ICT considered as distinguishing imperative in transformation of national economy

To sustain long-term growth, government taking initiatives to transform economy into knowledge-based one

Secretary-1 addresses opening of Sixth Asia-Pacific Symposium on Information and Telecommunication Technologies

YANGON, 9 Nov—The opening of the Sixth Asia-Pacific Symposium on Information and Telecommunication Technologies (APSITT) jointly organized by University of Computer Studies, Yangon, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation took place at Myanmar Info-Tech on Hlne Campus, here, this morning. Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and made a speech.

Also present were ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, professors, officials and resource persons from universities and corporations of Japan, Mongolia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, doctorate degree holders from Yangon University of Computer Studies and Yangon Technological University, candidates of doctorate courses and guests.

In his address the Secretary-1 said: It gives me great pleasure to join you all here today to give a few opening comments at the Opening Ceremony of the Sixth Asia-Pacific Symposium on Information and Telecommunication Technologies.

Many of us realize that the information and communications sectors are vital engines of development and economic growth in other sectors of our economies. The growth of digital technology and its impact on multimedia and ICT have led to boundless enhancements to the quality of our daily lives. They have brought drastic changes to the way business is conducted, the management of Government functions, the communication infrastructure and network. A symposium such as this is essential, as it gives us an opportunity to garner knowledge from the experts who are the speakers of this international gathering of sorts.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards successful realization of national education promotion objectives

In implementing the national education promotion programmes, the State Peace and Development Council is striving for getting access to and utilizing the ever advancing science and technologies. At the same time, emphasis is being placed on strengthening Union Spirit, and safeguarding the national values and norms from deteriorating or vanishing.

As efforts are being made to create learning opportunities for every citizen and to raise the education standard up to the international level, fruitful results can now be seen.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, on 8 November, addressed the opening of Special Refresher Course No 8 for Faculty Members at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi), Hlegu Township, Yangon Division.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that as faculty members are the ones who on their own choose 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, they are the invaluable strength in endeavours for promotion drive covering the task of perpetuity in addition to raising the national prestige.

Nowadays, the national education promotion drive covering the task of producing intellectuals and intelligentsia has become a national strength safeguarding independence and sovereignty for their people in their undertakings to raise the national prestige.

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.

We firmly believe that faculty members will do their bit to accomplish the objectives for promotion of national education standard and are fully convinced of the importance of the education sector that can help the nation standing tall among the world nations.

Basic Journalism Course No 2 concludes

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses the conclusion of Basic Journalism Course No 2. — MNA

YANGON, 9 Nov — The Union Solidarity and Development Association held its concluding ceremony of Basic Journalism Course No 2 at the hall of USDA on University Avenue this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw, CEC members U Thein Sein, U Ohn Myint, U Aung Min, U Thein Swe, U Maung Pa, Thura U Aung Ko and U Nyan Tun Aung, course instructors, officials of the association headquarters, regional coordinators and trainees.

First, Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo made a speech on the occasion, saying that the trainees are to carry out media and organizational tasks appropriate with the local people, based on the lessons studied from the course. The trainees are to serve media duties based on journalism and knowledge on a wider scale among the national people.

The Secretary-General urged the trainees to realize the seven-point Road Map, the objectives of the association and future tasks and five rural development tasks.

Next, the Secretary-General presented prizes to outstanding students U Kyaw Soe, U Myint Shwe and U Moe Myint Thein.

Afterwards, the Secretary-General presented completion certificates to the trainees through trainee leader U Than Htwe and certificates of honour and souvenirs to the instructors through Chief Editor of Myanmar Alin Daily U Ye Myint Pe. After that, those present posed for a documentary photo. — MNA

Outstanding youths tour downtown Yangon

YANGON, 9 Nov — A combined team comprising the students who stood from 1st to 10th positions in the matriculation examination in the whole country for 2005, those from states and divisions who ranked first, those grabbed gold medals in Asian Games, outstanding members of Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, the winners in the extempore talks at USDA central level to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the students who secured five gold medals and above in Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, accompanied by officials, toured downtown Yangon on 4 November.

First, they paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. U Thein Zaw of Head of Department of Shwedagon Pagoda explained facts about the background history of the pagoda. Next, they donated K 74,220 for the pagoda.

The youths visited Drugs Elimination Museum, Myanma Gems Museum, Myepadetha Park and Fresh Water Fish Garden of Kandawgyi Gardens. Officials explained facts about functions of their worksites. Afterwards, they proceeded to Union National Races Village. Project Manager of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department U Tun Oo explained salient points of the village. — MNA
Bulgarian President reaffirms one-China policy

SOFIA, 8 Nov — Bulgaria sticks to the “one-China” policy and it won’t change following rotations of governments, Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said on Monday.

Parvanov made the comments during the meeting with a visiting delegation of Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) led by its Vice-president Bai Lichen. Parvanov said that Bulgaria is among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with China and has been consistently adhered to the one-China policy. He said Bulgaria appreciates China’s great achievements in its remarkable economic reform, as well as its important role in Asia and the world.

Parvanov expressed his wish to further develop bilateral ties in areas of culture and business and upgrade the level and quality of the bilateral economic cooperation.

Bai said that China and Bulgaria share the traditional friendship and China appreciates Bulgaria’s consistent adherence to the one-China policy. China is willing to further develop the bilateral ties, he added. The CPPCC delegation arrived in Sofia on 4 November following visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Unexploded grenade left on US cruise ship

CANBERRA, 8 Nov — An unexploded rocket-propelled grenade remained on a US-owned cruise ship after the vessel escaped an attack by pirates in the Indian Ocean over the weekend, Australia’s Foreign Minister said on Monday.

The Seabourn Spirit, with 151 passengers on board, was headed for the Seychelles where US officials will disarm the grenade, Alexander Downer told Australian television.

Pirates in two small boats fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns at the cruise ship about 160 kilometres off the coast of Somalia on Saturday, but the vessel escaped and no one was hurt.

The ship, packed with holidaymakers, was on a 16-day cruise from Egypt to Mombasa, Kenya. There were 19 Australians on board.

Indonesia blasts US over military ties

JAKARTA, 8 Nov — Indonesia has criticized some US lawmakers for stalling efforts to restore full military relations between the two countries, calling the move a groundless ploy, local media reported on Monday.

“I see there is no legal basis to accuse Indonesia of not doing anything to meet all requirements for the restoration of military cooperation,” Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying.

He made the comment on the restrictions that the US Senate and House of Representatives put on foreign military finance and exports of lethal military equipment to Indonesia.

