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Friday, 29 October, 2004

## Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of Republic of Turkey

YANOGN, 29 Oct — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

## Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar sends felicitations to Turkey

YANOGN, 29 Oct — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2004, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

## Agriculture, livestock breeding tasks to be carried out on manageable scale Regional development inspected in An, Rakhine State

YANGON, 28 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman and also Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Hlaing, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Taungup Station and officials, met with officers, other ranks and their families at the hall of the local battalion in An on 26 October morning.

At the meeting, with Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged officials concerned to fulfill the social, education, health and welfare needs of the families.

He also called for

conducting agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale to increase income of the families.

Next, he cordially greeted officers, other ranks and their families.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited No 1 Basic Education High School in An. At the hall of the school, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on the area of the school, the strength of teachers and students, the pass rate of the matriculation examination, progress of construction of a two-story school building measuring 120 feet by 30 feet, the storage of materials, and the funds for construction of the new school building.

Next, the com-

mander gave supplementary reports.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called upon teachers to strive for raising the pass rate in the matriculation examination and for the development of human resources.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected multimedia classrooms, which will be opened soon, the language lab and the computer room, and watched the students learning their school lessons in those rooms.

He also looked into the construction site of the two-story school building and gave instructions.

In An, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the newly built 100-bed People's Hospital. On arrival,

Head of the Health Department of Rakhine State Dr Khin Maung Cho, state-level departmental officials and health officers welcomed Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party and conducted them round the hospital. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports and gave instructions on the speedy inauguration of the hospital.

**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at agricultural and livestock breeding farm run by the Western Command, where he inspected poultry farming and gave instructions. The farm is being run on 150 acres of land with the aim of disseminating agricultural and breeding techniques to the public as well as to the regiments and units**

### 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

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Hinywet Dam. At the briefing hall, officials reported on data related to the dam, arrangements for handover of the town water supply

task to the Development Affairs Department, arrangements for water supply in An, financial matters and future plans. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements through coordination. Hinywet Dam is of earthen type and can hold 1,652 million gallons of water.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at agricultural and livestock breeding farm run by the Western Command, where he inspected poultry farming and gave instructions.

(See page 11)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects storage of water at Hinywet Dam in An, Rakhine State.—MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 29 October, 2004

## The foundation of national unity

The Government has been building infrastructures in all sectors for progress of the whole Union, further improvement of the people's living standard, narrowing the gap between one region and another and proportionate development of all states and divisions.

The nation is formed with different landscapes including mountain ranges, dense forests, a large number of natural watercourses, narrow coastal lines and plains. In this regard, the Government has been building a network of roads, with bridges spanning creeks and rivers, to overcome the transport difficulty of the nation.

For example, Rakhine State had to rely mainly on air and water transport as it had only few motor roads in the past. Because of the poor condition of the motor roads, its three land gateways — the An mountain road pass, the Taungup mountain road pass and the Gwa-Ngathaingchaung road were not as important and useful as now.

Thus, the Government has used a large amount of financial resources to build roads and bridges in all states and divisions including Rakhine State. And thanks to the Government's efforts, many new roads including the Sittway-MraukU-An road have been built in the state and the existing ones have been upgraded.

Of the 14 over-180-foot bridges of the Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu Road Project, nine bridges have been completed, and the five remaining facilities are under construction at present. Although the engineers and workers are facing a lot of difficulties in building the swampy part of the project, they are making strenuous efforts and using advanced technology to overcome the difficulty.

Opening of the Londawpauk Bridge on the Yangon-Kyaukphyu Highway in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State, on 25 October has added one more important facility to the nation's transport network. It is the 188th bridge of 180-foot length and above built since 1988.

Thanks to a large number of new bridges and many miles of new roads, the national races are able to get in touch and exchange knowledge and views with each other, thereby strengthening their brethren spirit, amity and solidarity, which are the foundation of the national unity and Union Spirit.

## Workshop on bird flu research and lab technology held

YANGON, 28 Oct — The workshop on research on bird flu and lab technology co-organized by Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Myanmar Veterinary Science Council, was held at the Office of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department on 26 October morning.

Bird Flu Expert Dr Ayota Takada of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) gave lectures on matters related to the bird flu.

Present were Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of LBVD,

President of MVSC Dr Mya Nyunt, Myanmar Veterinarian Association Dr Than Daing, Dr Saw Palai Saw of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Science, Assistant Resident Representative of JICA Mr Masanaga Yoshihisa and officials.

With the assistance of JICA, Associate Professor Dr Ayota Takada of Tokyo University gave lectures to the veterinarians at the Central Laboratory of the LBVD from 22 to 26 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

## Prizes presented to winners in Buddhist Culture Course

YANGON, 28 Oct — The 12th ceremony to present prizes to winners in the Abhidhamma, Wisuddhimagga and Buddhist Culture Course of the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at the Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Pyay Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kundalajoti, Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita

Bhaddanta Viçara and members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, officials and trainees.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajoti administered the Eight Precepts. The deputy minister supplicated on religious affairs and offered provisions to the Sayadaws. Next, the deputy minister, the adviser, the director-general and deputy directors-general presented prizes and certificates to the winners and other trainees. — MNA



ABHIDHAMMA DAY OBSERVED: The seventh Abhidhamma Day was observed at Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) on Dhammapala Hill in Mayangon Township on 28 October. — MNA



LIGHTS OFFERED TO PAGODA: The Abhidhamma Day ceremony was held at Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. Belles offer candle lights to the pagoda. — NLM

## 9th Mile Mahasi Sayadaw back from Europe

YANGON, 28 Oct — After having given sermons on Satipatthana Vipassana in Switzerland and England, 9th Mile Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavindhaja came back here on yesterday evening.

The Sayadaw was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Hitesi members of the Yeiktha. — MNA

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## Timetable of entrance exam of MMU announced

YANGON, 28 Oct — Applications have been invited to Myanmar Maritime University which will be opened on 1 December.

The list of those who can sit the entrance examination will be announced at the University Entrance Selection Board of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) on Thaton Road and MMU in Thilawa, Thanlyin Township, on 29 October.

Candidates will not be notified individually. They must report to MMU in person from 1 to 3 November bringing together with them three licence size photos, original and copy of Citizenship Scrutiny Card, the original testimonials on character from the respective police stations, original and a copy of mark list issued by Myanmar Board of Examinations and the health endorsement of township surgeon.

The candidates will enter a viva test at MMU beginning 4 November. The timetable of the exam will be announced at the HED (Lower Myanmar) on Thaton Road and MMU in Thilawa, Thanlyin Township, on 29 October. — MNA



# Australia acknowledges Iraq increases its risk of terrorist attack

SYDNEY, 27 Oct — Australia's newly re-elected government has conceded for the first time its decision to participate in the Iraq conflict may have increased the terrorist threat to its national interests.

The admission, by Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, followed a warning by Australia's intelligence chief that the conflict had given Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda propaganda and recruitment opportunities and may have motivated terrorists in Australia.

Downer, who prior to the 9 October election maintained that there was no evidence to suggest involvement in Iraq increased the risk to Australia, said it was possible some sympathisers of extremist Islamist ideology in Australia could be motivated by

Iraq.

"If there are people in Australia who believe in this sort of Taliban-style Wahabist extremist ideology and they see Iraq becoming a democracy then that may activate them and energise them," Downer said.

He said Iraq might be "a motivator" for some people considering terrorist attacks in Australia.

"It has increased the threat against Australian interests in the Middle East," he added.

Internet



A British soldier patrols a street in the southern city of Basra. A battle group of British troops in southern Iraq has started to move northwards on a US-requested mission to more dangerous areas near Baghdad on 27 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

## Hostage calls on Britain to quit Iraq, says Jazeera

DUBAI, 27 Oct — Iraqi-British hostage Margaret Hassan again urged Britain to withdraw its troops from Iraq and also to free Iraqi women prisoners, Al Jazeera television reported on Wednesday.

The Arab channel aired a video showing Hassan, an aid worker who was seized by unknown kidnappers in Baghdad a week ago, standing in a dimly lit room.

"Please release the women prisoners from the prison in Iraq," said a tired looking Hassan, director of the Care International charity in Iraq, in her second such appeal and third video appearance. Her other comments were barely audible.

But Al Jazeera said Hassan appealed to British Prime Minister Tony Blair to withdraw troops from Iraq and not deploy them in Baghdad.

The television said Hassan also asked Care International employees to end their operations in Iraq. The charity suspended its work in the country after Hassan was kidnapped.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said: "We will consider very

carefully what response, if any, to make to this latest video."

Dublin-born Hassan, who also appeared in videos issued by the kidnappers last week, is the eighth foreign woman

to have been kidnapped in Iraq since April.

The others, including two Italian aid workers held for three weeks in September, have been freed.

Internet

## Nigeria to conduct national census next month

LAGOS, 27 Oct — The Nigerian Government is scheduled to start counting the nation's population in November, the *News Agency of Nigeria* on Monday quoted Chairman of the National Population Commission (NPC) Samu'ila Makama as saying.

