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Monday, 28 November, 2005

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

YANGON, 28 Nov— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2005.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Chief of Army Staff of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed psc.—MNA

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

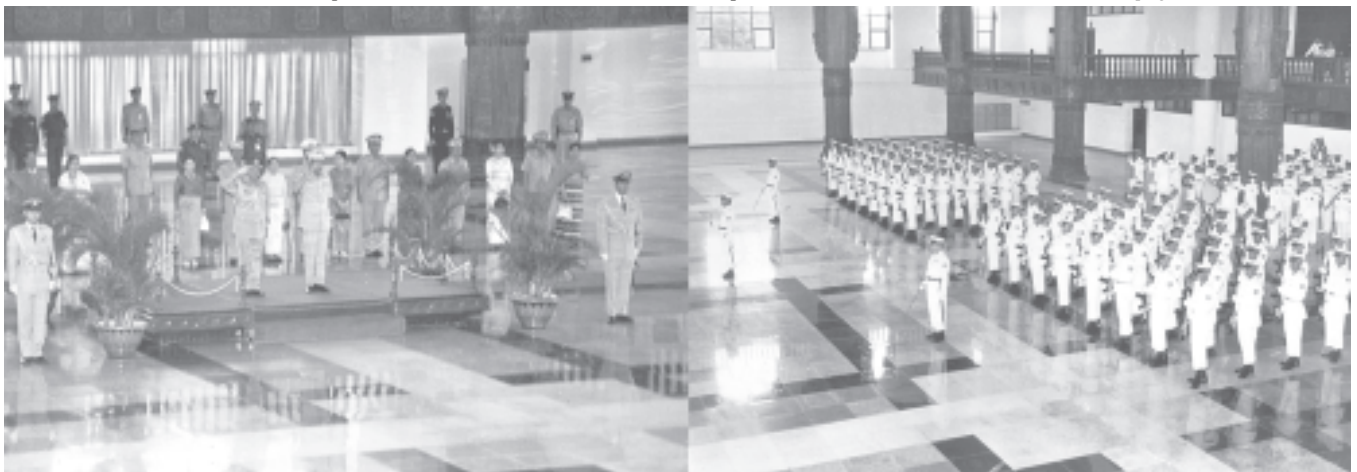
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Chief of Army Staff of People's Republic of Bangladesh

YANGON, 27 Nov — A Bangladeshi goodwill delegation arrived here by air this afternoon at the invitation of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army). Chief of Army Staff of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc and wife headed

the delegation.

The guests were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye (See page 8)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Chief of Army Staff of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed psc take the salute of the Guard of Honour.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 28 November, 2005

Exert constant efforts for producing quality goods

As regards mills and factories, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, stressing the need for those charged with the operation of factories are to pay emphasis on improvement of their factories, durability, production of quality goods and manufacturing of goods that attract the people; and that they are to take systematic steps for the respective sectors.

In accordance with the guidance, over 160 mills and factories under the Ministry of Industry-1 such as paper plants, cement plants, brick factories, soap factories, pharmaceutical factories, umbrella factories, bicycle factories, sewing machine factories and vest factories are trying their utmost to operate fully and produce quality goods for the public.

Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Prime Minister General Soe Win attended the opening ceremony of Textile Factory (Salingyi) of Myanma Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division, on 25 November and made a speech on the occasion.

In his address, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that the government is opening more textile factories with a view to meeting the domestic demand of textiles, creating job opportunities and helping the employees to be familiar with the advanced textile machinery.

Prior to opening of Salingyi Textile Factory, Pwintbyu Textile Factory and Pakokku Textile Factory were opened, and the three factories were opened this year.

The country still needs textile factories since the people are using more textile than ever due to burgeoning population and improving living standards.

To attract a large number of consumers it is required to produce a variety of quality goods. Only then, will the products be able to penetrate the market.

Therefore, mills and factories under the ministry including textile factories are to make constant efforts to produce quality goods but sell them at fair prices.

All in all, local authorities and employees are to exert relentless efforts for Salingyi Textile Factory to produce quality goods, for running it at full capacity and for its durability as the factory is a foundation of a new and modern nation.



Treasurer U Aung Than of Hninzigon Home for the Aged accepts K 100,000 donated by U Thaug Win, Daw Than Than Win and family of Ahlon Township for the three-storey hospital of the home recently. —H

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

Cash donation made for ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati

YANGON, 27 Nov — The cash donation ceremony for paying respects to doyen literati to mark the Sarsodav Day 1367 ME, to be organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, was held at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street, here, this morning.

Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) accepted K 1,050,000 donated by the State Peace and Development Council; and K 30,000 by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister U Thein Sein, Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and vice-chairmen of MWJA accepted K 200,000 donated by Yangon City Development Committee; K 300,000 by Mandalay City Development Committee; K 100,000 by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation; K 100,000 by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung-Daw Khin Khin



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts K 500,000 donated by Eleven Media Group. —MNA

Lay; K 4,576,000 by Printing Entrepreneurs Group; K 2,924,000 by Publishers Group; K 500,000 each by U Kyaw Nyunt (Kyaw Nyunt Yi)-Daw Wah Wah Kyaw, U Mya Thein (Moe Htet Myint-Delta), and Eleven Media Group; K 300,000 by vocalist Maung Maung Aye (Alinka Wutyi); Dr Tin Tun Oo-Dr Khin Moe Moe (Thuta Sweson Literary House); K 100,000 each by Daw Khin Khin Sein (Yuwady Khin Sein Hlaing), Physician U Kyaw Sein-Daw Nan

Kham Sar (Phyusin Myitta), Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe)-Daw Khin Aye Mu, U Ye Wai (Myanmarsar)-U Ye Win (Win Wai Naung), Palmist U San Tin Aung (Shwebo), and U San Lwin Oo (Mya Tharaphu Sarpay and Arts); K 50,000 each by writer U Kyaw Hsan (Thu Khi Aung), U Ngwe Thein, U Nyi Nyi Tun-Daw Ni Ni Maung, and Dr Khin Maung Htwe-U Win Aung

(Health Digest & Point), and other wellwishers. Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) explained the purpose of the donations.

So far, wellwishers have donated K 12.28 million and FEC 5 for the paying respects to doyen literati. Those wishing to donate cash and kind for the ceremony may contact Sarpay Beikman, Tel: 252417, No 529/531, at the corner of Merchant and 37th Streets. —MNA

Myanmar contingent departs for XXIII SEA Games

YANGON, 27 Nov — Myanmar contingent of athletes departed this afternoon for the XXIII Southeast Asian Games being held in Manila, the Philippines this afternoon. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and others. A total of 54 athletes including 23 members of Judo team, 17 members of Myanmar Thaing team and 14 members of weightlifting team set off for the 23rd SEA Games. —MNA

FMI holds 13th annual general meeting

YANGON, 27 Nov — First Myanmar Investment Co Ltd held its 13th annual general meeting at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this afternoon.

Chairman of FMI Co Ltd Managing Agent U Theim Wai extended greetings and explained situation of the company.

Officials replied to the queries raised by shareholders and guests. The financial statement and the annual report for 2004-05 were read to seek approval of the participants. Next, executive directors were elected for 2005-06. The meeting approved the changing of the original value of the share. —MNA



FMI Co Ltd Chairman Managing Agent U Theim Wai extends greetings. —MNA



Manila police prepare security for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the venue for the opening ceremonies in Manila, on 26 Nov, 2005.

INTERNET

ဆုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်

Merkel, Putin agree early 2006 meeting in Moscow

BERLIN, 26 Nov — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed deepening bilateral ties in a brief telephone call on Friday and agreed to meet early next year.

Merkel will visit Putin in Moscow early in 2006, the German Government said in a statement on Friday.

In their 10-minute conversation, the two leaders talked mostly in German, in which Putin is fluent, with Merkel greeting and bidding farewell in Russian,

the German Government said. Christian Democrat leader Merkel took over this week from Social Democrat (SPD) Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder at the head of a coalition of her conservatives and the SPD.

MNA/Reuters

CIA allegedly flying terrorist suspects via German airports

BERLIN, 26 Nov — Terror suspects detained by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) landed at American airbases in Germany, a newspaper reported on Friday.

Handelsblatt, a German business daily, cited a US intelligence source who said that the alleged flights were conducted without informing the German Government.

"The CIA aircraft have made stopovers in various European countries,

among others Germany," the source told the newspaper.

"Nothing has changed in this regard."

The report mentioned the Ramstein base, the largest US military airbase in Europe, and the Rhein-Main Airbase near

Frankfurt.

It also said German authorities had assumed the practice had ceased.

Reports also noted the Rhein-Main Airbase, had been used for a large number of secret CIA flights between 2002 and 2004.

The information came after a growing wave of investigations by prosecutors, judges and human rights groups around Europe into the CIA's alleged use of clandestine prisons to hold terrorist suspects and secret flights to move them between countries.

Germany has opened a criminal investigation into a case which an Egyptian suspect was transported via the US military base at Ramstein, Germany, where he is suspected to have been tortured.

MNA/Xinhua

US anti-war activists unveil monument

WASHINGTON, 26 Nov — Anti-Iraq war protesters gathered in Crawford, Texas, on Friday and unveiled a stone monument there to honour Cindy Sheehan, a vocal opponent to the war whose soldier son was killed in Iraq last year.

The 60-centimetre-high and 20-centimetre-wide monument, with the word "Sheehan's Stand", was unveiled at the Crawford Peace House, as a

tribute to a protest led by Sheehan in August near President George W Bush's ranch at Crawford. Bush arrived at the ranch on Tuesday evening

for a six-day Thanksgiving break.