The move came as US President George W. Bush seeks approval from the US Congress for 20.9 billion US dollars foreign aid that included military funding for several countries in the Middle East, Europe and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia.

Nevertheless, Juwono said that “at the initiative of Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) commander, we provide FBI access to the investigation and they concluded later that the TNI was clean”.

As of today, the police with the assistance of the military continue to hunt down the suspects,” he said, adding that the Free Papua Movement waged a low-level armed struggle for independence against the central government.

The US lawmakers also required that the US State Department certify that Indonesia was cooperating with the United States in the war on terror in order to receive the aid disbursement.

In this respect, the minister assured that Indonesia was committed to the crackdown on terrorist networks.

Bangladesh ferry with 200 aboard sinks at sea

DHAKA, 8 Nov — A ferry carrying more than 200 people sank in the Bay of Bengal on Monday while sailing to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh from a nearby island, police said.

Nearly 60 people, including some injured, have been picked up alive by Navy boats and other rescuers, one official said. No death has been reported yet.

The fate of the others was not immediately clear. Police said most of the passengers were returning to Chittagong after celebrating the Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival with relatives on the Sandwip island.

Germany tightens security amid riots in France

BERLIN, 8 Nov — Germany ordered more police onto Berlin’s streets on Monday after five cars were set ablaze in a poor district, fearing that the riot in France be copied in the German capital.

Five cars were burned during the weekend in separate streets in Berlin’s Moabit District, where a large number of immigrants live. Nobody was injured.

A Berlin police spokesman said that extra patrols were taken as a “preventive measure.”

On Sunday night, France was hit by new race violence after 1,400 vehicles were torched by angry mobs. Gangs of youths burned cars, shops and businesses across the country as the flames of discontent spread in towns such as Toulouse, Nantes, Strasbourg, Rouen, Rennes and Orleans.

Taleban chief calls for intensifying attacks on foreign troops

KABUL, 8 Nov — Taleban’s elusive leader Mullah Mohammad Omar has called on his loyalists to intensify attacks on the US-dominated foreign troops and Afghan soldiers.

In a message sent to media on the eve of Eidul Feter to mark the end of Ramadan on Thursday, he called on Afghans to wage Jihad against foreign occupying forces.

“I see there is no legal basis to accuse Mohammad Omar of being a terrorist in Pakistan, said the people of Iran would soon embrace the freedom of their country.

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**US Ambassador risks expulsion by Zimbabwe**

**HARARE, 8 Nov** — United States Ambassador Christopher Dell risks being expelled for his "continued meddling" in the internal affairs of Zimbabwe, a local newspaper the Herald said on Monday.

The report said host countries reserve the right to expel a diplomat whose behaviour they feel is "unbecoming or undiplomatic" and Zimbabwe could take that route in the case of Dell.

Dell raised the ire of the Zimbabwean Government following a speech he gave at the United Methodist Church-run Africa University in Mutare last week when he claimed that the economic challenges facing the country were a result of "corrupt rule" and not sanctions.

"Neither drought nor sanctions are at the root of Zimbabwe's decline. The Zimbabwe Government's own gross mismanagement of the economy and its corrupt rule has brought on the crisis," he said.

Zimbabwe's economy has been in shatter since the government's land reform angered Western countries who imposed devastating sanctions against the southern African country, which long been considered bread basket of the region, leading to the collapse of many local companies while successive droughts had also taken their toll on the country's economic performance.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was quoted as saying that the government had had "enough" of Dell's "undiplomatic" behaviour and would want him to "explain" why he was "meddling" in the affairs of Zimbabwe.

Recently, Dell was caught by security forces after trespassing into a restricted security zone at the National Botanical Gardens in Harare, an area near President Robert Mugabe's residence.

**China reports three pneumonia cases of unknown causes**

**BEIJING, 8 Nov** — China's Ministry of Health Sunday gave a briefing on three pneumonia cases of unknown causes in Xiangtan County, central China's Hunan Province.

Experts said they would not rule out the possibility of human infection of the deadly H5N1 bird flu, according to a spokesman for the ministry. The spokesman said: "Investigation is still under way."

The ministry has invited experts with the World Health Organization to help ascertain the causes, the spokesman added.

**Provincial governor in Afghanistan escapes suicide attack**

**KABUL, 8 Nov** — Shir Mohammad Akhundzada, the Provicial governor in Afghanistan escaped a suicide attack on Monday morning, a provincial spokesman said.

"The attacker riding a white Toyota Corolla car attempted to ram his vehicle on Governor's car when he was entering the governor house at 9 am, badly wounding the suicide bomber but fortunately the governor escaped unhurt," Hajji Mohammad Wali told Xinhua.

Four of the five bombs planted in the car exploded in the attack, he said.

"The legs and hands of the attacker have been broken in the explosion and he is in coma at police custody," the spokesman added.

Monday is the weekly meeting of provincial officials with US military authorities in the area, he said. Taliban's spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmad claimed that one of the movement's Mujahid or holy warriors, 55-year-old Salahudin, carried out the attack and embraced martyrdom.

Helmand and the neighbouring provinces of Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan commonly known as the heartland of Taleban, have been the scene of violent insurgency since last year. Over 1,500 people, mostly of majority of them, according to officials, being killed by Taleban fighters have been killed in Taleban-led insurgency since the beginning of this year.

**Fire breaks out in Venezuelan oil refinery, 15 injured**

**CARACAS, 8 Nov** — A fire broke out on Monday in the Cardon oil refinery in the state of Falcon, northwestern Venezuela, causing 15 injuries, the country's government-run Bolivarian News Agency reported.

The preliminary result of investigation reveals that the fire was caused by the gasoline leak ignited by a spark from the nearby ventilation plant, said a local police officer.

All the injured were sent to the hospital immediately, two of whom suffered three-degree burns with 80 per cent of their bodies burnt, the police officer added.

The Cardon oil refinery produces about 305,000 barrels of gasoline a day, and it is a part of Paraguana refining complex, which produces 940,000 barrels a day and is Venezuela's main source of gasoline exports.

**Over 1.4 tons of drugs seized in southeastern Iran**

**Tehrán, 8 Nov** — Iranian anti-drug police confiscated over 1.4 tons of narcotic drugs during the past three days in the southeastern city of Bam, the official IRNA news agency reported recently. IRNA quoted a local police official as saying that some bandits and notorious drug traffickers were also arrested and 50 weapons were seized during the same period.

Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, which sits in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, western Europe and other regions.

Iran, with at least two million drug addicts in the country, accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine intercepted worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board.

