Union Day observed every year with aim of strengthening Union Spirit among national races

Observance of 59th Anniversary Union Day coordinated

Yangon, 29 Nov — A coordination meeting on observance of the 59th Anniversary Union Day was held in Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Kommyintha this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the Deputy (See page 8)

Government building universities, colleges, schools in entire nation to raise people’s education qualification

Yangon, 29 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence visited an oil palm farm in Thayetchaung Township, Taninthayi Division, on 27 November, where he inspected the experimental production of bio diesel fuel from palm oil.

The farm is producing the fuel by heating a mixture of palm oil, ethanol or methanol and caustic soda at high temperatures.

Accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, senior military officers and officials, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard a report on soil fertilization to increase palm oil yield, minimization of wastage and use of correct methods.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that in producing finished goods from crude palm oil, byproducts should be (See page 9)

The national economy will develop if every person does business within the framework of law, and entrepreneurs should serve their interest and national interest as well.

Maung Bo inspected production process of bio-diesel fuel in Thayetchaung Township, Dawei District. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**People’s Desire**

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

**Cash and kind donated to MMCWA**

**Yangon, 29 Nov** — Wellwishers donated cash and kind to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association this afternoon.

At the donation ceremony held at the multi-purpose building of MMCWA in South Okkalapa Township, President of the association Daw Khin Khin Win accepted cash amounting to K 2.5 million, a wheel chair and two air conditioners and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers. — MNA

**Educative talks given**

**Yangon, 29 Nov** — A ceremony to give educative talks organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at Development Affairs Department in Botataung Township this morning.

Present were Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Huy, Head of Organizing Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of Planning Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and officials of MWAF, members of MWAF from the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs totaling over 500.

First, Daw Kyin Khaing, wife of the Minister for PBANRDA extended greetings.

Next, the master of ceremonies read out the curriculum vitae of Director Daw Nu Mra Zan of National Museum who would give talks.

 Afterwards, Daw Nu Mra Zan gave talks on “Museums and the role of women in preserving culture”.

Daw Khin Thet Huy presented MWAF membership cards and batches for 288 members through MNA.

**Old Geography students to pay respects to retired teachers**

**Yangon, 29 Nov** — The old Geography students will hold their seventh ceremony to pay respects to teachers retired from Geography Departments under the universities at Universities’ Dhammayon in Kamayut Township at 3 pm on 21 January 2006 and their get-together at Western Park (2) on Strand Road at 6 pm the same day.

The organizing committee for respects paying ceremony has already invited its old students to attend it without fail.

One can contact Daw Khin Than Swe (Ph-666045 and Ph-501211), U Tin Maung Nyunt (Ph-0980305080), U Charl (Ph-095007712), U Ba Thaung (Ph-229174), U Myint Aye (Ph-095008530), Daw Kyi Kyi Win (Ph-536943), Daw Ni Ni Aye (Ph-095006787) and Daw San San Lwin (Ph-098020819).

**15th AGM of ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Association held in Indonesia**

**Yangon, 29 Nov** — Vice-Chairperson-2 Dr Daw Aye Aye of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders’ Association (MIFFA) and Joint-Secretary-1 (Internal Affairs) Daw Hla Hla Yee of MIFFA left here for Indonesia on 27 November to attend the 15th Annual General Meeting of ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Association to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 28 to 29 November. They were seen off at the airport by Chairman U Aung Kyaw Min of MIFFA and officials. — MNA

**All this needs to be known**

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased

**Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyit of Hninzigon Home for the Aged accepts K 100,000 donated by Daw Thein Kyi and family of Tamway Township recently.**
Ex-PM says Iraq abuse as bad now as under Saddam

LONDON, 28 Nov— Abuse of human rights in Iraq is as bad now as it was under Saddam Hussein, if not worse, former prime minister Iyad Allawi said in an interview published Sunday.

“People are doing the same as (in) Saddam Hussein’s time and worse. It is an appropriate comparison,” Allawi told British newspaper The Observer.

“Allawi was Iraq’s first prime minister of the post-Saddam era but failed to win January’s election, which brought current Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to power.” — MNA/Reuters

Tropical Storm “Delta” heads for Canary Islands

MIAMI, 28 Nov— Tropical Storm Delta intensified to near hurricane-strength in the Atlantic Ocean on Sunday and threatened to lash Spain’s Canary Islands as it raced toward northwest Africa, forecasters at the US National Hurricane Centre said.

Delta is the 25th named storm of the record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season, which began on 1 June and ends on November 30.

Delta’s top sustained winds strengthened to 70 mph on Sunday, up from 60 miles per hour a day earlier, forecasters said. — MNA/Reuters

Three die in France as temperatures plunge

LILLE (France), 28 Nov— A 49-year-old man who was living in a burnt-out garage in the port city of Calais became the third homeless person to die in freezing weather in France over the past five days, rescue services said.

Firemen said the man died of cold on Saturday in the abandoned building.

A man of 38 who was living in his car after being evicted from his home last month was found dead of hypothermia in eastern France early on Thursday. And a 57-year-old man died under the bridge where he lived in the southeastern city of Grenoble.

Humanitarian services in Calais sought to help hundreds of immigrants as they wandered the freezing streets hoping to travel on to Britain.

Meanwhile 500 homes were still without electricity late on Sunday after heavy snow brought down power lines in the Vendee region of western France. — MNA/Reuters

Chavez applauds Spain for “resisting” US on arms

CARACAS (Venezuela), 28 Nov— Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez on Sunday praised Spain for going ahead with a 1.56-billion-US-dollar sale of military ships and planes to his government despite US concerns that it could destabilize the region.

“Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and three others wounded after their vehicle was damaged by the blast,” he said.

“Allawi was Iraq’s first prime minister of the post-Saddam era but failed to win January’s election, which brought current Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to power.” — MNA/Reuters

Seven Iraqi soldiers killed in roadside bombings in western Iraq

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 28 Nov— Seven Iraqi soldiers were killed on Sunday in two separate roadside bomb attacks in Iraq’s restive city of Fallujah, some 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, witnesses said.

“A powerful roadside bomb blast followed by a fierce gun battle took place on Saturday, when a joint US and Iraqi Army patrol went through the Shuhada’a District in southern Fallujah,” Abdul Rahman, a local journalist told Xinhua.

“The US ambassador to Spain said last week that Washington was still considering whether to allow Spain to sell aircraft with US technology. The planes have 50 per cent to 60 per cent US components and would therefore require a US export licence.” — MNA/Reuters

Christie’s employee Sandra Nedvetskaia looks into a silver gilt and enamel Russian triptych icon that was formerly in the possession of Tsar Alexis, son of Tsar Nicolas II, at a Press preview for the Christie’s Russian Works of Art auction sale in central London, on 28 Nov. 2005. — INTERNET
China to achieve education’s objectives in MDGs

BEIJING, 28 Nov — China will achieve the objectives of gender parity in primary and secondary education outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as scheduled, said a senior United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) official here on Sunday, noting that China has been doing “very well”.

“China is on right track to achieve the 2005 and 2015 goals of gender parity in education and we’re very optimistic,” UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Rima Salah told Xinhua, when attending the 26-27 November global advisory committee meeting of the UN Girls’ Education Initiative.

Gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005, and at all levels of education by 2015, is the key target for ensuring the MDG of universal primary education by 2015. She confirmed progress China has made in spreading education in its eastern part among girls in particular, saying that UNICEF is discussing with the Chinese Government to develop strategies on how to spread education in less developed western part.

“Free education should be advocated,” she said when asked how to ensure poor kids’ schooling opportunities. “We can give incentives such as scholarships and school feeding free of charge so as to boost education.” — MNA/Xinhua

Abuse of detainees creates chance for Taleban

KABUL, 28 Nov — The ongoing reported abuse of detainees by US military in Afghanistan would facilitate Taleban-linked militants to exploit the situation for their own propaganda to mobilize local support, local observers said on Sunday.

