Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Laotian President

YANGON, 2 Dec— On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

Organized businesses facilitate capital accumulation, production, market extension more than individual businesses

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, Chin State PDC Chairman Col Tin Hla and officials, on 28 November morning arrived at Nurses Training School in Falam, Chin State, and met with department officials, social organizations and trainees.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Soe Win heard reports on facts about the township and requirements to be fulfilled, health care services being provided at district/township hospitals and requirements for station hospitals, rice sufficiency, cultivation and raising of domesticated wild ox in Falam District. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs

(See page 16)

Prime Minister General Soe Win views Tea and Dry Tea Exhibition near City Hall in Haka. — MNA

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

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to United Arab Emirates

YANGON, 2 Dec— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, on the occasion of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, which falls on 2 December, 2005. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to LPDR

YANGON, 2 Dec— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Mr Choummaly Sayasone, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to United Arab Emirates

YANGON, 2 Dec — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, on the occasion of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, which falls on 2 December, 2005. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to LPDR

YANGON, 2 Dec— Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Choummaly Sayasone, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA
PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 2 December, 2005

Work for social security, regional and national development

In its drive for parallel development of all regions, including border areas, the government has given special priority to the construction of roads and bridges as smooth and easy transport is the fundamental requirement for all-round national development. In the regions like Chin State where transport is difficult because of its geographical position, new roads linking towns in the state and the plains are being built and old ones upgraded.

Nowadays, national people living in Chin State are enjoying the fruits of development as the government has worked for its development with genuine goodwill. With improvement in transport structure, health, education, economic and social status of local people have become higher.

Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by responsible officials, visited Kale in Sagaing Division and Tonzang, Kyikha, Reedkhodar and Tiddim in Chin State on 27 and 28 November to inspect agricultural and regional development work and provide assistance in cash and kind to local people. In his meetings with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people in the townships he visited, the Prime Minister said that, in the areas far away from the government headquarters, local people, regional authorities and members of the social organizations are to work in unison and in concert that their unity was their own strength.

Chin State is developing in every way due to the assistance of the government and student youths can now study computer and engineering sciences in universities and colleges in Kale, the gateway to the northern part of Chin State. Moreover, there are modern hospitals in Haka, Tiddim and Falam and specialists provide health care services to local people on a wider scale.

As Chin State is a hilly region, it is suitable for highland cultivation and it has favourable conditions for growing perennial, especially tea, extensively. Now, tea plantations in some wards and villages and in the plots owned by government departments are flourishing.

We would like to call on regional authorities, local people and members of social organizations in Chin State as well as in other regions to work actively and unitedly for their own social security and the development of their respective regions and that of the entire Union.
Bombs in two Bangladesh cities kill nine

DHAKA, 30 Nov— Nine people were killed and 65 wounded by suspected suicide bombings in two Bangladesh cities on Tuesday, apparently the latest in a wave of attacks by militants fighting to turn the country into a sharia-based Islamic state.

Police said three people, including two officers were killed and 15 wounded by blasts at a police checkpoint outside a court building in the port city of Chittagong. They said the third person who died was believed to be the bomber.

Another blast, in a court complex in Gazipur — 20 miles north of the capital, Dhaka — killed six people and wounded nearly 50, police said.

Local hospital sources said the wounded included lawyers. “The bombers apparently turned more violent as we set up checkposts trying to reinforce security at court premises,” said Majedul Haq, police commissioner in Chittagong.

He said the blasts were probably the work of suicide bombers, who had explosives strapped to their bodies or hidden in bags.

The Islamists killed two judges in the coastal town of Bhakatpur on 18 November and threatened to kill more including Supreme Court judges.

Bombs exploded in three district courts outside Dhaka last month, killing two people and wounding more than a dozen, while 500 small bombs went off across the country on 17 August, killing two people and wounding about 100.

Bangladeshi police have acknowledged since those attacks the presence of home-grown potential suicide bombers.

They say a 2,000-strong “suicide squad” has been formed from members of Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin and two other banned groups, Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh and Harkatul Jihad. — MNA/Reuters

WTO gives poorest countries more time to apply property rules

GENEVA, 30 Nov— Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) decided on Tuesday to give least-developed countries an extension until 1 July, 2013 to provide protection for trademarks, copyright, patents and other intellectual property under the WTO’s Agreement.

The decision extends the transition period by seven and a half years for least-developed countries to apply Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and includes commitments on technical assistance to help them prepare.

The transition period was due to expire on 1 January, 2006, 11 years after the TRIPS Agreement came into force. The decision does not affect the transition period for patents for pharmaceutical products, which was agreed in 2002. Least-developed countries will not have to protect these patents until 2016.

At present, 32 WTO members are least-developed. — MNA/Reuters

Nepali version of Microsoft Windows launched

KATHMANDU, 30 Nov— Unlimited NuMedia Private Limited and Microsoft Corporation jointly launched Nepali version of Microsoft Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2003 here on Tuesday.

The programme’s inauguration ceremony at the Beijing Railway Station, experts from the Beijing You’an Hospital, a renowned medical institution dedicated to infectious diseases, and staff from China’s Railway Epidemic Prevention Centre gave AIDS-related information to passengers.

At the ceremony student volunteers wearing smart red ribbons handmade by HIV-positives in southwest China’s Yunnan Province disseminated brochures depicting how to prevent HIV in vivid cartoons.

Chinese well-known comedian Hou Yaowen was appointed “Railway AIDS-Prevention Ambassador”. Yang Zuyao, a student volunteer majoring in preventive medicine at the Beijing University, felt more than happier.

“What I have learned in school can greatly contribute to my volunteer work in AIDS prevention,” she said.— MNA/Xinhua

Nepali version of Microsoft Windows has been developed under development for the last one year together with its local partner Unlimited NuMedia.— MNA/Xinhua

Preservation of culture, tradition and language through the use of new technology will be more easier and effective,” vice Chancellor of Royal Nepal Academy Basudev Tripathi said.

He said that Nepali version of Windows will be a window to the world for Nepalese people.

Inaugurating the new version, the chancellor said that it will now be possible to bring the advantages of information technology to the rural masses, where the biggest challenge so far has been the language barriers, as less than 10 per cent of the Nepali people are well versed in English.

