

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 184

4th Waxing of Thadingyut 1366 ME

Sunday, 17 October, 2004

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the ceremony to mark the World Food Day at the International Business Centre.—MNA

Myanmar committed to realizing goal to reduce number of hungry by half by 2015

Myanmar exports marine products to over 40 countries
Main objective of Myanmar agriculture sector to fulfill local food security as well as to meet international demand

YANGON, 16 Oct — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the World Food Day at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, at 8 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign missions, resident representa-

tives of UN agencies and officials, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of the Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries Sciences, departmental heads, officials of the Central and Work Committee for Organizing the World Food Day, those of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and members, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, representatives of prize winning townships and organizations, private entrepreneurs and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said:

As you are fully aware, the World Food Day has been observed every year on the 16th of October to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO). Today the ceremonies commemorating the World Food Day are being held all over the world with the theme "Biodiversity for Food Security". The Objective of the theme is to highlight the importance of bio-diversity's role in enhancing long-term production of high-quality food, and the people's sustainable access to enough high-quality food for an active and healthy life.

We share the view that freedom from starvation and food security are the most imperative human rights of the entire mankind. Myanmar, therefore, has

already given a pledge to work together with the international community to ensure a balanced share of these rights amongst all the people of the world.

(See page 8)



FAO Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping speaking at the ceremony to mark the World Food Day.—MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presents monsoon paddy production prize to Wakema Township through an official.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 October, 2004

For further development of the health sector

In striving for the nation to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the Government is paying serious attention to development of the health sector throughout the country for ensuring fitness of the entire national people.

It is now in progress in implementing a special four-year programme to develop the nation's standard of health care to catch up with the Southeast Asian nations that are in the forefront in the field.

Since assumption of the State duties, the Government has been laying down and implementing projects with added momentum in various sectors for achieving marked success in the health care services. It has built over 100 new hospitals, and the total number has reached over 700.

It has spent over US \$20 million to provide advanced electronic lab, medical and hospital equipment for all institutions of higher learning of the health and medical field and hospitals.

Thanks to the all-round endeavours, health care services are developing and can now cover even the remote border regions.

In his address at the 41st meeting of the National Health Committee held at the meeting hall at the Ministry of Health in Dagon Township on 15 October, NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that at a time when marked progress has been made in the Myanmar health sector, it is incumbent upon all officials of the sector to make earnest efforts for improvement of the public health care services.

At the time of the present government, the achievements made in cardiac treatment, renal surgery and transplant, separation of conjoined twins, microsurgery on the replantation of amputated and crushed distal forearm including open heart surgery are all significant milestones in the health sector.

At a time when unprecedented progress has been made in the Myanmar health sector, we would like to urge officials of the health sector to make sustained and relentless efforts for qualitative and quantitative development of health care services of the people.



Members of Mandalay Division Commerce and Industry Association seen at the airport before departure for China.—UMFCCI

UMFCCI officials leave for China

YANGON, 16 Oct — A 24-member delegation including Joint-Secretary U Ba Kyi Sein, Executives U Kyaw Min (Sein and Mya Mattress) and U Soe Thein of Mandalay Division Commerce and Industry Association left here by air yesterday morning to attend China International Trade Fair to be held in Guangzhou, the People's Republic of China, as of 15 October.

MNA

People's Desire

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

USDA Secretariat member presents prizes to outstanding students at Myothit BEHS

YANGON, 16 Oct — USDA (Central) Secretariat Member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended the fifth prize presentation ceremony of Myothit Basic Education High School in Magway Division yesterday morning and presented prizes to the outstanding students.

Next, the Secretariat member inspected construction of the school building.

While in Myothit, the Secretariat member paid homage to the Sayadaws and made do-



USDA Secretariat member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung presents prize to an outstanding student of Myothit BEHS.—INDUSTRY-1

nations. Next, he met executives and organizers at Myothit Township USDA Office and gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Former selected swimmers honoured

YANGON, 16 Oct — The Myanmar Swimming Federation honoured former selected Myanmar swimmers at Karaweik Palace Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

First, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and MSF President Dr Khin Shwe gave speeches. Next, the minister presented cash assistance to the former selected swimmers.

Also present were Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents prize to a former selected swimmer.—MNA

and Physical Education Department, members of the Leading Patrons of the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and officials.—MNA

Camp Commandant's Office team beat No 11 LID team 2-1

YANGON, 16 Oct — The Camp Commandant's Office team beat No 11 LID team 2-1 in the second semifinal match of the 20th Defence Services

Commander-in-Chief's Trophy U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna this afternoon.

On 18 October afternoon, Yangon Command team will play No 11 LID team for the third place and South-West Command team will meet with Camp Commandant's Office team in the final match on 20 October.—MNA

Follow-up news

YANGON, 16 Oct — Managing Director of Nawadae Hotel and Tourism Service Ltd was Col Maung Thaung (Retd) who submitted reports at Ngwehsaung Beach Hotel (Central) and the news was published in newspapers issued on 15-10-2004.—MNA

Work Committee for Performing Arts Competitions meets

YANGON, 16 Oct — The chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition and sub-committee members and the team managers from the states and divisions held a coordination meeting this evening, attended by Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan.

Sub-committee members and the team managers from the states and divisions reported on the tasks of competitions, followed by a general round of resolutions. Next, Col Tint Hsan attended to the needs.

MNA



Col Tint Hsan speaks at meeting of Work Committee, sub-committees and team managers.—MNA

ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများ လိုက်နာရန်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း မောင်းနှင် သွားလာလျက် ရှိသော ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများသည် လူကူးမျှင့်ကျား မရောက်မီ ယာဉ်ကို အရှိန်လျှော့ မောင်းနှင်ရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ လူကူးမျှင့်ကျားတွင် လမ်းကူးနေသူများ၊ မီးဖိုင်ဗေလီယာအတွင်း လူကူးရန် သတိမတော်ထားသည့် နေရာများတွင် လမ်းကူးနေသူများရှိပါက ယာဉ်ရပ်တန့်ပေးကြရန်နှင့် ရပ်တန့်မလေးဘဲ အတင်း မောင်းဝင်၍ ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု ဖြစ်ပွားလာပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူ ဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေး နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင်သူများ၏ အကျိုးအမြတ်ကို ကြိုတင်စောင့်ကြည့်မည့်

17 US soldiers held in Iraq after disobeying orders

BAGHDAD, 16 Oct — A Platoon of United States soldiers were under arrest in Iraq last night after refusing to carry out a dangerous mission for which they say they were inadequately equipped.

In the extraordinary incident, which suggests the morale of US forces might be much lower than previously thought, 17 soldiers from the US army reserve disobeyed the order to deliver fuel to Taji, north of Baghdad, on the grounds that their vehicles were considered "deadlined" or extremely unsafe, and unable to travel at above 40mph on the Iraqi roads.

The unit was also not offered the usual convoy escort of armed Humvees and attack helicopters, it was reported.

The event is a gift to US president George Bush's opponent John Kerry, who has consistently criticised the handling of the war.

It also increases the concerns for British troops in Iraq after reports that the Black Watch regiment

could be put under US command and sent into hotspots like Baghdad or Najaf.

A statement from the US army's press centre in Baghdad yesterday confirmed the soldiers' rebellion: "The Commander General of the 13 Corps Support Group has appointed a deputy commander to lead an investigation into allegations that members

of the 343 Quartermaster Company refused to participate in their assigned convoy mission on 13 October."

Relatives have defended the soldiers' decision.

Patricia McCook said her husband, a staff sergeant, understood what it meant to disobey orders. But he did not feel comfortable taking his soldiers on another trip.

"He told me that three of the vehicles they were to use were deadlined ... not safe to go in a hotbed like that," Mrs McCook told the *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper of Mississippi.

The refusal to carry out orders will fuel persistent claims that the US military in Iraq is inadequately equipped and undermanned. —*Internet*



US Army soldiers observe the area after a car bomb exploded, on 15 Oct, 2004, near a police station in southwest Baghdad, Iraq. —*INTERNET*

3rd ASEAN Plus Three environment ministers meeting ends

SINGAPORE, 15 Oct — The third ASEAN Plus Three environment ministers meeting ended here on Thursday with the participants stressing the need to enhance cooperation through more substantial environmental programmes and activities.

"The ministers recognized the synergy of the environmental cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries and noted the need to enhance cooperation through more substantial environmental programmes and activities," the ministers said in a joint statement.

The ministers from the 10 member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their counterparts from China, South Korea and Japan held fruitful discussions, and they shared and exchanged information on national and regional cooperation among ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

The ASEAN ministers expressed appreciation on the current substantial cooperative activities, especially on the consultation visits organized by the Plus Three countries to share

their experience on environmental management with the ASEAN countries, the ministers said.

The ASEAN ministers endorsed the ASEAN Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and supported the establishment of the ASEAN Environment Fund.

At the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting of the Environment here on Wednesday, the ASEAN ministers discussed, among other issues, the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution that came into force in November last year. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese top legislator calls for enhancing cooperation with Nigeria

BEIJING, 15 Oct — China is willing to make "concerted efforts" with Nigeria to enhance economic and trade cooperation, especially industrial cooperation, said its top legislator, Wu Bangguo, here Thursday.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC), made the remarks during a meeting with visiting president of the Senate of Nigeria Adolphus Wabara, here on an official good-will visit to China from October 14 to 17 as guest of Wu.

Wu said China and

Nigeria have "constantly deepened their friendly ties since forging diplomatic relations 33 years ago", and that in recent years, Sino-Nigerian ties have "entered a new phase of development as the two countries maintained frequent high-level visits, enjoyed steady growth of economic and trade cooperation, enhanced ex-

changes in various fields and carried out effective cooperation in international affairs".

The Chinese people attach great importance to developing relations with Nigeria, and are ready to join hands with Nigeria in promoting political trust and economic and trade cooperation, acknowledged Wu. —*MNA/Xinhua*

ထိုက်တိုင်နှစ်သက်မှုရှိကြောင်း

Poland to reduce number of troops in Iraq

WARSAW, 16 Oct — Poland said on Friday it plans to reduce the number of its troops in Iraq from early next year and will not remain there "an hour longer than is sensible."

