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

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

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Cambodia

YANGON, 9 Nov — On the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the Independence Day and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia which falls on 9 November 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Preah Karona Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia. — MNA

Prime Minister felicitates Cambodian counterpart

YANGON, 9 Nov — On the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the Independence Day and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia which falls on 9 November 2005, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives officials of Petrochina Company

YANGON, 8 Nov — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win this afternoon received Senior Vice-president of Petrochina Company Mr Su Shulin and party and discussed mutual cooperation in energy sector.

Also present at the call at Zeyathiri Beikman were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China Mr Guan Mu. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win greets Senior Vice-president of Petrochina Company Mr Su Shulin. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Senior Vice-president of Petrochina Company Mr Su Shulin and party. — MNA
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

Forestry Minister opens wood finishing factories in Shwepyitha Township

**Yangon, 8 Nov**— Wood finishing factories in Industrial Zone 2 and 4 in Shwepyitha Township were inaugurated today in the presence of Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

The minister unveiled the signboards of Shwethwathan and Hsimmawoog wood finishing factories.

After the opening ceremonies, the minister inspected the production process of the factories. The factories will distribute their products at home and abroad.

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Border area development undertakings inspected

**Yangon, 8 Nov**— Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, on 5 November, arrived at Regional Development Supervisory Office in Myitkyina, the deputy minister heard a report on regional development undertakings and gave instructions. The deputy minister also inspected the National Race Youth Development Training School No 2 in Myitkyina and gave instructions to officials on nurturing the students to be imbued with Union Spirit and promoting the education standard of the students.

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Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Cambodia

**Yangon, 9 Nov**— On the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the Independence Day and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia which falls on 9 November 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr HOK Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia.— MNA

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Chinese Ambassador calls on Energy Minister

**Yangon, 8 Nov** — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China Mr Guan Mu at his office here yesterday. Also present at the call were officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

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For perpetuation of the Union

The State Peace and Development Council is making efforts in all seriousness for the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed and democratic nation. In this connection, it has laid down and is implementing the seven-point Road Map with the active participation of members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on 7 November 2005 attended the USDA Annual General Meeting (2005) held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the USDA Central Training School in Hmaubgy Township and made a speech on the occasion.

In his address, Senior General Than Shwe said that the USDA was established as a national force with the aim of organizing the people to participate with might and main in the process of building a new nation; that the Association has to remain for ever as a nation force that is one with the people; and that during the period of 12 years, it has gained a wide range of experiences and knowledge about organizational measures and cooperation in the tasks for community peace and national development.

As a strong national force, the USDA is doing its bit with Union Spirit in nation-building endeavours. Especially, it is enthusiastically taking part in shaping a brighter future of the State and safeguarding the nation.

In building a modern and developed nation, stability of the State, strong national economic life and human resources development are imperative. With this end in view, the USDA members are to organize the people to actively participate in the process.

Realizing the values of the Union, sovereignty, peace and Union Spirit, the USDA member new generation youths are to safeguard the Union for its perpetuation.

This being so, we firmly believe that the USDA, the strong national force, will lend itself with the entire national people to the tasks for the emergence of a modern and developed nation.

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* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Iran opens military base, calls for nuclear talks

TEHERAN, 7 Nov—Iran sought to defuse tensions over its nuclear programme on Sunday, confirming it had let UN inspectors visit a military complex and calling for a revival of European Union talks on the issue.

The official IRNA news agency said Iran had written to Britain, France and Germany, calling for the resumption of negotiations, which broke down in August. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could, when it meets this month, discuss sending Iran’s nuclear case to the UN Security Council, where Tehran could face sanctions.

But in a further sign Iran wants to avoid confrontation, it confirmed that it had allowed UN nuclear inspectors to visit a military base suspected by Washington of links to a covert nuclear weapons programme. IRNA said the letter by Ali Larijani, the secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, was handed to the ambassadors of the three European Union powers, who have led talks with Tehran on behalf of the EU.

In the letter, addressed to the foreign ministers of the EU trio, Larijani “called for constructive and logical negotiations with the three European states”, IRNA said. It was the first such direct approach by Iran to kick-start talks since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who had adopted a tougher foreign policy stance than his reformist predecessor, took office in August.

UN helicopter lands by mistake in India

UDBOSA (India), 7 Nov — A UN helicopter carrying a senior UN official and Western and Pakistani reporters landed by mistake on the Indian side of the heavily fortified border on Sunday during a tour of the Pakistani earthquake zone.

The mistake was made after incorrect coordinates were entered into a flight plan, a UN spokeswoman said.

“You are presently standing in Indian territory,” an Indian Army captain said as he boarded the aircraft, shortly after it touched down at an Indian military helipad at Udbosa, about 6 km (four miles) on the Indian side of the border.

The aircraft had been bound for the small town of Chintari, in Pakistani Kashmir.

“It seems we’re about 20 kilometres (12 miles) off course,” said UN spokeswoman Amanda Pitt. She said the helicopter had landed at the correct coordinates given on the UN flight plan.”It seems it’s a misunderstanding resulting from several e-mails that went back and forth,” Pitt said. Pakistan and India, which have gone to war twice over mountainous Kashmir, are due to open a crossing on their militarised frontier in the Himalayan region on Monday to help with quake relief efforts. — MNA/Reuters

2,054 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov—As of Monday, 7 Nov, 2005, at least 2,054 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,590 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians. The AP count is higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Monday.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,915 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,488 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. — Internet

Stray firework injures 11 at British display

LONDON, 7 Nov—Seven children and four adults were taken to hospital with burns injuries after a firework shot into the crowd at a Bonfire Night display at an amusement park, a hospital spokesman said on Sunday.

The accident happened seven minutes into the fireworks display on Saturday before a 15,000-strong crowd at Wicksteed Park in Kettering, Northamptonshire, in the English Midlands. Two boys aged 8 and 11 were kept overnight at Kettering General Hospital and a 10-year-old boy with serious injuries was transferred to Sheffield Children’s Hospital. — MNA/Reuters

Five US soldiers in Iraq charged with abuse

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov—Five US Army Rangers in Iraq alleged to have punched and kicked Iraqi detainees and hit them with a broomstick have been charged with assault, the military said on Monday.

US Army spokesman Paul Boyce said the five Special Operations troops had been charged with assault and maltreatment of prisoners and dereliction of duty in the incident, which occurred on 7 September in Baghdad.

“The detainees received injuries described as bruises and contusions caused by striking with a closed and open hand, kicking, and hitting with an object described as a broomstick,” Boyce said in response to questions.

The United States faced international condemnation after photographs surfaced in April 2004 of US forces abusing and sexually humiliating detainees at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison. Boyce, citing privacy concerns, declined to identify the five troops or the detainees, who he said were still being held in Iraq.

