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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to Buddha Image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda built by King Siri Dhammasoka in Bodh Gaya, India.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party tour Banares and Bodh Gaya

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at Bangalore Airport at 10.30 am on 27 October to leave for Banares, India.

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and delegation members were seen off at the airport by the governor of Karnataka and officials.

On arrival at Banares in a special aircraft of Indian Airlines, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party were welcomed by officials.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and

party were taken to Hotel Taj Ganges in a motorcade.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party proceeded to Migadawun, where they revered the area where Gottama Buddha, after reaching Buddhahood, delivered the first Dhammacacca Discourse to Five Disciples.

M i g a d a w u n (Myanmar) Monastery Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vamnadhaja

explained to the Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe the previous existence of the pagoda in the sacred area.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also observed the Ashoka Pillar.

Senior General Than Shwe visualized the Lord Buddha and paid homage to Him after viewing Nandiya Monastery, also known as Mula Gandhakuti, where the Lord Buddha resided.

Senior General

Than Shwe and party offered provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vamnadhaja.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also revered Migadawun, where the Lord Buddha went on His first retreat.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also paid homage to Dhammekha Pagoda, circling it anticlockwise.

Senior General Than Shwe left Migadawun at 4 pm for Banares Airport.

The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe arrived at Gaya Town in a special flight. They were welcomed at the airport by Magadh Division Commissioner Mr SK Negi and officials. Senior General Than Shwe and party were later taken to the Royal Residency.

At 6.30 pm, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visited the Myanmar Monastery in Bodh Gaya. On arrival,

they were welcomed by local residents and Myanmar people on pilgrimage.

Senior General Than Shwe and party paid homage to Sayadaws and student monks studying at universities in India.

On the occasion, Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naninda administered the Five Precepts to the congregation led (See page 7)



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visit Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Bodh Gaya, India.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 1 November, 2004

Stronger friendly ties, new chapter in bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and India

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing paid a State Visit to India from 25 to 29 October at the invitation of Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

On 25 October, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam hosted a dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at the Presidential Residence in New Delhi.

Speaking at the dinner, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said: "Our bilateral relationship is a factor of peace and stability for the region and has an important bearing on regional cooperation initiatives".

Senior General Than Shwe, in his address at the dinner, said: "In this age of globalization, Myanmar considers that closer cooperation among neighbouring countries is essential to meet the new challenges we face. In this regard, Myanmar welcomes India's 'Look East' policy and its commitment to strengthen economic linkages and developmental cooperation with the ASEAN countries". Myanmar has established a close and cordial relations with India since many years ago. Moreover, the two countries share historical, geographical, cultural and religious analogues, thereby multiplying mutual understanding and friendly relations between both peoples. Exchange of visits between the high-ranking officials opens a new chapter in political, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

For India, Myanmar is the only gateway to ASEAN. Furthermore, Myanmar and India are partners cooperating in BIMST-EC and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation. With a gradual increase in trade, the two countries still have a prospect of further widening their scope of bilateral cooperation.

During the State Visit to India by Senior General Than Shwe, the two countries signed three memoranda of understanding on cooperation in non-traditional security issues between the two governments, on implementation of Htamanthi hydel power project between the Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar and the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and on cultural exchange programme 2004-2006 between the two governments.

It is believed that the State Visit paid to the Republic of India by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing will vitalize bilateral ties and promote cooperation in trade and culture between the two countries.

Second Abhidhamma Day ceremony held in Myitkyina

YANGON, 31 Oct — The second Abhidhamma Day ceremony of Kachin State was held at Sasana Beikman of Kachin State in Myitkyina on October 28 afternoon.

Present were Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Commander of Myitkyina Airbase Col Zaw Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental officials and local people. U Soe Tint of Kachin State Religious Affairs Department explained matters related to Abhidhamma Day. Later, members of religious organizations recited Dhammacakkya Desana. — 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

Commander inspects agricultural tasks in TadaU

YANGON, 31 Oct — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint inspected extension of irrigated area of

Thittatkon Diversion Weir and dredging of extension tunnel carried out by Irrigation Department. Assistant Director U Zaw Min Htut and Director U Aye Thein of Irrigation Department and Chairman

of Kyaukse District PDC Lt-Col Tin Ohn reported on progress of construction tasks. The Commander attended to their needs.

The commander proceeded to TadaU

Township and inspected supply of water and sinking of the tube-well. An official reported on progress of works and the commander gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Commander looks into beautifying of Sittway

YANGON, 31 Oct — A coordination meeting on beautifying and greening Sittway Township was held at Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Office on October 29 morning, attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council

Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Secretary Lt-Col Khin Maung Than and officials.

The commander made a speech on the occasion. The commander gave necessary instructions and the meeting ended.

On October 30, the

commander and party inspected the cleaning and beautifying tasks in the townships being carried out by the departmental staff and local people and the commander attended to the needs.

Next, the commander inspected repaving of Minbagyi Road being car-

ried out by the Township Development Affairs Committee and he gave necessary instructions.

Later, the commander attended work coordination meeting of the General Administration Department of Rakhine State and fulfilled the requirements of the works. MNA

Ayeyawady Division USDA holds annual meeting



CEC member Col Thein Nyunt addresses annual meeting of Ayeyawady Division USDA. — H

YANGON, 31 Oct — The annual meeting 2004 of Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the city hall of Patheingyi this morning. It was attended by member of the Panel of Patrons of USDA (Central) Chair-

man of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, CEC member Col Thein Nyunt, officials and others. Col Thein Nyunt delivered an address on the occasion.

At the cash donation

ceremony, the Commander donated K 500,000 for the Divisional USDA through Col Thein Nyunt. The wellwishers donated K 4.8 million to the Commander for the USDA. Next, the Commander, the CEC member and the departmental

officials presented prizes to outstanding students who passed with flying colours in the matriculation examination for 2004 academic year and 45 USDA members.

The meeting ended after a round of general discussions. — NLM

Myanmar delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left here by air this morning to attend the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Ministerial Retreat to be held in Krabi, Thailand, from 1st to 3rd November 2004.

The Deputy Minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by heads of departments, officials and Charge d'Affaires Mr Opas Chantarasap of the Royal Thai Embassy. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu being seen off at the airport before departure for Thailand to attend ACMECS Ministerial Retreat. — MNA

Eight Marines killed in Iraq as Fallujah assault looms

BAGHDAD, 30 Oct — Eight US Marines were killed Saturday in the bloodiest attack on American forces in Iraq in almost seven months as troops prepared for a major assault to capture the guerilla towns of Ramadi and Fallujah.

Violence flared across Iraq ahead of the offensive, expected any day, and US planes and artillery pounded Fallujah in the country's central Sunni Muslim heartland. At least seven people

were killed by a suspected car bomb outside the Al Arabiya television office in Baghdad, the station reported, and seven Iraqis died in clashes with US troops in an area dubbed the triangle of death southwest of the capital.

The US military said the Marines were killed in the restive western province of Anbar, which includes Fallujah and Ramadi, but gave no details. Nine Marines were also wounded.

Witnesses said earlier they had seen three US vehicles burning on a road east of Fallujah, in the same province. It was not clear if that was where the Marine casualties occurred.

The deaths bring to 858 the number of US troops

killed in combat. The total number of US troop deaths, including accidents and other causes, is now almost 1,120.

US Marine commanders said Friday they were preparing for a major assault on Fallujah and Ramadi.

Internet



Eight US Marines were killed in the bloodiest attack on American forces in Iraq in almost seven months on 30 Oct, 2004, as troops prepared for a major assault to capture the guerilla towns of Ramadi and Fallujah.—INTERNET

Polish hostage begs nation to leave Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct — A Polish woman hostage being held by militants pleaded for her life and asked Poland to remove its troops from Iraq in a video aired Saturday by Al-Jazeera television.

Teresa Borcz Khalifa, a 54-year-old with dual Polish-Iraqi citizenship, was wearing a black top and sitting in front of a banner with the militant group's name, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Fundamentalist Brigades.