Prime Minister Marek Belka said in a parliamentary speech before a confidence vote in his minority cabinet that Poland will keep troops in Iraq as long as needed to secure a power transfer to local authorities. "Poland will reduce her contingent from the beginning of 2005 and will be talking about further reductions," he said.

"We will not remain in Iraq an hour longer than is sensible, than necessary to achieve our mission's goal: To return Iraq to the Iraqi people and give security to the world," Belka said.

Poland, seen by the US as a key ally in Iraq, has 2,500 soldiers in the south-central part of the country, heading a multinational division of 8,000 troops.

But the government has been under growing pressure to pull out, with nearly three-fourths of Poles against deployment.

Poland said last week it will have plans to pull out its troops after Iraq holds elections, due in January. Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski also floated the idea of withdrawing troops by the end of 2005.

Seventeen Poles have died in Iraq over the last 13 months. —*Internet*

British security guard shot dead in Iraq

KIRKUK, 16 Oct — A British security guard has been shot dead near Kirkuk, it was confirmed yesterday. The man, an employee of the London-based ArmorGroup security firm who has not been named, was killed on Monday in the northern enclave of Taza.

ArmorGroup, a British security contractor, confirmed that an employee "died of gunshot wounds suffered during an incident in Taza, northern Iraq".

"An investigation into the cause of the incident is ongoing and we will not comment further until that has been concluded. We can confirm that the man's relatives have been informed," ArmorGroup said.

The company said further details were

withheld at the family's request.

The Foreign Office also confirmed the man's death and said embassy staff were investigating how he was killed. He had been involved in securing an area in

Taza, where engineers were working on infrastructure rebuild-ing projects.

Two separate car bombings killed at least 40 people in Kirkuk last month.

Internet



US Army soldiers push an Iraqi civilian, suffering from Downs syndrome, at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 15 Oct, 2004.

INTERNET

US investigates whether troops in Iraq refused mission

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — The United States military is investigating the reported refusal this week by some US troops to take part in a supply convoy in Iraq, where explosive devices have killed dozens of soldiers, defence officials said today.

A statement issued by the US military in Iraq called it an "isolated incident." Family members of some of the nearly 20 troops told a US newspaper that security for the fuel trucks was inadequate.

The military statement said 19 members of the 343rd Quartermaster Company, a unit that moves water and other supplies for American troops, did not report to formation to prepare for their assigned convoy mission on Wednesday morning. It said the investigation would determine whether the military's strict code of conduct was violated.

Refusal to obey orders, especially in a combat zone, is a serious military offence. But the statement stressed that "it is far too early in the investigation to speculate

as to what happened, why it happened or any action that might be taken."

The *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper in Jackson, Mississippi, reported on Friday that interviews with some family members indicated that soldiers from the unit, based in Tallil, refused to go on the mission because they felt they did not have an adequate armed escort and the vehicles were not in good shape.

"Initial indication is that the soldiers scheduled for the convoy mission raised some valid concerns and the command is addressing them," the military statement from Iraq said, adding that some soldiers apparently expressed their concerns "in an inappropriate manner."

Internet

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: www.newlightofmyanmar.com

Armenia may not send troops to Iraq

YEREVAN, 16 Oct — Armenia's Prime Minister suggested on Friday the Caucasus country might not send troops to Iraq, saying conditions there have changed since they were promised.

Prime Minister Andranik Markarian stressed that it was up to the Constitutional Court and the parliament to make the decision on sending the troops even though Armenia's president

pledged the troops during a visit to Poland last month.

The 50 troops Armenia is considering sending — bomb disposal experts, doctors and transport teams — would work under Polish command in Iraq. Poland commands a multinational security force in central Iraq of about 6,000 troops, including more than 2,400 Polish soldiers.

"Let's not forget that ... there have been certain changes from the conditions under which we gave preliminary approval," Markarian said.

Armenia, a former Soviet republic has sought to portray the decision to send troops to Iraq as a way to boost ties with Europe, but critics worry that it will endanger the 25,000-person Armenian community living in Iraq.

"We also have concerns on this count. It's possible that as a result Armenia could become of the targets of terrorists," Markarian said.

Of the 12 former Soviet republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States, four — Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Georgia — have sent troops to Iraq. The Commonwealth is a loose successor to the Soviet Union.

Internet



Iraqis search through the rubble of a destroyed house after US warplanes pounded Fallujah, outside Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

28 US soldiers face charges in deaths of Afghan prisoners

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct — Twenty-eight US soldiers face various charges ranging from involuntary manslaughter to conspiracy in the deaths of two prisoners in Afghanistan two years ago, the US Army announced on Thursday.

One of the soldiers, a military police reservist, has already been charged in connection of the deaths. Commanders of the other 27 "will consider the full range of appropriate administrative and disciplinary measures from taking no action to recommending trial by court-martial", the Army said. The announce-

ment came after a 22-month investigation into the two deaths. Both prisoners, one died on 4 December and the other 10 December, 2002, suffered "blunt force injuries", according to the Army. Military medical examiners classified their deaths as homicides.

Sergeant James P Boland of the Army Reserve's 377th Military Policy Company, based in Cincinnati, was charged August 23 with assault, maltreatment and dereliction of duty, the Army announced last month. Some of those face charges are accused by Army investigators of taking part in the abuse of Iraqi detainees in the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, the Army said. Seven military police soldiers have been charged in the notorious abusing scandal in Abu Ghraib. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq plans to attract foreign firms to boost oil industry

ABU DHABI, 15 Oct — Visiting Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer Ghadban said Iraq was drawing up plans to bring in international oil companies (IOCs) to boost its oil output capacity, the English-language daily *Gulf News* reported here Thursday.

"We would like to open a dialogue with IOCs. We are now formulating our policies and within those policies we think there is room for IOCs in Iraq because we need investment," Ghadban told the paper on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2004.

Ghadban hoped that by the end of next year, Iraq could achieve a production level of three million barrels per day and after that could look to a medium-term goal of 3.25 million BPD.

He believed that at least 2.5 to three million BPD could be added to the current production level if new technology is brought in and the industry is further opened up for investment.

"If things go well and

Iraq gets the security issue under control, then the country expects to open dialogue with the IOCs in 2005 to prepare for a big increase in the long-term production capacity," said Ghadban.

In addition, Ghadban pointed out that the country also needed investment in tapping more gas fields and building up refineries.

According to official statistics, Iraq's proven oil reserves are estimated at some 115 billion barrels, the second largest in the world. While based on available geological information and reservoir studies by both Iraqi and international companies, the country's probable reserves could hit 214 billion barrels.

Iraq could be one of the region's major oil exporting countries and might be able to contribute to the supply of gas to southern Europe in the future, Ghadban said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Turkish drivers abducted in Iraq

ANKARA, 15 Oct — Two Turkish truck drivers were kidnapped in central Iraq on Thursday, *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Iraqi police were quoted as saying that the Turkish drivers were abducted with their trucks on the highway near Samarra, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Guerillas in Iraq often targeted Turkish workers, especially truck drivers working in Iraq. Some of them have been kidnapped and then released after their companies bowed to the captors' demands. However, some of them were killed in armed attacks on their trucks or executed after being kidnapped. — MNA/Xinhua



A US Army soldier surveys bomb damage at the Green Zone Cafe in Baghdad, Iraq on, 15 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

Four Americans among 10 killed in Baghdad's suicide attacks

BAGHDAD (Iraq), 15 Oct — Guerillas struck deep inside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, setting off bombs at a market and a popular cafe that killed at least 10 people — including four Americans — and wounded 20 others in the compound housing foreign embassies and Iraqi Government offices.

Thursday's bold, unprecedented attack, which witnesses and a senior Iraqi official said was carried out by suicide bombers, dramatized the militants' ability to penetrate the heart of the US-Iraqi leadership even as authorities step up military operations to suppress Sunni Muslim guerrillas in other parts of the country.

Iraq's most feared terror group, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the twin blasts and said they were suicide attacks, according to a statement posted on a web site known for its Islamic content. Later Thursday, US Marines launched air and ground attacks on the

guerrillas stronghold of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, after city representatives suspended peace talks with the Iraqi Government over Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's demand to hand over al-Zarqawi.

Residents described the bombardments as the most intensive shelling since US forces began weeks of "precision strikes" aimed at al-Zarqawi's network, though a senior military official in Washington said the latest fighting was not the major invasion that Allawi has threatened.

The attack in the Green Zone was the first time bombers had gotten inside the four-square-mile compound — surrounded by

concrete walls, razor wire, sandbag bunkers and guard posts — and was the deadliest attack within the area since the US occupation began in May 2003.

The US-guarded enclave — home to about 10,000 Iraqis, government officials, foreign diplomats and military personnel — spreads along the banks of the Tigris River in the heart of the capital. The area's trees and other greenery present a sharp contrast to the rest of dusty and arid Baghdad. The zone is centred on Saddam Hussein's mammoth Republican Palace, and there are dozens of smaller palatial buildings, houses, office buildings and a hospital once used by high-ranking

members of the old Baath Party regime. The bombings, which underscored that no part of Baghdad is truly safe, took place about 12:40 pm on the eve of the Islamic holy month, Ramadan.

Iraqi National Security Adviser Qassem Dawoud said the Green Zone attacks appeared to be a "suicide operation" — as was claimed in the web site statement. "This cowardly act will not go unpunished," Dawoud said. "We will strike them wherever they are." — MNA/AP

Two US soldiers killed, five wounded in suicide car bombing in Mosul

MOSUL (Iraq), 15 Oct — A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle next to a US military convoy in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Wednesday, killing two US soldiers and wounding five, three of them seriously.

The military said the bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into the convoy as it travelled through a northeastern section of the city about 2.20 pm (1120 GMT). As well as the two killed, the military said five soldiers were wounded, two of whom were returned to duty.

A military spokesman described the attack as "complex", adding that there was an exchange of gunfire after the blast.

US forces are regularly targeted by roadside bombs and suicide car bombers in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, which lies about 240 miles north of Baghdad. At least 822 US soldiers have died in action since the war was launched in March last year. — MNA/Reuters

US says German position on Iraq unchanged

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct — US Secretary of State Colin Powell called German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer on Wednesday morning and Fischer told him that Germany's position on Iraq had not changed, State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said at a news briefing on Wednesday.