"We're here to say that the killing has to stop and we're not going away," said Sheehan, who has become an icon of the anti-war movement since the 26-day vigil kilometres away from Bush's ranch.

"We don't hate anybody, we just want people to be held accountable and just because someone's President of the United States, it doesn't guarantee them immunity from accountability," she said.

On Wednesday, about a dozen anti-war protesters were arrested, for violating a ban on camping and parking on roads near Bush's ranch, which was imposed in September by county commissioners following the August protest.

MNA/Xinhua



A US serviceman secures the area around a car bomb explosion in Baghdad on 26 Nov, 2005. A car bomb exploded near a passing US military patrol in Baghdad on Saturday.—INTERNET

Fire in Moscow's hospital under investigation

Moscow, 26 Nov — The Moscow prosecutor's office has begun investigating a fire in the city's Seventh Hospital in southern Moscow, which left four people dead and four others injured.

The blaze broke out near a lift on the third floor of the five-storey hospital building overnight on Friday, the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported on Friday.

The fire spread over 50 square metres and covered all the corridors of the hospital with heavy smoke. Some panic patients even tried to jump out of the windows, 96 people were eventually rescued by the firefighters.

Twenty fire vehicles came to the scene fighting the blaze, which, according to preliminary reports, broke out because of a short circuit.

"The blaze has been extinguished. Unfortunately, there are victims. The fire killed four patients for whom it was difficult to walk," *ITAR-TASS* quoted an officer-on-duty at the Moscow fire service as saying.

The southern Moscow district prosecutor's office has instituted legal proceedings for violation of the fire prevention rules.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts east China's Jiangxi Province

BEIJING, 26 Nov — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale struck a region between Jiujiang, a well-known summer resort on middle reaches of the Yangtze River, and Ruichang, both in east China's Jiangxi Province, at 8:49 am Saturday, China National Seismic Observation Network said.

The epicentre was monitored to be at 29.7 north Latitude, 115.7 east Longitude, according to the sources. No damage is reported thus far.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Fort Campbell soldiers killed in Iraq

FORT CAMPBELL, 26 Nov — A 101st Airborne Division soldier from western New York was killed in Iraq while trying to rescue wounded soldiers and a second soldier died from non-combat-related injuries, Fort Campbell officials said on Friday.

The family of Staff Sgt Aram Bass, 25, was told by military officials Wednesday that Bass was killed when he came under fire-

bomb attack in Baghdad, according to a report Friday in *The Buffalo News*. Spc Allen J Knop, 22, of Willowick, Ohio, died on

Wednesday from non-combat related injuries. His death was under investigation, the post said. Bass' uncle, Donald Bass, told the newspaper the sergeant and his commanding officer were trying to evacuate soldiers wounded by a fire-bomb when a second bomb hit.

Survivors include his mother, Eileen Dercole of Willowick, and father, William A Knop of Chardon, Ohio. Earlier this

week, the Army identified five soldiers with the Fort Campbell, Ky-based 101st Airborne Division who were killed in two roadside bombings in Iraq.

More than 80 soldiers based at Fort Campbell have died in the Iraq war. More units from the post are continuing to deploy to Iraq. Memorial services for the fallen soldiers are being held in Iraq and during monthly ceremonies at Fort Campbell.—Internet

40 feared dead as bus swept away by flood in southern India

NEW DELHI, 26 Nov — A passenger bus was washed off a bridge by flood in southern India's Tamil Nadu on Friday and 40 people were feared dead, local TV channel Headline Today reported.

The bus was swept into a swollen river by flood waters at Janaveli Village, about 450 kilometres south of Chennai, the state capital.—MNA/Xinhua

Annan calls for strong action to eliminate violence against women

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Nov— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on states on Friday to take strong action to eliminate violence against women.

The United Nations on Friday marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women with calls for states to take legal action against the global scourge, for societies to change a mindset that permits such abuse, and for women themselves to stand up and speak out against a culture of shame.

In a message on the Day, Annan pointed out

that "violence against women remains pervasive worldwide".

"It is the most atrocious manifestation of the systemic discrimination and inequality women continue to face, in law and in their everyday lives, around the world.

It occurs in every region, country, and culture, regardless of income, class, race or ethnicity," he said.

Noting that leaders at September's UN World Summit pledged to redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and the girls, he stressed that this required a change of the mindset, still all too common and deep-seated, that violence against women is acceptable.

"That means leadership in showing, by example, that when it comes to violence against women and girls, there are no grounds for tolerance and no tolerable excuses," the Secretary-General declared.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian road builder seeks better security in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, 26 Nov— India's Border Road Organization (BRO), building a strategic highway from Afghanistan to Iran, has asked the government to strengthen security for its 290 employees in Afghanistan after one of them was killed by Taleban.

"We have asked the External Affairs Ministry to take steps to provide security for our staff," said Colonel Hemant Bharadwaj of BRO quoted by *Indo-Asian News Service* on Thursday.

BRO employee Maniappan Raman Kutty was kidnapped by Taleban in the southwest of Afghanistan on 19 November and his body was found on Wednesday.

"The ministry has assured us that they have already started discussions with Afghan officials and necessary steps would be taken," Bharadwaj said.

The road contractor, under the Indian Ministry of Defence, is engaged in building the 219-kilometres highway from

Delaram in Afghanistan to the Iranian border town of Zaranj.

Taleban militants have asked the BRO to retreat from Afghanistan within 48 hours after Kutty was kidnapped. Later its spokesman told Afghan media that the hostage was killed because BRO made no response to its request.

Taleban militants kidnapped two Indians working for a private contractor in Afghanistan in December 2003 but released them unharmed after 19 days. The Indian Government has provided over 80 million US dollars for the highway project while offering a total assistance of 550 million US dollars for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ကုဗွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်ပွား



Thai workers work at the Baan Nam Kem tsunami memorial park at the Baan Nam Kem village in Phang Nga Province, south of Bangkok, on 26 Nov, 2005. Thailand has revealed details of plans to subsidise flights and hotel rooms for thousands of relatives of foreign tsunami victims wishing to attend anniversary memorials of the 26 Dec, 2004 disaster. —INTERNET

Russia to support new IAEA report on Iranian programme

Moscow, 26 Nov— Russia believes in the professionalism of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors and is to back the new IAEA report on Iran's nuclear programme, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview published in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* on Thursday.

"We are going to support the main conclusion contained in the new IAEA report which stresses the need to continue working within the IAEA framework," Lavrov said, commenting on the upcoming

discussion of a regular IAEA report on Iran's nuclear programme to be held in Vienna on Thursday.

Lavrov said that though there have been reports that the United States has intelligence data on Iran's

nuclear programme and possible aspects of its use, this information has not yet become a subject of discussion. "We will certainly give a serious consideration to this information if it is presented

alongside with real evidence," the minister said.

Lavrov emphasized that Russia did not rule out the possibility of referring the Iranian dossier to the UN Security Council, but "there are no grounds for it now".

Touching upon the actual proposal by European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana that Russia should act as a broker in this process, Lavrov said Russia "would not do anything for anybody".

"Russia has its own dialogue with Iran designed to ensure satisfactory solution of the previously arisen problems," the Russian minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

Satellite images may aid CIA "secret prisons" probe

STRASBOURG (France), 26 Nov— Satellite images could help determine if the CIA ran secret prisons in Europe, according to a Swiss lawmaker who is drawing up a report on the issue for the Council of Europe human rights watchdog.

The Washington Post newspaper reported this month the CIA had been interrogating suspected al-Qaeda captives at a secret facility in Eastern Europe that was part of a covert

global prison system with sites in eight countries.

The Council of Europe has opened an investigation into the allegations, which Washington has refused to confirm or deny. EU states agreed on Monday to write a joint letter to the United States seeking clarification about the allegations.

Dick Marty, who hopes to present his report to the council's parliamentary assembly in January, said he had contacted the EU Satellite Centre, based in Torrejon de Ardoz in Spain. "With the help of precise geographic coordinates which I have obtained, it would be possible to obtain high-definition satellite images taken between the beginning of 2002 and now," he said in a note published

on Friday.

The EU Satellite Centre confirmed it had been in contact with Marty but an official at the centre told *Reuters*: "The centre is not working on this task." —MNA/Reuters



US soldiers look inside a civilian vehicle which was damaged by a car bomb that exploded near a two-car convoy carrying foreigners through central Baghdad, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Florida soldier killed in Iraq on Thanksgiving Day

LITHIA, 27 Nov— A Hillsborough County soldier was killed in Iraq after an explosive device flipped his vehicle into a canal, authorities said on Saturday.

Army Pfc Marc A Delgado, 21, of Lithia, died on Thanksgiving Day in Baghdad, according to the Defence Department. Staff Sgt Steven C Reynolds, 32, of Jordan, NY, also died in the incident.

Both men were assigned to the Army's 170th Military Police Company, 504th Military Police Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, based on Fort Lewis, Washington.

Internet

Chinese provinces hold agriculture forum in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Nov— Three Chinese provinces on Friday held here an agriculture forum on investment and business opportunities in northeastern China, expressing their wish to promote cooperation with business circles in Malaysia.

The agriculture forum was jointly organized by governments of the three northeastern Chinese provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, with the cooperation of Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce and Malaysia-China Association of Friendship. It was held in conjunction with the ASEAN-China Agriculture Show 2005, which also opened on Friday.

Themed "Together We Penetrate the Global Market", the four-day show presents about 400 booths displaying products related to the agricultural sector, which fall into two major groups, agriculture produce and agricultural machinery.

