

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Most crucial step for democratic transition has been implemented successfully due largely to the public support

Priority given to national solidarity as it is indispensable for nation



Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at Annual General Meeting 2008 of Union Solidarity and Development Association.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—*The following is a translation of the full text of the speech delivered by Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the fourth-day session of the USDA Annual General Meeting (2008) here today.*

I extend my warmest greetings to all members including representatives to the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Our association is a national force, and the vast majority of the members are young ones with correct convictions and concepts and patriotic spirit. The principal duty of the

association is to make contribution towards nation-building tasks not only by participating but also organizing the entire people in the tasks. The objectives of the association remain alive because they are lofty ones and are focused on national interests.

During the 15-year existence of the association, members have kept

track of the ultimate goal and done their bit in public welfare services hand in hand with the people. Due to the public support, the membership of the association has increased to 24.6 million. Members are constantly trained to improve their abilities and performances. Members are worthy of praise for their active participation (See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe addresses Annual General Meeting (2008) of Union Solidarity and Development Association

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—The Annual General Meeting (2008) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at the meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw Ywadow beginning 24 November.

At 9 a.m. today, Patron of the USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the Annual General

Meeting (2008) of the USDA at the meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw Ywadow.

At 8.40 a.m., Senior General Than Shwe arrived at the meeting hall where he was welcomed by member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the USDA Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung

Aye, members of the Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo.

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 29 November, 2008

Constantly serve interest of the State and its people

Building a new modern developed discipline flourishing democratic nation is a national goal aspired by the entire national people.

Building a new nation is a national concern. Therefore, the entire national people are to do their bit in successful realization of the drive. In order to enable each and every citizen to actively participate in nation-building endeavours through organizing means the Union Solidarity and Development Association was formed.

Since the birth of the organization its members have been serving the interest of the State and its people whatever role they are in, while striving to be in oneness with the people.

As the strength of the organization is its members they are to be morally upright and highly qualitative. Thus, they are being nurtured and trained through training courses and seminars. Some have been sent abroad for study.

During 15 years of its existence, its members have been participating in building a modern and developed nation in a pragmatic way and out of sense of duty and unity.

Nowadays, work is well under way for successful realization of the seven-step Road Map. In that regard, the State constitution, the fourth step of the Road Map, has been approved through the national referendum.

At such a time, all the USDA members with goodwill are to actively take part in successful realization of the national goal that could bring about the national interest while organizing the entire national people to contribute their shares in the drive.

Thein Zaw Myint who leads the Professional Golfers event on second day.

MGF



People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield Cycling Race concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—The 15th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Commander-in-Chief's Shield cycling race opened at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, attended by Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Col Thein Naing who gave the opening speech.

Next, the commander and officers presented prizes to winners.

MNA



Col Thein Naing presents awards to winners of 15th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Commander-in-Chief's Shield cycling race.—MNA

Earthquake Report

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—A Moderate earthquake of intensity (6.0) Richter Scale with its

epicenter about (1600) miles South of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory outside of Myanmar

(Indonesia) was recorded at (15) hrs (20) min (48) sec M.S.T on 28th November 2008.—MNA

Air Bagan Open Golf C'ship continues



NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov—Air Bagan Open Golf Championships, the second leg of Myanmar

Golf Tour 2008-2009, organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar P.G.A went on as the second day at PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, this morning.

After the 18-hole leg, Thein Zaw Myint (KM Golf Centre) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) shared the lead on 144 strokes each in the Professional Golfers event.

Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) and Min Naing (Srixon) stood second on 145 strokes each, followed by Zaw Zin Win (Srixon) on 146 strokes.

In the amateur golfers

event, Aung Win (Forestry) led on 145 strokes. His runners-up are Yan Myo Aye and Zaw Latt on 150 strokes each, and Myo Win Aung and Khin Maung Aye followed them on 152 strokes.

With the aim of enabling Myanmar golfers to achieve greater success in international golf tournaments, Air Bagan Ltd contributed as main sponsor, and Hotel Yangon, Ruby Dragon (Jade and Gems) Co Ltd, KBZ Bank Ltd, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, Dagon Brewery Co Ltd, MY Associates Co Ltd, Srixon, KM Golf Center, ACCEL International Co Ltd (Canon), and Lifeline (DHEA-Plus), as co-sponsors, and Han Event Management organized the Championships.

The third-day 18-hole leg takes place at the same venue tomorrow.

MNA

Natural Beauty of NgweSaung photo contest to be held

YANGON, 28 Nov — Photo contest entitled Natural Beauty of NgweSaung, organized by Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Ngwesaung zone), will be held with the assistance of Myanmar Photographic Society. A competitor may send four photos that are between (10 inches x 14 inches) and (12 inches x 18 inches).

The original negative file of photo are to be presented within seven days after making announcement if win the prizes.

The prizes are first prize, K300,000, second K200,000, third K100,000 and K50,000 each for 12 consolation prize. Photos are to be sent to MPS No.27/29, 35th street (lower block), Kyauktada Township (Ph-373167) no later than 12 December. For more information, contact MPS.

MNA

Indian commandos storm besieged Jewish centre

MUMBAI, 28 Nov — Masked Indian commandos dropped from helicopters on Friday onto the roof of a Jewish centre in Mumbai where suspected militants were holed up, possibly with hostages, as sharpshooters kept up a steady stream of fire at the five-story building.

The assault came as commandos freed nearly two dozen captives from the nearby Oberoi hotel as they searched the building for attackers still holed up more than a day after a chain of attacks across India's financial centre by the militants left at least 119 people dead.

Security officials insisted their operations, which had been going on for nearly two days, were almost over.

Hundreds of onlookers, many with binoculars, crowded onto roofs and in narrow alleys of south Mumbai, trying to catch a glimpse of the dramatic commando assault.

It was not immediately clear if there were hostages in the building or their fate. At the Oberoi hotel, at least 25 captives were rushed out and loaded into waiting cars, buses and ambulances.—*Internet*



National Security Guard (NSG) commandos take positions near a Jewish centre in Mumbai on 28 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET



An injured man is transported to the hospital, after a bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 Nov, 2008. INTERNET

India attack had some al-Qaeda hallmarks

LONDON, 28 Nov — Britain's spy agencies had little warning of the terrorist attack in Mumbai, which bore some al-Qaeda hallmarks but appears unlikely to be linked to the group's core leadership, officials said on Thursday.

Westerners in India's financial centre were targeted in the spectacular attack comprised of mul-

tiple, simultaneous assaults — a signature of past al-Qaeda actions including the Sept 11 attacks. But the Indian attack was carried out by gunmen and not the suicide bombers frequently employed by al-Qaeda and its affiliates. The group who claimed responsibility — Deccan Mujahideen — was unknown to security officials, a British security official told *The Associated Press* on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity surrounding the work. He said terror threats in India had been increasing but the scale of the attack on Wednesday was a surprise and there were no indications attacks would target Westerners.—*Internet*

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Terror leader slams US, Afghanistan Gov'ts

NEW YORK, 28 Nov — Al-Qaeda's No 2 leader has lashed out at Afghanistan's government and claimed that any US gains in Iraq will be temporary, a terror monitoring group said on Thursday.

In a new video, Ayman Al-Zawahri also lauded his group's fight in several countries and criticized leaders of those nations for their fight to counter the terrorists, according to SITE Intelligence group.

Zawahri's comments, carried on a militant Web site on Thursday, came about a week after his last message in which he accused President-elect Barack Obama of turning his back on his black heritage to gain power.

Internet

Wounded Afghans receive treatments in a hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 27 Nov, 2008. Afghan police said a suicide car bomb has exploded about 200 yards (metres) outside the main entrance to the US Embassy in Kabul in an attack against an American convoy.

INTERNET



Officials inspect the site of a suicide car bomb attack in Kabul on 27 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

Japan announces end of air mission in Iraq

TOKYO, 28 Nov—Japan announced on Friday it would end its airlift operations in Iraq by the end of the year, citing security improvements and moves toward democracy in Iraq. The largely formal order to end the nation's four-year participation in Iraq came at a government national security council meeting, and had been expected for months. Prime Minister Taro Aso said the mission had achieved its goal.

“Iraq has demonstrated a steady effort to install a democratic government and the country's security has improved

while the Iraqi people are now making their own effort to rebuild their country” Aso said in a statement.

The non-combative mission has tested the limits of Japan's pacifist constitution and divided the public. Aso said Japan will continue economic aid and technology support to Iraq. He cited a similar moves by other countries ahead of the expiration at the end of the year of the UN Security Council resolution that sets the legal basis for US troops in Iraq. Iraq is also reviewing multinational forces' activities there.—*Internet*



An Indian girl seen here was born with her heart and part of her liver growing outside her body, the surgeons will attempt to save her life. The four-day-old girl is currently being treated at the Bengal medical college on the outskirts of the northeastern Indian city of Siliguri.—XINHUA

Singapore's employment rate rise to new high of 77% in 2008

SINGAPORE, 28 Nov—Despite a more challenging economic outlook, employment in Singapore rose to a new high of 77 percent in 2008 from 76.5 percent in 2007, government data showed on Friday.

The Singapore Manpower Ministry said in a workforce report that the rise was driven by both growth in the resident population and female labor force participation

rate along with continued employment of older workers.

However, the country's jobless rate rose from a decade low of 2.4 percent in December last year to 3.1 percent in June this year, reflecting more cautious hiring sentiments amid the economic slowdown, said the report.

The report also noted that the seasonally adjusted resident jobless rate rose further to 3.3 percent in September this year amid the economic contraction and continued weakening in economic outlook.

The ministry said the

employment rate of residents aged 55 to 64 years also increased by a percentage point over the previous year to 57.2 percent this year, due to continuing efforts to enhance the employability of older persons.

It also found that more women who were previously outside the labor force were taking up jobs.

As for income, the report said the median monthly income for full-time employed residents rose over the year by 11 percent to 2,590 Singapore dollars (1,715 US dollars) in 2008.

Internet

16 Costa Rican tourists rescued from Panama's flood

PANAMA CITY, 28 Nov — A group of 16 Costa Rican tourists were rescued Thursday from the disaster area in the Panamanian province of Bocas del Toro, which has been isolated by flood.

Costa Rican Consul in David City Victor Carvajal said the tourists were brought to safety by a plane of the Colombian Air Force performing humanitarian aid mission.

Carvajal also thanked the aid and rescue groups.