"Once again I call on you to help me, by saving my life," she said. "My life is in great danger. The one thing that will save my life is any response to the Iraqis' demands: by first getting the Polish troops out of

Iraq and second, giving any help to release the female Iraqi prisoners from the various American prisons in Iraq," Khalifa made an anguished plea for help specifically to the Polish government.

"For the second time I am asking for the help of the Polish government and the Polish people, I ask everyone who can help me get out of this situation, given that I am a Polish citizen and somehow is being made responsible for presence of

the Polish troops on Iraqi soil," she said. On Thursday, Al-Jazeera television aired a video by the extremists holding her captive, demanding that Poland remove all its soldiers from Iraq.

Poland commands about 6,000 troops from 15 nations — including some 2,400 from Poland — in central Iraq. The Warsaw government has ruled out any possibility of negotiations or a pullout from Iraq.—*Internet*

Unidentified body found near Tikrit

TIKRIT (Iraq), 30 Oct — An unidentified body has been found near the Iraqi town of Tikrit, police said on Friday, but it is unlikely to be that of Japanese hostage Shosei Koda. The bullet-riddled body, with what appeared to be rope burns on the wrists, was found near Saddam Hussein's hometown, 110 miles north of Baghdad, early on Thursday morning.

Police said the victim was dark-skinned, had a moustache and was dressed in a white shirt and baggy pants commonly worn in India and Pakistan, which does not fit Koda's

description.

Some media had earlier reported the body of an Asian-looking man had been found near Tikrit, sparking speculation it might have been Koda.

On Tuesday, militants led by al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said they would behead the 24-year-old if Japan did not withdraw its 550 non-combat troops from Iraq within 48 hours. No word has been heard from them since.

Japan has rejected the demand.

Islamic militants are holding a score of foreign hostages a dozen countries.

MNA/Reuters

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Italians stage demo against Iraq war

ROME, 30 Oct — Several thousand people took to the streets of Rome to protest the war in Iraq and demand the withdrawal of some 3,000 Italian troops based there.

Several leaders of the Italian opposition took part in the protest in rainy conditions, in which organizers estimated a turnout of 70,000. Police did not give a figure.

"The war is not yet over and we must continue to keep mobilized," said Oliviero Diliberto, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party.

Green party president Alfonso Pecorella Scanio said: "100,000 dead is a good reason to demand the withdrawal of Italian troops from Iraq," a reference to the huge number of civilians killed both during last year's war and since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

"It's not enough to sign unitary motions on the withdrawal. We must also mobilize, as thousands of pacifists have done today. This large turnout shows that peace is an issue in Italian public opinion that can mobilize people."

Rome has around 3,000 soldiers in Iraq—the third biggest US-allied force in the country, after the United States and Britain, which have around 140,000 and 8,500 troops there respectively.

Italian Defence Minister Antonio Martino said earlier this month that the Iraqi government to be elected in January would ask foreign forces operating in the US-led military coalition to leave shortly after taking office.

The aim is to crush guerrillas and root out Arab militants led by declared al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi to enable Iraq's interim government to hold national elections in January.

Internet



Italian demonstrators hold balloons reading 'peace' as they march in Rome, on 30 Oct, 2004 demanding peace in Iraq and the withdrawal of troops.—INTERNET

Bangladesh appeals for release of hostage in Iraq

DHAKA, 30 Oct — Dhaka has appealed for the release of a Bangladeshi truck driver taken hostage in Iraq, saying the Muslim-majority South Asian nation is not involved in the ongoing strife there, a report said.

"Bangladesh is a peace-loving nation; we are not involved in any conflict," Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told the private UNB news agency late Friday. "I make an appeal on behalf of 140 million Muslims to the hostage takers to release the poor Bangladeshi driver," he said.

Khan pledged an "all-out" effort by the government to secure the driver's release and said senior Bangladeshi diplomats in countries neighbouring Iraq were doing all they could. The

government identified the captured man as 42-year-old Abul Kashem, whom it said had been working for a Kuwaiti company for about five years before he was abducted. It is not known from which part of Bangladesh he came.

Internet

Angola, Yemen establish diplomatic relations

LUANDA, 30 Oct — Angola and Yemen have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, according to Angolan official news agency Angop on Friday.

The report said Ismael Gaspar Martins, the permanent representative of Angola to the United Nations, signed the accord for the country on Thursday, whilst Abdullah M Alsaidi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to the UN, represented his country.

The ceremony, held on the premises of the Angolan mission, was attended by employees of both diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations, New York.

MNA/Xinhua

British soldier killed in redeployment near Baghdad

LONDON, 30 Oct— A British soldier was killed and three others injured on Friday as the Balck Watch Regiment travelled from southern Iraq to its more dangerous new base near Baghdad, a military spokesman confirmed.

The spokesman for the British Ministry of Defence told *Xinhua* the incident occurred "as a result of vehicle accident," when the *Warrior* vehicle they were travelling was overturned in Iraq's Babil Province, adding "no hostile actions" were involved.

It was the first fatality from the contingent of around 850 Black Watch

soldiers, who are being redeployed from their previous base in the relatively peaceful southern part of Iraq, at a request from the United States to free-up troops to fight in other hotspots including Fallujah.

The first troops from the Black Watch have arrived at a new base, called Camp Dogwood, about 15 miles south of Baghdad. Sky

News television reported. The rest would arrive over the weekend, military sources said.

Britain has some 9,000. A total of 68 British soldiers have been killed in Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua

Japanese hostage in Iraq killed

TOKYO, 30 Oct— A Japanese man who was taken hostage by militants in Iraq has been killed, the *Kyoto* news agency

reported on Saturday, citing government officials.

Al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's militant group said in an Internet video on Wednesday it would behead 24-year-old Shosei Koda within 48 hours if Japan did not withdraw its troops from Iraq. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi rejected the demand, saying he would not bow to terrorists.—MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier carries a rocket he removed from close to the wreckage of a car bomb along a road north of the city of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad. — INTERNET

US decision to cut troops in S Korea a madcap ploy

SEOUL, 30 Oct— The US decision to cut and relocate its troop contingent in South Korea while bringing in high-tech armaments is a madcap ploy that shows a second Korean War is imminent, North Korea said on Friday.

The United States and South Korea signed a landmark deal on Tuesday under which 12,500 troops will leave by 2008. US forces will also vacate a base in Seoul and units will be pulled south away from the fortified Demilitarized Zone border with the North.

General Leon LaPorte, commander of US Forces in Korea, told a seminar many of the more than 100 US sites had been down dusty tracks even 10 years ago but were now in built-up areas because South Korea's economy had grown so much.

"Many of these installations now cause an irritant to the Korean people," he said on Friday. "Our goal in realigning our forces is to reduce this irritant."

Many young South Koreans express anti-US sentiments because of the military presence. LaPorte said the key was to ensure North Korea did not misunderstand the US plan, which is part of a global realignment of its forces.

North Korea has long argued all US forces should withdraw but has taken a different line now that some are actually pulling out.

"The US madcap arms build-up of an unprecedented scale now under way in

South Korea under the pretext of the cut down of its troops and their relocation is a dangerous military action," said the North's main newspaper, *Rodong Sinmun*.

MNA/Reuters

US new jobless claims up sharply last week

WASHINGTON, 29 Oct — The initial claims for unemployment benefits in the United States increased by 20,000 last week, the largest jump in a month, the Labour Department reported on Thursday.

The bigger-than-expected increase pushed total new claims to 350,000 last week. The increase of 20,000 was sharply higher than the 6,000 gain that many economists had been expecting and was the biggest one-week rise since a jump of 21,000 claims in the week ending on 25 September.

Analysts said that it was another sign that the US labour market remains weak although the economy is accelerating in recent months.

MNA/Xinhua

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11 abducted Iraqi soldiers killed by militant group

BAGHDAD, 29 Oct — A militant group said on its web site on Thursday that it had killed 11 Iraqi National Guards abducted south of Baghdad.