At least two suspected Afghan terrorists have died at the US military detention centre in Bagram, 50 kilometres north of capital city, the headquarters of over 20,000 strong US-led coalition forces in the post-Taleban nation.

In addition to the reported activity of detainees’ maltreatment at the US holding facilities, the US military, according to media reports, has burned the bodies of Taleban militants, which are forbidden in Islam, the ruling religion in Afghanistan and the region.

A footage broadcast by SBS, an Australian television network last month, indicated the US troops burned two corpses of Taleban fighters in a village in southern Kandahar Province, the former stronghold of Taleban, and taunt other militants.

The act sparked outrage in the conservative nation. Afghan leaders including President Hamid Karzai strongly denounced the act and called for investigation into the subject.

“Abusing, detaining, rights, or torturing prisoner, would bring opposing effect and definitely facilitate Taleban and terrorism to exploit the situation for their own propaganda in order to mobilize local support,” renowned political observer Qasim Akhgar maintained.

He noted that Afghans did not expect human rights violation from the US military in Afghanistan as they had helped Afghans to get rid of the Taleban and terrorisms’ clutches.

“Violating human rights and torturing people is the emblem of Taleban and terrorists, but not the emblem of soldiers of US Army,” Akhgar pointed out.

The US military, he said, had come here to root out the Taleban and terrorism. “The trend, if goes unchecked, would also affect Afghan law enforcement personnel to follow their same policy in tackling law breakers,” the analyst opined referring to the training by US instructors to Afghan law enforcement agencies particularly the police.

MNA/Xinhua

Greyhound crash kills two, wounds dozens in California

LOS ANGELES, 28 Nov — A Greyhound bus travelling from Los Angeles to San Francisco overturned in a California coastal county on Sunday, killing two people and injuring more than three dozen others, authorities said.

The crash on northbound Highway 101 in Santa Maria, some 250 kilometres northwest of Los Angeles, was reported to the state highway patrol authorities shortly after 7 am local time, according to the California Highway Patrol office.

Two people including a pregnant woman died in the accident and seven others were seriously injured. A spokesman of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department said, adding that the pregnant woman’s fetus did not survive the crash. A cause of the crash was not immediately known, he said.

Some 40 firefighters sent to the scene about 7:10 am found the bus on its side, wedged between two eucalyptus trees about two metres down an embankment.

Authorities said that 44 people — including the driver — were on the bus at the time of the crash.

Santa Barbara County Fire Department Captain Gerald Kuras said that more than a dozen ambulances and two helicopters were sent to the scene.

“There were a few people trapped inside,” he said. “We initiated extraction.” — MNA/Xinhua

Chilean boat accident kills six, leaves 20 missing

SANTIAGO, 28 Nov — A boat with about 30 people on board overturned on Sunday in the southern lake of Lago Malhue, 900 kilometres south of Chile’s capital, killing six occupants and leaving 20 missing, according to Radio Cooperativa de Santiago.

Most of the passengers were students who were on a trip to celebrate the end of the school year. Firemen and police sent to the scene have rescued five passengers alive and recovered six bodies. — MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake hits Turkey’s Malatyia Province

ANKARA, 28 Nov — An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter Scale shook Turkey’s central province of Malatyia on Saturday.

No casualty was reported.

Semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted officials of an observatory centre as saying that the quake occurred at 17:56 pm (1556 GMT) and that the epicentre of the quake was at the Poturge Town of Malatyia. — MNA/Xinhua

Tiger kills two in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 28 Nov — A tiger has killed two persons in central Nepal, Radio Nepal reported on Sunday.

The tiger mauled two women, who had entered Royal Chitwan National Park to collect wild berries, to death on Saturday, the state-owned radio said. Three friends of the women managed to escape, the radio added.

Thanks to its rich adornment of nature, Royal Chitwan National Park, the 175-square-kilometre park in central Nepal, was declared United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Natural Heritage Site in 1979. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai workers install a warning system onto a tower at a beach in Phuket, south of Bangkok on 27 Nov, 2005. — INTERNET
**Dhaka City greening to continue for three years**

Local daily *New Age* Saturday quoted an official of the Dhaka City Corporation as saying that under the programme saplings of different species of trees would be planted along city’s roads, footpaths, open ground and islands on the roads till 2008.

According to the daily, the work of the greening programme began in November last year in preparation for the SAARC summit. The summit which was originally scheduled for January this year, finally took place on 12-13 November.

An implementation body for the programme was formed at the directive of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. A twelve-member high powered committee comprising representatives of different government of organizations was constituted to plan, coordinate and implement the programme.

The official said the programme was being implemented through planting saplings of local and foreign trees of different species dividing the city into 109 sections.

The city corporation has authorized 90 private organizations under different agreements to develop and make the city green by planting trees in parks and constructing fountains and other installations.

The Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka was quoted as saying that the city corporation for the first time in its history had undertaken plan to develop and make the city green through public-private partnership.

The capital city is gradually turning into an eye-catching place under the programme without any investment in it by the corporation, he said.

**Over 100,000 Germans still without power**

**Berlin, 28 Nov** — Around 120,000 Germans were still without power on Sunday in the western state of North-Rhine Westphalia after snow, ice and wind damaged electricity cables, according to utility RWE.

A spokesman for RWE Westfalen-Weser-Ems said it was unclear when power could be restored for all affected customers. He said the company was not liable for damage caused by extreme weather and declined to put a figure on the cost.

Unusually harsh wintry weather conditions for the time of year had caused many power cables to ice over and strong winds tore some of them from their pylons, RWE said on Saturday.

Since Friday, a quarter of a million people had been without power in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany’s most populous state.

**Italy on alert for flooding after days of rain**

**Rome, 28 Nov** — Rivers and streams in central Italy broke their banks in some low-lying, mostly rural, areas on Sunday and parts of the country were put on alert for possible flooding if rains continued.

The Tiber was one of several rivers to break their banks in the central Umbria region or in the Lazio region north of Rome.

Italy has been hit by an unseasonal spate of torrential rain and lower-than-normal temperatures.

So far, the flooding has been mostly limited to rural areas and some minor flooding in populated areas.

Guido Bertolaso, national head of the civil protection department, said the situation was critical in some areas but still under control.

In Rome, where the Tiber is walled off by a tall embankment, the level of the river rose several metres (feet) after a dam some 100 kilometres (60 miles) upstream was opened to prevent flooding.

**Quake jolts North Sumatra of Indonesia**

**Jakarta, 28 Nov** — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on Richter Scale rocked North Sumatra at 06:31 am local time on Monday, according to Indonesia’s Maritime Geophysics and Meteorology Agency.

The agency had no immediate reports on whether the quake had caused damage or claimed lives, official news agency Antara quoted its head Eddy Walyo as saying.

The quake’s epicentre was located 1.1 degrees of the North Latitude and 97.3 degrees of the East Longitude, he said.

**Bomb attack in Afghanistan kills Swedish soldier**

**Stockholm, 28 Nov** — Sweden’s King and Prime Minister expressed sorrow on Saturday after the country’s first peacekeeper was killed in Afghanistan, but the government said it still planned to boost its force in the country.

The soldier, serving with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), died after a bomb attack on Friday.

He was one of four wounded when a remote-controlled bomb hit a convoy of five vehicles returning from a sports event on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Goran Persson expressed sorrow but said Sweden and other countries had vowed to remove “breeding grounds for international terrorism” and end opium production.

“We will fulfil the undertakings we have made,” he told the Swedish news agency TT. Sweden wants to increase its presence in the region, but its parliament has only authorised a temporary deployment.