The show carries the objective of providing a platform for an exchange of experience, ideas and

technology for the advancement of agriculture in the international level.

The Chinese Government has made a vital decision of revitalizing its northeastern region in succession of the opening-up

in the southeast coastal areas and the drive to develop the west, said Gao Wenkuan, economic and commercial counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Malaysia. This decision provides not only historic

opportunities for the development of the three provinces but also immense business opportunities for investors from all over the world, including Malaysia, Gao said.

MNA/Xinhua



Iranian female paramilitary militiamen (Basij) hold their guns during a rally of paramilitary forces to support Iran's nuclear programme in Teheran, Iran, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Indonesia's GAM ready to hand over remaining arms

JAKARTA, 26 Nov— The separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) was ready to hand over its remaining firearms to the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) in the last phase in December 2005, official news agency Antara reported on Thursday.

"We believe GAM will commit to hand over its firearms in the last phase," the agency quoted AMM Chairman Pieter Feith as saying in Banda Aceh, capital city of Aceh Province, on Thursday.

Feith said that he was glad over the report of successful disarmament in the third phase on Tuesday in Aceh.

GAM handed over 57 firearms of various types

to the AMM in Musara Alun, Takengon, Central Aceh, on Tuesday.

GAM has so far handed over a total of 698 firearms, of which 631 were accepted by AMM and 67 others were disputed. The Indonesian Defence Force (TNI) and Police, meanwhile, will pull out respectively 5,596 non-organic military and 1,350 police personnel.

MNA/Xinhua

Five people killed in south Iran quake

TEHERAN, 27 Nov — Five people have been killed in a strong quake that hit the island of Qeshm off Iran's Gulf coast, the island's Gov-

ernor Heidar Alishvandi told state television.

"Five people have been killed and dozens injured. Four villages have been hit," the governor of the free trade zone island said. According to earlier reports, three villages on Iran's island of Qeshm in the Gulf have been badly damaged in a strong earthquake.

In addition to the damage done to the villages of Tonban, Gavarzin and Khaledi, state television said marketplaces in the island's capital Qeshm City had been shaken to the ground. Qeshm is part of Hormuzgan province.

The US Geological Survey said it was of 6.1 magnitude, some 58 km (36 miles) southwest of Bandar Abbas at 1022 GMT.

MNA/Reuters

Two suicide car bombings kill ten in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov— Car bombs killed 10 people on Saturday in Baghdad and elsewhere in central Iraq, while gunmen opened fire on campaign workers putting up posters in the run-up to next month's parliamentary elections.

Also Saturday, the US military said it has received information that a top aide to the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was killed last month in Ramadi. The death of Bilal Mahmud Awad Shebah was confirmed by a close relative and "coalition sources," the military said in a statement.

Six people were killed

and 12 wounded when a suicide car bomber struck in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, police Lt Col Mahmoud Mohammed said.

Four other people died when a car bomb exploded in western Baghdad as two armoured cars passed by, according to police Lt Thaeir Mahmoud said. Nobody in the convoy was injured, but one of the armoured cars was

damaged and removed by US forces, Mahmoud said. —Internet

Police break drugs ring in southern Spain

MADRID, 26 Nov — Spanish police said on Friday they have broken up a major drugs ring operating in southern Spain after they arrested 14 people and seized about 4,000 kilos

(8,800 pounds) of hashish.

The arrest came after a four-month investigation known as "Operation Davinchi", police said in a statement.

Most of the drugs, 3,440 kilos destined for the Dutch market, were seized in the Alicante area where five people were arrested.

The remainder was seized on the south coast near Tarifa and Algeciras followed by nine arrests in Algeciras and Seville. Police said further arrests may follow. —MNA/Reuters

Dutch police seize 1,650 kilos of cocaine

BRUSSELS, 26 Nov— The Dutch national criminal investigation department has intercepted a 1,650-kilo shipment of cocaine in Rotterdam Harbour earlier this month, Dutch news agency ANP reported on Friday.

The drugs, with an estimated street value of 50 million euros, were hidden in tins of asparagus and red peppers packed in two shipping containers that had arrived from Peru and were destined for Britain and Germany.

ANP quoted police sources as reporting that 16 suspects have been arrested so far, most of them caught in a warehouse in Zwanenburg on 12 November.

Among the arrested are a Spanish food wholesaler, a Briton picked up a

day later believed responsible for the drug's import into the Netherlands, and most recently a suspect arrested on Thursday in Germany. —MNA/Xinhua

20 injured as trains collide in west India

NEW DELHI, 26 Nov— At least 20 people were injured on Friday when a passenger express rammed into a stationary local train at a station in west India's West Bengal, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The local railway administration said the Howrah-Sambalpur Express crashed into the Kharagpur local train at 8:30 am Friday, at the Panskura Station in East Midnapore District, 100 kilometres from Kolkata, capital of West Bengal.

No one was killed

though two coaches of the local train were derailed in the collision. "We have reports of 20 passengers sustaining minor injuries. The guard of the local train got trapped inside the cabin but he survived the accident and was rescued later," a railway spokesperson said.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi firefighters spray water on burned cars after a suicide bomber killed 12 people when he drove his pickup into a crowded gasoline station in Samarra, Iraq, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Native place in arid zone turns lush and green

Maung Maung Aye

I intended to pay a visit to my native village in Bagan-NyaungU township but the plan did not materialize. Finally, after my last visit to the village 19 years ago, I went there taking an air-con bus that started the journey from Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal. I found the express bus comfortable. Before dawn I arrived at the destination.

Before proceeding to my native village, I paid obeisance to a Sayadaw at a monastery close to the motor road. The environs of the monastery were lush and green, contrast with that some two decades ago. When we were young, the Sayadaw and I became acquainted in Yangon. When I presented some pastries, the Sayadaw also treated me with a variety of eatables.

He took residence at a two-storey new building, which was non-existent during my last visit was under construction. The Sayadaw told me that he was planning to build the largest prayer hall in the area, that foundation had already been laid and necessary bricks gathered. He showed me the site and the bricks stockpiled. This could be seen as an indication that the rural populace were better off now.

I was the pillion rider on the bike of my nephew who took me to my native village. In the past, I had to walk. Along the way, I saw vegetation in all directions, hardly any space left. The trees in the compound of the monastery were htanaung, thanakha and shade trees. Vegetation on the way were pigeon pea and corn and the height of the plants was higher than that of a man. I also saw thriving groundnut. I often came across the guidance of the Head of State calling for cultivation of suitable crops in all possible space. I felt that rural people in my native place had already followed the guidance.

In my childhood days, a toddy palm cost K 5 or K10 at most. Sometimes, toddy palms were felled for domestic use. One reason of paying less attention to the toddy palms and felling them was because people needed a large amount of fuel wood to boil toddy juice to make jaggery. Since surrounding areas were almost barren then, to get sufficient fuel for the purpose was a daunting problem for the entire place. Under the circumstances, dry cow dung and discarded old tyres were used as fuel, despite the strong smell.

Today, things have changed for the better. Even the stalks of pigeon pea could be used as fuel. So, the number of toddy palm, a reliable plant of different resources and uses for the local people, is

on the rise. This being so, toddy palms can be seen in all directions.

I noticed the delight and smiles on the faces of rural people since jaggery, the local product, was in good demand and groundnut, the common crop in the area, was thriving.

A generator and a pump donated by wellwishers from Yangon were kept in a brick building near the tube-well in the middle of the village. Also in the compound of the tube-well are a water tank and a self-reliant library. The publications donated to the library by myself and my colleagues in Yangon are now enhancing intellectual power of the villagers.

I also donated some books and journals to the basic education high school of the village-tract. Under the arrangement of the headmistress, I met some village folks and students. At the meeting, I gave them educative talks on knowledge about English, and effective use of time and money.

Having received the information on my visit in advance, my elder brother and his wife from Madaya with whom I had not met for a long time, and my elder sister from Taunggyi were already in the village to meet me. I also held a reunion with my relatives from my mother's native village in the west of the mountain range.

At a meeting with relatives and villagers, I presented pamphlets and photos with a call for extended growing of phisic nut plants presented by U Myint Swe of the Myanmar Agricultural Service. I also urged them to grow plants that thrive in the area.

The pamphlet describes an explanation on the total cost for growing an acre of the plants in the first year. The villagers discussed if the amount of money stated in the pamphlets would cover the growing of an acre of the plants. After calculations we found the amount of investment would be much less than stated. I made suggestions on use of correct agricultural methods and necessary inputs, and extended cultivation of such a suitable and promising crop in the region.

I also gave away copies of the pamphlet to the people I met in the villages where I got to.

Even though I have left my native town since I was 14 or 15 years old, I still have a good taste of local foods. So, I thought how good it would be for me if I had an opportunity to have a meal with fried pounded dry fish in a novitiation ceremony. But, my visit coincided with Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone (in the middle of November), and the majority of the villagers were busy with harvesting groundnut. So, they had not

made any arrangements yet to hold such ceremonies at that time. Luckily, my desire was fulfilled. A man who attended the primary school from the village, graduated from Yangon Technological Institute, and had been employed in Yangon held a Kathina robes offering ceremony at the monastery of the village. The guests were served meals with pork, chicken, fish and mushroom curries. But, I had my appetite only with fried pounded dry fish, a traditional dish.