The Army of Ansar al-Sunna had executed 11 Iraqi soldiers, said a statement posted on the site.

The group beheaded one of the soldiers and shot dead the other 10, added the statement. Appalling pictures showing the beheaded man and 10 bodies lying on the ground were also posted.

The head of the group demanded Iraq's Army and police put down weapons, go home and "abstain from supporting the apostate crusaders", or face death.

The group published Wednesday on its site a number of photos picturing the men being held, some wearing uniforms and sitting under a banner bearing the group's name.

The same gang has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks and kidnappings, including the killing of 12 Nepalis and several Iraqi Kurds after taking them hostage this year.—MNA/Xinhua

FBI to interview US Army official on Halliburton's work in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 29 Oct— The FBI has asked to interview a whistle-blowing Army contracting official as part of an investigation into billions of dollars of Iraq-related contracts awarded to Halliburton Co, her lawyer said on Thursday.

Bunnatine Greenhouse, the Army Corps of Engineers' chief contracting officer, went public this week with complaints that US officials improperly favoured Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root for work in Iraq and the Balkans.

Bunnatine's attorney Michael Kohn said he was seeking to make sure that Greenhouse was given protection as a whistleblower before she meets the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI declined comment. A spokeswoman for the Corps of Engineers, Carol Sanders,

said she knew nothing of an FBI investigation.

Halliburton, run by Dick Cheney before he became US Vice-President, is bogged down in a billing dispute over its logistics work in Iraq involving everything from feeding troops to delivering fuel. Cheney ran Houston, Texas-based Halliburton from 1995 to 2000. The company's work in Iraq has become a target for the Democrats ahead of the presidential election Tuesday.

Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall said the company was working with all investigations

related to the delivery of fuel to Iraq under its contract with the Army.

The "old allegations" raised by Greenhouse had once again been recycled ahead of the election, she said. In filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Halliburton previously disclosed a related US Justice Department investigation.

Kohn said he understood from the FBI it had launched its investigation into KBR's Iraq-related work before Greenhouse complained of "repeated interference" in the award of Halliburton contracts.—MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi boy collects the remains of a rocket shell from inside a badly damaged building destroyed during an overnight US raid in the restive city of Fallujah, 50 kms from Baghdad, on 28 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend the consecration ceremony of Bronze Buddha Image to be kept in front of Maha Bo Tree and Golden Throne in Bodh Gaya. (News on page 16)—MNA

Myanmar ministers meet their counterparts in India



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw discuss with Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath at Maurya Sheraton Hotel in New Delhi.—MNA

YANGON, 31 Oct—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, who accompanied Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing as members of Myanmar goodwill delegation on a State Visit to the Republic of India, met officials of Chamber of Indian Industry at a ceremony, sponsored by the India-Myanmar Joint Task Force, at the Maurya Sheraton Hotel, New Delhi, on 25 October.

Also present on the occasion were Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath and officials.

At the meeting, Chairman of India-Myanmar Joint Task Force Mr Rajive Kaul extended greetings and explained ongoing cooperation between the two countries.

Next, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung explained investment opportunities in Myanmar.

Next, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung explained condition of Myanmar industry, investment opportunities in Myanmar and better prospects of bilateral cooperation in trade.

Next, the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India explained development of trade and industry between the two countries.

Afterwards, Chairman of India-Myanmar Joint Task Force Mr Rajive Kaul handed over an annual report. After the ceremony, Minister U Aung Thaung and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath at the hotel.

Matters related to cooperation in economy and promotion of border trade were discussed.

Minster U Aung Thaung received Managing Director Mr Harjap Singh Samra of Samra Intel (Pvt) Ltd and Managing Director Mr Anil Auluck of Luxmi Intel Ltd at 2.30 pm on 24 October, and President Mr SN Kejriwal of AVM Group at 4 pm at the Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi.

On 25 October morning, Minister U Aung Thaung received the managing directors of GR Group, Larsen and Toubro Ltd and Nipha Export (P) Ltd at the Oberoi Hotel.

In the afternoon, he met the managing director of World Best Trading Co and the chairman of Angelique International Co at the same venue and explained investment opportunities in Myanmar.

Likewise, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met the Minister of External Affairs of India at the latter's office at 6 pm on 25 October.

Matters related to promotion of friendship be-

tween the two countries were discussed.

Similarly, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min met Minister of Rail Transportation of India Mr Lalu Prasad at the latter's office at 4.30 pm on 25 October. Matters related to bilateral cooperation in upgrading Myanmar Railways were discussed.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met Minister of Information Technology and Communications Shri Dayanidhi Maran at the latter's office at 4.30 pm on 25 October.

Matters related to cooperation in the communication sector, exchange of technology and postal tasks were discussed.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met the Secretary of Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry and the Chairman of ONGC (VEDESH) and Gail (India) Pte Ltd and party at the Oberoi Hotel on 25 October.

Matters related to exploration of oil and natural gas in Myanmar, laying pipelines for supply of natural gas produced in Myanmar to India and fuel trade at the border were discussed.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung met Minister of Science and Technology of India Mr Kapil Sibal at the latter's office on 25 October.

Matters related to the holding of the fourth meeting of India-Myanmar Science and Technology Cooperation Task Force in the last week of November 2004 in New Delhi under the MoU signed by the ministers on 24 June 1999 were discussed.

Likewise, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met Professor Raju and Professor Tiaryi of Care Foundation of India in New Delhi on 25 October.

Matters related to health care services of the two countries and future tasks, especially treatment of and operation on heart, treatment and diagnosis of alimentary tract diseases and cooperation in research work were discussed. — MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives the Secretary of Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry and the Chairman of ONGC (VEDESH) and Gail (India) Pte Ltd and party at Oberoi Hotel on October 25.—MNA

Governor of West Bengal, India, hosts dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife

YANGON, 31 Oct — The visiting Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at Gaya Airport from the Royal Residency on 28 October afternoon to leave for Kolkata. They were seen off at the airport by Mr SK Negi, Commissioner of Magadh Division and officials.

On arrival at Kolkata by Indian Airlines, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Governor of State of West Bengal Mr Viren J Shah and wife, Senior Minister of the State and Minister of Education Mr Satya Sadham Cha-kraburty and high-ranking officers. Two Myanmar children presented a bouquet to the Senior General and wife. Next, Consul-General U Zeya Oo and wife, staff members of the Consulate-General of Myanmar to India and their families cordially greeted the Senior General and wife. Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation went to the Oberoi Grand Hotel by car. In the evening, the Governor hosted a dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife at Raj Bhavan, Kolkata. Also present at the dinner were Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing being welcomed by Governor of West Bengal State.— MNA

Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, SPDC member Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-

Gen Nay Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director of Medical Services of

the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Than Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and

wife Daw Ma Ma Shein, Director-General of the SPDC Office Lt- Col Pe Nyein and

heads of department. Together with the Governor of State of West (See page 7)



Senior General Than Shwe and party visit Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and party being welcomed at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents a souvenir to Curator of Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party pay homage to Dhammacakkya Stupa in Migadawon, India.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party...

(from page 1)

by Senior General Than Shwe. The recitation of parittas by members of the Sangha followed.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing also offered robes and cash to the Sayadaw.

Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein supplicated on the purpose of donating Three Pitakas

and offertories to Sayadaws and student monks.

Next, Kusinaron Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Naniccara delivered a sermon to the congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe, which was followed by the sharing of merits gained from good deeds.

Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Maha Bodi Pagoda, built by King Siridhamma Soka in Bodh Gaya. At the pagoda, they paid homage to the pagoda and offered flowers, lights, water and joss

sticks to Buddha images.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also paid homage to the Aparajita Golden Throne and the Bo Tree, under which the Lord Buddha attained the enlightenment.

After paying homage to the Buddha Image near the pagoda, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and members of the Myanmar goodwill delegation left there.

MNA

Governor of West Bengal, India, ...