The government has so far released about 30 million US dollars toward the conduct of the 2005 census, Makama said, adding that the government would release another sum of about 13.84 million US dollars at the end of this year. According to him, the European Union has promised to provide about 130.76 million dollars to assist Nigeria to carry out the national census.

Makama said that the national head-count exercise had already been approved by President Olusegun Obasanjo, assuring all communities across the country that enumerators would reach them whether they were in dry desert areas in the north or in primitive forest areas in the south.

He appealed to Nigerians to ensure that they remained wherever they reside to be counted, stressing that the exercise was meant for economic and planning purposes for the nation's growth. — MNA/Xinhua

## Susilo urges prosecutors to combat graft

JAKARTA, 27 Oct — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Tuesday urged prosecutors to get more serious in combating corruption, which he said had caused high-cost economy. "Some people complained about injustice and rampant corruption, reflecting the failure of our legal system. I come here to ask all of you to work together coping with the problems," Susilo told prosecutors during an unscheduled visit at the Attorney-General's Office (AGO) here.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ugandan President calls to improve quality of tourism attraction

KAMPALA, 27 Oct — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Monday called upon tourist promoters to improve the quality of tourism attraction and promote culture in order to realize the contribution of tourism in community development.

The President made the call when opening the 8th Cultural and Eco-Tourism Symposium of the Africa Travel Association at Speke Resort, Munyonyo, south of Kampala.

Museveni noted that Uganda is endowed with excellent tourist attractions that make the country unique and quite appealing, saying that Uganda is only one of the three countries in the world that are on the equator and high altitude with favourable climatic conditions of between 18 and 27 degrees Celsius throughout the year.

He said, in addition, Uganda has the most excellent natural landscape that is well drained, adding that the Great Rift Valley, the high mountains and the rivers including River Nile, made Uganda an important tourist destination in the world.

The President singled out to the symposium the good vegetation the country has, namely tropical rain forests, Savannah grassland and the temperate grassland as some of the ancient African heritage sites of historical nature and importance.

MNA/Xinhua



Soldiers of the British 1st Battalion Black Watch wait on their vehicles atop American heavy transport vehicles in Basra, Iraq, on 27 Oct, 2004, before their move to an area south of Baghdad.—INTERNET

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## 1,109 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct — As of Wednesday, 27 Oct, 2004, at least 1,109 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 971 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest death reported by the military:

A soldier was killed Wednesday when a motorcycle bomber attacked a US convoy in central Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the military:

Marine Cpl Brian Oliveira, 22, Raynham, Mass.; killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. —Internet

# Most Latinos say Iraq war was wrong

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—An overwhelming majority of Latino voters believes the war in Iraq was not worth fighting, and a significant minority believes Hispanics have suffered a disproportionate share of the casualties, according to a new survey of Latino voters by *The Washington Post*, Univision and the

**Tomas Rivera Policy Institute.**

While voters nationally divide over the wisdom of going to war in Iraq, Latinos expressed no such ambivalence: By 2 to 1, Hispanic voters believe the war was a mistake.

The survey found that nearly three in 10 Latinos believe Hispanics are

disproportionately represented among the dead and wounded in Iraq compared with other racial or ethnic groups, while six in 10 disagree.

The new poll also found that Democrat John F. Kerry leads President Bush by 59 percent to 30 percent among registered Hispanic voters, virtually unchanged from a Post-

Univision-Tomas Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) survey in July. Independent Ralph Nader received 1 percent.

As with all voters, economic concerns have emerged as the top issue among Latinos, the survey found. More than one in four—27 percent—named the economy and jobs as the issue that will

determine their vote on Tuesday.

Twenty percent said terrorism was their major concern; 15 percent listed Iraq and education.

Latino voters preferred Kerry, rather than Bush, to deal with each of the major issues facing the country.

The Democrat led Bush as the candidate who would do the better job of dealing with the situation in Iraq, where Kerry held a 15 percentage-point advantage.

Internet



A US Army soldier stands guard at the blast site of a destroyed sports-utility vehicle at the airport highway in Baghdad, on 27 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

## China's first higher education evaluation centre founded

BEIJING, 27 Oct — An evaluation of the teaching quality in China's higher education institutions will be conducted every five years, said Chinese Minister of Education Zhou Ji here on Tuesday while unveiling China's first higher education teaching evaluation centre.

A system for the annual release of data on teaching was also instituted on Tuesday. Rather than ranking universities, the evaluation aims to publicize the "teaching process," said Zhou.

Education departments will join hands with industry associations to evaluate professional

education at the universities, said Zhou, adding that the mechanism combining professional evaluation, certification and certificate granting will ensure quality education.

The evaluation centre will produce evaluation reports with one of four grades: excellent, good,

qualified and unqualified, Zhou said.

The centre will use some traditional appraisal methods, such as measuring graduate employment rate, and will review data on teaching status submitted by each university and overrule any fraudulent data.

Liu Fengtai, director of the centre, said that with this large-scale, recurring evaluation practice, China will establish institutionalized evaluation systems to upgrade China's education level.

MNA/Xinhua

## S African businessmen seek ways to develop tourism

MAPUTO, 27 Oct — A Southern African Tourism Business forum, which gathers businessmen from this region including South Africa, Tanzania and Swaziland was held in Maputo on Monday.

The objective of the forum is to identify opportunities to form partnerships, and to seek the financial and technical resources necessary to develop tourism in the region.

Speaking at the opening of the forum, Mozambican Minister of Tourism Fernando Sumbana said the government now regarded tourism as a priority, and believed that it could be a fundamental instrument in eradicating absolute poverty in the country. He said the authorities are also working with the private sector to identify and remove obstacles to business development, particularly in tourism. — MNA/Xinhua

## Japanese Government plans fresh help for quake-affected areas

TOKYO, 27 Oct — Japanese Government set out Tuesday fresh steps, including a revision to a disaster relief law, to help survivors hit by a series of deadly earthquakes in Niigata Prefecture as Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited the disaster areas.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said that the government will consider a possible revision to the law to help housing repairs, and the government's science and technology panel decided to tap its funds for urgent earthquake studies.

The current Disaster Relief Law has often barred victims from getting benefits if their houses were upright, even after suffering damage large enough that they have to be rebuilt, the top government spokesman said at a Press conference. "We need to deal with

the sufferers in a fine-tuned manner," Hosoda said. The law currently provides residents up to 3 million yen (28,000 US dollars) if their houses are fully destroyed and 1 million yen if half-destroyed by a natural disaster.

MNA/Xinhua

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## Three dead in Fallujah strike

BAGHDAD, 28 Oct—Three people died in a US air raid on the Iraqi city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, overnight, hospital officials said today.

"Three people have died," the city hospital's Dr Ahmad Khalil said.

The raid targeted a house in the Julian neighbourhood which has been hit in earlier US operations.

Since October 14, US troops have encircled Fallujah, where the military has repeatedly launched air strikes and ground incursions.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on Tuesday that Iraq's interim administration had still not ruled out a peaceful solution to the standoff between US troops and the guerilla-controlled city of Fallujah.

Talks between the US-backed government and delegates from the Sunni Muslim hotspot collapsed in mid-October after Allawi ordered the city to surrender suspected al-Qaeda-linked militants or face invasion.

Internet

## One US soldier killed in suspected Iraq motorcycle bombing

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct — A US soldier was killed and another wounded in a suspected motorcycle bombing against their convoy in eastern Iraq, the military said.

"A 13th Corps Support Command soldier is dead and one is injured as the result of a suspected motorcycle bomb attack on their convoy near Sindiyah," it said in a statement, referring to a small town in the restive Diyala Province.

The latest American death raised the number of US military fatalities in Iraq to 1,102 since the March 2003 invasion, according to Pentagon numbers.

The support command group created headlines earlier this month when 18 soldiers refused to take a fuel convoy from Tallil, a base in southern Iraq, to Taji, north of the Iraqi capital.

Soldiers complained through family members in the United States that the trucks were poorly maintained and insufficiently protected, making the mission a "suicide" run through a region notorious for roadside attacks on convoys.

Internet



An American soldier of the 101st Airborne Division watches as the First Battalion, The Black Watch, their vehicles mounted on US transporters, deploy to an area south of Baghdad, on 27 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET



## BBC accuses US media of overly patriotic in their coverage

LONDON, 28 Oct— The head of the BBC's news operations accused US media organizations on Tuesday night of being overly patriotic in their coverage of the lead-up to the Iraq war.

"Before Iraq, it seemed to me that some US news broadcasters wrapped themselves in the flag and as a consequence did not perform the role the public expects of them," said Richard Sambrook, director of the BBC's global news division.

"Out natural instinct is to support our country. But the responsibility of the news media is to ask the difficult questions to press, to verify," Sambrook said, according to an advance copy of his speech to the Columbia Journalism School in New York.

