**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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**Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007 commences**

**YANGON, 14 Nov** — The Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007 organized by the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium of the Ministry of Mines was held at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning. A total of 259 pearl lots displayed at Myanmar Gems Mart will be sold up to 16 November. A total of 33,877 pieces of pearl weighing 16,458.40 mommes of Myanmar pearl Enterprise are set as 200 pearl lots. Myanmar Andaman Pearl Co and Nino Pearl Breeding Co will sell 7,958 pieces of pearl weighing 3,419.75 mommes. A total of 229 pearl lots will be sold through tender and 30 lots of pearl through competitive bidding system up to 16 November. (See page 9)

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**Commission for Drafting State Constitution to hold first meeting on 3 December**

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov** — The Commission for Drafting State Constitution will hold its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December 2007. The Commission was formed with Announcement No 2/2007 by the State Peace and Development Council on 18 October 2007 for drafting the State Constitution in accordance with the fundamental principles and detailed fundamental principles laid down by the National Convention.

Invitation has been extended to the Commission members to arrive in Nay Pyi Taw, between 29 November and 1 December to attend the coordination meeting. — MNA

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**NUP, SSKDP, WNDP, DKBA, KNA issue announcements**

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov** — Mr Gambari, the special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General, released the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 November.

Now, political parties and national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold are releasing announcements and statements to express their disagreement and object to the points stipulated in her statement.

Of the announcements and statements sent to the dailies, those of National Unity Party, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, Wa National Development Party, Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association and Kayan National Army are as follows:

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**National Unity Party Organizing Central Committee (Headquarters) Yangon**

Letter No.1000/1/Sa Ra
Date 14 November 2007

**Announcement of National Unity Party**

1. The National Unity Party is a legal party that stands and carries out activities in accordance with its own guidelines, policies and methods.

2. It is also a party that gives a serious attention to national unity and national reconciliation, which are necessary for the nation.

3. We welcome the plans to hold talks between the government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for realizing national reconciliation as constructive measure. However, in the statement released by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi through the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Adviser Mr Gambari, some points imply that she will also represent other political parties for their stances and in their interests. Her stance is against the points in No 1 paragraph mentioned above. So, we do not accept her stance and we oppose it.

4. We believe that talks to be held for realizing national reconciliation must be within the framework of the National Convention’s work programmes that represent the entire people. So, we will continue to cooperate with national forces in implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map.

Date: 14 November 2007

Organizing Central Executive Committee
National Unity Party

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**Shan State Kokang Democratic Party Announcement**

Letter No 04/Ya Ka Da Ta/2007
Date 14 November 2007

The Shan State Kokang Democratic Party is a political party formed with the aim of introducing democratic practice to the State and enabling Kokang people to enjoy rights together with other national races.

The Shan State Kokang Democratic Party believes that the National Convention was a forum where political parties, national race groups and other mass and class organizations in Myanmar were able to hold discussions widely. The party also believes that fundamental principles and detailed fundamental principles adopted by the National Convention represent the desire of the entire people. Discussions were made for emergence of the self-administered zones in the National Convention. As a result, Kokang self-administered zone comprising Lautkai and Konyan Townships was included in laying down the fundamental principles. It is obviously found that the National Convention can bring about the opportunities that had not been included in the previous constitutions for national races. After holding the National Convention successfully, the government formed a Commission for Drafting State Constitution on 18-10-2007 for continued implementation of seven-step Road Map. The party supports and welcomes the measures.

In the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi issued on 8 November, it is found that some points imply that her party will represent the national races. Such expression is not in conformity with the attitude of our party and we cannot accept it.

Vice-Chairman-2 of Shan State Kokang Democratic Party U Yan Kyin Maw on 23 May 2007 resigned of his own volition from the illegally formed Committee Representing People’s Parliament. It is found that the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi issued on 13 November 2007 to the UN Special Adviser falsely said that SSKDP supports and welcomes her statement.

The SSKDP does not know the statement at all nor agree to it. We do not accept using of the name of the SSKDP and condemn it.

We announce that the party will continue to take part in the tasks with seriousness in accord with the seven-step Road Map.

U Li Kwal Ching
Vice-Chairman-1
Shan State Kokang Democratic Party

(See page 16)
In perpetual service of State and people

Nowadays the government is building a peaceful modern developed and discipline-flourishing new democratic nation. The nation-building work is to be carried out in succession by generations. The government has been undertaking the task and endeavours are to be made for better future.

The Union Solidarity and Development Association came into existence on 15 September 1993 to serve the interest of the State and the people. Now the association has turned over 14 years.

The association formed with those who have the same belief, concept, thought and outlook stands as a strong national force. Members of the USDA are taking part in the regional and national development projects while working hard for the emergence of a new democratic nation.

The USDA members in cooperation with local people are actively participating in construction of village-to-village roads and bridges. They are also engaged in the agriculture, livestock breeding, health and education sectors and sinking tube wells in rural areas.

The association members also play an active role in health care services and blood donation plus other social activities such as donation of desks and furniture to schools.

We firmly believe that members of the Union Solidarity and Development Associations at different levels will continue to serve the interest of the State and the people as they have already built better basic foundations with good organizational work, common concepts and proper work performance.

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

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**SWRR Minister participates in 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov — A delegation led by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe arrived back here yesterday after attending the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in New Delhi, India, on 7-8 November.

The delegation was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein and departmental heads.

The conference was opened on 7 November with an opening address by Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh and President of Indian Congress Party (UPA) Smt Sonia Gandhi.

At the first day of the conference, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe explained measures taken in Myanmar to reduce disaster and cooperation in the region for disaster reduction.

The minister also participated in the ministerial meetings which focused on drawing disaster reduction plans in policy of a country, cooperation of a government and private sector in implementing the plans, preventive measures to be taken along with rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks and stepping up cooperation mechanism in areas targeted for disaster reduction.

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**Coord meeting for 2007 Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium organized**

YANGON, 14 Nov — The Central Committee for Organizing the Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007 held the second coordination meeting at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township yesterday evening, with an address by Patron of the Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Ohn Myint.

Members of the Central Committee and officials of subcommittees reported on progress in preparations for organizing the emporium.

Secretary Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe, members of the central committee and executives of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association participated in the discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

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**Journalists visit Mid-year MGE**

YANGON, 14 Nov — Journalists from Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club visited Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007, organized by the Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium, at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township yesterday morning.

The central committee and sub-committee members conducted the correspondents round the emporium. — MNA

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**Thanmyanthu Bus Line Supervisory Committee holds 7th prize presentation ceremony**

YANGON, 14 Nov — Thanmyanthu Bus Line Supervisory Committee (Yango) held its 7th prize presentation ceremony for 2006-2007 financial year at the town hall in North Okkalapa Township this morning.

Deputy Director Col Htay Naing of the Directorate of Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence gave a speech.

Col Htay Naing and officials presented prizes to outstanding students of staff, drivers, conductors and bus owners. On behalf of the prize winners, a person expressed thanks. — MNA

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**Immunization days launched**

YANGON, 14 Nov — A ceremony to launched the National Immunization Days was held at PyinOoLwin Township Hospital (300-bed) in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, on 3 November.

First, the responsible personnel and members of social organizations gave oral polio vaccine to children and presented gifts to them. A total of 15,857 children in the township were fed opv. — H

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**U Kyi Min Thein (City FM) and U Ko Ko Thein (Myanmar Football Federation) pose for a photo at Yangon International Airport on 14 November 2007 before departure for Brunei to participate in Media Officer Seminar in Brunei. — NLM**
Al-Qaeda suspects arrested in Nigeria

LAGOS, 13 Nov—A group of Islamist militants with suspected links to al-Qaeda have been arrested in three states in northern Nigeria and explosives were seized from them, a spokesman for the State Security Services (SSS) said on Monday.