(from page 6)

Bengal, the ministers of the State, the deputy ministers, the Indian Ambassador and wife and high-ranking officials also attended the dinner. Before the dinner, the Senior General and wife met and made discussions with the Governor and wife at the guesthouse. Also present were Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Ambassador U Kyi Thein, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General of the Political Department U Thauung Tun. At the meeting, the Senior General explained the latest developments in political, economic and social fields of the State. The Governor said he was very grateful for welcoming him when he was on a visit to Myanmar at the beginning of this year. The State of Bengal has been the closest to Myanmar in terms of neighbourly relations between the two countries. And the State will continue cooperation with Myanmar in all aspects as before, he said.

Next, the Governor and wife hosted the dinner to the Senior General and wife and party. After the dinner, the Senior General and party went back to their hotel where they were putting up.

On 29 October morning the Senior General and party visited the Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata where they were welcomed by Secretary and Curator Prof Chitta Panda and officials and explained facts



Senior General Than Shwe signs in the visitors' book at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.— MNA

about the memorial hall. They next studied the arts and weapons used by Indian national races displayed at the memorial hall.

Senior General Than Shwe and party observed documents on historical facts of the State of West Bengal and paintings depicting culture, customs, economy and social affairs.

The State of Bengal has been the closest to Myanmar in terms of neighbourly relations between the two countries. And the State will continue cooperation with Myanmar in all aspects as before.

**Governor of State of West Bengal
Mr Viren J Shah**



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party being seen off at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador and Governor of West Bengal State.— MNA

They were conducted round the booths on social life of local people by officials. They also observed portraits of leaders of India.

Senior General Than Shwe signed in the visitors' book and presented gifts to Curator Prof Chitta Panda.

Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata at 2 pm. They were seen off at the airport by Ambassador U Kyi Thein and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw and wife, Consul General U Zeya Oo and wife, embassy staff and families.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing bade farewell to Governor of State of West Bengal Mr Viren J Shah, Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and wife.

The Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived home in the evening.

MNA



The Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer flowers to Buddha images at Aparajita Throne and Bo Tree.— MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay reverence to the place where Lord Buddha administered Dhammacakkya Desana to His first five monks in Migadawon. — MNA



Images of Senior General Than Shwe's State Visit to India



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and member of Myanmar delegation present cash donation to Migadawon Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party being welcomed by local people and pilgrims from Myanmar at Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery in Gaya. — MNA





Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Bronze Buddha Image to be kept in front of Maha Bo Tree and Golden Throne in Bodh Gaya.— MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe offers gold foils to Buddha Image at Maha Bo Tree and Golden Throne in Bodh Gaya.— MNA

Images of Senior General Than Shwe's State Visit to India

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family donate robes to Sayadaw of Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery.— MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and Myanmar delegation members feed the fish at Muçanlinda Lake (the Abode of Snake King).— MNA





Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer fruits to Buddha Image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife ...

(from page 16)

On arrival at Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery, they paid homage to Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naninda and members of the Sangha of the monastery.

The Senior General gave instructions to

officials for attending the needs of the monastery.

While in India, CDs on tri-Pitakat treatises in Myanmar version, Myanmar-English Buddhist cultural books, medicines and cash were donated to 18 monasteries including Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery, Kuthennayon Myanmar Monastery, Thawutthi Myanmar Monastery, Buddhism Myanmar Monastery, Pattna Myanmar Monastery, Indo-

Myanmar Monastery, Hsay Wingabar Myanmar Monastery, Sankassanagor Myanmar Monastery, Maha Bodhi Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Maha Aungmye Monastery, Bigara Myanmar Monastery and Migadawon Myanmar Monastery.

Furthermore, they made cash donations towards the funds of student monks at universities in India. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party donate provisions to Sayadaws at consecration ceremony of Bronze Buddha Image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Bodh Gaya in Gaya, India.— MNA

Seinbudaw (diamond bud) hoisting of Dhamma Tapawwana Pagoda in Igatpur, India

YANGON, 31 Oct—A ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw(diamond bud) of Dhamma Tapawwana Pagoda built in the World Vipassana Meditation Centre in Igatpur, India, was held at the pagoda on 26 October.

Present were member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Garava, Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy on Sagaing Hill Agga Maha Pandita Dr Nanisara and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious

Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Goenka and yogis.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally opened the 'Myanmar' Archway and and U Ba Khin Vipassana Village Arch-way and formally unveiled the Dhamma circle. The minister and officials sprinkled scented water on them. The congregation received the Five

Precepts from Sitagu Sayadaw. The minister and U Goenka presented the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and offertories to the Sayadaw, which was followed by the sharing of merits.

The minister then hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda. He performed rituals of gold and silver showers.

The minister handed over the cash donated for the pagoda by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing to

U Goenka. The minister inspected construction of a replica of the

Shwedagon Pagoda which will be built in Mumbai. — MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung offers the Hngetmyatnadaw to Sitagu Sayadaw.— MNA

Secretary-1 attends violin, harp contests of Performing Arts Competitions



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoys men's amateur harp contest at Padonma Theatre.—MNA

YANGON, 31 Oct — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoyed the violin contest at Kanbawza Theatre and the harp contest at Padonma Theatre of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions today.

On arrival at Kanbawza Theatre, the Secretary-1 was welcomed by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials.

The Secretary-1 watched participation of contestants in the men's violin contest at the amateur level.

Next, the Secretary-1 and the commander proceeded to the Padonma Theatre. Minister for Culture Maj-Gen

Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and officials welcomed them.

They enjoyed the amateur level (men's) and (women's) harp contests.

The events of the performing arts competitions concluded successfully today.

This morning, three boys and three girls participated in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' and boys' harp contests at Padonma Theatre. In the afternoon, seven men took part in the amateur level (men's) harp contest and one woman in the amateur

level (women's) harp contest.

Leader of the Panel of Judges U Thein Han Gyi and party supervised the contests.

At Kanbawza Theatre, 10 persons participated in the amateur level (men's) violin contest and eight students in the

basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' violin contest and five in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' violin contest. Leader of the Panel of Judges Violinist U Tin Yi and party supervised the contests.

The song contest

was held at the National Museum, the dancing contest at the National Theatre, the song composing contest at the State School of Music and Drama, the music contest at the Kanbawza Theatre and the Mahosadha Marionette Contest at the National Theatre. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein watches participation of Maung Nay Lin Soe of Kachin State in basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' violin contest. —MNA

Hu Jintao welcomes Indo-Pakistani efforts to normalize ties

BEIJING, 31 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao Friday lauded the initiatives of India and Pakistan to normalize their bilateral ties stressing that Beijing was keen on a peaceful neighbourhood.

Hu, who met the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Chaudhry Amir Hussain here, lauded Pakistan's initiatives for normalizing its relations with India and said China desired peace in the region.

"We appreciate the dialogue between Pakistan and India," Hu, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China, was quoted as

saying.

Despite the repeated terrorist attacks on Chinese engineers and personnel in Pakistan, Hu assured Hussain that China will help Pakistan taking further development projects.

"No incident can affect our trustworthy and cordial relations," Hu was quoted as saying by Pakistani media.

Hu recalled his

meeting with President General Pervez Musharraf last year and said it was very useful. They signed a joint declaration, Hu said, adding he was happy to see that the declaration was being implemented.

He also hoped that government of Pakistan would adopt all measures for the safety and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. —MNA/PTI

CHKL granted HK banking licence

HONG KONG, 31 Oct — The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced Friday that it has granted a banking licence to Citibank (Hong Kong) Limited (CHKL) to be effective on October 28, 2004.

CHKL is incorporated in Hong Kong and was authorized as a restricted licence bank on June 28, 2004. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Citibank, N.A. ("Citibank") which is a bank incorporated in the

United States and operates a branch in Hong Kong.