**Three killed, five injured in fuel tanker crash in western Afghanistan**

**Kabul, 28 Nov** — Three persons were killed, five others were injured Saturday morning when a fuel tanker crashed with three vehicles in Afghan western province of Farah, a local official said.

“This morning at about 8 o’clock, a fuel tanker in Chakab District of Kandahar-Herat highway crashed with three vehicles belong to Turkish road construction company named Colenat. The driver, his assistance, and one policeman on the road were killed, two Turkish persons and three policeman were injured,” said Aset Agha, the security chief of the Turkish police said Xinhua.

As the reconstruction work is going on in Afghanistan, more and more construction companies and teams have arrived the country. Taleban militants, vowed to draw all the foreign troops out of the country, have carried out some attacks against foreign companies and staff. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Deadly haemorrhagic fever kills five in Pakistan**

**Karachi, 28 Nov** — Haemorrhagic fever has killed at least five people, including a woman doctor, and infected around 45 people in Pakistan’s biggest city of Karachi, health officials said on Saturday.

The cause of the death of Yusra Afaj, a doctor in a government-run hospital, last week has been identified as Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever.

The remaining four deaths, which occurred over the last six weeks, were also caused by haemorrhagic fever but the exact type was still not known, said Naushad Sheikh, permanent secretary at the Health Ministry of southern Sindh Province.

Karachi is the capital of Sindh Province.

“Thirty hospitals in Karachi have been put on high alert after 45 more cases of haemorrhagic fever were reported,” he told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**Wednesday, 30 November, 2005**

**Dhaka, 28 Nov** — The ongoing Dhaka City greening programme being implemented under the city beautification cell will continue for another three years.

The Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka was quoted as saying that the city corporation for the first time in its history had undertaken plan to develop and make the city green through public-private partnership.

The capital city is gradually turning into an eye-catching place under the programme without any investment in it by the corporation, he said.
Minister Dr Kyaw Myint extends greetings at the Seminar on Phacoemulsification.

It was the day that went down in the medical history of the nation as we members of a medical team, under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health, left Yangon for Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, to give free treatments to local people with eye problems on 21 and 22 November 2005 in conjunction with the Seminar on Phacoemulsification at Ngwe Hsaung Beach Resort in Pathein Township.

The team comprised Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint as the leader, officials from WHO, UN and UNICEF, Ophthalmologists Dr Fujita Yoshifumi and party, and eye specialists from Japan, officials from the ministry, and eye specialists from Ayeyawady Division.

On the way to the destination, we dropped in Hsamalauk Village Hospital and the minister inspected the facility. We arrived in Ngwe Hsaung Beach Resort, about 30 miles from Pathein, at noon.

The opening of the Seminar on Phacoemulsification took place at the Sunny Paradise Hotel on the beach. Ophthalmologist Dr Fujita Yoshifumi and party played an important role in the campaign. Since February 1999, he has visited Myanmar 14 times to perform ophthalmic operations on phacoemulsification.

Cataract is the major cause of losing eyesight. However, by receiving medical treatments in time, the patients suffering from cataract can regain their eyesight by 70 percent. So, teams of eye specialists occasionally make field trips to rural areas to give free treatments in order to prevent avoidable blindness of people, thereby helping reduce the rate of cataract-based blindness, and realizing the objective of the Ministry of Health.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivered an address, and the minister extended greetings at the seminar. Dr Fujita Yoshifumi donated medicines and medical equipment worth US$150,000 to be used in the operations. The Japanese doctors discussed respective subjects on ophthalmology.

On 22 November, Dr U Nyunt Maung of the Trachoma and Blindness Control Project (Head Office) in Yangon donated medical equipment for 100 eye patients. Dr Aung Myat Soe-Daw Thazin Myint Aung (Myitta Oo Clinic) also donated eye drops, the Central Medical Depot, medicines, and the Fourteen Star Network Co, operation equipment.

The following day, Ophthalmologist Dr Than Than Htwe, Dr Ohmmar Myint and Dr Wah Wah Khin of the division cleaned the eyes of the patients, presented eye-drop tubes, and tested their eyesight. The patients felt deeply grateful for and pleased with their regaining of eyesight.

I thank Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, Dr Fujita Yoshifumi and party, the head of the Division Health Department and staff, the medical superintendent of Division General Hospital and staff, members of Division USDA, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, U Wai Lwin and Dr Win Min Thit and staff of the Sunny Paradise Hotel. And I am firmly determined to constantly contribute towards public health care services.

Translation: MS

Victory of eye specialists in providing free medical treatments

Dr Nilar Thein (Lin Yaung Thit)

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint extends greetings at the Seminar on Phacoemulsification.

Ophthalmologist Dr Fujita Yoshifumi of Japan extends greetings at the seminar.

Medical experts performing operation on an eye patient.

Eye patients waiting for their turns for receiving medical checks.
Development of agriculture in the time of the Tatmadaw government

In striving for the Union of Myanmar to be a modern and developed nation, the government is paying serious attention to development of the agriculture sector which is the basis in the economic sector of the State.

Paddy cultivation shares a sheer amount of volume in the State’s agriculture sector. Moreover, it is the main business of rural areas where majority of the people reside.

Myanmar has a favourable weather condition and its soil are fertile. Therefore, measures are being taken to reclaim more land and increase per acre yield of paddy through exploiting natural resources and using the power of machinery at full capacity.

To increase the per acre yield, the four methods— correct technique, quality strains, organic and inorganic fertilizer and extended sown acreage— are being applied. Moreover, priority is being given to meeting the targeted yield.

Previously, conventional methods were applied in growing paddy and land was put under monsoon paddy once a year.

But, starting from 1992, plans were made to put land under summer paddy.

As a result of using quality strain paddy and implementing water supply project, the per acre yield of summer paddy exceeds the yield of monsoon paddy and cultivation of summer paddy is increasing year after year.

Thanks to the efforts of making arrangements to increase per acre yield, reclaiming fallow and virgin and wet land, conducting highland cultivation and applying double cropping method, Myanmar’s paddy cultivation capacity has increased.

Nowadays, Myanmar’s paddy production has reached at its peak. The targeted yield of 1200 million baskets has been met as 16 million acres of land have been put under monsoon and summer paddy.

At present, the paddy production is two times more than that of the past. Myanmar’s population now is over 54 million. A person can have 15 baskets of paddy per year and thus the population need only 810 million baskets of paddy a year. The figure shows that Myanmar is in a position of achieving food sufficiency for as many as 100 million people.

The significant progress in the yield of paddy in the time of the Tatmadaw government is shown in the table.

#### Increase in paddy production of Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sown acreage (million)</td>
<td>24.48</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Monsoon paddy sown acreage</td>
<td>11.53</td>
<td>15.04</td>
<td>3.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Summer paddy sown acreage</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Total paddy production (basket in million)</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Per acre yield (basket)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Union Day observed every year with aim of strengthening Union spirit among national races…

(from page 1)

Auditor-General, the Deputy Commander, senior military officers, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, heads of department and officials.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the meeting was to coordinate holding of the 59th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony with full political essence for consolidation of national solidarity in accord with noble traditions. The Union Day is observed every year with the aims of strengthening Union Spirit among the national races, recalling regaining independence and sovereignty with the unity of the national people and to keep the Union spirit in mind wherever they live in the Union.

He said over 100 national races live in the Union of Myanmar and the spirit of keeping eggs and nest intact among the national races has developed according to the historical backgrounds. Due to the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists, the spirit of regionalism and racialism and armed insurgency was aroused, he said.

The Tatmadaw government rebuilt national solidarity and as a result, national armed groups had returned to the legal fold, he said. Ceremonies like the Union Day that reflects the Union spirit and national solidarity are held in order to die down the spirit of regionalism and racialism.