“It will also help bridge the gap created by the existing digital divide in information technology and to extend Nepali language to the national and international level,” Tripathi added.

The people with computer access will be increased to 55 per cent from the present 2 per cent and the sale of personal computers will be multiplied by many folds with the introduction of the new Nepali version of Windows, according to Allen Tuladhar, CEO of Unlimited NuMedia.

The record shows that there were 500,000 computer sales in the past 15 years but the same amount will be sold in a year now, Tuladhar said.

Microsoft has decided not to charge any licence fees for the use of the localized editions of the new product, which has been available in the country for the last 15 years but the same amount will be sold in a year now, Tuladhar said.

Nepalese people are well versed in English.

Youths dressed as skeletons wearing posters symbolically representing, from left to right, Unprotected sexual relationship, AIDS, Drugs and Contaminated Syringe participate, in an AIDS awareness rally in Agartala, capital of India’s northeastern state of Tripura, on 1 Dec, 2005, to mark World AIDS Day. — INTERNET

Asia Media Festival trade events open in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 30 Nov — The Asia Media Festival (AMF) trade events opened in Singapore on Wednesday with participation of 4,500 foreign trade delegates and 200 international sellers from 40 countries.

With the AMF events for the public including film screenings on display for two weeks, half a million participants for both consumer and trade events are expected this year. — MNA/Xinhua

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) initiated a programme on Tuesday featuring AIDS-related knowledge publicity to train passengers aiming to raise migrant people’s awareness of HIV/AIDS.

Peng Peiyun, president of the RCSC, said there was a lack of understanding of the programme’s inauguration ceremony that the RCSC staff are going to offer consultation services and hand out AIDS-prevention brochures on trains and at railway stations of the nation’s major routes, telling passengers the ABCs of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Tuesday morning at Norway’s Statoil says employee slain in Iran

OSLO, 30 Nov — An Iranian employee of Norwegian energy group Statoil, which is helping to develop Iran’s huge South Pars gas field offshore in the Gulf, has been murdered in Tehran, the company said on Tuesday.

The 52-year-old was killed in his home two weeks ago. He worked in the company’s purchasing department, said a spokesman for Statoil, Norway’s biggest oil and gas producer.

“We have no indications or suspicions that his death had anything to do with his job,” Statoil’s spokesman Kai Nielsen said.

China spreads “AIDS” knowledge to train passengers

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War on terror finance hurt by US infighting

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov—US programmes to help countries choke off terrorist funds are hamstrung by turf battles, leadership squabbles and confusion over available funding, the investigative arm of Congress said on Tuesday.

For example, the study by the Government Accountability Office said the US Treasury and State Departments could not even agree on who was in charge of training and assistance abroad.

Several government departments disagreed strongly with the report, saying it overstated discord and failed to portray the overall effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts. Letters from the departments were included in the report. The GAO study focused on US steps to help other countries curb the flow of illicit funds and protect their financial sectors from abuse, an important part of the US Government’s broader war against terrorism. More than 200 million US dollars in suspected terrorist funds have been seized.

The US Government lacks an integrated strategy to coordinate the delivery of counter-terrorism funding and technical assistance to countries vulnerable to terrorist financing,” the GAO report said.

Justice Department officials cited in the report said "roles and procedures were a matter of disagreement." The study also said that "due to disagreements over leadership and procedures, some energy and talent of staff are wasted trying to resolve interagency disputes." It also said various officials said funding for such training and assistance was inadequate, although a lack of clarity made it hard to determine the actual amount allocated to these efforts.

Republican Senator Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican and one of the lawmakers who commissioned the study, told Reuters he was very concerned by the GAO’s findings and "stunned" that four years after the 11 September, 2001 attacks "terror battles" were undermining the financial fight against terror.

There is a ship aloft without a captain," said Grassley, who chairs the Senate finance committee. MNA/Reuters

China’s first human bird flu case

HFEEL, 30 Nov—A team of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) investigated on Tuesday China’s first human case of bird flu in Zongyang County of eastern Anhui Province, visiting local disease-prevention departments and the hospitals where the case has been treated.

Accompanied by their Chinese counterparts, WHO experts arrived at the disease control and prevention centre of Zongyang County at 8:30 am.

"You tell us the situation frankly, and we hope we can give you some help with your work," said Xu Xiyuan, a WHO expert from the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Head of Zongyang County Wang Changgen briefed WHO experts on the county’s measures of preventing bird flu, related medical facilities and other measures that have been taken.

A 24-year-old woman farmer surnamed Zhou, was confirmed dead of H5N1 bird flu virus on 16 November by the Chinese Ministry of Health.

WHO experts interviewed persons in charge of health, agriculture, disease control and animal husbandry departments of Zongyang and Anqing City, where the county is located. MNA/Xinhua

68 tons of narcotics seized in Venezuela during 2005

Government has seized 68 tons of narcotics in 2005, up 58 per cent on a year-on-year basis, Interior and Justice Minister Jesse Chacon announced here on Monday.

Addressing the opening ceremony of an international anti-drug conference, Chacon said 62 per cent of the seized drugs were cocaine while the rest were heroin and marijuana.

He said the three-day conference, which was attended by nearly 40 experts from Venezuela and Caribbean states, could serve as a stage for the related parties to exchange experience in fighting international drug-trafficking.

He said the conference was aimed at strengthening the efforts by the EU, Venezuela and Caribbean states to probe the destinations and routes of drug trafficking, as well as the consumption of drugs and their profitability in the region. MNA/Xinhua

Comoros volcano eruption pollutes water

NAIROBI, 30 Nov—Water supplies to more than 100,000 people in the Indian Ocean Comoros Islands have been contaminated by the eruption of one of the world’s largest active volcanoes, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Mount Karthala sent clouds of ash and sparks flying late on Thursday, leaving the capital Moroni and other villages on the main island of Grande Comore covered in grey.

"Concerns exist regarding the availability of potable water in the areas exposed to smoke and ashes," said a report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). "Preliminary results from the assessment indicate that as many as 118,000 persons living in 75 villages may be affected by the contamination of water tanks," the report said.