According to The Bankers, July 2004 issue, Citigroup was the largest banking group in the world in terms of tier 1 capital. — MNA/Xinhua

Respects paid to teachers at Pyay BEHS No 1

YANGON, 31 Oct — Pyay Basic Education High School No 1 of Bago Division (West) held a ceremony to pay respects to teachers at the hall of the school on October 28 evening. Present were Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-

Gen Hla Min and departmental officials, Headmaster U Chan Aung and teachers, members of the School Board of Trustees and students. First, those present were served with light refreshments. Next, Brig-Gen Hla Min and Bago Division (West)

Education Officer U Myint Swe formally opened the ceremony. Headmaster U Chan Aung presented commemorative pennants to Brig-Gen Hla Min and DEO U Myint Swe.

Later, students presented a concert to the audience.

MNA

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**UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS**

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	13(T)1/MR(M.YUG) 2004-2005	-50- Ton Hydraulic Jack -Hand Drilling Machine -Hand Grinding Machine	6 - Nos 7 - Nos 17 - Nos
2.	13(T)3/MR(MC) 2004-2005	-Hand Grinding Machine and Hand Tools	11-Items
3.	12(T)20/MR(ML) 2004-2005	Calcium Carbide	30-Tons

Closing Date 22-11-2004 (Monday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 1-11-2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602,605,612

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.**

Bangladesh to sign free trade agreement with Morocco

DHAKA, 30 Oct— Bangladesh is set to sign its first bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) with Morocco despite reservations by its own research wing.

The trade minister of Morocco would visit Bangladesh in the first week of December to finalize the FTA with the country, *The Financial Express* reported on Thursday.

The bilateral FTA with Morocco, however, got a tepid response from the Tariff Commission, the research and analysis wing of the Commerce Ministry of Bangladesh, which feels that the deal would hardly serve any purpose for the country.

Examining the trade records between the two countries and other future possibilities, the commission has expressed the opinion that there is no apparent need for such a deal.

According to the com-

mission, the two-way trade between the two countries did not even surpass two million US dollars last fiscal. In 2002-2003 Bangladesh exported goods worth 1.1 million to Morocco, and the figure rose to 1.68 million dollars in 2003-2004 fiscal.

Ministry sources said that it was Morocco which first proposed to sign the bilateral FTA. Since Bangladesh enjoys a slight advantage over the North African country, the ministry feels that there is no harm in signing the deal. Bangladesh earlier initiated bilateral FTA talks with India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but the talks were suspended after two rounds.

The ministry, meanwhile, shaped up a prefer-

ential trade agreement with Egypt and a new trade deal with Iran.

Under the preferential deal, a number of Bangladeshi goods will be allowed to enter the Egyptian market, the biggest in North Africa and the Arab world, while Egypt will also enjoy similar facilities. At present, their two-way trade hovers around 10 million dollars annually.

Bangladesh would sign a new trade deal with Iran by the end of this year as Iran insisted on suspending the earlier agreement in favour of a new one.

The earlier agreement was signed during Shah's regime and much of its provisions have become obsolete. —MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam holds national beauty contest in resort island

HALONG CITY (Vietnam), 30 Oct—Forty-one young women gathered here Thursday to start showing their attractive appearance as well as intelligent power in the final stage of a national beauty contest.

Some 8,000 spectators at the resort islet of Tuan Chau, Ha Long City, northern Quang Ninh Province, glued their eyes to the 41 finalists aged 18-24. Selected from over 3,000 candidates nationwide, they showed their charming curves and gestures in blue uniform swimming suit and Vietnam's traditional long dresses called ao dai as well as their fine tastes of aestheticism in diversified costumes chosen by

themselves.

After three hours of eye-catching performance of contestants, singers, musical instrument players and a flying helicopter overhead, the first day of the final stage of the Miss

Vietnam Beauty Contest 2004 concluded with the selection of 21 most beautiful contestants who will compete with one another in the second day slated for Saturday to get crowned. —MNA/Xinhua

BOT decreases economic growth projection

BANGKOK, 30 Oct— The Bank of Thailand (BOT) has revised the economic growth estimate this year downward to 5.5-6.5 per cent, from 6-7 per cent targeted earlier, as a result of rising fuel prices on the world market, the new outbreak of avian influenza, and southern violence.

BOT's Assistant Governor Atchana Waiquamdee was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Friday that the continue rise in global oil prices was considered an external risk factor that had affected the global economy, including that of Thailand.

She said the central bank had made the country's economic growth projection in the second quarter of next year on the assumption that local oil prices are not capped. —MNA/Xinhua

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Japan, ASEAN business leaders call for East Asia Economic Community

TOKYO, 30 Oct — Business leaders from Japan and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) called Friday for the establishment of an East Asian economic community which also involves China and South Korea, as they wrapped up their annual meeting in Tokyo.

In a joint statement issued at the end of the three-day 30th ASEAN-Japan Business Meeting in Tokyo, the leaders urged ministers of the ASEAN-plus-three framework involving Japan, China and South Korea to agree to the formation of the East Asia Economic Community (EAEC) as early as possible.

"We, as ASEAN and Japanese business persons, have close business relations with China and South Korea and believe that cooperation among all

the countries of East Asia will give a great economic advantage to the member countries of EAEC," the joint statement said.

The economic community should be in the form of a more comprehensive economic partnership including mutual cooperation for people exchange, human resources development, coordinated currency and financial systems, technology transfer and environmental protection, it said.

The leaders sought an early conclusion of the

ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement as a step toward creating the regional economic community. They also urged the Japanese Government to consider appointing a special minister for negotiations on free trade and economic partnership agreements.

Kakutaro Kitashiro, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives which organized the business meeting, said in a news conference, "The further development of ASEAN economies would create a free trade zone of 600 million people."

"It is important for Japan to open up its labour and agricultural markets and contribute to the development of ASEAN," he added.

The leaders expressed their hope that the joint statement will provide input for the ASEAN plus three summit scheduled for November in Laos.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to promote trade relations with India

HYDERABAD, 30 Oct— Singapore Friday said its businessmen looked upon India as an attractive investment destination because of its open and liberal policies.

India was the 13th largest trading partner of Singapore with a business volume of 10 million US dollars, which was expected to grow further with pro-active policies of Indian Government in favour of foreign investors, Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan said after inaugurating a Pacific Medical Centre — being set up jointly by Singapore and Indian doctors — here Friday. —MNA/PTI

SAIC signs deal to buy shares of S Korean auto maker

SEOUL, 30 Oct — Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp (SAIC), the biggest saloon car producer in China, signed here contract with creditors of South Korean Ssangyong Motor Co Thursday to buy shares of the company.

The Chinese automaker will acquire a 48.9-per cent stake in Ssangyong Motor, a specialist in sports utility vehicles, for 500 million US dollars.

The final contract comes three months after SAIC was selected as the preferred bidder for the South Korean automaker, which had been up for sale since the creditors bailed it out following the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

"The acquisition of Ssangyong Motor is the first step in Shanghai Automotive's global operations," Hu Maoyuan, president of the Chinese carmaker, told reporters here before signing a formal contract for the deal.

"Following a win-win strategy, we will take aggressive steps to contribute to Ssangyong Motor's development," Hu said, stressing: "It is a complementary, win-win and unprecedented cooperation."

Hu said the SAIC will keep all the company's workers, maintain the Ssangyong brand and guarantee independent management, accepting most of the demands by Ssangyong Motor's unionized workers.

The takeover of Ssangyong Motor by China's largest automaker is expected to pave the way for the South Korean company's foray into the world's fastest-growing auto market, analysts said. —MNA/Xinhua

HK Lotteries Fund gives \$9.6m to charity

HONG KONG, 30 Oct — Hong Kong Lotteries Fund allocated 75 million HK dollars (9.6 million US dollars) to finance various social welfare service programmes from July to September, the Social Welfare Department said Thursday.

Social welfare support services received 63 million HK dollars (8.08 million US dollars), family and child welfare services got 5.4 million HK dollars (690,000 US dollars), rehabilitation services got 3.8 million HK dollars (490,000 US dollars), and elderly and medical social services received 2.8 million HK dollars (359,000 US dollars).