The *New York Times*, earlier this year acknowledged it had failed to adequately challenge information from Iraqi exiles who were determined to show Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction overthrow him.

The BBC lost a high-stakes battle with Prime

Minister Tony Blair's government over its own coverage of the lead-up to the Iraq war.

The publicly funded broadcasters chairman and director general were forced to resign after a judicial inquiry into the suicide of David Kelly, a weapons expert who was the source for a BBC report that the government "sexed up" evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. "We now know that all of us failed to ask the right questions about WMD in advance of the war.

That isn't to say the war was wrong: each can make their own mind up about that," Sambrook said.

"But to do so they need accurate information, evidence that has been tested. And if a news organization imbues itself with patriotism, it inhibits itself from asking some of those questions." — MNA/Reuters



Iraqis lie handcuffed as US soldiers carry out a raid on a house in Ramadi on 27 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

## Heartburn drugs linked to increase pneumonia risk

CHICAGO, 27 Oct— Widely used heartburn and ulcer drugs can make people more susceptible to pneumonia, probably because they reduce germ-killing stomach acid, Dutch researchers found in study of more than 300,000 patients.

The highest risks occurred with more powerful acid-fighting drugs called proton pump inhibitors, which are sold in the United States under such brand names as Nexium, Prevacid and Prilosec. Over nearly three years, users of these drugs faced almost double the risk of developing pneumonia compared with former users.

Users of another class of acid-fighting drugs that includes cimetidine and famotidine — sold in the United States as Tagamet and Pepcid — also faced an elevated risk.

The study was led by researcher Robert J.F. Laheij at University Medical Centre St. Radboud in Nijmegen, Netherlands, and appears in *Wednes-*

day's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The acid in normal stomach fluids generally kills harmful bacteria, suppressing it with drugs to treat heartburn and ulcers may make the body more hospitable to such germs, which may then infect the lungs and cause pneumonia, the researchers said.

These heavily promoted medicines are among the most widely prescribed drugs worldwide, with almost 13 billion US dollars in sales in 1998 alone, according to a *JAMA* editorial. Millions of Americans take these drugs, which are heavily advertised in "ask your doctor about ..." TV commercials.

MNA/AP

## Russian milt to test new-generation rocket booster

MOSCOW, 27 Oct— Russia's military will test a new-generation rocket booster this week that could eventually be used to launch civilian cargoes into space, *ITAR-TASS* news agency said on Monday.

*TASS* quoted Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov as reporting to President Vladimir Putin that a *Soyuz-M2* booster would blast off on Friday from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwest Russia.

Ivanov told Putin the new booster would initially allow Russia to launch military satellites from launchpads inside Russian territory, *TASS* reported. "If the test is successful, the new booster will in future also be used to deliver into orbit spacecraft with civilian, scientific and commercial cargoes," Ivanov said.

MNA/Reuters

## Outsourcing becoming strategic imperative for European companies

BANGALORE, 27 Oct— Global sourcing is becoming a strategic imperative with European companies, according to information technology major Wipro.

The Bangalore-headquartered company's global sourcing event 'Strategym' held in London earlier this month confirmed the trend, a statement said on Tuesday.

More than 100 senior

management executives from European end-user organizations including industry experts explored successful global sourcing strategies, the company said.

The event held on October 14 covered key learnings, best practices, explored next steps in the evolution of global sourcing, and focused on how organisations are using it as a strategic tool to derive more value out of their investments, it said.

Wipro said a survey conducted at the forum confirmed a trend amongst European firms of plans to exploit global sourcing for multiple service lines. 74 per cent of the executives polled said their global sourcing budgets would increase this year and 63 per cent were planning to leverage global sourcing for multiple service lines. —MNA/PTI

## Phillipine Govt asks Kuwait to reconsider sending OFWs to Iraq

MANILA, 27 Oct— The Philippines has asked Kuwait to hold the ban on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) seeking employment in Iraq until the country's elections in January are over.

"We know it's their prerogative (to lift the ban). We don't question that. But because of the experience we had we are appealing to them to reconsider their decision," Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

Romulo noted that it is not the time to let Filipino drivers and other OFWs to go to Iraq because the situation is very fluid. "We just want to avoid this".

MNA/Xinhua

## International Silk Road Conference opens in Xi'an

BEIJING, 27 Oct— The 3rd International Silk Road Conference opened in Xi'an, capital of north-west China's Shaanxi Province and startingpoint of the ancient "Silk Road," on Tuesday with more than 500 delegates from 12 countries discussing the road's reconstruction.

The three-day conference — "Silk Road Rehabilitation and Road Infrastructure Construction" — is co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Communications, the International Road Federation (IRF) and the government of Shaanxi Province.

With a history of more than 2,000 years, the ancient Silk Road began in Xi'an, passing through south and central Asia and winding its way along the

east coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Rome, with a total length of more than 7,000 km.

Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju sent a congratulatory letter to the conference, saying that using the ancient Silk Road to promote regional economic and cultural cooperation and exchanges has become a new task of the countries along the road.

MNA/Xinhua

## Dalian Port sees drastic surge in software export

DALIAN, 28 Oct— Software export via Dalian Port, northeast China's Liaoning Province, surged by 55 per cent year on year to hit 30.86 million US dollars in the first three quarters this year, the latest statistics have shown.

According to the Customs of Dalian, 49 software enterprises exported their products via Dalian Port in the first nine months.

Japan was the leading export market of Dalian's software products, taking in 93 per cent of the total volume for the three-quarter period. Other export markets included Singapore, the United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan. —MNA/Xinhua



Children are led over bricks from their home, following an overnight air raid that destroyed one house and damaged three in the Iraqi city of Fallujah on 26 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

# Chinese, Russian officials discuss sister city cooperation

**BEIJING, 27 Oct** — Delegates from more than 30 Chinese and Russian cities gathered here on Tuesday to discuss future cooperation between sister cities and agreed to promote multi-level exchanges.

On the third China-Russia sister city meeting which held here Tuesday, delegates from the two countries carried out warm discussions on the development of friendly relations. Some cities also formally established sister city links during the meeting.

Chen Haosu, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), said that along with the deepening of China-Russia relations, the cooperation and exchanges between the two countries' cities are getting more and more close.

At present, 66 pairs of sister cities have been established between China and Russia. They conducted fruitful co-operation in various areas, including economy, science, technology, culture and education.

He said the sister cities of the two countries have played an active role in promoting mutual understanding and expanding bilateral cooperation.

During Russian President Vladimir Putin's China visit earlier this month, he co-chaired a symposium with Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on the expansion of China-

Russia regional co-operation.

"This fully demonstrates that China-Russia regional co-operation becomes increasingly vibrant, and plays an important role in the development of bilateral relations," Chen said.

The developing strategy of China's western region and the rejuvenation of the old industrial bases in northeast China has provided new possibilities for the bilateral regional cooperation, he said.

Russian Ambassador to China Igor Rogachev said that during Putin's visit to China, representatives from more than 60 Russian localities had concrete exchanges with Chinese regional officials, which helped consolidate and push

forward bilateral cooperation in various fields.

As capitals of China and Russia, Beijing and Moscow set up sister city links in May 1995. Beijing Vice-Mayor Zhang Mao said that since then, the two cities have cooperated extensively in the fields of culture, education, public health, economy, trade and city construction.

The two sides also had positive cooperation in the bid for holding Olympic Games, Zhang said. Moscow Vice-Mayor M Men said the partnership with Chinese cities is a priority of Moscow's international exchanges.

The first and second China-Russia sister city meetings were held in Moscow in 1997 and 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

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သမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

## German, French leaders urge changes in Euro rules

**BERLIN, 27 Oct** — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac made joint appeal Tuesday for loosening the budget rules guiding euro-member countries.

Speaking after their meeting here in Berlin, Schroeder said that the EU pact to stabilize euro would have to be changed and "growth must play a bigger role."

Under the stability pact, public budget deficit of a euro member country is not allowed to exceed 3 per cent of GDP. However, due to economic difficulties, both Germany and France will overshoot this year the budget limits for the third straight year.

Chirac said that he supported Schroeder's proposals which, among other things, would exclude from budget limits state spending on research and development as well as net contributions a country made to the EU budget.

The German Chancellor also urged more cooperation between the industries of the two countries, which have been at odds over issues concerning business take-over.

"I have an interest in stronger ties at the corporate level," Schroeder said.

Meanwhile, a statement issued after the German-French summit said that the two countries pledge to play "an important catalyzing role in building the European capability in the area of fast crisis reaction".

The German-French joint brigade should become the core of a fast reaction force of EU and a EU military cell inside the NATO headquarters should be established by the end of this year, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine uses a mountain bike to move around the Ramadi army camp on 27 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

## UN to increase security for staff

**UNITED NATIONS, 27 Oct** — In view of escalation in attacks against its workers, the United Nations has decided to strengthen the security of its staff and facilities at a cost of 97 million US dollars.