The US Embassy warned in September that Nigeria, Africa’s top oil producer, was at risk of “terrorist attack”, and Osama bin Laden once named the country as ripe for jihad, but Nigeria has yet to see any major attack in the style of al-Qaeda.

“The service arrested some persons in Kaduna, Kano and Yobe states. Explosive-making devices were found,” said SSS spokesman Ado Muazu. He could not say how many people were detained.

“Investigations have revealed that the suspects have links to the al-Qaeda network and the Nigerian Taleban,” he said. He was referring to a group of radical Islamists who launched a brief spate of attacks in late 2003 on police stations and government offices in the predominantly Muslim northeast, prompting a fierce security crackdown.

The group has no known connection to the Taleban in Afghanistan.

Nigerian police and the secretive SSS have made sporadic arrests of suspected jihadists for some years and trials have been launched, but there has been no conviction and no conclusive evidence of al-Qaeda’s presence in Nigeria has been made public.

This Day newspaper published a photograph of three bags of fertilizer and a few sticks of dynamite which it said were seized from the detained group.

Muazu said the photograph was genuine and further investigations were under way.—MNA/Reuters

British MP says Kelly’s 2003 death not suicide

LONDON, 13 Nov—A former UN weapons inspector, whose death caused one of the biggest crises of Tony Blair’s premiership, did not commit suicide as official accounts state, an MP claims in a new book.

David Kelly was found dead in woods near his home in July 2003, just days after it was revealed that he was the source for a BBC report that said Blair’s Government had deliberately “sexed-up” intelligence to justify the invasion of Iraq.

News of the death rocked Blair and his government, with critics saying Kelly’s identity had been made public in order to discredit the BBC’s story.

The Ministry of Defence had confirmed to reporters that Kelly was the BBC’s source and the mild-mannered microbiologist was then subjected to a high-profile mauling by a parliamentary committee two days before his death.

Senior judge Lord Justice Hutton carried out an independent inquiry into the circumstances and ruled in January 2004 that Kelly had slit his left wrist after taking painkillers during a walk near his home in Oxfordshire.

He concluded that Kelly ended his life due to a severe loss of self-esteem, his feeling that people had lost trust in him and his dismay at being exposed in the media. Hutton also cleared Blair and his officials of any wrongdoing.

While the MP said such conflicting evidence suggested Kelly was murdered, he is not able to pinpoint who was responsible and why, although his top suspects are a group of Iraqi loyal to Iraq’s former president Saddam Hussein.

“The key question is whether the actions of the Iraqi group were self-generated, and subsequently covered up by the government, or whether a tiny cabal within the British establishment commissioned the assassins to undertake this,” he wrote in the book.—MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BBC denies foxing viewers in nature show

LONDON, 13 Nov—Britain’s BBC defended on Sunday a nature programme that showed a fox shaking off “rain water”, which had being sprayed on with a hose, insisting it had not created a fake impression the scene was filmed in the wild.

The images of the fox were the latest challenge to the venerable publicly-funded broadcaster, which has seen scandals over faked programming force the resignation of a top executive and an unprecedented fine in the last few months.

“Of all the programmes where fakery should be avoided, nature and wildlife are top of the list,” said Jeremy Hunt, culture spokesman for the opposition Conservative Party. “It is a tragedy for viewers if it is not just dodgy quiz shows they can’t trust, but also programmes at the heart of the BBC’s public service broadcasting mission.”

In the latest case, the BBC acknowledged it had shot footage of a captive fox who had been sprayed with a hosepipe for a programme on the impact of rain on wild animals.

Pictures of the fox, filmed at a wildlife centre, can be seen on the BBC’s nature website with the caption “A red fox shaking rain water out of his fur.”

BBC spokeswoman Jackie Burdon said: “The audience understands that there is some artificiality in the making of television programmes.”

She said the fox scene was within editorial guidelines, under which “this type of filming is justified when an animal behaviour would be too difficult to film in the wild.” — MNA/Reuters

Firefighters battle London blaze, no injuries

LONDON, 13 Nov—A huge blaze at a warehouse sent black smoke pouring over east London on Monday but there were no reports of casualties and police ruled out a terrorist attack.

Fifteen fire engines and 75 firefighters rushed to the scene, an industrial estate in the Stratford area, the London fire brigade said.

Witnesses said the fire broke out in an empty warehouse being demolished as part of preparations for the 2012 Olympics.

Two ambulances raced to the scene but the London ambulance service said no casualties had been reported.

News reports and witnesses spoke of an explosion, raising fears of a possible attack.

However, a police spokesman, asked whether police suspected terrorist activity, said: “Not at all. It’s a fire — a very large fire.”

“It was a large bang,” said witness Stuart Russell, a telecommunications worker, who phoned Reuters. “There were massive flames and smoke filling the sky.” — MNA/Reuters

A commuter walks to board the last TGV high speed train to Paris at the Lille-Flandres station in northern France, before the start of a strike by French SNCF railway workers, on 13 Nov, 2007. Seven of eight SNCF railway unions have voted for rolling strikes from 13 Nov evening to protest against President Nicolas Sarkozy’s plan to end their pension privileges.—INTERNET
Six dead in gunfire at Fatah rally in Gaza

GAZA, 13 NOV — Gunfire killed at least six people on Monday at a Fatah memorial rally for Yasser Arafat that drew hundreds of thousands of supporters of the defeated leader, witnesses said.

A medic and faction in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, a medic and witnesses said.

A sea of yellow Fatah flags had filled a Gaza square for the biggest assembly Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ secular faction has held in the territory since Hamas Islamists routed its fighters in June.

But the rare Fatah rally broke up in chaos after gunfire rang out and grew into what Hamas described as battles with the rival group’s fighters, forcing even members of the crowd who had initially stood their ground to bolt for cover.

A medic at a hospital said at least five people were killed, the highest death toll in violence involving the two factions since battles five months ago.

Other medical officials said at least 50 people, including women and youngsters, were wounded.

Fatah officials accused Hamas forces of opening fire from the nearby Islamic University.

Hamas said its men had come under attack from Fatah gunmen and shot back.

An earlier incident close to the scene of the rally, Fatah activists and witnesses said a Hamas security man fired at a vehicle carrying participants, killing one passenger.

Hamas said he might have been killed by fire from Fatah.


Food poisoning hits 74 in E China city

HEIFEI, 13 NOV — A total of 74 people have been hospitalized after eating at a birthday banquet in Heifei, capital of eastern China’s Anhui Province.

The patients suffered vomiting, twitching, diarrhoea and convulsions due to eating food at the banquet at the Congyang Hotel on Sunday noon, according to Anhui provincial health bureau.

There were a total of 160 people eating at the same restaurant, the bureau official said.

Thus far, 39 of the poisoned, all in a stable condition and not in danger of losing their lives, are still receiving treatment. Samples of food used at the feast has been collected for investigation, and preliminary analysis showed the food poisoning case was caused by nitrite.


Floods kill 20, leave six missing in central Vietnam

HANOI, 14 NOV — Flooding in Vietnam’s central region has killed 20 people, left six others missing and injured six since 10 November, according to the Central Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention on Tuesday.

Quang Ngai Province has suffered the biggest human loss with eight deaths and one missing, followed by Binh Dinh Province with four deaths, and Quang Nam Province with three deaths and three missing.

The floods have also inundated 62,500 houses, and many hectares of subsidiary crops, irrigation works and aquaculture ponds in the region.

Natural disasters including typhoons and hails in Vietnam killed 339 people, left 274 persons missing, and injured 2,065 others in 2006.