He said the International Committee of the Red Cross had been given access to the detainees in question. — Internet

SOP for security of Malacca Strait in final stage

JAKARTA, 7 Nov—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand have entered the final stage in preparing a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for security maintenance in the Malacca Strait, spokesman of the Indonesian Navy Commodore Abdul Malik has said.

“Cooperation among the four countries in the Malacca Strait security maintenance will be officially established as soon as the SOP has been finalized,” Antara news agency on Monday quoted the spokesman as saying.

Three littoral states Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have initially been engaged in securing the strait in coordinated patrol operations code-named ‘Malindo.’

The cooperation was launched in July 2002. Each country was obliged to mobilize seven warships to secure the 500-mile waterway.

The cooperation of the three countries was able to reduce the number of crimes in one of the world’s busiest sea lanes, Malik said here over the weekend. But the sea crime rate in the Thai waters was still high so that...
**Watchdog seeking US reimbursement for Iraq work**

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV—Apparent overcharges of more than 200 million dollars in contracts paid for with Iraqi oil money to a Halliburton Co subsidiary should be “reimbursed expeditiously” by the United States, an international watchdog agency said on Saturday.

The International Advisory and Monitoring Board for the Development of Iraq said in a statement that a special audit had been conducted focusing on Halliburton’s Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) unit for the procurement and distribution of fuel products and the restoration of Iraq’s oil infrastructure.

The monitoring board cited a figure of 208 million dollars, which had been questioned by the US Defence Contract Audit Agency, the Pentagon’s auditing arm.

In a statement dated 4 November but made public on its website on Saturday, the board said it “recommends that amounts disbursed to contractors that cannot be supported as fair be reimbursed expeditiously.”

Iraq’s oil account, called the Development Fund for Iraq, was set up by the UN Security Council, along with the monitoring board, to watch over the stewardship of Iraq’s national resources during the US civil administration of Iraq, which began in May 2003 and ended on 28 June, 2004. The monitoring board’s life was extended after an appointed transitional Iraqi government took over on 29 June, 2004.

In May, 2005, the board noted “with regret” that the US agency had tried to hide from it more than 200 million US dollars in apparent overcharges in contracts paid for with Iraqi oil money and awarded on a noncompetitive basis to Halliburton, a company once led by Vice-President Dick Cheney.

The US agency had turned over heavily edited audit to the board, stating that the deletions were made to protect trade secrets. An unedited version of the audit later surfaced, showing the deletions sought to conceal questionable billings.

The board said a total of 24 “sole sourced” contracts involving more than 5 million US dollars for a total of 1,963 billion US dollars had been carried out from late June 2003 to late June 2004.

Of those contracts, KBR had a contract worth 1.367 billion US dollars and carried out 10 task orders but the monitoring board’s statement did not specify the quality of KBR’s work.

**Iran hails President’s proposal best solution to nuclear dispute**

TEHERAN, 7 NOV — Iran said on Sunday that a nuclear proposal presented by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was the best solution to the country’s nuclear issue.

“Although all plans which recognize Iran’s legal rights are negotiable, President Ahmadinejad’s proposal is the best solution to the dispute with its feasibility of the highest degree,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told a weekly news briefing.

Asefi referred to the proposal unveiled by Ahmadinejad on 17 September in a speech delivered at the UN General Assembly in New York, under which Teheran would invite foreign parties to participate in its uranium enrichment programme to keep the process transparent.

Iran’s semi-official Mehr news agency reported on Saturday that the Iranian Government had approved a plan to implement Ahmadinejad’s proposal.

“The plan, which authorizes the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran to take measures necessary to attract foreign and domestic investment, paved the way for international participation in the work at the uranium enrichment plant located in the central town of Natanz,” the report said.

Accused by the United States of developing nuclear weapons under the disguise of civil use, Iran is exerting efforts to keep its uranium enrichment work while dispersing the international suspicion on its motivation.

However, the European Union (EU), a long-time critic of Iran’s nuclear issue, and the United States stayed firm on their demand that Iran completely halt all enrichment-related activities.

**Iran approves plan for foreign participation in uranium programme**

TEHERAN, 6 NOV—The Iranian Government has approved a plan to involve foreign enterprises and organizations into the country’s uranium enrichment programme, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported on Saturday.

Mehr said the plan was ratified at Wednesday’s Cabinet meeting, which paved the way for international parties to participate in the work at the uranium enrichment plant located in the central Iranian town of Natanz.

The Cabinet has also authorized the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) to take necessary measures to attract foreign and domestic investment in the uranium enrichment process, the report said.

Managerial methods as well as allocation of shares of every active participant will be suggested by the AEOI but ratified by the Cabinet, Mehr added.

The plan will be sent to the Parliament for approval before taking effect, according to the report.

In order to disperse the international suspicion on the country’s motivation of nuclear research while keeping the highly sensitive uranium enrichment programme, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proposed to invite foreign parties into the programme on 18 September in a speech delivered at the United Nations General Assembly.

**Bomb defused in Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 6 NOV — A home-made bomb has been found and defused in Indonesia’s central Sulawesi Province, local media reported on Friday.

The bomb, hidden inside a package in front of a house in the religiously divided town of Poso, was defused by a police bomb squad later Thursday after police received reports of local residents, Poso police’s First Inspector Obed was quoted by Jakarta Post website as saying. He added that police had combed the nearby area but found no other explosives.

The planting of explosive devices was the latest incident to disturb the fragile peace in Poso, where sectarian violence has left some 1,000 people dead since 2000. Tensions in the town escalated after three Christian schoolgirls were beheaded last Saturday. About 1,000 security forces have been sent to the area to boost security amid fears of further violence.

A picture released by the US Navy shows a US Army soldier peering out from his sandbagged position as he provides security in the town of Tal Afar, north of Baghdad, on 6 Nov, 2005.

**India to go ahead with air exercises with US Air Force**

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV — India has decided to go ahead with joint exercises planned between the Air Forces of India and US in West Bengal in the country’s east from 7 November despite opposition from left wing parties.

The decision comes after a late night meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Thursday followed by a meeting between India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Friday morning and consultations held with West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya and central leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Delhi.— MNA/PTI
Four US soldiers killed in spate of Iraq bombings

Baghdad, 7 Nov—Four US soldiers were among at least 15 people killed in a bloody day of suicide car bombings in and around Baghdad on Monday as a major offensive against Sunni Arab guerrillas took place near Iraq's border with Syria.

The four soldiers from Task Force Baghdad were killed when a car bomber attacked their checkpoint on a road south of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

The attack echoed a similar attack a week ago when four US soldiers were killed in Yusufiya, just south of Baghdad. The military did not identify the soldiers pending notification of next of kin.