Powell called Fischer to seek clarification if there had been a change in Berlin's firm opposition to joining the US-led coalition in Iraq, and was told that there had been no change, Boucher said.

According to a report by the *Financial Times*

newspaper on Wednesday, German Defence Minister Peter Struck was quoted as saying that Berlin, which fiercely opposed the US-led war, might deploy troops to Iraq if conditions change. "I do note that we saw the statements in the *Financial Times* this morn-

ing. We also have subsequently seen these statements from the chancellor's office, where he made very clear that German policy has not changed ... So if that is the position of the chancellor, that is the position of the German Government," Boucher said. MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi men sit on the street in the western part of Baghdad, Iraq on 15 Oct, 2004, protesting against the recent US military actions on the town of Fallujah.

INTERNET

France calls for energy saving

PARIS, 15 Oct — French Finance Minister Nicholas Sarkozy on Wednesday warned French people to appeal to the spirit of "hunting waste" in the 1970s in face of the surge of oil prices.

"The rise of oil prices is creating some kind of puncture in our economy and we could try to remedy price effect by volume effect, by reducing the consumption," the minister said.

The Finance Ministry called for stricter energy saving policies, similar to those adopted in the 1970s when the industrialized world was affected by the oil crisis.

MNA/Xinhua



A private contractor looks down into the crater made from a suicide bomb attack at the Green Zone Cafe in Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 Oct, 2004. Two bombs were detonated in the Green Zone on Thursday, killing 6 people and wounding many more in the cafe and at an outdoor market. The US Embassy and Iraqi government buildings are located in the heavily fortified area.—INTERNET

Polls in 10 nations show views of America worsening

LONDON, 15 Oct — America's reputation around the world is hurting, according to a series of coordinated polls published Friday from 10 countries, including many of the United States' closest allies.

In seven of the countries where the surveys commissioned by major newspapers were conducted, more people said their view of America had worsened over the past two to three years than improved. That question was asked in nine countries.

By big margins, those questioned said the war in Iraq did not aid the global fight against terrorism. And in eight out of 10 nations, those polled said — often in landslide proportions — that they hoped to see Democrat John Kerry beat US President George W Bush in next

month's election. Bush won backing from a majority of respondents only in Russia and Israel.

The polls were conducted in Canada, France, Britain, Spain, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Mexico, Israel and Russia, with results to be published in the participating newspapers on Friday. Not all questions were asked in every country.

On average, 57 per cent of those questioned said their opinions of America had worsened over the past two to three years, compared to 20 per cent who said their view had improved. That question was asked in nine of the coun-

tries, but not in Russia.

Seventy-four per cent of Japanese, 70 per cent of French, 64 per cent of Canadians and 60 per cent of Spaniards said they had a worse opinion of America now than two to three years ago.

In that period, which began just after the September 11, 2001 attacks, the United States has led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

While much of the international community backed the invasion to oust the Taliban, Bush's decision to invade Iraq has fuelled anger around the world.

MNA/AP



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets officers, other ranks and families of local battalion at Bayinnaung Hall in Shwedaung Township.— MNA

Plans under way to promote agriculture, livestock sectors in Bago Division Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects regional development tasks

YANGON, 16 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Chairman Brig-Gen Hla Min, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo of Inma Station and officials, met with officers, other ranks and their families at Bayinnaung Hall of the local battalion in Shwedaung on 13 October morning.

In his meeting with them, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged officials at different levels to provide the families of the Tatmadawmen with the requirements for education, health, economy, social and welfare. He also called upon the families of the Tatmadawmen to undertake agriculture and livestock breeding on a greater scale for increased income.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Nagamauk Farm being operated by Myanma Agriculture Service in Pyay Township on 14 October morning. At the briefing hall, local officials reported on measures being taken for cultivation of lychee, orange, mango and jack fruit and distribution of saplings to growers. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on extended cultivation of crops and shady trees on a commercial scale and inspected the farm.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also looked into a pest control booth and heard reports on paddy diseases. Later, they arrived at Manawthukha (paddy strain) trial field, jointly conducted by the Chemistry Department of Pyay University and Myanma Agriculture Service.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Pyay by car for Nattalin Township. On arrival, they met with township-level departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen at the meeting hall of the township.

Local officials reported on the location of the township, its area, geographical features, climatic conditions, land use, agriculture, livestock breeding, communication, education, health, and local food sufficiency. Departmental officials also reported on tasks being undertaken by their respective departments and the requirements. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the needs through coordination.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung

Than said with the implementation of the border areas development project, the 24 development zones project and the five rural development tasks project, the Government is making all-out efforts to enhance the economy, health, education, transport and social sectors. Bago Division is one of six major divisions that support the economy of the country with agriculture and livestock breeding. Plans are under way to further boost agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Bago Division. The development of the country depends on that of individual states and divisions. Therefore, it is incumbent upon township-level departmental officials to make field trips to respective workplaces at grass-roots level. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for

Bago Division is one of six major divisions that support the economy of the country with agriculture and livestock breeding. Plans are under way to further boost agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in the division.

extended cultivation of ten major crops designated by the State, *Thitseint* out of three perennial crops and pepper out of three new crops.

The State, on its part, also builds irrigation facilities in the division to be able to carry out double and mixed cropping in a year. This being the case, departmental officials of Nattalin Township are required to make field trips down to rural areas so that greater success will be achieved in regional development tasks. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for local people to cooperate with departmental officials in the development drives of their respective townships.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Nattalin Township People's Hospital, where the township health officer and officials of the hospital conducted them round the hospital.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Zigon. At the meeting hall of Zigon Township PDC office, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with township-level departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on the location, area and setup plan to the township, climatic conditions,

population, education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding, production, trade, and local food sufficiency. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave a speech. He said the border areas development project, the special development zones project and the five rural development tasks project are being implemented nationwide so as to establish a modern and developed nation.

Of the townships in Bago Division, Zigon township could put targeted acres under paddy. However, continuous efforts are to be made to exceed the present achievement. He called for the undertaking of agriculture in combination with livestock breeding.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Zigon Township People's Hospital, where he inspected the operation theatre, the X-ray room, the delivery room and the patient wards. Local health officials conducted them round the hospital. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and attended to the requirements.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the construction site-2 of the Irrigation Department in Gyobingauk. At the briefing hall, officials of the department reported on construction of dams and tunnels, irrigation of 130,000 sown acres, arrangements for irrigation of 150,000 sown acres for summer paddy.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements through coordination with departmental officials and gave instructions on increased sown acreage for summer and monsoon paddy.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the farmers training camp operated by Myanma Agriculture Service in Thintawoye village, Thayawady Township. At the briefing hall, officials reported on tasks being carried out with the employment of organic fertilizer to obtain targeted yield, measures being taken for extension of sown acreage, quality control of high-yielding strains, and training being provided for farmers. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on efforts to obtain targeted yield of paddy. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here by car in the evening.

MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- * In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- * The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- * Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- * Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- * Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

ဤသဘောကြောင့် (၁၂ ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ သင်္ဃန်းကျိမ္မ အစဉ် အကဲ အခံ၊ အခန်းကြိုခွဲ ဖြန့်ဝေကုသပေးရန် ဆင်စကားမင်္ဂလာ ဖြန့်ဝေ အစီအစဉ်သဘော

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12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 16 Oct — The third-day programmes of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated places today.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road, the dancing contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, the song composing contest at the State School of Drama on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and the music contest at Padonma and Kanbawza Theatres. Present on the occasions were Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the State Peace and Development Council Secret

Gen Myat Hein, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, officials and fans. At the National Museum, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges for Song Contest Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanma Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe enjoys competition of Ma Zin Yaw May in basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' dancing contest.—MNA

States and Divisions took part in the higher education level women's old and modern song contest in the afternoon. On 17 October morning, the amateur level women's religious song contest and the higher education level men's old and modern

participants took part in the amateur level (men's) dancing contest and 16 students from States and Divisions in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' dancing contest. On 17 October morning, the higher education level women's dancing contest

and party supervised the contests.

On 17 October, the

(aged 15-20) boys' team orchestra contest. Leader of the Panel of Judges



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung watches presentation of Ma Phyu Phyu Aung of Kachin State in the higher education level (women's) old/modern song contest.—MNA

ary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Daw Khin Aye Kyin, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-

Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the song contest.

Altogether 13 contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boy's religious song contest in the morning. Similarly, 13 contestants women from

song contest will be held at the same venue.

Chairman of the Panel of Judges Wunna Kyawhtin U Sein Aung Min, Secretary Daw Mu Mu Khin and members supervised the Dancing Contest at the National Theatre. A total of 11 par-

and the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys' dancing contest will continue. At State School of Drama, 8 contestants from states and divisions participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) song composing contest and 12 persons in the higher education level song composing contest.

Chairman of the Panel of Judges Bogale U Tint Aung and party supervised the contest. At Kanbawza Theatre, nine persons of States and Divisions participated in the higher education level (men's) violin contest, four contestants in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' violin contest, four in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' violin contest. Leader of the Panel of Judges Violinist U Tin Yi



Professional level contestants participating in song composing contest.—MNA

basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' and girls' xylophone contests will continue. At Padonma Theatre, nine participants took part in the professional level (men's) team orchestra contest. Next, six contestants participated in the basic education level

U Sein Hla Myaing and party supervised the contests. On 17 October, the professional level (men's) and (women's) team orchestra contests and the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' and (aged 10-15) boys' harp contests will be held.

MNA



U Than Tun Aung of Bago Division taking part in professional level men's violin contest.—MNA



Maung Aung Kyaw Soe of Yangon Division participating in amateur level men's dancing contest.—MNA

Myanmar committed to realizing...

(from page 1)

However, according to a report of the FAO, it can be seen that more than 840 million people around the world are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Global efforts have so far been insufficient to reach the World Food Summit and related Millennium Development goal to reduce the number of hungry by half by 2015. Myanmar, on her part, has already made a resolution to actively work individually, as well as in cooperation with international organizations, to help realize that goal. In this connection, I would like to reaffirm that Myanmar has already taken measures to ensure food sufficiency and eliminate hunger in cooperation with the international community.