Authorities of the Panamanian National System of Civil Protection (Sinaproc) said the Costa Ricans were the last group of 100 foreign tourists trapped in that zone.

Sinaproc said the number of victims has risen to 21,427.

Internet



Troops from Pakistan's army secure an area in the troubled Kabal Khas district on the outskirts of Swat valley on 26 Nov, 2008. Militants blew up a bridge in the Sambat area of the troubled northwestern Swat valley on Wednesday, police and security officials said.—INTERNET

Complacency about HIV 'more deadly' than disease itself

GENEVA, 28 Nov — HIV infection rates may be stabilising in sub-Saharan Africa, but they are growing in Eastern Europe and Asia, the Red Cross said Friday as it warned against complacency over the disease.

"If there is something more deadly than HIV, it is complacency about HIV," said Mukesh Kapila, the International Federation of Red Cross

and Red Crescent Societies' Special Representative for HIV.

"Even if infection rates are stabilising in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, HIV is still growing elsewhere with many people unaware of the dangers, especially in eastern Europe and in parts of Asia," he added on this year's World AIDS Day.

The IFRC said it was boosting its HIV pro-

grammes particularly in eastern Europe, Asia and the Americas, where many remained unaware of the disease's threat.

Internet

Patients treat serious illness as laughing matter

NEW YORK, 28 Nov — The off-colour jokes flew around the room. As the anecdotes got bawdier, the laughter intensified. Some recited from memory, others read from notebooks they brought along.

The setting for the hilarity was the Montefiore Einstein Cancer Center at Montefiore Hospital. The participants were cancer patients, some with ad-

vanced stages of the illness.

They were taking part in the hospital's monthly "Strength Through Laughter" therapy. It is one of several types of laughter or humor therapy being offered by medical

facilities around the country for patients diagnosed with cancer or other chronic diseases.

The programmes feature joke sessions, clown appearances and funny movies.—Internet



Costa Ricans wade through flood waters in Sixaola, Costa Rica, on the border with Panama, on 27 Nov, 2008. INTERNET

Social worker Gloria Nelson, right, a specialist in senior oncology, shares jokes with Rita Mattioli, center, and Burton Pearce, and Luz Rodriguez, left, during a group laugh therapy session at Montefiore-Einstein Cancer Center in New York.—INTERNET



Four die, 20 injured in Somali town attack

MOGADISHU, 28 Nov—Four people were killed and almost 20 others were wounded after suspected insurgents threw two hand grenades at a police vehicle in the southern Somali town of Baidoa, the seat of transitional Somali parliament, witnesses and hospital officials said on Thursday.

“The four people, one of them a police officer, died after the men threw two bombs at the (police) vehicle passing by,” Omar Ali, an eyewitness told *Xinhua* by phone from Baidoa, 250 km west of Mogadishu.

The police responded with heavy gunfire following the explosion that resulted from the grenade attack and wounded many by-standers, other witnesses in the area said.

Hospital sources confirmed that nearly 20 people were admitted to the local hospital in Baidoa but refused to classify the injured.

“About 20 people were brought here for treatment from both shrapnel and gunshot wounds but I cannot say if they were civilians or security forces personnel because that is none of our business,” Aden Abdurrahman, Director of Central Hospital in Baidoa, told *Xinhua* by phone.

Xinhua

Scientists crack iceberg mystery

OSLO, 28 Nov — US scientists have figured out how icebergs break off Antarctica and Greenland, a finding that may help predict rising sea levels as the climate warms. Writing in Friday’s edition of the journal *Science*, they said icebergs formed fast when parent ice sheets spread out quickly over the sea.

“It won’t help the Titanic, but a newly derived, simple law may help scientists improve their climate models” and predict ice sheet break-up, they said in a statement. The Titanic sank in 1912 after hitting an iceberg, killing 1,500 people.

Ice cracking off into the ocean from Antarctica and Greenland could be the main contributor to global sea level rises in the future. If all the ice in Greenland and Antarctica melted, seas would rise by more than 60 meters (196 ft).—*Xinhua*



Picture shows a fjord behind the town of Ilulissat in Greenland August 16, 2007.—INTERNET

China, UAE officials meet to enhance economic, trade co-op

ABU DHABI, 28 Nov—Senior officials from China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held the fifth meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between China and the UAE here on Thursday to discuss the enhancement of the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the development of the economic and trade cooperation between China and the UAE since the fourth meeting of the commission in 2002, and exchanged opinions on the ways to further the cooperation in areas including trade, investment, energy and finance.

The UAE attaches great importance to the economic and trade cooperation with China and is willing to work with China to boost cooperation in the finance sector and invest in China’s petrochemical industry, said Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz, Undersecretary of the UAE Ministry of Economy.

China and the UAE have seen comprehensive and fruitful cooperation in economy and trade since 2002, and the UAE has become one of China’s most important trade partners in the Middle East region, China’s Deputy Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng said.

Xinhua



An Airbus A320 airliner from Air New Zealand in an undated photo.—XINHUA

China’s ice breaker Xuelong or “Snow Dragon” is blocked by thick ice around the Antarctica during her 25th expedition to Antarctica, on 24 Nov, 2008. XINHUA



Air New Zealand Airbus crashes off Mediterranean Sea, seven killed

WELLINGTON, 28 Nov—An Air New Zealand Airbus A320 plane on a test flight crashed off the southeastern coast of France, causing seven people on board to be killed.

The Airbus crashed into the Mediterranean Sea near the town of Perpignan as it came into land at about 5:00 am New Zealand local time Friday (1600 GMT Thursday), killing all seven on board, Radio New Zealand reported. The plane had been chartered by the German charter airline XL since 2006.

It had been returned to the Airbus factory prior to being handed back to Air New Zealand and had been re-painted in Air New Zealand colours.

An XL spokesman said there were Air New Zealand and Airbus people on board.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

IAEA meeting to discuss Syrian nuclear issue

VIENNA, 28 Nov—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) met Thursday to discuss the Syrian nuclear issue. According to the agenda, the two-day meeting of the IAEA board of governors was to focus on nuclear issues involving Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Syria.

The meeting was to discuss reports submitted by IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei on Iranian and Syrian nuclear issues.

An IAEA diplomat said there may be disputes on the Syrian nuclear issue. Western countries, including the United States, continuously accuse Syria of secretly developing nuclear weapons.

The United States claims that the remote desert site, Al-Kibar, had been a covert nuclear reactor close to completion, until it was destroyed by Israeli bombs in September 2007. According to the IAEA’s latest investigation report, investigators have found some characteristics that “are similar to a reactor site” in the bombed Syrian equipment, and “a significant number of uranium particles” that are not natural uranium but “produced as a result of chemical processing.” However, the report also pointed out that relevant evidence was not sufficient to draw a conclusion on the nature of the destroyed site.—*Xinhua*

Gasoline prices drop to lowest level in Los Angeles in three years

LOS ANGELES, 28 Nov—Because of lower demand, the average price of a gallon of self-served and unleaded gasoline fell to its lowest level since January 2005 in the Los Angeles area on Thursday.

The average price is 2.557 dollars less than the record high of 4.626 set on 21 June, the Oil Price Information Service reported.

The average price has fallen for 72 consecutive days, dropping 1.698 dollars over that span, including 3.6 cents from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Xinhua



Space Shuttle Endeavour astronauts Don Pettit (L) and Stephen Bowen drink after making a Thanksgiving toast from aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in this November 27, 2008 image from NASA TV. INTERNET

Shuttle astronaut invents zero-gravity cup

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 28 Nov — Future space travelers may be drinking their own urine, thanks to the International Space Station’s new water recycler, but they can now do so with a touch of class.

Endeavour astronaut Don Pettit, a self-described tinkerer who served as the space station’s flight engineer in 2003, invented a zero-gravity cup that wicks liquids along the sides of a piece of folded plastic, eliminating the need for a straw. Because liquids typically form spherical blobs in weightlessness, astronauts drink from sealed pouches using straws. Pettit, a huge coffee fan, didn’t like sipping his java, and created the cup from a sheet of transparent plastic used in overhead projectors by folding it into the shape of an airplane wing and taping it in place.—*Xinhua*

Gut chemical may inspire new way to fight obesity

WASHINGTON, 28 Nov—Scientists have identified a fatty substance made in the gut that signals the brain when it's time to stop eating — a discovery that could inspire new approaches to fighting obesity.

Writing in the journal *Cell* on Wednesday, U.S. researchers said experiments with mice and rats showed that a naturally occurring fat-derived chemical messenger called NAPE regulated how much the animals ate. It is present in people and may do the same thing, they said.

Gerald Shulman of Yale University and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and colleagues said that when the rodents were fed a fatty meal, their small intestine made a lot of NAPE and put it into the bloodstream. It then traveled to the brain and shut down

hunger signals, they said.

NAPE levels shot up after the rodents ate a fatty meal, but not when they ate only protein or carbohydrates, they said.

The researchers then synthesized NAPE and injected it into the abdomen of the animals, whose appetites diminished greatly. When NAPE was delivered in much smaller amounts directly to the brain, it had the same effect on appetite as a larger dose injected into the bloodstream.

NAPE concentrated in the hypothalamus, an important brain structure known to regulate hunger, and inhibited neurons that stimulate appetite, they said.

When the rodents were given extra NAPE for five days, they animals ate less and lost weight, the researchers said.

Internet

Migratory birds fly above the Lhasa River wetland in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Nov. 26, 2008. Tens of thousands of migratory birds have fled to the Lhasa River wetland recently to spend their winter days.—INTERNET



Singapore inks 20 deals with eastern Chinese province

SINGAPORE, 28 Nov—Singapore and eastern China's Jiangsu province have increased their bilateral ties by signing 20 agreements worth about 2.03 billion US dollars and identifying economic

cooperation areas on Friday. Among the 20 agreements signed on the sidelines of the second Singapore-Jiangsu Cooperation Council meeting is a landmark memorandum of understanding (MOU) by both sides to support a commercially-driven project by a Singapore consortium to develop an eco high-tech city in Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu province.

Both sides agreed to deepen bilateral economic cooperation in key areas of business process

outsourcing, logistics and environmental services among others.

As the top recipient of Singapore's foreign direct investments among the provinces in China, Jiangsu has enjoyed close bilateral economic relations with Singapore since the early years.

Singapore has invested 3,150 projects and a total paid-in capital of about 14 billion US dollars in Jiangsu. This year, the trade between Singapore and Jiangsu will exceed 10 billion US dollars.