He said the State Peace and Development Council has assigned duties to the Central Committee and Management Committee for holding of the Union Day ceremony with full political essence. He called on the committee and sub-committees to make efforts for the success of the ceremony in accord with the political objectives laid down.

The Secretary-1 spoke at length on arrangements for accommodation and excursion for delegates, entertainment, exhibitions, inserting news and articles, the objectives and others in printed and electronic media, participation of NGOs in flag conveying programmes in four districts in Yangon Division, finances, matters relating to reading of the message sent by the Head of State in states, divisions, districts and towns.

In conclusion, he called for successful holding of the ceremony in accord with the national objectives— for all national races to safeguard the national policy, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people, for all the national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence, to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Next, Chairman of Management Committee Commander Li-Gen Myint Swe reported on detailed arrangements for the holding of the Union Day ceremony.

Secretary of Management Committee Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein reported on measures being taken. Those present also reported on work being done in the respective sectors.

Next, the Secretary-1 took part in the discussions and the meeting ended.—MNA

Thai companies to export machinery for Ministry of Industry-1

Director-General of Myanmar Ceramic Industries and Director of Unicom Trade & Travel Tour Co Ltd (Thailand) exchange notes at the signing ceremony.— INDUSTRY 1

YANGON, 29 Nov — Two Thai companies yesterday signed contracts with Ministry of Industry-1 to export machinery to be used in producing porcelain insulators and in producing dextrose and injection in Myanmar.

Unicom Trade and Travel Tour Co Ltd of Thailand won a contract to export machinery to provide technical assistance to the porcelain insulator factory project of Myanmar Ceramics Industries-MCI to be built in Chauk, Magway Division.

Rueckermann Co Ltd of Thailand signed a contract with Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries-MPI under the Ministry to export machinery to be used in producing dextrose and other injection at the factory of MPI in Insein Township.

At the signing ceremony held at the ministry here, officials of the two sides signed the two contracts in the presence of Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Hla Min.

Principal of the college Daw Khin Khin explained the purpose of the diploma-confering ceremony. Next, the principal conferred diploma certificates in the trainees who had completed the course, and the ceremony ended.

After that, Brig-Gen Hla Min attended the cash presentation ceremony for operation of cleft lip and palate patients held at Paya General Hospital and made a speech on the occasion.

Officials accepted the cash donations—K 1,212,720 for operation of 120 cleft lip and palate patients and K 400,000 by treatment of 120 cleft lip and palate patients by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, K 1 million for Bago Division (West) by MMCWA (Central).—MNA

Teachahship Diploma Certificates and Appointments of Payy Education College conferred

YANGON, 29 Nov — A ceremony to confer the First Teachership Diploma Certificates and Appointments of Payy Education College was held at the higher institution in Paya on 24 November morning with an address by Chairman of Bago Division (West Branch) PDE Brig-Gen Hla Min.

Principal of the college Daw Khin Khin explained the purpose of the diploma-confering ceremony. Next, the principal conferred diploma certificates in the trainees who had completed the course, and the ceremony ended.

Officials accepted the cash donations—K 1,212,720 for operation of 120 cleft lip and palate patients and K 400,000 by treatment of 120 cleft lip and palate patients by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, K 1 million for Bago Division (West) by MMCWA (Central),


Later, Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials inquired after the patients and provided cash assistance to them.—MNA

Religious Affairs Minister receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 29 Nov — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung this morning received Japanese guests and paid tribute to the fallen heroes.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Myanmar Gems Mart in KabaAye Pagoda Road and Deputy Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Kyaw Win and officials conducted them around the mart.

—MNA

Bangladesh delegation...

(from page 16)

paid tribute to the fallen heroes. Afterwards, they proceeded to Myanmar Gems Mart in KabaAye Pagoda Road and Deputy Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Kyaw Win and officials conducted them around the mart.
Government building universities, colleges, schools in entire nation to raise people's education qualification

(continued from page 1)

used for other useful purposes. He lauded the owners of the family business that is producing bio diesel from palm oil. He suggested the entrepreneurs make efforts to increase palm oil production, reduce loss and waste, apply the palm leaves to make means to produce more bio diesel, and distribute the fuel at low cost.

He then observed the chemicals and raw materials used in producing the fuel and the production process, and test driving of farm vehicles and machinery with the fuel.

During his cordial conversation with locals, he inquired about the use of bio diesel, urging them to grow more phisic nut plant, other oil crop that can produce bio fuel, in their region.

In Palauk town, Myeik District, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with departmental personnel, social organizations and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and officials reported to him on regional condition and the salient points of the town.

In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that earth roads should be gradually upgraded to gravel roads and then to tar roads to facilitate transport between a town and its surrounding villages. Schools should develop their teaching methods to help produce intellectuals and intelligentsia. Departmental personnel should organize the locals to win their support and should work with goodwill for regional development.

They should make efforts with added momentum for Palauk to see greater progress. He also met with departmental personnel, local authorities, social organizations and local people in Palau town.

The commander and officials explained salient points of the town, and the task of growing monsoon and summer paddy according to targets and extending oil palm and rubber.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that he visited Taninthayi Division to know its rural and urban developments. The nation is enjoying greater peace and stability than it was in the past three or four decades, and economic progress. As knowledge will help a person to have the correct vision, a democratic state should be built with knowledge. Thus, the government has been building new universities, colleges and schools the length and breadth of the nation to raise the education qualification of the people. Moreover, it has been extending hospitals, dispensaries and health care services.

The national economy will develop if every person does business within the framework of law, and entrepreneurs should serve their interest and national interest as well. The government has been developing the agricultural sector for the benefit of the ever growing population. The departmental personnel should work with goodwill for regional development, and the locals should lend a helping hand to them. — MNA

The government has been developing the agricultural sector for the benefit of the ever growing population. The departmental personnel should work with goodwill for regional development, and the locals should lend a helping hand to them.

Educative talks on trafficking in persons given

Home Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Resident Representative Mr Reto Meister of Asia and the Pacific Region of ICRC. — HOME AFFAIRS

ICRC Resident Representative calls on Home Affairs Minister

YANGON, 29 NOV—Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo this afternoon received Resident Representative Mr Reto Meister of Asia and the Pacific Region of ICRC at the ministry. Also present at the call were Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of Special Investigation Department and officials.

Yaksawtk Township BEHS marks golden jubilee

YANGON, 29 NOV—Yaksawtk Township Basic Education High School (Bahtoo) in Shan State (South) celebrated its golden jubilee in conjunction with a respective paying ceremony for teachers at the school on 26 and 27 November. Present on the occasion were teachers, old students, families of Bahtoo Station, township level officials and members of social organizations. Those present offered alms food to the township Sangha Nayaka Committee and members of Sangha totalling 50. Former Headmaster Brig-Gen Sein Win (Retd) and Bahtoo Station Commander Brig-Gen Zaw Win attended the ceremonies.