In Myanmar, the total crops sown area is 41.32 million acres. Rice production is also being intensified by all means so as to meet the requirements of both increasing local consumption and international market demand. With the introduction of the summer paddy programme in 1992-93, rice is now being produced throughout the year.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views booths to mark World Food Day.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greets diplomats who attended the ceremony to mark World Food Day.— MNA

As Myanmar is working steadfastly to realize its national economic goals based on agriculture, it has laid down relevant strategies, given priority to developing the farming, livestock breeding and forestry sectors and ensuring all-round development of rural areas. About 70% of Myanmar's population of 53 million is dependent on the agriculture, livestock and fishery or forestry sectors, and the Government's efforts in allocating priority to the performance and production of these sectors have been highly contributory to food security and economic development. In Myanmar, the total crops sown area is 41.32 million acres. Rice production is also being intensified by all means so as to meet the requirements of both increasing local consumption and international market demand. With the introduction of the summer paddy programme in 1992-93, rice is now being produced throughout the year. Various irrigation projects are also being implemented to further increase the utilization of water particularly for agriculture development. The number of dams and weirs constructed after 1988-99 today is 164. The number of river water pumping stations for irrigation completed after 1988 to date is 265. Thanks to such systematic measures for increasing water supply, we have been able to reclaim over five million more acres of cultivable land. The main objective of the present Myanmar agriculture sector is to fulfill the local food security as well as to meet the international demand. Our efforts have, indeed, rewarded us with premiums. Our rice production has increased significantly. We have set our objectives, for regional and global food security, to continue to diligently use our natural resources to the fullest, introducing high-quality and high-yielding strains, and transforming the traditional farming into a mechanized farming. Encouragement is made so that our agriculture researchers are making their utmost efforts to produce high yield hybrid paddy strains and it is evident that the researchers are also doing the best on their best.

In accordance with encouragement provided to the

livestock breeding sector, which is related to agriculture and due to the measures we have taken for the development of the Livestock and Fisheries Sector, there have been substantial increases in the meat production. The livestock sub-sector is an important source of domestic food supply and cash income, as well as for traditional farming, as the country has to rely on draft animals in agriculture. We are, therefore, giving high priority to the development of the livestock breeding sector. Necessary measures have been taken, with the assistance of the IAEA, to increase the breeding rate of the cattle. At the same time, we are also seeking assistance from regional and international



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presents prize to outstanding farmer U Thein Tun of Talaingma Forest Reserve in Bago Township.— MNA

organizations, including FAO, for the prevention of avian flu. To prevent foot-and-mouth diseases which are affecting the livestock sector, the government had to cooperate with UNDP and FAO and set up laboratories to produce vaccines.

The Myanmar Government is also making systematic efforts for the development of the fishery sub-sector as it plays a pivotal role in the economy of the country. As Myanmar has a long coastline that stretches 2,832 kilometres abounding with marine resources, it is naturally blessed with good economic conditions.

For that reason the task to develop the fishery sub-sector is being carried out in accord with the policy, including exploitation of fish, prawn and water resources in strict observance of the international rules and regulations; extended distribution of quality stains; application of new and advanced methods; production of surplus amounts of fish; boosting exports; promotion of investments in the fishery sub-sector; extension of fish and prawn breeding projects; and raising the incomes of fish and prawn breeders. At present, Myanmar has been able to export its marine products to over 40 countries.

As more than half of the country is covered with forests and woodlands, Myanmar is one of the most forest-covered countries in the Asia and Pacific region. The livelihood of seventy per cent of the population who live in rural areas, in one way or another, relates to the forests and forest products.

I would like to touch on the forestry sector. Myanmar is not only rich in culture and traditional values but also endowed with abundant natural resources, including forests. As more than half of the country is covered with forests and woodlands, Myanmar is one of the most forest-covered countries in the Asia and Pacific region. The livelihood of seventy per cent of the population who live in rural areas, in one way or another, relates to the forests and forest products. It can be said that the Forestry Sector, therefore, plays a pivotal and significant role in the socio-economic development of the people. Myanmar is well-known for having managed its forests on a scientific, systematic and sustainable basis for over a period of 150 years. The Myanmar Forest Law of 1992 has full coverage of Myanmar's forests, preservation and protection of the natural environment and biodiversity, extension of reserved forests and preservation of natural lands.

The adoption of the National Environment Policy in 1994 calls for harmony and balance between environment and development, protection and replenishment of endangered rare indigenous plants and animal species, and preservation of pasturelands through the integration of environmental consideration into the development process.

Among Myanmar's forests, currently, 37.41 million acres have been constituted as Reserved Forests and about 5.83 million acres as Protected Areas. Deforestation in Myanmar has amounted to about 37,050 acres due to agriculture expansion, shifting cultivation, urbanization and the mounting fuel needs of households. However, deforestation has been compensated by the Forest Department's establishment of plantations at an annual rate of 74,130 acres.

(See page 9)

Compressed Natural Gas ...

(from page 16)

In the past, over 580 engines of petrol or diesel-used automobiles were converted into gas-fired engines in the nation. And over 200 more cars have been changed into gas cars successfully in Paleik Region, Mandalay Division. It indicated that CNG can be used safely in cars. Japan, Thailand, India, Italy and Argentina have also turned to CNG cars.

At a time when the prices of crude oil, petrol and diesel are going up dramatically in the world, Myanmar has prospects of changing all its automobiles into gas cars with the use of natural gas produced locally. Therefore, combined efforts are to be made for extended production of gas cars. In the process, the State sector including the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the private sector are to coordinate their efforts

harmoniously in the tasks especially in converting diesel engines, in addition to petrol engines, into gas-fired engines on a large scale. All are to strive for accomplishment of the tasks in the interests of the State and the people.

Now, plans are well under way to get CNG kits, gas cylinders and compressors in time and for

extended opening of more gas-filling points. Therefore, gas cars can further draw the attention and win satisfaction of users. So, those present are to deal with matters for extended production of gas automobiles in the nation starting from this November and December.

Next, member of the Leading Committee Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin said



Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin.—MNA

At a time when the prices of crude oil, petrol and diesel are going up dramatically in the world, Myanmar has prospects of changing all its automobiles into gas cars with the use of natural gas produced locally.

that the ministry installed 30 CNG engines under the conventional conversion kit method. Antril installation of CNG engines in two vehicles was made successfully with the use of Electronic Control Unit (ECU) and fuel conversion kit method. Therefore the CNG engines can be installed in the vehicles with both old and new engines.

He said the ministry will provide necessary assistance to private entrepreneurs.

Next, Secretary of Work Committee Managing Director of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries U Soe Thein reported on installation of CNG kits in four-cylinder diesel engines with the use of Electronic Control Unit (ECU). Director-General of Directorate of Myanmar

Industrial Planning U Khin Maung reported on import of fuel conversion kit, its installation in the vehicles and parts of fuel conversion kit which can be produced by local factories.

General Manager of No 1 Auto Factory U Hlaing Thein reported on trial installation of ECU and fuel conversion kits in two vehicles and arrangements for installation of CNG engines in TE trucks.

Director (Offshore) of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise U Myint Htay reported on installation of CNG engines by the Ministry of Energy and arrangements for opening of five CNG filling points in Yangon. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay reported on opening of CNG filling points in Paleik, Singaung Township, Kyaukse District in

Mandalay Division on 4 September, economy of fuel oil after installation of CNG engines and arrangements for opening of five CNG filling points in Yangon.

Next, the private entrepreneurs reported on technological conditions to be encountered, maintenance of engines and requirements.

The Secretary-1 then fulfilled the requirements. After the meeting, the Secretary-1, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and party went to No 1 Auto Factory and inspected installation of CNG engines in passenger buses and cargo trucks.

The Secretary-1 and party heard reports on restructure of engines, preparation for placement of ECU and safety of gas cylinder. The Secretary-1 and party inspected installation of CNG engines in TE trucks of Road Transport of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and gave instructions. —MNA

Myanmar committed to realizing...

(from page 8)

For rehabilitation of the Bago Yoma, a five-year Bago Yoma Greening Project (2004-05 to 2008-09) has been laid down and considered as one of the priorities of the State. A total of almost 200,000 acres of various types of plantations will be established under this project.

For prevention of the environmental degradation of the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar, a 30-year integrated plan (2001-2002 to 2030-2031) was formulated. Since 1994, plantations covering 269,230 acres were established and natural forests covering 1.1 million acres have been put under systematic protection. As a result, weather conditions of the region have been changed and local people can cultivate crops. As the nine-district greening project which started since 1994 has been extended to the 13-district project, the dry regions have been covered with greening plantations.

The "Five Rural Development Tasks" have been implemented since 2002 in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe for development of villages which are home to the majority of the nation's people. The Project covers development of rural transport, improving the health and education standards of the rural people, developing the rural economy including the agriculture and livestock breeding business and supplying water for agriculture and drinking purpose. This project is being systematically implemented with the collaboration of government departments concerned, volunteers, social organizations and local people.

In addition, Myanmar has been making strenuous efforts to conserve biodiversity and replenish the endangered species of the country. As Myanmar is committed to protecting and preserving sustainable development and natural resources, Myanmar has participated in international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in 1997. Accordingly, Hukaung region in northernmost of Myanmar was designated as Hukaung Tiger Reserve.

Biodiversity is a key ally in fighting hunger and malnutrition. And with the aim of helping to feed present and future generations, it becomes necessary for all countries of the world to join hands and act in concert with the slogan "Biodiversity for Food Security".

Therefore, in order that the people of the world be free from humanitarian deprivations like hunger and poverty and to achieve a world that is, united, equitable and sufficient in food; I conclude by encouraging the

people of the world, without distinction as to socially different classes and with a sense of equality, to strive in accordance with the FAO theme of "Biodiversity for Food Security". Next, FAO Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping read out the message sent by FAO Director-General Dr Jacques Diocif.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister cordially greeted diplomats, the resident representatives of UN agencies and officials. The General and party together with guests viewed booths displayed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, FAO, the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries at the hall of IBC.

Next, the video plays in commemoration of FAO were shown to the audience.

Afterwards, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented monsoon paddy production outstanding township prize to Wakema Township through an official and outstanding farmer prize to U Mya Thuang of Yintaikkwin Village-tract in Taikkyi

Since 1994, plantations covering 269,230 acres were established and natural forests covering 1.1 million acres have been put under systematic protection.