The country spends five billion US dollars annually on anti-drug programmes, and over 3,100 police have lost their lives in conflicts with drug smugglers during the past two decades. — MNA/Xinhua
China’s development brings enormous prosperity to world

BEIJING, 8 Nov—China’s development augurs enormous prosperity not only for China but also for Europe, said Poul Nyry, Rasmussen, president of the Party of European Socialists (PES), on Monday.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua here, Rasmussen, who is also a European parliamentarian and former prime minister of Denmark, said when the Chinese economic development is continuing, it is a very important contribution, rather than a threat, to the development of Europe and the world as a whole.

“As an economist and president of the PES, I can tell you that a fast and strong Chinese economy is a sign of good social progress and a good regional development,” said Rasmussen, who is leading a delegation of the PES to visit China.

China and the European Union (EU) have established a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2003, with frequent high-level exchanges of visits and a rapid increase of economic and trade cooperation.

At present, the EU has become the largest trade partner of China. While China, after the United States, comes as the second biggest trade partner of the EU. In 2004, the trade volume between China and the EU reached 177.28 billion US dollars, about 74 times as much as the volume when the two sides established diplomatic ties in 1975. —MNA/Xinhua

China, S Korea join hands in animation industry

CHAGSHA, 7 Nov—China has joined hands with South Korea to develop the country’s fledging animation industry.

The animation industry in South Korea has witnessed remarkable changes in recent years, especially in the field of digital technology, and has provided invaluable experience for the Chinese animation industry, said Wang Feng, secretary-general of China Television Artists Association.

The exchanges and cooperation between China and South Korea will help promote the creation, development and management in the industry for both countries and bring mutual benefits, he said.

“Tmd deeply impressed by the passion towards animation of our Chinese counterparts and will bring it with me back to South Korea,” said Shim Kang-I, chairman of the SICAF Organization Committee.

Changsha is one of the pioneering bases for China’s animation industry, with 15,000 minutes of animation film produced here every year, bringing a revenue of 1.3 billion yuan (about 158 million US dollars). The city is home to two of the nine "national animation bases" firstly approved by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT). Last year, the SARFT set up a number of national animation bases and approved three TV animation channels to encourage the development of animation products. —MNA/Xinhua

Big fire in Kabul destroys building of Revenue Department

KABUL, 8 Nov—A big fire happened on Monday night in Afghanistan capital Kabul destroyed the building of the Revenue Department, but left no casualty till now, a local official said.

The fire happened at about 6 pm has destroyed almost the whole two-floor building of the Revenue Department. The keepers of the nearby clothes shops were turfed to call all the goods out of the shops in order to prevent from the further destruction of the fire.

"Afghan fire-fighters and police have come here soon after the breaking of the fire, and (firefighters from ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) also came just now. There is a good cooperation between the two sides, and we will try to control the fire as soon as possible," the provincial police chief of Kabul General Jamil Junbish told Xinhua. —MNA/Xinhua

France plans curfews as youths riot continues

PARIS, 8 Nov—Youths rioted for a 12th night in France on Tuesday and the government announced plans to impose curfews in the rundown suburbs hit by the violence.

Rioters torched cars in the suburbs of Paris, the southwestern city of Toulouse and in Lille and Strasbourg in the north, defying a pledge by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin for his conservative government to take a firm line against them.

Villepin rejected demands to call out the Army but, under growing pressure from opponents to end the violence, he told TF1 television late on Monday: “Wherever it is necessary, prefects will be able to impose a curfew.” —MNA/Reuters

Coal mine blast kills 15 in N China

TAIYUAN, 8 Nov—A coal mine gas blast left 15 dead and one missing in Qingshu County in Taiyuan, capital of north China’s Shanxi Province on Sunday, according to Shanxi Provincial Coal Mine Safety Department.

The accident occurred at Taiping Coal Mine at about 5:00 am on Sunday. The coal mine is a legal one, owned by a township with an annual output of 60,000 tons. —MNA/Xinhua

Seven Iraqi policemen killed by car bomb northeast of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov—A suicide car bomb hit two police patrols in Iraq’s northeastern city of Baquba on Wednesday, killing seven policemen and wounding nine others, an interior ministry source said.

“A suicide bomber pushed his explosive packed vehicle to two police patrols at about 10:00 am (0700 GMT) near Khan Bani Sa’ad military camp, killing seven policemen and wounding nine people, including three civilians,” the source told Xinhua.

Since the US-led war on Iraq in March 2003, Baquba, a flashpoint city some 65km northeast of Baghdad, has witnessed several deadly attacks by guerrillas bent on undermining the US backed government. —MNA/Xinhua

Thames awash with cocaine

LONDON, 7 Nov—The Thames, the river running through the British capital of London, is awash with cocaine as Londoners sniff more than 150,000 lines of the class A drug every day, Sunday Telegraph reported.

An investigation by the newspaper found that, after cocaine had passed through users’ bodies and sewage treatment plants, an estimated 2 kilos of the drug went into the river each day.

The figure is 15 times higher than official Home Office statistics and equates to four out of every 100 people regularly taking cocaine, or up to 250,000 of the capital’s 6 million residents.

Anti-drug campaigners were quoted by the paper as saying on Saturday that the findings showed that cocaine use was a ticking "healthcare time bomb" and calling for the government to take drastic action. —MNA/Xinhua

Damaged vehicles lie under debris after a tornado, south of Boonville, Indiana recently. Tornadoes killed up to 20 people in the Midwestern US states of Indiana and Kentucky, officials said, and brutal high winds injured more than a hundred. —INREUTERS
Devoid or ignorant of truth in every aspect will be followed by evil consequences only. Truth means the sense of seeing things in their actual condition. Misconception is not a right knowledge, but a wrong one. Thus, may men have the right knowledge as well as the wrong knowledge. Social science said that the wrong knowledge was the result of seeing everything under the influence of ego and greed. Seeing evil as good and good as evil is like seeing the major and the minor in an opposite way.

Likewise, Vaclav Havel and Desmond Tutu, who are demanding the UN Secretary Council to take action against Myanmar, with exaggerated fabrications, are seeing things in an opposite way. From which angle are they watching Myanmar to see her deserving the UNSC action? Is their outlook on the country an outcome of their legal field tour of Myanmar, that reflects the objective condition of over 54 million countrymen? Or is it based on the negative attitude of a handful of crawlers relying on aliens and betraying the national cause? In reality, Havel and Tutu’s outlook is based on the negative view of their western masters embraced by the crawlers themselves.

