

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 206

11th Waning of Thadingyut 1366 ME

Monday, 8 November, 2004

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Sugarcane cultivation and boosting production of sugar mills coordinated

YANGON, 7 Nov —

A work coordination meeting on sugarcane cultivation and boosting production of sugar mills was held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, the directors-general, officials and entrepreneurs.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo spoke of the need to coordinate with the sugar mills for acquiring raw materials and to make arrangements for sugarcane growers to enjoy profits.

He also said the ministry would provide



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addressing the work coordination meeting on boosting production of sugarcane and sugar mills. — MNA

necessary assistance to sugarcane entrepreneurs.

He called for collecting correct data of

sugarcane acreage at grassroots levels and giving encouragement to the sugarcane entrepreneurs.

Afterwards, the directors-general reported to the minister on reclamation of land, sugarcane

cultivation, water supply and the use of machines. The private entrepreneurs also reported on the re-

quirements of sugarcane cultivation. The minister attended to the needs.

MNA

Minister inspects construction of roads, bridges

YANGON, 7 Nov — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, ac-

companied by officials of Public Works inspected tarring of road being car-

ried out by Bago District Public Works at mile post Nos 48/7 and 49/1

on Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 4 November.

On 6 November, the minister hoisted the Htidaws of two ancient

TadaU pagodas near Myitnge Bridge, Amarapura, Mandalay Division.

Next, the minister and party arrived at construction site of Kyaukse town hall and inspected progress of work.

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Pincha Bridge construction project site. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 8 November, 2004

Economic development through ASEAN-China regional cooperation

The opening of China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China, on 3 November afternoon, and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that in the rapidly-changing world, regional cooperation is the only thing that can promise economic growth, attract foreign investment and create job opportunities. Integration is essential for the East Asia so as to secure a position in the world market. Although it is said that developed countries are in support of free trade, it is regional solidarity that matters as protectionism is still in practice. ASEAN and China should make greater cooperation to overcome challenges, he said.

China's economic growth will lead to creating opportunities for ASEAN nations. Likewise, the Chinese practice of the open-door economic policy has provided a huge market for ASEAN products.

With economic development between ASEAN and China, the commercial and trade links between them will become broader.

There has been a gradual increase in the economy and trade between ASEAN and China in the past years with 15 per cent growth in annual trade.

The trade between the two regions reached US\$ 45.8 million in 2002 and US\$ 78.2 million in 2003, an increase by 42.9 per cent. By means of ASEAN-China integration, there will emerge a market for 1,700 million consumers, one third of the world population. The prospect of economic growth in Myanmar which is in the process of transition to the market-oriented economic system is encouraging.

As for foreign investment, altogether 27 countries have invested US\$ 7.6 billion in Myanmar. The bilateral trade between Myanmar and China is growing steadily. An agreement has been reached between the two countries to raise the trade value to US\$ 1.5 billion by 2005.

Systematic steps are to be taken to improve the bilateral trade by sea and by land.

Therefore, we believe that the creation of a huge market for ASEAN products through the ASEAN-China regional cooperation will contribute much to development of economy in the entire region.



To hail the centenary of YMBA, U Sein Hla Aung and Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win of Tun Nay Lin Saw Mill donate K 300,000 to the association through General Secretary U Sein Than Sunday. — 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

Flag handed over to mountaineering team

YANGON, 7 Nov — Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint presented a flag on 5 November morning to a mountaineering team which will climb up Madwe glacier in PutaO District, Kachin State.

Present on the occasion were Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of the Supreme Court (Upper Myanmar), Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Thein and officials, Rector of the Institute of Medicine (Mandalay) Dr Soe Tun, Deputy Director U Soe Nyunt of the Division Sports and Physical Education Department, President of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Prof Dr Paing Soe and wellwishers.

First, the commander handed over the flag to Dr Paing Soe who accepted it on behalf of the team. Next, the Mandalay Division PDC, the MCDC, the Division SPED, Mandalay Division Women's Sports Association and wellwishers donated K 1.45 million and packets of MB biscuits worth K 60,000 to the mountaineering team. In Mandalay the activities of

hiking and mountaineering started in July 2001 and mountaineering teams climbed up the 11500-foot Phungan glacier, the 13369-foot Mt Mawbun, the 12553 Mt Saramayti, and the 14085-foot Mt Phangaran in a matter of three years.

Madwe glacier, 15158 feet high above sea level, is the one which no one has been able to climb up as yet. The mountaineering team comprises 19 men and 11 women including President of MHMF Prof Dr Paing Soe, Vice-President Major Kaing Khan Hmon, Secretary Dr Khin Maung and coach U Thet Tun. They will start to climb up the glacier on 11 November.

In the afternoon, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint watched the final match of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy men's inter-township open football tournament, in which Pyinmana township played against PyinOoLwin Township. After the match, the commander presented the trophy and cash awards to the winning team of Pyinmana township.

MNA

Myanmar to host 6th Asian Wushu C'ship

YANGON, 7 Nov — Myanmar will host the Sixth Asian Wushu Championship from 20 to 28 November this year. The hosts Myanmar Wushu team will comprise 24 athletes: 12 in the Taolu event and another 12 in the Sanshou event. Now, the athletes are undergoing training under the close supervision of Chinese instructors.

The Taolu event will fall into 12 categories, and the Sanshou event into 16 categories. The championship will attract 480 athletes from 23 wushu teams of Yemen Republic, Turkmenistan, Malaysia, Japan, China (Taipei), Vietnam, Macao, Singapore, South Korea, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Mongolia, the Philippines, Iran, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Nepal, and Pakistan.



Myanmar Wushu player Khine Khine Maw being trained by Chinese trainer Mrs Liang Xia Kul. — NLM



Myanmar Wushu player Myo Min Soe being trained by Chinese trainer Mrs Liang Xia Kul. — NLM

Altogether 154 prizes — 46 gold, 46 silver and 62 bronze — will be awarded to winners. Myanmar has fetched gold medals in the International Wushu competitions, but not yet in the Asian Wushu competitions. — NLM

Veterans assisted with cash

YANGON, 7 Nov — Myanmar War Veterans Organization provided cash assistance to 14 war veterans aged 75 and

above with cash assistance in PyinOoLwin District on 31 October morning.

The ceremony took place at the meeting hall of the PyinOoLwin District Peace and Development Council Office.

It was attended by Supervisory Committee for PyinOoLwin District WVO Chairman Lt-Col Myo Myint, Secretary Major Zaw Nyunt and members, departmental officials and others.

Cash assistance was presented to 14 veterans. After the ceremony, Capt Tun Kyaing (Retd) expressed thanks on behalf of the veterans.

MNA

Nepalese Journalist delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 7 Nov — The visiting seven-member Nepalese Journalist delegation led by Mr Manju Ratna Sakya went back home by air this evening.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information. — MNA



Nepalese journalist delegation members being seen at the airport before their departure home. — MNA

Convoy attack wounds 20 US Marines in Iraq

NEAR FALLUJAH, 6 Nov — An attack on a US military convoy wounded 20 Marines in western Iraq on Saturday, a Marine spokesman said.

He gave no details of the incident in the Sunni Muslim city of Ramadi, 68 miles west of Baghdad for security reasons but said all the

injured were from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The spokesman could not confirm reports a suicide bomber had

attacked a Marine convoy near Ramadi, one of two rebel-held cities US forces hope to capture in a military offensive expected soon.

A police source in Ramadi told *Reuters* a car bomb had exploded near a US military convoy at 2 pm on the main road east from the city. The source said a truck carrying troops was damaged in the blast.

Hospital workers also said at least one Iraqi was killed and 14 wounded in clashes between guerillas and US forces in Ramadi. Rebels firing rocket-propelled grenades have been fighting US troops apparently trying to raid homes in the city since about 7 am witnesses said.

The Marines are expected to spearhead an offensive against guerillas in Ramadi and its sister city of Fallujah in a campaign to restore peace in Iraq to allow national elections to go ahead on time on 27 January. — *Internet*



American soldiers clean up the site of a car bomb attack on their convoy in Baghdad, Iraq on 6 Nov, 2004.

INTERNET

US soldier seized in Samarra

BAGHDAD, 2 Oct—Anti-US forces in Samarra have captured a US soldier, an Iraqi police spokesman said.

Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ahmad of Samarra police told reporters the soldier was taken captive on Monday night by fighters in two Opel cars.

He said US troops were out in force in the streets of the city on Tuesday.

A US military spokesman said he had no information on the incident.

Ahmad said the Americans had alerted

Iraqi security forces and asked them to look out for the missing soldier.

US and Iraqi forces stormed Samarra, 100 km north of Baghdad, in early October as part of the US-backed interim government's campaign to retake areas under resistance control before national elections scheduled for January.

Internet

Chirac seeks to smooth relations with Iraq

BRUSSELS, 6 Nov—French President Jacques Chirac, an outspoken critic of the US-led Iraq war, sought to smooth relations with Iraq on Friday by inviting its president to Paris and denying he had snubbed Baghdad's Prime Minister.

Paris cancelled a visit to France by Iraqi President Ghazi Yawar in early September, saying the kidnapping of two French reporters in Iraq made the visit by the US-backed President too sensitive.

"The President of Iraq would like to see me and it is with pleasure that I will host him," Chirac told a news conference.

Chirac left the EU summit early to attend a memorial for the late leader of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan, but denied he was avoiding the interim Iraqi Prime Minister, who has criticized France's stance on Iraq.

"I have never refused to meet Prime Minister (Iyad) Allawi. Moreover, I met him at the G-8 summit in the United States,"

Chirac said.

"Prime Minister Allawi has his own personality, sometimes his remarks are more or less persuasive, but naturally I have no problem at all with the Iraqi authorities," he added.

Allawi upset Paris by saying in newspaper interviews that France's stance against the US-led invasion of Iraq would not spare it from terrorist attack.

He further angered European states on Thursday by describing states that opposed the US-war in Iraq as "spectators". On Friday he said his comments were in the past now and that he wanted to "forge a positive alliance with Europe".

EU leaders were to meet Allawi at a lunch and

present him with a reconstruction package.

The relatively modest package consists of 16.5 million euros (21 million US dollars) for January elections in Iraq, support for developing the criminal justice system and the prospect of help for a United Nations protection force for the elections.

Chirac meanwhile said France remained convinced a political solution was needed in Iraq, and that deadlines set out in a UN resolution on Iraq must be met.

"Resolution 1546 set clear dates, be it for the next stages of political transition or at the end of that, the departure of foreign forces. These deadlines must both be confirmed and met.

MNA/Reuters

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30 killed in spate of guerilla attacks in Iraq

FALLUJAH, 6 Nov—More than 30 people were killed and more than 60 wounded in a rash of suicide bombings and mortar and rocket attacks in the Sunni Triangle on Saturday, as US Marines and soldiers prepared for a possible assault on the rebel-held city of Fallujah. The wounded included at least 16 US soldiers injured when a suicide bomber rammed a car into their convoy in Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad, US officials said.