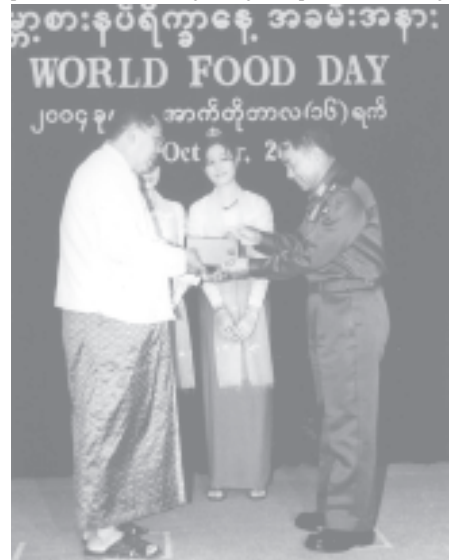
Township; summer paddy production outstanding prizes to Kyaiklat Township and U Myint Thein of Mayinku Village-tract in Yekyi Township and tea production outstanding prize to Namhsan Township.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented fresh water fish production prize to U Zaw Lin of Lwinphyo Livestock Breeding Enterprise of Kayan Township, prize for fresh water fish breeding with cage to U Htay Myint of Yuzana Co, fresh water fingerling production prize to U Win Kyaing of Ayeyawady modern fingerling camp of Kayan Township, sea water fish breeding prize to U Hla Than of Pyi Phyto Tun Co of Meyeik Township and sea water fish production prize to U Thet Lwin of Bahan Township.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung gave away best crops plus forest plantation prize (teak) to U Wai of Sabei Nantha Forest Reserve in Kanbalu Township, U Thein Tun of Talaingma Forest Reserve in Bago Division (East) and U Naing of South Nawin Forest Reserve of Bago Division (West).

FAO Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping presented prizes to U Kyaw Tun of Zayangyi Village-tract of Namhsan Township and U Thein Naing of Kyaikkatha Village-tract of Kyaikto Township for their outstanding performance in growing tea and groundnut. He then presented prizes to U Thet Aung of Winner Brother Co Ltd and Lt-Col Win Swe of Phyto Yarza Co

Ltd for their outstanding performance in production of sea water fries. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein also presented prizes to winners in their outstanding performance in growing sesame, sunflower, green gram and pigeon pea, breeding and production of fresh and sea water prawn and fish breeding and production. President of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries Sciences U Tin Hlaing also presented prizes to winners for their outstanding performance in conducting research works, nurturing crops plus forest plantations, producing paste fish and food. Next, departmental heads presented prizes to winners in the essay and poster competitions and production of maize, green gram, pre-monsoon long



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presents fresh water fish breeding prize to U Htay Myint (Yuzana).—MNA

staple cotton, late-monsoon long staple cotton, sugarcane, coffee, rubber, oil palm, cashew, macadamia, jute. Similarly, the departmental heads gave away prizes to winners in their outstanding performance in exporting fishery products, ornamental fish, paddy plus fish production, breeding milk cows, domestic poultry, goat and sheep. The officials also presented prizes for all-round breeding tasks and veterinary science, dry zone greening plantation and crops plus forest tasks to respective winners. —MNA

Local authorities responsible...

(from page 16)

Shan State (East) on 13 October morning.

Officials reported on cultivation of crops in 2004-2005, plans to grow cold season crops.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Brig-Gen Khin Maung spoke on the occasion.

Next, the Secretary-2 said that efforts are to be made for ensuring food sufficiency of Shan State (East). In the process, the Secretary-2 called on officials concerned, farmers and social organizations to work hard for meeting the target of 400,000 acres of monsoon

paddy. The Secretary-2 inspected paddy plants, paddy, rice and boiled rice of Shwe Yin Aye hybrid, Hsin Ekari-3 and Hsin Shwe Wah strains.

Similarly, the methods of cultivation of paddy for boosting production was displayed on 2,200 acres of paddy fields in 10 townships of Shan State (East).

The Secretary-2 and party flew to Mongkhat, Kengtung District, and met departmental personnel, members of War Veterans Organization, social organizations and locals at town hall of Mongkhat Township.

Chairman of Mongkhat Township Peace and Development Council U Nyein Htwe reported on

population of the township, transport, land use, sufficiency of food, cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy, education and health sectors.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said he came to the township to fulfill the requirements. The township lagged behind in development due to lack of peace in the region and there were a few houses there.

He said the present government is making efforts for development of border and rural areas. The township has now developed and there are residential quarters, departments, offices and schools.

He said regional authorities are responsible for prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity, raising of living standard of the people and regional development, uplift of health and education and turning out outstanding students who will serve the interest of the nation. He spoke of the need to make efforts for surplus of food in the region and he called for cooperation in the interest of the region.

Vice-Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at Mongkhat Township where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Kyaw Zin Pyone and staff.

They inspected drug stores, wards and operation theatre and provided cash assistance to the patients.

The Secretary-2 and party went to Mongyang by helicopter. They inspected township hospital, ward and drug store. The Secretary-2 provided cash assistance to the patients. The Secretary-2 and party met headmaster U Naing Hai Kon and teachers at Basic Education High School in Mongyang. They paid obeisance to the Sayadaw of Parkan Monastery and members of the Sangha and presented offertories to them. Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented cash to Sgt Thein Maung (Retd), 75.

MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offers alms to Parkan Monastery Sayadaw of Mongyan Township.— MNA

Secretary-2 attends opening of Shan State (East) War Veterans Supervisory Committee office building, inspects development work

YANGON, 16 Oct — Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the opening of the office building of Shan State (East) War Veterans Supervisory Committee on Airport road in Ward-4 in Kengtung on 14 October morning.

Also present on the occasion were member of SPDC Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Shan State (East) PDC Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, deputy ministers, officials of SPDC office and others.

Shan State (East) WVSC Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Kengtung Township War Veterans Organizing Committee Chairman Maj Luka (Retd) formally opened the ceremony. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally unveiled the signboard of the office building. Next, the Secretary-2 inspected the shops opened on the ground floor and the Township War Veterans Organizing Committee office, District War Veterans Supervisory Committee office and Shan State (East) War Veterans Supervisory Committee opened on the first floor.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-2 said as the State has given first priority to ensuring peace and tranquillity and rule of law, now there have been peaceful conditions in the country.

With peace and tranquillity prevailing, the government has laid down the border region development project, the 24 development region project and the rural areas development project and is implementing them day in, day out. As a result, the country now is enjoying the fruitful results. In like manner, Kengtung Township is a witness to the success of the development project undertaken by the State. Therefore, local authorities are to join hands with social organizations and service personnel in implementing the development tasks. As for the members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, it is necessary for them to cooperate in implementing the objectives of the organization and in the development drive. They are also needed to participate in the successfully undertaking of seven-point policy programme to build a discipline-flourishing democratic



Shan State (East) WVO Supervisory Committee Office being opened in Kengtung.— MNA

nation, the Secretary-2 noted. Lt-Gen Thein Sein next presented cash assistance to veterans who are over 75 years of age and the ceremony came to a close. The Secretary-2 and party visited Shan State (East) Union Solidarity and Development Association in Kengtung where they met USDA members and gave necessary instructions.

With peace and tranquillity prevailing, the government has laid down the border region development project, the 24 development region project and the rural areas development project and is implementing them day in, day out. As a result, the country now is enjoying the fruitful results.

On arrival at the Government Computer College of Advanced Science and Technology Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology near Yanhla Village, four miles away from Kengtung, the Secretary-2 and party were welcomed by the principal and officials. He inspected construction progress of lecture rooms and presented cash assistance to faculty members. The college was opened on 19 March 2001. Construction of the three-storey building began on 1 July 2002 and it is now completed. Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party went to the Government Technological College, five miles away from Kengtung. The Secretary-2 met with students and urged them to strive to become the qualified ones. Afterwards, the Secretary-2 met faculty members and presented cash assistance.

The Secretary-2 and party proceeded to Mongyu in Mongyaung Township, Mongphyat District by (See page 15)

Upper Myanmar Government Printing House opened School text books will be printed there

YANGON, 16 Oct—A ceremony to open the Upper Myanmar Government Printing House of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information was held in the compound of the printing house near Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road in Aungpinle Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division, this morning, attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt, Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Thein and members, officials of the seven townships in Mandalay District, those of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, PPE, Mandalay Sub-Printing House, Myanmar News Agency (Upper



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint unveils signboard of Upper Myanmar Government Printing House of Printing and Publishing Enterprise. MNA

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the printing house and the minister and guests inspected round it.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information serves as a bridge between the Government and the people as well as the Government and the international community through the media. In particular, it has to engage in organizational and information tasks for successful realization of the State policies. Head of State

calls for ensuring the media tasks to cover the whole nation including border areas and making them sharp and dynamic, and text books for students of basic education schools of Upper Myanmar will be printed in Mandalay, Upper Myanmar and distributed them with reasonable transport charges. In accordance with the guidance, the Upper Myanmar Printing House was opened today. The printing house with two four-unit rotary machines and one sheet-fed machine has been able to print the papers in both black & white

there and distributed to Kachin State, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing Division and Chin State. Arrangements have also been made to print text books for Mandalay Division in addition to those states and divisions.

Moreover, the printing house will print journals, magazines and other publications for the public at reasonable prices.

The Ministry of Information has been implementing the three objectives in accord with the guidance of the Head of

measures for every village to have a TV and for every household to have a radio while striving for ensuring better printing tasks, a part of media work, he disclosed.

As the printing house opened today is of high quality and capability, the Upper Myanmar will be able to engage in printing work of high quality in its region. Moreover, sub-printing houses have been established in some cities throughout the nation to enable the people in those areas to read the newspapers as early as the same day. Therefore, the current affairs of the State will be easily accessible the same day. The Government has spent over 0.79 million foreign currency plus over 200 million kyats on establishment of the printing house, he stressed. The minister called on staff to make efforts for maintaining the facility for its durability and for printing the publications of higher quality. Next, Commander

Maj-Gen Ye Myint made a speech. He said that today is an auspicious day for Mandalay Division and Upper Myanmar; that there emerged the Upper Myanmar Government Printing House as a result of the goodwill of the Head of State and efforts of the Ministry of Information; that the printing house will be

soon able to print text books for Kachin State, Chin State and Shan State (East, South and North); that the opening of the printing house will lead to creating job opportunities for local people, thereby contributing much to regional development; that the Government has been making all-out efforts for industrial development and development of media tasks while striving for development of other sectors such as agriculture and livestock breeding sector. After that, the Minister presented a fruit basket to Indian engineers who were engaged in assembling the printing house. The two four-unit rotary machines were imported by the Printers House Pte Ltd of India. They arrived in Mandalay on 23 August 2004. They have been assembled at the Upper Myanmar Government Printing House which started running on 23 September 2004.