According to social science, truth can be found in the objective life and the search must be practical, comprehensive and realistic. Otherwise, it will be totally invisible under the influence of wrong conceptions and unjust views.

On the other side, departments concerned in the nation have already presented records and data on the unprecedented development of today’s Myanmar. In this article, I am going to present the significant changes in the political and economic sectors. Thanks to the market economy, the nation is witnessing a marked increase in local and foreign investments, an upsurge in external and internal trade and services, and the emergence of entrepreneurs, workers, the middle class and modern industrialists, the basic class of the market economy. She is also enjoying greater infrastructure development beginning 1988.

In the political sector, multi political parties are existing legally in the nation. Myanmar has achieved national consolidation to an unprecedented degree thanks to the 17 national race armed groups that returned to the legal fold. Even the peripheries of the border regions are enjoying peace and stability at present. Only a small number of armed bandits are still active in the far corners of the nation. Myanmar now has no internal strife or racial conflicts.

According to UNODC report, Myanmar saw 73 per cent drop in poppy cultivation during the period from 1996 to 2004. All in all, Myanmar is in the process of peaceful and stable transition to a new era of democracy and market economy. The holding of the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map, has reached to a certain point. But Havel and Tutu are not able to see and know the objective conditions. Why? It is because they are on a wrong way under the domain of lopsided concepts, and wrongfully following the steps of their western masters.

Hence, in this human society, we must keep ourselves free from wrong emulation and extreme personality and ideological passions. Seeing the truth and the objective or walking straight and properly would be impossible if the tendency of turning a blind eye to Myanmar like the western masters and walking bandy-legged like them continues. The perpetration of Havel and Tutu, demanding the UNSC to take action against Myanmar, using exaggerated slanders as the tool, with the intention of harming her interest, is the act of following the steps and fulfilling the wishes of their western masters.

(Translation: TMT)
Education sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of higher education in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Information and Communication Technology classrooms in schools of the higher education sector

Along with the rapid development of science and technology in the 21st century, information and communication technology has been advancing with momentum. In the Union of Myanmar, efforts are being made using the advancing technology for the nation to be on a par with the nations of the world.

In the higher education sector of Myanmar, information and communication technology is being applied after establishing educational network. Learning aids programmes are introduced in universities, degree colleges and colleges.

Information and communication technology is being applied effectively in teaching, learning, education management and collecting data in the higher education sector and this contribute much towards establishment of the science and technology sector, promoting the education standard and creating educational opportunities.

Expecting new technologies and communication technology and national development in the coming 30 years, the government has laid down the 30-year long-term education plan to meet the international standard.

Putting these plans into action and applying advanced technology, a constant learning society and new generation youth pursuing higher education will emerge thereby turning out of outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Nowadays, all are witnessing development of technology in the higher education sector that will shape the better future of the nation.

The table provides the reader with facts and figures of e-Education Learning Centres, the number of sites in WAN in states and divisions including border areas in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>State and Division</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005 e-Education Learning Centre</th>
<th>2005 Number of sites in WAN</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Taninthayi</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Bago (East)</td>
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<td>Shan (East)</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
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ICT considered by Myanmar Government ...

(From page 1)

an opportunity to garner knowledge from the experts who are the speakers of this international gathering of sorts. As such, I would like to take this chance to urge all speakers and participants to grasp this golden opportunity to grasp as much knowledge and ideas as possible from this symposium. I hope that in return, all speakers and participants will be able to contribute significantly to the rapid technological changes of the present era.

In earlier history, wealth was measured in land, in gold, in oil and in machines. Today, the wealth was measured in the rapid technological turn, all speakers and participants will be able to address these ICT issues. Right from the inception of the Government’s initiatives towards enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness, quality of the public service, the use and application of ICT has been considered by the Myanmar Government as the distinguishing imperative in the transformation of the national economy, indicating the country’s effort to vigorously continue with high priority to explore all possibilities to narrow the prime catalyst that should continually and proactively play a leading role in ensuring the mainstreaming the advancement of contextualized ICT education, research and development. This Symposium offers excellent opportunities for academics to share experience and exchange information.

“Intelligent Living”, “Digital Society”, “Information Society”, “Networked Society”… Whichever term we use to describe our future, we shall need a modern and efficient telecommunications infrastructure to exploit fully the opportunities that lie ahead.

For example, you may remotely view what is going on inside your house and enter your apartment block merely by turning up without having to use any smart card password or hire any guard. Businessmen can monitor the operation of their retail shops or hold conferences with overseas customers through broadband services at all times, saving a great deal of time and money. Advanced telecommunications network constitutes the pillar behind this progress.

To sustain long-term growth, the Government is taking initiatives to transform our economy into a knowledge-based society. One that is critically dependent on the availability of information infrastructure. Making information available through the communications network, however, would not by itself overcome the problem of the Digital Divide. It is necessary to bridge the skills gap by encouraging the development of new skills and local indigenous applications and content, to reduce over dependency on foreign content.

ICT between continents, between countries and also within countries is widely observed creating the “digital divide” and the challenges for all concerned in the sector are how to change this situation and create digital opportunities by providing all people with equitable, affordable, quality and universal access to ICT.

As the field of ICT is dynamic, research and development activities to facilitate the absorption of new technology, to facilitate speedy transfer of know-how, to upgrade the facilities, are to be encouraged in addition to the need to exert efforts to build management capability to plan and manage the use, application and integration of ICT. I believe that the symposium will give input on how to address these ICT issues.

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects dams,…

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected thriving Manawthaukha paddy in 50 acres of irrigated land in Lysawphyokon village.

On arrival at mile-post No 1/17 on Phaya Ngasaw Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected progress of No 2 Tatkon-Kintha road section being constructed by Mandalay Division Development Affairs Commit-
tee.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into thriving of monsoon paddy fields on both sides of the road in Pyawbwe and Thazi Townships. At the briefing hall of Mandalay Division district to district No 2 road construction site, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on the road construction from Phaya-seikpin village to Kintha village in Tatkon Township, earthworks, con-
struction of wooden bridges and further plans. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on worksite safety and meeting the set standard of the tasks.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected the earthworks for road construction in Hlinetat Village and Kangyithauk Village.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Khantylay village, Thinl village-tract in Myittha Town-

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nation.

The report said that a Youth Conference was held at Bagan Archaeo-
logical Region on 8 May in 2005. An approval on building a new modern developed nation through united strength of youth was stated in the report.

On 27 July 2005, the mass meeting on guarding against the dan-
gers posed by the internal and external destruction-
ists through the united strength of the people was held at Myanmar Conven-
tion Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division. The mass meeting was attended by USDA mem-
bers, representatives of social organizations and townshippers of the area in Yangon Division, total-
ing 2,700.