The deadliest violence occurred Saturday morning in Samarra, a city about 65 miles north of Baghdad that US and Iraqi forces retook from guerillas early last month. A series of closely coordinated attacks killed about 30 people, according to tallies by news services, which canvassed hospitals. More than half of the casualties were Iraqi police officers killed in mortar attack or ground assaults on police stations.

At 9.30 am in Samarra, a car bomb hidden in a stolen Iraqi police truck exploded after US soldiers fired on it as it approached the office of the mayor, who was installed with the backing of US troops last month. One American and four Iraqi soldiers were wounded, the military said. A half-hour later, a car bomb detonated near a US-Iraqi patrol on the east side of Samarra and a mortar shell hit an outdoor market.

A military spokesman said he could not confirm an *Associated Press* report quoting a hospital official as saying the fatalities included an Iraqi National Guard commander, Abdel Razeq Shaker Garmali. Correspondent Karl Vick in Baghdad and special correspondent Omar Fekeiki contributed to this report. — *Internet*



US Marines of the 1st Division take cover in a trench as mortars were fired at their position outside Fallujah, Iraq, on 6 Nov, 2004.

INTERNET

Dead Iraqi interpreter friend to soldiers

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — An Iraqi interpreter who died in a suicide attack against British troops had been due to marry just a few hours later, after delaying the ceremony to redeploy with his unit to a dangerous area near Baghdad. "The interpreter has been with the Black Watch since our arrival in Iraq and has become a friend to the soldiers," the Commanding Officer of the Scottish-based regiment said in a statement on Friday, a day after the attack.

"He had volunteered to come north with us and had delayed his wedding which was to have taken place on the day of his death," the statement said. The man's name is being withheld for security reasons.

A suicide car bomber killed three British soldiers and the interpreter on Thursday in the first fatal attack on the Black Watch since it moved from a relatively quiet southern area last week to stand in for American troops needed elsewhere. — *MNA/Reuters*

Nepali hostage in Iraq released

KATHMANDU, 6 Nov — The Nepali citizen taken hostage by a militant group in Iraq has been released, a Nepali Government official said here Friday. The abducted Nepali national, Inus Kawaree, was released unconditionally on Thursday, the HBC FM quoted Foreign Secretary Madhusadhan Acharaya as saying. Kawaree, working as a waiter for a Saudi Arabian company based in Baghdad, was abducted Monday along with five others including an American and a Filipino. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Bush Iraq adviser Blackwill to step down

WASHINGTON, 6 Nov — The Bush administration's lead official on Iraq policy has told the White House he plans to leave in the coming weeks, US officials said on Saturday, ahead of Iraq's planned elections.

Robert Blackwill had been mentioned in speculation about President Bush's second-term foreign policy team, with some observers pegging him as a possible successor to national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Blackwill told Rice several weeks ago he would leave soon after the US election, said a

White House official who declined to be identified.

His departure was first reported by *The Washington Post*.

Blackwill, a former US ambassador to India, was tapped by the White House in August 2003 to be coordinator for strategic planning to Rice and manage the administration's Iraq policy.

He was widely credited with reshaping

the administration's policy by focusing on ending American control of Iraq and establishing the temporary government. Blackwill was closely involved in selecting the Iraqi interim leadership.

Elections to select Iraq's new government are set for 27 Jan. But there have been doubts about them because of the continuing battle with

insurgents there.

Before becoming ambassador to India in 2001, Blackwill taught at Harvard University's John F Kennedy School of Government. He also held various other government and diplomatic positions.

News of Blackwill's departure coincides with the resignation of another key administration official. Cofer Black, who was Bush's point man for international terrorism policy, has quit after a botched terrorism report. — *Internet*

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်ညွှား



British Army troops prepare to destroy a roadside bomb found near their Basra base in southern Iraq on 5 Nov, 2004. — *INTERNET*



US Army soldiers stand by the scene of an overturned Humvee on a highway on the south side of Baghdad, Iraq, on 6 Nov 2004.

INTERNET

Sudanese hostage released in Iraq

KHARTOUM (Sudan), 6 Nov — Sudan said Saturday a Sudanese hostage abducted in Iraq on 1 Nov was released Friday night.

The Foreign Ministry in Khartoum said Nouredine Zakaria was in good health, but gave no further details.

But it thanked "all the Sudanese parties that dealt wisely with the incident, and which led to containing it in the proper way."

The government renewed its warning

to all its citizens abroad, especially those in Iraq, to "avoid all that could lead to a similar situation or pose a threat to their safety."

It asked Sudanese to stay away from conflict areas, "where it is difficult to guarantee their life or personal safety."

Internet

Al-Zarqawi's group calls for release of British aid worker

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — An al-Qaida-related group in Iraq Friday called for the release of British aid worker Margaret Hassan, who has been kidnapped by Iraqi militants for more than two weeks, according to its statement on an Islamist web site.

The statement, attributed to the group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said that "we call on those responsible for her captivity to release her unless she is proven to be a collaborator" with the US-led forces.

"If this (collaboration) is proven, they should show it clearly to people lest our (Islamic) religion is accused of things that are not true," said the

statement, whose authenticity could not be confirmed.

The statement denied the abductors' claim that they would turn Hassan over to the Zarqawi group, saying that if they did so, "we will release her immediately unless she is proven to have conspired against Muslims".

Hassan, 59, head of leading charity CARE International in Iraq, is one of the highest-profile vic-

tims in a scourge of kidnappings that has plagued Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus uses planes to destroy locusts

NICOSIA, 6 Nov — Cyprus on Friday started a massive aerial spraying campaign to kill millions of locusts invaded earlier this week, local Press reported.

The campaign broke a ban on use of aircraft in eradication programme, which was issued several years ago on health grounds. After lengthy discussions, the Agriculture Ministry has resolved to using aircraft to extend the eradication.

Concerned officials said they took the decision reluctantly but faced with the size of the locust cloud and how fast it was moving, they had no choice.

Swarms of the rare desert locust began arriving in the Paphos region on the island at the weekend, threatening entire potato crops. It is the first time since World War II that swarms of desert locusts have been sighted in Cyprus, experts said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Police targeted in deadly Samarra attacks

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — Four car bombs and attacks on three police stations in the central Iraqi town of Samarra have left at least 37 people dead and 62 wounded.

A health official said 23 people, including nine policemen, were killed and 40 wounded, among them 17 policemen, in the first three bomb explosions on Saturday in the town north of Baghdad.

The fourth blast occurred at 12:30 pm (0930 GMT) when a bomber rammed a car into a police station, killing 10 Iraqi police officers and wounding five, police said.

The local commander of the Iraqi rapid reaction force, Brigadier Abd al-Razzaq al-Jarmin, was among the dead in the first two blasts near the town hall and a nearby checkpoint.

Samarra's mayor, Major General Tariq Uwaid, was wounded.

"I saw a car trying to reach the town

hall," bookshop owner Muhammad Ahmad said. "When police stopped it, it exploded."

US forces carried out simultaneous attacks on three police stations in Samarra, north of Baghdad, killing four policemen, wounding 17 and capturing 10.

Another car bomb exploded later, targeting a US convoy that was trying to reach the scene of the first two bombings, police said. They had no word on casualties in that attack.

Witnesses said US troops opened fire amid chaotic scenes in the city centre, hitting some cars. Rescue services could not immediately reach them to evacuate any casualties.

Internet

Turkey, Iraq sign document to improve economic ties

ANKARA, 6 Nov — Turkey and Iraq here Friday ended their 15th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on improvement of bilateral economic relations.

Turkish State Minister Kursad Tuzmen and

visiting Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer Ghadban signed the document.

Tuzmen noted that "this is the first JEC meeting which Iraq attended after the Iraqi war. Decisions which were taken in this meeting will accelerate bilateral commercial and economic relations,"

adding trade volume between the two sides is increasing. "We have reached consensus with Iraq on security, Customs, banking, bilateral cooperation and energy issues," said Tuzmen.

For his part, Ghadban said that "the memorandum of understanding will be reflected on economic and commercial cooperation of two countries in coming days and it will also trigger cooperation". "We have many projects in areas of transportation, service, infrastructure and industry. We will be very pleased to work with Turkish businessmen on these projects," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Two US Army soldiers face murder charges in Baghdad

LOS ANGELES, 6 Nov — Two US Army soldiers face murder charges in a military trial in Baghdad for shooting and killing a badly wounded Iraqi teenager mistaken for a guerilla by US troops, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Thursday on its web site.

The newspaper quoted the two Army staff sergeants as saying they shot and killed the Iraqi boy in a "mercy killing" as he lay moaning on the ground in an August incident in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City.

The two soldiers told US officials that they killed the teenager in order to "put him out of his misery", the newspaper said.

But Iraqi witnesses, including a relative of the dead boy who had pleaded

for US troops to help him, were enraged by the killing, which seemed certain to reignite a debate about the conduct of US troops in Iraq in the wake of the Abu Ghraib Prisoner abuse scandal.

The boy was shot as US medics rushed to treat a half dozen or so of those wounded when US troops opened fire on a garbage truck after mistakenly concluding that it was planting roadside bombs,

the newspaper said, quoting Iraqi witnesses and US military officials.

The truck exploded into flames and about seven Iraqis were killed in the August 18 incident, including the boy shot on the ground, the newspaper said.

Staff Sergeant Cardenas Alban, 29, of Carson, California and Staff Sergeant Johnny Horne Jr., 30, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina

both of the Army's 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment face military court proceedings in Baghdad to determine if there is enough evidence for court martial, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

If convicted, they could receive the death penalty.

US military officials told the newspaper that they could not identify the dead Iraqi boy because they did not collect information at the scene and had lost track of his body.

MNA/Reuters



A floral tribute rests at St Giles Garrison Church in Warminster on 6 Nov, 2004. Newspapers are keeping Prime Minister Tony Blair in the hot seat by playing up the nation's grief and anger over the deaths of three soldiers redeployed to a US-run sector of Iraq.—INTERNET

Iran reiterates disinterest in nuclear weapons

TEHERAN, 6 Nov — Iranian Supreme Leader Seyed Ali Khamenei on Friday reiterated that Iran is not intended to seek any military use of nuclear technology, the official *IRNA* news agency said.

"As we have often said, and even announced our jurisdiction decree on the issue, we are not after manufacturing, stock piling, or taking practical advantage of any type of nuclear weapons," Khamenei was quoted as saying at a fasting worship ceremony. "We strongly believe that a solid and strong nation and government relying on a huge pious youth power is basically needless of nuclear weapons," Khamenei said.

He further owed the US accusation

on Teheran's nuclear programme to Washington's unwillingness to accept its failure on the sanction against Iran.