Powerful bombs have become more common and US commanders are concerned about armour-piercing bombs, the technology for which US and British officials said was introduced from Iran.

The military also confirmed that a US soldier had been killed and two more wounded by a makeshift bomb while on patrol near Tikrit on Sunday.

Another suicide car bomber killed six Iraqi policemen and three civilians in Baghdad's southern Dora District, police said.

That attack was the worst since 29 people died near a Shiite mosque in Musayyib, south of Baghdad, last week.—Internet

British watchdog wants review of Cabinet conduct rules

London, 7 Nov—The head of the government's public standards watchdog called on Sunday for an immediate review of the code of conduct for ministers following the resignation of David Blunkett.

"It is very important that ministers are seen to be subject to a rigorous ethical regime," said Alistair Graham, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

"I think an immediate review of the code of conduct might be valuable to see if it needs tightening in any respect," he told the Independent on Sunday.

Blunkett, a key ally of Prime Minister Tony Blair, resigned as Work and Pensions Minister last week after acknowledging he broke ministerial rules by taking private work while out of office without seeking advice from an independent committee.

Graham said he did not agree with Blair that Blunkett was not guilty of any serious misconduct. Blair insisted he had not sacked Blunkett, but accepted his resignation.

"The prime minister is saying in his view there has been no impropriety," said Graham. "I am not sure I quite take the same view as he does."

Source of Iraq-al-Qaeda link suspected liars

New York, 7 Nov—A top al-Qaeda operative in US custody was identified as a probable liar months before the Bush Administration began using his claims as the basis of its contention that Iraq trained al-Qaeda members to use biological and chemical weapons, The New York Times reported on Sunday editions.

Citing newly declassified portions of a Defence Intelligence Agency document from February 2002 made available to the Times by Michigan Senator Carl Levin of the Armed Services Committee, the paper reported it was likely that the prisoner, Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, was intentionally misleading debriefers about Iraq's support for al-Qaeda's work with illicit weapons. "It is possible he does not know any further details; it is more likely this individual is intentionally misleading the debriefers," the Times quoted the report as saying.

Ibn al-Shaykh has been undergoing debriefs for several weeks and may be describing scenarios to the debriefers that he knows will retain their interest.

The document provides the earliest and strongest indication of US intelligence agencies' doubts about Libi's credibility, the Times said. President George W Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney, then-secretary of state Colin Powell and other administration officials cited his input as "credible" evidence that Iraq was training al-Qaeda members in explosives and illicit weapons use, the Times said. The officials did not mention Libi by name at the time.

Two killed in small plane crash in Texas

Washington, 7 Nov—A small plane crashed in the southern US state of Texas Saturday morning, killing the two people on board.

According to reports from US TV network CNN, the twin-engine Cesna Citation 3 plane had been waiting on the runway to take off from the Hobby Airport, Houston, to another Texan city of Corpus Christi, when an incoming jetliner issued an alert.

Air traffic controllers asked the Cesna to take off quickly while diverting the jetliner to another airport in Houston. Then the Cesna made an emergency take-off but crashed soon after that.—MNA/Xinhua

Leasing of aircraft get tax relief for another six months

New Delhi, 6 Nov—Airlines in India got a major relief with the government extending the withholding tax (WHT) exemption for additional six months till 31 March, 2006, which will make leasing of aircraft from foreign companies economical.

An ordinance issued on Monday last made necessary amendments in the Income Tax Act for this purpose.

The government, which had decided to do away with the exemption in the budget this year, extended it first for six months till September to benefit airlines, particularly Indian Airlines and Air India, following representation from them.

With these airlines still on a leasing spree to meet their increasing operation of flights including some new destinations, the government has extended this tax benefit for another six months till the end of this fiscal.

Indian Airlines and Air India are reported to be planning lease of aircraft including Airbus 320, A-319 and Boeing 777 aircraft to meet the market demand till the acquisition of new aircraft.

While Indian Airlines would be buying 43 aircraft from Airbus at a cost of 90 billion rupees, Air India and Air India Express would be purchasing 68 aircraft from Boeing at a cost of 40 billion rupees for their expansion and replacement of some old aircraft.—MNA/PTI

In this picture released on 6 Nov, 2005, by the US Marine Corps, a soldier looks over a rooftop at the source of fire during Operation Steel Curtain, in Husaybah, Iraq.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 9 November, 2005 5
Delegates to USDA AGM visit exhibition on machines for producing electricity

YANGON, 8 Nov — The delegates to the Annual General Meeting (2005) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association on 3 November visited the exhibition on machines used for generating electricity being staged at Saya San Plaza in Bahan Township and General Meeting (2005) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association aimed at providing assistance in generating electricity in rural areas.

The exhibition was organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives aiming at providing assistance in generating electricity in rural areas.

At the exhibition, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min explained the purpose of the exhibition, saying that while implementing the five rural areas development tasks, state/division USDAfs are carrying out electricity supply tasks in rural areas. Up to now, the electricity supply systems have been established in 2493 villages, he added.

At the exhibition, USDA members were given a demonstration of producing electricity using producer gas, big gas and, solar power and wind power. In the evening, USDA members visited Pyinnamin Pig Farm of the Livestock, Feedstuffs and Dairy Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and observed the big gas heating system. — MNA

USDA SG receives Vice President of International Science & Cultural cooperation Organization of Russian Federation

YANGON, 8 Nov — Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-General U Htay Oo received Mr Vladimir M Polozkov, Vice-President of the International Science & Cultural Cooperation Central Organization of Russia, at USDA Headquarters here this morning.

At the meeting, U Htay Oo briefed the guest on objectives and tasks of USDA, cooperation with NGOs, participation in implementing the development tasks, five rural development tasks and electricity supply tasks in rural areas and in education, health, social sectors.

U Htay Oo replied to the queries raised by Mr Vladimir M Polozkov. Also present at the call were Joint Secretary General U Zaw Min, Central Executive Committee Member of USDA U Maung Maung Thein, Mr Oleg Y Kabanov, Ambassador of the Russia Federation to Myanmar and officials. — MNA

Today, ASEAN member nations strictly practise the policy of non-interference, and so do Myanmar’s neighbours and Asian nations. They adhere to the five principles of peaceful co-existence. Recognition of sovereignty, and non-aggression are prescribed in the UN Charter.

Wipe out interference and invasion using force

In the time of the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, the US got along with Myanmar, and even it provided some assistance for her. However, all of a sudden, it has had a bias against Myanmar since she started to introduce the market-oriented economic system and the multi-party democracy system. The US, a capitalist and democratic country, should welcome and extend a helping hand to a developing nation that is transforming socialism into the market economy and multi-party democracy system. Instead, it has imposed economic sanctions, cut off humanitarian aid, and interfered in the internal affairs of Myanmar. The US becomes biased against Myanmar because of the following points.