OCHA said they were also concerned about the impact of the pollution from volcanic debris on agriculture and livestock.—MNA/Reuters

Death toll rises to 138 in N-E China coal mine blast

QUTAIHE (Heilongjiang), 30 Nov—Rescuers found four more remains of miners killed in Sunday’s blast at Dongfeng Coal Mine run by the Qitahei branch of the Longmei Mining (Group) Co, Ltd in Heilongjiang Province.

That brings the death toll of the coal mine explosion to 138, sources from the National Bureau of Production Safety Supervision and Administration said on Tuesday morning.— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam receives more foreign visitors in first 11 months

HANOI, 30 Nov—Vietnam is estimated to welcome nearly 3.2 million international arrivals in the first 11 months of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 19.5 per cent. The hike is partly attributed to Vietnam’s permission of foreign visitors from northern Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore coming into by auto-mobiles, and the opening of more direct flight routes between the country and the United States, Japan, and Russia, according to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) on Monday.

Vietnam’s biggest tourism markets included China, the United States, South Korea, and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said VNAT.

In 2005, Vietnam is expected to host 3.4 million international arrivals and 16 million local visitors, up 17.2 per cent and 17.6 per cent, respectively, the VNAT said, adding that the country is likely to earn around 33 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 2.1 billion US dollars) from tourism services in the year.

— MNA/Xinhua

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ASEAN to strengthen anti-transnational crime cooperation

HANOI, 30 Nov—Over 200 delegates from 13 countries attended an international meeting opened here on Tuesday, discussing measures to boost their cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crime.

At the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) with the theme “For an ASEAN of Security, Solidarity and Development”, they will review their activities in combating transnational crime since the previous meeting, with a view to improving and enhancing mechanisms in carrying out laws and regulations, including anti-terrorism.

They will also discuss and build an effective mechanism to develop the ASEAN legal instruments in carrying out laws and regulations relating to combating transnational crime, terrorism, transnational organized crime, transnational drug trafficking, criminal extradition, human trafficking, terrorism, Solidarity and Development.

The participants will exchange experience in anti-terrorism activities, and build an ASEAN agreement on anti-terrorism.

Addressing at the meeting taking place from November 27 to December 3, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan said, “As far as we see, such measures should include increased intelligence exchange, scenario forecasts, cooperation in crime prevention and tracing, judicial cooperation, criminal extradition, human resource training, and experience exchange.”

ASEAN members, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, are striving to form a security, economic and cultural community by 2020, he said, adding that they will not be able to achieve the goal unless they join hands in preventing and combating transnational crime.

“Alongside internal ASEAN cooperation, we are of the view that global cooperation, especially with dialogue countries (China, Japan and South Korea) is of great importance… The ASEAN’s dialogue countries have many experiences to share with, and many resources to assist the ASEAN members,” Khoan said.

Some 25,000 Germans endure fifth day without power

FRANKFURT, 30 Nov—Some 25,000 Germans were without electricity on Tuesday after a fifth night of power cuts brought about by snow, ice and winds hitting transmission lines in the country’s west.

Utility RWE said electricity for around 40,000 people in a rural district near the Dutch border had been cut for several hours overnight when cables laden with snow had to be switched off to avoid accidents. “Those were precautions which are no longer necessary,” said a spokesman for the company, which supplies power to Germany’s most populous state of North-Rhine Westphalia.

“As for the rest, our technicians are working flat out and we hope to have connected as many customers as possible by tonight. The restoration of supplies comes before any other questions about money,” he said.

The crisis has embarrassed German power companies which boast of being among the world’s most reliable, with a large proportion of cables underground.

But unusually heavy snow and gusty winds oversetressed power lines and damaged 50 pylons. Up to 250,000 people were without power at the weekend.—MNA/Reuters

US Army aims to coax former troops back to service

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov—The US Army, fresh off missing its latest annual recruiting goal, has launched an unprecedented effort to coax former soldiers to sign up again for active-duty military service, officials said on Tuesday.

The US Army this month began contacting 78,000 people who previously served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to pitch them on the idea of leaving behind their civilian lives and re-entering the military, said Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Hilferty, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon.

Unlike in the past, they now can return to the Army without giving up their previous rank or undergoing the rigorous of basic training, said Hilferty, who described it as the first programme of its kind for the Army.

The Army fell about 7,000 short of its goal of sending 80,000 recruits into basic training in fiscal 2005, which ended September 30. Officials attributed the shortfall to the Iraq war and other factors. The fiscal 2006 recruiting goal again is set at 80,000.

Hilferty said the new programme, which targets people who left the military within the past five years and particularly those who were in branches other than the Army, is not a sign of recruiting desperation.

“I think it’s just common sense,” Hilferty said. “These are people with a propensity for service who previously served honourably and who are trainable. If they want to serve, why shouldn’t we offer them that opportunity? And why should we put up barriers?”

About 7,000 former soldiers were among the 78,000 receiving recruiting letters that stated, “There is no higher calling than service in our armed forces, and this is your opportunity to answer the call to duty again.”—MNA/Reuters

UN envoy raises issue of abuse of detainees with Iraqi officials

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Dec — Ashraf Qazi, UN Special Representative in Iraq, has raised the issue of human rights violations with Iraqi officials, including the need for “structural changes” in the security system, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

Answering questions on the UN position on reports of abuses in Iraq, Dujarric told reporters that the UN team led by Qazi has brought up on a number of times directly to Iraqi officials, including the Defence Minister, the Interior Minister, the issues of human rights violations that have been reported to take place in some of the detention centres.

Third Briton dies from attack in Iraq

LONDON, 30 Nov— A third Briton has died from his injuries in Iraq after the bus in which he was travelling was ambushed by gunmen, Sky news reported on Tuesday.

The man, from Greenwich, west London, was a Muslim pilgrim on a religious visit, said the report. On Monday, two British, Saifuddin Makai, 39, from Streatham, south London, and Husain Mohammed, 50, from Harrow, northwest London, were killed when gun- men ambushed the bus in Baghdad, according to the report. Three other people were injured in the attack.