"The main reason behind the US irrational hue and cry over Iran's nuclear projects is Iran's advancement despite all sanctions, plots, and enmities," Khamenei said. "Young Iranian scientists' success in making nuclear fuel production quite indigenous in Iran has outraged the Americans and other enemies of the Islamic Republic," he added.—MNA/Xinhua



British troops stop to detonate a roadside bomb they found near their base in Basra, Iraq, on 5 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraqi FM to visit Egypt for talks on international conference

CAIRO, 6 Nov — Iraq's interim Foreign Minister Hoshiar Zibari is scheduled to arrive in Cairo next Tuesday for talks with Egyptian officials on preparations for the expected international conference on Iraq, the official *MENA* news agency reported on Friday.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying that Zibari will meet with his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Abul Gheit to talk about the forthcoming conference on Iraq due on November 22-23 in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday started a two-day preparatory meeting on a final communique of the international conference.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors and representatives of countries and organizations that will take part in the conference.

The international conference on Iraq is expected to be attended by Iraq and its neighbours, Egypt, the G-8, China, the United Nations, the Arab League,

the Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union.

Egyptian officials said earlier that a meeting of foreign ministers of Iraq's neighbouring countries would be held on November 22 in Sharm El-

Sheikh, one day ahead of the international conference. Egypt, a major political player in the Middle East, hopes the gathering will hammer out a unified international stance on Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Doctors without borders withdraw from Iraq

MADRID, 6 Nov — The non-governmental organization Doctors Without Borders (DWB) announced Thursday its withdrawal from Iraq due to mounting security risks facing its personnel.

DWB's General Director in Spain, Rafael Vilasanjuan, said it was very difficult to make the decision because there are important medical and humanitarian needs among the civil population.

"At this point, it is impossible for the DWB to guarantee the security of its personnel, be it international or Iraqi," Vilasanjuan told reporters in the north-eastern city of Barcelona.

Tens of foreign citizens have been kidnapped and assassinated by armed groups in Iraq fighting the US and British troops. —MNA/Xinhua

China to make more input in health care in rural areas

BEIJING, 7 Nov — The Chinese Government has decided to increase expenditure on health care, with most of the increase going to rural areas, said Vice-Minister of Health Zhu Qingsheng here Friday.

Zhu made the remark at a Press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council.

This year the Ministry of Health added 4 billion yuan (482 million US dollars) to its total medical budget expenditure, and 70 to 80 per cent of the added money went to rural areas, he said. The new spending policy aims to narrow the gap between city and countryside in health care. Zhu noted that in recent years only 30 per cent of the total governmental expenditure on health care has been used for rural areas, where about 70 per cent of the total Chinese population live. —MNA/Xinhua

British house prices lose impetus in October

LONDON, 6 Nov — British house prices fell 1.1 per cent in October compared with the previous month as successive hikes of interest rates continued to bite, showing a steepest fall in four years, Halifax bank said on Thursday.

The country's largest mortgage lender said this is the steepest rate of decline since October 2000, but after a revised 1.3-per-cent gain in the month before.

It said that on a quarterly basis, prices fell by 0.4 per cent between July and October, the first three-month fall since the

last quarter of 2000. But it said the annual rate is still at 18.5 per cent than a year earlier although below 20 per cent for the first time in six months.

The average price of a house in Britain now stands at 160,857 pounds or 289,542 US dollars, down from 162,911 pounds or 292,239 US dol-

lars in September.

The bank said recent rate rises had raised mortgage payments as a percentage of earnings, from 14 per cent to 19 per cent for new borrowers over the past year.

"The housing market seems to be moving into a slowdown following the period of strong growth in

2003 and early 2004," said Martin Ellis, Halifax chief economist.

"We expect house price growth to continue to moderate into 2005 as the Bank of England's rate increase and first-time buyer affordability constraints dampen demand," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

UNSG warns assault on Fallujah could further anger Iraqis

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has warned the United States, Britain and Iraq that an assault on Fallujah could further anger Iraqis and undermine planned January elections, UN officials said on Friday.

Annan's warning on the guerilla-held city came in letters to US President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi sent last weekend, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A UN spokesman said the world body would have no comment on the letters.

"We have nothing to say about private communications between the Secretary-General and Heads of State," the spokesman said.

Word of the warning surfaced as US troops

urged civilians to flee Fallujah and launched airstrikes on the guerilla city in preparation for an assault to cripple the insurgency before the elections. Iraqis will vote in national elections on January 27, Vice-President Ibrahim al-Jaafari told *Reuters* on Friday.

A spokesman for Iraq's UN mission said Ambassador Samir Sumaidy had requested an appointment with Annan "to express the Iraq point of view on the letter." But Iraq's first post-Saddam ambassador would not comment until after the meeting with the Secretary-General, the

spokesman added.

Annan's warning reflects long-standing differences with Washington over how to best bring security to the country torn by an insurgency since the invasion launched in March 2003.

The US-led multinational force in Iraq is for now focused on retaking guerilla strongholds by force while UN officials have stressed that military might runs the risk of killing civilians and further alienating ordinary Iraqis.

In his letter, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, Annan acknowledged the need to restore security but

said a broad political process that included groups not represented in the interim government would best lead to stability.

"The threat or actual use of force not only risks deepening the sense of alienation of certain communities, but would also reinforce perceptions among the Iraqi population of a continued military occupation," he wrote, according to a copy of the letter obtained by the *Los Angeles Times*.—MNA/Reuters



US soldier killed in bomb attack north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — One US soldier was killed and another wounded in a road side bomb attack north of Baghdad on Thursday night, the US military said Friday. "One 1st Infantry Division soldier died and one was wounded when their vehicle was struck with an improvised explosive device near Balad at about 10:38 p.m. (1938 GMT)," it said in a statement.

Balad, some 80 kilometres north of Baghdad, is dominated by Shiite Muslims, but surrounded with Sunni villages. Over 1,120 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since last year's invasion.

MNA/Xinhua

Three civilians killed as US seals off Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — The US military sealed off Fallujah on Friday and launched a night of airstrikes on the rebel city ahead of an assault seen as critical to the interim government's attempt to pacify Iraq before January polls.

Hospital officials in Fallujah said the airstrikes had killed three people, wounded four and destroyed five houses. "We are making last preparations. It will be soon. We are just awaiting orders from Prime Minister (Iyad) Allawi," Colonel Michael Shupp, commander of regimental combat team one, told *Reuters* at a Marine camp near Fallujah. Troops have cut all roads in and out of the city of 300,000 people, many of whom have fled, residents said.

US aircraft struck after midnight in the latest of what the military said were five strikes within seven hours that destroyed a command post, arms caches and rebel positions.

Allawi was meeting European Union leaders in Brussels on Friday and was expected to return to Iraq after that.

Allawi, who took over from US-led occupiers in June, says force must be used on rebels whose conflict with America has

spread bloodshed, chaos and kidnapping in Iraq.

But even politicians within his government say they fear any offensive on Fallujah could produce more civilian casualties and a political backlash that might lead to a Sunni Muslim boy-

cott of the elections, nullifying their legitimacy. "Using force that kills civilians on a large scale is a mistake. The logic of occupation must end," Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid al-Bayati, a Shiite, told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters

Nepal sets up first DNA lab

KATHMANDU, 6 Nov — The National Forensic Science Laboratory of Nepal has set up the country's first deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) laboratory near the capital, a government official told *Xinhua* on Friday.

The laboratory located in Khumaltar of Lalitpur District, 10 kilometres south of Kathmandu, will analyse body fluids, blood and hair samples from the crime scene and try to match the DNA with that of the suspect's, said Pratibha Rana, Minister of State for Science and Technology.

"We hope the lab will help control crime, provide justice to rape victims and help in verifying the DNA of parents and child in controversial cases," Rana said.

"We will also conduct DNA sequencing to find hereditary diseases," he noted, adding that the ministry will provide training to scientists for efficient services in the laboratory. DNA is the genetic blueprint that determines a person's biological characteristics.

MNA/Xinhua



British soldiers ride in their armoured vehicle as they patrol the streets of Basra on 5 Nov, 2004. The British regiment suffered its first combat deaths on a US-requested mission to hostile terrain near Baghdad. — INTERNET

Chinese, US presidents to meet in San Diego

BEIJING, 6 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his US counterpart George W. Bush will meet during the upcoming 12th Informal Leadership Meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in San Diego, Chile, Vice-Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong told a Press conference here Friday.

This will be their first meeting after George W. Bush won his second term as US President, which is of great significance to the development of the China-US relations, he noted.

During the meeting, Zhou said, President Hu will elucidate China's principles and stand on how to maintain and advance the constructive relationship between the two countries and exchange views with Bush on issues of common concern.

China hopes this meeting will review and consolidate progress the two countries have achieved in promoting their relationship and bring new thoughts into their future development, Zhou said.

Currently, the relevant departments of the two sides are making preparations for the upcoming meeting in a detailed way, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

18 in links with human smuggling arrested

LONDON, 6 Nov — British police arrested 18 people who are suspected to be members of a gang smuggling hundreds of people from Turkey to Britain, Scotland Yard said on Thursday.

Ten men were arrested at business premises across south London Thursday afternoon while seven men and one woman were detained after dawn raids in nearby Surrey, south, west and south-east London. They all are suspected of conspiring to facilitate human trafficking and money laundering.

The raids were part of a yearlong probe in Britain, Germany and some other places in Europe, police said, adding that a further five people were arrested by immigration officials in Hamburg and Cologne in Germany on the same day.

The alleged ringleader, among those arrested, is believed to own 10 fast-food restaurants employing illegal Turkish immigrants in and around London, police said.