(1) It is no longer an authentic capitalist nation but is now simultaneously practising feudalism and capitalism,

(2) It sticks to monopolization, hegemonism and invasion of weak nations with the use of superior force in line with the feudal system, and

(3) It is anxious to install a puppet government in Myanmar that exists at a geographically strategic point between the Republic of China and the Republic of India.

Its accusations against Myanmar such as human rights, narcotic drugs, forced labour, and forced recruitment of minors do not work at all. So, again it has launched attacks on the nation in a different way. It forced ILO to take action against Myanmar. It made the group of the Global Funds for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria leave Myanmar, and supported all the blame put on Myanmar. The broadcasting stations under its domination are exaggerating groundless news stories designed to create inflationary effects of price rises and destabilize the nation.

The group that got involved in the 1988 mass demonstration released a statement with a call on international community to provide assistance for Myanmar because the health and education sectors in the nation are terribly desperate. The statement was intended to accuse Myanmar of poor conditions in the health and education sector, and to deceive the people into supporting it through international assistance for Myanmar.

Recently, Vaclav Havel and Desmond Tutu issued an exaggerated report on Myanmar affairs with a call on the UN Security Council to act against Myanmar. The US government supported the report and said it would deal with it in cooperation with international community. The groups under the influence of the US presented a civilian hero award to the person who got involved in the 1988 mass demonstration, so as to present him to the public.

From 6 pm to 6.30 pm on 12 October 2005, VOA broadcast the news on prize presentation ceremony of the US and local news stories at the same time.

ASEAN representatives are voicing their support of Havel and Tutu to incite instability in the nation.

Indeed, these acts took place at the instigation of the western masters. If western masters have rights to interfere in the affairs of an independent sovereign nation at will, the world nations will be deprived of their sovereignties. If so, the global nations will be hovering on the brink of falling back to colonialism.

The attitude of the People’s Republic of China is totally different from that of the US.

China said that for a long period in the activities on human rights under the authority of UN, the nation has been protesting strongly against any nations that call on other nations under the pretext of human rights to practise their views, thoughts, political norms and development types especially that harm sovereignty and dignity of developing countries by interfering in their internal affairs. In this regard, China in collaboration with developing countries voiced its stand, it remained truthful to justice, and stood by justice. In essence the problem of human rights is the concern of a nation’s internal administrative affairs. It consistently assumes that recognition of sovereignty of a nation and non-interference, that are international norms, should be practised in maintaining international relations. So, they are to be exercised concerning human rights.

Today, ASEAN member nations strictly practise the policy of non-interference, and so do Myanmar’s neighbours and Asian nations. They adhere to the five principles of peaceful co-existence. Recognition of and respect for sovereignty, and non-aggression are prescribed in the UN Charter.

Nevertheless, in the world today is a conflict between certain countries and their minions that practise interference in the internal affairs of other nations and invasion of weak nations with the use of force on one side, and some nations, peoples and groups that recognize sovereignty of other nations and uphold the principles of equality, and non-aggression on another.

Therefore, the entire world people are exhorted to be united in warding off interference and invasion with the use of force so as to restore international security, peace, friendship and development.

Translation: MS
Education sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of higher education in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Number of students pursuing higher education in states and divisions

Intellectuals and intelligentsia are essential in building the Union of Myanmar to be a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Therefore, the government has laid down the 30-year long-term national education promotion plan (higher education sector) to be implemented from 2001-2002 to 2030-2031.

In accord with the objective of national education promotion programme, limits in pursuing higher education have been reduced and a teaching system that ensures human resource development has been practised. With the opening up of learning opportunities for students, they are now enthusiastically taking part in the programme of learning higher education.

For the convenience of students in their pursuit of higher education in universities, degree colleges and colleges, courses that will directly benefit the jobs are being conducted in addition to the regular courses and thus students are attending these courses.

Thanks to the education promotion programmes, the educational standard of youth who graduated from these programmes are not only on a par with that of the South East Asian countries but with the world-class. Moreover, they have become good sons and daughters of the State imbued with strong Union Spirit.

As a result of creating education programmes that benefits both individuals and the State, the number of students learning in universities, degree colleges and colleges throughout the country has increased year after year.

The table shows increase in the number of students in states and divisions including border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

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Thanks to the education promotion programmes, the educational standard of youth who graduated from these programmes are not only on a par with that of the South East Asian countries but also catch up with the world-class. Moreover, they have become good sons and daughters of the State imbued with strong Union Spirit.
Guidance given by the Head of State

* Raise teachers’ qualifications to meet the standard
* Draw international level curricula
* Nurture students to be actually skilled in the field
* Provide adequate number of teaching facilities
* Train youths to have good morale including the love for the country, patriotism and Union Spirit
* Train youths to observe discipline including school discipline, civil rules and the law.

The Head of State in his guidance urged the education sector to raise teachers’ qualifications to meet the standard, draw international level curricula, nurture students to be actually skilled in the field, provide adequate number of teaching facilities, to train youths to have good morale including the love for the country, patriotism and Union Spirit, and to train youths to observe discipline including school discipline, civil rules and the law.

The implementation of the national education promotion projects involves the integrated task of getting access to and utilizing the ever advancing science and technologies and strengthening Union Spirit, and safeguarding the national values and norms from deteriorating or vanishing in the face of globalization. He said the government is striving for creating opportunities to receive education in higher education sector, to keep abreast of times and to raise the education standard up to the international level. Fruitful results can now be found, he said.

Universities and colleges were established in the respective regions for opening up learning opportunities. There are altogether 156 institutions under the various ministries including 35 universities and 29 colleges under the Ministry of Education, 14 institutes under the Ministry of Health, 6 universities, 26 technical colleges and 24 computer colleges under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Modern information and communication technology has been introduced and laboratories of international standard, e-libraries, resources centres and networks and research centres of international standard have also been established for raising the standard of education of universities and colleges, he said.

He said masters courses and workshops for under-graduate courses are conducted and educational seminars are held continuously. Moreover, arrangements are possible for conducting post-graduate courses and new branches of studies. The government is making efforts for emergence of advanced learning centres where education activities can be exchanged in international education fields in cooperation with educational organizations such as ASEA University Network (AUN) and SEAMEO, international universities, government ministry and universities.

Generally speaking, he said the objectives of higher education sector have been realized with the active participation of international education community. One of the significant characteristics in development of education sector in Myanmar is that the entire Myanmar women are participating in this field with greater numbers. Therefore, better opportunities to enhance efficiency of the women and brighter future are increasing, he added.

In fact, like men, Myanmar women have had equal rights on learning since under the reign of their own monarch. Educated women are found in every aspect of society, they are the driving force, he said.