With the use of papers sized 22.75"x28.25" or 22.75"x30" or 22.75"x34", the machines are capable of printing 30,000 sheets per hour. School text books for Upper Myanmar as well as publications of government bodies, social organizations and others will be printed by the printing house.—MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses opening ceremony of Upper Myanmar Government Printing House of Printing and Publishing Enterprise.—MNA

Myanmar Branch), Information and Public Relations Department, departmental officials, social organizations, guests and others.

First, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan formally opened the printing house.

Senior General Than Shwe and colours. Thus, school text books will be printed

Ministry of Information serves as a bridge between the Government and the people as well as the Government and the international community through the media. In particular, it has to engage in organizational and information tasks for successful realization of the State policies.

State. It has been taking steps for opening the self-reliant libraries in every village across the nation in 2005-2006 as part of the three objectives. Nowadays, altogether over 9,000 libraries were opened in the nation. In addition, the ministry is taking systematic



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan view round Upper Myanmar Government Printing House.—MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan formally opens Upper Myanmar Government Printing House.—MNA

We're Moving

Myanmar Times will move to the under-mentioned address beginning October 25:

No 379/383, Bo Aung Gyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

253646, 240029
242766 (Marketing Dept.)
726965 (Distribution Dept.)
Fax - 242699

E-mail : myanmartimes@mptmail.net.mm

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "BAGO" VOY NO 781/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No 781/N are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive at Yangon port on 18-10-2004 and will be berthing on about 19-10-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (529)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (529) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 17-10-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Toyota leads Indonesian market

JAKARTA, 15 Oct— PT Toyota Astra Motor (TAM), the licence holder of Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor Corp in Indonesia, continued its lead in national auto market by controlling 28.6 per cent of the market share in the first nine months of 2004.

TAM managed to sell 99,798 cars in the January-September period of 2004 against 76,591 in the same period last year, economic daily *Bisnis Indonesia* reported Thursday.

National sale volume in the first nine months this year stood at 348,647 units.

"We are optimistic that in the remaining three

months this year, national sale volume will grow to total 420,000 units, 33 per cent of which, or 140,000 units, will belong to TAM," TAM spokesman Hendrayadi Lastiyoso was quoted as saying.

TAM's latest model, the Kijang Innova, is expected to become the main engine of growth in the fourth quarter, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

SmithKline Beecham plc., a company incorporated in England of 980 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9GS, England, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

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in respect of "pharmaceutical and medicinal preparations and substances".

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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L

for SmithKline Beecham plc.

P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 17 October 2004

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကုန်အားလေးပါ

IA board approves plan to buy 43 Airbus aircraft

NEW DELHI, 15 Oct— After a delay of two years, India's state-owned Indian Airlines Board on Wednesday gave the final nod to its plan to purchase 43 Airbus aircraft at a cost of over 100 billion rupees and urged the Government to expeditiously secure the Public Investment Board's approval to ensure fast-track acquisition.

At its meeting here, the board decided that its March 2002 proposal to acquire 20 A-319s, 19 A-321s and four A-320s, "does not need to be re-visited" as it had already decided to dry-lease nine wide-bodied aircraft to cater to the new demands of increased passenger and cargo capacity on the international routes. IA

sources said the airline's Technical Committee had also shortlisted two types of wide-bodied planes, Boeing 767-300 (Extended Range) and Airbus 330-200 (ER), for dry-lease.

Tenders for induction of the nine leased aircraft are likely to be called this month end, they said.

The Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel had recently said that the IA's acquisition proposal would be taken up by the PIB now, as the public sector carrier had already decided to lease the wide-bodied planes, primarily for international operations in Southeast and West Asia.

MNA/PTI

Chinese President appoints new ambassadors

BEIJING, 15 Oct— Chinese President Hu Jintao has appointed new ambassadors to 15 foreign nations, in accordance with a decision made by the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

Wang Yi is appointed the new ambassador to Japan, replacing Wu Dawei.

Lu Fengding is appointed the new ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, replacing Zou Mingrong.

Yang Honglin is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, replacing Zhang Weiqiu.

Hong Hong is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, replacing Chen Duoqing.

Chen Duoqing is appointed the new ambassador to the Democratic Republic of East Timor, replacing Shao Guanfu.

Lin Lin is appointed the new ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, replacing Ai Ping.

Cheng Wenju is ap-

pointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, replacing Fan Guijin.

Wu Zhenglong is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, replacing Zhi Zhaolin.

Bao Shusheng is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, replacing Wu Zurong.

Yang Qiang is appointed the new ambassador to the Federated State of Micronesia, replacing Zhang Binhua.

Cui Huixin is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, replacing Xu Shiguo.

Ren Xiaoping (female) is appointed the new ambassador to the Antigua and Barbuda, replacing Yang Shixiang.

Shen Qing is appointed the new ambassador to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, replacing Song Tao.

Liu Yuqing (female) is appointed the new am-

bassador to the Republic of Ecuador, replacing Zeng Gang.

Ye Dabo is appointed the new ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

MNA/Xinhua

Display items to China-ASEAN Expo arrive

NANNING, 15 Oct— The first batch of goods to the upcoming China-ASEAN Expo arrived in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Thursday morning.

The goods are from 55 Thai firms, including food, medicine, commodities and automobile fittings.

Organizers of the expo, which will last from November 3 to 6, said the arrival of these goods signified the beginning of the reception work of the expo.

The expo will have 2,506 display booths, and

818 enterprises, 222 of whom are from overseas, are expected to attend the expo, according to organizers.

In addition to enterprises from China and the ten ASEAN members, businesses from South Korea, Japan and Germany will also attend the fair.—MNA/Xinhua

Singapore targets to attract 450,000 Indian tourists

COIMBATORE, 15 Oct—Singapore has targeted to attract 450,000 tourists from India during the current fiscal, an official of the Singapore Tourism Board said Thursday.

There was 22 per cent increase in Indian tourists during the first half of the current year as compared the same period of the previous year, Bridget Goh, Area Director (Southern and Eastern India, Sri Lanka and Maldives), of the board, told reporters here.—MNA/PTI

Total lunar eclipse on 28 October

MUMBAI, 15 Oct— A total lunar eclipse will occur on 28 October and will be partly visible in India.

The eclipse will begin at 1150 GMT when the moon will be near the western horizon and ends at 0406 GMT, Nehru Planetarium scientists told PTI Thursday.

The beginning of the partial phase of the eclipse will be visible from some parts of extreme north-western India, scientists said adding some of the places from where the beginning of the eclipse can be seen are Bhuj, Dwarka, Jaisalmer and Porbandar.

The beginning of the

umbral phase of the eclipse will be visible in Africa, Europe, Greenland, the Arctic region, North America except the extreme north-west, Central America, South America, extreme western Asia, part of Queen Maud Land and the peninsula of Antarctica, the Atlantic Ocean, the eastern South Pacific Ocean and the western Indian Ocean, they said.

The ending will be visible in North America, the Arctic region, Green-

land, Central America, South America, Europe, western Africa, Antarctic Peninsula, the eastern Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean, the scientists said.

Meanwhile, there was a partial solar eclipse Thursday morning but was not visible in India, they said.

The eclipse was visible in North-East Asia, Japan, Western Pacific Ocean, Hawaiian Islands and the western part of Alaska, they added.—MNA/PTI

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Researchers seeking permission to do somatic cell transfer

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct— Harvard University researchers said on Wednesday they were seeking permission to use cloning technology to make human stem cells.

They plan to use technology similar to that used by South Korean scientists, who announced in February they had cloned a human embryo as a source of valuable stem cells.

It would be a first step toward personally tailored medical treatments for diseases such as juvenile or Type 1 diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

"We are seeking

permission to do a process called somatic cell nuclear transfer, often referred to as therapeutic cloning," said Dr Charles Jennings, executive director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. The method is similar to that used to make Dolly, the sheep, the first cloned adult mammal. An egg cell is cleaned out to form a shell and the nucleus is inserted from a cell from the animal or

person to be cloned.

A chemical trigger starts the egg growing and dividing as if it had been fertilized by a sperm. After a few divisions, the ball of cells that results is made up mostly of embryonic stem cells.

Each one of these has the potential to form any kind of cell in the body, given the right nurturing and direction. They can grow in batches, or cell

lines, for years without dying.

Scientists want to study both these stem cells and cells known as adult stem cells to test new medical treatments and to understand the basic biology of diseases.

Current law prohibits the use of federal funds to make human embryonic stem cells, and in August 2001 President George W Bush said scientists could work only on a few already existing cell lines, using federal funds.

MNA/Reuters



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal in the tourist city of Agra, on 28 Sept, 2004. One of the world's most famous monuments, India's Taj Mahal, is celebrating its 350th birthday with hopes to pay a fitting tribute to the historic symbol of love. —INTERNET

Egypt retrieves stolen antiquities from Britain

CAIRO, 15 Oct— Egypt, with the help of the British authorities, has retrieved 619 monuments that were stolen from Egyptian Museum in 2000 and smuggled to England via Switzerland, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported on Thursday.

Egyptian Prosecutor General Maher Abdel Wahed was quoted as saying that the antiquities that dated back to the Pharaonic era are rare pieces. Among the total, 485 were original and rare pieces, including an intact sarcophagus, he said.

An expert team from the Egyptian Antiquities Authority left for London on 7 October and returned Thursday with the stolen monuments.

The British authorities handed over

the monuments to Egypt as evidence in a case under investigation here.

Earlier, Egyptian authorities announced that a number of suspects were arrested on charges of stealing and smuggling artefacts from Egyptian Museum in collaboration with museum staffers.

The Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities has threatened to cease cooperation with foreign museums and institutions that buy stolen artefacts.