Out of the proposed budget, the world body plans to spend 35 million US dollars to bolster the safety of field offices and about 28 million US dollars on upgrade of security at the UN complex in New York, pay for more security officers and training and to install new access control measures.

The budget for similar improvements at the eight main UN offices is estimated at 16 million for Geneva, more than three million dollars each for stations in Nairobi, Santiago de Chile and Addis Ababa; and more than one million dollars each for facilities in Bangkok, Beirut and Vienna.

One-time expenditures such as physical improvements to buildings are expected to total 29.6 million dollars.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a report, had called for combining three separate entities currently responsible for staff safety — the Office of the Security Coordinator, the UN Security and Safety Services and the security

component of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations — into a new Directorate of Security to be headed by an Undersecretary — General reporting directly to him.

The new Directorate will assess threats and risk, and provide common security policies and standards throughout the UN system. Day-to-day decision-making on security matters, meanwhile, will remain with local offices.

MNA/PTI

## Zambia to vaccinate 200,000 cattle against FMD

**LUSAKA, 27 Oct** — The Zambian Government will vaccinate 200,000 cattle against foot-and-mouth disease before the rainy season in December, local newspaper *The Post* reported Monday.

Agriculture Minister Mundia Sikatana was quoted as saying the veterinary department was containing the disease which has so far taken a toll in southern and central provinces.

He said the vaccination exercise was going on smoothly although he could not give the exact number of cattle that have so far been vaccinated.

Sikatana said 200,000 cattle in the affected areas would be vaccinated before rains start because the government wanted to ensure that they were fit to plough. — MNA/Xinhua

## Ugandan Police to recruit 1,000 constables

**KAMPALA, 27 Oct** — The Uganda Police will recruit 1,000 constables starting November 22, this year in a bid to increase its physical strength, reported state-owned newspaper *The New Vision* on Tuesday.

"Our physical strength is not adequate and the force continues to lose personnel. The drive is to cover losses and wastages," Commissioner of Police in charge of human resource management Chris Opio was quoted as saying.

The Uganda Police has slightly over 13,000 officers but loses about 500 annually through retirement and others being discharged or dismissed for various reasons. Opio said the recruitment also aims at improving the police-to-civilian ratio, currently standing at one officer to 1,800 civilians, adding that the United Nations recommends a 1:450 ratio.

Opio said applicants should be Ugandan citizens, aged between 18 to 25 and must have A'Level (senior middle school graduates with 13 years schooling) certificates with two principle passes or its equivalent.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi boy rescues a destroyed bicycle from the debris of a destroyed building in Fallujah, outside Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET



## Prosperity through China-ASEAN media cooperation

Maung Maung Aye



Participants of Second China-ASEAN Seminar on Mass Media Cooperation pose for group photo. — MNA

The First China-ASEAN Seminar on Mass Media Cooperation took place in Beijing in 2002.

Participants, only two from Myanmar including myself, had not sufficient time to acquaint themselves with others from ASEAN nations and China. One reason was that it lasted just three days.

Despite the tight schedule, the organizers reserved time for the participants to pay a visit to the world-famous Great Wall and the Forbidden City in addition to a call on the member of the Standing Committee of Politburo of the Communist Party of China Mr Li Peng in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Before the participants got sufficiently acquainted with one another they had to leave Beijing looking forward to the second seminar proposed to be held the next year in a capital of an ASEAN member nation.

**Participants from the Chinese side emphasized the geographical proximity and similarities in culture and traditions between China and ASEAN member nations. They expressed their belief that the region of some 17 billion population could secure peace, security, cooperation and prosperity through friendship and understanding. This, they said, could be realized through mass media cooperation.**

A year passed but the second seminar did not take place.

However in July 2004, I received the good news that I was included in the Myanmar delegation as a member to attend the proposed Second Seminar. This time the Myanmar delegation would comprise three with Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win as the leader.

When I studied the programme of the Seminar, I noticed the difference between the first and the second seminars. The second seminar would be a seven-day programme starting from Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China, followed by a two-day tour of Guilin, noted as the most beautiful tourist attraction in China, and finally the flight to the capital,

Beijing. There, we would see the Great Wall, visit the People's Daily and call on Mr Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Mr Li Zhaoxing, Foreign Minister.

As we prepared for our flight to Nanning, we found it difficult to choose the shortest possible route to Nanning. Of course there was Yangon-Kunming (Yunnan Province) flight on Wednesdays but there would be no flight to Nanning from Kunming on 25 August when we were to check in there. So, we rerouted our flight to Nanning via Bangkok and Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, leaving Yangon a day earlier.

We left Yangon International Airport for Bangkok by MAI flight at 7.40 am on 24 August. After a day-long flight we finally arrived at Nanning. We were not alone to get there a day earlier.

On the same flight were participants from Laos and Cambodia. Friends from the People's Daily were expecting the Indonesian participants as well.

It was past 10 p.m. when we got to the Mingyuan (Majestic) Hotel, the venue of the seminar. We noticed that our Indonesian and Vietnamese friends had also arrived. Though we arrived at the venue a day earlier, everything was taken care of, accommodation, food—every detail.

The following day, we were free almost the whole day. So, we walked around in hotel area in Nanning. The city was busy but clean. The traffic was not heavy. There were construction sites here and there, some nearing completion and some still in progress. In the evening, all the participants were present at the welcoming reception.

At 8.30 am on 26 August, Mr Wang Chen, President of the People's Daily met the delegation heads from ASEAN Ten. This was followed by opening of the seminar with the welcoming speech by Mr Wang Chen at 9 am, as scheduled.

He recalled that in September 2002, the first "China-ASEAN Media Cooperation Seminar" co-hosted by the ASEAN Ten and the People's Daily in Beijing generated widespread influence and positively pushed forward exchanges and cooperation between ASEAN countries and China.

He added "since the entrance into the new century, we have formed a sound relationship where mutual political trust and economic cooperation interact positively with each other. Since the first China-ASEAN Media Seminar, cooperation between the two

sides has developed very quickly. In November 2002, China and ASEAN leaders signed the "Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations", aiming at establishing China-ASEAN Free Trade Area by 2010. In October 2003, China joined "Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia", and signed the "Joint Statement between China and ASEAN Leaders", announcing the establishment of "Strategic Partnership Facing Peace and Prosperity between China and ASEAN." Mr. Wen noted, "these moves signify a new stage of bilateral relations".

The whole day on 26 August the following morning up to noon, altogether 29 speakers presented

**ASEAN participants discussed ways and means to face the challenges and benefit from the opportunities created by the ever advancing Information Technology. They also discussed increased exchange of visits of media personnel between China and ASEAN, gathering correct news and information and dissemination of news about China and ASEAN.**

their ideas and suggestions on realizing the objectives through mass media cooperation between the media of China and that of ASEAN member nations with "Peace, Security, Cooperation, Prosperity" as the tenet and "Coordinating Media Cooperation and Development of 10+1 Free Trade Area" as the theme.

Participants from the Chinese side emphasized the geographical proximity and similarities in culture and traditions between China and ASEAN member nations. They expressed their belief that the region of some 17 billion population could secure peace, security, cooperation and prosperity through friendship and understanding. This, they said, could be realized through mass media cooperation.

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(See page 10)

## Commander attends opening of Commander's Shield Volleyball Tournament

YANGON, 28 Oct — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing attended the ceremony to open the Commander's Shield

Women's and Men's Volleyball Tournament at Pyidaungsu Gymnasium in Lashio on 26 October. A total of 18 teams are taking part in the tournament which will last up to 4 November.

In the afternoon, the commander, together

with Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, inspected 2.75 acres of orange and tea plantations and vegetable

patches.

At the coffee and maccadamia nursery, Lt-Col Myo Chit of the farm reported on systematic nurturing of the saplings. They saw over thriving Hsinshweli paddy at the F-1 research plot.

MNA

## Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Turkey

YANGON, 28 Oct — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2004, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Abdullah Gul, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

## F&R Minister inspects departmental functions in northern Shan State

YANGON, 28 Oct — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Director-General of the Customs Department Col Khin Maung Lin, inspected its departmental functions in northern Shan State.

On 27 October, the minister inspected the functions of the Internal Revenue Department of Muse Township. He also

met with departmental employees and spoke of the need to take effective measures for trade and financial undertakings. Next, departmental officials reported on progress of their tasks being carried out and future plans.

The minister also visited the departments under the ministry in Hsenwi Township and looked into their

functions.

At Shweli Yadana Guest House, the minister met with departmental staff officers and heard reports. Later, the minister urged officials concerned to play a leading role in the realization of designated projects and explained the importance of uprightness and the sense of duty in their career.

MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects functions of departments under the ministry in Shan State. — F&R

## Sale of souvenirs to attract tourists coordinated

YANGON, 28 Oct — The subcommittee for souvenirs production and sale held the meeting 2/2004 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of

chairmen of the Central Cooperative Society and officials.