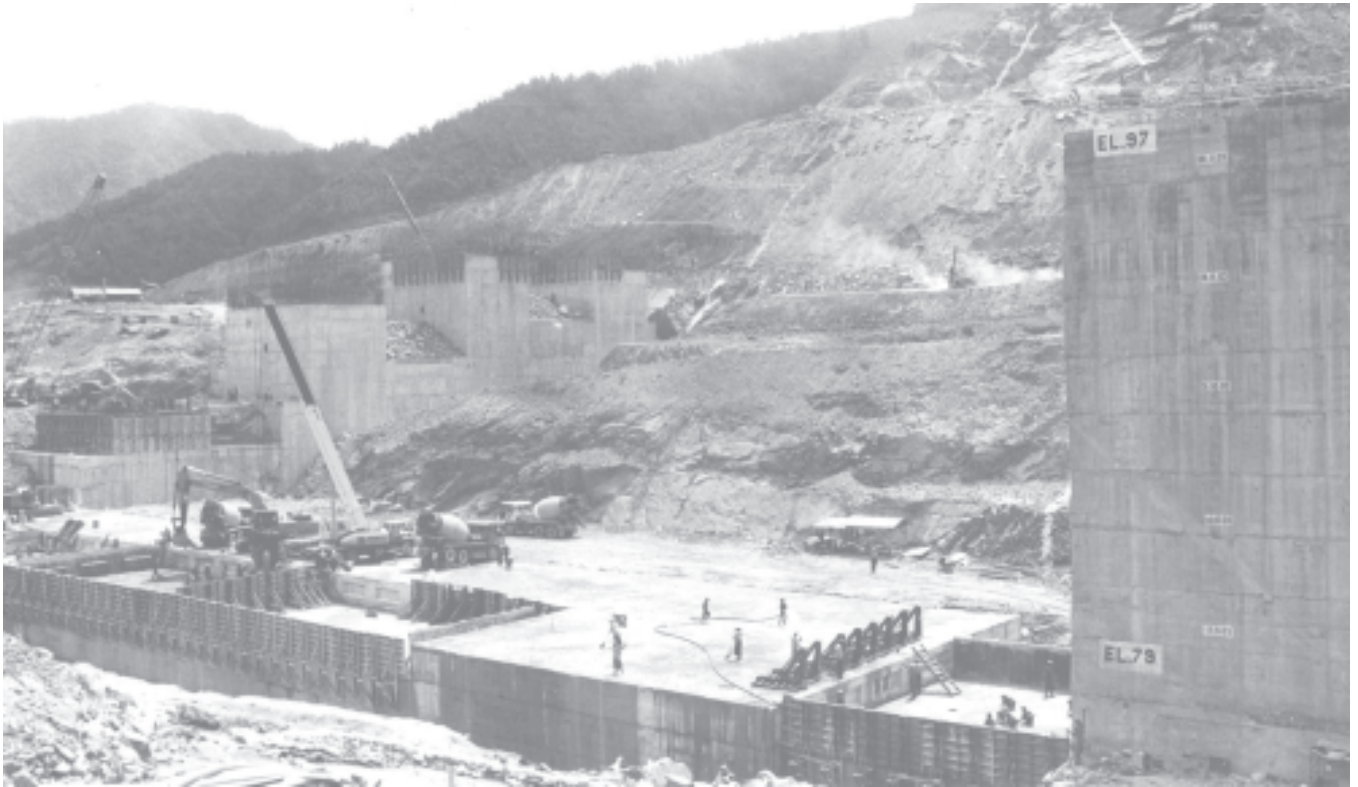
The illegal immigrants, thought to have been brought in by air, road and sea, were exploited as cheap labour in cafes and takeaways in London and elsewhere.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi Children throw stones at an American armoured vehicle in the Sadr City neighbourhood of Baghdad, Iraq on 6 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

Ye Ywa Hydropower project to fulfil electricity requirements



Ye Ywa Hydropower Project being implemented on Dokhtawady River at a place 31 miles south-east of Mandalay has a generating capacity of 790 megawatts.

Location — On Dokhtawady River in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division.

Installed Capacity — Four Turbines

Generating Capacity — 790 megawatts (The highest in Myanmar)

On one occasion, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance saying that in the Third Five-year Plan, efforts were to be made to generate additional 2,000 megawatts of electricity utilizing abundant water resource and in accordance with this guidance hydropower projects are being implemented.



Ye Ywa Hydropower Project being implemented on Dokhtawady River at a place 31 miles south-east of Mandalay has a generating capacity of 790 megawatts.



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Brig-Gen Hla Min hoist the Seinbudaw (Diamond Bud) atop of Ancient Historical Maha Aungmya Pagoda. — MNA

Culture Minister inspects archaeological works

YANGON, 7 Nov — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by Director-General of the Department of Archaeology U Nyunt Han on November 5, went to Pyay Township and inspected the construction of Thayaykhittaya Archaeological Training School.

At the briefing hall, Engineer U Than Aye reported to the minister on progress in construction works of the buildings, Principal U Hla Gyi Maung Maung in curriculum compilation and Head of Course Affairs Department U Naing Win on growing flowery plants and road construction, followed the supplementary report by the director-general.

After hearing the reports, the minister inspected classrooms, the laboratory, store room, hostels for teachers and guest house, and gave necessary instructions.

On 6th November, the minister attended a ceremony to hoist Shwehtitaw atop the ancient Maha Aungmya Pagoda together with Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and hoisted the diamond bud, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtitaw atop the pagoda.

Next, the minister, accompanied by officials, proceeded to the construction site of repairing Mahayan Brick Wall of ancient Theintawgyi cordination hall and the images of 80 Arahats near Phothointan Village in Shwedaung Township. Engineer U Tin Soe of Department of Archaeology explained the model designs of ancient Theintawgyi to be renovated. Next, the minister gave instructions and inspected the repairing and maintaining of arahat images.

MNA

Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 7 Nov — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, announced today to hold the Poem Contest to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The contestants can present objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, matters related to fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, historic events occurred in the periods of Konbaung Era (AD 1824), Independence Era (1948-1988) and the State Peace and Development Council, endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council in religious affairs, construction, peace

negotiation and drug elimination sectors.

The entries will be scrutinized with three sectors—theme style, presentation and composing. The poem contest will be divided into two categories. Those who have won first second or third prizes in the Poem Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Contest and the poem contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and National Literary Award winners may participate in the level-1 and those who did not win the prizes may take part in the level-2. Those who did not win the prizes can participate in the level-1. However, one contestant may take part in one level only, and the level number must be

written on the entry. There will be two events at the level-1—the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event. The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas.

The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be accepted.

The poem must be written on one side of paper and the two copies of the entry must be submitted. And, the entry must be attached with the name of the contestant, pen-name, names of parents, education, occupation and address together with three 2" x 2.5" size colour photos. The entry must be own creation and has not fea-

tured in any publication yet. The State has authority to use the prize-winning works.

The entries are to be sent to Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Naingngan Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 531, Merchant Street, here, Tel: 374532, not later than 31-1-2005.

MNA

Fifth Kathina robes offering ceremony held

YANGON, 7 Nov — Fifth Kathina robes offering ceremony was held by Maesai Myaukmini Missionary Sayadaw Theravada Chinese Monk Maha Thadamajotikadhaja Ashin Subhana (Susanli) of Thailand and his laity this morning at Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Ashin Subhana (Susanli), Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein, the chairmen of township peace and development councils and guests.

On the occasion, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Insein Township Ywama Pariyati Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa.

Afterwards, officials and wellwishers offered Kathina robes and provisions to the presiding sayadaw and shared the merits gained.

Next, wellwishers offered lunch to the members of Sangha. Under the supervision of Dagon Myothit (south) Peace and Development Council, Ashin Subhana (Susanli) and disciples donated 3.0 million for robes and offerings.

MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 7 Nov — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

MNA

The building of City Hall in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division, nearing completion.—MNA



Quality paddy strain picked for ARD

YANGON, 7 Nov — A ceremony to choose paddy strain of high quality for the Agricultural Research Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation took place at the agricultural research farm in Kengtung, eastern Shan State, on 5 November morning.

Present at the ceremony were Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council, Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, senior military officers of the command, local

authorities, departmental officials, and local farmers.

On the occasion, the researcher-in-charge of the farm reported on pilot cultivation of 22 species of quality paddy strain and their output rates, and arrangements being made for the hybridization of maize and other crops.

After hearing the reports, the commander attended to the requirements in respect to the research works. Next, the commander oversaw the paddy fields and the tasks to choose quality

seeds of high-yield paddy strain.

The commander proceeded to the construction project on Kengtung-Lwaimwe motor road, and inspected the construction of a bailey bridge No 5/2, which is of concrete-reinforced type. After inspecting the progress of the bridge construction, the commander gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge, priority for worksite safety. He also attended to the requirements for the project.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun on inspection at Pincha Bridge construction project site. (News on page 1) — MNA

Minister inspects construction ...

(from page 1)

After that, they proceeded to construction site of Pincha bridge at the mile post No 409/5 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on progress of work of construction of the bridge and construction requirements

presented by Senior Engineer U Maung Maung Lwin of Kyaukse District Public Works.

On arrival at Mandalay bank of Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon) construction project, they heard reports on progress being made for construction of the bridge and future tasks to

be carried out presented by Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint.

After hearing the reports, the minister instructed officials to step up construction of bridge systematically and worksite safety and gave suggestions to fulfil the requirements.

MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepts USDA membership applications of Thingangyun Township from an official — MNA

A new tarred road built in Thingangyun

YANGON, 7 Oct — In honour of the Annual General Meeting of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Members of CEC of USDA, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-

Mayor Col Maung Pa attended a ceremony to pave a new road in Thingangyun Township organized by Township USDA this morning and received 5185 USDA membership applications from the public.

At the ceremony, secretary of township

USDA U Khin Wai explained progress of the new tar road and measures to be taken for welfare of the public.

The mayor and the Vice-mayor gave suggestions on upgrading of the remaining roads and undertaking tasks for public interest.—MNA

Annan opposes US Plans for major military assault on Fallujah

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has strongly opposed US plans for a major military assault on the Iraqi city of Fallujah, warning that it could further divide Iraqi people and affect the January polls in the war-ravaged country.

"I have in mind not only the risk of increased insurgent violence but reports of major military offensive in key localities such as Fallujah," Annan said.

Urging the US-led coalition forces to give more time to dialogue to succeed, he said any major assault "in which the main burden seems bound to be borne by American forces" may discourage Iraqis from voting.

He also stressed that

the United Nations wants to help in the organization of the election but that would need a conducive environment. "I, and all my colleagues at the United

Nations Secretariat, want to help. But we need a conducive environment if elections are to produce a positive effect."

MNA/PTI

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

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

Shwenyaung-Namhsan railroad construction project inspected

YANGON, 7 Nov — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than arrived in Taunggyi on 3 November and met officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry and instructed them to complete tasks in time meeting the set standards. Next, the deputy minister together with officials inspected construction of the railway, earth work and paving of road between the Htookyint and Hteinsaing villages on Saikkhaung-Ponchaung railroad section.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and officials of Myanma Railways on 4 November met officials engaged in Shwenyaung-Namhsan railroad construction project and instructed them to complete the tasks in time.

The deputy minister together with officials on 5 November inspected construction of the railway, earth work and paving the gravel in the Ponchaung-Hteinsaing railroad section between Hthihte and Hteinsaing. And the deputy minister

left Saikkhaung and met staff of MR and instructed them to send sleepers, rails

and related materials to respective worksites. On 6 November, he met

officials of Taunggyi and gave instructions on systematic registration,

collecting of tax according to law and minimizing of railroad accidents.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspects Shwenyaung-Namhsan railroad construction project. — RAILWAY

The developing Thakayta Industrial Zone

Maung Tin Hlaing (Hotels and Tourism)

The development of industrial sector plays a vital role in national development and modernization drive. As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, industrialists are striving to manufacture farm machinery. Besides, the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee has been formed to render all-round assistance to the industrial sector.