On 27 November, students paid respects to the teachers and contributed K 3,200,000 to the funds of the school. — MNA

Leader Daw Khin Aye of the Work Group of Prevention of Violence Against Women and Rehabilitation and members hold round table discussion with school girls at No 1 BEHS, Kyimyindine Township. — SOCIAL WELFARE

Leader Daw Khin Aye of the Work Group of Prevention of Violence Against Women and Rehabilitation met with schoolgirls of Kyimyindine Township No 1 Basic Education High School in Yangon West District at the school yesterday afternoon. On the occasion educative talks on prevention of trafficking in persons were given to the headmistress, teachers and students totaling more than 200. Also present were Leader of the group of prevention of trafficking in persons Daw Khin May Soe and members, Leader of the group of rehabilitation and reintegration Daw Kyi Kyi Ma, members of Yangon Division and district Women’s Affairs Organizations, the chairperson of Kyimyindine Township WAO and members. The officials replied to the queries raised by the students. — MVA

Leader Daw Khin Aye of the Work Group of Prevention of Violence Against Women and Rehabilitation and members hold round table discussion with school girls at No 1 BEHS, Kyimyindine Township. — SOCIAL WELFARE

Educative talks on trafficking in persons given

The government has been developing the agricultural sector for the benefit of the ever growing population. The departmental personnel should work with goodwill for regional development, and the locals should lend a helping hand to them.
NCCC Secretary inspects preparations for National Convention at Nyaunghnapin Camp

YANGON, 29 Nov—Secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this evening inspected preparations made at the Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention is to be held in Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby Township and gave necessary instructions.

The minister inspected the meeting hall of the NCCC, messes, the Invitation and Accommodation Sub-Committee, recreation hall, women’s hostel, mess-1, provision stores, cold storage, GEC shops, Winthuza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1, Maung Chit Tailoring Shop, the Sarpay Beikman Book Renting Shop of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Mon Mon Beauty Saloon, Myanmar Optical Services, the communication centre of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, the Padethar Restaurant, Kaung San Furniture Mart, the grocery shop of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Daing Khin Khin Book Stall, TM Store, Lucky-1 Restaurant, the barber shop, gymnasium, the golf course, Nyaunghnapin Station Hospital and others and attended to the needs.

During his inspection tour, he was accompanied by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and officials concerned.—MNA

Myanmar-Japan specialists give treatment to cleft lip and palate patients at Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital

YANGON, 29 Nov—Accompanied by officials concerned, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint went on an inspection tour of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital where Myanmar and Japan specialists were taking joint measures on medical treatment to cleft lip and palate patients this morning.

The minister met and comforted the cleft lip and palate patients who were receiving medical treatment given by Prof U Ko Ko Maung-led Myanmar specialist team, Prof Ozeki-led Japanese Cleft Palate Foundation and Prof Omura-led eight-member team at the hospital.

At the doctors’ common room, the minister together with medical superintendent Dr Maung Maung Gyi and surgeons cordially met with Prof Omura and Dr Yoshida of JCPF and held discussions on cooperative measures in treatment of cleft and palate patients between the two countries. Next, the minister made arrangements in respect of the requirements.

Afterwards, the minister had a frank conversation with families and relatives waiting outside operation rooms.

Myanmar-Japan specialists conducted an initial operation launch on 28 November after choosing the patients to be dissected. They have already cut five patients from states and divisions today. They will continue to incise next 34 patients up to 9 December.

MNA

Educative talks given at No 4 BEHS, Botahtaung

Writer Ma Sandar gives educative talks. — MNA

YANGON, 29 Nov — The educative talks jointly organized by the Information Department of the Myanmar Woman Affairs Federation and No 4 Basic Education High School in Botahtaung Township, were held this morning at the school.

First, Head of the Information Department of MWAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win delivered an address.

National Literary Award winner Ma Sandar gave educative talks entitled “Flower and breeze”.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Head of Information Department of MWAF Daw Mya Mya and members, headmasters, teachers and students.

After the talks, the headmistress of the school presented gifts to writer Ma Sandar. — MNA

Donate blood

Myanmar athletes secure...

(from page 16)

Field, Pyi Wai Phyo in men’s Wushu, Maung Kyu in 10 metre shooting event, Myanmar women’s Team in Hoop-Takraw event and Myanmar Men’s Team in Hoop-Takraw.

Swe Swe Thant and Ei Khaing Htwe clinched a silver medal in double event of women’s Wushu; K Khaing Lwin a silver in 400-metre Track and Field; Khin Soe Thaik a silver in 25 metre pistol shooting event and Soe Soe Myar a silver in 47-48 kilos division Taikwando.

Four bronze medalists are Soe Moe Lwin in Taikwando; Myanmar women’s Team in Karatedo, Myanmar women’s Team in chess and Moe Thu Aung in 100 metre free stroke swimming event.
China, Romania pledge to strengthen cooperation in various fields

BEIJING, 29 Nov — Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan and visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu said here Monday that the two countries will jointly carry forward the all-round friendly and cooperative partnership.

During his meeting with Ungureanu, Tang noted that the China-Romania relations have been growing “smoothly” ever since the two countries were tied diplomatically 56 years ago, adding that they have become “good neighbors”.

Tang also expressed appreciation on Romania for its consistent adherence to the one-China policy and its support to the great cause of reunifying the country.

Ungureanu said that Romania gives top priority to developing ties with China and is willing to strengthen cooperation of mutual benefit with China in all fields — MNA/Xinhua

Indian fishermen search for their belongings in the flooded district of Cuddalore, about 200 km (124 miles) from the southern Indian city of Chennai, on 27 Nov. 2005. —Internet

UN talks seek to ease global warming dispute

MONTREAL, 29 Nov — A UN conference opening in Canada on Monday will try to iron out a fight against global warming by drawing the United States and developing nations into UN-led agreements beyond 2012.

About 10,000 delegates — from 189 governments, environmental lobby groups and businesses — will attend the 28 November-9 December talks meant to start mapping out what to do after the expiration of the UN’s Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012.

“We have no choice” but to act, Canada’s Environment Minister Stephane Dion said of the fight to curb a human-induced warming that may spur more hurricanes, floods, droughts and drive up seas levels by almost a metre (3 feet) by 2100.

Climate change “is the worst threat the world is facing from an environmental perspective,” he said at a press conference.

It’s putting at risk our mutual understanding and trust with expanding cooperation in various fields.

“The world’s biggest polluter, and Australia have rejected Kyoto, under which 40 industrialized nations have agreed to cut their emissions of heat-trapping gases by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12,” President George W. Bush has said Kyoto would eliminate US jobs and wrongly excludes developing nations.

He is focusing on new technology, rather than Kyoto-style caps.

The 10 hottest years since records began in the 1860s have come since 1990 and most scientists blame rising temperatures on a build-up of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels in power plants, factories and cars. —MNA/Reuters

Thai gold price likely to surpass $250 per baht next year

BANGKOK, 29 Nov — Thai local gold prices are very likely to surpass 10,000 baht (250 US dollars) per ounce early next year since hedge funds have shifted their speculation from the forward market of oil to the gold market, an industry executive said Sunday.

Jitti Tangsithipakdi, President of the Gold Trade Association, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying Monday that the speculation shift had edge up gold prices uninterrupted close to 500 US dollars per ounce at present.

It resulted in local gold prices increasing 100-200 baht (2.5-5 US dollars) per day on average to 9,850 baht (246 US dollars) per one baht (15.16 gramme) early next year.

It’s very likely the prices would rise above 10,000 baht early next year.

He said the continued rise in the gold prices had lessened people’s purchasing power of the product on the eve of the New Year festival in which gold trading is active every year.

—MNA/Xinhua

Australia’s trade grows stronger last financial year

CANBERRA, 29 Nov— Australia’s total trade in goods and services grew strongly in 2004-05, rising 13 per cent to 350.2 billion Australian dollars (260 billion US dollars), new figures show.

The figures were contained in a report, Composition of Trade, Australia 2004-05, of Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), publication released on Monday.

The report shows the value of exports of goods and services rose 13 per cent last financial year (from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005) to 162.3 billion dollars (120.1 billion US dollars), with exporters benefiting from the strongest global economic conditions in more than a decade.

Robust domestic consumption and lower import prices underpinned a 12-per-cent rise in imports to 187.8 billion dollars (139 billion US dollars).