The fund was established to finance, by way of grants, loans or advances, the operation or development of social welfare services and medical or educational projects with a welfare content. —MNA/Xinhua

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China launches award for wildlife protection

BEIJING, 29 Oct—The China Environmental Protection Foundation (CEPF) and US Wild Aid jointly launched a special award here Thursday to promote wildlife protection in China.

The China Wildlife Conservation Award is the first in China initiated by a non-governmental organ on wildlife protection, said Qu Geping, president of the board of directors of CEPF, at Thursday's ceremony.

Though China has made great progress in the protection of wildlife, the illegal hunting and trading of wild animals continues, said Qu. He said the award will help promote the country's awareness of environmental protection.

The award selection start every September, and the result will be declared the next March. Each round will have

six winners, five gold medallists and one life-achievement winner.

Apart from a certificate and cup, each winner will get a 3,500-US-dollar bonus to be used for wildlife protection.

The award carries no limitations on nationality, region, and religion for its candidates — anyone who has made contributions to wildlife protection in China is eligible.

At Thursday's ceremony, Wild Aid President Steve Trent was granted an honour certificate for his efforts in protecting wildlife resources in China.

MNA/Xinhua



People play computer-networked games in the newly opened 'Gate 104' centre in Paris in January 2004. For all its charm and rustic traditions, France is moving along speedily on the information superhighway, a government report released showed.—INTERNET

Jordan likely to sign engine deal with Toyota

LONDON, 29 Oct — Formula One team Jordan are homing in on an engine deal with Toyota that would secure their survival in the race, the team said on Thursday.

The deadline for teams to enter for the 2005 championship is on November 15 and Jordan have been racing against time to secure an engine deal by then. The Silverstone-based team, founded by Irish entrepreneur Eddie Jordan, have been in Formula One since 1991 but were left scrambling around for an engine after Ford announced they were pulling out of the sport.

Jordan were powered by Ford-owned Cosworth this year and had been expecting to continue with them in 2005. —MNA/Xinhua

Singapore receives 658,224 tourists in September

SINGAPORE, 29 Oct—Singapore received 658,224 tourists in September this year, up 18 per cent over last year.

According to a statement by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Thursday, China, Indonesia and Japan were the island state's top-three tourist-generating markets, and these markets accounted for 40 per cent of the total number of tourists of the month.

In the first nine months of this year, Singapore posted an estimated 7.2 billion Singapore dollars (about 4.3 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts.

As a nation of around four million, Singapore's target is to get 8.7 billion Singapore dollars (about 5.2 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Umbilical cord blood may hold valuable clues for doctors

LONDON, 29 Oct—Blood from a baby's umbilical cord could help doctors predict which children will suffer from allergies and asthma later in their lives, British and American scientists said on Thursday.

The researchers found that levels of allergy antibodies in the cord blood could be a more important indicator of allergy risk than exposure to allergens such as pollen, pet hair and dust mites. "These findings support the importance of prenatal conditioning in the development of allergy later in life," said Dr. Hasan Arshad, of the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, in research published in the international journal of respiratory medicine, *Thorax*.

The scientists studied more than 1,300 children up to the age of 10 and monitored their allergies.

Children who had high levels of IgE, an immune system response indicating sensitization to allergens in their umbilical cord blood, were twice as likely

NEW YORK, 29 Oct—In one of the most spectacular fossil finds in recent times, scientists have found fossil skeletons of a tiny human that grew no larger than a three-year-old modern child, a media report said on Thursday.

The hobbit-like humans, who had skulls about the size of grapefruits, lived with pygmy elephants and Komodo dragons on a remote island in Indonesia as recently as 13,000 years ago, *National Geographic News* reported.

Australian and Indonesian researchers, it said, discovered bones of the miniature humans in a cave on Flores, an island midway between Asia and Australia.

The tiny human is believed to be an extinct Asian offshoot of *Homo erectus*, the forerunners of *Homo*

sapiens, as anatomically modern man is called.

But, he should be classified as a separate species of *Homo*, as he was entirely different from either *Homo erectus* or *Homo sapiens*, a report in the British science journal *Nature* said.

Scientists have determined that the first skeleton they found belongs to a species of human completely new to science.

Named *Homo floresiensis* after the island on which it was found, the tiny human has also been dubbed by dig workers as

the "hobbit", after the tiny creatures from the *Lord of the Rings* book, the report in the *National Geographic News* said.

The original skeleton, a female, stood at just one metre tall, weighed about 25 kilos and was around 30 years old at the time of her death 18,000 years ago.

The skeleton, the report said, was found in the same sediment deposits on Flores that have also been found to contain stone tools and the bones of dwarf elephants, giant rodents, and Komodo dragons.—MNA/PTI

Enlarged spaces around blood vessels had lower mental ability

LONDON, 29 Oct — Changes around blood vessels in the brain may hold clues about mental decline and dementia in the elderly, Scottish scientists said on Thursday.

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh have discovered that elderly patients have abnormal channels, which are known as enlarged perivascular spaces, in the brain which are rare in young, healthy adults.

"These findings mean that we should certainly be looking more closely at enlarged perivascular spaces as a cause of dementia and other mental decline in old age," said Dr Alasdair MacLullich, who headed the research team.

"They raise the interesting possibilities that there may be substances in the

blood, such as cholesterol or sugar levels, or even blood pressure itself, that may contribute to memory decline as people become older," he added in a statement.

MacLullich and his colleagues measured the enlarged perivascular spaces in the brains of 100 healthy men and tested their cognitive ability. The enlarged perivascular spaces, seen in brain scans of patients with illnesses such as diabetes and Parkinson's disease, may indicate damage to brain tissue around blood vessels, according to the researchers.—MNA/Reuters



Sea of catfish : A Chinese farmer shows off his harvest of catfish, which he bred in his farm in the outskirts of Hangzhou, China's eastern province of Zhejiang. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Sol Campbell will miss match against Southampton

LONDON, 30 Oct— Arsenal and England defender Sol Campbell has sustained a calf injury and will miss the team's Premier League match against Southampton on Saturday, manager Arsene Wenger said.

"We have a problem with Sol Campbell," Arsenal's web site quoted Wenger as saying. "It is a calf injury linked with the Achilles he had before. He will have a scan to see the extent of the problem but he is definitely out for Saturday."

Wenger said left-back Ashley Cole and goalkeeper Jens Lehmann were also doubtful.

Cole picked up a knee injury during the team's 2-0 defeat against Manchester United on Sunday while Lehmann has been suffering from a hamstring problem.

"I have not decided yet on Ashley Cole," Wenger said. "There could be a problem with the left back." —MNA/Reuters



Portland Trail Blazers' Sebastian Telfair drives against Seattle SuperSonics' Antonio Daniels (33) during the fourth quarter on Friday, 29 Oct, 2004, in a preseason game in Seattle. —INTERNET

Byrd, Sluman on top of leader board in Chrysler C'ship

PALM HARBOR (Florida), 30 Oct— Jonathan Byrd shot his second successive five-under-par 66 on Friday and joined Jeff Sluman on top of the leader board after two rounds at the Chrysler Championship.

Byrd and Sluman, who followed his course-record 62 with a one-under 70, are tied at 10-under-par 132.

Tommy Armour III (64), Australian Rod Pampling (65) and world number one Vijay Singh (69) are tied at eight-under 134. Kent Jones (71), Kirk Triplett (71), Vaughan Taylor (65) and Sweden's Jesper Parnevik (67) are at seven-under 135. —MNA/Reuters

Man Utd fans to oppose any takeover bid

LONDON, 30 Oct— Manchester United fans will oppose any takeover bid for the club unless they are involved and aim to raise their shareholding to more than 25 per cent, a leading supporters' group says.

"We are against the ownership by a single company or individual whose main motive is profit," Nick Towle, chairman of Shareholders United, told Reuters. On Monday, the eight-times Premier League champions said they had called off talks with US sports tycoon Malcolm Glazer about his proposed offer for United but did not rule out further discussions.

Debt-free United said in a statement that they did not support a capital structure for an offer with a high level of debt. Towle echoed those sentiments.