After the merit-sharing ceremony, I paid reverence to the Sayadaws from the surrounding villages who graced the occasion with their attendance. In the chat, the Sayadaws said that almost all of the villages in the area had enjoyed sufficient supply of clean water. So, local people failed to pay enough attention to the maintenance of the 1,150 feet long and 425 feet wide lake at Phonedaw Village by Kyaukpadaung-NyaungU Road. The rural folks had to rely on the lake when water was scarce in the past.

Due to lack of proper care and maintenance, the bottom of the lake has been rising year by year. According to the Sayadaws, a post indicating the depth of water existed in the past had disappeared. Elders in the area were anxious to maintain the lake with the help of heavy machinery to be able to store more water. They also asked me to help solve the problem and I pledged them to do the needful.

The following day, village elders and I went to the office of the NyaungU District Union Solidarity and Development Association. As I sought the advice for the maintenance of the lake, the secretaries of the District and Township USDAs said they would do as best they could.

Later, I saw the Staff Officer of the NyaungU District Information and Public Relations Department. I told her about the state of the self-reliant library of my native village and requested her to try to provide a black-and-white TV for the library.

On my way back to the village, the elders and I dropped in Taungba model village to study electrification of the village with the use of bio-gas. We learned that the village folks daily supplied 504 viss of cow dung for the purpose. The villagers now enjoy the benefits after paying K20 for a four-foot fluorescent tube per day.

Before leaving, I distributed documents on the cultivation of phisic nut plant, a common crop usually grows at the fences and a source of diesel substitute fuel.

In the past, the rural folks found it difficult to make ends meet. But today, they could lead an easier life with higher earnings thanks to thriving crops. With the five tasks for rural development being implemented, rural people have now access to health services, education facilities and communication links plus clean water. Constant power supply is a possibility in the near future.

On my next visit to my native village, I look forward to seeing the Kamma Lake with higher water storage capacity supplying water to the surrounding villages the whole year round, the vast stretches of thriving phisic nut plants serving the source of diesel-substitute fuel and improved standard of living of the rural people enjoying electricity supply around the clock.

(Translation: AK/MS)

The pamphlet describes an explanation on the total cost for growing an acre of the phisic nut plants in the first year. The villagers discussed if the amount of money stated in the pamphlets would cover the growing of an acre of the plants. After calculations we found the amount of investment would be much less than stated. I made suggestions on use of correct agricultural methods, necessary inputs, and extended cultivation of such a suitable and promising crop in the region.

Education sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of science and technology in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Performance of technocrats of Defence Services Technological Academy and Institutes

Nowadays, science and technology is developing rapidly. With the development of science and technology, neo-colonialists are attempting to penetrate small nations and wield influence on them through social and economic fields



Defence Services Technological Academy in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division.

instead of using the obvious means such as the use of force and intimidation.

Based on patriotism and Union Spirit, all the people have to overcome such acts with national awareness and the use of science and technology for development of socio-economic life in the 21st century.

In order to contribute to nation-building tasks Tatmadaw member technocrats are being produced in science and technology sector. They are participating in the nation-building tasks.

With the help of Tatmadaw engineers a great deal of major and small bridges were constructed nationwide. New roads and airfields were built and the old ones were upgraded. Moreover, dams and factories are being built with the assistance of Tatmadaw engineers.

Defence Services Technological Academy and Tatmadaw Computer and Technological Institutes produce outstanding Tatmadawmen technocrats who hold doctorate degrees.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, Defence Services technocrats who are loyal to the State and the people and who safeguard the State are actively participating in the nation-building tasks.

Opening of Defence Services Technological Academy and Computer and Technological Institutes and construction of roads, bridges and airfields carried out by Tatmadaw engineers are shown in the table.

Defence Services Technological Academy and institutes

Sr No	Academy and institutes	1988	2005
1	Defence Services Technological Academy	-	1
2	Defence Services Computer and Technological Institute	-	1

Roads built by Tatmadaw engineers

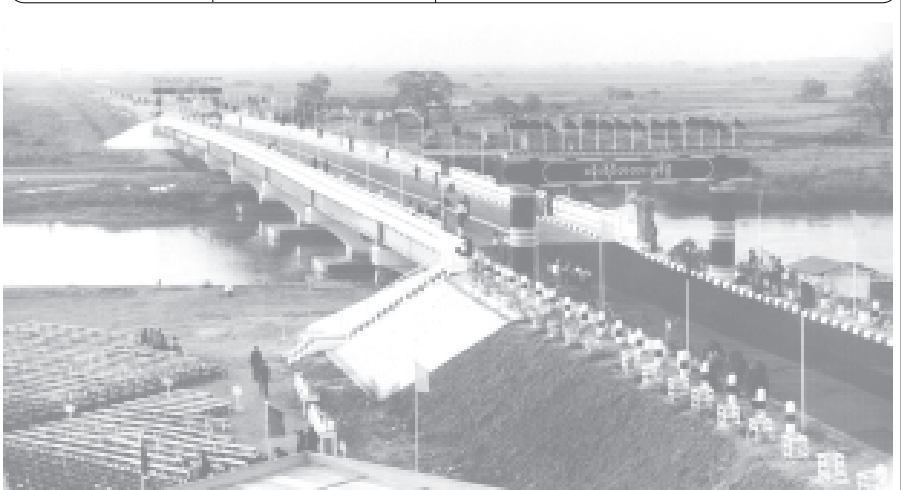
Sr No	name of road	state/division	length of road	width of road	opening date
1	Moywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road	Sagaing	115 miles	18 ft	24.3.2004
2	Magway bypass	Magway	5.03 miles	18 ft	17.3.2004

Airfields built by Tatmadaw engineers

Sr No	name of airfield	state/division township	length of runway (ft)	width of runway (ft)	opening date
1	Homalin	Sagaing	12,000	200	18.8.2003
2	Myeik	Taninthayi	9,000	200	20.11.2003
3	Bokepyin	Taninthayi	10,000	100	10.7.2004
4	Kyaukhtu	Magway	10,000	100	10.7.2004

Bridges over 180 ft and above built by Tatmadaw engineers

Sr No	name of bridge	state/division township	length(ft)	width(ft)	tons allowed	**** opening date
1	Hlaingbwe	Hlaingbwe, Kayin State	1,000	13.7	30	23-5-1999
2	Ngamoyeik	Dagon (East), Yangon Division	660	28	60	10-2-2001
3	Pathaung	Myeik, Taninthayi Division	1,200	28	60	28-12-2001
4	La Pin	Kalewa, Sagaing Division	220	28	60	3-1-2004
5	Pahtolong	Kani, Sagaing Division	450	28	60	3-1-2004
6	Myoma	Mingin, Sagaing Division	540	28	60	24-3-2004
7	Tain	Mingin, Sagaing Division	360	28	60	24-3-2004



Ngamoyeik Bridge built by military engineers in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

(from page 1)

and wife Daw Mya Mya San, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and their wives, Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife, senior military officers, Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohammed Khariuzzaman, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Helal Uddin Ahmed, psc and wife and officials. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party greeted the visiting goodwill delegation



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Lieutenant-General Moeen U Ahmed, psc inspect the Guard of Honour (News on page 1).— MNA

members on their arrival at the airport at 1 pm.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and

Lieutenant-General Moeen U Ahmed, psc took the salute of the Guard of Honour at the dais of the

lounge of the airport. They inspected the Guard of Honour. Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc

cordially greeted Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party. Later, visiting Bangladeshi Chief

of Army Staff and wife and delegation members went to the State House. MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San host dinner in honour of visiting Bangladeshi delegation



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Lieutenant-General Moeen U Ahmed, psc seen at the dinner.— MNA

YANGON, 27 Nov — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San hosted a dinner in honour of visiting Chief of Army Staff of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant-General Moeen U Ahmed, psc, and wife and goodwill delegation members at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyintha, here, at 7.30 pm today.

Also present at the dinner were member of the

State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Win. Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and their wives, Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Minister for Foreign Affairs U



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Mrs Naznin Ahmed, wife of Lt-Gen Moeen U Ahmed, psc, seen at the dinner.— MNA

Nyan Win, senior military officers, Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohammed Khariuzzaman, Defence Attache Brig-Gen Helal Uddin Ahmed, psc and wife and officials. Before and during the dinner, artistes of Fine Arts Department performed entertainment.

After the dinner, the artistes presented dances and songs to the guests at the Thabin Hall. After the entertainment, Bangladeshi guests Lt-Gen Moeen U Ahmed, psc, and wife presented the flower basket to the artistes. Later, they posed for documentary photo.

MNA

Wife of visiting Chief of Army Staff of People's Republic of Bangladesh and party visit MMCWA

YANGON, 27 Nov — The wife of the visiting Chief of Army Staff of People's Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc, Mrs Naznin Ahmed and party, accompanied by wife of Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence Daw Nwe Nwe Win and officials, arrived at Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the corner of Thanthuma Road and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township this evening.

They were welcomed by President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members.

First, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win and Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha explained the aim and activities of the association and the president of MMCWA presented souvenirs to the visiting wife of the Chief

of Army Staff of People's Republic of Bangladesh. The visiting wife of the Chief of Army Staff of People's Republic of Bangladesh expressed thanks and donated cash to the association through the president of the association.

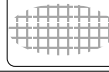
Later, the visiting party viewed the documentary photos on the activities of the association and Early Childhood Development Centre.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shakes hands with Bangladeshi Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant-General Moeen U Ahmed, psc, at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA



MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win accepts cash donation from Mrs Naznin Ahmed, wife of Bangladeshi Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc.—MNA



MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win meets with Mrs Naznin Ahmed, wife of Bangladeshi Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc.—MNA

Rakhine State enjoying fruits of development

Thanthamache Bridge in Yanbye township, Kyaukpyu district, Rakhine State opens

YANGON, 27 Nov — Thanthamache Bridge in Yanbye township, Kyaukpyu District, Rakhine State, was inaugurated on 25 November morning. The bridge linking Thanzit river and Kaleintaung river was built by Bridge Construction-13 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun Brig-Gen Maw Thein and senior military officers of the local battalion, departmental officials and social organizations and local people.