A number of key exports which recorded strong growth are coal, iron ore, crude petroleum and beef, with exports increasing 57,53,23 and 24 per cent respectively. —MNA/Xinhua

An Iranian woman points to her house, which was destroyed during the earthquake, in the Tonband village of Qeshm Island, 1000 km (621 miles) south of Tehran on 28 Nov. 2005. Ten people were killed and 50 injured when an earthquake razed mud-brick villages on the Gulf island of Qeshm off Iran’s south coast on Sunday, officials and state media said. —INTERNET

Man threatens to bomb US, European missions in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 29 Nov — Bangladeshi police have tightened security measures in the diplomatic areas in capital Dhaka as a self-claimed al-Qaeda man threatened to blow up the US and the European embassies here.

First Secretary of British High Commission in Dhaka WM Stevenson informed the police that the mission received a faxed message of the threat on Sunday from a man identified as Manik Hossain, who claimed himself as a man of al-Qaeda South Asia network, Noor-e-Alam, officer in charge of Gulshan police station in Dhaka said on Monday when contacted by telephone.

The British High Commission has filed a general diary with Gulshan police on Sunday, the police officer said.

“It must be a hoax,” the police officer said, adding that they have tightened security measures in the diplomatic areas of Gulshan and Banani in the capital.

Meanwhile, the judges of Bangladesh have been receiving death threats from hard-line Islamists militants in the country after two judges were killed in southern Jhalakathi this month. —MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to host ASEM meeting on management of migratory flows

JAKARTA, 29 Nov — The 4th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) for Directors General on Management of Migratory Flows between Europe and Asia will be held in Bali resort island on 6-7 December, an Indonesian minister announced on Monday.

“Some preparations are now in progress to assure the smooth organization of the meeting, and ‘Management of Migratory Flows’ has been selected theme of the meeting,” Minister of Justice and Human Rights Hamid Awaluddin said at a Press conference.

The meeting serves as an important forum for ASEM partners to exchange diverse and invaluable knowledge, experience and views on current trend of management of migratory flows as to follow up the results of the 3rd meeting, a Press release issued by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights said.

Such meeting is also expected to enhance concerted efforts and cooperation in responding to the changing globalized world that provides challenges and opportunities especially in the area of migratory flows, it added.

Hamid Awaluddin disclosed that a number of substantive matters will be discussed comprehensively amongst the ASEM partners, including follow-up action of the implementation of the 3rd meeting; immigration information sharing; cooperation in enhancing border control management and cooperation in migratory management. —MNA/Xinhua
Second “Time” reporter to testify in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON, 28 Nov—A second Time magazine reporter has been asked by special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald to testify in the CIA leak investigation, the magazine disclosed in its 5 December issue.

Viveca Novak, who covered the inquiry into the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame’s cover for Time, has been asked to testify under oath about her conversations, starting in May 2004 with Robert Luskin, attorney for White House aide Karl Rove, Time said.

Plame’s cover at the CIA was blown after her husband, former diplomat Joseph Wilson, accused the Bush Administration of twisting prewar intelligence to support invading Iraq.

Wilson said it was done to undercut his credibility. The two-year investigation, which has reached into the highest levels of the White House, resulted in charges of perjury and obstructing justice against Vice-President Dick Cheney’s chief of staff, Lewis “Scooter” Libby.

Libby, who pleaded not guilty, has resigned from the Administration. Fitzgerald has said he would continue the case before another grand jury and Rove was told by prosecutors last month that he remained under investigation and could still be charged, lawyers said.

An attorney involved in the case was he informed by Time magazine on Saturday night that Novak was asked to testify about her conversations with Luskin. Luskin declined to comment on the Time report.

Time reporter Matthew Cooper has testified about his conversations with Rove in July 2003. Fitzgerald had said Libby was the first official known to have told a reporter about Plame.

MNA/Reuters

Strong quake kills 10, wounds 50 in South Iran

TESHIRAN, 28 Nov—Ten people were killed and some 50 injured when an earthquake razed mud-brick villages on the Gulf island of Qeshm off Iran’s south coast on Sunday, officials and state media said.

Iran’s official news agency IRNA said the quake, with a magnitude of 5.9, shook southern Iran for about 10 to 15 seconds at 1:53 PM (1023 GMT).

Tahereh Irankhah, a volunteer with the Red Crescent in Qeshm, said the main hospital on the island was struggling to keep up with the number of patients.

The number of people injured is very high, and people are in the corridors. We need tents and blankets,” she said. State media said there were three strong aftershocks.

“The earthquake was really strong and people poured into the streets in panic.”

MNA/Reuters

One killed, three injured in Bangladesh bomb attack

DHAKA, 28 Nov—One man was killed and three others were injured in a bomb attack on Sunday in the southwestern town of Alamdanga, 200 kilometres from the capital.

DHAKA, police said. A lone bomber hurled a bomb at a bus attendant, who was seriously wounded and later died on his way to hospital, police said.

The attacker threw another bomb afterward, injuring three other people, a police superintendent said.

But police ruled out any link to hardline Islamic groups that have conducted a series of similar attacks since August and said the assailant was suspected to be a member of a rebel group which has been active in the southwestern areas of the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Portugal, ESA sign accord to install satellite monitoring station

LISBON, 28 Nov—Portugal and the European Space Agency (ESA) signed an accord here Saturday to install a satellite monitoring station in Portugal’s mid-Atlantic Azores Islands.

Under the deal, the station is to be located in the Santa Maria Island, part of the Azores Islands, to monitor the operation of rockets and satellites released from the French Guiana by the ESA. And the station is planned to go into operation in the early 2007.

Fernando Costa, Portugal’s Science Technology and Higher Education Minister Jose Mariano Gago and ESA Director-General Jean-Jacques Dordain attended the signing ceremony.

MNA/Xinhua

Spain detains air passengers after bomb joke

MADRID, 28 Nov—Spanish police detained three passengers at Malaga Airport on Saturday after one made a “bad joke” about having a bomb on board a plane from Stockholm.

The Sterling Airlines flight landed without incident and on time after the crew overheard one passenger say his friend had a bomb, according to Niels Blix, a spokesman for Sterling.

MNA/Reuters

Workers stand in front of damaged power poles in Ochtrup, western Germany, on 28 Nov, 2005. Power poles were bent during a snow storm that caused a blackout in some German cities over the weekend.—INTERNET
Japanese probe lands, collects samples on asteroid

Tokyo, 28 Nov — A Japanese space probe made history on Saturday when it landed on the surface of an asteroid and then collected rock samples that could give clues to the origin of the solar system.

The probe, called Hayabusa — Japanese for “falcon” — succeeded in the delicate task which scientists have likened to landing a jumbo jet in a moving Grand Canyon. It was its second attempt to land on an asteroid.

After analysing data transmitted from the unmanned probe, the Japanese Aerospace Explorartion Agency (JAXA) said Hayabusa had touched down on the asteroid, neariy 300 million kilometres (190 million miles) from earth.

The probe then shot a 5-gramme (0.18 oz) metal ball towards the surface at a speed of 1,080 kilo per hours (670 mile per hours), collecting into a capsule the debris unleashed as a result of the impact, JAXA officials said.

“I am delighted to hear that it has collected the samples. It is the world’s first such feat and it will contribute greatly to mankind’s exploration of space,” Science and Technology Minister Iwao Matsuda said in a statement.

The United States and the former Soviet Union have brought back samples from the moon in the past, but it is the first time that surface material from an asteroid has been collected.

JAXA scientists at its main space control centre in western Tokyo smiled and let out cheers after confirming the successful landing. Hayabusa has already sent back detailed images of the asteroid. In a photograph published on JAXA Web site http://www.isas.jaxa.jp/ews/2005/1110_hayabusa.shtml, the probe’s shadow can be made out on its surface.

