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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Kyaukse City Hall Construction Project. — MNA

Myogyi Dam will supply water for Greening of Meiktila Plain

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development projects in Kyaukse District

YANGON, 10 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the SPDC Office, left here by air and arrived at Mandalay yesterday morning.

Together with Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, departmental heads and local au-

thorities, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the 300-acre monsoon paddy field in Kanchaw Village, east of Mandalay International Airport, in TadaU Township. Officials reported on land reclamation and cultivation of monsoon paddy. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the officials.

With water from Thittetkon Diversion Weir, monsoon paddy will be cultivated in the rainy sea-

son and other crops in summer.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into extension and maintenance of Kyaukse-Mandalay International Airport Road. On arrival at Kyaukse City Hall Construction Project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by Project Manager U Tin Ko Ko on work progress. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected progress of construction

(See page 8)

Ayeyawady Division targets to cultivate 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1.43 million acres of summer paddy



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presents prize to an official of prize-winning township. — MNA

YANGON, 10 Nov — A ceremony to present prizes for outstanding performance in agriculture and other fields was held at the town hall in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday.

Persent on the occasion were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung

Thein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, Director-General of Settlements and Land Records Department U Win Kyi, Secretary of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thein Hlaing, division level officials, local authorities, members of social organizations, prize-winners and guests.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing made a speech, saying that the division has 4.884 million acres of arable land. The division

has laid down objectives — to increase per acre yield, to extend sown acreage and to minimize loss and wastage — in order to boost its food production, the commander stated. He went on to say that up to now, Ayeyawady Division has put over 3.5 million acres of land under monsoon paddy for this season. Efforts are being made to meet the monsoon paddy cultivation target of 3.6 million acres and summer paddy cultivation target of 1.43 million, he said.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 11 November, 2004

Speedy implementation of bilateral agreements between Myanmar and India

A coordination meeting to implement the bilateral agreements between Myanmar and the Republic of India was held at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha in Yangon on 9 November and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address at the meeting, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the Head of State had given guidance that both nations had some work that called for immediate action and some that needed further coordination and more time and that bilateral agreements should be speedily implemented.

The goodwill visit of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe was able to cement the friendly relations and boost cooperation between the two nations. During the visit, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had cordial discussions with the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister.

In addition to an accord signed before the Head of State's visit, another three agreements—the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Non-traditional Security Issues, the MoU on the Tamaranthi Hydroelectric Power Project and the Cultural Exchange Programme were also inked during the visit.

Moreover, construction of Rhi-Tiddim and Rhi-Falam roads, development of Kaladan River, construction of the road linking India, Myanmar and Thailand, matters on Dawei deepsea port project, science and information technology, international relations, border trade and security were also discussed.

Trade between Myanmar and India is enjoying a steady growth and there are potential prospects for further growth. Myanmar occupies a strategic point as it serves as a gateway to ASEAN nations for India.

We would like to urge all those responsible to speedily implement the bilateral agreements signed during the visit of the Head of State to India in the interests of both nations and their peoples.

Dipavali Day reception held

YANGON, 10 Nov — Myanmar-Indian Traders Club yesterday hosted a reception to mark the Dipavali Day for 2004 and Indian new year at Sedona Hotel here. On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia lighted the oil lamps to mark the new year. An official of Myanmar Indian Traders Club, Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia extended greetings and Secretary of the club U Maung Maung expressed gratitude. Myanmar-Indian Club hosted a dinner and entertained those present with dances.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin also attended the reception. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 10 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) and the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118). — 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

Minister inspects power generation through use of bio gas

YANGON, 10 Nov — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min together with officials arrived at Pyinmabin Pedigree Pig Farm in Mingaladon Township yesterday afternoon and inspected generating of electricity through bio gas tested by Cottage Industries Department, where they were conducted round by Superintending Engineer U Mya Than and Director-General U Sein Than.

Technicians of CID joined the Japanese colleagues to generate electricity through bio gas. Methane gas can be produced from excrement



Minister Col Zaw Min inspects process of generating bio-gas electricity at Pyinmabin Pedigree Pig Breeding Farm in Mingaladon Township. — COOPERATIVES

of pig. 15 kilo watt of electricity can be produced by running 24-kilowatt engine and 20-kilowatt dynamo through methane

gas. This generated electricity can light 400 four-foot fluorescent lamps. Measures are being taken for supply of electricity to

industries and rural areas. Residue produced from bio gas can be used as good fertilizer in cultivation. — MNA

Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 10 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 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 Beik-man 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 featured 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

Japanese Ambassador calls on Chief Justice



Chief Justice U Aung Toe receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano.—MNA

YANGON, 10 Nov — Chief Justice U Aung Toe received Mr Nobutake

Odano, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, today at the former's office here.

Also present were Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe and Director-

General of the Supreme Court U Soe Nyunt.

MNA

Thirteen US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov—Ten US soldiers have been killed in Fallujah with three other US military personnel killed in other parts of Iraq, according to the US military.

About a dozen US troops have been killed so far in the offensive against the Iraqi city of Fallujah, US Lieutenant General Thomas Metz said on Tuesday without giving a precise toll.

According to Pentagon figures, some 10 soldiers were also wounded in and around Fallujah. "Friendly casualties are light," Metz said in a video teleconference briefing from Iraq.

The US military reported that two Iraqi soldiers of the interim army had been killed in the attacks on Fallujah. "Enemy casualties, I think,

are significantly higher than I expected," Metz added, but declined to provide a number.

Three US military personnel were also reported killed in Mosul and Baghdad on Tuesday. Fighting has increased in and around the northern city of Mosul.