Addressing the ceremony, the commander said Thanthamache Bridge with 707.3 feet in length was the 32nd in Rakhine State and built at a cost of K 910 million. The government is building a network of roads and bridges that are basic infrastructure of the country to develop. With such facilities in the nation, its economy, education and health and living standards are improving day by day. He said Rakhine State had poor transport in the past and Rakhine Roma mountain range posed a major roadblock to the access to other states and divisions, allowing local people to mainly rely on water and air routes.

That is why Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance that Rakhine State had poor

transport and people had to rely on waterways. The access to the regions of the state was nearly lost due to bad weather, less number of ships and taking long to travel. And few people depended on air route. Therefore, the government had committed to take measures to improve the state anyhow.

The commander added it can be witnessed that a lot of roads and bridges have been constructed in the state where rivers and creeks and mountain ranges are abundant. A total of 10 bridge projects (180 feet and above) are being implemented only on the 42.3-mile Maei-Sanekhom road section of Yangon-Kyaukpyu road. So far seven bridges have been opened and Kyanthazin Tanpauk Bridge, Wanphaik Bridge and Minkyaung Bridge will be opened soon. Rakhine State is enjoying fruits of development in the fields of economy, education, health and transport undertaken by the State in cooperation with the people and the Tatmadaw. He said those responsible and local people are urged to maintain the valuable facilities that were constructed by the State spending huge amount of money.

All in all, national people living in Rakhine State are to lend themselves with Union Spirit to the development of the nation and its perpetuity as long as the world exists.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivered a

speech saying Rakhine State now has 879/1 miles of road compared to 448 miles before 1988. Four major roads have been built to gain access to the state. They are Yangon-Swittway road, Yangon-Kyaukpyu road, Ngathaingchaung-Gwa road and Padaung-Taungup road. In Rakhine State, there were only eleven 180-foot and above bridges, now it has 42. With the advent of Thanthamache Bridge, Rakhine State will develop more in all aspects, said the minister. Then he urged the local populace to maintain the bridge and take part in State's development drive.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister formally opened the bridge and posed for a documentary photo together with the locals.

The frame of the bridge is of reinforced concrete type. It is 24 feet wide and 707.3 feet long with a 3.2-foot pedestrian lane on each side.

MNA

It can be witnessed that a lot of roads and bridges have been constructed in the state where rivers and creeks and mountain ranges are abundant.

Local farmers urged to grow high yield...

(from page 16)
reports on matters related to the township by the Chairman of Yebyu Township PDC, and on repairing of the sluice gate by Deputy Director U Tin Win of Irrigation Department.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected completion of



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspect harvesting of monsoon paddy at Thabyechaung Village of Dawei Township.— MNA

the repairing tasks at the sluice gate. He spent the night in Dawei.— MNA

Minister inspects factories

YANGON, 27 Nov — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang arrived at the soap factory of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries in Yamethin Township yesterday afternoon and inspected the production of the factory.

At garment and dyeing and printing factory of Myanma Textile Industries in Yamethin, the minister inspected the running of 400 waving machines and production procedure in the factory and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the USDA secretariat member

together with Secretary of Mandalay USDA U Tin Maung Oo, met with township secretaries, executives and members at Lewe Township USDA Office and gave instructions on future tasks.

On arrival at No 2 paper plant of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries in Yeni, Bago Division, the minister inspected the production and storage of pulp and gave necessary instructions.

In the evening, the minister and officials looked into the production tasks in Zeyawady sugar mill of Myanma Foodstuff Industry and left instructions there.

MNA

Functions of dry day inspection teams supervised in Yangon City

YANGON, 27 Nov — Vice-Chairman of the Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, together with members Police Quartermaster-General Police Brig-Gen Win Soe, Director-General U Khin Maung, Lt-Col Kyaw Swa Oo of the Office of Quartermaster-General, Joint-Secretary Commander of Wireless and Traffic Police Force Lt-Col Aung Naing and departmental heads supervised functions of the dry day inspection teams,

here, this morning.

Likewise, members of the Supervisory Committee MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Lt-Col Saw Win Thoun and Director U Tin Aung of the Ministry of Industry-1 supervised functions of the dry day inspection teams, here, this evening. Dry Day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of the respective uniforms and breaking of the traffic rules at the main points in the city from 7 am to 5 pm.—MNA

Mayangon BEHS No 1 equipped with multimedia classrooms

YANGON, 27 Nov — The Government places emphasis on implementation of the 30-year national education promotion plan to enable the basic education to keep abreast of international education standard, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander of Yangon Command as well as Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, said this morning at the ceremony to open the multimedia classrooms at Mayangon BEHS No 1.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and Headmaster U Shein Lein Aung of the school formally opened the multimedia classrooms. The commander unveiled the signboard of the classrooms.

The commander thanked the wellwishers for their contributions to the classrooms and urged those present to maintain the multimedia classrooms for



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe views round multimedia classrooms of Mayangon BEHS No 1.— MNA

their durability.

Next, the commander and officials accepted K

3,491,150—cash and kind donations for the multimedia classrooms

from wellwishers. Later, the deputy minister gave a speech.— MNA

Dumex Public Seminar held

YANGON, 27 Nov — Under the arrangement of Mo Asia Co Ltd, Dumex Public Seminar for life skills and Intelligence Quotient: Emotional Intelligence (IQ:EI) of children took place at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Street this afternoon, and Managing Director of the company Peter Moe Kyaw extended greetings.

Next, Dr Marc A Brackett of Yale University of the U.S.A gave a lecture on the topic of nutrition innovation-2005 and answered the queries raised by those present.— MNA



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe hears reports on matters related to rubber and oil palm being grown by Supreme Companies Gorup by Managing Director Dr Sein Myint near Haingku Village of Hlegu Township on 25 November.— H

Prizes presented to winners in Yankin Township Extempore Talks Contest

YANGON, 27 Nov — Organized by Yankin Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, the township level extempore talks to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at the township association office this afternoon.

After the contest,

USDA CEC member Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein presented first, second and third prizes to ninth standard student Maung Thet Tun Aung of Yankin BEHS No 1, seventh standard student Ma Ei Myat Mon of Yankin BEHS No 2 and tenth

standard student Ma The Hnin Soe of Yankin BEHS No 1 respectively. Secretaries and executives of Division, District and Township USDAs gave away prizes to outstanding youth and USDA members.

Later, the ceremony ended with singing of the Zar Ti Mann song.— MNA

Poll shows most Britons unhappy with Blair, Govt

LONDON, 27 Nov — Most Britons are dissatisfied with the way the government is running the country and with Tony Blair's own performance as prime minister, an opinion poll published on Sunday showed.

Fifty-seven per cent of those polled were unhappy with the government's performance while only 33 per cent were satisfied, according to the poll conducted by Ipsos-MORI and published in *The Observer* newspaper.

Blair's own performance was little better, with 55 per cent saying they were dissatisfied with him against only 37 per cent who were satisfied.

In contrast, nearly half of those polled said they were happy with the performance of Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, widely tipped to replace Blair in the run-up to the next general election.

Forty-nine per cent said they were satisfied with the way Brown was doing his job against 35 per cent who were not.

Despite Blair's poor showing, Labour still enjoyed a healthy lead over the Conservatives, according to the poll of nearly 2,000 people conducted between 17-22 November. Labour were on 42 per cent — up from the 36 per cent of the vote it took in the last election in May — while the Tories were barely changed from the 33 per cent they polled then.

Blair has said he will not stand for a fourth term in office after leading Labour as prime minister since 1997, while the Tories are locked in a leadership battle between David Cameron and David Davies to see who will replace Michael Howard. — *MNA/Reuters*



Acehnese workers fix a road in Lhoknga, on the outskirts of the Indonesian city of Banda Aceh, on 26 Nov, 2005, which was devastated by a massive quake-triggered tsunami on 26 Dec, 2004. —INTERNET

Pakistan, Indonesia agree to increase anti-terrorism cooperation

ISALAMBAD, 27 Nov — Pakistan and Indonesia have pledged to fight together the menace of terrorism being faced by the two countries, according to local Press reports on Friday.

This was included in a statement late Thursday by Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf

and visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono after their talks in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

President Musharraf said that both the countries had agreed to share intelligence information to curb terrorism.

"Both of us are victims of terrorism and therefore

we need to fight it together through increased intelligence cooperation," said Musharraf.

Pakistan and Indonesia also agreed on encouraging their private sectors to strengthen economic relations. Both countries signed a framework agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation.

Musharraf and Yudhoyono also oversaw the signing of a letter of intent to increase bilateral cooperation in fighting terrorism, which they called important in the context of increasing bilateral cooperation.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

Cold snap grips Europe, hits flights, power supply

BERLIN, 27 Nov — Unusually harsh winter weather conditions gripped parts of northern Europe on Saturday, leading to power failures, cancelled flights and traffic chaos on icy highways.

A quarter of a million people were without electricity in Germany's most populous state of North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW), authorities said on Saturday. Snow and ice also affected flights in and out of the airport at Duesseldorf, the NRW state capital. Thirty-six flights had to be redirected and 25 were cancelled, an airport spokesman said. "I have been working at the airport for 11 years and I cannot remember something like this ever happening before," spokesman Torsten Hiermann told *Reuters*.