"If he (Glazer) wants to borrow large amounts of money, then the repayments would be from our profits," he said. "This is a risky financial model and could be a disaster."

Thousands of fans opposed the Glazer bid, many of them carrying banners during the 2-0 win over champions Arsenal at Old Trafford on Sunday saying United was not for sale.

Glazer, owner of American football team Tampa Bay Buccaneers, has 28.11 per cent of the club's shares. Irish racing tycoons John Magnier and J. P. McManus own 28.9 percent.

Towle, whose group also opposed the 1999 takeover bid by satellite television company BSkyB, said his group's target was to increase the individual shareholders' stake in the club to more than 25 per cent from 18 per cent.

"Our doors are open to anyone who can help us reach this objective, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Owen says nice to score three goals in three games

MADRID, 30 Oct — Michael Owen says scoring three goals in three games for Real Madrid has been the perfect way to help him settle at his new club.

"It was nice to score the three goals and it makes you feel more part of the team," the England striker told a news conference in Madrid on Friday.

"I had a difficult start, but I expected that. I still have the language barrier but other than that everything seems to be settling down the way I'd hoped it would."

The former Liverpool striker, who joined Real for 12 million euros (15.28 million US dollars) in August, scored his first goal after seven appearances for his new club when he grabbed the winner in last week's 1-0 victory over Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League.

He repeated the trick in the 1-0 win over last season's champions Valencia last weekend and took his tally to three

with a goal in Real's 2-1 win over Leganes in the King's Cup on Tuesday.

"I'd like the run to continue," he said. "But I'd also like the run to continue with the team. We're winning games now and we're playing a little bit better step by step, so if my goals can help that then great, but the team is the important thing."

The 24-year-old believes that he still has plenty of room for improvement at Real and says he is determined not to rest on his laurels.

"I certainly believe I can show more for the team. Just because I've scored a few goals it doesn't mean that you're playing to the best of your ability so obviously I'd like to keep improving. It's a massive challenge for me.

MNA/Reuters

Wenger welcomes Man Utd's investigation over tunnel fracas

LONDON COLNEY (England), 30 Oct — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger welcomed the news that Manchester United had launched an investigation into the tunnel fracas after Sunday's bad-tempered contest.

The champions' 49-match unbeaten league run came to an end following a 2-0 defeat by the Manchester side and media reports said Arsenal players hurled soup and pizza at United manager Alex Ferguson after the game.

"That is exactly what they should do (hold an investigation). For me nothing happened," Wenger told a news conference on Friday.

"I have not seen any pizza. What is important for me in football is what

happens on the pitch." United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy has been banned for three matches for a crude tackle on Arsenal defender Ashley Cole while Wenger is waiting to hear the FA's verdict on his comments about referee Mike Riley after the game.

Cole passed a fitness test on Friday and will play when Arsenal entertain struggling Southampton in the Premier League on Saturday. However, England defender Sol Campbell misses out with a calf problem, similar to the Achilles injury that kept him out for six weeks after returning from Euro 2004.

"It is a little bit worrying that it has come back but it will heal quicker," Wenger said. "He is out tomorrow and certainly for Tuesday (at home to Panathinaikos in the Champions League)." —MNA/Reuters

Chelsea sack Adrian Mutu for taking cocaine

LONDON, 30 Oct — Chelsea have sacked their Romanian striker Adrian Mutu after he tested positive for cocaine last month.

"Chelsea has terminated the contract of Adrian Mutu for gross misconduct," the Premier League club said on Friday.

"The decision comes after the player's positive drugs test for cocaine and his admission that he took the drug." Mutu, 25, faces a two-year ban from soccer. He is the second player to be sacked by Chelsea for cocaine abuse following the dismissal of Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich two years ago.

"We want to make clear that Chelsea has a zero tolerance policy towards drugs. This applies to both performance-enhancing drugs or so-called 'recreational' drugs. They have no place at our club or in sport," the club said in a statement.

"In coming to a decision on this case, Chelsea believed the club's social responsibility to its fans,

players, employees and other stakeholders in football regarding drugs was more important than the major financial considerations to the company.

"Chelsea is actively considering all options in

relation to any financial loss as a result of this case."

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said the dismissal was disappointing.

MNA/Reuters

British-American consortium to buy Leeds United within a week

LONDON, 30 Oct— Leeds United, one of the great names of English soccer, could be sold to a British-American consortium within a week.

The head of the consortium, Sebastian Sainsbury, said on Friday he had an agreement with Leeds chairman Gerald Krasner to buy the club for 25 million pounds (45.73 million US Dollars).

All he has to do is come up with the money.

"My latest news is that he (Krasner) wants proof of funds and that is what I'm now going to be working to deliver," Sainsbury told BBC Radio. "I very much hope it will be on his desk by Monday."

Asked whether Krasner and the Yorkshire-based consortium that owns the club would definitely sell if the money were forthcoming, Sainsbury said: "We have an agreement".

"We've always committed to completing the deal a week today so the only thing that can delay it is Mr. Krasner and the board," said Sainsbury, great-grandson of the founder of the British supermarket chain which bears his name. —MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

E	A	T	E	N	S	C	H	O	L	E	R
N	A	S	E	A	A	S	E	S	E		
T	A	N	K	A	R	D	S	N	O	O	S
I	S	G	T	S	E	S	D	S	T	S	L
C	R	O	W	S	P	A	S	S	A	G	E
E	S	S	S	B	A	T	S	O	S	R	D
S	T	R	U	E	S	S	S	M	O	D	E
E	S	E	S	A	S	E	E	S	S	S	B
D	E	C	O	R	U	M	S	S	K	Y	E
I	S	T	S	S	A	S	L	S	N	S	A
C	L	I	N	K	S	R	E	A	D	I	N
T	S	F	S	I	S	T	S	S	F	S	L
S	A	Y	I	N	G	S	S	C	E	N	E

Sihamoni addresses nation for first time as new monarch

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) 31 Oct— King Norodom Sihamoni addressed his nation Saturday for the first time as Cambodia's new monarch, pledging to be a "faithful servant" of the people — many of whom knew little about him until two weeks ago.

Sihamoni, a former ballet dancer, spoke to a crowd of about 50,000 well-wishers who carried his portrait or their country's flag, packing the park in front of the Royal Palace.

"To all the beloved people, through all my life, I will be a faithful servant to all the people, I will always be with the people to share the happiness and suffering," he said, speaking from a pavilion overlooking the grassy knoll across from the golden-hued palace.

Sihamoni was enthroned late Friday in an elaborate ceremony that included blessings chanted by Buddhist monks, the blowing of conch shells and traditional music played with drums and gongs.

His ascension came two weeks after he was selected by a panel of political and religious leaders to succeed his father, Norodom Sihanouk, one of Asia's most colourful rulers who abdicated three weeks ago citing ill health.

Sihamoni said Saturday that Sihanouk had told him after his recent election that "a King is not the master of the country or of the people, a King is a servant of the motherland and the people".

Students, members of the Armed Forces, government officials and everyday citizens gathered to hear Sihamoni's address, which included speeches by Prime Minister Hun Sen and National Assembly President Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Sihamoni's half brother.

"I am so happy to see him for the first time in real life. This is great. I have only seen him before in pictures," said Prak Nary, a 44-year-old teacher.

Hun Sen and Ranariddh paid tribute to the King, saying his achievements and the role he played during the last five decades were priceless and unforgettable.

"The continuity of the constitutional monarchy is a key to the stability of the kingdom of Cambodia," Hun Sen said.

dia," Hun Sen said.

Ranariddh also wished Sihamoni "great success". "We are convinced that Cambodia under your leadership will be in peace, prosperity and unity," he said. When he finished his speech Sihamoni rose from his chair and applauded him.

The festive atmosphere on Saturday included two bands playing local pop music and the crowd cheering "Victorious!" and raising the country's flag or portrait of Sihamoni when he spoke.