The incident occurred when the bus was drawing up to a checkpoint in the southern Baghdad neighbour- hood of Dora. The Britons were on a pilgrimage to holy shrines at Kerbala, Najaf and Kufa when they came under fire.

No confirmation has been issued by British Foreign Office.—MNA/Xinhua

A woman and children look at the wreckage of a car bomb, targeting a US and Iraqi army patrol, in Baghdad’s Azamiya neighbourhood, Iraq, on 29 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Priestesses dance during the flame-lighting ceremony for the Turin 2006 Winter Games at the Pierre de Coubertin Grove in Ancient Olympia, Greece, on 27 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET
Myanmar, where all citizens enjoy freedom of worship

Tektatho Myat Thu

For a believer, religion is the faith he understands well in his mind and keeps in his heart. It is the concept of any person of every faith.

Now I am going to present some facts about the world religions. Hermits first discovered the Hinduism according to Veda and Vedanta treaties in India in about 1500 BC. It is later spread to other countries. It now has about one billion believers worldwide. Its God is the Great Brahma in the Heaven.

The Buddha delivered His first discourse, “the Dhamma Cakka” in Mithymna, India, in 600 BC. The Three Pitakas are the foundation of Buddhism that has spread to Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Mongolia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China, Japan, Europe, North Africa, Russia, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Brazil, Indonesia, Australia and Hawaii from India. Gotta Buddha is the Teacher of one billion believers.

Most founded the Judaism in Palestine in about 1400 BC. The Old Testament is the religion’s Bible. The people of Judaism faith can be found in Israel and American continents, Europe and Asia. There are about 15 million people of the faith. Jehovah is the God in the Heavens.

Christianity founded by Jesus emerged in Palestine in 29 AD. The Old Testament and the New Testament are the two main Bibles of Christianity. It is flourishing in North and South America, Europe, Russia, Australia, Asia, and Africa. There are over two billion followers around the world. They worship God in the Heavens.

Zoroastrianism is a religion originated in ancient Persia started by Zoroaster (628-551 BC). The religion has over 200,000 followers in Persia and India. Mohammed (AD 571-632) founded Islam in Arabia. Allah is the God of the religion. It spread to Turkey, Africa, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Algerria, Tunisia, Morocco, Arab Emirates, Iran, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Europe, America and the Middle East. The religion has a population of about 1.3 billion.

Shinto is an ancient religion in Japan. Its followers are in Japan and some Asian nations. Over 60 million people in Japan believe in this religion.

Taoism was founded in 570 BC in China, and it has over 300 million followers. Confucianism has over 200 million followers in China. Faith will be a lifeblood for a believer. There may be differences among the religions, but the most important thing is to follow one’s own religion in a peaceful way. Only then, will the whole world be a peaceful and secure place. Some of the religions have different denominations, but the goal is the same.

About two centuries ago several big western capitalist nations colonized others to get cheap labour and industrial raw materials and energy at extremely low prices. First, merchants from western countries came to oriental and African nations to buy raw materials and agricultural produce. Missionaries followed later to organize the locals. Then came the military force to invade, occupy and exploit those nations.

Myanmar is a nation where Theravada Buddhism flourishes. Ninety per cent of Myanmar’s population are Buddhists, the people who are brought up under the teachings of Buddha. Thus, they are gentle people living in the land where loving-kindness and sympathy flourishes.

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By the end of 1854 when the second Anglo-Myanmar War was over, religious objects combined in pagodas and stupas had been robbed. Getting involved in the fight against the religious oppression of the colonialists, Sayadaws U Vicara and U Ottama were put behind bars. Sayadaw U Vicara met his end in jail after staging a hunger strike for 168 days.

In the post-independence period, religious impostors of the West bloc incited religious disputes and conflicts in the nation.

Myanmar is an independent nation. The 1947 Constitution, 1974 State Constitution, and the 104 basic principles laid down by the ongoing National Convention vividly described religious freedom. In Myanmar, various religious coexist in harmony. Myanmar people are enjoying religious freedom fully and do not need to worry about religious disputes and conflicts in the nation.

Translation: TMT + MS

Myanmar Alin 1-12-2005

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Myanmar, where all citizens enjoy freedom of worship.
Agriculture sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of agriculture in the time of the Tatmadaw government

Growing of edible oil crops for ensuring edible oil sufficiency

With the effective use of natural resources, the Union of Myanmar, blessed with land and water resources, will surely raise her agricultural produce and forestry products.

Myanmar’s agricultural capacity has increased as she has been able to use the natural resources effectively. Edible oil crops are important items out of the crops thriving in the country.

Extended growing of edible oil crops

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<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Groundnut sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>1111</td>
<td>1617</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sesame sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>2557</td>
<td>3620</td>
<td>1063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mustard sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sunflower sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>1262</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Niger sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extended production of edible oil

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Groundnut oil (metric ton in thousand)</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sesame oil (metric ton in thousand)</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mustard oil (metric ton in thousand)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sunflower oil (metric ton in thousand)</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Niger oil (metric ton in thousand)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The major edible oil crops grown in the country are groundnut, sesame, mustard, sunflower and niger. At present, measures are being taken to extend growing of oil palm and other crops to produce more edible oil. As not much water is needed in growing edible oil crops, the crops are growing well in arid zones of the central part of the country. But now, with advanced technology, edible oil crops are grown in various regions of the country including the delta.

To meet the demand of domestic edible oil consumption, efforts are being made to extend growing of edible oil crops in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions. In growing edible oil crops, sesame is grown through irrigation, sunflower is grown as a double cropping and wheat and gram as mixed crops.

Under the leadership of the State, new quality strain groundnut and sesame are grown in suitable regions. Moreover, new hybrid produced by Agricultural Research Department are also used in growing sunflower.

Starting from this year, emphasis is being placed on growing quality strain edible oil crops.

The table shows concerted efforts made by the Tatmadaw government for ensuring edible oil sufficiency in the country.

Growing of quality strain edible oil crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Groundnut sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sesame sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sunflower sown acreage (thousand)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1657</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Organized businesses facilitate capital...
(from page 16)

In the afternoon, the prime minister and party flew to Thantlang by helicopter. In Thantlang, they went to Basic Education High School and viewed the students learning at multi-media rooms of the school and school buildings.