The representatives of the mass meeting ap-
proved the two motions calling for guarding against the dangers posed by the internal and exter-
nal destructionists through the united strength of the people and that calling for participation in peace and stability and development tasks of the State and re-
alization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Similar mass meet-
gings were organized in States and Divisions till 6 August.

To have interna-
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taries, executives and members at different lev-
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In conclusion, he reported that USDA is making strenuous efforts to be able to stand as a national force that will have capability to safe-
guard the Union and build the modern and developed nation. The objectives of the association, and resolutions and future tasks adopted by the An-

gual General Meeting of the association are being implemented with might and main.

Organizer Daw Nan Win Nanda Tun of Lashio Township USDA, Executive Daw Nan Hwam Nun of Monying Township USDA, Executive Dr Htaw Win of Ayezawaddy Division USDA, and Executive U Bo Bo Kyaw of Bhamo Township USDA reported on implementation of the future tasks of State and Division USDA's within one year. Next, the meet-
ing went to recess.

The meeting resumed at 10 am. Member of Secretariat of USDA U Tin Htut presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen CEC member Thura U Aung Ko and U Phone Swe.

Reserved Exec-
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tric USDA, Executive U Khan Maung Huay of Bagu Division (East) USDA, Executive U Maung Maung Huay of Magway Division USDA, Secre-
tary U Thaung Wai of Mandalay Division USDA, Secretary U Myint Oo of Bilin Township USDA, Secretary U San Naing of Thandwe Township USDA. Executive Daw Aye Aye Maw of Hmawby Township USDA and Executive U Sai Tha of Shan State (South) USDA.

The first-day ses-
sion of the annual general meeting came to an end in the evening.

Annual General Meeting of USDA…

(from page 16)
Kayin State Daw Naw Yin Yin Su acted as master of ceremonies and Joint-Sec-
retary of Zigon Township in Bago Division (West) Daw May Cherry Lwin, co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the start of the ceremony with the presence of 444 del-
egates at the meeting.

Joint Secretary-
General of USDA U Zaw Min read out the report presented by USDA CEC members' team, saying that on behalf of USDA CEC members’ team, he presented a brief report of

In the report on organizational sector, it stated that there were over 21.2 million of members in 17 associations at state and division levels in the time of holding Annual General Meeting for 2004. There were over 22.8 million of members on 30 September 2005.

USDA CEC members’ team to be submitted to the Annual General Meet-
ing for 2005.

The report included organizational matters, management, economic, social affairs and culture as well as performance of education department.

The organizing matters, seeking advice from the patron and panel of patrons, field trips and

and division levels in the time of holding Annual General Meeting for 2004. There were over 22.8 million of members on 30 September 2005.

Patron of USDA Senior General Than Shwe attended the Annual General Meeting for 2004 and gave guidance on the occasion. In reporting per-

period, he also gave guid-
ance at the opening cer-
courses conducted by USDA from 2004 Octo-
ber to 2005 September. A report stated that over 690,000 of members could be brought up from 1994 to 2005 September.

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Seikkyi Township USDA, and Reserved Executive

and Reserved Executive

Daw Songe Kyin Tun of Haka Township USDA continued to report on accomplish-
ments of State and Division USDA's within one year.

At 12.30 pm, the meeting resumed. Executive Daw El Shee Sin Tun of Salin Township USDA and M'jangyang Township USDA member Daw Mon Ja emceed the meet-
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In the time of Tatmadaw Government, mutual trust has been set up

Lashio Town-

ship

USDA

Organizer

Daw Nan Win

Nanda Tun

WIN NWA

In Shan State (North). In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, mutual trust has been set up due to making concerted efforts and realizing the national reconsolidation. Nowadays, 17 armed groups and 10 small armed groups returned to the fight and are participating in regional development tasks.

It is known to all that armed groups become a burden to the local people. Armed struggle cannot bring regional developments. Due to the armed struggle, the region is lagged behind in development in education, health, economic and social sectors.

During 2005, U Kan Na and group of SSNA Brigade-11 from Hsinwun-U region, PSLA U Aik Mu and group of Manton region, SSNA Brigade-19 U Gon Khe and groups of Lashio-Nampaung region, and SSNA Brigade-6 U Sai Ku and SSA (Breakaway) U Sai Yi of Mongyi-Mongpa region unconditionally handed over their arms and weapons to the Government.

As a result of restoring peace in Hseinwun-U region, Lashio-Nampaung region, Manton region and Mongyin-Mongpa region along Union Highway, the tasks of education, health, social and regional development could be undertaken. In these regions, 100 million for the education trust-fund and K 60 million for the health fund were set up to contribute towards development of health and education sectors.

In the past, the region possessed only Kunlong suspension bridge across Thawlin Bridge. Now, the region was facilitated with one more bridge — Tarpa Bridge measuring 600 feet long. Therefore, local people can travel from Tarshwehlan and Tarwee have to Lankkal and Kongsan regions in a short time. Moreover, Dokthawady Bridge (Nawngkho) was opened to link Shan State (South) and (North).

The Head of State gave guidance with farsightedness that concerted efforts are to be made for local food sufficiency in all States and Divisions. Hence, research farms and hill farmlands can be seen in various regions of Shan State. In Shan State (North), USDA members, social organization members and departments concerned are taking part in the cultivation tasks.

Nowadays, not only the region along Union Highway but also 192 remote villages of Palaung national races have been facilitated with power supply, thanks to concerted efforts and contributions of the Government, national organizations, wellwishers and USDA members. In addition, Shwe Kyaw power project is being implemented in Namkham to be able to supply electricity to Shan State (North).

MNA

Participation of USDA in development tasks of Shan State (East)

Mongyin Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Win Nwan submitted reports that at present, peace that national races and local people long for is prevailing.

On 4 November, state/division USDA delegates submitted the reports on the progress in implementation of the tasks of the USDA within a year.

Among them, Shan State (East) Mongyin Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Win Hwam Nwan gave a report saying that including tar road, gravel and earth roads, totalling 14 roads were constructed in five townships of Shan State (East) through the cooperation of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and USDA members.

For providing pure water and irrigation water in the region, Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs facilitated 14 tube wells and, the USDA members and people participated in laying pipe for nine villages and in construction tasks of nine villages.

Hwam Nwan.