The estimated losses totalled 18.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 1.2 billion US dollars) in the year.
Malaysia, Pakistan sign pact for closer eco partnership

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Nov—Malaysia and Pakistan have signed a pact to further strengthen their trade ties, officials from the Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry said here Monday.

According to Malaysia’s statistics, last year, the country’s total trade with Pakistan recorded $3.31 billion (ringgit945.71 million US dollars), 3.09 billion ringgit (882.86 million US dollars) of which was Malaysia’s exports to Pakistan.

Malaysia’s major exports to Pakistan were palm oil, chemical products, electrical and electronic products, machinery and parts, while the country’s major imports from Pakistan were textiles and clothing, fresh and frozen seafood, cereals, electrical and electronic products and chemical products.

The pact covers a wide range of cooperation between the two countries, including liberalization of trade in goods, services and investment as well as some other areas like intellectual property protection, tourism and telecommunications.

Under the pact, Malaysia and Pakistan will progressively reduce or eliminate tariffs on agricultural and industrial products, according to Malaysia’s national news service Bernama.

By 2012, Malaysia will eliminate import duties on 74.5 percent of tariff lines, accounting for 77.3 percent of imports from Pakistan in 2006.

Malaysia also will reduce import tariffs over a period of five to seven years to 18 percent of tariff lines, Bernama said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan will eliminate duties on 43.2 percent of tariff lines involving agricultural and industrial imports from Malaysia in 2006.

The Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry said that the pact, which is replacing the existing bilateral trade agreements between the two countries, will further strengthen long-term trade and investment and bilateral economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Malaysia and Pakistan concluded the related talks in October, 2005, and began implementing an Early Harvest Programme for trade in goods, with Malaysia offering cuts of 140 tariff lines and Pakistan 124 tariff lines.

Bernama said.

The agreement is expected to go into force on 1 January, 2008.

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Russia, India vow to boost trade, military ties

MOSCOW, 13 Nov—Russian President Vladimir Putin met with visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the Kremlin on Monday, focusing on boosting trade and economic ties and military cooperation.

“Our relations have a long-standing history and are now developing in the best of ways,” Putin told Singh at the beginning of the meeting, asking the two side to further explore trade and economic cooperation potential.

“Relations between India and Russia have traditionally been special,” said Singh, who is here for a two-day visit.

After the talks, the two countries are expected to sign arrays of intergovernmental agreements, including one on jointly developing a multi-purpose transport aircraft.

Interfax news agencies reported, citing Kremlin sources. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov has also pledged to further bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Russia and India have set the target of boosting two-way trade volume to 10 billion US dollars in 2010.

“However, we believe that it is not the limit and volumes could be much bigger,” Zubkov said in talks with Singh early on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

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Israel museum recovers stolen antique clocks

JERUSALEM, 13 Nov—An Israeli museum has recovered dozens of European antique clocks stolen more than two decades ago, including a pocket-watch made for French Queen Marie Antoinette.

Jerusalem’s LA Mayer Museum of Islamic Art said thieves stole some 100 clocks and watches from its 200-piece collection in 1983. The collection included some of the world’s most valuable timepieces, mostly from the 18th and 19th centuries. The museum last year received a call from a Tel Aviv watchmaker who had recognized the stolen clocks in a 40-piece collection that a British woman had inherited from her husband and wanted valuing.— MNA/Reuters

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Greece seizes 275 illegal immigrants on distressed Turkish ship

NICOSIA, 13 Nov—A Turkish motorship carrying 275 illegal immigrants issued a distress signal late Saturday after suffering engine failure in Greek waters and was tossed to safety on Sunday.

According to Greek and Turkish media, the ship Akdag issued an distress signal at 9:00pm Saturday as it was running adrift after suffering engine failure about 20kilocmres west of Katakolon on the Morea Peninsula in strong winds. Its captain, who was arrested later over the incident, told Greek authorities that the vessel was carrying 275 illegal immigrants, most of them women and children, who were destined for disembarkation in Italy, the Athens News Agency reported.— MNA/Xinhua

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S African Aviation Authority orders inspection on Boeing aircraft

JOHANNESBURG, 13 Nov—South Africa’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has ordered local airlines to carry out inspections on Boeing 737-200 aircraft following an engine accident last week.

Twelve planes have been cleared to fly and 20 were either being inspected or the authority was awaiting the reports on them, CAA spokeswoman Phindive Gwebu said on Monday.

The inspections were ordered by the authority after a Boeing aircraft of nationwide, a domestic airline, lost an engine during take-off and had to make an emergency landing at Cape Town International Airport last Wednesday.

Nationwide had submitted reports on inspections conducted on seven of their aircraft — three met the CAA’s requirements while four others complied with 90 per cent of the requirements, the SAPA news agency reported.

Nationwide would have to report back to the CAA in two weeks on the outstanding requirements.

The authority had received confirmation that inspections had been conducted on two aircraft of South African Airways, the national flag carrier. They were waiting for the reports from the airline.

MNA/Xinhua
Young USDA members and me

Yebin Tin Shwe

It was a raining midnight two years ago. It had been raining for a week. I fell into a deep sleep when a loud noise woke me up and so did many people of surrounding houses.

The noise came from the old three-storey building at the top of the street where the verandas and the walls below the verandas collapsed themselves to the ground.

Responsible persons of the ward and a group of young men rushed to the scene. At the top of their voice, they asked the people in the building to get down from it as soon as possible.

Due to the rain water, the walls became soft and collapsed. The remaining walls of the building might also collapse, so the volunteers, raising their voices, warned the people in the building about possible dangers.

They evacuated elderly persons from the building to a Dhammayagon (prayer hall) that was converted into a temporary shelter for the victims. The young volunteers help and conveyed the people from the building to the shelter.

Some of the volunteers engaging in the rescue were young women.

The incident took place at the top of the street, behind Botataung police station at the corner of Merchant Street.

I asked my grandchild, “Who are they?” He answered, “They are Pyi-Khaing-Phyo (USDA) members”. So, I came to know that they were young members of the USDA.

Having a look at what they were doing, I happened to recall some events I had faced in the time of Fascists. At that time, I worked as in-charge of Nyana Bala group (it had to take responsibilities for improving intellectual power of the youths) at Pakokku District Asia Youths Association. The association was designed to improve five kinds of powers of the young and carry out social welfare services.

In particular, we took responsibilities for giving help to and rescuing town dwellers when the town was under air strikes. We, members, dealt with the houses ablaze with flames due to incendiary bomb attacks and evacuated those who were caught in burning houses.

We contributed voluntary services like young USDA members who evacuated the people in the building collapse.

When the time was ripe to resist against Fascists, we, members of Asia Youths Association, became revolutionaries.

In the time of Fascists, the national political goal was to launch a Fascist resistance. So, we were duty-bound to serve as revolutionaries to fight Fascists.

Similarly, the national goal today is to build a modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. Surely, the members, who contributed their voluntary services to evacuate the victims in the building collapse, will play an active role in the tasks for building a new nation. I visualized that these USDA members will shoulder bounden duties.

One day, I noticed that a group of young people collectively engaged in the mass activities of dredging the drain along the street where I live. It was a mass movement, so the people of our street, young and old and female and male, were contributing their voluntary services to the movement.

The majority of them were USDA members.

I wonder what their concept was. So, I said to them, “The responsibilities for dredging this drain are the Development Affairs Committee’s. But, why are you doing so, my boys?”

Of them replied, “You are right, Grandpa. The Development Affairs Committee is responsible for doing so. But, our township is large, I have no idea how long we have to wait for to have our drain dredged by the committee. During the days we have to wait for, millions of mosquito larvae in the drain can hatch. And if they bite our children, they may catch dengue haemorrhagic fever. So, we should take preventive measures”.