He spoke on the ratio of female and male students in institutes and colleges under the Ministry of Health. The percentage of female students is 54.42 in undergraduate sector, 61.72 in post-graduate sector and that of women teacher is 73.55.

The Secretary-1 said girls make up 67 per cent of student population in universities of computer studies and colleges in Ministry of Science and Technology. Ninety per cent of teachers are women. In technological universities female students make up 46 per cent and women teachers 36 per cent. In universities and colleges of the Ministry of Education female students make up 59.16 per cent and woman teachers 81.30 per cent.

Destructive elements from home and abroad and some big western nations accuse Myanmar of violating women’s rights. According to the correct data and prevailing situation, Myanmar women are making efforts for prosperity of the nation and its people hand in hand with men, enjoying equal opportunities.
Tangible progress can be witnessed... (from page 8) of weak nations and double standards by certain big nations in seeking their self-interests. Moreover, the exploitation of superiority in the science and technology is broadening the gap of technologies, wealth, and prospects for development among the global nations.

A developing nation Myanmar is now under the political attacks of some western nations in collusion with internal and external elements to disrupt national interests. So, the nation needs to effectively promote its education standard that can strengthen the cohesion of the people, national wealth, and prospects for sustainable development among the nations. Only then, will the image of Myanmar remain for ever in the map of the world as it is now.

All the teachers are to be convinced that only when the nation is able to produce brighter generation of intellectuals and intelligentsia than previous generation in greater number, and to equip the people with nationalistic fervour, patriotism, and Union Spirit, will the nation have a brighter future. He called on the trainees to make efforts with Union Spirit to ensure sustainable improvement of national education, an essential factor for national development.

In view of the situation of the nation with objective conditions, the nation has seen significant progress in the education and health sectors with infrastructures for national development including new universities and hospitals. And the nation is enjoying economic development year after year. Now, the construction of all infrastructures for development is nearing completion with cumulative economic improvement. So, it is opportune time to put increased efforts into the drive for greater development in the agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry, mineral, industrial, trade, energy and electric power sectors that can enhance national economy with speed.

The government is implementing the State’s seven-point Road Map for ensuring sustainable development of infrastructures, emergence of a peaceful, stable and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, and perpetuation of the Union with national solidarity. In the process, the convening of the National Convention, the first stage of the seven-point programme, is in full swing. Arrangements have been made for resuming the National Convention on 5 December to complete the remaining sectors. The Secretary-1 urged the trainees to do their bit as a national and as a teacher in nurturing new generation youths that is part of the drive for restoration of peace and stability and emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation including the seven-point Road Map that the government is implementing in various sectors for sustainable development.

In conclusion, he called on the trainees to endeavour to accomplish the objectives for promotion of national education standard and to be fully convinced of the importance of the education sector that can help the nation stand tall among the world nations; and to do their bit in national duties including successful implementation of the State’s seven-point Road Map for enabling the mother country to catch up with world nations in development and for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

After the ceremony, the MEC chairman cordially greeted the trainees. Also present were ministers, the attorney-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, CSSTB members, the SPEC Office director-general and heads of departments, rectors, principals, the CICS rector, and others.

Altogether 785 faculty members from universities and colleges are attending the four-week course. — MNA

Cash donated to mark Annual General Meeting of USDA for 2005

YANGON, 8 Nov — A ceremony to donate cash to mark Annual General Meeting of Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at Pyidaungsu Hall of the training school in Hmawby Township on 3rd November afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-General of USDA U Htet Oo, secretariat members, executives and wellwishers.

USDA Secretary-General U Htet Oo accepts cash donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

USDA CEC Member U Aung Min accepts cash donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

USDA CEC Member U Thein Sein accepts cash donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

Seminar on Social Work and Child Protection opens

YANGON, 8 Nov — National Seminar on Social Work and Child Protection jointly organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF (Myanmar) was held here today.

At the three-day seminar, experts from home and abroad will discuss matters on social welfare and child protection.

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Resident Representative of UNICEF Ms Carroll C Long delivered opening addresses. Also present were Chief Justice Maung Toe, President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, officials of UN agencies and invited guests. — MNA

USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung accepts cash donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

USDA Secretariat Member Thura U Aung Ko accepts cash donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

During the ceremony, executive of Monywa District USDA, Sagaing Division, Daw Kyawt Yin Win acted as master of ceremonies and executive of Taunggyi District USDA of Shan State (South) Daw Htet Htet Aung, co-master of the ceremonies.

First, Secretary-General of USDA U Htet Oo explained about the donation to mark Annual General Meeting of USDA for 2005.

Next, Secretary-General of USDA U Htet Oo, Secretariat Members U Aung Thaung, U Thein Zaw, U Thein Sein and Thura U Aung Ko accepted cash donations K 66 million made by 229 wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. Afterwards, Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung expressed his gratitude and the ceremony came to a close. — MNA
Increasing number of USDA members...

FROM PAGE 16

U Thaung and CEC member Dr Chan Nyein. First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting. Secretary General U Htay Oo delivered a speech. He said the Union Solidarity and Development Association was founded on 15 September 1993 as a national force, and it has turned 12 years. It is honorable to see that annual general meetings have been successfully held and that delegates representing 22,842,896 USDA members from states and divisions are here to attend the meeting. The ultimate goal of all national people is to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The national policy to uphold is nothing but to see that annual general meetings have been successfully held and that delegates representing 22,842,896 USDA members from states and divisions are here to attend the meeting. The ultimate goal of all national people is to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The national policy to uphold is nothing but to fully utilize these opportunities. They are to strive their utmost with Union Spirit to serve the interest of the State and the people. It is the duty of all citizens who love their motherland. The secretary general said there are also those who ignore the measures being taken for national development and already achieved basic infrastructures. And some have misunderstanding on account of instigation and exaggeration by certain elements.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of the Central Committee for Organizing the USDA Annual General Meeting (2003) Secretary of the USDA Aung Thaung said that the USDA, which was formed with the new generation youths capable of serving the national interest, now turns 12 years. With fine traditions and national outlooks, the USDA holds the annual general meetings without missing a single year. At the meetings, the Central Executive Committees presented reports on organization, management, economic, social, culture and education sectors. Likewise, the USDA at state and division level presented their reports on work carried out in a year and dealt with future work programmes.

At the preliminary meeting of the USDA Annual General Meeting held today, the Secretary-General of the USDA extended greetings. There will be six groups to be able to hold discussions sector-wise.

They are Group-1 Organization, Group-2 Management, Group-3 Economy, Group-4 Social and Culture, Group-5 Education and Group-6 Defence Force to guard against the dangers of internal and external destructive elements.

In the afternoon session, the six groups are to hold preliminary meeting.