Internet

Singaporean hostage killed

SINGAPORE, 28 Nov—Singapore's Foreign Ministry confirmed on Friday night that the Singaporean woman taken hostage at a luxury Mumbai hotel has been killed.

She is Lo Hwei Yen, a 28-year-old Singaporean lawyer, said Jai Sohan Singh, Director of the Consular Directorate of Singapore's Foreign Ministry, at a news conference.

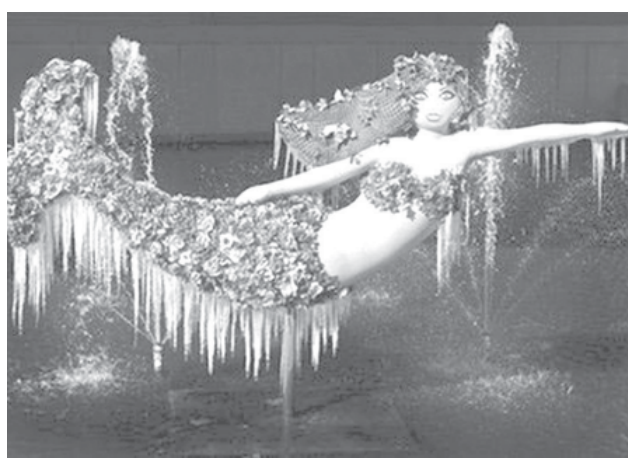
Her body was iden-

tified by her husband Michael Puhaindran, who had flown out to Mumbai on Thursday night,

Indian authorities had found her body on the 19th floor of the Oberoi Hotel.

She had gone to Mumbai on a business trip on Wednesday morning, but found herself trapped when terrorists overran the hotel. Singh added there are no more Singaporeans stranded in any of the hotels in Mumbai.

Internet



Bracing from the cold, a mermaid sculpture drips with icicles outside the Nauticus maritime and science museum in Norfolk, Va, on 22 Nov, 2008.

The sculpture, entitled 'Princess Azalea', is part of the Mermaids on Parade public art project in the city.—INTERNET

26 Filipino seamen released in Somali

MANILA, 28 Nov—Pirates released 26 Filipino seamen seized almost two months ago off Somalia, where 108 other Filipino sailors remain in the custody of ransom-seeking bandits, the Philippine government said on Friday.

The Filipino sailors were kidnapped in the Gulf of Aden on Sept. 17, when heavily-armed Somali pirates hijacked their Greek cargo ship

MV Centauri as it sailed through the dangerous waters.

They were released Thursday night, "safe and in good condition," said Esteban Conejos, Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs.

The sailors are on their way to Mombassa, Kenya to unload the ship's cargo, the official said.

He did not say if ransom was paid to secure the seafarers' freedom.

Earlier, he has said that the government does not pay ransom and negotiate directly with kidnappers as a policy. But reports said that owners of hijacked ships have paid huge amounts to ransom off their crew, including dozens of Filipinos, from Somali pirates.

Internet

A girl collects drinking water from a stream in Glen Norah, Harare on 27 Nov, 2008.

INTERNET

FTC tosses guidance on tar, nicotine in cigarettes

WASHINGTON, 28 Nov—The cigarette industry for 42 years has made factual claims about tar and nicotine levels based on machine testing blessed by the Federal Trade Commission.

Now the FTC has dropped the test, known as the Cambridge Filter Method, like a hot rock. The commission has rescinded guidance it issued 42 years ago, saying the test method is flawed. It also said the resulting marketing touting tar and nicotine levels could cause consumers to believe that lighter cigarettes were safer. As a result, future advertising that lists tar levels for cigarettes won't be able to use terms such as "by

FTC method."

"Our action today ensures that tobacco companies may not wrap their misleading tar and nicotine ratings in a cloak of government sponsorship," said Commissioner Jon Leibowitz. "Simply put, the FTC will not be a smokescreen for tobacco companies' shameful marketing practices." The commission rescinded the guidance by a 4-0 vote.

Under the current system, cigarettes with a tar rate above 15 milligrams per cigarette are commonly referred to by the industry as "full flavor." Cigarettes with a tar rating of less than 15 milligrams are referred to as "low" or "light." Ciga-

rettes with a tar rate below 6 are described as "ultra low" or "ultra light."

The National Cancer Institute found that changes in cigarette design reduced the amount

of tar and nicotine measured by smoking machines using the Cambridge Filter Method. However, there was no evidence those changes reduced disease for smokers.—Internet



Merchants, economic organizations buying paddy from farmers at current price

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Kyaw Myint Than (Lanmadaw)

(from page 16)

On arrival at Toungoo, we met with Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council U Pe Thein. In an interview, he explained, "Bago Division achieves success in extending the acreage of paddy and boosting the per-acre yield. Jute and rubber are also planted on the extended lands. Paddy is grown on 5,000 acres special plantation at Htaungmin field of Thanatpin Township, 3,000 acres special plantation in DaikU Township and 5,000 acres special plantation in Pyu



U Kyaw Than
(Bago Division
Manager of MAS).

press Highway, cultivation of edible oil crops and the arrangements for increasing per-acre yield of paddy in the division.

We left for DaikU from Toungoo. As DaikU Township is fertile re-

paddy. The division could grow paddy exceeding the target," explained Division Manager U Kyaw Than of MAS.

The 1,000 acres model paddy plantation each has been established at the entrance to every town. "The model paddy plantations were set up at the entrance to the town with the aims of encouraging local farmers to try hard in their works for meeting the target and to carry out the systematic cultivation of paddy. The government has set the plan of this year for Bago Division to produce 258.8 million baskets of paddy. We have estimated that monsoon and summer

year. The heavy rainfalls did not destroy paddy plantations in the township. At present, paddy harvesting started at some plots of model plantation."

Division and township level authorities provided necessary assistance for minimizing the costs of farmers.

In an interview, farmer U Kyaw Zaw of Kadok Phayagyi Village of DaikU Township said, "This is Kyehtaung field. I grow 25 acres of monsoon paddy namely Hsinthwelat and Hmawby-2 strains. Some acres of monsoon paddy have been harvested. Per acre yield of paddy is more than that of last year. Merchants from DaikU and Bago buy paddy from the farmers at local current prices. Now, the prices and purchase of paddy are normal.

In accord with the current prices in the region, the local farmers have got the deserved profits through sale of paddy.

In Kadok Ywama Village, we had an interview with farmer U Tin Hlaing. He said, "I grew 20 acres of paddy this year and paddy yielded 80 baskets per acre. Fortunately, my paddy field this year did not face bad weather, infection of bacteria and scarcity of water. I have already sold my paddy. Merchants had bought paddy in advance since the paddy cultivation was undertaken. Paddy could be sold at current local price."

At the compound of Kanpwint Rice Mill in DaikU, we witnessed systematic storage of paddy.

"I mostly buy paddy in DaikU Township and mill it. I purchase paddy at current

price. So far, I have bought 210,000 baskets of this year's Kyawzeya paddy strain. After milling, I send rice to Meiktila, Mandalay, Pyawbwe and Taunggyi. I will buy paddy more," said Ko Aung Myo Zaw, owner of the rice mill.

we also bought paddy from merchants at fair prices. If necessary, we went down to the paddy fields to buy paddy."

As the buying of paddy at current price is reasonable, the local farmers do not suffer any loss. The farmers sell



U Ngwe Hlaing
(DaikU Township Manager of MAS).

While visiting Mya Thazin Rice Mill by Dagon-Mann Road in DaikU, we conducted an interview with in-charge of the rice mill Ko Tin Win Aung. He replied to our queries, "Paddy is being sold and bought regularly. Some persons spread rumours about trading of paddy. Now, we regularly buy and mill the paddy as in last year. I mostly purchase

paddy at fair price and get the deserved profits.

In front of the rice mill, we saw bags of paddy piling up and spreading of paddy in the sun by workers. We also witnessed loading of bags of paddy onto 10-wheeled trucks on the road. Therefore, we noticed cultivation of paddy, harvesting and regular trading of paddy in DaikU Township. In the region, not only merchants and rice mill owners but also Myanma Economic Corporation buy paddy at current prices. Likewise, Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd purchases paddy and is making arrangements for exporting paddy.

At 7 p.m. we went back to Bago from DaikU. The next day, we would continue the trip to Thanatpin and Nyaunglebin townships.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 27-11-2008



Ko Aung Myo Zaw (Owner of Kanpwint Rice Mill, DaikU).

Township systematically. Such cultivation programme is aimed at increasing income of the local farmers, extending the farmlands and boosting per-acre yield."

He made further clarifications on extended cultivation of jute in Bago Division, growing of rubber on either side of the district-to-district road linking Kyaikto District and Bago District, planting of teak and hard wood trees on both sides of Yangon-Mandalay Ex-

gion, thriving paddy plantations were seen along the road. Many creeks and rivers in the township contribute to the cultivation of paddy.

"Bago Division is formed with 28 townships. The division has set the plans to grow 3025066 acres of monsoon paddy and 450,000 acres of summer paddy in 2008-2009. The government assigned the division to cultivate 3011182 acres of monsoon paddy and 410,000 acres of summer

paddy will yield more than the target," continued Division Manager U Kyaw Than.

At 1 p.m., we arrived at 3,000-acre model paddy plantation in DaikU Township. Township Manager U Ngwe Hlaing of MAS said, "A total of 188,555 acres of monsoon paddy was cultivated in the township this year. Last year, paddy yielded 78.97 baskets of paddy per acre, and efforts are being made for producing 83.19 baskets of paddy per acre this



U Kyaw Zaw
(Farmer).

Kyawzeya and Manawthukha paddy produced in the region. I have already bought over 7,000 baskets of monsoon paddy. Sometimes, farmers sold paddy at the rice mill and

Most crucial step for democratic transition has been...

(from page 1)

in the nation-building tasks, organizing the people, while putting regional development projects into action, and undergoing training for qualitative improvement.

In a bid to pursue the goal of building a new nation, it is imprudent to sideline all the legacies, good and evil, that have been left in the course of the nation's history. In this regard, it is needed to be equipped with correct concepts and loyalty to the State and the people in accordance with prevailing conditions.

The State's seven-step Road Map is, indeed, the only way to smooth transition to democracy as well as own transitional work programmes the government and the people have to materialize in harmony.