Time and again, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe has visited industrial zones and given guidance on their development. The Head of State visited Monywa Industrial Zone on 19 September 1999, and Mandalay Industrial Zone two days later.

"Just as adequate amount of financial resources and raw materials and advanced techniques are needed to set up advanced private industries, markets for their products are also a requisite. As conventional methods alone cannot build an industrialized nation, industrialists will have to strive to acquire advanced techniques and technologies", the Senior General gave guidance during the visits.

Industrial zones have been set up to relocate numerous industries in large collections in single places for rapid progress of the industrial sector. And the sector will achieve progress only if the industrialists make utmost efforts.

Thakayta Industrial Zone is included in the 19 industrial zones established by the Government. The Human Settlement and Housing Development Department designated the Thakayta industrial ward as an industrial zone on 5 February 1999. Included in the Yangon East Industrial Zone area, the Thakayta Industrial Zone is surrounded by Mya-khwa-nyo Yeik-mon housing estate and Pazun-daung Creek in the east, Min-nanda Road in the west, Aye-yawon Road in the south and Pazun-daung Creek in the north.

The area of the zone is about 200 acres, and it is divided into 256 100-foot by 150-foot plots and 39 40-foot by 60-foot plots. It houses nine State-owned factories and 110 private industries, running 10 different kinds of operations.

The private factories and enterprises are: nine garment and weaving factories; 17 foodstuff industries; 11 personal goods industries; 11 cold storages; nine stationery and packaging industries; eight chemical and pharmaceutical industries; 12 machine and machine tool industries; eight finished-wood product industries; nine construction and heavy

machinery services; and 16 warehouses. The total investment amount of the zone is K 128.13 million, and its production value is K 2,096.16 million. It has generated about 2,860 jobs.

As the zone is located near downtown Yangon, it is easily accessible. Its 11 cold storages are producing and exporting a large amount of fish and prawn, thereby earning foreign exchange for the nation, in addition to producing food for local consumer market.

Century Furniture Enterprise of the zone is trying to produce rattanware of fine quality for export. Nibban Electric and Electronics, another enterprise which is running an industry in the zone, won the international certificate (ISC 9001:2000) on quality control. A ceremony was held at Traders Hotel in Yangon to present the certificate to the company. Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, In-charge of the Thakayta Industrial Zone Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, officials, sales agents and others attended the ceremony.

Ministers U Aung Thaung and Brig-Gen Pyi Sone made speeches. General Manager of the company Dr Aung Thein explained the company's efforts to win the certificate. The company is manufacturing and distributing quality electrical apparatus. With the aim of penetrating the global market in the long run, the company has been trying to produce quality goods to win the satisfaction of consumers, to manufacture goods of international standard, to take part as a force in the State's economic and social sectors and to benefit the whole nation. Timely distribution of goods to fulfil market demands, production of quality goods, and ensuring consumer satisfaction are its three basic policies.

As the company has continued to manufacture TV antennas and accessories, boosters, safeguards, inverters, voltage regulators, battery chargers and other electronic apparatus of high quality, it won the ISC 9001:2000 certificate on 13 August 2004.

The Thakayta Industrial Zone is striving to reduce reliance on foreign countries, to stand on its own feet, and to set up industries manufacturing import-substitute goods with the aim of contributing to the Government's national industrialization drive.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin: 5.11.2004.

Military and marching song competitions to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day to be held

YANGON, 7 Nov — As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2005, the subcommittee for holding the military and marching song competition of the work committee for poem and arts competitions chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced that military and marching song competitions will be held.

There will be only one category, professional level, for the military marching song competition while the military song competition is divided into two

categories, level 1 and level 2. First, second, and third prizes as well as consolation ones will be awarded in every level. Rules and regulations of the competition are as follows:

In military marching song competition, songs must be composed and based on the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Composers and vocalists are not permitted to compete at level 2 of the military song competition nor those who stood first second or third at level 2

of the last year's military song competition. They are to enter the level 1. Only one song is allowed for individuals or groups. Entry songs must be in accord with military songs composing methods.

Military songs must be in melody and modes as well as in own tune. The time taken for the song must be between 4 and 6 minutes. There will be a preliminary contact for entry songs with strong vocal and suitable music.

Only a song must be recorded on the entry cassette or reel. A suitable title may be given. Words of the entry song together with its typed copies and

an original of its music notes must be attached to the cassette or reel. The brief autograph of the entrant and the singers together with three passport size colour photos must be sent. Those tentatively selected will be informed.

The tentatively selected songs must be re-recorded and are to compete for final. Entry songs should be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary, Sub-committee for the military and marching song competitions, Myanma Radio and Television, Pyay Road, Yangon, not later than 31st December, 2004.

MNA

e-Education Learning Centre

သင်ရိုးစာထုတ်လုပ်မှုဦးစီးဌာန

နေ့စဉ် ၁၃၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၅၀၀ နာရီ

- ၈-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (စနေနေ့)
- ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
 - ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၂)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
- ၉-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (မင်္ဂလာနေ့)
- ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
 - ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၂)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
- ၁၀-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (ဗုဒ္ဓနေ့)
- ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
 - ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၂)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
- ၁၁-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့)
- ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
 - ◆ စီမံကိန်းဌာန (၂)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
- ၁၂-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (အင်္ဂါနေ့)
- ◆ သင်ကြားရေးဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
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- ၁၃-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (ဗုဒ္ဓနေ့)
- ◆ အထွေထွေစီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
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- ၁၄-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (ဇန်နဝါရီ)
- ◆ သင်ကြားရေးဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
 - ◆ သင်ကြားရေးဌာန (၂)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
- ၁၅-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (မင်္ဂလာနေ့)
- ◆ အထွေထွေစီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
 - ◆ အထွေထွေစီမံကိန်းဌာန (၂)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
- ၁၆-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (စနေနေ့)
- ◆ အထွေထွေစီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
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 - တက္ကသိုလ်စီမံကိန်း ဓာတ်ပြား/စာတမ်း
- ၁၇-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ (မင်္ဂလာနေ့)
- ◆ အထွေထွေစီမံကိန်းဌာန (၁)
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More tourists flock to Middle East

ABU DHABI, 7 Nov — The World Tourism Organization (WTO) has said that international tourism arrivals in the Middle East increased by 24 per cent in the first eight months of 2004, the *Gulf News* daily reported Saturday.

The WTO projections from January to August this year are over 23 million international tourists visiting the region, up four million compared to the same period of 2003, and the number is expected to be much higher by the end of this year.

The Middle East has overcome the disruption caused by the Iraq conflict and is reckoned to have recorded almost a quarter more international arrivals up to August, said the WTO's bulletin for the third quarter.

During the first eight months, most destinations in the Middle East with monthly data available continue the good performance, based on the continued strong development of the intra-regional

market. Various destinations in the Mediterranean area continued the positive trend of the last quarter of 2003, attracting largely from the European market, especially Russia.

Meanwhile, Egypt, where the largest market share belongs to Western and Southern Europe, saw visitors increase by 49 per cent up to August, while receipts increased by 52 per cent in the first half of the year.

The figures make the Middle East the second highest growth region in tourism this year after the Far East, which recorded a 37-per-cent growth and whose tourism industry was badly affected by SARS last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian PM praises China-ASEAN Expo

PHNOM PENH, 7 Nov—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Friday described the first China-ASEAN Expo as very successful, saying it is very important for the establishment of a free trade area (FTA) between China and ASEAN in 2010.

The Premier made the remarks upon his return from the annual expo held in Nanning, China.

He said that ASEAN members paid great attention to the event, expressing belief that the FTA of China-ASEAN

will be established on schedule, which will further promote the trade and economic ties between the two sides.

Hun Sen said Cambodia will be greatly benefitted from the expo., which will help attract more tourists and enterprises from China and other countries to his country.

While in Nanning, Hun Sen met with Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi and took part in a series of activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Three-nation forces conduct joint operation against Taleban

KABUL, 7 Nov — Troops of the United States and its two frontline allies in war on terror have conducted a joint operation in a militant-plaguing border town in southeast Afghanistan, US military spokesman said Saturday.

"Soldiers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States conducted a coordinated attack against militant forces in the border region between Shakin and Wana on Wednesday," Scott Nelson told reporters here at a news briefing.

The operation was launched after Shakin was attacked by anti- Coalition Forces operating near the border region, he added, mentioning no casualties and damages on both sides.

"On the first of November the Shakin came under attack. The coalition and Afghan forces asked the Pakistani military on the other side of the border to assist and they responded positively," Nelson noted.

"This operation demonstrates the commitment of Pakistan to fight terrorism as well as the strong ties between neighbouring countries in the region," he said.

Wana, a main town in the insurgency-hit south Waziristan tribal area has been the scene of increasing militancy. Over the last year more than 50 civilians, militias and military personnel have been killed.

In a separate operation conducted by the coalition soldiers in the troubled Deh Rahwod District of southern Uruzgan Province Thursday, four suspected Taleban were killed and another one captured, the spokesman said— MNA/Xinhua

Philippine President visits Iloilo Province

MANILA, 7 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Friday made an unprecedented visit to a former rebel stronghold in Leon, Iloilo Province in central Philippines, as part of her tour to the poverty-stricken region.

Leon's surrounding rural areas were a former stronghold of the rebel Revolutionary Proletarian Army, who struck a peace

agreement with President Arroyo in 2000.

Arroyo handed over a 400,000-peso (about 7,000 US dollars) cheque to the local village chief as government contribution for pumping potable water to local villagers, whose main livelihood is cattle raising.

"This is the cheque that will help you to have clean drinking water as part of my 10-point legacy

programme of providing clean water and sufficient power to waterless and powerless barangays (villages and neighbourhoods) in and outside Metro Manila," said Arroyo. The President also opened an "SOS" village for abandoned children in the town of Zarraga near Iloilo City built with private donations from both at home and abroad.

MNA/Xinhua

US Warplanes, artillery blast targets in Fallujah

NEAR FALLUJAH (Iraq), 7 Nov — US warplanes and artillery blasted rebel targets in Fallujah on Saturday after troops told civilians to flee an expected assault that Iraqi leaders hope will cripple an insurgency before national polls.

Two car bombs exploded in the town of Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, killing eight people and wounding at least 20, police said.

They said the blasts targeted the town hall and a nearby police checkpoint, and that most of the dead appeared to be Iraqi civilians. "I saw a dead (Iraqi) National Guard burning on the ground," said one witness. "I saw people carrying away another corpse."

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has warned that an offensive on Fallujah, a Sunni Muslim city west of Baghdad, could undermine planned January elections, but his comments drew a chilly response from interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

The US military said an airstrike after midnight smashed three "barricaded fighting positions" after a series of raids the previous day hit anti-aircraft weapons and an arms cache.