 Afterwards, Prime Minister General Soe Win met with departmental officials and local people at the town hall and heard reports on accomplishments of the state and requirements to be fulfilled.

Before they left for Haka, the prime minister and party also inspected the wild ox farm of a local where 100 domesticated wild oxen are being raised and the 16-bed hospital in Falam Township.

During the inspection tour of Haka, Prime Minister General Soe Win inspected tea plantation on either side of Haka-Falam Road.

Tea cultivation plan was launched in 1999-2000 in Chin State, and now arrangements are being made to grow tea in Tiddim, Tonzang, Kyikha, Thantlang, Falam, Reedkhodar, Haka in Falam District and Kanpatlat, Matupi, Rezor, Mindat in Mindat District.

There are 1,295 acres of tea in Haka and so far, 10,000 acres of land have been put under tea in Chin State within six years.

At the meeting with departmental officials and town elders at the town hall in Haka, the prime minister heard reports on economic, education, health, transportation, tea plantation and farming sectors in the state.

After hearing reports, Prime Minister General Soe Win said the Government has been implementing the development projects and plans for equitable development of the regions in the Union. Thanks to the cooperation of government employees, local people and social organizations, development work in various sectors is meeting with success, he added.

He continued to say that during the inspection tour of Chin State, he urged officials and local people to make efforts for food sufficiency and made tea acres reaches 10,000 acres.

It is necessary to grow tea on a commercial scale in the hope of producing value-added dry tea leaves and establishing tea mill in the region.

Chin State is endowed with suitable soil and climatic conditions to promote the private sericulture business.

In Chin State, border trade will flourish in arrangements for extended cultivation of tea in the region.

With the aim of turning Chin State into a tea state, the Government has been providing assistance to local authorities and residents and the number of parallel with better transportation in the region. Border trade should be developed into normal trade. The government has been upgrading the four major roads — Kale-Falam-Haka, Haka-Gangaw.

(See page 9)

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Organized businesses facilitate capital...

(from page 8)

Haka-Matupi and Mindat-Matupi roads — in Chin State. It is also building and upgrading the roads linking the four main roads. The roads have helped facilitate transport and accelerated development of the state. All the regions of the nation are gaining rapid progress due to the government’s national development projects. In harmoniously building a modern state, the ultimate goal of the nation, all the national people should have the unity and Union Spirit whatever role they may be playing.

The prime minister observed Tea and Dry Tea Exhibition, that will also be held in other townships of Chin State. He then inspected the progress in constructing a three storey ward, other patients wards and operation theatre at Haka hospital.

At the meeting to discuss means to further develop Chin State, the deputy director-general of SPDC Office explained arrangements for ensuring regional food sufficiency, development of tea cultivation, participation of the entrepreneurs in the farming business, and transport, education health, trade and communication development.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint discussed matters relating to successful implementing the national projects, tea and animal farming, and data collection.

Prime Minister General Soe Win said that northern Chin State is achieving sustainable development because of the ardent and united efforts of all persons concerned. Up to now, about 10,000 acres of land has been put under tea, and plans are under way to cultivate another 10,000 acres of tea. Chin State is seeing transport progress at present, and traders should do business in accord with the law.

Organized businesses will facilitate the work of capital accumulation, production and market extension more than individual businesses.

At a domesticated wild ox farm, he heard reports on development of the business in Chin State that raises 43,546 head of the ox species.

During the inspection tour, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with Tatmadaw members and families in Haka.

All the regions of the nation are gaining rapid progress due to the government’s national development projects. In harmoniously building a modern state, the ultimate goal of the nation, all the national people should have the unity and Union Spirit whatever role they may be playing.
Myanmar athletes win one gold, three silver, five bronze in XXIII SEA Games

YANGON, 1 Dec — Myanmar athletes claimed one gold medal, three silver and five bronze in XXIII SEA Games being held in the Philippines today.

Myanmar duo Kyaw Oo and Aung Hsan Oo sealed one gold medal in men’s double event of Billiards.

Kyaw Oo secured one silver medal in men’s single event of Billiards, Kyi Kyi Than, one silver in women’s 48-kilo event of Weightlifting and Moe Thu Aung, one silver in women’s 100-metre butterfly of Swimming.

Myint Myint Hwe carried off one bronze medal in women’s Canoe event, Thaung Win, Than Aung, Zaw Min and Shwe La Win, one bronze in four men Canoe event, Shwe Zin Win, one bronze in women’s 58-kilo of Weightlifting, Nwe Nwe Than, one bronze in women’s 45-kilo of Judo and Nyan Soe, one bronze in men’s 100-kilo of Judo.

Ayadaw Dam put into commission

YANGON, 1 Dec — The inauguration of Ayadaw Dam in Ayadaw Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division, undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Division Irrigation Department, took place at the pavilion on 30 November.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye in his speech said that in the time of the Tatmadaw government, so far 20 irrigation facilities have been constructed in Sagaing Division.

In pursuing the guidance of the Head of State on Sagaing Division to become the granary of Upper Myanmar, the government has built dams and reservoirs and the division is constructing or renovating small scale dams for exceeding the paddy output target.

Now, several multi-purpose dam projects are being implemented in the region. Among them, Hmanthu Multi-purpose Dam will be the largest of its kind upon completion and will be able to generate 1,200 megawatts.

Thirteen dams and reservoirs will be built in the region. Local farmers, on their part, are to maintain the irrigation facilities for their durability.

The minister also delivered a speech on the occasion. A local expressed thanks to the government for the construction of the dam.

The commander unveiled the stone plaque for the construction of the dam. Citizens reported on facts about the dam, and the project for cultivation of crops with the use of water from the facility. The minister gave instructions on supply of water for respective areas in irrigation system, growing of crops and phisic nut plants around the dam, efficient use of water and minimizing loss and wastage.