In taking these political steps, subversive elements resorted to a variety of ways and means to disrupt the National Convention attended by representatives of national people. Moreover, after the National Convention had been convened successfully, anti-government groups at home and abroad committed destructive acts variously with the intention of preventing the State Constitution (draft) from being approved that was drawn with the principles adopted with unanimous decisions at the National Convention. However much they were disruptive, more than 26.77 million of 27.28 million eligible voters cast vote at the referendum. Of them, over 24.76 million voters cast "YES" vote, accounting for 92.48 per cent of all the voters. In other words, the people expressed their voices, regarding the drive for building a new nation.

The most crucial step for democratic transition has been implemented successfully due largely to the public support, organizing measures of the members, and the Tatmadaw that devotes itself to national defence duties and public welfare services. To put it another way, it is a landmark in the history of the nation. Now, plans are well under way to see to the remaining steps including the 2010 transition work programme. So, it is fair to say that the future of the State structure is certain to materialize.

While nation-building tasks were gathering momen-

tum, the nation came under a natural disaster, which brought death and destruction on a large scale to southern regions of Ayeyawady Division and Yangon Division where over two million people reside. Most of the buildings in the storm-hit areas were ravaged; many vessels and boats were wrecked; wells, lakes and farmlands were inundated, and over 100,000 local people and farm animals were killed. Moreover, local people's main businesses such as agricultural farming, fishing, and salt farming were destroyed due to the strong wind and tidal waves.

The government launched rescue, relief and reconstruction tasks in the storm-hit areas promptly. In that case, the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee with the Prime Minister at the helm was assigned full-time duties. Duties were assigned association-wise and the ministers concerned, and the government, the people and the Tatmadaw were carrying out the tasks sparing no effort.

In the aftermath of the storm, USDA members have been providing voluntary services to rescue and rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit areas. Members from the northernmost and easternmost parts of the nation, far from the coastal regions, made trips down to the storm-hit villages due to fraternal spirit, compassion and Union Spirit of national brethren.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in storm-stricken regions met with success in a short period of time thanks to the active participation of the people, the Tatmadaw and those in storm-hit regions under the leadership of the government. This can also be attributed to the assistance provided by the UN and international community including neighbouring countries and those in the region.

Altogether 6,242 new houses for survivors were constructed in different storm-ravaged areas and more houses are under construction. The government has been able to renovate 41 embankments whose length is 674 miles. A total of 8,821 power tillers and 3,775 draught cattle as well as 1.42 million baskets of paddy strains that suit to the region were distributed to farmers of the storm-hit regions so that they were able to engage in agriculture. As a result, farmers are now in a position to grow paddy

on nearly all farmlands of the storm-hit region. As 9,620 fishing boats and fishing nets were provided to fishermen, their business has returned to normal. Arrangements have been made for those in salt industry to be able to start their business as soon as possible.

In order to bring about better administration in storm-hit regions, Labutta Township was upgraded into a district level while a 200-bed hospital each was built in Labutta and Pyapon and a 100-bed hospital each in Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale. Meanwhile, station hospitals and rural health care centres were upgraded. The government is taking care of orphans and taking steps to establish a youth training school each in Labutta and Pyapon.

Work is under way to build durable establishments that can withstand strong wind and high tides for local people to take shelter in the event of natural disaster. At the same time, the five main roads namely the Maubin-Shwetaungmaw-Kyaikpi-Mawlamyinegyun road, the Mawlamyinegyun-Hlinebon-Thitpoke-Kwinkauk-Pyinsalu road, the Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu road, the Bogale-Thabaung-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani road and the Labutta-Thongwa-Ottwin-Htaiksun road were built after the storm for those from coastal regions to easily move about. Cyclone shelters will also be built around the villages along these roads.

In nation-building task and bracing against the natural disaster endeavours are meeting with success thanks to concerted efforts and diligence of the government and the people. Such progress can be largely attributed to the emergence of sound infrastructures built by the government with correct national outlooks.

Priority is being given to national unity as it is indispensable for the nation. As peace prevailed along with national solidarity the 24 special development regions have been established and the five rural development tasks laid down and are being implemented for the people to enjoy higher socio-economic status and longevity and pursue higher education. Apart from these five rural development projects, USDA members are taking part in endeavours for generating electricity in rural areas exploiting hydropower, windpower, solar power and biogas. These tasks will also be extended.

The livelihood of the majority of the rural people is agriculture. So the State spends a huge sum of money for boosting agricultural production. From 1988 to date, 216 dams and sluice gates have been built, 322 river-water pumping projects implemented and 7,882 tube wells for underground water tapping sunk.

(See page 9)

Rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in storm-stricken regions met with success in a short period of time thanks to the active participation of the people, the Tatmadaw and those in storm-hit regions under the leadership of the government.

Senior General Than Shwe addresses Annual General Meeting (2008)...

(from page 1)

The Fourth Day Session of the USDA AGM (2008) was attended by member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the USDA Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, members of the Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, USDA CEC members, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, directors-general and managing directors of SPDC Office, Government Office, Pyithu Hluttaw Office,

departments and enterprises, chairmen and members of the Central Committee for Organizing the AGM and subcommittees, chairmen, vice-chairmen and secretaries of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon, Myanmar National Women's Affairs Committee, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Fisheries Federation, delegates of State/Division, District and Township level USDAs, outstanding youth and guests, totalling 727.

Executive Daw Doris Myat Su Mon of Dimawhso Township USDA of Kayah State and Executive Daw Mie Mie San of Yebyu Township USDA of Taninthayi Division acted as MC.

The master of ceremonies announced the starting of the fourth-day session of AGM with the permission of the patron of the USDA.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address.

(The address of the Senior General is reported

separately.)

Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo presented gifts to 45 students who stood from the 1st to 10th position in the science subjects at the 2008 matriculation examination in the entire nation, 11 students from the 1st to 10th position in the arts subjects, 11 students who secured first prizes in science subjects in States and Divisions, 11 students who stood first in the arts subjects in States and Divisions, six gold medalist students in Asian level games, two outstanding Red Cross members for 2008, two outstanding Auxiliary Fire Brigade members for 2008, 10 students who won more than five gold medals in Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and 14 outstanding students at central level contests in English.

The general round discussions of the meeting followed with the participation of the Secretary-General, the Joint Secretary-General, the CEC members and delegates of State and Division USDAs.

The USDA AGM (2008) successfully concluded in the morning with the chanting of slogans by the delegates.

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Most crucial step for democratic transition has been...

(from page 8)

Moreover, the State is undertaking more projects for the well-being of the peasantry. The tasks such as tapping underground water and building and repairing small dams and embankments are also being carried out in arid regions. As a result, there have been 5.57 million acres of irrigated areas, and cultivation capacity has now increased to 167.2 percent from 121 percent in 1988.

As for the growing of paddy, the main crop of the country, cultivation acreage of paddy was 11.81 million and only 630 million baskets of paddy were produced in 1988 but now more than 1500 million baskets can be produced thanks to the successful implementation of the projects. As the State has been able to conduct research and produce new paddy strains that can yield over 100 baskets of paddy per acre, the target of producing 2,000 million baskets of paddy will surely be realized. As regards the growing and production of beans and pulses, in 1988 there were only 1.8 million acres of beans and pulses and 170,000 tons could be produced. But now there has been 10.45 million acreage and up to 4.975 million tons of beans and pulses can be produced. Myanmar is now the largest exporter of beans and pulses in Southeast Asia. Although the sown acreage of edible oil crops was 5 million in 1988, it has now increased to 8.36 million. As for cotton crops for clothing, in the past about 400 to 500 viss of cotton could be produced per acre but now 1600 viss can be produced per acre.

Now more than 1500 million baskets of paddy can be produced thanks to the successful implementation of a large number of irrigation projects.

As a result, the people have enjoyed not only food sufficiency but also adequate clothing.

The industrial sector plays an important role in building up a new nation. Eighteen industrial zones have been established to develop the private sector. There were 624 State-owned factories and 35000 private factories and workshops. But now the country has seen 793 State-run factories and 113000 private-owned factories and workshops. So the industrial sector has improved by about 21.2 percent this year.

Regarding the public employment, there have now been over 23 million farm workers, about 5.1 million factory workers and about 8 million service workers totalling more than 36 million.

As the communication between one region and another can facilitate the development of socio-economy and the strengthening of relations between the national races, the State has built a network of roads the length and breadth of the nation. As a result, the roads that have been built in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division teeming with rivers and creeks are now benefiting the people. There are now 71,820 miles of roads, up from over 21,000 miles in 1988.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, the existing railroads have been upgraded, 1,478 miles of railroads built and new 325 railway stations constructed. Patheingyi-Hinthada-Kyangin railroad is under construction to reach Pakokku and upon comple-

The total number of universities and colleges has increased from 32 to 157. So far, over 1,470,000 graduates and post-graduates have been turned out since 1988.

tion, one can travel straight from Patheingyi to Mandalay. Mandalay-Katha-Bhamo railroad is also under construction. Plans are under way for the people so that they can travel from Shwepyithar-Taunggyi-Namsang to Kengtung, and Phayathonzu-Pyawbwe-Magway railroad is also under construction.

In 1988 there were only five major bridges across the rivers of Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung. Now, construction of 18 more bridges is benefiting the national people. A total of 311 bridges along roads and 42 bridges along railroads that are 180 feet and above long have been built and seven more bridges are under construction.

For air transport, new airports were built and old ones were upgraded. Twenty one airports with 5000 feet and above long runway each have increased to 38 and 28 airports have been upgraded.

As for the marine transport sector, there were 13 jetties to which international vessels could moor before 1988 but the number has reached 28 and three container yards have been built. Plans are under way to build deep sea ports in Kyaukpadaung and Dawei. Besides, survey is being conducted for international vessels to enter Ayeyawady Division.

Regarding the communications sector, there were 245 exchange offices and 67000 telephones in 1988. But there are now 900 exchange offices and 1.1

million phones. Over 610000 mobile phone lines have been installed not only in big cities but also in 73 towns of states and divisions. Even rural areas from near and around coastal regions can use the phone lines. In addition, there have been opportunities for using fax, email and the Internet.

As for the electricity sector, there was only 228 megawatts in the past. But there have now been 977 megawatts thanks to the Yenwe, Shweli and Kengtawng hydropower plants. Efforts are being made to complete 14 projects as soon as possible in order to produce more than 10000 megawatts of electricity. For fulfilling the electricity need of the people, national grids are being built.