Japan’s space programme has had a shaky record and has recently been overshadowed by China’s success in carrying out manned space flights — something Japan has never attempted. After a voyage of 21/2 years, Hayabusa landed on Sunday had touched down on the surface of the 548-metre long potato-shaped asteroid, named Itokawa, marking the first landing by a Japanese spacecraft on an extraterrestrial body.

It remained there for 30 minutes, before “failed to drop” the equipment for collecting surface material. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, US zoologists study behaviours of giant pandas

X’IAN, 28 Nov — A team of Chinese and US zoologists have kicked off a joint research programme on a series of behaviours of wild pandas in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province.

They will focus on the movement and reproduction of giant pandas, but will also study mating and sexual behaviour, environmental influences on behaviour, and influences on hereditary structure posed by the movement modes and marriage system of giant pandas.

The three-year programme will be jointly carried out by zoologists from the Animals Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Zoological Society of San Diego, the United States, in the Foping Nature Reserve for Giant Pandas in Shaanxi.

The programme will cost 660,000 US dollars. The Foping Nature Reserve covers an area of 29.240 hectares and is considered by many international organizations a key place for bio-diversity protection for local well-protected vegetation. There is one giant panda per 1.5 square kilometres of area in the nature reserve.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences set up a giant pandas research base in the Foping Nature Reserve last year. Zoologists will use GIS (geographical information system), GPS and other advanced technologies in their research. — MNA/Xinhua

Armed robbers snatch lion cub from Palestinian zoo

JERUSALEM, 28 Nov — Armed robbers made off with a lion cub and two Arabic-speaking parrots in a recent raid on Gaza’s zoo, Palestinian police chief and newspapers said.

Suud al-Shawwa, the zoo’s chairman of the board, told Palestinian newspapers four masked gunmen used blankets to try and snatch a pair of lion cubs, but only managed to capture one.

“They wrapped the lion cub in a blanket and took him away,” Shawwa said. He disclosed the Katalashkov-tooting gang first tied the zookeeper up in a cafeteria and then made their way to the cages, where they also snatched the parrots. Palestinian police chief Ala Husni said forces were investigating the theft and believed the cub and parrots were being concealed in a Gaza hide-out. — MNA/Reuters

American “Harry Potter” passes $400m at world box office

LOS ANGELES, 28 Nov — The new Harry Potter film generated an estimated 408 million US dollars at the worldwide box office after its second weekend, with North American moviegoers contributing nearly half of that amount, its distributor said on Sunday.

The top foreign markets for “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” include Britain with 51.3 million US dollars, Germany with 55.5 million US dollars and Mexico with 13.6 million US dollars, all after two weekends, according to Warner Bros. Pictures.

Additionally, the film opened in such markets as Japan with 14.3 million US dollars, which Warner Bros. said was the fifth-best opening of all time; Italy with 9.4 million US dollars, the best opening of all time, the studio said; and Spain with 8 million US dollars, the second-best of all time.

All told, the fourth adaptation of J.K. Rowling’s books about a boy wizard earned 95.4 million US dollars over the weekend from 42 foreign markets, the studio said. — MNA/Reuters

Traders on Tokyo Foreign Exchange work at the terminal as Japanese stocks surged on Monday, with the market’s main index rising to fresh five-year highs as exporter and technology stocks rallied on optimism about the US holiday shopping season. Tokyo, 28 Nov, 2005. The US dollar rose to nearly 120 yen, touching its highest level against the yen in more than two years. — Internet

Chinese Shenzhou VI astronauts Fei Junlong (L) and Nie Haisheng pose with the Disney character Buzz Lightyear at Hong Kong Disneyland during their three-day visit in Hong Kong on 28 Nov, 2005. Fei and Nie orbited the Earth for five days last month, in China’s first multi-person and multi-day space mission. — Internet

Madonna reigns supreme at top British single charts

LONDON, 28 Nov — Madonna stayed top of the British music charts on Sunday with her single “Hung Up” which samples heavily from the 1979 Abba hit “Gimme Gimme Gimme”.

Madonna, 47, who had her first number one in Britain in 1985, released the single from her new album “Confessions on a Dancefloor”, according to the Official UK Charts Company. Irish boyband Westlife was in second place with their ballad “You Raise Me Up” while American rockers Black Eyed Peas were in third with “My Humps”.

Simon Webbe, formerly with “Blue”, was at number four with “No Worries” and Girls Aloud moved down one place to fifth with their single “Biology”.

Cartoon group Gorillaz were the highest new entry at number six with their latest single “Dirty Harry”, one place ahead of Liberty X and “A Night To Remember”. Sheffield rockers Arctic Monkeys, who entered the charts several weeks ago at number one with “I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor” stayed in the top ten, moving up one place to number eight. — MNA/Reuters

Bruce Lee bronze statue unveiled in Mostar

BELGRADE, 28 Nov — A bronze statue of martial arts legend Bruce Lee was unveiled in the ethnically divided city of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Saturday, a day before a second statue of him is unveiled in Hong Kong to mark its 65th birthday.

The life-size 1.68-metre statue depicts the Chinese-American kung fu cinema icon in a typical defensive fighting position as a symbolic protest against ethnic divisions in war-torn Bosnia.

“Lee fought for justice freedom and reconciliation. I hope his statue will bring you happiness and prosperity,” Chinese Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Li Shuyuan told the unveiling ceremony, held in Mostar’s central park. — MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 30 November, 2005 13
Barcelona striker Ronaldinho celebrates after scoring against Racing Santander. Ronaldinho is being tipped to win the 50th European footballer of the year award at a ceremony in Paris on 28 Nov, 2005. — INTERNET

Hearts lose almost three million pounds

Glasgow, 29 Nov – Scottish Premier League club Hearts reported pre-tax losses of 2,728,000 pounds (4.67 million US dollars) to year ended 31 July 2005 on Monday. The losses were almost 300,000 pounds greater than last year despite an increase in turnover of 1,266,000 pounds, the club said.

"The cost of playing European games at Murrayfield, the national rugby ground, due to Uefa regulations had contributed to the loss as well as the running of a youth academy for its first full year. Chairman and chief executive Roman Romanov said: "It has been a dramatic 12 months but I feel that Hearts will come out of recent turbulent times in a much stronger position." Hearts had a spectacular start to the Scottish Premier League under new manager George Burley and were top of the table when he quit following a row with majority shareholder, Lithuanian tycoon Vladimir Romanov.

They then axed chief executive Phil Anderton, which prompted chairman George Foulske to quit in protest, insisting Vladimir, who took a controlling stake in the club last February, ran it "like a dictator." — MNA/Reuters

Barca crush Racing 4-1 at Nou Camp

Madrid, 29 Nov – Champions Barcelona produced another sparkling display to crush Racing Santander 4-1 at the Nou Camp and reclaim top spot in the Primera Liga on Sunday. Dazzling individual goals from Samuel Eto'o and Argentine teenager Lionel Messi, a Ronaldinho penalty and a rare strike from fullback Silvio earned the Catalans an eighth straight win in all competitions.

Frank Rijkaard’s side lead the standings on goal difference ahead of surprise package Osasuna who came from a goal down to clinch an exciting 2-1 victory over Alaves and preserve their 100 percent record at home this season.

Barcelona forward Ronaldinho, who led Barca to spectacular victories over Real Madrid and Werder Bremen last week, proved he is human when he missed a penalty in the opening minutes at the Nou Camp. The Catalans took the lead after half an hour thanks to a magnificent individual goal from leading scorer Eto’o.

The Cameroon international won the ball on the halfway line, scythed his way towards the Racing area, turned three defenders inside out and finished off with a fantastic right-foot strike.

Barca’s second was almost as good. The 18-year-old Messi broke just inside the Racing half, cut inside a defender and fired low past Aouate seven minutes after the break.