Korean Ambassador donates blankets to fire victims

YANGON, 1 Dec — Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-heum of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea handed over 2,625 blankets worth K 5.8 million to officials for fire victims of Ward 13, Hline Township, at fire relief camp of No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) in Hline Township today. — MNA

15824 lottery prizes opened

YANGON, 1 Dec — A ceremony to open a total of 15824 lottery prizes for 203th time, organized by Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at Aungbarlay Lottery Department (Branch) at the corner of No 384 Mahabandoola Street and 37th Street this morning. — MNA
Health care and cash assistance provided for older persons

YANGON, 1 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended the ceremony to provide health care services and assistance for older persons of Yangon Command Maternal and Child Welfare Association at its headquarters this afternoon.

First, Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Head of Administration Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and officials presented traditional medicines, clothes and cash assistance to older persons and provided medical treatment for them. The Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee presented certificates of honour to older persons, U Win Maung spoke words of thanks.

Matters related to National Convention...

(from page 16)

NCC Vice-Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Commission members Attorney-General U Aye Maung and U Thaug Nyunt answered the queries raised by the Ambassadors and Charges d’Affaires ai of the foreign missions. The meeting ended at 11.20 am. After the ceremony, U Aung Toe and Commission members cordially greeted those present. — MNA

Talks on human trafficking given at Drug Elimination Museum

YANGON, 1 Dec — Educative talks on prevention against human trafficking were held this afternoon at the Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township.

At the talks organized by the Organization Department of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of the Organization Department of MWAF, gave talks on women’s affairs and Daw Khin May Soe of MWAF on prevention against human trafficking. The talks attracted over 150 people.

National Convention delegates arrive

YANGON, 1 Dec — National Convention delegates from states and divisions arrived here by air, today. The delegates arriving here were from Rakhine State and Shan State (East) and Chin State.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Chairman Col Htein Lin of the Invitation and Accommodation Sub-committee, member Col Soe Myint and officials and transported by car at Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmau Township, where the National Convention will resume. — MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Laotian counterpart

YANGON, 2 Dec — On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

Myanmar delegation back from PRC

YANGON, 1 Dec — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut who attended the ceremony to sign MoU of the Hydro Electric Power Department and Yunnan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China held at the PRC, arrived back here this afternoon.

They were welcomed at the airport by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint, the Chinese Commercial Attaché and departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Electric Power.

The minister was also accompanied by Director-General of Department of Electric Power Dr Thein Soe and Director-General of Hydro Electric Power Department U Wun Kyaw. — MNA

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano and wife welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife at the reception to mark the birthday of the Japanese King on 1 December 2005. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut and party being welcomed back at the airport. — ELECTRIC POWER

Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, wife of the Home Affairs Minister, gives educative talks. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut and party being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

National Convention delegates from Shan State (East) are welcomed by officials concerned at Yangon International Airport. — NLM
Ecuador to boost private investment in electricity sector

QUITO, 30 Nov—Ecuador seeks to boost private investment and create strategic alliances in the electricity sector through legislation, Ecuadoran Energy and Mines Minister Ivan Rodriguez said on Monday.

The country, which currently imports electricity from Colombia due to the scarcity of its domestic production, intends to adopt legislation to allocate more resources to the sector, reduce the losses that electricity suppliers suffer, and increase the current generation capacity, said Veronica Lojan, an adviser to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Regional lender the Andean Development Corporation has offered Ecuador 250 million US dollars and 165 million US dollars in export credit so far, according to Donald Castillo, president of the National Energy Control Centre. Castillo urged the National Congress to pass the law, saying it would save the electricity sector.

Tarek Kamel was quoted as saying. TE has 10.3 million subscribers, the biggest client base in the Middle East and Africa, covering 95 per cent of Egypt, while the remaining 5 per cent will be covered by a wireless network.—MNA/Xinhua

Telecom Egypt offers 20% of stake for sale

CAIRO, 30 Nov—Egypt’s oldest fixed-line operator Telecom Egypt (TE) on Tuesday offered 20 per cent of its total shares for sale to public and private suitors, the Egyptian Gazette reported.

The 20 per cent of its total stake, about 341 million shares, will be sold in equal portions to public and private investors. The public offer will be sold in the Cairo and Alexandria Stock Exchange (CASE), while the private offer will be sold through both CASE and the London Stock Exchange.

TE Chairman Okel Bashir said the public subscriptions are allowed to purchase 10,000 shares in maximum and 100 shares in minimum with book value of a maximum 14.8 Egyptian pounds (2.6 US dollars) for each share.

The maximum for private subscription is 17 million shares while the minimum is no less than one million. The government aims to raise money by selling part of shares to improve TE governance, expand CASE operations and pump more fund for the state budget, Minister of Communications and Information Technology

Boat, ship collision in Vietnam kills 4

HANOI, 1 Dec — A cargo ship and a passenger boat crashed into each other in Vietnam’s northern Nam Dinh province, killing four local people and leaving two others missing, the Vietnam News Agency reported Thursday.

Four women in the aged bracket of 35-53 died after the boat with 19 people on board was capsized in Dao River, in Truc Nam district. By Thursday morning, the four bodies had been found. Rescuers are searching for two other women aged 28 and 46 missing.

All of the victims were from the overloaded boat. Local police are probing into the accident’s cause.

Vietnam experienced 12,115 traffic accidents with 9,472 fatalities and 10,192 injuries in the first 10 months of this year, posting respective year-on-year decreases of 17.9 percent, 6.3 percent and 22.8 percent. —MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia searches investment opportunities in palm oil overseas

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Nov—Malaysia will send fact-finding teams to explore investment opportunities in palm oil-related activities overseas, especially in those countries that have the similar climate, a senior official said here on Tuesday.

The teams would facilitate Malaysia’s Government linked-corporations and plantation companies to invest overseas, including engaging in negotiations with potential investors abroad, Malaysian Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Peter Chin Fah Kui said.

It is time for Malaysian Government linked-corporations and plantation companies to seriously consider investing in other countries, including creating joint ventures overseas, he said during a tour to Klang, a port west of Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia is one of the biggest palm oil producers in the world and it is keen to send its teams to friendly countries, he added.

It was reported that some countries, such as Colombia, Bolivia and Sierra Leone, had asked Malaysia to help them develop their palm oil industries.—MNA/Xinhua
Vietnam considers $40,000 bail for rocker Glitter

HO CHI MINH CITY (Vietnam), 30 Nov — Vietnam is considering releasing British rocker Gary Glitter, who has been charged with child molestation, on bail but will not be allowed to leave the country, a state official said on Tuesday.