Efforts are being made to boost the production of oil in offshore and inland oil fields and measures are being taken to increase the production of mineral resources.

Human resource development is important for the country. In the education sector, basic education schools have been opened and the number of schools has reached 40574.

The total number of universities and colleges has increased from 32 in the past to 157 to date. So far, over 1,470,000 graduates and post-graduates have been turned out since 1988. Opportunities for learning have been created throughout the country. The literacy rate of the country has reached 94.83 per cent.

In the health sector, 210 new hospitals have been constructed and the number of hospitals has reached 841, and 123 hospitals have been upgraded. Sixteen universities of medicine have been opened as part of effort for providing health care to the people so that they can enjoy longevity.

The developments of the country are tangible results that can benefit the State and the people. In the history, our country had been under servitude of colonialists for over 100 years. The colonialists have been exerting pressures on countries which have ideological differences from them. As we are on the right track to serve in the interests of the country and the people, we can stand firm and enjoy success. Despite various disturbances and pressure of those who do not realize the objective conditions of the nation, the goal of the State is drawing near.

Under any circumstances, we must defend the nation for her perpetuity upholding Our Three Main National Causes. We shall continue our efforts to narrow the development gap among regions to be able to bring the equitable development throughout the country, to eliminate the poverty and to ensure better living standard and social security of the people.

Union Solidarity and Development Association holds its annual general meeting every year to review the nation-building tasks and to improve such efforts. The annual general meetings lay down future tasks so that the association can participate in implementing the nation-building tasks effectively.

Therefore, I wish to urge you

- to make efforts for successful implementation of the future tasks laid down at the annual general meeting in your respective regions;
- to organize the people and organizations, which are serving the country with goodwill, to participate in implementing the nation-building tasks based on the unity of the association;
- to collectively ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty through genuine patriotism;
- to cooperate with the people for the success of the every step of the Road Map which is being implemented for building a new nation, and
- to make efforts to overcome the disturbances with the united strength and daring spirit for the country without losing the sight of the goal.

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Under any circumstances, we must defend the nation for her perpetuity upholding Our Three Main National Causes.



အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ မသန်စွမ်းသူများနေ့
၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၃) ရက်

"International Day of Disabled Persons"
“ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာနှင့် တရားမျှတမှု လူတိုင်းအတွက် ခန့်ရှေးရုံ”
“Dignity and Justice for all of us”

လူမှုဝန်ထမ်း၊ ကယ်ဆယ်ရေးနှင့်ပြန်လည်နေရာချထားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ကမ္ဘာ့ရခံအားကျဆင်းမှုကူးစက်ရောဂါတိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့
၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ(၁)ရက်နေ့
(1-12-2008)

“ကာကွယ်ကုသပြုစုလို့၊ အေအိုင်ဒီအက်စ်တိုက်ဖျက်ဖို့
အားလုံးပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

“Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.”
“Scaling up- prevention, treatment and care”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

First round of 47th Tatmadaw Football Tournament begins

YANGON, 28 Nov— The first round matches of the 47th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament commenced at the designated zones today.

In South-East Command Zone in Mawlamyine, No. 11 LID edged out No. 99 LID 5-0, and No. 33 LID crashed Western Command (A) 3-0. In South-West Command Zone in Patheingyi, North-West Command Zone in Yangon, North-East Command beat Southern Command 2-0. In North-West Command Zone in Monywa, Northern Command and Central Command played a 2-2 draw. In Central Command Zone in Mandalay, Camp Commandant's Office of the Ministry of Defence held a 3-3 draw with Eastern Command. In Southern Command Zone in Toungoo, North-East Command and South-East Command played a 1-1 draw.—MNA

UMFCCI President meets Israeli Ambassador

YANGON, 28 Nov— President U Win Myint, Vice Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, Joint Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers and Commerce and Industry met with Israeli Ambassador Mr Yaron Mayer at the UMFCCI's office, here, on 25 November.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed promoting of bilateral trade, cooperation between the UMFCCI and the Embassy of Israel for seminar on the Development of Agricultural Sector in Israel on 10 December, invitation to attend the Israel Agritech 2009 Exhibition—The 17th International Agricultural Exhibition from 5 May to 7 May in 2009, trade, agriculture and technologies, with concerned organizations.—MNA

Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winning books in circulation

YANGON, 28 Nov— Sarpay Beikman of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information recently published Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winning books written by Maung Sanda (Lewe), Annawa Nay Min Thaik, Myoma Myint Kywe, Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin), Tin Lin Zaw, Zin Min (Thameinhntaw) and Kyunzin Myay Saw Khat.

These books are available at the bookstall of Sarpay Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw Thabyaegon Market, Sarpay Beikman bookshop on Merchant Street in here and book agents in every town.—MNA



UMFCCI President U Win Myint meets Israeli Ambassador Mr. Yaron Mayer. — UMFCCI

Special sales of Industry-1 Ministry

YANGON, 28 Nov— The Ministry of Industry-1 will hold its special sales in Tanugdwingyi, Magway Division, from 1 to 7 December, in Myinmu, Sagaing Division, from 3 to 9 December, in Amarapura, Mandalay Division from 4 to 10 December, in Aungpan, Shan State from 5 to 11 December, in Ayadaw Sagaing Division, from 6 to 12 December, in Mogaung, Kachin State, from 7 to 13 December and in Natmawk, Magway Division, from 7 to 13 December.—MNA

40th ISD Badminton Tournament slated on 15 Dec

YANGON, 28 Nov— Organized by the Ministry of Sports, the 40th Inter-States/Divisions Badminton Tournament will be held at National Badminton Gymnasium on Anawrahta Road in Lanmadaw Township from 15 December to 18 December. The ninth Championship Tournament also will be held at the same avenue from 19 December to 24 November.

MNA



Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Zaw of Mandalay District General Administration Department meets with Administrator U Aung Naing of Aungmyay Thazan Township GAD and staff at the hall of the department on 17 November. — NLM

Chemistry/Industrial Chemistry graduates get-together 14 Dec

YANGON, 28 Nov — The third respect paying ceremony of old students who graduated in Chemistry/Industrial Chemistry from Yangon Art and Science University in 1974-78 will be held in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary get-together at Universities Dhammayon here at 8 a.m. on 14 December (Sunday). Old students are invited to attend the ceremony without fail.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind may contact U Hla Thein (Ph: 095013469), U Kyaw Moe Sein (099925603), 650579 and 250347), U Hla Maung Shwe (095147974, 502681 and 502682), U Htut Htut (098021340 and 293366), U Aung Thu Myaing (098020299), Daw Nway Nway Aung 095113243 and 225502), Daw Tin Tin Win (099923247), 256989 and 384893), Daw May Aye Myint (660268 and 663673) and Daw Than Than Nwe (095124160 and 660592).

MNA

Winners, proud of Life-time Achievement Literary Award and National Literary Awards

Article: Win Naing (Kyemon), Photos: Thant Zin Tun

(from page 16)

When asked about winning Life-time Achievement Literary Award, he said, "I am very proud of this award because it is the award the government presents to honour a writer for his beneficial literary works he has written in his lifetime. Here, a strange point is that I did not win any awards in the past, but I have won several literary awards in the time of the Tatmadaw government."

We paid a visit to Tekkatho Sein Tin, who won National Literary Award (Belles-Lettres Genre) for his work "Biography of Grandma U Zun", who was conferred T.P.S Title. Tekkatho Sein Tin lives at No. 1157/1158, Moe Ma Kha Street, Ward (46), Dagon Myothit (North) Township. He said, "I got an idea to write this book at the ceremony to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Hninzigon Home for the Aged, which falls in 2008. The executive committee of Hninzigon Home for the Aged requested me to write a book on the biography of Grandma U Zun, who founded Hninzigon Home for the Aged, to mark the Diamond Jubilee. Then, I accepted their proposal. To write this book, my wife Seint (Education) and I had to visit Mingun Home for the Aged in Mandalay, Thuwunna Bumi Home for the Aged, Buddhists Home for the Aged in Pakokku, and Original Grandma Home for the Aged in Thingangyun, Yangon. To be winner of the National Literary Award is an honour beyond words because this book is about Grandma U Zun, who was an uncommon woman with great sympathy in Myanmar."

Writer Tekkatho Sein Tin used to be a columnist with the pseudonym "Minbu Sein Tin" in the Mirror Daily. He became the executive editor of Oh Wai Newspaper and Journal, and then Chief Editor of the

Mirror Daily.

In order for the young people to emulate the famous Myanmar leaders, he is writing biographical roundups of those leaders. Among his famous works were about U Thant, Architect of World Peace, the Chronicle of Thirty Comrades, Captain Aung San Thuriya Taik Chun, Major Aung San Thuriya Aye Cho, Anawrahta, Kyansittha of Bagan and the Disintegration of Soviet Union.

He has published 37 books and is writing about Nanmadaw Mei Nu. His book entitled the Life of Pakokku U Ohn Pe and his successful ways and means won National Literary Award in 1993 for the first time and his second-time National Literary Award winning book is the Biography of Grandma U Zun.



Tekkatho Sein Tin, winner of National Literary Award (Belles-Lettres Genre).

try of Culture for her book has been published by the ministry itself she is working in.

The real name of Sayama Sanda Khin (Archaeology) is Daw Sanda Khin. She was born of Dr Chit and Daw Kyi Kyi in Meiktila in 1961. She obtained a BSc (Chemistry) and MSc (Chemistry). She wrote archaeological papers and articles and short stories in newspapers, magazines and journals. At present, she is serving as Deputy Director-General of the Department for Archaeology, National Museum and Library under the Ministry of Culture.

In an interview with U Tin Maung Myint, who won the National Literary Award for 2007 for the translation genre, he said he won the award for the third time and he won his first literary award in 2001 for his translation book entitled "Madam Cury". He also won the National Literary Award in 2005. His award-winning book for 2007 covers the last days of an AIDS patient who was marginalized due to the disease, he said.

U Tin Maung Myint was born of U Maung Dwe and Daw Kyaw Sein in the village of Sitkyun in Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division, in 1936. He passed the basic education exam at U Maung Maung Private School in Yekyaw, Yangon, and passed the matriculation exam at the government high school in Taunggyi in 1958. He worked for BOC Company (now Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise) in 1961 and retired as an accountant in 1994. His first translation was published in 1983, so far he has been published over 50 translated books. He wrote poems while he was a student and had contributed articles to Kyemon Daily under pen-name Nyo Myint (Oil) since 1961. Among his translation works, the book he likes best is "Maha-yan-ta-daing-ko-pyat-kyaw-gyin" published in 1982. Now, he is translating a novel of Leo Tolstoy into Myanmar.