They seemed tireless and pleased to carry out community welfare services. They had such a noble concept.

Once, I took a No. 33 bus at the 50th Street bus stop to go to Yankin. Then, I had a look around to find if there was a vacant seat. The seats in the bus were all occupied. So, I held the overhead bar. There was a girl sitting beside me at that time.

Looking me up, the girl said, “Grandpa, take my seat, please”, I said, “Thank you” and took the seat. Then, I asked, “Are you going to school?”

She said, “I have passed my matriculation exam. Now, I am doing a computer course. I am going to join university”.

“What course are you taking?”

“The computer course the USDA conducts”, she said.

“Yes, USDA member, then?”

“I am a USDA member, then?”

It was very thoughtful of that girl to offer me her seat. So, I could make my trip with comfort.

On 25 August 2007 (Saturday), I went to Maubin port. At the time, another ship was already moored at the pontoon. So, I would have to get through that ship to get to the bank.

Then, they led me to the bank.

Fortunately, on the street, I saw Ko Saw San Ba Aung who was there to fetch me.

“Thanks, my boys. The man over there is the one who fetches me”, I said.

“Very well, Grandpa. We are USDA members. We are going to Maungmya. Bye-bye, Grandpa”, said the young men. Then, they got on board the ship.

I thought that I had often met USDA members. Recently, I asked after a friend of mine who was receiving treatments at Yangon General Hospital.

He was getting better and was in good condition. He said, “Oh! It has been a long time since we last met. Let’s have a chat”.

I noticed a young man beside him. My friend introduced him to me, saying, “This is my grandson. He is a USDA member”.

We were having a long conversation when the bell rang.

I said, “Well, friend, guest time is up. I must go now”.

Then, the young man said, “It is getting dark. I will lead you to your car”. And, he held my hand to take me to the car.

My friend said, “My grandson has a social welfare spirit. I wonder how the USDA nurtures and trains him. He is very active to contribute community welfare service”.

He saw me off to the taxi. So, I got home with comfort.

What I have presented are some of my true stories in which I met young USDA members.

Owing to these experiences, I came to take interest in the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

I perceive that the Association places emphasis on the nurturing of the youths who are the future of the nation.

It is conducting various courses for its members to be able to catch up with others including computer courses, language courses, and tailoring courses.

Moreover, it is equipping the members with patriotic spirit, and training them to take interest in social welfare services and community welfare services.

Regarding the health sector, members of the Association provide health care to elderly persons occasionally.

In a word, the members are taking a leading role in fulfilling the requirements of the people.

With respect to the political field, members at all levels are making efforts with might and main to see to the State’s seven-step Road Map.

Thus, the people have to recognize the USDA as a strong force that is reliable for serving the interests of the nation and the people.

I wish the Association a long existence.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 14-11-2007
Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro meets NCCC Secretary, Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Labour, officials, UN agencies, diplomats

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov
— Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of the UN Human Rights Council and party met with officials from UN agencies and diplomats from foreign missions at Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here today.

He met with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win at the letter’s office at 1 pm and with Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi at his office at 2 pm.

Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and party met with Secretary of National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at his office at 3 pm.

At the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro matters on the successful completion of the National Convention and arrangements for implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map.

Later, the Minister answered the queries raised by Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro.

In the evening, Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and party viewed around staff quarters, construction tasks and development in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy Minister visits FDA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov
— Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected public health laboratory unit and food and drug administration on Mawguntaik Road in Dagon Township on 12 November.

The deputy minister inspected establishment of laboratory for polymerase chain reaction (PCR), cell culture unit, home-made equipment used for dengue fever test and other modern equipment.

The deputy minister met officials concerned and told them to enhance lab skills and to produce experts and fulfill their requirements.

Fire breaks out in Salingyi, boat capsizes in Homalin

YANGON, 14 Nov — A fire broke out at a house in Ton Village of Salingyi Township at 1.30 am yesterday.

Members of the Fire Brigade and local people put out the fire at 2.15 pm. A total of 22 houses were destroyed in the fire and 93 people from 23 households became homeless.

The fire victims were accommodated at Shwe Umin Monastery.

Beikmantha Monastery and Yaywyn Monastery.

Boat Theingi Moe leaving Homalin for Nandaw Village capsized at the fork of Chindwin River and Uru Creek, two miles from Homalin, at 6 pm yesterday.

Responsible persons could rescue 147 passengers out of 170, and the rescue tasks continue to search the remaining passengers.

The passengers were temporarily accommodated at Homalin Police Station, the Dhammayon, Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Office and the town hall.

Action is taken against the driver of the boat in connection with the boat capsize case.

China-Iran oil talks slowed by terms, not politics

BEIJING, 14 Nov — China’s drive to invest in Iran’s biggest undeveloped oilfield in return for gas supplies is being stymied by tough commercial negotiations, not the threat of more sanctions, Chinese oil officials said on Tuesday.

The negotiations, now entering their fourth year after a preliminary agreement in November 2004, are undeterred by political tensions and the possibility that Western powers will seek tighter economic restrictions on Tehran, they said. “The negotiations with Iranians are primarily commercially focused. Politics are not the key,” an industry executive involved in high-level negotiations with Iran told Reuters.
Commander honours donors in Shan State (South)

YANGON, 14 NOV — A ceremony to honour those who donated cash for the development of Shan State (South) in 2006-2007 was held in Taunggyi, Shan State (South) on 1 November.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye presented certificates of honour to U Aung Ko Win, Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd, who had donated over K 50.3 million; Htoo Trading Co that had donated K 55 million; Daw Thin Myo Myo Aung, wife of the commander, presented certificates of honour to U Kyaw Win, Chairman of Shwethanwin Co Ltd, who had donated K 50 million and U Sai Lu who had donated K 50 million. Similarly, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials of Shan State Peace and Development Council also presented certificates of honour to donors. U Aung Ko Win and family of Kanbawza Bank Ltd were also honoured as they donated 600 pine trees worth K 4.8 million to be grown in Taunggyi.

Minister urges merchants to create robust local gems market

YANGON, 14 NOV — Patron of Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint held a meeting with gem merchants at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township yesterday afternoon.

First, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint made a speech on the occasion, saying that Myanmar is rich in natural resources such as gems, forests and oil. Mogok ruby and Myanmar jade gain popularity in the world. The government is systematically exploiting natural resources for sources of sustaining the interests of the State and the people. The country can run out of natural resources and thus it is necessary for the State and the people to systematically exploit them. The government is providing necessary assistance to those who are running gems business. They are to run gem business in accordance with the gems laws, rules and regulations. Cooperative measures are to be made for emergence of the robust local gem market. Next, Secretary Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanmar Gems Enterprise explained about gem mining and sale of gems in line with the gems laws, environmental conservation and preparativeness against natural disasters and work site safety.

Mid-year Myanmar Gems... (from page 1)

Out of 231 gem lots, 185 lots of ruby, sapphire and colourful gems and 46 lots of uncut ruby will be sold through tender on 18 November. Gem merchants are allowed to inspect 5,140 jade lots displayed at MCC up to 26 November. At this year mid-year gem emporium, quality gems and jade lots will be sold.

BANGLADESH on alert as Bay of Bengal storm closes in

DHAKA, 14 NOV — Bangladesh issued an alert as a tropical storm closed in from the Bay of Bengal on Monday, advising fishing boats to stay close to shore and gearing for the evacuation of thousands of people living in coastal areas.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department said in a bulletin that at 0600 GMT the storm was about 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) south of Chittagong Port with a maximum wind speed of 88 kilometres (55 miles) per hour. It said wind speeds were likely to more than double as the storm intensified and forecast landfall on the Bangladesh coast for Wednesday or Thursday. The evacuation will start when the storm comes dangerously close to the shores, a disaster management official said, adding that the Army and police were ready to help.