"It is likely we will let him have bail and he can stay anywhere in Vietnam pending his trial," the official from the southern province of Ba Ria Vung Tau told Reuters.

The official, who declined to be identified, said 40,000 US dollars was the maximum bail stipulated under Vietnamese law. But Le Thanh Kinh, Glitter's lawyer, said that the 1970s rock icon would be held for at least one more month in a detention centre in Vung Tau for questioning before any bail was granted.

Last week, Vietnamese police charged 61-year-old Glitter, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, with "engaging in perverse activities with children" and had ordered him to remain in custody pending a three-month investigation.

Glitter has denied allegations he molested girls as young as 12 and insists he was just helping them with their English.

The age of consent in the communist southeast Asian nation is 16 and sex with minors is punishable by up to 12 years in jail.

Authorities have not given details of their investigations, but state-run newspapers said last week police had identified 10 girls who admitted to having bad sex with Glitter.

One of the girls was 12 years old. Glitter was sentenced to four months in jail in Britain in 1999 after being found guilty of storing more than 4,000 images of child pornography on the hard drive of his computer.

After his release, he left Britain for Cuba and then later turned up in Phnom Penh.

Child rights activists had ordered him out of Cambodia twice and had his name put on an entry blacklist, although Glitter filed lawsuits last year fighting the deportation orders. Glitter had been in Vietnam for about a year, according to newspapers.

SOUTH KOREA

S Korea boat sinks after collision; 13 missing

SEOUL, 1 Dec — Thirteen South Korean fishermen are missing after their vessel collided with a Malaysian cargo ship just off the southwestern coast of the Korean peninsula and sank, a rescue official said on Thursday.

One person was plucked from the sea by a passing fishing boat, but the others were missing.

Three hours after the collision, a coast guard officer said by telephone: "We have to see, but the situation is not good," he said.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the other ship involved was the Malaysia-registered Bung Mas Lapan.

Ugandan President calls on West to open markets

KAMPALA, 30 Nov — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has called upon the developed countries to open up their markets for African products.

The President was on Monday opening the 7th East African Jua Kali exhibition that brought together over 500 artisans from the Uganda Manufac-

trurers' Association show ground at Lugogo in Kampala.

Museveni said that while in Malta for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, he met British Prime Minister Tony Blair and they discussed trade issues.

"I have talked to some of the leaders from the West to stop being hypocrites and fully open their markets for the African products.

I told them even when we met in Malta for the Commonwealth meeting," Museveni was quoted as saying by the state-owned newspaper, the New Vision on Tuesday. Museveni called on the business community to stop demanding for what does not benefit them like politics.

"The problem with Africans is that we do not see things properly. People are demanding for ministerial positions for their regions.

They should ask for peace because they will be able to operate well. It is during this peaceful time that there would be an effective judicial system so that matters are settled in time and at a low cost," said Museveni.

He urged them to demand for market within the country, continent and globally.

African business community to inform their governments about trade barriers that include high power tariffs, high interest rates and transport costs. He called for reduction of Custom procedure at the borders.

The exhibition is an annual event started in 1999 in Arusha, Tanzania to mark the East African Community treaty and has since rotated around its three East African member countries, namely Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

"We'll have to see, but the situation is not good," he said.

Thailand soon to become bird flu free zone

BANGKOK, 1 Dec — The Thai Government will soon declare Thailand as a bird flu free zone with no more poultry in the kingdom infected with H5N1 avian flu virus.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives reported the latest bird flu situation to the Cabinet at its weekly meeting here on Tuesday, saying that there is now only one area in the kingdom which is under a close surveillance on an avian flu outbreak, reported the Thai News Agency on Wednesday.

The only area under the state's observation is Wat Chalo Sub-district in Bang Kruey District of Nonthaburi Province on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thai Government spokesman Surapon Suebwomanee was quoted by the agency as saying.

"If there is no more H5N1 virus found among poultry flocks in the sole observation area after November 29, all parts of Thailand will be free from bird flu outbreaks and the country can be declared a bird flu free zone," Dr. Surapon said with Thailand's success in containing three avian flu outbreaks so far, said.

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Earthquake survivors cross a damaged bridge over Neeilum River in the village of Phuttika, about 15 km (9.3 miles)northeast of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 30 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET
German coach hit by bobsleigh, fractures legs

CSEANA (Italy), 1 Dec — Germany's head bobsleigh coach suffered multiple fractures after he was hit at high speed during a practice session for the Winter Olympics on Wednesday.

Raimund Behghe, Germany's most successful bob coach, was standing on the track in the Alpine village of Cesana when an Australian two-man bob ran over him on curve nine.

Behghe was flown to San Giovanni Bosco hospital in Turin when he said he had suffered injuries to the head and both legs. Media reported Behghe had been operated on.

Golden State Warriors' Mike Dunleavy is fouled by Sacramento Kings' Renaldo Miller while attempting a shot during the first quarter in Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday, 30 Nov, 2005. The Warriors won 113-106. — INTERNET

Helguera extends deal with Real until 2009

MADRID, 1 Dec — Defender Ivan Helguera has extended his contract with Real Madrid until 2009, the Primera Liga side said on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old centre-back, whose original deal was due to expire in June 2006, followed in the footsteps of goalkeeper Iker Casillas who committed himself to the club until 2011 just a few hours earlier.

Helguera, who can also play in midfield, has been a fixture in the first team since joining Real Madrid from Espanyol in 1999, winning two league titles and two European Cups.

The Cantabrian first caught the eye while playing for second division Albacete in the 1996-97 campaign and made a surprise move to AS Roma the following season.

However, he failed to make his mark in Italy and returned to Spain to sign for Espanyol a year later having made just nine appearances in the Serie A.

Helguera quickly recaptured his form for the Barcelona-based side and made the move to Real Madrid in 1999 where he quickly became a regular in the first team, first as a midfielder and then as a centre-back.

Renowned for speaking his mind, Helguera has voiced his criticisms of the club's big-name recruitment policy but has become a favourite at the Bernabeu for his committed, never-say-die performances in the Real back four.