A spokesman for France's Aeroports de Paris said 23 flights from Charles de Gaulle Airport were cancelled because of snow

on the runways. Other flights were experiencing delays of 45 minutes.

In Paris, the Eiffel Tower was temporarily

closed to the public at mid-morning because the stairs and platforms were too slippery for visitors.

MNA/Reuters

British Defence Ministry probes Marines bullying claim

LONDON 27 Nov — Britain's Ministry of Defence said it had launched an investigation into claims on Sunday of violent bullying in the Royal Marines.

It said it launched the probe as the *News of the World* newspaper published photographs of what it said were recruits at the Royal Marines being forced to fight each other naked in a bizarre initiation ceremony. The blurred photos, taken from a video sequence, show around a dozen men standing naked in a field.

Two of them are seen fighting each other, first with large rubber mats

wrapped around their arms and then with bare fists.

The photos, published in Sunday's edition of the paper, then appear to show a man dressed in blue, who the paper says is more senior Marine, kicking one of the new recruits in the head.

The final photo of the series shows a recruit lying naked on the ground. The paper says he is unconscious. The *News of the World* said the ceremony was secretly filmed in May this year at a

barracks near Plymouth by another soldier, who claimed abuse was widespread within the Marines.

He said recruits were tortured with electric shocks to their genitals, forced to crawl naked through thorns and ordered to jump out of bedroom windows, which had caused some to break their legs, the paper said.

The MoD said it was satisfied the tape was genuine.

"The Royal Marines take these allegations extremely seriously and have a zero tolerance policy on bullying and harassment," a spokesman said. "An SIB (Special Investigations Board) investigation has been launched.

"Bullying and harassment is not widespread within the Armed Forces. Behaviour of this kind will not be tolerated and every effort is made to apply this policy rigorously."

There have been a number of allegations of abuse within the British Armed Forces recently, most notably in connection with the deaths of

four young soldiers at Deepcut Army barracks in Surrey between 1995 and 2002.

MNA/Reuters

Germany urges US to answer claims of secret CIA flights, prisons

BERLIN, 27 Nov — The German Government on Saturday urged the United States to give an official answer on allegations that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) made secret flights over Europe to transport terrorist suspects. On the eve of his visit to Washington, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in an interview with the weekly *Bild am Sonntag*, that an evaluation must be made on the basis of facts and not from media reports about the issue.

The new foreign minister welcomed British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw's call for the US officially to clear up questions surrounding the claims of secret flights over Europe. Reports had said that the CIA secretly transported terrorist suspects to locations in Central and Eastern Europe for interrogation via European airports. — *MNA/Xinhua*

US soldier killed in tank accident south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 Nov — A US soldier has been killed in a tank accident south of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement on Friday. The soldier, assigned to Task Force Baghdad, was killed on Thursday in an accident caused by his tank, the statement said, without elaboration. Over 2,100 US soldiers have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion to the country in March 2003. — *MNA/Xinhua*



An Iraqi man looks at destroyed cars at a gas station after a suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle in Samarra, Iraq, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

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Dated 28 November 2005

Indonesia uncovers two more ecstasy factories

JAKARTA, 26 Nov — The Indonesian police have discovered two ecstasy factories in the East Java towns of Malang and Banyuwangi, almost two weeks after a successful raid on a huge plant in Serang Regency, owing to a tip-off from Hong Kong police, reports said on Friday.

During the latest raids on Wednesday, officers from the National Police Headquarters and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) arrested five people allegedly running the drug factories, said *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

National Police spokesman Inspector Aryanto Boedihardjo was quoted as saying police were tipped by the Hong Kong Police about the location of the two factories in East Java.

"The Hong Kong Police told us that they had

information on pill-making machines sent to Indonesia, therefore, the police and the Customs officers went to check on the delivery to find the exact locations where the machines had been delivered," Aryanto said.

The machines were discovered in two locations in Batu District in Malang and in Ketapang District in Banyuwangi. The police later arrested Siswo Prawiro, the owner of the two factories, and his three accomplices.

MNA/Xinhua

China's online tourism operation calls for customer service

KUNMING, 26 Nov— The Hong Kong China International Tourism Investment Corporation announced its plan to build a Mango website and operate in 2006, arousing great attention and interest in experts on China's online tourism operation during the ongoing China International Travel Mart.

Experts said China's online tourism operations have a huge potential but currently are small in scale.

According to statistics, online hotel reservations were only 510 million yuan last year and the number is expected to reach 1.8 billion yuan in three years. The market share of China's e-commerce tourism dealings only occupied less than 1 per cent of total tourism share. This did not match with China's position as the world's big nation of

tourism and the large number of Internet users.

Judging from China's current situation, it is still early to fully realize online tourism reservation. First of all, a comprehensive customer service centre needs to be set up in China, said Wu Zhiwen, president of Mango website Friday.

He added that online tourism reservations will be

a trend in China's tourism consumption in the future. At the first stage of the online tourism reservation period, most of reservations need to be done by customer service centres. As payment methods diversify, people will increase their trust on e-commerce, thus giving priority to online reservation.

MNA/Xinhua



A boy goes up to a Christmas tree made of 4,500 cans of preserved food, on show at the Hong Kong International Christmas Fair, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Abramoff probe broader than thought

NEW YORK, 26 Nov— The US Justice Department's probe of Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff is broader than previously thought, examining his dealings with four lawmakers, former and current congressional aides and two former Bush Administration officials, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday.

Prosecutors in the department's public integrity and fraud divisions are looking into Abramoff's dealings with four Republicans — former House of Representatives Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas, Representative Bob Ney of Ohio, Representative John Doolittle of California and Senator Conrad Burns of Montana, the paper said, citing several people close to the investigation.

Abramoff is under investigation over his lobbying efforts for Indian tribes with casinos. He has also pleaded not guilty to

federal charges in Florida that he defrauded lenders in a casino cruise line deal.

The prosecutors are also investigating at least 17 current and former congressional aides, about half of whom later took lobbying jobs with Abramoff, as well as an official from the Interior Department and another from the government's procurement office, the *Journal* said. Justice Department spokesman Paul Bresson declined to comment on the investigation.

The newspaper said investigators were looking

into whether Abramoff and his partners made illegal payoffs to the lawmakers and aides in the form of campaign contributions, sports tickets, meals, travel and job offers, in exchange for helping their clients.

DeLay and Ney have already retained criminal defence lawyers.

Spokespeople for the two lawmakers told the *Journal* that they have both hired lawyers and have not been contacted by the Justice Department.

Michael Scanlon, a former aide to DeLay and partner to powerful Republican lobbyist

Abramoff, pleaded guilty to conspiracy on Monday under a deal in which he is cooperating with prosecutors probing the alleged influence-buying.

MNA/Reuters

British supermarkets promoting unhealthy food

LONDON, 26 Nov— British supermarket chains are undermining public health by heavily promoting cut-price deals on fatty and sugary foods, a consumer watchdog said on Friday.

The National Consumer Council said it had found that supermarkets offered twice as many promotions for unhealthy products as for healthier options like fruit and vegetables.

"In respect of in-store promotions, we conclude the majority of retailers are undermining public health goals," the NCC said in a report on the nutritional content of supermarket food.

It said the less healthy products and promotions were more often found in retailers with lower-income customers.

The council looked at over 2,000 promotions, such as 'buy one, get one free' and 'multi-buy' offers, in its survey which visited a representative store of each of the main nine British supermarkets.

At Somerfield it found that only 7 per cent of promotions were for fruit

and vegetables, with Marks & Spencer performing best with 27 per cent.

But the report found that the retailers had made improvements in cutting salt, improving labelling and taking sweets away from checkout tills, since a study last year.

It said the Co-op was the top performer for the second year in its Health Responsibility Index, which ranks retailers for the quality of their nutrition, labelling information, and promotions.

Marks & Spencer and Waitrose came equal second, Sainsbury was ranked fourth, Asda fifth, Tesco sixth, Iceland and Somerfield were seventh equal, while Morrisons trailed in last for the second year. The NCC said its research showed that, with the exception of the Co-op, "up-market" retailers had higher health ratings, while

the supermarkets with a greater proportion of lower-income shoppers scored less well.

"The dominance of Morrisons, Somerfield, Iceland and Tesco at the lower end of our ranking again illustrates our conclusion that retailers' practices are contributing to, or exacerbating, the inequalities that exist between the diet and health of more affluent and less affluent consumers."

Morrisons said the report was inaccurate and failed to recognize the progress the retailer had made on healthy food. "We have introduced our Eat Smart healthy eating range and extended our Better Because brand in addition to an on-going robust salt-reduction programme focussed on the most popular products sold in stores," it said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Canadian oppsn demands answers on CIA flights

OTTAWA, 26 Nov— Canadian opposition legislators accused the government on Friday of trying to hide the fact that planes used by the US Central Intelligence Agency to transport prisoners for interrogation had landed at Canadian airports.

Earlier this week, Ottawa said it was investigating reports that two planes linked to a CIA shell company had flown from Iceland to St. John's in Newfoundland, on Canada's East Coast.

The opposition Bloc Quebecois said in Parliament on Friday that it now had evidence that another plane that was used to fly prisoners had landed in Canada on three

occasions.

Public Security Minister Anne McLellan told Parliament she had no knowledge of any such landings. When Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew repeated this reply, it prompted an outburst from Bloc legislator Pauline Picard.

"If the minister (McLellan) is incapable of telling us whether an airplane landed in Canada

or not, it's because she wants to hide something from us," she told Parliament.