Police helicopter crashes in Thai south

BANGKOK, 14 NOV — Two pilots and a crew were feared drowned after a helicopter crashed into a reservoir in Thailand’s southern Yala Province on Monday evening, local news network The Nation reported on Tuesday. The Bell 212 helicopter, which belongs to the Royal Thai Police Forward Command, was sent to pick up Assistant Police Commissioner-General Police Lieutenant General Adul Saengsingkaew, the report said. Three other crew members managed to swim ashore after the crash and suffered minor injuries.

The survivors said the helicopter crashed into the reservoir in Yala’s Banmang Sata District at about 6:30 p.m. (1130 GMT) Monday. MNA/Xinhua

At the ceremony, Taunggy Township Development Affairs Department was awarded the first prize for the cleanliness, the second prize for the best model township and the third prize for the rural area development. Yaksawk Township won the first prize for the coffee production. The commander and wife also presented cash reward to outstanding athletes in Shan State (South).

After the presentation, wellwishers also donated cash to officials concerned to be spent on development of the state. — MNA

Gem merchants inspect pearl lots at Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium. — MNA

3,000 gem merchants will attend the emporium. So far, 2,867 gem merchants have arrived here and they observed gems, jade and pearl lots. More merchants will arrive here.

MNA
Isreali researchers find security loophole in “windows 2000”

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov — A group of Israeli researchers succeeded in finding a security vulnerability in Microsoft’s “Windows 2000” operating system, the American Association for the Advancement of Science reported on Monday.

The significance of the loophole: emails, passwords, credit card numbers, if they were typed into the computer, can be found in the computer operating system, the Washington Post reported. Various security vulnerabilities in different computer operating systems have been discovered over the years.

US pulls 3,000 troops from Iraq’s Diyala Province

BAGHDAD, 14 Nov — The US military is sending 3,000 soldiers home from Diyala Province, the second large unit to leave Iraq as troop levels are cut after a 30,000-strong “surge”. Military officials said Tuesday.

French peacekeeper dies in Lebanon accident

BEIRUT, 14 Nov — A French peacekeeper was killed and another wounded in a shooting incident in south Lebanon on Monday, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said.

Tombs of 1,800 years ago found in Beijing

BEIJING, 14 Nov — Chinese archaeologists have discovered over 290 tombs, some of which date back 1,800 years, in Yangling County, in the northern outskirts of Beijing.

Turkish helicopters pound northern Iraqi villages

Duhok (Iraq), 14 Nov— Turkish military helicopters struck villages near the joint border in northern Iraq early on Tuesday, Kurdish security source said.

French archaeologists unearth 1,800-year-old tombs

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The archaeologists also unearthed 870 historical artifacts, including pottery utensils, china objects, bronze basins, iron items, stone articles and jade ornaments, said Zhang Shiqun, an expert with the institute.

The unearthed funeral objects will be taken to the Grand Museum in Beijing.
S Korea seeks cooperation with Israel in space technology

SEOUL, 14 Nov — South Korea and Israel seek to expand cooperation in space technology and to jointly take part in the European Union’s advanced research and development programme, the South Korean Science Ministry said on Tuesday.

South Korean Science Minister Kim Woo-sik and his Israeli counterpart Galeb Majadle held meeting on Monday in Jerusalem and decided to exchange 10-15 young scientists in key research areas every year, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported.

Majadle expressed wish to further develop high-resolution cameras and other areas of mutual gains in the aerospace field, said the report. South Korea launched its Arirang 2 satellite, which was equipped with a camera developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute and Israel’s Electro-Optics Industries Ltd in July 2006.

The two sides also proposed taking part in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, which can give both countries greater access to know-how on cutting-edge scientific developments and trends, Yonhap reported.

Seoul and Jerusalem signed a science and technology cooperation pact in 1994, and have steadily expanded relations in such areas as aerospace, biotechnology, information technology and materials engineering. The two sides agreed in 1999 to set aside 200,000 US dollars every year to support joint research, Yonhap reported.

All day long he was agitated until he said he was going to kill himself rather than go back,” his mother told the TV. Another soldier, Michael DeVlieger, also got the redeployment order only one day after he was released from an Army hospital in Kentucky for acute stress disorder, the report said.

According to the policy of the Defence Department, soldiers with serious psychiatric problems could only be sent back to the war zone if they were stable for at least three months.

But the Army told the TV that they “do not want to stigmatize the soldiers by saying they cannot deploy with their unit because they have symptoms”, and the national guard said that its policy “is based on the severity of their PTSD diagnosis...that may limit their ability to deploy”.

Cambodian military police apprehend drugs kingpin

PHNOM PENH, 14 Nov — Military police on Sunday nabbed a prominent figure in Cambodia’s illicit drugs trade following a firefight on the road from Kompong Cham to Phnom Penh, local media said on Tuesday.

Hak Ieng, 42, was arrested in his car after an exchange of bullets between him and patrolling authorities, reported Cambodian-language newspaper the Chakraval Daily.

The police seized an unspecified but large amount of the ampheta mine substance colloquially known as Yama from his car. Phnom Penh Municipal Court Investigating Judge Suon Samnang on the following day issued a provisional detention warrant for the suspect awaiting further investigation and trial.

Ieng is thought to be an infamous drug distributor in Phnom Penh and Banteay Meanchey Province, said another Cambodian-language newspaper the Sralanh Khmer.

Investment in Vietnam’s agriculture modest

HANOI, 14 Nov — Both state and foreign investments in Vietnam’s agriculture have not been sufficient enough, while local farmers have to pay fees to contribute to building rural roads, irrigation works and schools, local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Tuesday.

From 2001 to 2005, total investment in agriculture stood at 110 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 6.9 billion US dollars), accounting for 10 per cent of the country’s total investment in economic development. The investment came from the state budget, companies, cooperatives and other sources.

State investment in agriculture currently makes up only 5-6 per cent of the total budget, an equivalent of 1-1.5 per cent of Vietnam’s gross domestic product, which is much lower than that of Thailand, China and India, the newspaper said.

Foreign investment in agriculture remains modest, with Vietnam now housing 750 foreign-backed agricultural projects with registered capital of nearly 3.8 billion US dollars, or some 5.6 per cent of the country’s total foreign direct investment.

US soldiers suffering from post-war trauma redeployed

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov — Many US soldiers who suffer from the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after returning from Iraq and Afghanistan were redeployed to the war-torn countries, a TV report said on Monday.

The US military is violating its own policy by sending soldiers who have not recovered from the PTSD back to the front lines, the Boston-based WCVB TV said in its website.

Taking a 25-year-old soldier, Damian Fernandez, for instance, the report said that the young father from Waterbury, Connecticut, was classified as 70 per cent disabled from the PTSD after he came back from the front lines, but the redeployment order still came to him.

“All day long he was agitated until he said he was going to kill himself rather than go back,” his mother told the TV.

Another soldier, Michael DeVlieger, also got the redeployment order only one day after he was released from an Army hospital in Kentucky for acute stress disorder, the report said.

According to the policy of the Defence Department, soldiers with serious psychiatric problems could only be sent back to the war zone if they were stable for at least three months.

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20 feared dead in Gambia migrant boat capsize

BANJUL, 14 Nov — Twenty African migrants were feared dead after the boat in which they were trying to reach Spain capsized in bad weather off the coast of Gambia at the weekend, Gambian state television said on Monday.

It quoted a police officer as saying seven bodies had been recovered from the capsize, the third such tragedy involving would be migrants headed for Europe from West Africa in the last three weeks.