Air and artillery strikes, described by residents as the heaviest in months, rocked Fallujah well into the night, but there was no immediate word on casualties. One US soldier was killed by guerilla fire on the edge of the city on Friday. US Marines are set to spearhead an attack on Fallujah some 30 miles west of Baghdad, and troops have used leaflets and loudhailers to urge civilians to leave. More than half the population of 300,000 has already done so.

Allawi, due back in Baghdad soon after a trip to Europe, told the BBC Annan's letter was confused and unclear and offered no alternative plan for dealing with the rebels.

"I don't know what pressure he has to bear on the guerillas. If he can stop the guerillas from inflicting damage and killing Iraqis, then he is welcome," said Allawi. — MNA/Reuters

Continuous satellite launching successes fix China on top world level

BEIJING, 7 Nov— With the third ZY-2 research satellite successfully entered into orbit on Saturday morning, China has continuously accomplished its 40th satellites launching tasks since October 1996, marking its space technology standing firmly on top world level.

Since October 1996, China has overall upgraded its space technology and had sent 45 satellites, five *Shenzhou* spaceships into space in 40 times.

China's *Long-March* carrier rockets have conducted 82 launches since April 24, 1970, and more than 90 per cent have been successful. So far, the 12 types of *Long-March* carrier rockets can satisfy the needs for satellites on various orbits and spacecraft.

China's space technology also started its industrialization course. Among 40 launches in the past eight years, China has sent applications satellites used for telecommunications, meteorological research, marine

inspection, navigation, earth resources and scientific experiments, all of which are self-developed.

The three launch centres, Jiuquan in northwest China's Gansu Province, Taiyuan in north China's Shanxi Province and Xichang in southwestern Sichuan Province, can send spacecrafts onto various orbits and the time of sending cycle have been shortened evidently in the past few years.

Last October, China became only the third nation to successfully send a man into space.

And at the beginning of 2004, China claimed to launch 10 satellites within the year while preparing for its second manned space flight.

MNA/Xinhua



Ed Robertson, co-founder and co-lead singer of the Canadian rock group Barenaked Ladies, joins his five-year-old son Lyle (L) and nine-year-old daughter Hannah as they spot giraffes and other African animals on the Kilimanjaro Safaris attraction at Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, 6 November, 2006. Robertson and his family are taking a vacation at Disney World before he embarks on the next Barenaked Ladies tour that will begin later this month in the United Kingdom.

INTERNET

India fixes star rating for hospitals

NEW DELHI, 6 Nov—Star ratings for hotels are commonplace, but now India is in the process of finalizing similar bandings for specialized hospitals as part of its effort to boost medical tourism and attract overseas patients, the *Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)* reported on Friday.

"The government has tied up with the Confederation of Indian Industry for the purpose of star ratings for hospitals," IANS quoted Tourism Minister Renuka Choudhury as saying here at the annual Social Editor's Conference.

"Through star ratings we are trying to fix the price band to facilitate medical tourism," Choudhury said.

The star rating or price band would help patients to know in advance the facilities to be expected and the expenses involved.

The Tourism Ministry is working out the rating system with the

Health Ministry and the private sector.

In the last three years, India has attracted 60,000 overseas patients, including Non-Resident Indians, who have come to the country for varied treatments like dental care, hip and knee replacement and bypass surgery.

India is an attractive option because it combines highly skilled medical care and facilities at a fraction of what it would cost elsewhere. It also cuts down on long waiting periods—in Britain, for instance, patients could end up waiting for two to three years for treatment.

At the moment, 20 patients from Tanzania are in the country for treatment, Choudhury disclosed.

Building on the 23 per cent growth in foreign tourist arrivals in 2003, India is witnessing a 26-per-cent rise in international arrivals and 41-per-cent rise in foreign exchange earnings this year.

Government data indicates that from January-October India had received 2.62 million foreign visitors as against 2.12 million in the corresponding period last year.

Foreign exchange earnings through tourism have also risen from 2.8 billion US dollars during the ten-month period in 2003 to 3.85 billion US dollars in the corresponding period this year.

MNA/Xinhua

China provides more assistance to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Nov—The Government of the People's Republic of China on Friday agreed to grant 3.6 million US dollars and provide 400 million US dollars as a soft loan to the Indonesian Government.

The 3.6-million-US-dollar assistance brought the total Chinese grant to Indonesia to 27.5 million US dollars, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda said in a joint Press briefing along with visiting Chinese Presidential special envoy and State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan.

The grant is to be used for enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries and the soft loan to finance the electrical and gas power plant at the Labuhan Angin, the

building of a 158-kilometre double-track railway between Cirebon and Kroya, and the construction of the Surabaya-Madura island bridge, Wirajuda said.

Wirajuda and Tang Jiaxuan also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the two types of assistance.

The Chinese Government also promised to provide other soft loan assistance to Indonesia if needed, Hassan said.

MNA/Xinhua

Singaporeans urged to upgrade to stay ahead of competition

SINGAPORE, 6 Nov—Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday called on employers and workers to upgrade themselves to stay ahead of competition.

"I urge all employers and workers to see training and active lifelong learning as a way of life and build this into a distinct competitive advantage for the Singapore workforce," Lee said while addressing this year's Singapore learning festival, which aims to put across a simple but important message: "you must upgrade to stay employed".

For the workforce in the island state to stay ahead of the competition, workers can not just rely on the skills they learnt in school to see them through their working lives, Lee said, adding that learning must go beyond schools, and take

place at the work place, and even at home.

Lee noted that Singaporeans are now living in a very dynamic environment as the countries like China and India are developing and upgrading their economies, altering the competitive landscape year by year.

The Premier stressed that Singapore's fundamental strategy is to upgrade its capabilities to adapt to the changes, so that Singaporeans' skills remain in demand, and they can earn a living for themselves.

MNA/Xinhua

UNICEF says China's "left-behind" children need more care

BEIJING, 7 Nov—Chinese children that are left home by their parents working at other places needs more concern, said Christian Voumard, the representative with UNICEF office for China at a National Seminar on Migrant Children held here Friday.

"There are reports say that only a small fraction of migrant rural workers can afford to take their children with them to where they work," Voumard said. "Problems related to the security, education, physical and emotional care of these children who are normally in the care of their aging grand parents or relatives is becoming an increasing issue of concern."—MNA/Xinhua

Contracts valued \$4.5b inked at China's air show

ZHUHAI, 6 Nov—Contracts valued at some 4.5 billion US dollars have been inked in the first four days of the Fifth China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, the exhibition's organizing committee said.

During the first four days, noted the committee, participants from 32 countries and regions have signed contracts, agreements and letters of intent totalling approximately 4.5 billion US dollars.

China is in need of 2,194 airplanes for the next two decades from 2004 to 2023 to cope with the growing demand of its

aviation market, China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC) predicted in its latest report.

The report acknowledges that the rapidly-growing tourism, fast expanding foreign trade, and ongoing, in-depth reform in the aviation industry will calls for a continuously flourishing market for China's air transportation.

More than 80,000 professionals from various aircraft companies, aeronautic universities, the Air Force units of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and media organizations at home and overseas have visited the exhibition in the first four days and in the ensuing three days, and the exhibition will be opened to the public, the committee said.

Five Air Force teams from Britain, France, Russia and China will give stunt demonstration flights for the viewers in the three days, the committee added.

MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 8 November 2004

Sinopec, BP set joint venture of gas station in Zhejiang

BEIJING, 6 Nov—China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) and British Petroleum (BP) announced the launch of a joint venture of a gasoline company in East China's Zhejiang Province in Beijing.

The joint venture is expected to build and operate 500 gas stations in three years in Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shaoxing in Zhejiang, one of the most economically dynamic areas in China.

According to the agreement, Sinopec will be the exclusive supplier of oil products for the joint venture, which has a tenure of 30 years and registered capital of 800 million yuan (96.38 million US dollars) with 60 per cent from Sinopec and 40 per cent from BP. The joint venture will use the brand names of both companies.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 4,500 people HIV-positive in Kazakhstan

ALMA-ATA, 6 Nov—A total of 4,531 people were registered as HIV-positive by October 1, of whom 206 had developed AIDS, said a senior epidemiologist on Thursday.

But the actual number of HIV carriers may well exceed 20,000, Zamagulova told a national seminar on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse.

Most of the HIV-positive people were male (77 per cent) and drug use was the major cause for infection (78 per cent), she said. Two thirds of the infected were in the age bracket of 15-29. She said the oil-rich country of 15 million people has the fifth largest number of HIV carriers among the Commonwealth of Independent States. Kazakhstan's HIV prevalence is attributable to the influx of heroin from Afghanistan.—MNA/Xinhua

HK police seize \$641,000 worth of smuggled goods

HONG KONG, 6 Nov—The Marine Police and the Customs and Excise Department of Hong Kong announced Friday that five million Hong Kong dollars (641,000 US dollars) worth of suspected contraband goods were seized off Black Point in Tuen Mun in a joint operation mounted Thursday.

Police officers from the Small Boat Division and officers from the Customs and Excise Department Thursday afternoon found a suspicious Mainland container vessel, which was loaded in Hong Kong destined for the Mainland.

The vessel was intercepted by the police officers and it was then taken to the River Trade Terminal in Tuen Mun for a full search.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Putin approves Russia's ratification of Kyoto protocol

Moscow, 6 Nov — President Vladimir Putin approved Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, the Kremlin said on Friday, which will make the UN environment pact aimed at curbing global warming effective worldwide.

A Kremlin spokesman said Putin signed Parliament's ratification of the protocol late on Thursday. It will come into law in Russia once Putin's decision is officially published.

Both chambers of Russia's Parliament approved ratification of the pact last month after Putin gave it his blessing.

The UN accord aimed at curbing global warming is already backed by 126 countries. But it needed Russia's support to make it internationally binding after the United States, the world's biggest polluter, pulled out in 2001.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol obliges rich nations to cut overall emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12 by curbing use of coal, oil and natural gas and shifting to cleaner energies like solar or wind power.

To come into force, the pact needed to be ratified by countries accounting for at least 55 per cent of developed

nations' greenhouse gas emissions.

Russia, which accounts for 17 per cent, became the key to Kyoto after Washington pulled out saying the pact was too costly and unfairly exempted large rapidly industrializing countries such as China and India.

Russia signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1999. But it agreed to ratify only in exchange for European Union agreement on terms for Moscow's admission to the World Trade Organization.

Putin signed the bill into law just days before he was due to meet leaders of the EU, which has urged Russia's ratification, at a summit in the Netherlands.

Rising global temperatures have been linked to extreme weather including droughts, flooding and higher sea levels, which some see as possible sparks for regional conflicts.

But critics of the pact say it will cost trillions of dollars and have scant impact unless countries like China get involved.