"After what happened to Maher Arar, we have reason to be worried. What is the minister hiding?"

Arar, an Ottawa engineer, was deported by US agents to Syria from New York in 2002 on the grounds he was an al-Qaeda agent.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒုံးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ

Sharks, warblers, deer on endangered species list

NAIROBI, 26 Nov — The world's second largest shark, a bird found in the Garden of Eden and Central Asia's only true deer were among 11 new species given the title of "endangered" by countries around the world on Friday.

Around 95 countries, members of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), agreed that several birds and mammals faced increasing threats to their survival and needed more protection.

"The 11 species will join a listing of around 107 migratory animals which are considered endangered and thereby given special status by all member states," Marco Barbieri, CMS scientific officer, told journalists.

"This means countries will need to take concerted action to protect the species, such as conservation projects and protection measures," he said at the end of a CMS conference in the Kenyan capital.

The CMS, a treaty signed under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), says migratory species are considered more

vulnerable than others because of their patterns of regular movement across borders and countries.

UN wildlife experts say the Basking Shark, which can reach 10 metres in length, is found in the continental shelves of the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific Oceans and the Mediterranean and is often caught in fishing nets or

collides with boats in shallow waters.

The Basra Reed Warbler, a small brown and white bird which breeds in the Mesopotamian marshlands of southern Iraq, thought to be the original Garden of Eden, is also on the list.

Experts say the warbler's numbers have dwindled in Iraq because of

heavy drainage of the marshlands under Saddam Hussein's rule. The global population is believed to be between 2,500 and 10,000.

Another species to be given special status is the Bukhara deer, which inhabits central Asia's arid zones, migrating across countries like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

MNA/Xinhua

Two tigers feared poisoned to death in N-E India

NEW DELHI, 26 Nov — Two adult tigers have died at a wildlife sanctuary in northeast India's Assam, triggering fears of either poisoning of the big cats by locals or a possible virus outbreak in the park, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The bodies of two Royal Bengal tigers were found in the Orang National Park in Assam this week, said a forest department spokesperson.

"The bodies of the two full-grown male tigers were found lying inside the park and we have sent the viscera and

other organs for forensic tests to pinpoint the cause of the deaths," said park warden S Momin.

The forensic tests will take at least a week. The tiger population at Orang is estimated to be about 20 according to the latest state wildlife census. One of the dead tigers, measuring 4.49 metres

long, was found dead on Monday with blood from the nose. —MNA/Xinhua



People watch Indian millionaire Vijaypat Singhanian taking off in a hot air balloon in Mumbai, India, on 26 Nov, 2005. Singhanian broke the previous world record by hitting 21,000 metres (69,000 feet) a little more than two hours after taking off in his 40-ton (44-US ton) balloon. —INTERNET

Studies show carbon dioxide levels highest in 650,000 years

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov — With the first in-depth analysis of the air bubbles trapped in the ice core of East Antarctica, scientists have discovered that today's atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are the highest in 650,000 years.

The analysis highlights the fact that today's rising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration, at 380 parts per million by volume, is already 27 per cent higher than its highest recorded level during the last 650,000 years, reported scientists in two papers in the November 25 issue of the journal *Science*.

One study chronicles the stable relationship between climate and the carbon cycle during the Pleistocene (650,000 to 390,000 years ago). The second paper documents atmospheric methane and nitrous oxide levels over the same period.

Carbon dioxide and methane, known as greenhouse gases, are blamed for global warming. Scientists believe that humans have been accelerating the global warming trend by emitting more greenhouse gas through industrialization. The ice core from Antarctica, containing hundreds of thousands of years-worth of atmospheric air samples within tiny bubbles trapped in the ice, adds to this argument by extending Earth's

greenhouse gas record by 210,000 years.

The new records should help scientists better understand climate change and the nature of the current warm period on Earth, and may also aid researchers in reducing uncertainty in predictions of future climate change, said the researchers.

"We have added another piece of information showing that the timescales on which

humans have changed the composition of the atmosphere are extremely short compared to the natural time cycles of the climate system," Thomas Stocker, senior author for both studies, said in a statement.

The new studies confirm the stable relationship between the Antarctic climate and greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane during the last four glacial cycles. —MNA/Xinhua

China bans inflow of polluted Nestle milk

BEIJING, 26 Nov — Swiss food maker Nestle's contaminated baby milk is not allowed to be taken or sent to China, said sources with the state quality watchdog on Friday.

China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said that those products, if found inside the country, will be seized and destroyed.

It also confirmed after its probe that China had not imported any of these tainted products so far.

Nestle (China) announced Wednesday that none of the recalled products had been sold on the Chinese market.

Nestle said Tuesday that it had recalled more than two million litres of baby milk found to be contaminated with the chemical substance isopropylthioxanthone (ITX) from Italy, Spain, France and Portugal.

Most of the milk is in Italy, where about 30 million litres were seized after tests showed some of it had been tainted by ITX from printing ink on the packaging.

MNA/Xinhua



Two white-tail deer stop for a moment in the newly-fallen snow in the woods of Bainbridge, Ohio, on 24 Nov, 2005. A Thanksgiving snowstorm blanketed the area in nearly a foot of snow. —INTERNET

Indonesia allowed to produce Tamiflu

JAKARTA, 26 Nov — The Indonesian Government has been granted a permit to reproduce bird flu medicine Tamiflu by Swiss-based pharmaceutical firm Roche International, Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said here Friday.

"I received a phone call from the Roche International management several hours ago, saying we are allowed to produce Tamiflu to combat bird flu in Indonesia," she told reporters.

Supari said the ministry would prepare the budget to import materials for Tamiflu

production from South Korea.

The government has not appointed any local firm to reproduce the medicine, she said.

According to the ministry's data, bird flu has infected 11 people and caused the deaths of seven others since July.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard, centre, makes his way between Manchester City's Lee Croft, right, and Joey Barton during their English Premier League soccer match at the City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Arsenal power up to second after Wigan lose

LONDON, 27 Nov—Arsenal leapt to second in the Premier League when they thumped Blackburn Rovers 3-0 and Wigan Athletic lost 2-1 at home to Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

Goals by Francesc Fabregas, Thierry Henry and Robin van Persie gave Arsenal a win that lifted their points tally to 26, eight fewer than champions Chelsea who were playing at Portsmouth in a match that kicked off at 1715 GMT.

Wigan slipped to third on 25 points after Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids netted his first goal for Spurs in their victory at the JJB Stadium. Spurs are up to fifth on 24 points.

On a day when fans paid their respects to former Manchester United great George Best, who died on Friday, improving Liverpool won 1-0 at Manchester City, Birmingham won 1-0 at bottom club Sunderland and Aston Villa beat Charlton, also 1-0.

Some fans observed a minute's silence for Best, others applauded his memory, although it was not well-observed every-

where and the tribute was cut short at the Manchester City-Liverpool match, BBC reported.

Best's former club United, who are fourth on 24 points, play at West Ham on Sunday.

Arsenal were not entirely comfortable throughout the first half at Highbury.

However a low fourth-minute shot by Spanish midfielder Fabregas and French striker Henry's sliding finish on the stroke of halftime, after he was sent through by Robert Pires, gave them control.

Dutch substitute van Persie underscored their victory with a spectacular last-minute strike from an acute angle.

Robbie Keane strengthened his case for a regular starting place with an eighth-minute goal to put Spurs in front at Wigan and Davids drilled in their second 13 minutes from time.

Wigan striker Lee McCulloch halved the deficit after 88 minutes but it proved too late for Paul Jewell's promoted side.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Francesc Fabregas scores their first goal against Blackburn Rovers during their English Premier League soccer match at Highbury in London, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Celtic beaten at home by Dunfermline

GLASGOW, 27 Nov — Leaders Celtic suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat by basement club Dunfermline in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday but still stay top after rivals Hearts scraped a draw at Motherwell.

Dunfermline took a first-half lead when Greg Ross slotted the ball home from six metres after Andy Todd nodded it down to him on 17 minutes.

Celtic manager Gordon Strachan said he switched styles after failing to break down Dunfermline in the first half. "After 10 or 15 minutes we thought this style isn't working," he told BBC radio, "And if that style of football is not getting at-

Valencia claim 2-0 win against stubborn Celta

MADRID, 27 Nov — Valencia moved into fourth place in the Primera Liga after late strikes from David Villa and Fabio Aurelio earned them a deserved 2-0 victory at home to high-flying Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Despite being on the back foot for most of the match, Celta put up some stubborn resistance and it was not until 18 minutes from time that Spanish international Villa was able to break the deadlock with a well-taken goal. Brazilian defender Fabio Aurelio made sure of the victory five minutes later when he met an inswinging free kick from Vicente with a brave diving header.

Despite the defeat Celta remain in third place one point ahead of Valencia and two behind leaders Barcelona and Osasuna.

Champions Barca host Racing Santander in Sunday's late match, while Osasuna are at home to Alaves.

Fifth-placed Real Madrid, who suffered a crushing 3-0 defeat at home to Barca last weekend, will attempt to restore their wounded pride when they travel to San Sebastian to play Real Sociedad.

Earlier on Saturday, Primera Liga strugglers Athletic Bilbao claimed their first win in 12 outings after a spectacular 30-metre drive from centre back Luis Prieto early in the second half earned them a barely deserved 1-0 win at Real Mallorca.