MNA/Xinhua



The Warner Bros studio lot in Burbank, Los Angeles. Warner Bros said it will set up its first movie production joint venture in China with state-owned China Film Group and the privately run Hengdian Group. —INTERNET

Oculists badly needed in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 15 Oct— As the world celebrates 14 October as the day for restoring the vision of thousands of visually impaired, health authorities in Nepal are also marking the day with the pledge to restore the vision of its blind populace within the Year 2020.

According to a report from Nepal Netrajyoti Sangh, a non-governmental organization that has been rendering eye care services in different parts of the country, three in every 100 people are either blind or visually impaired in Nepal.

Nearly 80 per cent patients could get back their eye sight if provided timely treatment, said the report.

But the lack of doctors and timely medical intervention has forced nearly

130,000 Nepalis to live in darkness, nearly 90 per cent of them live in the far-flung villages, a famous Nepali doctor told Xinhua Thursday.

The main reasons of blindness are cataract, trachoma, lack of Vitamin A and infection in the injured eye, said Dr Harish Chandra Shah.

Among the eye patients, 71 per cent are suffering from cataract, which can be treated through simple surgery.

MNA/Xinhua

NY halts sale of coins allegedly minted from WTC silver

NEW YORK, 15 Oct— The sale of commemorative September 11 coins, allegedly minted from silver recovered at ground zero was suspended by court order on Wednesday.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer described the sale of the silver dollars emblazoned with the World Trade Center towers on one side and the planned Freedom Tower on the flip side as a fraud and promised further probes into the claim the silver came from the ruins of the twin towers.

"It is a shameless attempt to profit from a national tragedy," he said. "This product has been promoted with claims that are false, misleading or unsub-

stantiated."

Spitzer said the National Collector's Mint, based in Port Chester, made false claims that the coins engraved with "In God We Trust" are legally authorized silver dollars and its sales people also told consumers the coin is legal tender. He said the coin advertised as nearly pure silver is only silver plated, produced by a Wyoming company called SoftSky Inc. The TV and print ads attributed to the National Collector's Mint include a dateline ad

fashioned after a news story.

One of the ads claims that "each coin has been created using .999 pure silver recovered from ground zero", adding the dollar pieces are priced at 39 dollars each, but sold at 19.95 dollars with a limit of five per customer.

Earlier in September, the US Mint issued a notice on its web site that the coin "is not a legally authorized government issued" product.

MNA/Xinhua

Louisiana jury recommends death for suspected serial killer

BATON ROUGE (Louisiana), 15 Oct— A jury took little more than 90 minutes Thursday night to decide on the death penalty for twice-convicted killer Derrick Todd Lee, apparently rejecting claims by defence attorneys that their client was mentally retarded. Jurors earlier in the day heard conflicting testimony from defence and prosecution witnesses on Lee's mental condition. A

2002 Supreme Court decision forbids the execution of the mentally retarded.

Lee, 35, has been linked by DNA evidence to the deaths of seven women from 1998 to 2003. The same jury that convicted him Tuesday of first-degree murder in the death of 22-year-old Charlotte Murray Pace of Baton Rouge decided Thursday night that he should die.

MNA/AP

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မြန်မာ့ရေးရာနှင့် ပြည်သူ့အားဆဲရေးရာဌာန

SPORTS

Yartsev to stay as Russian coach after drubbing in Portugal

Moscow, 15 Oct— Embattled Russia coach Georgy Yartsev vowed to stay in the job on Thursday despite a 7-1 drubbing by Portugal in their World Cup qualifier in Lisbon.

Yartsev, who left the bench minutes before the end of Wednesday's game after the home side's sixth goal, complained his players were not motivated and said he might resign.

But after meeting Vyacheslav Koloskov, president of the Russian Football Union (RFU), to discuss his future on his arrival back in Moscow Yartsev has decided to carry on. "Yes, the two have met and Yartsev is staying," RFU executive director Alexander Tukmanov told Reuters on Thursday.

"He's still our coach as of today. But what will happen in a near future we just don't

know." Yartsev guided Russia to the Euro 2004 finals after taking over from Valery Gazzayev last August but then the 56-year-old had trouble forming a strong, cohesive squad.

The Russians had a dismal tournament becoming the first team to be knocked out and Yartsev was criticized by local media for "primitive tactics and being scared of the opposition". At the championship he was involved in a widely-publicized incident with his leading player Alexander Mostovoi as the team was rocked by internal squabbles and in-fighting.

MNA/Reuters

Turkish Cypriot consortium intends to take over Fulham

NICOSIA, 15 Oct— Turkish Cypriot brothers Halil and Husnu Falyali have said they were close to buying Fulham football club and that if they took control would look to sign players of the calibre of England captain David Beckham.

The 34-year-old Halil Falyali was quoted as saying Thursday from his casino at the Salamis Bay Hotel in Famagusta that "It's true we are planning to buy the club. Yesterday my brother met the chairman and financial director to discuss a deal".

Falyali added that the deal will cost them around 100 million Cyprus pounds (about 200 million US dollars) and that current owner Muhammed Al Fayed was "very keen to sell".

However, a source close to the club was adamant that a deal was not on the cards.

"The club is not for sale. Chairman Mohammed Al Fayed does not want to bail out of football or the outfit he has spent more than 200 million dollars on."

A Cyprus-based spokesman for the Falyali brothers said the brothers' business portfolio included a construction company that carried out works in Cyprus, Italy and the Far East, petroleum interests and the world's second largest online gambling firm.

He added that Husnu and Halil spend their lives travelling between Cyprus, Britain and France, but have a particular affection for London and British football.

"They have been Fulham fans since childhood, and are saddened by the clubs current run of bad form," the spokesman said, adding that the two hoped to invest in a number of high-profile new players.

"The club is not doing well at the moment, but we will turn it around," Falyali said adding that he would seek to buy players "like David Beckham".

The spokesman added that Al Fayed's asking price had been 220 million US dollars, but that the Falyalis had offered 170 million US dollars.

"And negotiations have been going on ever since," he added.—MNA/Xinhua

Leeds United to reduce debts by selling Thorp Arch

LONDON, 15 Oct— Leeds United have sold their Thorp Arch training centre to reduce debts of 40 million pounds (72 million US dollars) and signed a 25-year lease to keep using the facilities, the Second Division club said on Thursday.

Leeds said they expect to reduce debts, which stood at over 100 million pounds before the club was rescued by a consortium in March, by four million pounds. The Yorkshire club also have an option to buy back the centre near Wetherby.

Leeds' chief operations officer Shaun Harvey told the club's web site: "In an ideal world it's not an option we would have taken, but our number one priority is to reduce this club's debt so it can operate again under normal circumstances. "This arrangement will go a long way to helping us do that.

"Instead of paying the mortgage on Thorp Arch, we will be renting it instead, with the players continuing to utilize the excellent training facilities available there."

The club's financial straits are the result of a spending spree at the start of the decade under former chairman Peter Ridsdale and then manager David O'Leary in the belief that Leeds could buy domestic and European success.—MNA/Reuters

Lippi defends strategy after win over Belarus

ROME, 15 Oct— Italy coach Marcello Lippi Thursday defended his strategy of trying to give the national team a well-defined game plan no matter who happens to be picked, local media reported.

After a win over Belarus that put Italy back on top of its World Cup qualifying Group E, Lippi said he wanted to be "a coach rather than someone who just picks players."

Lippi has come under fire for switching formats and using too many players in his first five matches in charge. But he said he was determined to keep doing things his way.

"I know myself that the most important thing is to have the best players available, but the overall plan and tactical organization count too," Lippi told reporters in his post-match assessment.

He acknowledged that it was "a hard thing to do" given players increasing club commitments and the short time they are available for national training, but insisted: "It's only right that I should give it my best shot, all the more so given the short time at my disposal."

Lippi confirmed that he would take a "largely experimental" team on an upcoming tour of China during the long winter break from the World Cup qualifying campaign. In the meantime, he said, he was happy with his new squad but was waiting for a number of world-class performer to return to top form. One of these, he said, was Roma's mercurial striker Antonio Cassano, left out for the last two matches because of a bug.

MNA/Xinhua



Olympic champion Nicolas Massu of Chile returns a backhand to Davide Sanguinetti of Italy during their Vienna Trophy quarterfinal match on 15 Oct, 2004.

—INTERNET

Japan's 1-0 win to Oman sends Asian champ into 2006 qualifiers

TOKYO, 15 Oct— Japan's lucky streak this year never once looked like running out as they secured their place in the final round of Asian World Cup qualifiers on Wednesday.

Takayuki Suzuki's 52nd-minute strike gave Japan a 1-0 win away to Oman that sent the Asian champions into next year's final round of 2006 qualifiers.

Japan have earned a reputation for luck this year after retaining the Asian Cup in controversial circumstances.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Grasping claw
- 8 Large marine mammals
- 10 York ore (anag.)
- 11 Irritated
- 12 Summit
- 13 Beneath
- 17 Card game
- 18 Yield
- 22 Applaud
- 23 Alighting
- 24 Maintenance
- 25 Straggle

DOWN

- 1 Highlander's pouch
- 2 Dozer
- 3 Cut
- 4 Conducted a meeting
- 5 Quench
- 6 Apart
- 9 Alone (2,7)
- 14 Give a keen edge to
- 15 Big-billed water-fowl
- 16 Trellis-covered walk
- 19 Make reconnaissance
- 20 Spasmodic
- 21 Fatuous

Greensboro Classic golf tourney

GREENSBORO (North Carolina), 15 Oct— Tour rookie Jason Dufner shot a seven-under-par 65 to take the first round lead at the Greensboro Classic on Thursday.

Dufner, who has never led a round on the Tour before, is one shot ahead of five players tied for second, while a further 12 players, including Britain's Justin Rose who achieved his first hole in one as a professional on the par-three 17th, are two shots behind on 67.

Champion Shigeki Maruyama of Japan shot a four-under-par 68 and is tied for 19th, three shots off the lead.

Dufner, like many of the other players at the tournament is trying to secure his card for next year by earning enough to finish

within the top-125 on the money list. The 27-year-old is 186th on the money list with 206,795 dollars so far. The cut-off at this stage is 545,959 US dollars.