He has won 47 caps for Spain, but was dropped by coach Luis Aragones (for the World Cup qualifier against Belgium in October 2004 and has faded out of the reckoning for a place in the national squad for Germany 2006.

O'Leary says Villa did not deserve cup progress

LONDON, 1 Dec— Premier League Aston Villa, humiliated 3-0 at third division Doncaster Rovers in the League Cup on Tuesday, did not deserve to progress to the quarter-finals, according to manager David O'Leary.

The Irishman complained about a couple of penalty decisions but otherwise conceded his team had not merited a place in the last eight of one of two competitions which offer the club a realistic path to European football for next season.

"I did have words with one or two individuals," the Villa manager told the club's website. "But what I would say will stay in the dressing room. What matters now is how we react to this.

"Make no mistake, we wanted to do well in this competition. We went to Doncaster looking to win and progress through to the quarter-finals.

"But we didn't deserve to and, as I said immediately after the game, one or two key decisions went against us on the night."

Victories over Sunderland and Charlton in their last two Premier League matches have caused optimism that the club can dig themselves out of the doldrums.

The club are 15th but travel to 12th-placed Newcastle on Wednesday.

O'Leary says Villa did not deserve cup progress

LONDON, 1 Dec— Premier League Aston Villa, humiliated 3-0 at third division Doncaster Rovers in the League Cup on Tuesday, did not deserve to progress to the quarter-finals, according to manager David O'Leary.

The Irishman complained about a couple of penalty decisions but otherwise conceded his team had not merited a place in the last eight of one of two competitions which offer the club a realistic path to European football for next season.

"I did have words with one or two individuals," the Villa manager told the club's website. "But what I would say will stay in the dressing room. What matters now is how we react to this.

"Make no mistake, we wanted to do well in this competition. We went to Doncaster looking to win and progress through to the quarter-finals.

"But we didn't deserve to and, as I said immediately after the game, one or two key decisions went against us on the night."
Iran terms nuclear talks under threat as meaningless

TEHERAN, 1 Dec—A top Iranian negotiator has said nuclear negotiations with the European Union (EU) will be meaningless as long as the EU threatens to refer Iran’s case to the UN Security Council, the English-language daily Teheran Times reported on Wednesday.

“It would be ridiculous for Iran to engage in the next round of nuclear talks with the European trio (of Britain, France and Germany) under the threat of referral to the United Nations Security Council,” Javad Vaeedi, deputy secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, was quoted as saying.

“As long as the Europeans keep bringing up the 24 September International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution, the process of negotiations is unnatural and continuing the talks would be pointless,” Vaeedi added.

The IAEA resolution urges Iran to re-suspend all activities related to uranium enrichment, warning a rejection could mean a referral of its case to the UN Security Council. Vaeedi indicated that providing an objective guarantee for the production of nuclear fuel in Iran would be “the main and only subject of the nuclear negotiations” with the EU.

The European trio on Sunday officially informed Iran that they had agreed to resume nuclear talks in December, which have been stranded since Iran in early August resumed uranium conversion activities on condition that the enrichment stage be moved to Russia.

Iran has categorically rejected the suggestion of enrichment abroad.

MNA/Khitab

Afghan men work in a brick kiln in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 27 Nov, 2005. The workers make a thousand bricks during their work day and earn about four dollars per day. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Thursday, 1 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kachin and Chin States, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Hakha (1°C).

Maximum temperature on 30-11-2005 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 1-12-2005 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 1-12-2005 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 30-11-2005 was (8.5) hours approx.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s tropical storm ‘Baaaz’ over Southwest Bay has moved West-Northwest slowly and centred at about (190) miles East-Southeast of Chennai, India and forecast to move West (or) Northwest direction. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-12-2005: Except for likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-12-2005: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-12-2005: Fair weather.

Storm News

(issued at 09:00 hrs MST on 1-12-2005)

According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s tropical storm ‘Baaaz’ over Southwest Bay has moved West-Northwest slowly and centred at about (190) miles East-Southeast of Chennai, India and forecast to move West (or) Northwest direction.
Prime Minister sends felicitations to LPDR

YANGON, 2 Dec— On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2005, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Bounnhang Vorachit, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

Prime Minister sends felicitations to UAE

YANGON, 2 Dec— General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, on the occasion of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates, which falls on 2 December 2005.

Organized businesses facilitate capital...

(from page 16)

Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Chin State PDC Chairman Col Tin Hla also gave supplementary reports.

After hearing reports, the Prime Minister discussed the state’s accomplishments and prospects for the development of the state. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the 150-bed district hospital.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Soe Win went to the tea plantation in Falam and inspected the mixed cropping plantation. A total of 1,577 acres were put under tea in Falam Township.

During the inspection tour, the Prime Minister went to vocational training school of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Falam and viewed works of the trainees.

(Meaning continued on page 8)

Matters related to National Convention clarified

YANGON, 1 Dec — The National Convention Convening Commission met with Ambassadors and Chargés d’Affaires ai of foreign missions in Yangon and clarified matters related to reconvening the National Convention, at the hall of the commission in Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, at 10 am today.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Commission members Attorney-General U Aye Maung, U Thaung Nyunt and Joint-

Secretary-1 Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Ambassadors and Chargés d’Affaires ai of foreign missions in Yangon, departmental heads of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials.

After extending greetings, NCCC Vice-Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe clarified the organizing of the coordination meeting on the National Convention prior to the 1993 National Convention, the six objectives of the National Convention, discussions at the National Conventions from 1993 to 1996, adjournment of the National Convention, the National Convention held from 17 February to 31 March 2005 and point of discussions, and the National Convention to be reconvened on 5 December 2005 and future tasks.

(See page 11)

Prime Minister General Soe Win oversees tea plantations of Chin State USDA and departments concerned near Haka-Falam Road.— MNA

Inside

Ninety per cent of Myanmar’s population is Buddhists, the people who are brought up under the teachings of Buddha. Thus, they are gentle people living in the land where loving kindness and sympathy flourish.

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NCCC Vice-Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe clarifies matters concerning convening of the National Convention.— MNA