MNA/Reuters

Britain in danger of exceeding govt borrowing target

LONDON, 6 Nov — British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown is in danger of breaking his "golden economic rule" on borrowing because tax revenues are likely to fall short of Treasury forecasts, a new study said Friday.

A survey by Price WaterHouseCoopers (PwC) casts doubt on the Chancellor's ability to adhere to his rule that the Labour government would only borrow to invest, not to finance its spending plans, over an economic cycle.

PwC says corporate

tax receipts are likely to be significantly lower than the Treasury is currently forecasting and that the Finance Minister may be forced to break his golden rule during the current economic cycle ending in the 2005/06 fiscal year.

The rule requires a rise of at least seven billion pounds (12.6 billion US dollars) a year in tax revenues. This will be impossible if economic growth falls short of government forecasts made in the budget report in

March, says PwC.

PwC is forecasting that government borrowing will increase to around 40 billion pounds (72 billion US dollars) in 2005/06 but says this does not signal an "immediate crisis" in the country's public finances.

It projects that the British Government will have to raise between seven and 11 billion pounds (12.6 billion US dollars) in taxes unless it cuts spending after 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Internet kidney donor accepts TV offer of polygraph

CHATTANOOGA (Tennessee), 6 Nov — A man who donated his kidney to a dialysis patient he met through the Internet has accepted a television show's offer to take a lie detector test aimed at rebutting claims he was paid.

Rob Smitty's decision to donate his kidney to Bob Hickey came after the two met through a for-profit web site that matches donors and patients for a fee.

MNA/AP

World population could top 1.3 trillion by 2300

NEW YORK, 6 Nov — The Earth may be home to 1.3 trillion people by 2300 if couples overlook the two-child norm, but world population could be around nine billion if they conform, a United Nations report said here.

The report said, world population would stabilize around nine billion, a best case scenario, if fertility level continues to decline and every woman in every country had two children.

Even small variations in these projections will have enormous impacts in

the long term. As little as one-quarter of a child under the two-child norm, or one-quarter of a child above it, would result in world populations ranging from 2.3 billion to 36.4 billion.

Given progress in extending life expectancy,



Treechada Petcharat, right, a competitor in Miss International Queen 2004 transvestite competition, reacts to winning the crown as fellow competitor Arisha Rani, left, of India earns the runner up spot on 6 Nov. 2004, in Pattaya, Thailand. — INTERNET

World's most advanced mil powers using Internet to spy enemies

BARCELONA (Spain), 6 Nov — The world's most advanced military powers are using the Internet to spy on their enemies and prepare digital attacks against rogue targets, a leading cyber security expert said on Friday.

"When there's a major cyber incident it's very difficult to prove most of the time who did it," said Richard Clarke, former White House adviser on national security and cyber threats.

"There are incidents,

I think, where governments are involved, doing either reconnaissance or testing out concepts, probing for weaknesses."

Clarke said he suspects Russia and China are the most pervasive users of Internet for intelligence-

gathering on suspected enemy states and plotting ways to use the information for military purposes.

"Maybe the United States too," he told Reuters at a security conference here.

Clarke worked for the last three US presidents as a White House national security adviser. He resigned after the September 11, 2001 attacks on America and has been a vocal critic of the Bush Administration's anti-terrorism and Iraq campaigns.

His latest comments come as network security experts report a growing sophistication of attacks on business and government web sites, either knocking them offline for long periods or cracking their defences to steal trade secrets.

With more and more of the world's crucial national infrastructure — from emergency police hotlines to power grids — connected, at times, to the public Internet, the risk of cyber attacks is growing.

In addition, a new crop of elaborate computer programmes has been unleashed on the Internet, capable of snooping on security networks for top secret information.

Experts agree there is scant evidence so far of state-sponsored efforts to hack into military computer systems or compromise national security networks. —MNA/Reuters

China's top legislator meets Zambian Vice-President

LUSAKA, 6 Nov — Visiting Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), Friday met with Zambian Vice-President Lupando Mwahe.

Mwahe said the visit by Wu shows the importance attached to bilateral relations by the Chinese Government, and will further boost the existing friendly ties between the two countries.

He noted that the two countries have just marked three important events in October, namely the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Peo-

ple's Republic of China, the 40th anniversary of Zambia's independence and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Zambia.

He said the Zambian Government and people are grateful for China's huge support over the last 40 years.

The Vice-President expressed the hope that two countries will work together to explore opportunities in agriculture, mining and tourism, where there is a huge potential to be tapped.

Wu Bangguo congratulated Mwahe for his new job. He noted that the traditional friendship between China and Zambia has continued to develop for the last 40 years, despite great changes in the world and in the domestic politics of the two countries. —MNA/Xinhua

MNA/PTI

SPORTS

Aston Villa trounce Portsmouth 3-0

LONDON, 7 Nov—Aston Villa romped to a 3-0 Premier League victory over Portsmouth on Saturday as their South American connection paid dividends at Villa Park.

Villa killed the game before halftime with midfielder Peter Whittingham firing into an empty net after 18 minutes and Colombian striker Juan Pablo Angel finishing off a three-man move involving Peruvian Nolberto Solano and Ecuador's Ulises de la Cruz. Solano then rounded off the scoring five minutes before the break, pouncing on a loose ball in the area to fire home a rising shot.

Villa manager David O'Leary told Sky Sports: "We thoroughly deserved it. We went out with the right attitude, we knew it was going to be a hard game but we stopped Portsmouth playing."

Villa could have added more against a disappointing Portsmouth, unrecognizable from the side who beat Manchester United 2-0 last weekend.

Victory moved Villa up to sixth place in the table before the rest of the weekend's action, with 18 points from 12 games.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea go top of Premier League

LONDON, 7 Nov—Chelsea went two points clear at the top of the Premier League after they beat Everton 1-0 and struggling champions Arsenal were held to a surprise 1-1 draw by promoted Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Chelsea's Dutch winger Arjen Robben scored his second match-winner of the week in the 72nd minute and things improved for Jose Mourinho's men when Arsenal squandered yet another lead and could easily have lost the late kickoff at Selhurst Park.

Liverpool lost 1-0 at home to Birmingham City, Aston Villa trounced Portsmouth 3-0 and Tottenham Hotspur were

beaten 3-2 at home by Charlton Athletic, a day after the abrupt resignation of Spurs' French coach Jacques Santini.

Chelsea are top on 29 points, overnight leaders Arsenal slipped to second on 27, the first time they are not top since January, with Everton still third on 23.

Yet to recover from a 2-0 defeat by Manchester United two weeks ago, Arsenal showed none of the pace and confidence which had typified their record 49-match unbeaten league run.

Palace, who had won three of their last four league games, worked hard to deny them any space going forward and shrugged off a close-range strike by Thierry Henry after 63 minutes.

Finnish midfielder Aki Riihilahti steered home an equalizer just two minutes later after Arsenal skipper Patrick Vieira gave away possession and Palace's Greek midfielder Vassilis Lakis missed a sitter from four metres minutes later.

MNA/Reuters

Juventus suffer first loss of season

MILAN, 7 Nov—Serie A leaders Juventus suffered their first loss of the season with a shock 2-1 defeat at lowly Reggina on Saturday.

The result gives second-placed AC Milan, who host AS Roma on Sunday, a chance to close the gap on Juventus to just two points. Juventus had won eight and drawn one before the trip south and Fabio Capello's side also had a 100-percent record from four Champions League games.

Reggina took the lead in the 12th minute with a freakish goal as Juve defender Fabio Cannavaro's clearance hit the oncoming Giuseppe Colucci and looped over keeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Juve drew level two minutes later when Reggina defender Gaetano De Rosa passed straight to Zlatan Ibrahimovic and the Swedish striker raced goalwards and confidently fired home.

Reggina, with just one win before the game, grabbed the winner in the 26th minute through an indirect free-kick struck by Marco Zamboni which took enough of a deflection to deceive Buffon.

After the break Juve's Uruguayan striker Marcelo Zalayeta, picked ahead of Alessandro Del Piero, headed against the post and in the 64th minute Ibrahimovic had the ball in the net but the referee had whistled for a foul.

Colucci, who had been booked for taking off his shirt to celebrate the opening goal, was sent off in the 73rd minute for a second yellow card.

strong protests from Reggina players the referee consulted with his linesman and ruled out the goal. While the protests focused on a suspected handball, television replays showed Kapo was in an offside position before he brought the ball down.

"It went badly for us right from the outset," said Juve coach Fabio Capello.

"They got what were effectively two own goals from us and some things went against us. But we approached the game right, the players gave their all but it didn't go for us tonight," he said.—MNA/Reuters

Bayern bounce back from loss by crushing Hanover 96 3-0

BERLIN, 7 Nov—Bayern Munich bounced back from their bitter Champions League loss to Juventus with one of their best performances of the season on Saturday, crushing Hanover 96 3-0 to jump to second in the Bundesliga.

Claudio Pizarro, Roy Makaay and Paulo Guerrero scored to end Hanover's five-match winning streak and help Bayern forget Wednesday's last-minute 1-0 loss against Juventus.

Makaay's strike, meanwhile, ended a 600-minute goal drought for the Netherlands forward. Bayern are on 23 points, one behind Wolfsburg who crashed 4-0 at Nuremberg. The leaders were already down a goal when they lost playmaker Andres D'Alessandro to a red card in the eighth minute.

Schalke 04, three points off the top in third, visit Hamburg SV on Sunday.

Bayern, who also lost 2-0 a week ago against Borussia Moenchengladbach, attracted a home crowd of 62,000 and went in front in the third minute when Pizarro took a fine pass from Makaay to score from the left.

MNA/Reuters

Olympique Lyon win 1-0 to RC Lens

PARIS, 7 Nov—French champions Olympique Lyon increased their lead in Ligue 1 with their fifth away victory of the season at RC Lens on Saturday.

The only team remain unbeaten, Lyon won 1-0 at the Felix Bollaert stadium thanks to an own goal by Lens goalkeeper Charles Itandje in the 39th minute.

Lyon are unbeaten in 17 league matches since May and lead the table on 29 points after 13 games this season, a four-point lead over northern Lille, who are away to bottom-placed Istres on Sunday.

Itandje was unlucky to see the ball bounce on his back after a shot by Ghana midfielder Michael Essien was deflected towards his goal by Polish defender Jacek Bak.

Despite the confusion, the goal was amply deserved as Lyon solidly controlled the game throughout.

Monaco, seeking their first win in six games, had to be content with sharing the points in a 2-2 draw with AC Ajaccio, their sixth draw on the league this season.