The reason why he translates books from English into Myanmar is he wants to improve translation works and to see more translated books on shelves as adults and teenagers are eager to do translation today, he said.

U Tin Maung Myint lives at No. 966, Pynmamyine Ward, 34 Ward, Dagon Myothit (North).

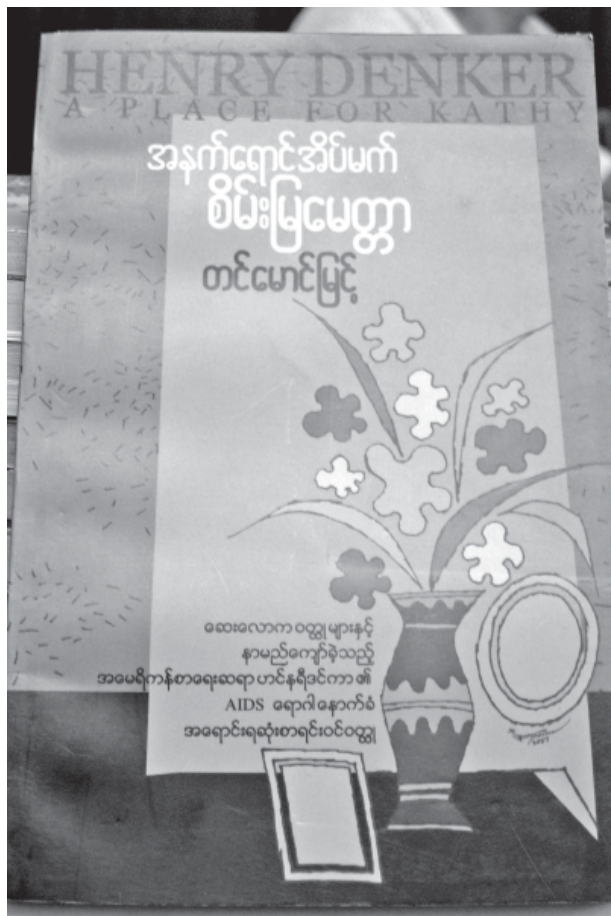
Translation: (MS+ST+AMS)



Sayama Sanda Khin, winner of Myanmar Culture and Fine Arts Literature Award.

In an interview with Sayama Sanda Khin (Daw Sanda Khin), who won Myanmar Culture and Fine Arts Literature Award for her book titled Images of Bagan Period Said from the Frescos, she said she had an ambition to disseminate facts about the glory of Bagan Period and Bagan architecture and ten traditional arts and crafts as she had been participating in the excavation and preservation of ancient cultural zones including Bagan Ancient Cultural Region. She published this book after finding out that the visitors to the National Museum were captivated by the wall paintings displayed at the cultural heritage of Bagan Land show in 2001. In compiling this book, she highlighted the life style of the people of Bagan Period, and used the words in the book in a clear and understandable way, she said.

She went on to say that she was very pleased to write and publish a book based on the subject related to her career. In addition, she takes pride in the Minis-



National Literary Award winning book of writer Tin Maung Myint in translation genre.

Officials report outbreak of bird flu in northeast

GUWAHATI, 28 Nov—Authorities in Assam have ordered culling thousands of chicken and ducks after a fresh outbreak of bird flu in poultry was detected late on Thursday, a senior official said.

“We were informed that the samples sent to laboratories in Bhopal and Pune have been tested positive. So we have ordered for culling in the area, which will start today,” R C Jain, a senior state government official said on Friday.

“It is H5N1 stain,” he said in Guwahati, the region’s biggest city.

More than 30,000 chickens and ducks would be slaughtered in next three days in 20 villages, after one of them was hit by bird flu, officials said.

Authorities started to worry about a new outbreak after hundreds of poultry died in Rajabazar village, just 35 km west of Guwahati.

India has not reported any human infections so far, though the first outbreak in poultry was reported in 2006 in the western state of Maharashtra.

Experts fear the H5N1 strain could mutate into a form easily transmitted from person to person, leading to a pandemic.—*Internet*



Greek ship released by Somali pirates

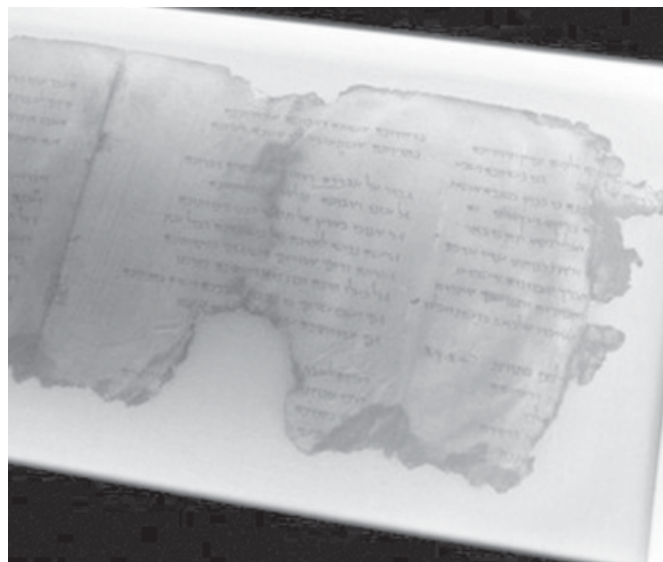
NAIROBI, 28 Nov — Somali pirates have released another Greek ship that was hijacked two months ago, a regional maritime official confirmed on Friday.

Andrew Mwangura, East Africa’s Coordinator of the Seafarers Assistance Program (SAP), said the pirates released the Maltese-flagged Greek ship MV Centauri on Thursday.

“The ship was freed yesterday (Thursday) along with the 26 crewmembers. It is now underway to Mombasa and I don’t know whether ransom was paid to secure its release,” Mwangura told Xinhua by telephone. The ship had a crew of 26 Filipinos and was about to discharge 17,000 tons of bulk salt at the Mombasa port when it was seized off the coast of Somalia in September.

It is currently sailing to the Kenyan port of Mombasa. The release of the MV Centauri came two days after the pirates release MV Genius, also a Greek ship, and all its 19 crew.—*Internet*

Picture taken on 22 Nov, 2008 shows the Shanghai World Financial Centre (L) and the neighboring Jinmao Tower in Shanghai, east China. —XINHUA



A file photo shows portion of the Dead Sea Scroll Psalms is displayed at the Pacific Science Centre, in Seattle. Italian President Giorgio Napolitano said that he will open an exhibition of the famed Dead Sea Scrolls in Rome next year.

INTERNET

Two mass graves discovered in Congo

KINSHASA, 28 Nov—Two mass graves containing as many as 2,000 bodies have been discovered in eastern Congo, government officials said Wednesday. Justice Minister Luzolo Bambi told reporters the graves were found Saturday in the town of Bukavu in a plot of land formerly owned by a member of the Congolese Rally for Democracy, or RCD, a

Rwandan-backed rebel group. At one point, the RCD controlled much of eastern Congo, but it became a political party in 2003. Many of its top leaders were integrated into the government, taking jobs as vice presidents and army chiefs. Constantin Charhondangwa, the head of civil society in the Bukavu region, said the parcel of land owned by the ex-rebel

was sold to a resident. The new landowner discovered the remains when he dug up the land put in a septic tank, Charhondangwa said. Bambi and state-run TV said as many as 2,000 people are buried in the twin graves. UN officials visited the site and confirmed the presence of the mass graves but did not offer an estimate of the number of dead.

Internet

Malaysian jailed for maid attacks

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Nov —A former Malaysian flight attendant who repeatedly scalded her Indonesian maid has been jailed by a court in the capital Kuala Lumpur for 18 years.

The court convicted Yim Pek Ha, 40, of three attacks on Nirmala Bonat using boiling water and a hot iron.

Ms Bonat, who was 19 at the time, testified that she had been beaten and burnt for making mistakes.

The case provoked national outrage in Malaysia after newspapers published pictures of her injuries.

It brought attention to the situation of Indonesian migrant domestic workers.—*Internet*

Arctic ice-melt faster than predicted

Sea ice in September last year had shrunk to 39 percent below the 1979-2000 average, according to a study released by WWF in April

Arctic sea ice cover
 — Average, September 1979-2000
 - - - Sept 2005
 ■ Sept 2007



Graphic on a WWF study on the meltdown of Arctic ice.

INTERNET

WWF warned two degree rise could spark Greenland ice sheet meltdown

GENEVA, 28 Nov—A less than two degree Celsius rise in global temperatures might be sufficient to spark a meltdown of the Greenland Ice Sheet and Arctic sea ice, the WWF warned in a new study released on Thursday.

“Scientists now suggest that even warming of less than 2 degree Celsius might be enough to trigger the loss of Arctic sea ice and the meltdown of the Greenland Ice Sheet,” the WWF said in a statement to accompany the findings.

“As a result, global sea levels would rise by several metres, threatening tens of millions of people worldwide.”

The melting of Arctic sea ice could affect ecosystems, while a meltdown of the Greenland Ice Sheet could lead to a sea level rise of up to seven metres, with a devastating impact for the rest of the world.

The WWF urged governments meeting for UN climate talks in Poland starting Monday to “develop a strong negotiation text for a new climate treaty” due at the end of next year.

Kim Carstensen, WWF Global Climate Initiative leader said: “The early meltdown of ice in the Arctic and Greenland may soon prompt further dangerous climate feedbacks accelerating warming faster and stronger than forecast.”—*Internet*



Yang Liping, a well-known Chinese dancer, performs in the musical “Tibetan Riddle” in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Nov, 2007.

XINHUA

Brazil flood victims wade home, death toll at 99



A woman looks on next to her belongings after her home was flooded in Itajai, southern Brazil, on 27 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

ITAJAI, 28 Nov—Flood victims waded through waist-deep water into mud-filled houses Thursday in a devastated part of southern Brazil where neighbors set up patrols to keep looters away and lined up by the thousands for government food handouts. As waters from

torrential rains receded after causing at least 99 deaths, returning residents heaved soaked furniture and damaged electronic goods into the streets of this coastal city at the mouth of the swollen Itajai-Acu River.