Some in the crowd laughed when they got a glimpse of Sihamoni as he emerged from the palace standing inside a convertible Mercedes, making his way to observe a religious ritual at a pagoda before his address.

Saturday's speech marked the end of the three-day coronation.

MNA/AP

Vietnamese shrimp farmers object to US tariff

HANOI, 31 Oct— More than 2,500 Vietnam's shrimp farmers representing 3.5 million congeners expressed their strong objection in a letter on the United States' anti-dumping tariff on shrimp imports from the country.

"Our shrimp meets the highest requirements for export to the US. We do not get any subsidy from the government in shrimp farming," the local media Friday quoted the letter as saying, in which the farmers required the US Department of Commerce (DOC) and the US International Trade Commission (USITC) to conduct their investigations and re-examine the dumping issue for shrimp imported from Vietnam without bias.

The preliminary tariffs imposed on Vietnam's shrimp are 12.11-93.13 per cent, while DOC will make the final decisions on November 29.

The letter will be sent to relevant individuals and organizations such as the USDOC, the USITC and US congressmen.

A verdict on whether imported shrimp is the real reason of losses to the US shrimp industry will be given by the USITC in January 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai experts say family tensions key cause of teenage problems

BANGKOK, 31 Oct— Senior Thai psychologists and social researchers have warned that tension and violence within the family are key causes of teenagers' behavioural problems.

Family tensions, including violence between parents, neglect or parents' inability to take care of their children, have led to the deterioration in the quality of life for Thai teenagers, reported the Thai News Agency Friday.

Teenagers from families in conflict have a high tendency to be aggressive, to commit suicide or to behave badly.

Every year more and more families are afflicted with division and conflict. It is steadily increasing by 5 per cent each year over the last five years, according to the psychologists.

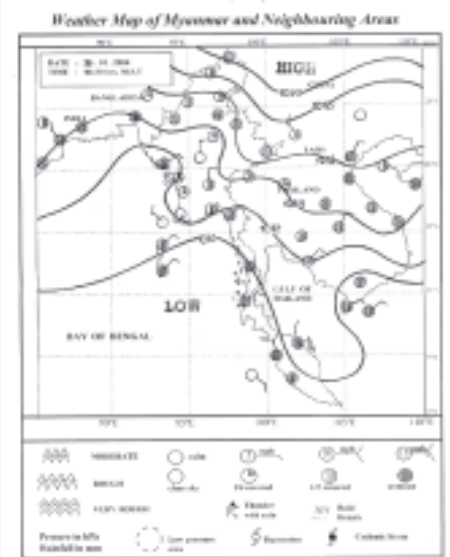
Thai teenagers with problems will continue to increase, unless they are properly monitored and

solutions found, said Deputy Professor Ngarmta Wanintanont, a prominent researcher on social behaviour. Recent studies in Thailand have revealed that most teenage suicides are girls who are driven to take their own lives because of a bad relationship with parents or between their parents, according to Prachid Sukanant, a researcher working on suicide cases.

Teenagers tend to copy their parents' views

and behaviour. So teenagers living in violent families — where they are violent toward each other or their kids — have a greater risk of using violence to solve their own problems, Prachid said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 31 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country.

Maximum temperature on 30-10-2004 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 31-10-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-10-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 30-10-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 31-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (112.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.29 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from North at (16:30) hours MST on 30-10-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in Andaman Sea, West and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-11-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-11-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-11-2004:** Generally fair weather.



Monday, November 1
View on today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:15 am**
2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သီရိဓမ္မာ ဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်)၊ ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သောဥပသုတ္တံ၊ ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတော်
- 7:25 am**
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
6. Songs of national races
- 8:05 am**
7. Cute little dancers

- 8:20 am**
8. ဘိုးအိုးအိုး (ပိန္နဲတိုင်း)
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Demonstration Exercises For Correct Pronunciation
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အစောင့်အရှောက်တို့၏ ပညာရေး ရရှိခြင်းကြောင့် သမီးနီနီ၏ ခုတ်ယူမှု (ခေတ်ဓမ္မ၊ ရုပ်ဓမ္မ၊ သတ္တဓမ္မ၊ အတ္ထုပ္ပတ္တိ) (ခေတ်ဓမ္မ)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Dance variety
- 5:30 pm**
7. အတိတ်သို့
- 5:40 pm**
8. Songs and dance of national races
- 5:45 pm**
9. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတော်

- 6:00 pm**
10. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:10 pm**
11. Discovery
- 6:15 pm**
12. မြန်မာ့အသံတော်လှန်စာတိုင်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာဂါရိတဓမ္မာဂါရိ" (အပိုင်း-၃၇)
- 6:30 pm**
13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
15. "ဓမ္မဓမ္မအစု" မြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓအောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝိဇ္ဇာ၊ အိန္ဒြာဗြဟ္မ၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ- ကြည့်နီ
- 7:20 pm**
16. Industrial achievement
- 7:35 pm**
17. Musical programme
- 8:00 pm**
18. News
- 8:15 pm**
19. International news
- 8:30 pm**
20. Weather report
- 8:45 pm**
21. မြန်မာ့အသံတော်လှန်စာတိုင်းတွဲ "သံဃာ့ဓမ္မာဂါရိ" (အပိုင်း-၈)
- 9:00 pm**
22. The next day's programme



Monday, November 1
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: - Witch doctor
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: - Doctor Jones
- 8:50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: Together forever
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: Reality
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
- 2:00 pm** Music: -Baby what about you?
- 2:05 pm** -Now & forever
- 2:10 pm** Spotlight on the star
- 2:15 pm** -Jennifer Page
- 2:20 pm** -Questions
- 2:25 pm** -Always you
- 2:30 pm** Article
- 2:35 pm** Radio Magazine
- 2:40 pm** -Let the flower buds bloom
- 2:45 pm** Vocal Gems
- 2:50 pm** -Mambo Mambo
- 2:55 pm** News/Slogan
- 3:00 pm** PEL



Senior General Than Shwe presents cash donation to Chairman of Bodh Gaya Maha Bodhi Pagoda Board of Trustees.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend consecration of Bronze Buddha Image in Bodh Gaya

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Bronze Buddha Image to be kept in front of Bo tree and Golden Throne of the Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Bodh Gaya of the Republic of India was consecrated at the venue on 28 October, Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered eight requisites and alms to members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thuang, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw

Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Than Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Myanmar Ambassador U Kyi Thein and wife, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and wife and officials.

Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naninda and eight members of the Sangha consecrated the Bronze Buddha Image.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donated eight requisites and alms to the Sayadaws. After administering the Five Precepts by the Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw, Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Kutheinnayon Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nanissara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe, and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offered 'soon', fruits, flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to the Buddha image. Next, the Senior General offered Shwethingan (gold robes) to the Image and presented

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

cash donation for Maha Bodhi Pagoda to Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Mr Chaitanya Prasad.

Afterwards, Mr Chaitanya Prasad gave a replica of the Maha Bodi Pagoda to the Senior General and a portrait of Buddha image to Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

They paid homage to Bo Tree and Golden Throne, one of the seven places where Buddha sojourned for seven days each just after enlightenment, in the precinct of the Bodh Gaya Maha Bodi Pagoda.

Next, they paid reverence to Yadana Corridor, the building of Yadanaghara Sattaha Abhidhamma and Animisa Sattaha. They then viewed Ajapala Niyodha banyan tree. At Muñçalinda Sattaha, they fed the fish. Next, they viewed the thriving Linloon tree (*Buchamania latifolia*) planted by Myanmar and the maintenance of Rajayatana Sattaha.

They viewed the park meant for meditation.

Afterwards, the Senior General and wife donated cash towards the funds for maintenance of Maha Bodi Pagoda to Patron of the pagoda board of trustees Sayadaw Bhaddanta Bodhipala. The Senior General signed in the visitors' book.

The Secretary-1 also donated cash towards the funds through Sayadaw Bhaddanta Bodhipala.

(See page 10)



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party view Yadanaghara Sattaha Abhidhamma Sankyaungdaw.—MNA