Police were alerted by a survivor, Lamin Fatty, who said the boat had been carrying 50 passengers when it capsized late on Saturday off the Gambian capital Banjul.

“Believe that 30 escaped (survived),” I showed the marine officers who came to the scene seven dead bodies. The captain of the vessel is at large. He asked us to pay him 1,000 euros to take us to Spain,” Fatty told Gambian TV.

Rescue workers row boats through floodwaters in Vietnam’s central Danang city, on 13 Nov, 2007. Parts of central Vietnam have been under water from flooding since early last month, with more than 300 people killed in a series of storms that brought heavy rain and raised river levels. Picture taken November 13, 2007.— REUTERS
Dubai Co to purchase 200 planes from Airbus, Boeing

ABU DHABI, 13 Nov—Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) announced on Monday at Dubai Airshow 2007 that it will purchase up to 200 planes worth $27.2 billion in US dollars from aircraft manufacturers Airbus and Boeing.

DAE signed a letter of intent with Airbus for the purchase of the 100 planes worth $13.5 billion dollars. which include 70 A320s and 30 A350s, a Press release by the company said.

The delivery of the 100 Airbus planes will start in 2013 and conclude in 2022.

Within hours, DAE signed another letter of intent with Boeing for 100 aircraft, including 70 Boeing 737 next generation aircraft and 30 wide-bodied planes.

DAE’s order of the 100 Boeing planes is estimated to hit $13.7 billion dollars.

The massive orders for 200 new planes from Airbus and Boeing are aimed to expand the fleet of DAE’s aircraft leasing unit DAE Capital.—MNA/Xinhua

Eight Iraqis wounded in roadside bombs, clashes

BAGHDAD, 14 Nov—Two roadside bombs and fire-fight in and around Baghdad wounded eight people, including a police officer, on Monday morning, a well-informed police source said. “Lieutenant Major Salam Ismael was critically wounded when a roadside bomb detonated near his car in Baghdad’s western neighbourhood of al-Dakhilyiah, while he was heading to work in the Iraqi Interior Ministry,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Another roadside bomb went off in Mansour district in western Baghdad, injuring three civilians, the source said.

Early in the day, gunmen clashed with Iraqi Army soldiers and fighters from the anti-Qaeda Awakening councils in the town of Mahmoudiyah, 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, wounding four people, including two Awakening fighters, the source said. —MNA/Xinhua

Bus-truck crash kills six, injures 31 in N-W China

URUMQI, 14 Nov—Six people were killed and 31 injured in a collision between a bus and a heavy-duty truck in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, officials said on Monday.

The accident took place at 7:25 am on Monday in Akesu when a long-distance coach with 37 people aboard bumped into the rear of the truck, said Akesu government officials. The fatalities and injured were all on the coach while those on the truck escaped unharmed.

Five people were killed immediately at the crash site on the 314 National Highway, while an infant died before reaching hospital. Of the 31 injured, 10 were badly wounded. All were hospitalized. —MNA/Xinhua

Open Door report on overseas students

WASHINGTON, Nov, 13—The number of international students enrolled in US colleges and universities last year reached 582,984, a 3-per cent increase from the year before.

Officials said that marked the first significant rise since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which led to a tightening of student visa policies and a perception that the United States was no longer as welcoming to overseas students.

The University of Southern California topped all US universities for the sixth consecutive year, enrolling 7,115 foreign students, followed by Columbia University with 5,937, and New York University with 5,827, the report said.

The University of California in Los Angeles came in eighth with 4,704, the report said.

The report said.

“The centre of the quake is far from the island, no report of damages,” he told Xinhua.

Twenty three people were killed in September when a strong quake with magnitude of 7.9 struck Bengkulu Province in Sumatra Island.

Over 170,000 people were killed in 2004 in Aceh Province in northern tip of the island after a tsunami triggered by a powerful quake devasted coastal areas of the province and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Indonesia sits on a vulnerable belt so called “the Pacific Ring of Fire” where two continental plates, stretching from the Western Hemisphere and Japan and Southeast Asia, meet causing frequent volcanic movements.

—MNA/Xinhua

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Ma Tin Kyi Kyi Tin, B.Sc Chemistry (Hons) the daughter of U Kyi Thein & Daw San Yee

and

Mg Nay Zin Myint Than, B.Sc Chemistry (Hons) the son of U Myint Than & Daw Myint Khin have the pleasure of announcing their marriage which took place on 11th November, 2007 at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake, in Yangon.

California enrolls largest number of foreign students

LOS ANGELES, 13 Nov— California enrolled the largest number of foreign students in the United States, according to a report released on Monday.

California enrolled 77,987 foreign students last year, followed by New York with 65,884, and Texas with 49,081, according to the annual Open Door report, published by the Institute of International Education with support from the US State Department.

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—MNA/Xinhua

Expert says Zambia’s fish disease will not spread

LUSAKA, 13 Nov—Professor Kenny Samui of University of Zambia (UNZA) has said the fish disease in the Western Province is unlikely to spread to other water bodies in Zambia. The Post newspaper reported on Sunday.

Professor Samui, who is an expert in fish diseases, told the Post that the fish disease was caused by stress due to high flooding and high acid level in the water.

He explained that high acidity in the soils of Western Province caused the high acidity in the water.

Professor Samui, who led a joint research team from the Agriculture Ministry and School of Veterinary Medicine at UNZA to study the fish disease, said the disease could not spread to other water bodies because studies had shown that most cases of the disease had been observed in the lagoons, lakes and low flowing tributaries of the Zambezi River.

He, however, said high acidity in the water would persist as long as that water was not neutralized.

Reducing the water acidity is the best option to address the fish disease in Western Province, he added. —MNA/Xinhua

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Guests attend the opening ceremony of the Indonesian subsidiary of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, on 12 Nov, 2007. —Xinhua

Moderate quake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 13 Nov—An earthquake with magnitu-}
Indonesia, China launch scientific expedition in Indian Ocean

JAKARTA, 13 Nov — Indonesia and China launched Monday a joint marine scientific expedition to learn unique ocean-atmospheric interactions that result in a climate mode known as the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

The expedition is part of collaboration of Indonesia’s Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and China’s State Oceanic Administration.

For the next three years, researchers from both countries will study the climate mode that occurs inter-annually in the tropical parts of the Indian Ocean.

The IOD results in climate anomaly, a periodic oscillation of sea-surface temperatures between the ocean’s western and eastern parts, whose respective surface becomes warmer and cooler at the same time.

The Indonesian Government said in a statement that it sends 10 researchers from universities and state agencies to cooperate with 10 Chinese colleagues led by Dr. Yu Weidong to study the phenomenon that largely affects climate in countries along the Indian Ocean.

The expedition follows the signing of the memorandum of understanding on marine cooperation between China and Indonesia here on Saturday.

10-year-old ape fossil found in Kenya

BEIJING, 13 Nov — A 10-million-year-old jawbone and 11 teeth that belong to a new species of ape that lived about the same time as the last common ancestor of gorillas and humans have been discovered in volcanic mud flow deposits in Kenya’s Nakali region.

The new species, named Nakalipithecus nakayamai, lends credence to the theory that the ancestors of great apes and humans evolved exclusively in Africa, the researchers say.

A competing hypothesis states the last common ancestor of both groups descended from a repatriated hominid that left Africa around 16.5 million years ago for Europe or Asia, but then returned about 9.5 million years ago.

N. nakayamai is estimated to have lived around 9.9 million to 9.8 million years ago. Its dental features resemble those of Ouranopithecus macedoniensis, an ape that lived in what is now Greece between 9.6 million and 8.7 million years ago and which some scientists think is the last known common ancestor to African great apes and humans.