Hunger and thirst were so widespread in the city of 170,000 that police were ordered to let residents take food and water from stores because they were “driven by despair to steal,” said state public safety spokesman Joao Carlos Santos.

Officers instead targeted thieves who paddled rickety canoes and used motor boats to loot abandoned homes.

Internet

Eating fish may prevent kidney decline in diabetics



A man cooks sardines during a celebration for Lisbon's patron Saint Antonio in the Alfama neighbourhood on 12 June, 2008.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 28 Nov—Eating fish at least twice a week seems to reduce the incidence of kidney disease in patients with diabetes, according to findings from a large British study.

Although diabetics are

advised to limit dietary protein to delay the progression of kidney disease, recent observations suggest that the benefit to the kidneys may have to do with “the protein source rather than quantity,” the

investigators note in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases.

Despite research linking fish to improved outcomes in diabetics, they add, epidemiological evidence of this benefit is scarce.

Dr Amanda I Adler, at the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit in Cambridge, and fellow researchers therefore conducted a population-based cross-sectional analysis of 22,000 subjects.

Among the 517 subjects with diabetes, the prevalence of albumin (protein) in the urine (macroalbuminuria), an indication of kidney disease, was 8.3 percent.

According to food questionnaire responses, 18 percent of diabetics who ate fish less than once a week had macroalbuminuria, versus 4 percent of those who included fish in their diet more than twice a week.

Internet

Bangladesh to immunize 22 mln children against polio

DHAKA, 28 Nov—Bangladesh will immunize 22 million children under the age of five on Saturday in an effort to sustain its polio-free status, said a press release here on Thursday.

According to a press statement of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released here on Thursday, this is the first round to observe the country's 17th National Immunization Day (NID) on Saturday.

The second round will be held on 3 Jan, 2009, it said.

Field workers from both Health and Family Planning Ministry along with 600,000 volunteers will administer oral polio vaccines (OPVs) to 22 million children aged 0-59 months and vitamin A capsule to nearly 21 million children aged 12-59 months at 140,000 sites across the country.—Internet



Pan Qiulai, 56, shows her paper-cutting work in her residence in Yanhu District of Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, on 20 Nov, 2008.

INTERNET



A chef works in front of the world's biggest bowl of Bak Kut Teh in Klang, Malaysia. The bowl of Bak Kut Teh with 182.88 cm in diameter and 91.44 cm in height and containing 500kg of pork, 450kg of soup and 50kg of herbal medicine, has been listed in the Malaysian Book of Record, and is now applying for Guinness World Records.

Man recovering after being shot by his dog

A man who was accidentally shot by a 12-gauge shotgun on Saturday after his dog jumped into a boat is recovering. Matthew Marcum's legs and buttocks were injured in the bizarre incident and he was taken to Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center in Portland.

Marcum's father, Henry, said his 23-year-old son was about to tie up an 11-foot open aluminum boat, when his 3-year-old Labrador, Drake, jumped into the boat.

Matthew Marcum said his dog, Drake, is a good dog and he isn't upset with him.



Rolling Hills Elementary kindergartener Dominick Messer, 5, walks with Micah, a miniature therapy horse from Dogtors & Associates in Springfield, Ohio.

Thief uses lubricant to swipe ring on woman's hand

Police said a thief used a Vaseline-like lubricant to swipe an expensive ring off an elderly woman's hand in broad daylight. Authorities said two men bumped 80-year-old Helen Artim's car, then asked her to open her trunk to check for damage.

Police said the suspect ran his hand over hers, covering it with “some type of lubricant,” then used a towel to wipe it off. It's then that police believe he slipped the ring off Artim's finger. The piece of jewelry was valued between \$20,000 to \$30,000. No arrests in the incident have been made.

Lucky man survives after being run over by train

A north Alabama man is alive after being run over by a train on Thursday afternoon. Huntsville Fire

and Rescue officials said a train engineer spotted 61-year-old Arnold Romine lying across rail-

road ties.

Witnesses said the conductor sounded the horn and tried to stop the train.

A turtle, one of four known remaining members of the rafetus swinhoei species, gets transported on a truck to be released to a lake, its natural habitat just outside Hanoi, Vietnam on 26 Nov, 2008.



Firefighters said by the time the coal train was stopped, 8 rail cars had passed over Romine's body.

Miraculously, he suffered what appeared to be minor injuries.

He was later treated and released at Huntsville Hospital.

It's unclear why Romine was lying on the tracks.

Chinese acrobats perform during an India-China cultural exchange programme in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata. The programme was organized by the Indian council for cultural relations and embassy of the People's Republic of China to strengthen the cultural bonds between the two countries.



NEWSALBUM

SPORTS

Inzaghi breaks Portsmouth's hearts in UEFA Cup football

PORTSMOUTH, 28 Nov—AC Milan's veteran striker Pippo Inzaghi netted a last-minute equaliser to deny Tony Adams a first home win as Portsmouth manager in a 2-2 draw in the UEFA Cup.

Inzaghi, who had earlier hit the woodwork three times, pounced on a loose ball with less than a minute on the clock to earn a point and ensure Milan's safe passage into the knockout stages of the tournament.

It was Inzaghi's 65th career goal in European competition.

Portsmouth had a two-goal margin until the final eight minutes after Younes Kaboul and Kanu netted which woke Milan from a slumber as Ronaldinho's fabulous free-kick provided a platform for poacher Inzaghi to break English hearts.—Internet



Portsmouth's Captain Sylvain Distin (right) and AC Milan's Kaka vie during their UEFA Group E football match at home to Portsmouth at Fratton Park stadium.—INTERNET

Man City and Tottenham clinch crucial UEFA Cup wins

PARIS, 28 Nov—Manchester City and Tottenham edged closer to the UEFA Cup knockout stages on Thursday with crucial away wins while Portsmouth were aiming to make it an English triple by toppling Italian giants AC Milan.

City made it two wins out of two in Group A with an assured 2-0 victory over Germany's Schalke 04 in Gelsenkirchen which followed their opening 3-2 victory against FC Twente.

City took the lead on the half-hour mark when Daniel Sturridge's cross-cum-shot was sidefooted home at the far post by Zimbabwean striker Benjani Mwaruware to stun the majority of the 60,000-strong crowd.

Internet



Schalke's defender Heiko Westermann (L) vies with Manchester City's striker Darius Vassell during their UEFA Cup group A football match at the Veltins-Arena in Gelsenkirchen.—INTERNET

Wayne Rooney believes Manchester United are on verge of greatness



Manchester United's English forward Wayne Rooney.

MANCHESTER, 28 Nov—Wayne Rooney believes the present Manchester United squad can be ranked as one of the best in football history.

With back-to-back Premier League titles to their name, the reigning European champions have a chance at further glory when they compete for the world club title in Japan next month.

United were the only English club to win the tournament, now ex-

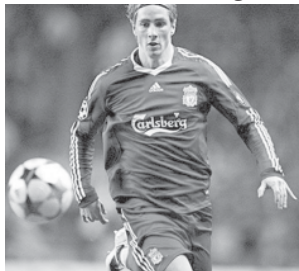
panded to feature continental champions from around the world, when it was known as the Intercontinental Cup, in 1999.

England striker Rooney reckons a fresh triumph in Yokohama on December 21 would further enhance the reputation of the present United team. "I hope we can be regarded as one of the best ever," Rooney said on Thursday. "There is definitely a lot of quality here."

In the lead-up to this weekend's derby, Rooney riled Manchester City fans by saying they could not yet be considered a big club simply because they were now owned by the cash-rich Abu Dhabi United consortium.

Internet

Liverpool suffer new Torres injury blow



Liverpool's Spanish forward Fernando Torres.

LIVERPOOL, 28 Nov—Liverpool's Premier League title push suffered a setback on Thursday when their Spanish international striker Fernando

Torres was ruled out for up to three weeks with a hamstring strain.

Torres, who had only just returned to the side after five weeks out with a similar problem, picked up the injury in the 1-0 Champions League win over Marseille at Anfield on Wednesday.

Defender Fabio Aurelio will be out for a fortnight after picking up a calf problem in the same game. A club spokesman told www.liverpoolfc.tv: "Fernando has a strain in his right hamstring and will be out of action for between two and three weeks. Fabio has a calf strain in his left leg and will be out for two weeks."—Internet

2 share lead at storm-hit Masters

MELBOURNE, 28 Nov—South Africa's Tim Clark waited out a three-hour suspension because of a severe thunderstorm to shoot a 5-under 67 for a share of the first-round lead in the Australian Masters.

Australian Scott Hend was in the clubhouse at 67 when a hail-laced storm hit Huntingdale, forcing nearly 80 players off the course Thursday. When they returned, Clark, 3 under when play was suspended, birdied 15 and 16 on what he said was a "totally different course."

Internet



Federica Faiella and Massimo Scali of Italy perform their compulsory dance at the NHK Trophy Figure Skating in Tokyo, Japan, on 28 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

Injury-plagued Ronaldo targets January return



Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldo.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Nov—Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldo, who has been out of action since February with a knee injury, hopes to play again in January - if he can find a club, his doctor said.

The 32-year-old's physiotherapist Bruno Mazzioni told Radio Brasil that the player hopes to train next week with Flamengo.

"He'll train with Flamengo. Then his idea is to return to action in

January 2009 although it remains to see which club he will play for," said Mazzioni.

Ronaldo, who suffered a serious left knee injury in February, has been without a club since the end of last season when his contract with AC Milan came to an end.

He has been linked with a move to fellow Serie A side Siena who offered him a deal where he would be paid 98,000 euros for every goal scored.

The former world player of the year recently took part in a charity match, but only lasted 22 minutes before being substituted, blaming it on the exhaustive regime he was following to return to action.—Internet

Urawa Red Diamonds to fire German coach

TOKYO, 28 Nov—Urawa Red Diamonds will fire their German coach Gert Engels at the end of the season following their failure to defend their AFC Asian Champions League title, it was reported on Thursday.

"I was told that I will have no contract for next season. I must just accept it because of the differences in how we think," the Sports Nippon daily quoted Engels as saying after meeting club president Mitsunori Fujiguchi on Wednesday.

Urawa were knocked out of the AFC Champions League last month in the semi-finals, losing 3-1 to Gamba Osaka after a 1-1 draw, leaving the German coach's future at the club in doubt.