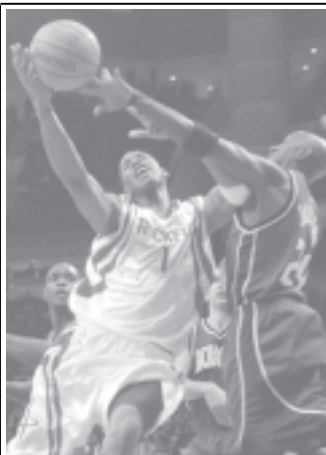
The Corsicans opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a header by Serbian defender Nenad Dzodic but Monaco equalized against the run of play 20 minutes later.

Like Itandje in Lens, Ajaccio goalkeeper Stephane Porato was to blame, deflecting the ball into his own net after

a shot by Argentine Javier Saviola.

Monaco took the lead from a dubious penalty converted by Mohammed Kallon in the 64th minute, but Ajaccio deserved their injury-time equalizer, scored by Algeria's Abdelnasser Ouadah.

MNA/Reuters



Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady (news) (1) drives into Sacramento Kings guard Bobby Jackson (news) in the second quarter Saturday.—INTERNET



DC United's Alecko Eskandarian, right, tries to get the ball past New England Revolution's Avery John during the second overtime period of the Eastern Conference final, on 6 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Celtic beat Kilmarnock 2-1

GLASGOW, 7 Nov—Midfielder Alan Thompson scored his third goal in as many games for Scottish champions Celtic in a 2-1 Premier League win over Kilmarnock on Saturday.

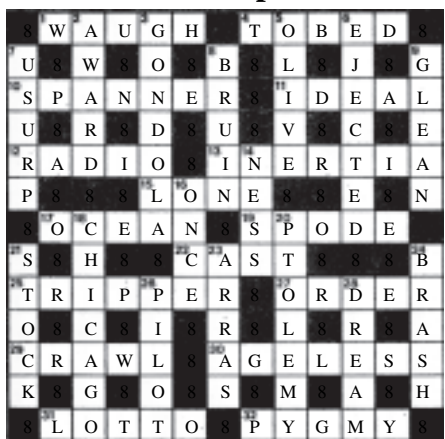
Thompson, who netted in last week's 3-2 league win at Motherwell and a 1-0 Champions League victory against Shakhtar Donetsk, converted in the 64th minute after Henri Camara was felled by Simon Ford.

Aiden McGeady scored the opener with a delightful 44th-minute free kick while Colin Nish drilled home a consolation for Kilmarnock one minute from time.

Celtic, with 34 points from 13 games, moved seven clear of Rangers at the top of the standings. Rangers visit Livingston on Sunday.

Kilmarnock fought doggedly and manager Jim Jefferies was unhappy with the decisions of the referee at both Celtic goals but they remain without a league win at Celtic Park in 47 attempts.

MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle

Japan sees first crimes drop in 8 years

TOKYO, 7 Nov — Japan's crime cases, except those involving traffic accidents, in 2003 dropped 2.2 per cent from the previous year to 2,790,444, declining for the first time in eight years, a Justice Ministry white paper said Friday. Thefts accounted for the bulk of the crimes at 2,235,844, down 60 per cent, the white paper said, attributing the decrease to reinforced measures against street crimes, such as purse snatching.

However, frauds jumped up by 21.9 per cent. The so-called "It's me" phone fraud cases took up around 10 per cent, involving some 4.3 billion yen (40 million US dollars).

Most of the victims in such kind of

cases were the elderly, who fell for calls from swindlers claiming themselves as family members, relatives or acquaintances and asking for money transfer.

Murders and robberies also grew by 40 per cent and 9.7 per cent respectively. The document also said that prison inmates reached to 61,534 people, not only exceeding 60,000 for the first time in 43 years, but also overrunning prisons' accommodation capabilities by 16 per cent, the worst since 1972.

Besides the growing number of the indicted, the situation has also been exacerbated by longer penalties against felonies, the white paper said.

MNA/Xinhua

China will never seek hegemony

BEIJING, 7 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has assured neighbouring countries that Beijing will never seek "hegemony" despite its fast-paced development and called for dialogue to ensure peace in the region.

"Despite its fast development, China does not, and will never, seek hegemony," Wen told defence officials attending the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Security Policy Conference (ASPC) here Friday.

Peace, progress and cooperation have become the general course of development in the Asia-Pacific Region, he said, adding that with more opportunities than challenges, the situation in the area is stable.

"Progress needs peace and cooperation requires dialogue," Wen was quoted as saying by the official Chinese media.

"Dialogue should be based on mutual respect, seeking common points while reserving differences and debate," he said.

China, which is committed to economic development, is an important force to maintain stability and peace of the world, Wen said.

For that purpose, China will work

to maintain a peaceful and stable international environment as well as the good neighbourly surroundings in this region, he said.

Wen expressed hope that member states of the ARF and parties attending the ASPC will work more closely together, especially in security, and push forward regional peace and stability through dialogue and exchanges.

The three-day meeting, hosted by China and chaired by Indonesia, ASEAN's current chair, was the highest level of its kind ever held within the framework of ARF.

During their meeting, representatives exchanged experiences in facing non-traditional security issues, which include fight against terrorism, transnational crime, weapons smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and money laundering. Major-General Sudrajat, chairman of the ASPC and head of Indonesian delegation, said.

MNA/PTI

China lowers culture industry threshold for private sector

BEIJING, 7 Nov — China has lowered its threshold for the private sector to invest in the country's culture industry, said Ministry of Culture.

In a circular issued by the ministry on November 3, China encourages and supports private sector to invest in businesses including entertainment, tourism, the Internet, publishing, antique and artwork in the form of independent investment, joint venture, cooperation, shareholding or licensed operation.

The private sector has become an important part of the Chinese culture industry in the past few years.

The added value created by the private sector in the culture industry accounts for more than half of the total value.

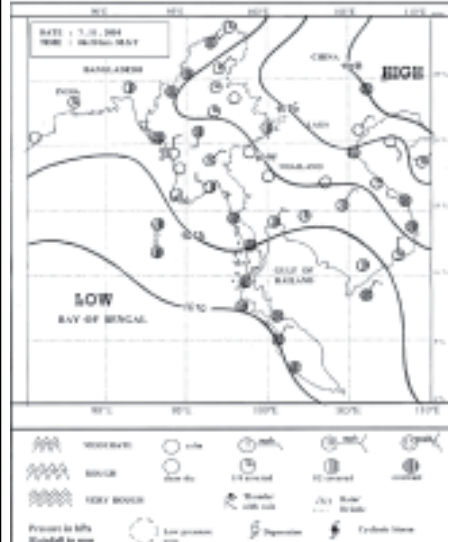
MNA/Xinhua

ASLEEP IN JESUS Rev; Maran Zau Yaw Age(74) Years

Rev; Maran Zau Yaw, Pastor of Yangon Kachin Baptist Church, Chairman of the Bible Society of Myanmar, former Secretary-General of the Myanmar Baptist Convention and President of the Myanmar Council of Churches, beloved husband of Daw Lahpai Htu Raw, father of Maran Dingdung Bawm - Lahpai Nang Seng @ Ma Yamin, Maran Zau Htoi, Maran Ja Seng - Mahka La Ding, grandfather of Maran Christine Ja Seng Hkawn fell asleep in Jesus at 11:00 am on 7 November, 2004 at No (90), Gantgaw Myaing Road, Parami Yeiktha. Funeral date will be intimated later.

Bereaved family members.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 7 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated light rain in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperature were (3°C) below normal in Chin and Kayin States and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions.

Maximum temperature on 6-11-2004 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 7-11-2004 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-11-2004 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 6-11-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-11-2004 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 (109.64 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southeast at (13:10) hours MST on 6-11-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southwest Bay persists. Weather is cloudy in South and West Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-11-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-11-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-11-2004: Fair weather.



Monday, November 8

View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. Cut little dancers

8:10 am

6. Song of national races

8:20 am

7. နိဗ္ဗာန်ရတနာတော်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold

National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အေးသင်တန်းသို့ ပညာရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအတွက် အားပေးခြင်း (အသံဖမ်း) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

6. Dance variety

5:30 pm

7. လက်ဆွဲကမ်းပေါ်တေး

5:40 pm

8. နိဗ္ဗာန်ရတနာတော်

ကျေးလက်တေးသံ

5:55 pm

9. Musical programme (The radio myanmar modern music troupe)

6:05 pm

10. Discovery

6:15 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

"အာရှစာတမ်း" (အပိုင်း-၃၇)

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. Musical programme

7:20 pm

15. Industrial Achievement

7:30 pm

16. Musical programme

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

"သံစုံစာတမ်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

21. The next day's programme



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaks at the opening of Inter-township open football tournament.— MNA

Inter-township open football tournament kicks off

YANGON, 7 Nov —Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy men's inter-township open football tournament was opened this afternoon on the football ground of Aung San Stadium.

Among the spectators were Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Minister

for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife Daw Aye Aye, Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and wife, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, divisional departmental officials, Myanmar Football Federation President U Win Aung, Yangon Division Football Subcommittee Chairman Brig-Gen Myint

Swe (Retd), Secretary of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aye Myint and others.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke on the occasion while 44 soccer teams took their positions on the ground. In the opening match, Hline Township team played against Mayangon Township team.

MNA

Member of Secretariat of USDA meets executives, organizers in NyaungU, Myingyan Districts

YANGON, 7 Nov—Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met local people, teachers and organizers of Village USDAs at Welaung Basic Education High School in Taungtha Township yesterday.

He went to the basic education middle school in Kyaukka Village and inspected repair of classrooms.

Yesterday, the member of the Secretariat

of the USDA met Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Tin Maung Oo, secretaries of Myingyan, Taungtha, Ngazun and Natogyi Township USDAs, executives and rural organizers at Maha Bodi Monastery in Kyaukka Village. He also met secretaries of NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung Township USDAs at NyaungU District USDA Office today. He discussed continued implementation of rural development tasks and people's active



participation in the efforts for success of the seven-point Road Map.—MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung explains rural development tasks to townsenders and USDA members in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division.— MNA

Founding anniversary of General Administration Department observed

YANGON, 7 Nov—The founding anniversary of General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs was observed at the ministry this morning.

Present were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo,

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and wife, director-general of Myanmar Police Force, deputy director-general of MPF, advisers of GAD (Head Office), officials of Yangon Division GAD and outstanding service personnel in education and sport.

GAD was reconstituted on 7 November 1988 and family day is observed annually beginning 2003. By doing so, service personnel can discharge duties assigned by the State and the ministry in harmony.

He said the government is implementing the tasks for the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation upholding Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy. In order to do so, the government laid down the seven-point Road Map.

He urged personnel of GAD who play an important role in administrative machinery to strive for success of the National Convention, to try to become capable highly-qualified persons in order to run the administrative machinery of the State and to make efforts to be a department on which the State can rely.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe presented gifts to outstanding service personnel and athletes and their families.

Director-General of GAD U Myat Ko presented letters of appointment to 14 gazetted officers.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivers a speech at the founding day of General Administration Department.—MNA