The USDA was formed with the new generation youths who are to discharge the State responsibilities. Therefore, they are being trained and nurtured for physical and spiritual development. Moreover, prizes were presented to outstanding youths who participated in the drive for development of human resources and national education promotion programmes together with the people under the leadership of the government.

In implementing the nation-building tasks, the USDA based on prevailing situations and experiences is to lay down the future work programmes in order to more effectively carry out those tasks. At present, the government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point Road Map together with the people for the emergence of a modern and developed nation. In the process, the USDA members who are the national forces are to actively take part in the tasks for success of the Road Map by doing their bit while participating in ensuring stability of the State, strong national economy and success of national education promotion programmes. For successful implementation of those work programmes, the USDA representatives are to hold discussions on a wider scale in line with the objectives of the meeting, and they will certainly be able to lay down the future work programmes of the association, which will serve the national interests.

Next, the master of ceremonies read out matters related to grouping of six sectors— organizing, management, economic, social, culture and education, and crush all dangers of internal and external destructive elements through united force of the people and announced the end of the programme of the preliminary meeting.
Increasing number of USDA members...

(from page 10)

Next, sector-wise groups held their preliminary meetings at the designated places.

Afterwards, organizational sector group No-1 met at Bayintnaung Hall. Secretariat member of USDA U Thaung presided over the meeting together with CEC members U Thein Nyunt, U Thein Aung, Thura U Aye Myint and U Phone Swe. Executive of Dimawhso Township USDA Daw Myat Su Mon acted as master of ceremonies and member of Aungmyethazan Township USDA Daw Khin La Pyi, co-master of the ceremonies.

After that, Secretariat member of USDA U Thaung explained about the preliminary meeting.

During the sector-wise meetings, executive of Taunggyi District USDA U Aung Naing Tun, Joint-Secretary of Laokai District USDA Daw Tin Tin, Secretary of Ponnagyun Township USDA Daw Sein Win, Secretary of Ye Township USDA U Zaw Thant, Secretary of Maha Aungmye Township USDA Daw Aye Aye Aung, Secretary of Insein Township USDA Daw May Cherry Lwin, Secretary of Ye Township USDA U Aung Min, Thura U Myint Maung and U Than Htay, executive of Ye Township USDA U Phone Cho, executive of Machanbaw Township USDA U Htein Latt Hay Hsan, executive of Kayah State USDA U Tin Oo, executive of Hlaingthein Township USDA U Saw Min Naing Oo, Joint-Secretary of Tunzaw Township USDA U Aik Khan Oak, Secretary of Katha Township USDA U Khin Maung Lwin, Secretary of Palaw Township USDA U Aung Myint, Joint-Secretary of Zigon Township USDA Daw May Cherry Lwin, executive of Nyaunglaybin Township USDA U Kyaw Htay, executive of Mindon Township USDA U Han Win Aung, executive of Maha Aungmye Township USDA Daw Aye Aye Aung, executive of Ye Township USDA U Win Myint, executive of Mohinny Township MDAU Daw Soe Win, secretary of Loikaw District USDA U Seo Win, Secretary of Katha Township USDA U Aung Min, Thura U Myint Maung and U Than Htay.

Afterwards, organizational sector group No-1 met at Bayintnaung Hall. Secretariat member of USDA U Thaung presided over the meeting together with CEC members U Ohn Myint and U Maung Maung Thein. Executive of Yangon West District USDA Daw Ei Ei Hlaing acted as master of ceremonies and executive of Metmang Township USDA Daw Nar Bo, co-master of ceremonies.

After that, Secretariat member U Aung Thaung explained about the preliminary meeting. Executives and secretaries of state/division USAs participated in the preliminary discussion on economic sector.

At the preliminary discussion on social and cultural sector, USDA CEC Member U Tin Naing Thein presided over the discussion together with USDA CEC members Dr Chan Nyein and U Maung Pa. Executive of Kawkareik Township USDA Daw Naw Yin Yin Su acted as master of ceremonies together with Executive of Kyunsu Township USDA Daw Thin Tha Win and CEC members Dr Chan Nyein and U Maung Pa.

Similarly, the preliminary discussion of the Education Sector Group-5 was held and Secretariat Member of USDA U Kyaw Hsan presided over the discussion together with USDA CEC Members U Than Htay.

Management sector group No-2 met at Anawrahta Hall. Joint-Secretary of USDA U Zaw Min presided over the meeting together with CEC members U Thein Nyunt, Thura U Aye Myint and U Phone Swe. Executive of Mawlamyine District USDA Daw Thin Mon acted as master of ceremonies and member of Monywa Township USDA Daw May Thaung.

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At the preliminary discussion on the sector to guard against the danger posed by the internal and external destructive elements through people’s strength and with unity, USDA Secretary-General U Hlaing Oo presided over the discussion together with USDA Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw and CEC Member U Aung Min, Thura U Myint Maung and U Aung Thein Linn. Executive of Bago Township USDA Daw Moe Moe Khaing acted as master of ceremonies together with Executive of Rakhine State USDA Daw Moe Moe Khaing.

At the discussion, 17 delegates were selected for the sector to guard against the danger posed by the internal and external destructive elements through people’s strength and with unity. — MNA

Economic sector group No-3 met at Myawady Hall. Secretariat member of USDA U Aung Thaung presided over the meeting together with CEC members U Ohn Myint and U Maung Maung Thein. Executive of Yangon West District USDA Daw Ei Ei Hlaing acted as master of ceremonies and executive of Metmang Township USDA Daw Nar Bo, co-master of ceremonies.

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South African train hits commuters, four killed

JOHANNESBURG, 7 Nov— Four people were killed and 11 injured when a passenger train hit a crowd of commuters standing too close to the edge of a station platform in the South African capital Pretoria on Saturday, police said.

The incident occurred when security guards employed by railway operator Metrorail attempted to arrest a suspect on the platform, police spokesman Anton Breedt said.

In the melee, scores of commuters were pushed to the edge of the platform as a train came into the station.

“They didn’t see the approaching train, including some of the security guards,” Breedt said.

He said police were still investigating the incident, including why the guards tried to arrest the suspect.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of violent crime in the world and armed guards at railway stations are common because of robberies, assaults and even murders on trains.—MNA/Reuters

Earthquake injures seven in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 7 Nov— Pakistan Army troops rescued 7 people buried under the rubble of their house in northern Pakistan following Sunday morning’s earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale, according to a report by Pakistan’s official news agency APP.

The house collapsed at a village in the district of Batagram, some 200 kilometres north of Islamabad.

One seriously injured and six others with minor injuries were evacuated to the field hospital, where Army doctors provided necessary treatment to them.

Strong aftershocks were felt in major Pakistani cities of Islamabad, Mansehra, Muzaffarabad and Peshawar and at about 7:10 am on Sunday.