Because both N. nakayamai and O. macedoniensis are only known from jawbone fragments and teeth, scientists can say little more about their appearance or behaviours than that they likely ate hard foods.—INTERNET

Global fund approves $76m for three diseases programmes in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 13 Nov — The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria has approved a grant of over 76 million US dollars for Nepal’s tuberculosis (TB), Malaria and HIV/AIDS programmes, The Kathmandu Post reported on Tuesday.

According to the daily, Nepal’s proposal seeking the fund was approved during the 16th board meeting of Global Fund being held in Kunming, China. Earlier in July this year, Nepal had submitted proposals for HIV, TB and Malaria. Nepal will receive 36.6 million dollars for HIV/AIDS, 15.5 million dollars for TB and 25.7 million dollars for Malaria programmes.

“We have worked really hard to prepare these proposals and are delighted to know that the proposals have been approved for funding,” Rajiv Kafle, president of the National Association of People living with HIV in Nepal, said in his email sent to the daily. He is currently in Kunming as a member of the Global Fund Board delegation representing the communities affected by the three diseases.

Castro criticizes socialist Latin American leaders

HAVANA, 13 Nov — Convalescing Cuban leader Fidel Castro openly criticized Latin America’s socialist-leaning presidents for the first time on Sunday.

Castro also praised Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his other revolutionary regional allies in a commentary carried by official Cuban media on the Ibero-American summit in Santiago, Chile.

Nearly all 19 leaders who attended the summit were leftists, but there was debate over the region’s future and the closing speeches on Saturday were marked by sharp exchanges between Chavez and Spanish leaders. “I listened with great sorrow to the speeches pronounced from traditional left positions at the Ibero-American summit,” Castro wrote.

He was apparently referring to the presidents of Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and others who advocate social democracy with capitalism.

“Felt proud of the pronouncements of various leaders, revolutionary and courageous,” he said of the heads of state from Venezuela, Bolivia and Nicaragua, who believe government and economic structures must be radically altered and a new relationship developed with the United States.

“Chavez’s criticism of Europe was devastating. The Europe that precisely tried to dictate lessons at this Ibero-American summit,” Castro said.

Spain’s King Juan Carlos told Chavez on Saturday to “shut up” as the Venezuelan leader tried to interrupt a speech by Spain’s socialist Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

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A competing hypothesis states the last common ancestor of both groups descended from a repatriated hominid that left Africa around 16.5 million years ago for Europe or Asia, but then returned about 9.5 million years ago.

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HAVANA, 13 Nov — Convalescing Cuban leader Fidel Castro openly criticized Latin America’s socialist-leaning presidents for the first time on Sunday.

Castro also praised Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his other revolutionary regional allies in a commentary carried by official Cuban media on the Ibero-American summit in Santiago, Chile.

Nearly all 19 leaders who attended the summit were leftists, but there was debate over the region’s future and the closing speeches on Saturday were marked by sharp exchanges between Chavez and Spanish leaders. “I listened with great sorrow to the speeches pronounced from traditional left positions at the Ibero-American summit,” Castro wrote.

He was apparently referring to the presidents of Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and others who advocate social democracy with capitalism.

“Felt proud of the pronouncements of various leaders, revolutionary and courageous,” he said of the heads of state from Venezuela, Bolivia and Nicaragua, who believe government and economic structures must be radically altered and a new relationship developed with the United States.

“Chavez’s criticism of Europe was devastating. The Europe that precisely tried to dictate lessons at this Ibero-American summit,” Castro said.

Spain’s King Juan Carlos told Chavez on Saturday to “shut up” as the Venezuelan leader tried to interrupt a speech by Spain’s socialist Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

MNA/Reuters
Thuram to quit French side if fail to make Euro finals

PARIS, 14 Nov — France’s most-capped player Lilian Thuram will end his international career if his country fails to qualify for Euro 2008, he told French daily Le Parisien.

“If we don’t qualify for Euro 2008, it’s over,” the 35-year-old Barce- lona defender, who has played 134 internationals, said.

France lead Group B and need only a draw in Ukraine next week to advance. They could travel to Kiev already qualified if Italy beat Scotland in Glasgow on Saturday.

“The Ukraine match could mark the end of my adventure,” said Thuram.

“There has to be one last match. A final of Euro 2008 which we would win would obviously be a bet- ter ending.”

The Guadeloupe-born Thuram lifted the 1998 World Cup with France and was a member of their Euro 2000-winning team.

Ronaldinho joins Brazil with ankle injury

TERESOPOLIS (Brazil), 14 Nov — Ronaldinho reported for training with Brazil on Tuesday with a twisted ankle, team doc- tor Jose Luis Runco said.

The Barcelona playmaker took part in a workout in the gymnasium with his teammates but then underwent a physi- otherapy session rather than a run around the training fields.

Runco said it was too early to say whether Ronaldinho would be fit in time for Sunday’s Copa Sudamericana qualifier away to Peru.

“His right ankle is a little bit swollen and we will evaluate it day by day,” said Runco. Coach Dunga said: “If the team doctor says it’s too early to tell, who am I to say whether he will be able to play.” — MNA/Reuters

Kaka says top names will shun Italy if violence goes on

MILAN, 14 Nov — Top players will shun Italian soccer if fan violence and other scandals continue to dog the game there, AC Milan playmaker Kaka said on Tuesday.

Kaka, who plays for AC Milan, was shocked by the hooliganism that forced his side’s game at Atalanta in Bergamo on Sunday to be abandoned after seven minutes.

“The violence followed the shooting of a Lazio fan by a police officer fol- lowing scuffles with Juventus supporters at a motorway service station. Police said the shooting was accidental.

“All these acts of vio- lence risk distancing the top players from our Serie A,” the 25-year-old told Gazzetta dello Sport from Brazil, where he is pre- paring to visit Peru for a World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

“The world class play- ers want to play in great teams and in Italy there are some of the most presti- gious clubs in the world. But they are also looking for joy and enthusiasm.” — MNA/Reuters

Sevilla striker Kanoute out for two weeks with injury

MADRID, 14 Nov — Sevilla’s Mali striker Frederic Kanoute will be out of action for around 14 days with a calf muscle strain in the right leg, the UEFA Cup holders have said. The 30-year-old, Sevilla’s second high- est scorer with six goals in the league, picked up the injury during the side’s 3-2 defeat away to Villarreal in the Primera Liga on Sunday.

He will be a doubt for their home Champions League clash against Ar- senal on November 27. Sevilla are a point behind the Londoners in Group H. Kanoute will not be available for Mali’s upcoming internationals against Senegal and Al- geria. — MNA/Reuters

Carvalho out for two months

LISBON, 14 Nov — Chelsea’s Portugal de- fender Ricardo Carvalho will be out of action for two months with a back injury, the Portuguese Soccer Federation said on Tuesday.

Carvalho, who will miss Portugal’s final two Euro 2008 qualifiers against Armenia and Fin- land, sustained the injury during Chelsea’s 1-1 Pre- mier League draw with Everton on Sunday.

Federation doctor Henrique Jones told re- porters: “It was not a seri- ous injury but Carvalho should rest for at least eight weeks.”

Carvalho’s absence will be a blow for both club, who have domestic and Champions League campaigns, and country, who are battling to qualify for Euro 2008 from Group A.

Real Madrid defender Pepe could make his de- but for Portugal as a re- placement.

Portugal face Armenia on Saturday and Finland four days later. They are second in the group, one point behind leaders Po- land and three points ahead of Serbia and Fin- land.

MNA/Reuters

Barca cruise to 3-0 win but holders Sevilla held in Cup

MADRID, 14 Nov — Barcelona cruised to a 3-0 away win over Segunda B (Third Division) Alco- yano in the first leg of their King’s Cup last 32 round tie on Tuesday, while holders Sevilla were held 1-1 away to Denia.