YANGON, 9 No—The Annual General Meeting 2005 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the USDA Central Training School in Hmawby Township from 3 to 7 November. The Head of State gave guidance with far-sightedness that concerted efforts are to be made for local food sufficiency in all States and Divisions. Hence, research farms and hill farmlands can be seen in various regions of Shan State. In Shan State (North), USDA members, social organization members and departments concerned are taking part in the cultivation tasks.

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MNA

Without analyzing national development, Vaclav Harvel and Desmond Tutu submitted report with call on UN Security Council to act in Myanmar

Ayeawady Division USDA Executive Dr Htay Win in his report said that medical teams led by 12 doctors provided health care plus medicines for 25,498 patients in 155 places in the division.

The Division USDA constructed, renovated or provided with furniture 142 basic education primary schools, and built or renovated 39 health care centres. And USDA at different levels in collaboration with development affairs committees, members, social organizations, and people built or reconstructed 209 village-to-village roads stretching over 100 miles, built 59 bridges, sunk 353 tube-wells and dug 26 lakes, at a cost of over K 702.5 million. Moreover, in cooperation with congenial organizations and local, the members are lending themselves to the agricultural, livestock breeding and electric power sectors for regional development. Myanmar has a tradition that national people contribute voluntary services to religious and social services. But, some Western nations whose culture is much different from Myanmar’s are accusing Myanmar of forced labour to mislead the international community. So, local people of Ayeawady Division cannot accept such unjust accusations.

At a time when the government has been taking steps for national development in various sectors, certain Western powers are imposing economic sanctions, and

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 10 November, 2005
USDA representing the people will ward off external and internal danger

Local people welcome and support the organizations that contribute to regional development

Without analyzing national development...
**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**TENDER NO. 20(T) MPIE/ HSD (12/ 2005-2006)**

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel Oil (6,000 ± 10%) Metric Tons (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).

2. Tender closing Date: (23-11-2005) at (12:00) noon.

3. Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (10-11-2005) on payment of one hundred (100) FB per set.

4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director,
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

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**Vietnam’s farm produce export to surge this year**

HANOI, 8 Nov — Vietnam is estimated to reap over five billion US dollars from exporting agricultural and forest products this year, up 17 per cent against last year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said on Monday.

Regarding fruits and vegetables, the country is likely to post export turnovers of 260 million dollars in 2005, up 45 per cent against 2004, the ministry said, adding that it still faces export difficulties due to high freight, and poor preserving equipment.

Vietnam earned 196 million dollars from selling fruits and vegetables overseas, including China, Japan, Russia and France, in the first 10 months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 35.7 per cent.

Now, Vietnam’s farm and forest products are available in more than 100 countries and regions, the ministry said, noting that their two biggest markets are Asia and Europe. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Indonesia’s car sales predicted stagnant in 2006**

JAKARTA, 8 Nov — Indonesia’s car sales in 2006 was forecasted to be stagnant or lower than that, a dealer said here on Monday.

“The car sales could be 500,000 units a year (in 2006) or lower than that, which is less than the target of $22 billion units this year.” President Director of the biggest Indonesia’s car dealers, Indomobil Group, Gunadi Sindhuwinata said.

He said the stagnancy was due to the rise of Indonesian Central Bank interest and the weakening of rupiah exchange rate against the US dollar.

“Automotive sector directly get the impact of the rise of the interest rate,” Sindhuwinata who was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying. But, the rise of last month oil price did not significantly impact on the car sales, he added.

Despite the stagnancy next year, Gunadi is convinced that the sales would increase in 2007 as it would reach a new equilibrium in the economic sector in Indonesia. Indonesia’s car sales from January to September reached 439,865 units, up 26.2 per cent from the same period last year. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Vietnam has new int’l border gate with Cambodia**

HANOI, 8 Nov — The Vietnamese Government has just allowed the People’s Committee of southern Tay Ninh Province, which borders Cambodia, to upgrade the Xa Mat national border gate into an international one.

The upgrading will help Tay Ninh, especially its Xa Mat border economic zone in the Tan Bien District, become a more attractive destination for both Vietnamese and foreign investors as well as traders, the provincial People’s Committee said on Monday, adding that it will facilitate flows of goods and tourists between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Tay Ninh is likely to reap export turnovers of 268.2 million US dollars this year, up from 217.3 million dollars last year, the committee said, noting that key exports include cashew nuts, pepper, rubber, cassava starch and sport shoes. The province mainly imports rubber wood, beans and some other unprocessed farm products from Cambodia.

Since Vietnam and Cambodia established diplomatic relations in June 1967, the two countries have frequently exchanged visits both at high level and working level, and seen considerable improvements in trade and economic ties. Their cooperative relations on training, electricity, healthcare, transport, security and defence have also improved. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Singapore to promote HIV/AIDS education in workplaces**

SINGAPORE, 8 Nov — Singapore will launch an HIV/AIDS education and prevention programme in workplaces to “help de-stigmatize the illness”, Channel NewsAsia reported on Monday.

A joint effort by the government, unions and the business community, the interactive programme includes a special video clip, question-and-answer, games and role playing.

“It is expected to bring home to Singaporean employers and employees the right message about the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and to help them ‘understand better the plight of HIV/AIDS sufferers’ in two to three years, the report said.

There are some 2,500 Singaporeans infected with HIV/AIDS, and about 75 per cent of them are employed, according to the report. — MNA/Xinhua
Internal and external destructive elements and organizations attacking the country by applying various wicked and cunning ways and means

Kyain-Seikkyi Township
USDA
Joint-Secretary
U Nay Myo Htet
Htet.
MNA

Yangon, 9 Nov — Delegates of State and Division USDA’s reported on progress in implementing the directives of the Minister for Religious Affairs (CEC member). Furthermore, members of the township associations donated blood and cash to the patients of the USDA members.

In the social sector, the association members participated in the tasks to give hepatitis B vaccines and others to children, to plant trees, to build fly-proof latrines and to prevent against dengue hemorrhagic fever, malaria and TB diseases. So also, they gave educative talks to youth who will illegally go to other countries. Furthermore, the association members cooperate with NGOs in relief tasks for storm and flood victims in Kyondo, Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe and Kawkareik. They donated rice, edible oil and salt worth K 800,000 to Hpa-an flood relief camp in Hpa-an from 16 to 22 August 2005; K 500,000 to 12 flood relief camps in Hlaingbwe from 6 to 10 August 2005; and K 300,000 to two flood relief camps in Kawkareik from 14 to 22 August. Similarly, 374 people of 76 flood-hit families in Kyain-Seikkyi Township were accommodated at their relative houses from 5 to 20 August.