The epicentre of the earthquake on Sunday was near Mansehra, about 80 kilometres north of the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

A strong earthquake of 7.6 on the Richter scale hit Pakistan at around 8:00 am on 8 October. — MNA/Xinhua
Weight loss surgery helps prevent diabetes

NEW YORK, 7 Nov—The long-lasting weight reduction achieved with laparoscopic gastric banding, a minimally invasive type of weight loss surgery, can help in the prevention and remission of type 2 diabetes in obese patients, according to a report in the journal Diabetes Care. The surgery also helps stave off high blood pressure.

The findings are based on a study of 73 severely obese patients who underwent laparoscopic gastric banding (LGB) and 49 comparison subjects who refused the surgery.

Separate studies were conducted to assess the effect on diabetes prevention and on remission. At the end of the 4-year follow-up, Dr Antonio E. Pontiroli, from Ospedale San Paolo in Milan, Italy, and colleagues found that LGB-treated patients experienced a drop in BMI from 45.9 to 37.7, whereas comparison subjects experienced no significant change. BMI is a measure of obesity that takes into account a person’s height and weight. Values between 20 and 25 are considered normal weight.

In the prevention study, five of the comparison subjects, but none of those treated with LGB developed type 2 diabetes during follow-up.

In the remission study, one comparison subject and seven LGB-treated subjects became diabetes free.

LGB also had a beneficial effect on high blood pressure. Just one LGB-treated patient developed this problem compared with 11 subjects who did not undergo the weight loss procedure. In addition, high blood pressure resolved in 15 LGB patients and in one comparison subject.

“These data suggest that LGB is effective in preventing and promoting the remission of established type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure,” the authors conclude.

Study shows movies heavily shape teen smoking

CHICAGO, 7 Nov—Nearly 40 per cent of US adolescents who give cigarette smoking a try do so because they saw it in movies, a study said on Monday.

The study, described as the first national look at the influence of movie smoking on youths, urged Hollywood to cut back on depictions of smoking or shots of cigarette brands.

The industry also should consider adding a mention of smoking to movie ratings, data that now mention explicit sex, violence and profanity, it said.

Researchers at Dartmouth Medical School asked 6,522 children aged 10 to 14 to identify films they had seen from a list of 50 randomly selected box office hits released in the United States from 1998 to 2000.

Even after considering other factors known to influence smoking, the study found that adolescents with the highest exposure to movie smoking were 2.6 times more likely to try it compared to those with the lowest exposure.

Of every 100 adolescents who tried smoking, 38 did so because they saw smoking portrayed in movies, said the report published in the November issue of Pediatrics, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

British heart charity tries to shock kids about junk food

LONDON, 7 Nov — A British heart charity launched a poster campaign on Monday to shock children away from eating cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets and hot dogs.

The British Heart Foundation has hired billboards around Britain to show burger and hot dog buns filled with gristle, bones and connective tissue.

The gory images are obscured by a “censored” stamp, but can be peeled back to reveal the true ingredients on the charity’s website.

“Kids have lost touch with even the most basic foods and no longer understand what they are eating,” said BHF Director General Peter Hollins.

The charity surveyed 1,000 children and found that one in three didn’t know that chips were made from potatoes. Nearly one in ten thought chips were made mostly from oil, while others suggested eggs, flour and even apples.

The quality of food eaten by children remains a hot political topic after a high-profile campaign by television chef Jamie Oliver.

Education Secretary Ruth Kelly has pledged 220 million pounds to help schools prepare better meals.

Mexico coral reef set back 100 years by “Wilma”

MEXICO CITY, 7 Nov—A fragile coral reef off the coast of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula could take more than a century to recover from a thrashing by Hurricane Wilma last month, the government said on Friday.

Mexico’s National Protected Natural Areas Commission, known as Conanp, said the storm’s three-day rampage has caused at least $100 million in damage. The reef is one of the largest reef systems in the world, stretching for hundreds of miles (kilometres) southward to the coast of Honduras, comprising the largest reef system in the hemisphere.

Arellano said a team of 10 divers and conservationists had begun rebuilding sections of the damaged reef, using pneumatic drills to bore holes in sea-bed rocks to reattach loose coral fragments with epoxy cement.

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Kenyan wins men's New York Marathon

NEW YORK, 7 Nov— Kenya's Paul Tergat outran defending champion Hendrick Ramaela of South Africa to grab the men’s title of the New York City Marathon with a time of 2 hours, 9 minutes and 30 seconds on Sunday. Jelena Prokopcuka of Latvia won the women event after pulling away from struggling Susan Chepkemeli of Kenya and winning by 14 seconds in 2:24:41 to earn a marathon-record prize of $130,000 US dollars.

Tergat held off Ramaela in the final few meters for the victory. Ramaela fell to the ground after crossing the finish line, finished one second behind, the closest finish in the race's history.

The 36-year-old Tergat holds the world record in the marathon in 2:04:55 set at the 2003 Berlin Marathon. Until Sunday, it was his only win in a major marathon.

Tergat is the ninth straight African to win the title at the New York City Marathon. Prokopcuka, who dropped back by 18 seconds with about 8 kilometres, rallied to catch the leaders and then passed Chepkemeli on their first trip through the Central Park.

Chepkemeli, who was stumbling and spitting up, managed to hold on for the third place for the third time in New York. Prokopcuka never had won a major marathon before, though she was fifth in her New York debut last year.

Chepkemeli, who finished in 2:24:55 for second, was followed by Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia in 2:25:21. — MNA/Xinhua

Fans vandalise Santos stadium, headquarters after humiliating loss

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 Nov— Fans of Brazilian football team Santos sprayed the team's headquarters and stadium Monday with graffiti cursing the team's manager and leading players, according to EFE on Monday.

The fans were angry because of Sunday's 7-1 loss to long-standing rival Corinthians. Sunday's dramatic loss means that Santos has lost all hope of retaining the championship. Santos is 19 points from the leader Corinthians, with only five playing days left in the 2005 league tournament.

The slogans referred to “shame” and “humiliation”, blaming team manager Nelson Baptista, as well as players Luisao, Paulo Cesar and Saulo. Current

Everton beat Middlesbrough 1-0 at Premier League

LONDON, 7 Nov— Everton moved out of the relegation zone on Sunday when they beat visiting Middlesbrough 1-0 thanks to James Beattie's first-half header at the Premier League.

Beattie nodded in after 16 minutes to seal the three points and hand Everton their first home league win this term. The win also ended Middlesbrough's run of three straight victories.

Yakubu wasted a fine chance for Boro and they failed to capitalize on their early possession. Beattie side-footed against the bar while Franck Queudrue headed against the woodwork for the visitors late on. It was difficult to foresee Everton ending the game in the ascendancy after Boro’s impressive opening the game.