MNA/Reuters

Pizarro double takes Bayern six points clear

FRANKFURT, 27 Nov — Claudio Pizarro scored twice to give Bayern Munich a 2-1 win at home to Mainz and take the champions six points clear at the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Pizarro, whose late double gave Bayern victory over Arminia Bielefeld last weekend, fired in the opener in the 28th minute and clinched victory with a second-half header after Benjamin Auer had grabbed an unlikely equalizer.

Werder Bremen, missing leading strikers Miroslav Klose and Ivan Klasnic, suffered a 2-1 defeat at Schalke 04, with Kevin Kuranyi getting both goals for the home side.

Hamburg SV took advantage of Bremen's loss to climb into second place with a 1-0 win at Bayer Leverkusen.

With 14 games played, Bayern lead the standings with 37 points, followed by Hamburg on 31, Bremen on 29 and Schalke on 25.

Bayern, missing Michael Ballack through injury once again, made heavy weather of the game against a Mainz side battling to avoid the drop.

"It was an awkward match," said coach Felix Magath. "We should have scored several more goals to make the game safe. I was nervous right up until the end."

MNA/Reuters

Injury time Inzaghi goal gives Milan win

MILAN, 27 Nov — An injury-time winner from Filippo Inzaghi earned AC Milan a 2-1 victory over Lecce in Serie A on Saturday and moved them within two points of leaders Juventus.

Milan had taken the lead through a swerving 25-metre Andrea Pirlo free kick in the third minute and dominated the first half.

But Lecce drew level through Axel Konan in the 67th minute and Carlo Ancelotti's side were heading for a second disappointing result, after last week's defeat by Fiorentina, until substitute Inzaghi struck.

In the fourth minute of injury time, Pirlo nodded a loose ball into the area and Inzaghi reacted well to beat Lecce keeper Vincenzo Sicignano at full stretch.

Juventus will expect to restore their five-point lead, however, when they play struggling Treviso at the Delle Alpi on Sunday.

Outside the title race, fifth-placed Livorno were held to a goalless draw by Chievo Verona.

Chievo, who are sixth, were fortunate to escape with a point after Livorno twice hit the crossbar and had an effort disallowed.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

W	H	O	L	L	Y	E	O	R	D	E	R	S
E	X	U	A	E	B	R	A	I	A	U		
E	N	S	T	R	A	N	G	L	E	D	D	I
V	O	T	E	I	R	A	I	E	T	I	N	T
I	L	A	T	F	L	E	E	T	V	S	N	O
L	A	T	E	L	Y	D	S	U	P	P	E	R
G	E	R	O	E	T	R	S	E	Y			
M	U	S	C	A	T	E	F	I	E	R	C	E
O	O	M	T	T	I	T	A	N	R	S	S	X
R	E	A	L	X	T	H	R	M	C	A	N	T
R	A	N	O	C	T	U	R	N	A	L	N	A
O	E	U	C	E	R	O	T	L	N	N		
W	O	N	D	E	R		W	A	L	L	E	T



Sitthi Charoenrith of Thailand (30) shows his muscle in the preliminary round of the 59th Men's World Amateur Bodybuilding Championships in Shanghai, on 26 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

65th birthday ceremony of Maha Thunthara Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara held

YANGON, 27 Nov — The 65th birthday ceremony of member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Nayaka of Zeyatheikdi (Maha Thunthara) Monastery Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kumara was held at Zeyatheikdi Monastery in Bogon Ward, Insein Township, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharahatguru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, members of the Sangha,



Alms being donated to the Sayadaw at 65th birthday ceremony of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.— MNA

authorities, officials and wellwishers. The Chairman Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Vocalists sang religious verses. Wellwishers donated alms to the

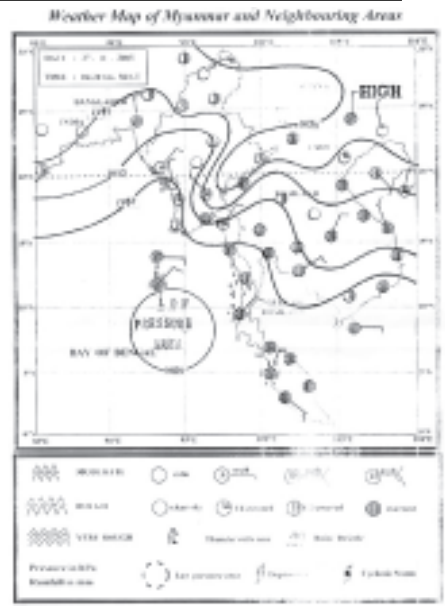
Sayadaws. The Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. At the ceremony, K 10,000 each, robes and alms were offered to 150 members of the Sangha. *MNA*

Maha Ganthavaçaka title recipient Sayadaw honoured

YANGON, 27 Nov — A ceremony to honour Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title recipient of BOC Pitakat Monastery Sayadaw of Bahan Township Maha Ganthavaçaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Çandavara (Myaungmya) of State

Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) was held at the monastery on Arzini Street in Bahan Township this morning. The congregation took the Five Precepts from Chairman of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta

Kosalla. Chairman of the Organizing Committee Captain Myat Htaik (Retd) spoke words of thanks. Later, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Çandavara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. *MNA*



WEATHER

Sunday, 27 November, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Hakha (2°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-11-2005 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 27-11-2005 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-11-2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 26-11-2005 was (7.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 27-11-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (102.60) inches at Mingaladon, (101.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (106.46) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 27-11-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, low pressure area over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-11-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Weather will be generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Gulf of Mottama and Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) to (35) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in extreme southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-11-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-11-2005: Fair weather.



Monday, 28 November Tune in today

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Drive
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -On top of the world
- 8.50 am National news & Slogan
- 9.00 am Music:
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -Come into my life
- 1.30 pm News & Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music: -Willow
- 9.00pm Spotlight on the star: -M2 M
- 9.15 pm Article
- 9.25 pm Drugs Elimination
- 9.35 pm Vocal gems: -White Wedding
- 9.45 pm News / Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Monday, 28 November View on today

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌပုရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓောတိက၊ တီဝီဒူကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမိတ္တာသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ 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. Song of national races
- 8:00 am 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:05 am 7. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am 8. ပုလင်းရေလှောင်တစ်
- 8:20 am 9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am 10. International news
- 8:45 am 11. Grammar Made Easy
- 3:20 pm 6. (၂၃) ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ (အမျိုးသား) တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (မြန်မာနှင့်ဇကာပူ)
- 5:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:30 pm 3. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm 4. အစားသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရှုကွေ့အေး၊ သတ္တဗောဓိ အထူးပြုများ) (ရှုကွေ့အေး)
- 6:00 pm 5. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:10 pm 6. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတွန်းစာတမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရွှင်ဆော့ပြေးပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဆီတီလေး" (အပိုင်း--၄၁)
- 6:30 pm 7. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 8. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 9. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်လေ့ကားတစ်လေးများ" (အပိုင်း--၁၆)
- 7:35 pm 10. Industrial achievement
- 7:40 pm 11. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:45 pm 12. Musical programme
- 8:00 pm 13. News
- 8:00 pm 14. International news.
- 15. Weather report.
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူလက်ဆောင်" (အပိုင်း--၁၃)
- 17. The next day's programme

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Chief of Army Staff of People's Republic of Bangladesh

YANGON, 27 Nov — State Peace and Development Council Deputy Vice-Chairman of the



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Chief of Army Staff of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Com- mander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received the visiting goodwill delega- tion led by Chief of Army Staff of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohammed Khariuzzaman and Military Attaché Brig-Gen Helal Uddin Ahmed.

MNA

Local farmers urged to grow high yield and quality paddy strains in Dawei region

YANGON, 27 Nov — Lt-Gen Maung Bo, member of the State Peace and Development Council, stressed the need to grow high yield and quality paddy strains in the region to ensure food sufficiency in the region, in meeting with local farmers at the monsoon paddy harvesting and Hsinthwelat summer paddy cultivation ceremony in Thabyechaung Village in Dawei Township, yesterday morning.

The land should be put under Shwepyitan and Hsinthwelat paddy strains that are suitable for soil of Taninthayi Division, he added.

He continued to say that it is necessary to extend rubber cultivation in Dawei region. He urged those present to grow physic nut plants on a manageable scale in the region to substitute diesel. Similarly, cultivation of oil palm and pepper should be extended in the

region, he said.

Taninthayi Division needs 23 million baskets of paddy yearly. Food sufficiency of Dawei Township is 72.30 per cent.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected paddy, rice and cooked rice of Shwepyitan, Kanyoedan-I, Theethetyin and Kyawzeya paddy strains.

At the office of Dawei District Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen

Maung Bo met with local authorities and departmental officials. The Chairmen of Township PDCs from Yebyu, Launglon, Thayetchaung and Dawei Townships and departmental officials reported on their respective sectors.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe instructed officials to develop agricultural and livestock breeding tasks as well as industries in Dawei

District. The Government is making arrangements to transform the nation into an agro-based industrialized country for boosting State economy, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said at the meeting. He added that due to better transport, the region enjoys development of economic, health, education and social sectors.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed round progress of Dawei

by car.

On arrival at Yalai Sluice Gate in Yalai Vil-

lage of Yebyu Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard (See page 10)

INSIDE

The pamphlet describes an explanation on the total cost for growing an acre of the plants in the first year. The villagers discussed if the amount of money stated in the pamphlets would cover the growing of an acre of the plants. After calculations we found the amount of investment would be much less than stated. I made suggestions on correct agricultural methods, use of necessary inputs, and extended cultivation of such a suitable and promising crop in the region.

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MAUNG MAUNG AYE



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects tasks to ensure water supply to paddy fields near Thabyechaung Village in Dawei Township. —MNA