In his speech, the minister said the prime tasks of the subcom-

officials reported to the minister on tasks being carried out by their respective groups.

The minister also attended a work co-



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min addresses 2/2004 meeting of souvenir sales sub-committee on 27-10-2004. — COOPERATIVE

Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street here yesterday. Chairman of the sub-committee and Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min attended the meeting and delivered an address.

Present at the meeting were Director-General of the Co-operative Department U Soe Win, Director-General of Cottage Industries Department U Sein Than, Deputy General Manager of the Cooperatives Import and Export Enterprise U Saw Oo, members of the subcommittee, the

mittee are to ensure that tourists can have an easy access to the purchase of Myanmar souvenirs. A stream of tourists will come to Myanmar in this open season. Therefore, all necessary steps are to be taken to open one-stop souvenir shops. The State can earn foreign exchange from the sale of souvenirs to tourists. It is also necessary to make Myanmar famous for its handicraft. Later, the minister called for the marketing of new souvenirs that will attract the tourists.

Next, departmental

ordination meeting between Lacquerware College and Weaving Schools at the meeting hall of the Cottage Industries Department in North Okkalapa Township. In his speech at the meeting, the minister spoke of the need for cooperation between the schools and local authorities for intended student enrolment, employment of trainees at textile factories, and the opening of many vocational training schools for economic development.

MNA

## Building of Htanchaung Bridge in progress



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun hears reports on construction of Htanchaung Bridge on An-Padekyaw-Maei Road by an official.

CONSTRUCTION

YANGON, 28 Oct — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected progress in building the An-Padekyaw-Maei Road in Rakhine State on 25 October.

They observed the ground work, gravel

laying and building of Daingchaung Creek Bridge before arriving in An. In the afternoon, they inspected Htanchaung Creek Bridge Project where engineers briefed them on progress of work and future work programmes.

The Htanchaung Creek Bridge will be a

reinforced concrete facility, installed with steel frames. The bridge will be 100 feet long when completed. Seventy per cent of the approach structure on Maei bank and 50 per cent of the approach structure on An bank have been completed.

MNA

## Deputy Minister tours Mandalay Division

YANGON, 28 Oct — Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, together with the managing director of Myanmar Agriculture Service and paddy experts, inspected research paddy plantation at Yezin Agriculture Research Department on 24 October.

The deputy minister inspected paddy seeds at the seed bank. He attended the workshop on high yield

paddy strains suitable for plain regions.

On 25 October, the deputy minister inspected production process of bio-super folio fertilizer. Next, the deputy minister saw over high yield paddy plantations in Meiktila, Wundwin and Thazi Townships and gave instructions on systematic cultivation of paddy strains which can yield 100 baskets and above per acre. In Yamethin Township, he

viewed pollination of Yezin-2 hybrid paddy strain plantation.

On 26 October, Brig-Gen Khin Maung viewed thriving of paddy plantations in Kyaukse Township. He reported on thriving of Yezin-2 hybrid paddy strain to Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint.

MNA



## Agriculture, livestock breeding, construction in Yangon Division inspected



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Yangon Division Vegetable and Poultry Farming Special Zone in Hmawby Township. — YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 28 Oct — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe met with national agriculturists and breeders at Yangon Division Vegetable and Poultry Farming Special Zone near Nyaungnapin Village in Hmawby Township this afternoon.

At the meeting, officials reported on land preparation at the special zones, breeding of broilers and layers and cultivation of vegetables. Departmental officials also submitted reports on maintenance of roads, construction of bridges, water supply, communi-

cation system and power supply.

The entrepreneurs reported on their requirements.

The commander fulfilled the needs and gave instructions to officials.

On arrival at the farmland of Yangon Command near the junction of Yangon-Bago Six-lane Highway and No 3 ighway in Balar region, Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected thriving high yield paddy plantations on 83 acres of land. The commander gave instructions on preparations to be made for cultivation of summer paddy after harvesting monsoon paddy.

He instructed officials to complete river water pumping project before summer paddy cultivation season in Balar region.

Afterwards, the commander inspected progress in building Balar Bridge No 2 and arrangements for construction of tarred circular road.

Balar Bridge No 2 will be 65 feet long and 36 feet wide and it is of reinforced concrete bridge. — MNA

## Performing arts work committee, sub-committees, team managers meet

YANGON, 28 Oct — The coordination meeting of members of the work committee and sub-committees, team managers from States and Divisions of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) this afternoon.

At the meeting, Chairman of the work committee for organizing the Competitions No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan delivered an address. Those present at the meeting discussed respective sectors of the competitions.

Col Tint Hsan reviewed the proposals and attended to the needs.

MNA



No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan speaking at coordination meeting of Work Committee, sub-committees and team managers. — MNA

## Buddhist devotees...

(from page 16)

the Buddha images. In the afternoon, wut associations recited religious verses. At night, the pagoda was illustrated with multi-coloured lights.

Likewise, members of the Sangha administered Desanas to the congregation at Botah-taung Pagoda in the afternoon.

At Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), the seventh Abhidhamma Day was held at Gandakuti Building this morning.

At 6 pm, well-wishers offered 3,000 oil lights to the pagoda. Similarly, the Abhidhamma Day ceremony in conjunction with the 9,000 lights offering ceremony was held at Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township in the evenings

yesterday and today.

At Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, the concluding ceremony of reciting the Maha Pathana Desana was held. Officials donated alms to 20 members of the Sangha. The image was thronged with pilgrims from dawn to night.

At 2 pm, the Abhidhamma Day Dhamma Puja was held at Kaba Aye Pagoda. Religious associations recited verses from Abhidhamma Treatises.

A similar ceremony was held at Shwephone-pwint Pagoda.

The Abhidhamma Day and Centennial Maha Pavarana Ceremony of Sudhamma Gana of members of the Sangha from Mingaladon, Hlegu

and Hmawby Townships was held at Ayudiga PyoUyin Monastery in Pyinmabin Village, Mingaladon Township. Present were Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, USDA members and local people.

Organized by Latha Township USDA, the ceremony to offer 'soon' to 450 members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University was held at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill, attended by USDA CEC member Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Yangon Division USDA Joint-Secretary U Tha Win and officials. At night, multi-coloured lights were lit at the government offices and buildings, public apartments and roads.

MNA

## Abhidhamma Day ceremony held

YANGON, 28 Oct — Over 500 trainees led by Instructor Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasami (Magadi-Thazi) of the Basic Buddhist Culture Course observed the Abhidhamma Day at Maha Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning. The trainees paid homage to the Buddha image and paid respects to the Sayadaw.

Next, the trainees participated in the Abhidhamma Day ceremony by shooting the questions on Abhidhamma and by replying to the questions. Some trainees recited Abhidhamma Gathas and religious verses. After the ceremony, Dr Myat Htut-Daw Thida Shein and wellwishers served those present with refreshments. — MNA



Senior Officials Meeting of Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking continues for second day at Sedona Hotel. — MNA

## COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting continues

YANGON, 28 Oct — The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) Senior Officials Meeting, hosted

by Myanmar, continued for the second day at Sedona Hotel this here morning.

Senior officials from China, Laos, Thailand,

Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam and officials of UNIAP continued their discussions on Regional Plan of Action.

MNA



Gem merchants examine uncut jade lots at Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium. (News on page 11) — MNA

## Cooperative Products Exhibition continues

YANGON, 28 Oct — Cooperative Products Exhibition continued for the third day at the Cooperative Trade Centre (Saya San Plaza) here today.

At the exhibition, Star Motorcycles produced by Pinnatha Cooperative Society in Yenangyoung Township attracts the visitors. Moreover, products from states and divisions including textiles and garments, foodstuff and domestic goods are available there. There is no entrance fee to the exhibition.

MNA

MNA



## Agriculture, livestock breeding tasks to be carried out ...

(from page 1)

The farm is being run on 150 acres of land with the aim of disseminating agricultural and breeding techniques to the public as well as to the regiments and units.

At the farm, various kinds of plants like mango, pepper, banana, pineapple, and teak, *pyingadoe* are planted.

A total of 1,060 chickens and 166 pigs are bred, and 6,456 chicks and 116 piglets have been distributed to regiments and

units.

Leaving An on 27 October morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Taungup and officials, inspected the condition of An-Padan Road session by car. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

*Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects multimedia classrooms at An BEHS No 1 in Rakhine State. — MNA*



## Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 28 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the 15th day today at the designated places.

Present on the occasions were member of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Competitions Minis-



*U Htay Lwin of Sagaing Division and troupe participate in amateur level dohbet contest. — MNA*

ter for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Organizing Sub-committee Director-General U Kyaw Win of the Fine Arts Department, officials and people including tourists.

At the National Museum, 15 girls from States and Divisions participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' religious song contest. Likewise, 16 persons from States and Divisions competed in the amateur level (men's) old/modern song contest. Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the song contest. On 29 October morn-

ing, the professional level (women's) classical song contest and the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys' classical song contest will be held.