Steve McClaren’s side usually has a good record in the Premiership after a Uefa Cup game in midweek and they began in the same vein this time.

The Goodison Park faithful were desperate to see their side win at home in the league and Boro knew an early goal would further increase their unease.

Argentina’s Del Potro wins Uruguay’s Petrobras Cup

MONTEVIDEO, 7 Nov— Juan Martin Del Potro, a seventeen-year-old Argentine, won the Uruguay round of the Petrobras Cup on Sunday, beating Boris Pashanski of Serbia-Montenegro for his first ever title from the Association of Tennis Players circuit.

With the win of 6-3, 2-6 and 7-6 (7-3), Del Potro made the top 150 tennis players on the ATP list, a huge jump from his previous 1,077th place.

Del Potro, who is from Tandil, a town in the province of Buenos Aires, thanked the Uruguayan crowd for “cheering me on all times” and making him feel at home.

Pashanski, 112th in the ATP, has beaten American, Buenos Aires 7-5 and 7-6 for the final while Del Potro qualified by beating fellow Argentine Maximo Gonzalez 6-4 and 6-1. — MNA/Xinhua

Mauresmo wins third straight title of Philadelphia WTA title

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov— France's Amelie Mauresmo edged Elena Dementieva of Russia 7-5, 2-6 and 7-5 to grab her third straight title in the WTA indoor tournament in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Sunday.

The third-seeded Mauresmo eliminated Czech Nicole Vaclavkova Saturday to meet the Russian fourth seed. Dementieva had a slightly easier path to the final as she won her semifinal by walkover when sixth-seeded Nadia Petrova could not take to the court due to a heel bruise.

Mauresmo, who ranked fourth in the world, and Dementieva will take part in the upcoming WTA Tour Championships in Los Angeles early next week. — MNA/Xinhua

Bolton beat Tottenham 1-0 at Premier match

LONDON, 8 Nov— Bolton claimed third place in the English Premiership table after beating Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 on Monday.

Bolton captain Kevin Nolan gave the side the lead with an explosive shot on 31 minutes. Watched by England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, he also hit the post with a neatly placed first-time effort. Spurs hit the woodwork twice in the second half through Midlo’s close-range effort and a Paul Stalteri cross that deceived Jussi Jaaskelainen.

Martin Jol, the Spurs manager, blamed a linesman for his decision. "I know they have a difficult job, but the linesman gave more decisions wrong," he said.

“We deserved something out of this game. We did everything right.”

“A draw I would’ve lived with but not a defeat like this. I’m satisfied with the boys but we should’ve had a draw.”

Before hitting the post Midlo went close when he cleverly won his way past a succession of Bolton defenders, before his shot was bravely blocked by Radhi Jaidi.

The Tunisian central defender’s partner Ben Haim also made several vital interceptions to frustrate Martin Jol’s side.

Before Spurs’ late on-slaught Bolton subjected the visitors to an aerial offensive from a series of set pieces in difficult windy conditions.

The best of those set pieces — a Nolan free-kick — created danger when Paul Robinson was unable to claim the ball amid a posse of players.

Having softened up Spurs, Bolton took the lead through Nolan’s wonderful goal.

Following a huge punt upfield from Jaaskelainen, El-Hadji Douf and Kevin Davies combined well on the edge of box before the ball was laid into Nolan’s path.

Nolan hit the ball first, his shot fizzing past Robinson, giving the Spurs goalkeeper no chance.

Five minutes before the interval Nolan almost got a second, striking the woodwork with a side-footed shot after more good link play involving Davies and Douf.

Early in the second half the injured Davies was replaced by Jared Borgetti.

The Mexican striker proved not quite so adept as Davies in holding the ball up, though he did manage to draw an ath-letic save from Robinson.

Prior to Nolan’s goal Spurs had been restricted to the occasional breakaway. — MNA/Xinhua
Philippine Govt promises no whitewash in rape case by US Marines

MANILA, 8 Nov — The Philippine Government said on Monday that there would be no “whitewash” in the investigation of alleged rape of a Filipino woman by five US Marines in Subic Bay, the former US military base last week.

“Matters will be handled properly and we shall insist on our sovereign prerogatives,” presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement. “Both the Philippines and the United States share the commitment to protect women’s rights. We are not in a position to decide on the fate of these US soldiers.”

The statement was issued after US President George W. Bush last week visited Subic Bay, an American military base where a woman was allegedly raped by five US Marines who were later released from custody.

The Philippines’ Department of National Defence has ordered a court martial to be held for the US Marines involved in the incident.

“We shall get the US government to ensure that they will bring the suspects to court,” said Interior and Police Secretary Rafael Mariano. “We shall also ensure that the US servicemen being implicated in the case are held to answer the allegations against them.”

The spokesman has earlier called for calm after the US military base executive in Subic Bay ordered an investigation following the incident.

A Filipino woman’s group on Monday called on the US government to ensure that the US servicemen being implicated in the case are held to answer the allegations against them.

“We should get the commitment of the US government to ensure that they will bring the suspects to court,” said a group official. “The danger is that the US government will be protecting its men.”

The woman, who was allegedly raped by five US Marines, filed a complaint against the soldiers at the Subic Bay police station.

“We shall get the US government to ensure that they will bring the suspects to court,” said Interior and Police Secretary Rafael Mariano. “We shall also ensure that the US servicemen being implicated in the case are held to answer the allegations against them.”

The Philippine government has also ordered a court martial to be held for the US Marines involved in the incident.

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**Tangible progress can be witnessed in education and health sectors**

It is opportune time to exert increased efforts to enhance national economy with speed

Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. The Secretary-1 said that faculty members are the ones who on their own will chose their profession of discharging the noble educational duties, nurturing new generation to become high level intellectuals and intelligentsia including scholars of the arts and science field, physicians, medical experts, engineers, architects and computer technicians. The teachers are the invaluable strength of the national development because they are doing their work out of their own goodwill, aspiration and their will to develop the academic field.

Enabling university teachers to study the objective conditions and future requirements of the nation at special refresher courses helps strengthen their spirit and qualification to realize the national aims of the education sector.

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**Increasing number of USDA members helps speed up tasks of regional development**

Preliminary session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2005 held

Yangon, 8 Nov — The preliminary session of the Annual General Meeting 2005 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the USDA central training school in Hmawby township on 3 November morning. USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo spoke on the occasion.

Present were USDA Joint-Secretary-General U Zaw Min, secretariat members, CEC members, secretaries of state and division USDAs and USDA delegates of states, divisions, districts and townships.

Joint-Secretary-General U Zaw Min presided over the session together with Secretariat member (See page 10)

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The entire world people are exhorted to be united in warding off interference, and invasion with force so as to restore international security, peace, friendship and development.