Ronaldinho then atoned for his earlier miss when he blasted home from the penalty spot after he had been felled by desperate Racing defender Pablo Pinillos after beating him with a dazzling step over and shot.

Fellow Brazilian Silvio completed the rout when he bundled into the net after a fine jinking run into the area.

Racing scored a consolation when Francisco Casquero converted a penalty, but their evening ended on a low note when forward David Aganov was sent off after picking up a second yellow card.

Barca’s victory leaves them with awe-inspiring statistics of 28 goals for and just three against in their eight-match winning streak. — MNA/Reuters

Quickfire goal puts Porto back on top

Lisbon, 29 Nov — Argentine midfielder Lucho Gonzalez was on target after only 30 seconds to steer Porto back to the top of the Portuguese Premier League with a 1-0 win at Gil Vicente on Monday.

Porto are level on 27 points with Nacional Madeira, who beat Braga 1-0 on Friday, but lead the table by virtue of a better head-to-head record.

Braga occupy third position, one point adrift.

Gonzalez headed the only goal of Monday’s game from the edge of the area after good work down the left by winger Ricardo Quaresma.

Gil Vicente, 14th in the 18-team league, went close to equalizing when a header from Brazilian midfielder Leandro Netto was cleared off the line by Argentine Lisandro Lopez five minutes before the end. Sporting beat Vitoria Guimaraes 2-0 on Sunday to remain fourth, level on points with Vitoria Setubal, who defeated Rio Ave 1-0. — MNA/Reuters

Beckham launches his London academy

London, 29 Nov — David Beckham opened his London soccer academy alongside the Millennium Dome on Monday, just a short distance from where the England captain was born.

The 30-year-old Real Madrid midfielder took part in skills sessions with local school children before talking about his dream of setting up a place for youngsters of all abilities to learn about the game.

"This is one of the proudest moments in my life," Beckham told Reuters. "When I was a boy attending the Bobby Charlton soccer school all I wanted to do was to play for Manchester United and England. "Now I have achieved that and to be able to give children the chance to do the same things is just amazing.

"I wanted an environment where children could learn but more importantly have fun. This has surpassed my highest expectations," he said.

Beckham added: "It is about education in football. Not just teaching youngsters how to kick a ball properly but education on diet and fitness. "There are so many things the children will learn here and I am so pleased that it is here in London, the place where I was born." Forming part of the regeneration of the Millennium Dome site, the Beckham academy is on only 30 seconds to steer grassroots sporting initiatives.

It has two full-size indoor pitches plus classrooms, training facilities, changing rooms and restaurants.

The academy will welcome around 15,000 boys and girls aged eight to 15 every year, with 10,000 getting the opportunity free of charge.

Beckham hopes they will be inspired to become the next Wayne Rooney.

"Wayne is an amazing talent, a great person and already a great player," Beckham said of his 20-year-old England team mate. "He has achieved so much already and he will only get better." — MNA/Reuters

Ronaldinho named European Footballer of Year

Paris, 29 Nov — Ronaldinho completed a hat-trick of awards when he was named European Footballer of the Year on Monday.

The 25-year-old Brazilian forward won the vote by European soccer journalists organized by French soccer magazine France Football after guiding Barcelona to last season’s Primera Liga title.

Frank Lampard, an inspirational member of Chelsea’s Premier League-winning side, came second in the vote. Fellow England midfielder Steven Gerrard, who was instrumental in Liverpool’s surprise Champions League triumph, finished third.

"To be here with all those great players applauding me is a dream come true," said Ronaldinho after receiving the golden ball trophy at a ceremony in Paris attended by several former winners.
Washinngton, 29 Nov — The Bush Administration's yardsticks for progress in its fight against terrorism are inadequate and do not show whether the United States is winning or losing, a study by a congressional think tank says.

Although four years have gone by since 11 September, government agencies have still not agreed on criteria to measure progress against terrorism, even though billions of dollars have been spent,” said Raphael Perl, author of the internal report by the Congressional Research Service. “The risk is that without these criteria, we just take action and we measure progress retrospectively against what we’ve done. And of course since we’ve done some stuff, we’ve made progress,” he told Reuters in an interview on Monday. Statistics often cited by US officials — such as the death or capture of more than two-thirds of top al-Qaeda leaders and the seizure of over 200 million US dollars in terrorist funds — do not show how much damage has actually been inflicted on militant groups, the report said.

A copy of Perl’s study, which was made available to congressional officials on Friday when Congress was closed for the thanksgiving holiday, was obtained by Reuters on Monday.

Administration officials were not immediately available for comment.

In the past, the Administration has also pointed to developments such as the overthrow of the governments in Afghanistan and Iraq, the death or capture of guerrillas in Iraq. Libya’s decision to abandon weapons of mass destruction programmes and other curbs to proliferation as milestones of progress in the fight against terrorism. MNA/Reuters

Report says US lacks ways to gauge wins against terror

**WEATHER**

Tuesday, 29 November, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Yangon Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Chin States, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (6°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (5°C) above normal in Mon State and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures was Hakha (3°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Coco Island (0.75 inch).

Maximum temperature on 28-11-2005 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 29-11-2005 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 29-11-2005 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 28-11-2005 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 29-11-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (102.60) inches at Mingaladon, (101.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (106.46) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (07:30) hours MST on 29-11-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal has slightly moved westwards and centred about (420) miles southeast of Chennai, India. It is forecast to move west or (northwest) winds. Weather is cloudy in Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-11-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-11-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-11-2005: Fair weather.

**Storm News**

(issued at 09:30 hrs MST on 29-11-2005)

According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal has slightly moved westwards and centred about (420) miles southwest of Chennai, India. It is forecast to move west (or) northwestwards.

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 30 November, 2005**


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**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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

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**Cash and kind provided to fire victims in Hline Township**

YANGON, 29 Nov — Cash and kind were provided to fire victims of 1,962 households with the sponsorship of the Union Solidarity and Development Association at a ceremony held at Hline Gymnasium in Hline Township this afternoon with an address by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa.

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa accepted the donations—K 1 million by Yangon Division PDC, clothing and provisions by the USDA, K 500,000 each by Myanmar Women Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, relief worth K 120 million by Myanmar Red Cross Society, K 10 million by Asia World Co, six kinds of relief by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, clothing and provisions by the Ministry of Defence, K 100,000 by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, K 100,000 by YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and wife Dr Daw Khin San Nwe, and K 3.5 million by Bhaddanta Ashin Hekinda.

Next, Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and officials greeted the fire victims who are being accommodated at Hline Gymnasium, Kyakkaakan Grounds and the Bayintnaung Transit Centre. Those wishing to make donations for the fire victims are to contact the fire relief camp in the compound of Hline Gymnasium in Hline Township. — MNA

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**Bangladesh delegation visits downtown Yangon**

YANGON, 29 Nov — The visiting goodwill delegation led by Chief of Army Staff of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, psc, and party, accompanied by Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence, this morning visited Shwedagon Pagoda.

At the pagoda, Lt-Gen Moeen U Ahmed signed in the visitor’s book and donated cash through members of the pagoda board of trustees.

Later, they also visited Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township and King Zafar Shah’s Tomb in Dagon Township. At the museum, Joint Secretary of Drug Elimination Department Police Col Kham Aung and officials conducted them around the museum.

In the afternoon, the delegation went to Memorial to Fallen Heroes in Bahan Township and (See page 10)

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**Myanmar athletes secure five gold, four silver, four bronze in XXIII SEA Games**

YANGON, 29 Nov — Myanmar bagged another five gold medals, four silver and four bronze medals today in XXIII SEA Games being held in the Philippines.

Today`s Gold medalists are Yin Yin Khine in 400 metre race women`s Track and (See page 10)