At the Padonma Theatre, leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and members supervised the dohbet contest. Eight troupes took part in amateur level dohbet contest.

In the afternoon, six troupes participated in the basic education level (aged 10-15) dohbet contest. On 29 October, the higher education level (men's) team orches-



*Maung Oo Mya Tun of Rakhine State taking part in higher education level mandolin contest. — MNA*

tra contest and amateur level (men's) team orchestra contest will be held.

At Kanbawza Theatre, 14 girls competed in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' xylophone contest. Next, six contestants participated in the higher education level (men's) xylophone contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Yi Nwe and party supervised the contests. Tomorrow morning, the professional level (women's and men's), higher education level (women's) and

basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' and boys' Donmin contests will be held.

At the National Theatre, six contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' mandolin contest, five in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' mandolin contest, three in the higher education level (men's) mandolin contest and one in the higher education level (women's) mandolin contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Nyo Gyi and party supervised the contests.

On 29 October, the professional level (men's and women's) mandolin contest and the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' and boys' mandolin contest will be held. — MNA



*Ma Yu Phyu Aye of Shan State competes in basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' religious song contest. — MNA*

## Laos, Vietnamese delegations arrive to attend COMMIT

YANGON, 28 Oct — Laotian Minister for Labour and Social Welfare Mr Somphanh Phengkhhammy, Vice Minister for Justice Mr Ket Kiettsak and party and Vietnamese Vice Minister Lt-Gen Dr Le The Tiem of the Ministry of Public Security, Vice President of Women's Union of Vietnam Ms Nguyen Thi Oanh and party arrived here this afternoon to attend the Ministerial Meeting for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT Inter-Ministerial Meeting).

They were welcomed at Yangon Interna-

tional Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint,

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw

Myint and officials of the respective embassies.

MNA



*Laotian and Vietnamese ministers and deputy minister being welcomed at the airport. — MNA*

## 743 local and foreign gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 28 Oct — A total of 743 gem merchants — 599 merchants from 192 companies of nine countries and 144 merchants of 90 local companies — arrived here to attend the Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2004 held at Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road today.

The merchants viewed gems and jade lots displayed at the emporium from 9 am to 5 pm today. On 29 October, more local and foreign gem merchants are scheduled to arrive here.

From 27 to 29 October, gem merchants will observe gems and jade lots. Jade lots worth under 9,999 euro each at reserve price will be sold through tender system on 30 October; the jade lots worth 10,000 euro each and above at reserve price through competitive bidding system on 31 October and 1 November; the gem lots worth under 9,999 euro each at reserve price through tender system on 2 and 3 November, the gem lots worth 10,000 euro each and above at reserve price through competitive bidding and pearl lots worth 4,999 euro each at reserve price through tender system on 4 November and the pearl lots worth 5,000 euro and above at reserve price through competitive bidding system.

MNA

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(For Donnern Somgiat &amp; Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 29 October 2004.

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MOET & CHANDON**, a Company incorporated in France of 20, avenue de Champagne 51200 Epernay-France, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg.No. 3513/1994

Reg.No. 4528/1999

in respect of "Alcoholic beverages (except beers)."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

**Win Mu Tin,**

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

for CHAMPAGNE MOET &amp; CHANDON

P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 29 October 2004

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV "MAWLAMYINE" Voy No 108/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "Mawlamyine" Voy No 108/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 30-10-2004 and will be berthing on about 31-10-2004 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 bye-laws 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 up to 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.

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE  
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**66% of Britons support  
national ban on smoking**

LONDON, 27 Oct— Nearly seven out of 10 Britons want to see smoking banned in restaurants, pubs and offices, according to a poll published on Tuesday.

Sixty-six per cent of respondents to the ICM poll, commissioned by the Guardian newspaper, said they would support a national ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.

The government is poised to introduce controls but has been keen to avoid being accused of engineering a "nanny state".

Yet 61 per cent of those questioned said the government was justified in regulating "for the benefit of others" the country's drinking, smoking and gambling habits. Thirty-five per cent said they op-

**Austrian Airlines  
collects contact details  
of passengers**

VIENNA, 27 Oct — Austrian Airlines is collecting contact details of passengers who may have been exposed to bird flu on one of its flights and will hand over the list to health authorities on Monday, the airline said.

The European Commission said on Sunday two birds of prey that were illegally imported from Thailand were discovered by Belgian Customs authorities on October 18 and diagnosed as having been infected with the bird flu virus. The birds were smuggled into the passenger cabin in hand luggage on the Austrian Airlines flight from Vienna to Brussels.

"We are working on completing the passenger contact information," Austrian Airlines said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

**Higher trade growth predicted  
in 2004 despite oil price hikes**

GENEVA, 27 Oct — Despite high oil prices, the volume of world trade by the end of 2004 is likely to grow by 8.5 per cent in real terms over 2003, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said Monday.

While the price increases for oil and other commodities may dampen growth in trade and overall output in 2005, these effects are being outweighed in 2004 by vigorous trade expansion in many countries and stronger than expected recovery in many others, according to WTO statistics.

"Growth in world trade in 2004 will not be adversely affected by higher oil prices to any great extent because we are seeing good growth in trade and output in China, Latin America and Africa," said WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi.

"We have also seen stronger than expected economic recovery in Japan. Strong demand is behind rising prices for oil and other commodities and markets appear to be handling this well," he said.

Figures in the WTO's latest annual report on International Trade Statistics, parts of which are available on the WTO web site from Monday, show that world merchandise trade increased in nominal terms by 16 per cent to 7.3 trillion US dollars in 2003.

In real terms, merchandise trade grew by 4.5 per cent in 2003, compared with 3 per cent in 2002 and a decline in 2001, according to the report.

Statistics also show that trade in commercial services grew by 13 per cent to 1.8 trillion dollars in nominal terms. — MNA/Xinhua

**Iran makes bid to accelerate  
energy ties with China**

TEHERAN, 27 Oct — Oil-rich Iran will in the next few days make a bid to accelerate energy ties with China.

Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh will lead a delegation to China, probably on Wednesday night, Oil Ministry sources said.

Another industry source said the trip was intended to make headway with China's multi-billion dollar deals to purchase Iranian liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Iran is already China's second biggest oil supplier, providing 14 per cent of imports, and Chinese companies have been prominent investors in the underperforming oil industry of OPEC's second biggest producer.

China is the world's second biggest energy consumer and the US Energy Information Administration estimates Chinese oil consumption will reach 12.80 million barrels per day (BPD) in 2025 from 5.56 million bpd in 2003.

But the world's most populous country has to weigh its voracious appetite for the hydrocarbons that fuel its runaway economic growth against Washington's hostility towards Iran. Iran denies US charges that its nuclear

power station programme is a smokescreen for developing an atomic bomb but its nuclear dossier is edging ever closer to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

EU diplomats in Iran doubt energy ties will be enough to win a veto at the UN Security Council from China, the permanent member which has least exercised its veto. "I think an abstention is most likely," one said.

Others agreed, seeing China as unlikely to imperil its massive trade relations with the United States for the sake of Iran's oil and gas reserves, the world's second largest.

An abstention is not regarded as a veto on the UN Security Council.

Analysts have noted that Chinese firms are more wary than Europeans about incurring US wrath through the Iran Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) over ties with the Islamic Republic.

ILSA threatens penalties, including denial of US credit, for firms making big investments in Iran's oil sector. — MNA/Reuters

**China's imports of  
natural rubber to rise**

GUANGZHOU, 27 Oct — China's natural rubber demand will steadily increase over the coming years, and its imports of natural rubber will rise in the next year, said an official with the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Metals and Mineral Products.

Zhou Chun, an official from the chamber said at the on-going 96th Guangdong Trade Fair that as the world's largest natural rubber consumer and importer, China still faces increasing domestic demand due to its booming automobile industry, which will drive imports to a new high.

An important industrial material, natural rubber is widely used in many fields. In China, most natural rubber is imported for making tyres. China made more than 4.4 million cars in 2003, producing 40 per cent more demand for natural rubber.

Zhou said China's tyre industry is still running at a very low level. As a result, more and more international giant tyre producers have invested in China and expanded their market shares, producing a surging demand for imported natural rubber.

In addition, as the price of China's domestic natural rubber, which is even higher than the world average, continues to rise, more and more Chinese companies choose to import natural rubber, said Zhou.

Customs statistics show that in the first eight months of this year, China imported a total of 800,000 tons of natural rubber, a 4-per-cent increase over the same period of last year. Most of the imports are from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

China has been the world's largest natural rubber importer and consumer since 2001. In 2003, China consumed 1.8 million tons of natural rubber and produced 500,000 tons.

China can only produce 7 per cent of world's total, but consumes over 20 per cent of world total.