His best finish was a tie for 11th at the US Bank Championship in Milwaukee where his 84,000 US dollars was the bulk of his earnings for the season. It was also the first time he finished in the top 25 at a Tour event.

Only Bo Van Pelt (40th) and Tom Pernice (50th), who are in the group of players tied for second, have secured their cards for next year.—MNA/Reuters



Davide Sanguinetti of Italy returns a backhand to Nicolas Massu of Chile during their Vienna Trophy quarterfinal match on 15 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

Secretary-2 attends opening ...

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helicopter. They were welcomed there by Triangle Region Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin and officials. National Health Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party visited Mongyu People's Hospital and inspected the women's ward, medical store, delivery room. He then comforted the patients and presented cash assistance.

At the hall of the hospital, the Secretary-2 met departmental officials, social organizations and local people.

At the meeting, the Secretary-2 said as Mongyu is a region where a variety of national races reside, they are responsible for the development of their own region. Local administrative bodies and departmental officials are to join hands with local residents to ensure the prevalence of law and order, economic growth, higher socio-economic development in their region. To be so, agriculture in combination with livestock breeding should be conducted. Moreover, departments, social organizations and local residents are to cooperate in the drive to enable school-age children to go to school. Concerted efforts are also to be made for the success of the five rural development tasks by taking as inborn duty our three main national causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuity of sovereignty.

Next, the Secretary-2 presented cash assistance to departmental staff through a township administrative officer. The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Mongyu Township Office, where he inspected office rooms and staff quarters. He also inspected the reading room of the Information and Public Relations Department and gave instructions on keeping a complete collection of books and periodicals at the reading room.

The Secretary-2 and party proceeded to Mongyawn of Mongphyat District by helicopter. On arrival there, the Secretary-2 cordially greeted the welcoming party and urged them to work hard in all seriousness for regional development, and to take part in the process of transition to democracy in accord with the seven-point Road Map. The Secretary-2 also called upon departmental officials

to cooperate with local residents in regional development tasks. The Secretary-2 looked into the development condition of the town by car.

Next, the Secretary-2 and party arrived at Mongyawn People's Hospital, where he inspected women patient wards, men patient wards, the medicine store room and the delivery room. The Secretary-2 comforted the patients and presented cash assistance to them. He also presented cash assistance to hospital staff through a hospital official.

The Secretary-2 met with departmental staff and members of social organizations in front of Mongyawn Township PDC office and urged them to take part in the drive for the implementation of the seven-point Road Map and to work hard in earnest for their regional development.

Next, the Secretary-2 and party flew to Kyainglat of Tachilek District. At Kyainglat Assembly Hall, the Secretary-2 met with officials and gave instructions to them.

The Secretary-2 also cordially greeted the welcoming party comprising departmental officials, members of social organizations and local residents in front of the Town Hall and called upon them to play an active role in regional development tasks. The Secretary-2 and party arrived back at Kengtung by helicopter in the evening.

At 6 pm, the Secretary-2 and party arrived at Khemayahta Standing Buddha Statue built on Swamsap Hill in Kengtung. They paid homage to the Buddha Statue and also offered flowers, water and lights. The Secretary-2 signed in the visitors' book and donated cash to the funds of the pagoda.

Next, they proceeded to the cultural museum in the precinct of the pagoda, where they viewed round traditional costumes and handicraft of national races and their utensils.

The Secretary-2 and party viewed Naungton Lake round by car and proceeded to Maha Myatmuni Pagoda. The Secretary-2 paid homage to the pagoda and offered flowers, lights and joss sticks. He also signed in the visitors' book of the pagoda. After donating cash to the funds of the pagoda, the Secretary-2 and party left there.

MNA

Rainfall on 15-10-2004

— nil at Yangon Airport and

— nil central Yangon,

—0.12 inch at Kaba-Aye.

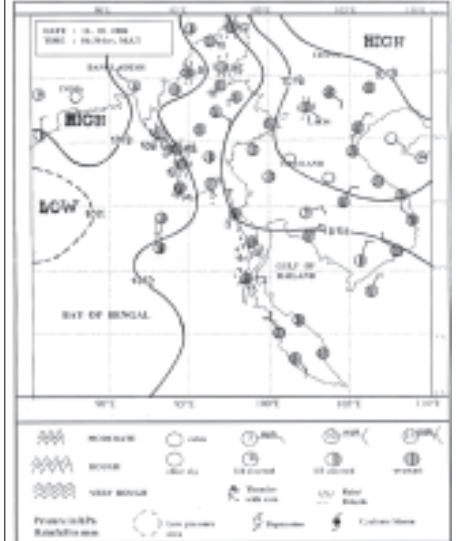
Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was

— 111.93 inches at Yangon Airport,

— 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and

— 109.21 inches at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 16 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon and Kayah States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls Magway Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (10.91) inches, Maungdaw (9.09) inches, Sittway (8.70) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.46) inches, Ann (1.77) inches, and Aunglan (1.73) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-10-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 16-10-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-10-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 15-10-2004 was (3.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport and central Yangon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (111.93 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.21 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 15-10-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the North and Sothwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.


Forecast valid until evening of 17-10-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine State, scattered in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Northern Shan State, Ayeyawady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and upper Sagaing Division and weatehr will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers are likely in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangons and neighbouring area for 17-10-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-10-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

 <p>Sunday, October 17 View on today:</p> <p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Mingun Sayadaw</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:50 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၈)ပြာမင်လာ</p> <p>8:00 am 6. အထွဋ်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:15 am 7. ရန်ကုန်ခရိုင်လေ့ကျင့်တန်း</p> <p>8:30 am 8. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 9. Say it in English</p> <p>11:00 am 1. Martial song</p> <p>11:10 am 2. Musical programme</p>	<p>11:25 pm 3. Round-up of the Week's International news</p> <p>11:35 pm 4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာရမ္မိဝန်" (အပိုင်း-၃၆)</p> <p>12:15 pm 5. အိန္ဒိယအစွဲ ဂျက်ဒိုင်း ချန်ပီယံပြိုင်ပွဲ အားလုံးအသင်း</p> <p>12:30 pm 6. Myanmar Movie: "ဘယ်ရုပ်ရှင်ကလေး" ရဲအောင်၊ မိုးမြင့်အောင်၊ ဝေဇီနီရိုင်၊ ဘိုဇော်တင်-မောင်နုနု</p> <p>2:45 pm 7. International news</p> <p>4:00 am 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 am 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:45 pm 4. အခင်းသစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသရုပ်ဆောင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယပုဒ် (ရက္ခဝေအေးပြု) (ရက္ခဝေအေး)</p> <p>5:00 pm 5. Song of National Reaces</p>	<p>5:15 pm 6. လက်ဆွဲကမ်းမေးကတော့</p> <p>5:30 pm 7. Musical programme</p> <p>5:45 pm 8. Agricultural Source of Country's Development</p> <p>5:55 pm 9. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p>6:30 pm 10. Evening news</p> <p>7:00 pm 11. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရန်ကုန်သွယ်တိုလင်းပိုင်ငယ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)</p> <p>7:40 pm 13. ဝေဇီနီရိုင်နီ မဏ္ဍိုင်သည့်အားလုံး (အပိုင်း-၂)</p> <p>8:00 pm 14. News</p> <p>8:15 pm 15. International news</p> <p>8:30 pm 16. Weather report</p> <p>8:45 pm 17. ဂဝဏ္ဏနန္ဒာရုံသဘာဝအကြိမ် (၁၂) ကြိမ် ပြန်လည်ရုပ်ကူးယူရန် အချိန်အတိုင်း အရေးအတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:55 pm 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရန်ကုန်သွယ်တိုလင်းပိုင်ငယ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)</p> <p>9:10 pm 19. The next day's programme</p>
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 <p>Sunday, October 17 Tune in today:</p> <p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: -All the small thing</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: Punk phoolin</p> <p>8:55 am National news/ Slogan</p> <p>9:05 am Music: -Fame</p> <p>9:10 am International news</p> <p>9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar: -Myanmar & Lotus</p> <p>1:30 pm News/Slogan</p> <p>1:40 pm Story for Children</p> <p>1:50 pm Song for Children</p> <p>9:00 pm Weekly news review</p> <p>9:10 pm Music</p> <p>9:15 pm Article</p> <p>9:25 pm Latest Hits</p> <p>-Something stupid</p> <p>-Forever tonight</p> <p>9:45 pm News/Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>
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Compressed Natural Gas can be used safely in automobiles Myanmar has prospects of converting all its vehicles into gas ones

YANGON, 16 Oct—The Leading Committee and Work Committee for Substitution of CNG Engines for Petrol and Diesel Engines in automobiles held a meeting at the Ministry of Industry-2 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present on the occasion were members of the Leading Committee ministers, members of the Work Committee deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials, and entrepreneurs being engaged in substitution of CNG for petrol and diesel in automobiles.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the Leading Committee and the Work Committee have been formed to take systematic measures to step up substitution of compressed natural gas engines for petrol and diesel engines in automobiles. Now, the nation has around 0.26 million petrol or diesel-used cars, over 0.15 million of which are in Yangon City.

(See page 9)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects CNG cars at No 1 Automobile Factory.— MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hears a report on cultivation of monsoon paddy against target production in Shan State (East) by Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw.— MNA



Local authorities responsible for regional development, prevalence of law and order Secretary-2 inspects development tasks in Shan State

YANGON, 16 Oct—Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Deve-

lopment Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture

and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Pro-

Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Pro-

gress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, officials and departmental heads, attended the displaying of model paddy field for meeting the target per acre yield of monsoon paddy in 2004-2005 held at the 200-acre model paddy plot in Mongzin Village, Kengtung Township, (See page 10)

Ramayana Drama Contest continues

YANGON, 16 Oct — The Ramayana Drama Contest of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the second day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening. Thiri Rama Drama Troupe of Yangon Division took part in the contest. Among the audience were member of the Panel of Patrons

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon

Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, member of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, the chairman and members of the work committee and officials.

Leader of the Panel of Judges U Chit Oo Nyo

and party supervised the contest. Tomorrow evening, Pyapon Nandwin Ramayana Drama Troupe of Ayeyawady Division will participate in the contest.— MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe enjoys Ramayana Drama presented by Thiri Yama Drama Troupe.— MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives
For further
development of the
health sector
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