In addition, USDA members took part in the HIV/AIDS educative talks, the nutrition week activities, the ceremony to mark World Red Cross Day, talks on dental and oral knowledge, Eighth National Sanitation Activities, World Smoking Day, and activities in combating the drug illicit trafficking and other ceremonies.

NGOs actively took measures for the development of the State and so did Myanmar War Veterans Organization. The conferences of MWVO and MWAF were also held. The meetings on Women’s Affairs Organizations were approving that WAOs in Myanmar carried out the tasks in the fields of economic, social affairs and rural development work for the interest of the State.

Kayin State USDA held its mass meeting on guarding against the dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements through the united strength of the people. It won the people’s trust and approval.

The main reason was that internal and external destructive elements and organizations were attacking the country by applying various wicked and cunning ways and means. Foreign media such as VOA, BBC and others broadcast misinformation that Myanmar violated human rights, forced labour, opium cases and minor recruitment to puzzle international communities.

The USDA cooperated with its reserved forces MWVO and MWAF held mass meetings in the country and performed nation-building tasks. — MNA

There is a school in every ward and village in Chin State

Reserve Executive Daw Sone Kye Cin of Haka Township USDA said the Head of State gave guidance that Chin State must be a tea-producing state. In accord with his guidance USDA’s at different levels are actively participating in the tasks for growing tea.

A project to grow 10,000 acres of tea was laid down and now 4,400 acres have been grown. Measures on eradication of slash-and-burn cultivation method were undertaken. There are now over 2,600 acres of terrace farm lands, over 1,800 acres of highland, 1,200 acres of coffee and 380,000 acres of other crops.

She said the associations at different levels run passenger and commodity transport services. The government is making plans for equal development and narrowing the gap between urban and rural development. USDA in cooperation with the rural people is implementing self-reliant hydel power projects in Chin State according to the geographical conditions. USDA headquarters provided K 13 million for these projects. The 36-mile road linking 14 villages was constructed by 5,000 USDA members and rural people with the contribution of K 450,000. The pipeline was laid for water supply to Falam with the contribution of K 3.5 million by USDA and the people.

The association participated in religious and cultural activities. In connection with health care services, there are hospitals in Haka and Tiddim and station hospitals, dispensaries and rural health care centres in five townships. The ratio of health staff to population is 1:380. Chin State USDA provided medicines and clothing worth over K 1 million to minor operations and general treatment.

Altogether 4,636 teachers are working in basic education schools and the ratio of teacher to student is 1:25. Schools are open in every ward and village in Chin State, and USDA’s at different level participate in educational activities such as installation of multimedia classrooms, construction of classrooms, school enrollment campaign and literacy movement. The net KG school enrollment rate at primary level in 1998 was 67.97% and it increased up to 92.42% in 2005, she said.

Yangon, 9 Nov — The annual general meeting of USDA 2005 was held at USDA central training school in Hmawby Township from 3 to 7 November. The delegates reported on the tasks implemented by State and Division USDA’s in one year on 4 November.

Russia says rise in drug users has tailed off

Moscow, 9 Nov — The sharp post-Soviet rise in the number of illegal drug users in Russia has ended, the head of the drugs agency said on Tuesday, crediting a new law.

But Federal Drugs Service head Viktor Cherkesov said told reporters Russia still faced huge challenges, especially from a rise in heroin smuggling through Central Asia caused by the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Afghan-Tajik border.

As for the problem of drugs in Russia, we can responsibly announce that in the last one to one-and-a-half years, the rise in the number of drug users has stopped,” he said.

“And we have saved millions of people that would have taken the poison that we seized.”

Illegal drug use was minimal in Soviet times but took off with the collapse of law and order in 1991. The drugs agency was only founded in 2003, but Cherkesov reports directly President Vladimir Putin and has divisions in all Russian regions. Even with drugs use stabilizing, Russia still faces a major problem. According to Interior Ministry figures, 4 million Russian teenagers use drugs — a quarter of them as addicts — along with millions more adults.

Cherkesov said reducing narcotics dependancy would require a giant coordinated effort from all Russian state bodies, but that his agency had managed to take a serious chunk out of the illegal drugs market.

MNA/Reuters

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Paraguayan club hires
Argentina’s Miguel Zazu as coach

BUENOS AIRES, 9 Nov— Paraguayan league club Sportivo Luqeno hired Miguel Zazu as coach on Monday, following the resignation of their previous coach Hugo Gonzalez on Sunday, local media said.

Gonzalez left after Cerro Porteno beat Luqeno 4-2.

Club’s president Ramon Gonzalez Daher said that the team was hoping their new coach would keep them in the same division of the league. Recent losses mean it is already too late to fight for the top spot.

He added that good results in this season would mean that the new coach could stay in charge in 2006.

Zazu managed to lift Argentina’s General Caballero to the First Division from the Second Division last season. However, poor results this season mean that General will probably return to division two.

Nolan fires Bolton up to third

LONDON, 8 Nov—A stunning strike by midfielder Kevin Nolan earned Bolton Wanderers a 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur in Monday’s Premier League match.

Nolan crashed home a 25-metre shot in the 33rd minute to lift Bolton up to third in the table, eight points behind leaders Chelsea and two adrift of second-placed Wigan Athletic.

Spurs, who slumped to sixth following their first away defeat of the season, came closest to equalizing when defender Paul Stalteri’s stoppage-time shot struck the crossbar.

Tottenham striker Jermain Defoe had an effort ruled out for offside before halftime and Nolan nearly doubled Bolton’s lead after the interval when his angled shot cannoned back off the post.

Bolton manager Sam Allardyce said things go for you.”

Spurs manager Martin Jol was unhappy his side failed to pick up a point.

“I appreciate it is a very difficult job to be a referee and for the linesman it should be easier,” said Jol referring to Defoe’s disallowed goal.

“I think we did everything right. In the second half we were a bit unlucky.

“We should have scored a goal and then it would have been a draw. I could have lived with a draw but not a defeat like this."

Brazil Football Association launches museum project

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 Nov— The Brazil Foot-

ball Association (CBF) on Monday announced plans to set up a football museum, which would open in 2007. Attending the ceremony were officials of the CBF, the mayor of the city, and Edison Arantes do Nascimento, Brazil’s most famous football star, better known as Pele. The museum will be in a 2,600-square-metre space attached to the Paoacemba Stadium, donated by the mayor of Sao Paolo.

“The architect Mauro Munhoz will design the museum, which will cost 11.3 million US dollars. It will contain a collection of Brazilian football souvenirs, including footballs from the five World Cup finals won by Brazil; 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002. There will also be exhibits about Brazilian football fans; sports medicine; uniforms; and local football clubs, federations and champions. The museum will make extensive use of audio and video recalling famous goals and barroom football debates.”