MNA/Xinhua



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## Pay-TV piracy causes huge losses in Asia-Pacific region

**HONG KONG, 27 Oct** — The cost of pay television piracy in the Asia-Pacific Region is predicted to rise 11 per cent from 874 million US dollars in 2003 to 970 million US dollars as estimated in 2004, a survey showed.

The Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA) and CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets (CLSA) announced here on Tuesday that piracy has caused huge losses to all sectors of the Asia-Pacific pay-TV industry, from platform operators to independent suppliers of programming.

This is the second annual Asia-Pacific cost of pay-TV piracy report covering all forms of cable and satellite pay-TV piracy and spanning Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The cost to governments in lost taxes, licence fees and other revenues is estimated to be at least 152 million US dollars, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers, who contributed to the report.

The survey showed that Hong Kong has suffered a 66 per cent increase in revenues lost to pirated cable subscribers, but the piracy cost associated with satellite overspill has fallen by 16 per cent.

"Yet again the results are alarming," said Simon

Twiston Davies, CEO of CASBAA. "Pay-TV piracy in Asia-Pacific is not a matter of small-time individuals who make a part-time living from trading in pay-TV decoders and smart cards. The culprits have direct links to, and funding from, organized-crime syndicates investing large sums of money in breaking encryption systems and collecting illicit cable subscriptions".

"These characters are often involved in drug running and prostitution. In some markets these guys have relationships with terrorists. The offenders are far from nice people and the perception that pay-TV theft and the theft of other types of intellectual property rights is a victimless crime must be clearly rebutted," added Twiston Davies. The CLSA noted that the global pay-TV industry is larger than the global recording and filmed entertainment industries combined in terms of revenue. It is vital that all industry participants in Asia join forces to address the problems and overcome the challenges of piracy. —MNA/Xinhua

## China's World Food Prize winner honoured

**BEIJING, 27 Oct** — Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu met with China's 2004 World Food Prize winner Yuan Longping here on Monday, sending the State Council's greetings to him for his great contributions in raising the nation's rice yield.

Yuan, dubbed the "father of hybrid rice", developed the world's first hybrid rice variety in 1974, increasing rice output by 15 to 20 per cent. He was awarded a World Food Prize this month for his outstanding work.

The Vice Premier thanked Yuan for his creativity and perseverance in promoting scientific agriculture and called on all researchers in the sector to learn from him.

Hui noted that China's agriculture and rural productivity should rely on science, which is crucial in building up modern agriculture, increasing farmer's income and promoting rural economics.

Hui also said China should work ceaselessly, go on exploring, make bold innovations and scale new heights so as to introduce breakthroughs in agriculture in technology and grain breeding.

MNA/Xinhua

## Thai-Malaysian Marine police to conduct joint security operations

**BANGKOK, 27 Oct** — Marine police from Thailand and Malaysia will conduct joint operations next week to see a crackdown on insurgents and illegal drugs and weapons, the *Thai News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

Under the joint plans, Police Lieutenant Colonel Thawatchai Saikrachang from the Satun Marine Police is to meet with the head of the Perlis and Kedah Marine Police force on October 30, when boats from the two countries will launch surveys in the Andaman waters.

The Malaysian initiative, aimed at boosting security in the joint border area, will see a clampdown

on illegal goods such as drugs and arms, as well as a crackdown on insurgents attempting to use maritime routes to cross the border, the report said.

Both sides have pledged continued cooperation in the project, which is in part intended to prevent insurgents seeping across into Thailand's three southern border provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

## Customs chief says Thailand can control oil smuggling

**BANGKOK, 27 Oct** — Director-General of the Customs Department of Thailand, Sathit Limpongpan, insisted that the problem of oil smuggling was under control, revealing that the military would be called in to help suppress cross-border oil smuggling from next month.

Sathit admitted that the global oil price crisis had precipitated a rise in attempts to smuggle oil into the country, the *Thai News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

Nonetheless, he stressed that the Customs Department was liaising closely with the Excise Department to step up security measures, while the marine police and Navy were helping prevent smuggling at sea. Revealing that the Customs Department and other agencies had already made advance forecasts of the oil smuggling situation, he said that as a result they had been able to draw up detailed suppression plans, ensuring that the smuggling situation could be kept under control. —MNA/Xinhua

## Super market chains thrive in Greece

**ATHENS, 27 Oct** — The super market-department store sector is the third largest business activity (based on its annual turnover) in the local commercial sector, a survey by Stat Bank said on Monday.

The survey said that total profits of the country's 99 large super market-department store chains rose 18.4 per cent in 2003.

Enterprises in the sector were steadily increasing their profitability in the last three years, the survey said.

Major super market chains dominate the sector, with the seven most profitable companies accounted for around 70 per cent of total net profits of the sector, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



A customer buys a slice of pizza on 27 Oct, 2004. Britain's biggest-selling newspaper said that Arsenal full-back Ashley Cole was responsible for throwing a piece of pizza that it claimed hit Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

INTERNET

## Czech Customs seized large amount of heroin

**PRAGUE, 27 Oct** — Czech Customs officials confiscated tens of kilos of heroin lately, thus completing the Salvej (Sage) operation, which lasted over a year, Jiri Bartak, the spokesman for the Customs Authority said Tuesday.

At last weekend, the police arrested two chief organizers of an international drug-dealing gang, Bartak said. Details will be disclosed at a Press conference on Wednesday, he added.

"It was a year-long operation under the cover name Salvej. Within the seizure operation, several dozen kilos of heroin were seized," Bartak said. "I cannot elaborate on the quantity."

Those who worked on the case will speak up at the Press conference tomorrow. The operation clamped down on drug smugglers and dealers. It involved a number of further police raids, Bartak said. Bartak said that the group of drug dealers was international. "People of various nationalities were involved," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

## Wal-Mart to enter east China scenic city

**HANGZHOU, 28 Oct** — Wal-Mart, the world's top retailer, is going to open a large shopping centre in Hangzhou, a scenic city and capital of east China's Zhejiang Province.

A letter of intent for the approximately 300 million yuan (about 36.3 million US dollars) project was signed between the US-based retailer and a Chinese commercial company, namely Shenzhen Guotou Commercial Properties Company, at an investment fair being held in this fa-

mous Chinese tourism city on Tuesday.

Construction on the shopping centre, a five-storied building with a floor space of some 55,000 square metres, is scheduled to begin early next year and open within two years.

This will be the first Wal-Mart store in

Hangzhou City and also the first in Zhejiang Province, according to a source with the government of Xihu (West Lake) District of Hangzhou, where the Wal-Mart store will be located. Wal-Mart has opened 39 outlets in 19 major Chinese cities, including Shenzhen, Beijing, Harbin

and Nanjing, in the past eight years since 1996. The retailer has employed more than 20,000 people in China. Wal-Mart boasts the largest revenues among its peer companies, and it topped the global Fortune 500 from 2000-2003, with a total of 1.5 million employees. —MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

**Mendieta needs surgery for knee injury**

LONDON, 27 Oct — Middlesbrough's Spanish midfielder Gaizka Mendieta has been ruled out for up to a year with knee ligament damage.

Mendieta requires surgery on an anterior cruciate ligament injury sustained on Sunday against Portsmouth, Middlesbrough said on their official website on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old was injured after a challenge with Portsmouth's Patrik Berger in the 38th minute of the 1-1 draw at the Riverside.

"It's an absolutely devastating blow, not just for him but for this football club," said Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren.

"It's a sad loss for us and we wish him a 100 per cent recovery and a speedy one. It's going to be a long haul, nine or 12 months to get him back. "I do feel sorry for him because he's a player who loves playing football and to deny anyone that is very hard."

Mendieta joined Middlesbrough in August 2003. He soon established himself in the first team and helped them to win last season's League Cup. — MNA/Reuters

**Bayern Munich beat Wolfsburg 2-0**

BERLIN, 27 Oct — Bayern Munich reined in Bundesliga leaders Wolfsburg on Tuesday with a 2-0 victory, courtesy of a double strike from Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro in his first match in a month.

Bayern drew level with VfB Stuttgart on 20 points, just one behind Wolfsburg, but remained third on goal difference.

Pizarro showed he has lost none of his poaching instincts with both goals coming from close range, the first from a pass by Bastian Schweinsteiger in the 24th minute and the second on the stroke of halftime off an Owen

Hargreaves free kick.

Bayern coach Felix Magath, who is missing several players through injury, including playmaker Michael Ballack, was full of praise for Pizarro in only his third match for Bayern this season.

"Without him, there's no one who can hold the ball and draw defenders. We play much better with him," Magath said.

Wolfsburg coach Erik Gerets recognized his side had been a clear second best.

Stuttgart have the chance to go top if they get at least a point from their match against champions Werder Bremen in the highlight of Wednesday evening's action.

Hanover 96 climbed to fourth with a 3-1 home win over Kaiserslautern, a defeat that left the visitors rooted to the bottom of the table.