Urawa's 2-1 loss to Shimizu S-Pulse in the J-League on Sunday apparently sealed his fate. The club, in fourth place on 53 points — four points behind leaders Kashima Antlers with just two games left in the season— now has only a slim chance of winning the title. It would be the second time this season that Urawa has fired a coach. German Holger Osieck, who guided the club to victory in the AFC Champions League in 2007, was sacked in March after a series of poor performances.—Internet



Urawa Red Diamonds will fire their German coach Gert Engels at the end of the season following their failure to defend their AFC Asian Champions League title, according to a report.—INTERNET

Britain could send more troops to Afghanistan

LONDON, 28 Nov—Britain could send more troops to Afghanistan if US president-elect Barack Obama asks for them when he takes office next year, Foreign Secretary David Miliband said in an interview published on Friday.



Foreign Secretary David Miliband

INTERNET

“We are waiting to see what the Obama strategy is. If there are requests for help, we’ll look at them hard,” Miliband told the Daily Telegraph newspaper. But he said it was im-

portant that other NATO allies also contribute to the 51,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) the alliance

leads, which is helping the Afghan government fight a Taliban-led insurgency.

“The British people don’t want to feel it’s always us who gets the nod; they want to know that others will do it,” Miliband said.

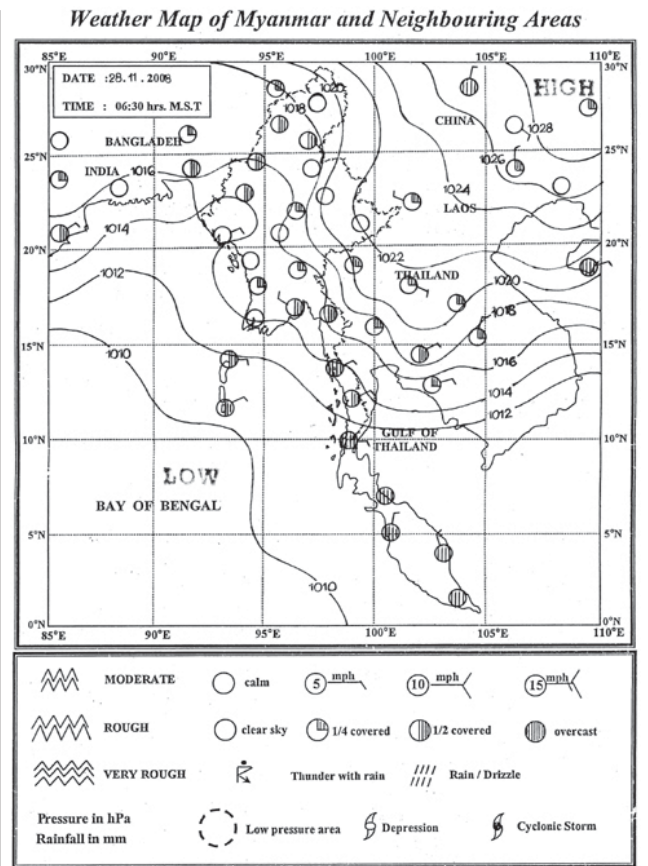
The foreign secretary made a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Tuesday where he held talks with President Hamid Karzai and met British troops.

Internet

At least four killed in Pakistan suicide attack

ISLAMABAD, 28 Nov—At least four people were killed Friday as a suicide bomber attacked a police mobile van in Bannu, a town in Pakistan’s northwest, according to local TV reports.

The private Dawn TV quoted police sources as saying that ten others were injured in the attack and most of the casualties were policemen.—Internet



Artists work on a part of Hanoi Ceramic Mosaic Mural along Yen Phu dike in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 28 Nov, 2008. According to Vietnam Net, the Hanoi Ceramic Mosaic Mural Project is planning to create a 6km-long ceramic mosaic along the Hong River (Red River) to adorn the Yen Phu dike by Vietnamese and foreign artists, as a gift to celebrate of 1000 year of Thang Long Hanoi in 2010.—INTERNET

Western journalists kidnapped in Somalia

WASHINGTON, 28 Nov—Four journalists have been kidnapped in the Somali port city of Bosaso, officials and an international press freedom group say.

One journalist is British, said Bile Qabow Sade, an adviser to the president of Puntland, a semi-autonomous region of northern Somalia.

Another is a Spanish freelance photographer, a Spanish Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The two others are local Somali journalists, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said.

Unknown assailants seized the four around midday Wednesday after they left their hotel, the CPJ said, citing Abdiqani Hassan, chairman of the Puntland Journalist Club.

Two other freelance journalists are still being held captive in Somalia, the CPJ said.—Internet

WEATHER

Friday, 28 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Kachin, Kayah and Kayin States, Sagaing, Yangon and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above November average Temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (0°C) and Hakha (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 27-11-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 28-11-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-11-2008 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 27-11-2008 was (10.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 28-11-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 27-11-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest and West Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29th November 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for first weekend of December 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 29 November
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
- 8:05 am
7. Musical programme
- 8:25 am
8. “မြို့ကြီးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှု” (လျှမ်းထက်၊ မိုးချစ်၊ ပုလဲဝင်း)

- နန်းဆုရတီစိုး၊ စုချစ်စော် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်လူထက်)
- 8:30 am
9. International news
 - 8:45 am
10. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
 - 11:00 am
1. Martial song
 - 11:10 am
2. Musical programme
 - 11:25 am
3. Yan can cook
 - 11:40 am
4. Round up of the weekly news
 - 11:50 am
5. Games for children
 - 12:15 pm
6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေမေမေတ္တာကုသေကုသေ” (အပိုင်း-၂၅) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)
 - 1:00 pm
7. ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ (Telematch)
 - 1:40 pm
8. Turning a Great River into a thoroughfare

- 2:20 pm
9. “နှစ်မွှာနတ်မိမယ်” (မင်းသူ၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်ကျော်)
- 2:35 pm
10. Dance of national races
- 2:45 pm
11. International news
- 2:55 pm
12. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:20 pm
3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 4:30 pm
4. Musical programme
- 4:40 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာ အထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)
- 4:55 pm
6. Songs to uphold national spirit

- 5:00 pm
7. “လောကရဲ့အလှူရတနာ” (ရဲအောင်၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ သူထူး၊ ပွင့်နီမောင်၊ ချစ်စနိုးဦး၊ ချောရတနာ၊ မေကဗျာ)
- 5:15 pm
8. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့
- 5:35 pm
9. ရာသီပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
12. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူမယ်
- 7:00 pm
13. “ပဉ္စလက်ကျောင်းတော်”
- 7:30 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သံယောဇဉ်နောင်ကြီး” (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 8:00 pm
15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်စစ်ရှာဖွေခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၁)

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

Merchants, economic organizations buying paddy from farmers at current price

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Kyaw Myint Than (Lanmadaw)

Recently, we had the opportunity to make a trip. It was dawn when we left Yangon. Along both sides of our route, we saw the already-harvested plots of paddy, the paddy

fields being harvested and thriving paddy plantations.

We arrived at Bago at 11 a.m. Together with Division Manager U Kyaw Than of

Myanma Agriculture Service and Division Head of Land Records and Settlement Department U Zaw Min, we proceeded to Toungoo.

(See page 7)



Thriving 3,000 acres of model paddy plantation seen in DaikU Township.

Winners, proud of Life-time Achievement Literary Award and National Literary Awards

Article: Win Naing (Kyemon)
Photos: Thant Zin Tun



Life-time Achievement Literary Award and National Literary Award winner Hsinbyugyun Aung Thein

YANGON, 28 NOV—The government encourages development of literature, the main pillar of national culture. The list of Life-time Achievement Literary Award and National Literary Awards for 2007 was announced yesterday.

Literary experiences, opinions and feelings of award winners are presented for public knowledge.

Our media team of the Kyemon Daily interviewed the award winners in person at their homes. Hsinbyugyun Aung

Thein lives at No. 1, 5th Aung Thabye Street, 7/ East Ward, Thakayta Township. He entered into the literary world, writing poems with pen name of Shwe Zin. He won National Literary Award for his work "A Collection of Lwan Yamon Oo Short Stories". He again won National Literary Award for "A Collection of Ko Hse Yoe-6 Short Stories" in 1996. He won S.E.A Write Award in 1998; Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-long Literary Award for 2004; and National Literary Award (Novel Genre) for "Nay Min Ta Htaung" (eight volumes) for 2005. (See page 11)

Winners of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2007 announced

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Nov — Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutinizing Committee announced the list of the winners in the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2007 organized by Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information today.

Thuthein won the first prize, Min Beda (Pwintbyu), second and Myaylat Min Lwin, third in novel genre. Thwet Htar Nyo (Thetkala) won first prize, Khin Lapyae Wunn, second and Myat Noe Eine (Zwekabin), third in collected short stories genre. Aye Kyi Sein won first prize, Kyaw Zeya Hlaing (Institute of Economics), second and Maung Ni Hmaing, third in collected poems genre. Htin Lin Kyaw won first prize, Saw Kyu Maung (Yawmyay), second and Maung Yin Hlaing (Pynmamyang), third in general knowledge (art). Aung Soe (Agriculture-107) won first prize, Maung Maung Myint Thein (Sethmu Tekkatho), second and Goal Hla Maung (Myoma), third in general knowledge (science and applied science) genre. Aung Soe (Veterinarian) won first prize, Thaug Nyunt Thit, second and Aung Min Myint, third in belles-letters genre. Ma Aye Chan (Myanmarsar) won first prize, Thein Than Win (Mahlaing), second and Aung Nyein Chan (Mann Tekkatho), third in Myanmar Culture and Fine Arts literature genre. Lu Mon (Pakokku) won first prize, Tekkatho Tawthar, second and Myat Wai Toe (Institute of Education), third in child literature genre. Maung Kyi Thant won first prize, Maung Soe Htaik (Thonze), second and Aung Kyaw Hsan, third in youth literature genre. Zin Min (Thameinhtaw) won second prize and Maung Sanda (Lewe), third in drama genre. U Aung Soe Oo won first prize in translation genre.

Among the 12 genres, there was no winners in Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award in political literary genre.

Winners are to contact the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman at No 529-531 on Merchant Street, Yangon (Tel: 01-240048), the Deputy Chief Editor (Tel: 01-249230) and the Head of Branch (Admin) (01-381449) bringing together with one 5"x7" sized colour photo and one 1"x1" sized photo each. The prize presentation for National Literary Award and Lifetime Achievement Literary Award for 2007 will be held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 December (Sunday). — MNA