Carew wins Norway player of year award

OSLO, 8 Nov—Olympique Lyon striker John Carew has won Norway’s player of the year award, edging out IK Start midfielder Kristofer Haastad and Blackburn Rovers’ midfielder Morten Gamst Pedersen.

Carew, 26, has been a mainstay of Norway’s attack in recent years and scored twice last week in Lyon’s 4-1 Champions League victory over Olympiakos Piraeus. Liverpool midfielder John Arne Riise was surprisingly omitted from the shortlist.

Maria Sharapova of Russia waves to the crowd after defeating Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 during the WTA Tour Championships in Los Angeles on 8 November, 2005. —INTERNET

Nedved announces his return to national team

PRAGUE, 9 Nov— Former captain of the Czech national soccer team Pavel Nedved, who will play in the World Cup play-off qualifier with Norway, said Monday that he “will do his utmost to help the team win”.

The 33-year-old said his decision to return to the team after almost one and a half was influenced by his wish to play with the national team at least one more time.

He last appeared with the Czech national team at the European Championship in Portugal in July 2004.

However, Nedved, who plays for Juventus, did not disclose his future plans regarding his participation in the national side.

“I am now interested in these two games for the relegation and I firmly believe that we will celebrate after the match. I am not planning anything further for the time being,” Nedved said at the Press conference in the Praha hotel where the national team gathered.

“I am glad that the coach gave me confidence again and I will be able to play in the national team once more and main reason why I returned,” Nedved said.

The Czechs have not been among the world best soccer teams for the last 16 years and Nedved now is expected to become the key trump card of the national side.

“I am not thinking about any pressure since I have got used to it in Italy over ten years. Am I any savour? I don’t know, soccer is played by 11 people. It depends on what one thinks about this,” Nedved said.

The mid-fielder last appeared in the national side in July, 2004, in the European Championship semifinal match. However, he did not finish the game with Greece due to his injured knee and he has been missing in the team since then.

NBA/Reuters

Kenya’s New York Marathon winner to receive global award

NAIROBI, 8 Nov— Newly crowned New York marathon champion Paul Tergat will next week receive the Global Oneness Award in Washington DC.

The award is given to people who have done extremely well in sports and are not yet a household name. It was awarded to a WFP ambassador against hunger, said David Okeyo, Secretary General of the Athletics Kenya (AK).

Past winners of the award include former South African President Nelson Mandela and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The 36-year-old Kenyan was named a WFP Ambassador Against Hunger in January 2004. In addition to efforts to support WFP programmes, he recently launched his own foundation to help develop underprivileged children into future athletes.

On Sunday, Tergat sprinted to victory ahead of defending champion Hendrick Ramaala of South Africa in the New York men’s marathon and crossed the line in two hour 9 minutes and 30 seconds. —INTERNET

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant falls as he makes a shot past the Atlanta Hawks during first half NBA action in Atlanta, Georgia on 8 November, 2005. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba’s Odlanier Solis Fonte (L) will lead four reigning Olympic gold medallists from his country into the senior world championships in Mianyang, China from Saturday. Cuba will be looking to put Russia in their proper place and regain their place atop amateur boxing’s pecking order. —INTERNET

NBA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Shanghai to become world’s largest cargo port this year

Shanghai, 9 Nov — East China’s Shanghai Port will likely register a cargo turnover of 443 million tons this year, ready to outperform Singapore to become the top cargo port in the world.

The forecast was made recently by the Shanghai Harbour Administration on the basis of statistics about Shanghai Port’s cargo turnover for the past 10 months, which amounted to 363 million tons. According to a local newspaper, Shanghai Port accumulated an annual cargo turnover of 379 million tons last year, second only to Singapore in the world. In the first half of this year, Singapore’s cargo turnover increased by 11 per cent over the year-earlier level to 211 million tons. Experts said if the growth rate is kept, the cargo turnover of Singapore would stand at 420 million tons or so at the end of this year.

The Shanghai Harbour Administration noted in the first 10 months of this year, Shanghai Port reported a container turnover of 14.89 million TEUs (twenty-feet equivalent unit), exceeding the all-time high-level of 14.55 million TEUs for the whole of last year. The figure for the whole of this year is expected to reach 18 million TEUs, ranking third around the world.

In November, the first-phase project of the Yangshan deep-water harbour will be completed and start operation.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Wednesday, 9 November, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Kayin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Night temperatures were (5°C) below normal in Chin State and Magway Division, (3°C) below normal in Bago and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (5°C) above normal in Mon and Kayah, Shan and Kayin States and upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukkpyu (5.43) inches, Gwa (2.60) inches, Ann (1.89) inches, Sittway (1.85) inches and Taunggyi (1.57) inches.

Maximum temperature on 8-11-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 9-11-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 9-11-2005 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 8-11-2005 was (19) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-11-2005 were (0.08) inch at Mingaladon, (0.27) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-11-2005 were (102.13) inches at Mingaladon, (101.69) inches at Kaba-Aye and (106.38) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) m/s from Southeast at (15:20) hours MST on 8-11-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay persists. Weather is partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 10-11-2005: Rain or thunderstorms will be scattered in Shan, Mon, Kayin, Kayah States and Taninthayi Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thunderstorms in upper Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-11-2005: One or two rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-11-2005: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

CASH DONATED: In commemoration of the birthday of Ma Sandar Chan (currently in Macao) of No 15, 15th Street, Lanmadaw Township, family members donated K 150,000 to the medical trust funds of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi. – h
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects dams, monsoon paddy plantations and district to district road construction in Mandalay Division

Yangon, 9 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials inspected the construction of district to district roads and progress in cultivation of monsoon paddy in Tatkon Township yesterday morning.

Cambodian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and wife welcome Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn on the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the Independence Day and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Day of Kingdom of Cambodia on 9-11-2005. — MNA

Annual General Meeting of USDA for 2005 commences

Yangon, 9 Nov — The Union Solidarity and Development Association held its Annual General Meeting for 2005 for the first day at Pyidaungsu Hall of Central Training Centre of USDA, Hmawby Township on 4 November.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, secretariat members and executives, secretaries from State and Division USDAs, delegates from State, Division, District and Township USDAs.

USDA secretariat member U Aung Thaung presided over the meeting together with CEC members U Ohn Myint and U Maung Maung Thein. Executive of Kawkareik Township in...

USDA Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min reads out the report of CEC at Annual General Meeting of USDA for 2005. — MNA