Kaiserslautern chairman Rene Jaggi said after the match that coach Kurt Jara would remain in place at least until Sunday, despite mounting pressure.

It was Hanover's fifth

straight win, but perfectionist coach Ewald Lienen felt his side had fortune in an finely balanced match.

"I was pleased with us going forward. What I didn't like was that we had problems in defence," he said.

VfL Bochum and Borussia Dortmund each gained their second victories of the season.

Bochum, following four consecutive defeats, beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-0, helped in part by the dismissal of Moenchengladbach's Jeff Strasser just before the hour mark.

Some of the visiting fans stayed at the end, demanding words with coach Holger Fach. Moenchengladbach have lost their last two matches in the absence of striker Oliver Neuville, banned for steering the ball into the net with his hand nine days ago.

Bochum coach Peter Neururer meanwhile recognized his players had been nervous at the start before growing in confidence after the break.

Dortmund won 1-0 at Hertha Berlin thanks to a Jan Koller header and drew level with Hertha on 11 points, just behind them in 11th position on goal difference.

"It's a first step, but a very important step... The team showed real character today," said Dortmund coach Bert van Marwijk.

MNA/Reuters

**Deportivo beat Cerceda 2-0**

MADRID, 27 Oct — Deportivo Coruna striker Diego Tristan continued his impressive return to form by scoring both goals in the 2-0 victory against fourth division Cerceda in the first round of the King's Cup on Tuesday.

Tristan, who got the equalizer in the 1-1 draw at Malaga on Saturday shortly after returning from a lengthy injury lay-off, opened the scoring when he drilled the ball in on the turn from the edge of the area midway through the first half.

Both sides were reduced to 10 men after half an hour when Depor midfielder Sergio and his opposite number Nacho were involved in a minor scuffle but Tristan put the result beyond doubt when he headed his second goal eight minutes from time.

A shadow Real Madrid side, led by strikers Michael Owen and Fernando Morientes, take on modest neighbours Leganes and Osasuna visit another third division side Castellon in Tuesday's late matches.

Holders Real Zaragoza, who claimed a dramatic extra-time victory over Real Madrid in last year's final, face a tricky game at second division Gimnastic on Wednesday when league leaders Barcelona visit third division Girona. — MNA/Reuters

**Burnley sink Aston Villa 3-1**

LONDON, 27 Oct — Aston Villa lost 3-1 away to second division Burnley in the League Cup third round on Tuesday as the top Premier League clubs made their first appearance in this season's competition.

A much-changed Manchester United side won 3-0 at Crewe Alexandra, Liverpool beat Millwall by the same scoreline and there were also victories for Portsmouth and Nottingham Forest.

Villa, five-times League Cup winners, fell behind to Burnley after 10 minutes when Graham Branch scored for the hosts.

David O'Leary's team rarely threatened to equalize and, after Villa goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen saved a penalty, Mohammad Camara scored following a short corner routine to double Burnley's advantage.

Colombia striker Juan Pablo Angel got a goal back for Villa with a header nine minutes from time but Jean-Louis Valois made the game safe for Burnley in the dying minutes.

Manchester United, showing 11 changes from the side that started Sunday's league victory over

champions Arsenal, eased past Crewe in the first competitive match between the near neighbours, which pitted English soccer's two longest-serving managers in Alex Ferguson and Dario Gradi.

United took the lead after only 10 minutes through Alan Smith who was set up by his fellow striker Louis Saha.

Crewe held their own until 12 minutes into the second half when Ireland midfielder Liam Miller grabbed his first goal for United, and the Premier League side added a third through a Steve Foster own goal just before the hour mark.

Liverpool, record seven-times League Cup winners, took the lead at second division Millwall on 17 minutes when midfielder Salif Diaorammed the ball home from 10 metres after a corner.

Last season's FA Cup runners-up fell further behind midway through the

second half following a mistake by goalkeeper Graham Stack, Liverpool striker Milan Baros turning the ball into an empty net, and the Czech striker added a third in stoppage time. — MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (L) fights for the ball with Arsenal's Sol Campbell. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger criticized United's approach during their controversial win at Old Trafford last weekend. — INTERNET

**Michael scores his third goal in three games**

MADRID, 27 Oct — Real Madrid striker Michael Owen scored his third goal in three games when he helped his side to a 2-1 win over third division neighbours Leganes in the first round of the King's Cup on Tuesday.

Fellow striker Fernando Morientes, getting his first start of the season, put Real ahead in the 19th minute when he poked the ball home on the rebound after an Owen volley.

The England striker, who got the winners in Real's 1-0 victories against Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League and Valencia in the Primera Liga, made it 2-0 early in the second half as he steered the ball in after a neat pass from Morientes.

But Real had to endure a nervous finale after Leganes pulled one back with a superb Dani Ruiz free kick in the 56th minute.

Deportivo Coruna striker Diego Tristan continued his impressive return to form by scoring both goals in the 2-0 victory against fourth division Cerceda a game which saw both sides reduced to 10 men after 30 minutes. In Tuesday's other match, Primera Liga side Osasuna managed to squeeze through with a 4-2 victory on penalties against third division Castellon after the game ended 0-0.

Holders Real Zaragoza, who claimed a dramatic extra-time victory over Real Madrid in last year's final, face a tricky game at second division Gimnastic on Wednesday when league leaders Barcelona visit third division Girona.

MNA/Reuters



Two-time bronze medallist Fumie Suguri, pictured, and former Canadian champion Cynthia Phaneuf will be looking for strong showings at this week's 2004 Skate Canada event. — INTERNET





## Buddhist devotees perform meritorious deeds at religious edifices, residences on Abhidhamma Day

YANGON, 28 Oct —

Buddhist devotees in the Union of Myanmar performed meritorious deeds at religious sites peacefully on Abhidhamma Day today and Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.

Famous pagodas in Yangon City — Shwedagon, Sule, Botahtaung, Kaba Aye, Tooth Relic, Meilamu, Shwephonepwin, Kyaikkasan, Okkalapa, Kyaikkaloh and Kyaikkale in Mingaladon Township, Thadukan and MyoU in Shwepyitha Township, Koedatgyi, Chaukhtetgyi, Ngadatgyi, Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image in Insein Township— were crowded with devotees and pilgrims from the dawn to the evening.

They paid homage to the pagodas, recited Maha Pathana Desana, offered flowers, lights,



A stream of monks and people go to Shwedagon Pagoda for paying homage on Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. — NLM

water and fruits to the pagoda, practised meditation and donated refreshments to the

pilgrims. At Shwedagon Pagoda, the ceremony to recite verses from the seven treatises of

Abhidhamma, organized by the pagoda board of trustees, was held at the prayer hall. Present were

religious associations and officials.

Similarly, Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees

organized the ceremony to offer flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to (See page 9)

## A&I Minister inspects progress of Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects main embankment and storage of Mone Creek Dam in Sedoktara Township.

AGRI & IRR

YANGON, 28 Oct — Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, Director-General U Kyaw San Win of Irrigation Department, Director-

General U Win Shwe of Water Resource Utilization Department and officials, inspected functions of Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented on Mone Creek in Sedoktara Township on 25 October.

The minister heard reports on construction of the spillway, diversion tunnel and the tunnel for the hydel power station. Next, the minister inspected the main dam, storage of water and the main embankment measuring 6,490 feet long and 200 feet high.

Maj-Gen Htay Oo saw over construction

tasks at the project site. He then inspected the water supply building, the outlet of the feeder canal and the Mone Creek Hydel Power Station.

Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo met USDA members of Sedoktara Township at the hall of the project and urged them to participate in regional development together with local people and to make efforts for achieving success in implementation of the seven-point policy programme of the State.

MNA

## Jade to be sold in kyat at Jade Mining Division (Lonkhin), Phakant Township

YANGON, 28 Oct — Myanmar Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines will sell the uncut jade lots in kyat at Jade Hall in Lonkhin Jade Mining Division in Phakant Township from 13 to 16 December through competitive bidding in accord with prescribed rules and regulations.

Gems merchants will be allowed to view and examine the jade lots from 10 to 12 December. Payment for jade lots is to be put into a bank account of Myanmar Economic Bank. Merchants are permitted to carry the purchased jade lots to Yangon and Mandalay only under the supervision of the committee concerned.

The sales of uncut jade lots aims at enabling the companies that are jointly doing business with the government to generate their incomes swiftly, boosting the jade trading in the region in accord with rules and regulations of MGE, enabling the gems entrepreneurs to obtain the uncut jade so as to produce polished jade. Moreover, it also aims at curbing the smuggling of jade out of the country. Besides, after cutting the uncut jade bought in kyat, merchants can sell the quality jade in foreign currency at the Myanmar Gems Emporium which will be held in March.

Contact is to be made with Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office) Yangon; the Jade Mining Division (Lonkhin) and the Jade Mining Divisions (Camp Office) in Myitkyina and Mandalay for registration to attend the sale and to obtain applications. — MNA

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