Barcelona’s French striker Thierry Henry fin- ished off a slick move in- volving Xavi and Eidur Gudjohnsen in the 25th minute, and Iceland for- ward Gudjohnsen put away a penalty three min- utes from time.

Youngster Bojan Krkic added a third in the last minute after Alcoyano, who had rarely threatened, lost their heads. They fin- ished with nine on the pitch after having two players sent off in the last 10 minutes.

The victory eased the pressure on coach Frank Rijkaard, who had been under fire over their poor away form, as the side showed far greater commitment than they had in Saturday’s 2-0 defeat at Getafe in the Primera Liga.

Sevilla were given a run for their money by another Segunda B side Denia, as they were held to a 1-1 draw away on an artificial pitch.

Uruguayan striker Ernesto Chevanton, in a rare appearance, put Sevilla in front, diverting Jesus Navas’ cross into the net in the 75th minute.

But they only held the lead for two minutes be- fore Pablo Vidal headed the home side’s equaliser in the 77th minute of the game. Other competition holders Hercules gave visiting Athletic Bilbao a scare as they took a two-goal first- half lead. — MNA/Reuters

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) of Germany goes to the basket past Philadelphia 76ers forward Jason Smith, left, in the first half of their NBA basketball game in Dallas, on Nov 13, 2007. —INTERNET

Cyclists Bruno Risi from Switzerland, left, and Erik Zabel from Germany, right, contest by the finish line of the final race of the six day cycling competition in the Olympic hall in Munich, Germany. —INTERNET

Richard Gasquet of France returns a ball against Serbia’s Novak Djokovic during the men’s singles competition at the ATP Masters Cup in Shanghai, east China, on Nov 13, 2007. Richard Gasquet won the match 6-4, 6-2. —INTERNET

Juan Carlos Quintero of club Millonarios of Colombia (R) fights for the ball with Juan Carlos Silva of club America of Mexico during their Copa Sudamericana, second leg semi-final soccer match in Toluca City on Nov 13, 2007. —INTERNET
Democrats say hidden costs double war price

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov — A new study by congressional Democrats says “hidden costs” have driven the price of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to about 1.5 trillion US dollars, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

That figure is nearly double the 804 billion US dollars the White House has spent or requested, according to a report by the Democratic staff of Congress’s Joint Economic Committee, which examines the hidden costs of the wars, the Post said. According to the panel, the hidden costs include higher oil prices, the expense of treating wounded veterans and interest payments on money borrowed to pay for the wars, the newspaper said.

The report was expected to be presented on Capitol Hill on Tuesday. A 21-page draft obtained by the newspaper estimates that the wars have cost the average US family of four more than 20,000 US dollars, the Post said.

The study concludes that the cost to the average family could more than double, to 46,300 US dollars, over the next decade, with estimated economic costs to the United States reaching 3.5 trillion US dollars if the conflicts continue at their current pace, the Post said.

The Post said the report estimated that war injuries could add more than 30 billion US dollars in future disability and medical care costs, including billions in lost earnings for veterans who cannot work because of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Five killed in US house shooting

LOS ANGELES, 14 Nov — Five people were killed in a house shooting in Temecula in the Riverside County about 50 kilometres east of Los Angeles, police said.

Sergeant Dennis Gutierrez, spokesman for the Sheriff’s Department in the Riverside County said the victims included two men and three women with ages ranging from 20s to 60s. The shooting occurred on Sunday in Temecula, a quiet community that has not had a murder in several years.

Police rushed to the house about 5:20 p.m. after a neighbour reported hearing shots fired. Police found two men and two women dead from gunshot wounds. The fifth, a woman, died a few hours later in hospital.

Sergeant Dennis Gutierrez, spokesman for the Sheriff’s Department, said the motive for the killing was unknown. No one has been arrested after the killing. — MNA/Xinhua

"Special Storm news" (Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 14-11-2007)

The very severe cyclonic storm “SIDR” over the Southeast and Central Bay has moved slowly to North-Northwest direction and still intensifies and is centered at about (320) miles West-Northwest of CoCo Island according to the observations at (13:00) hours MST today. It is forecast to move North-Northwest direction.

Under the influence of this storm, rain or thunderstorms are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread in Rakhine, Chin and Chin States, Ayeyawady and upper Sagaing Divisions during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Deltaic and Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) mph.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 14 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Magway, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below November average temperatures in Magway Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below average November temperatures in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (7°C) above November average temperatures in Kachin State and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pymyinna (1.61) inches, Haka (0.87) inch, PyinOoLwin (0.63) inch, Hinthada (0.71) inch, Phapyan (0.67) inch and CoCo Island (0.63) inch. The significant night temperatures was Haka (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 13-11-2007 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 14-11-2007 was 9° F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 14-11-2007 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 13-11-2007 was (3.6) hours approx.

Rainsfall on 14-11-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (13:30) hours MST on 13-11-2007.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area

Forecast valid until evening of 15-11-2007: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be widespread in Rakhine, Chin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and scattered in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Deltaic and Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in Rakhine Coastal areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area

For 15-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Union of Myanmar

Wa National Development Party
Central Committee Headquarters

Announcement

Letter No. 01/Hsama-1/2007
Date: 14th November 2007

The Wa National Development Party supports formation of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution with the participation of national legal experts by the State Peace and Development Council according to the Announcement No 2/2007 on 18-10-2007.

Furthermore, the party welcomes the assignment of Minister U Aung Kyi as Minister for Relations and holding of discussions with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. However, it is inappropriate if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is doing as her duty the affairs of parties/national races as mentioned in the recent statement issued in Singapore by United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Adviser Mr Gambari, on her behalf.

Wa National Development Party attended the National Convention from 1993 to the final stage. We hereby announce that we support the principle on parties and national races affairs adopted by the National Convention.

For Central Executive Committee

U Nyi Pa Lok
Secretary
Wa National Development Party

Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association

Announcement

Date: 14th November 2007

The Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association made peace with the government to be able to serve the interests of Kayin national race and to build the unity of national races and it also participated in the National Convention.

We believe that the National Convention is only place where all political parties, groups representing national races and delegates from all walks of life can hold discussions most comprehensively. We also believe that the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention represent the desires of all national races.

Therefore, we don’t accept the acts which do not recognize the basic principles laid down at the National Convention and those which can harm the implementation of the seven-step Road Map. We do not agree to a statement implying that an individual or a party will represent national races. As desires of all national races including DKBA were expressed at the National Convention, we will continue to support and to fully cooperate in the implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Chairman
Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA)

Kayan National Army

Kayan Region Development Organization (Kayah Special Region-1)
Moebye, Pekhon Township

Announcement

Letter No. ka-pa-ah/4-2/O 2
Date: 13th November 2007

The Kayan Region Development Organization made peace with the Government on 27 February 1992. Since then, it has been actively carrying out regional development tasks. It also attended the National Convention. Like other delegate groups, it participated in the discussions in order that fundamental principles and detailed basic principles could be laid down at the National Convention.

As the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles have been adopted after coordination and discussions based on Myanmar’s prevailing conditions, we firmly believe that they are the most suitable for the State and the people. Our organization welcomes the Commission for Drafting State Constitution that is going to draft a constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles.

At a time when seven-step Road Map is being implemented collectively, we declare that ours is not a follower of any party.

Our organization has expressed wishes of national races and discussed them at the National Convention. Hence, we cannot accept any offers that can harm the already-adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles and we hereby announce that we will steadfastly continue participating in the realization of the seven-step Road Map.

U Htay Ko
Chairman
Kayan Region Development Organization (Kayah Special Region-1)

☆ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
☆ BBC lying
☆ VOA deceiving
☆ RFA setting up hostilities
☆ Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers