including enrichment to meet the growing demand for nuclear energy.

“Iran may become the first state to take part in the work of such a centre on Russian territory” and Teheran is considering Russia’s proposal, the head of the Federal Atomic Energy Agency, Sergei Kiriyenko, was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

Kiriyenko will travel to Teheran on February 23 to meet Iranian officials. He will also visit Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant, being built with Russian help, ITAR-TASS said.

France ready to take back waste of “toxic” ship

ALANG SHIPYARD (India), 10 Feb—France would be ready to take back toxic waste removed from a decommissioned carrier if India’s top court allowed the ship to be scrapped in an Indian shipyard, the French envoy said on Wednesday.

Environmental groups like Greenpeace have opposed the entry of the French carrier, Clemenceau, to the Alang ship breaking yards in western state of Gujarat, saying it contains hundreds of tons of toxic materials which pose a risk to workers.

The French Government says the ship contains only a fraction of that amount.

“If needed, we are ready to take back all the toxic waste from Clemenceau to France,” said French Ambassador Dominique Girard, who visited Alang on Wednesday.

“The ship should be allowed to be dismantled in Alang as it would boost the economy,” he told a news conference in Bhuj, some 30 miles east of Alang.

India’s Supreme Court is expected to decide on February 13 whether to allow the carrier to be scrapped in India. An Indian environment panel, which was to report to the Supreme Court this week on the Clemenceau, was unable to make a firm recommendation and would be submitting two reports to the court, reflecting sharp divisions in the body.

Some of shipyard workers told Reuters they wanted the Clemenceau to be dismantled in Alang, a congested and smoky town of 150,000 people and dozens of private ship-breaking yards.

“We are safe and well equipped to handle any kind of toxic waste. The environmentalists are trying to snatch away our daily bread,” said a gaunt and frail Tulsi Lal, a 52-year-old worker. — MNA/Reuters

Security officials with sniffer dogs patrol a subway train station in Bangkok on 10 Feb, 2006. — Internet
Juve prepare to call time on Inter’s Serie A bid

ROME 11 Feb — Originally billed as Inter Milan’s make-or-break bid for the title, the game against leaders Juventus at the San Siro on Sunday has lost some of its sparkle after the midweek Inter’s 2-1 defeat by Fiorentina on Wednesday allowed Juve to extend their lead to nine points with a 1-1 draw against Parma.

Now, Inter coach Roberto Mancini concedes that victory at the weekend is more about consolidating second place ahead of AC Milan than reeling in Fabio Capello’s side.

“Our objective is second place,” he told La Gazzetta dello Sport.

“On Sunday we must try to win all three points to consolidate second place in the division.”

Inter are boosted by the return of 21-year-old Nigerian striker Obafemi Martins after his country’s African Nations Cup exit and he is expected to return to the starting line-up alongside Adriano.

Juventus, though no longer in the same devastating form they showed earlier this season, will have taken heart from their draw with Parma.

Coach Fabio Capello preferred to see the result as a point gained on Inter, rather than two points lost.

Capello also would have been pleased by continuing evidence of his team’s mental toughness. Daniele Dessena gave Parma the lead in the 39th minute, only for Zlatan Ibrahimovic to hit back five minutes later with his first goal in 12 league games.

Capello is likely to leave Alessandro del Piero on the bench and return to his first-choice strike partnership of David Trezeguet and Ibrahimovic, both of whom played for only 45 minutes against Parma.

Milan, fresh from their 5-0 trouncing of Treviso, have a chance to make up ground on the top two with an away trip to Reggina.

United look to strengthen grip on second place

MANCHESTER, 11 Feb — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes his side have taken a grip on second place in the Premier League, although an away trip to Portsmouth on Saturday brings back bad memories.

“Liverpool had the two games in hand. They’ve now got one, which is when we think the balance swung our way.” — Ferguson said.

“When we beat Liverpool at home I think the other teams playing behind leaders Chelsea, but we have forged six clear of third-placed Liverpool.

The top two qualify automatically for next season’s Champions League.

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Minister says Singapore to ride on emergence of “new Asia”

SINGAPORE, 11 Feb—Singapore will leverage on its “core strengths” and its traditional linkages with China, India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to ride on the emergence of the “new Asia”, Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said on Friday.

Speaking at the lunch briefing organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, Lim said that these core strengths include political stability, efficient systems and infrastructure, good pro-

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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyai Kyaing... (from page 1)

Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, the Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and members, religious and social association members, wellwishers and guests.

First, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyai Kyaing, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered lights, flowers, water, ‘soon’, and alms to Lawka Chantha Abbhaya Labha Mani Buddha Image and paid homage. At 7.30 am, the ceremony to share merits gained was held at Gandhakuti Kyaungdawgyi in which the Buddha Image is kept. Adviser U Arnt Maung supplicated on the agenda of the ceremony. The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tassa three times. Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyai Kyaing and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abbhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abbhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

Prime Minister attends merit-sharing ceremony for building of Sasana Rakkhita Monastery in Kengtawng, Mongnai Township, Shan State (South)

Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials of the SPDC Office.

They inspected the test run of machinery with the use of physic nut oil, collection of physic nuts seeds, documentary photos, saplings, grafts and samples of green and dry physic nut fruits.

Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported on cultivation of physic nut in townships in Shan State (South) and public interest in cultivation of the crop and officials on use of physic nut oil in stoves and lamps. The Prime Minister and party inspected use of physic nut oil in power tillers and generators and cultivation of 154,000 physic nut saplings in the compound of Township PDC office.

Next, they planted physic nut grafts. The Prime Minister told departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people to grow physic nut for biodiesel.

They went to physic nut farm of Tatmadaw (Air) families where Lt-Col Kyi Win briefed them on putting 188.5 acres under 266,000 saplings. The Prime Minister planted physic nut plant and inspected the growing of 240,000 of physic nut saplings in the environs of Namhsan Airport. Brig-Gen Thura Myint Thein and officials of Namhsan Station reported on cultivation of physic nut, honey, orange and pineapple. The Prime Minister and party planted physic nut saplings. The Prime Minister and party went to Kengtawng in Mongnai Township by helicopter. They inspected the use of physic nut oil in lamps, stove, etc.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day: Bayintnaung as well as son King Nanda called their great country Hanthawady Kingdom of Rama V region. Therefore, the people in the time of King Bayintnaung were equipped with Union Spirit.