"One Task Force Olympia soldier was killed and a second service member later died of wounds following a mortar attack on a Multi-National Base in Mosul at approximately 10:00am (0700 GMT) today," a statement said.

"A civilian contractor

also wounded in the attack was evacuated to the military hospital in Baghdad," the statement added.

Another US soldier succumbed to his wounds sustained during a firefight with Iraqi fighters in Baghdad, AP reported.

A total of 14 Americans have been killed in the past two days across Iraq including five in and around Fallujah.

The latest US deaths brings to 1140 the number of US troops killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to Pentagon figures.

In a separate develop-

ment, anti-US fighters took control of the centre of the Iraqi city of Ramadi after 24 hours of clashes with US forces, an AFP correspondent has said. The US military could not immediately be contacted for comment.

Five US troops were wounded in clashes in Ramadi US forces withdrew Tuesday around 2.00pm (1100 GMT) from Ramadi's main streets to their bases east and west of the city, the correspondent said.

Earlier, five US troops were wounded in Ramadi when marines shot at and destroyed two suspected cars killing seven fighters, the US military said Tuesday.

The attack occurred in the city on Monday, located 113km west of Baghdad, where US troops have clashed with fighters for weeks, the military said. No other details were available.

Ramadi, and Fallujah to the east, is a centre of anti-US fighters waging a 17-month campaign against US-backed interim authorities in Iraq.

Internet

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Sunni party quits interim government

FALLUJAH, 9 Nov—Iraq's official Sunni Muslim political party has quit the US-backed government in protest over the assault on Fallujah.

A spokesman for the Islamic Party, Iyad Samarai, said top party officials had met earlier in the day with Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to demand he stop the Fallujah offensive and try to negotiate a peaceful settlement with fighters there. When the talks failed, the party saw no justification to remain a part of the interim government and subsequently quit. The party's only member to hold a ministerial post abandoned the group, however, to keep his government position.

"The Islamic Party made the decision to withdraw from the government because of the military offensive in Fallujah, but I don't share this opinion and decided to quit the party and remain in my post," said Minister of Industry Hashim Al-Hassani.

"To withdraw would not serve the interests of the Iraqi people." US-led forces have moved deep into Fallujah since launching a major assault to retake the city on Monday, as the US-backed government struggles to restore order ahead of national elections planned for January. Calls for boycott Earlier, the Association of Muslim Scholars (AMS) an influential Iraqi group, urged Iraqi security forces not to fight alongside US troops storming the besieged city of Fallujah. "We call on the Iraqi forces, the National Guard and others who are mostly Muslims ... to beware of making the grave mistake of invading Iraqi cities under the banner of forces who respect no religion or human rights," the AMS said in a statement on Monday. "Beware of being deceived that you are fighting terrorists from outside the country, because by God you are fighting the townspeople and targeting its men, women and children and history will record every drop of blood you spill in oppressing the people of your nation," the AMS said. — Internet



US Marines evacuate injured colleagues after an offensive in Fallujah, on 9 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

US troops storm into heart of Fallujah in biggest battle since Iraq war

FALLUJAH, 9 Nov—US troops with crack Iraqi soldiers surged into the heart of Fallujah in a hail of explosions and gunfire on the second day of the largest operation in Iraq since last year's US-led war.

"They are less than one kilometre (half a mile) from the centre," a high-ranking US military officer told AFP.

Thousands of US and Iraqi troops poured in after Prime Minister Iyad Allawi authorised an all-out offensive to retake the Sunni Muslim city from rebels and restore order ahead of elections promised by January.

Shelling across Fallujah, a symbol of the insurgency that attacks the US-backed government on a daily basis, escalated as US troops advanced on the centre, fending off mortar and anti-aircraft fire.

As columns of smoke plumed skyward, insurgents fought back elsewhere in Iraq, killing at least two Iraqis in a suicide car bombing against a national guard base and wounding several policemen in assaults on two police stations.

Sunni and Shiite figures have condemned the assault, dubbed Operation Phantom Fury, with one Sunni political party threatening to quit the government unless it was halted.

In a two-pronged assault, thousands of US troops poured into the northwestern Jolan neighbourhood and the Askari district in the northeast—where they took control of the city's station overnight.

Internet

British soldier killed in Iraq as casualties mount up

LONDON, 8 Nov—A British soldier was killed in Iraq, officials said, the third serious incident to hit the Black Watch regiment in the few days since it began patrolling a dangerous US-held zone of the country.

At 6.30 pm Iraqi time (1530 GMT), the soldier died when a British Warrior armoured car was hit by a roadside bomb north of the Black Watch's new base, Camp Dogwood, a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said.

"The Warrior left the road, its wheels destroyed on one side, and one soldier was killed and two others injured, neither seriously," he said in a statement.

On Thursday, just two days after the 850-strong British battle group began full operations at the base, just southwest of Baghdad, three other soldiers were killed and eight injured in a suicide bomb attack near the camp.

Then on Sunday, two more Black Watch troops were seriously wounded in another suicide attack.

The mounting casualties have left British Prime

Minister Tony Blair facing intense pressure over his decision to approve the Black Watch's redeployment from the relatively safe south of Iraq to relieve US forces near the insurgent town of

Mahmudiyah.

Blair, a sizeable part of whose Labour Party was extremely uncomfortable with his decision to support last March's US-led invasion of Iraq, has faced criticism from both

soldiers' relatives and some opposition politicians.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, expressed his sympathy for the Scottish-based Black Watch, while lambasting Blair. —Internet



Private Mac Smith mans an observation post in a bombed out building on 9 Nov, 2004, at a forward operating base near Camp Dogwood, Iraq from where British forces monitor movements to and from the embattled city of Fallujah.—INTERNET

Guerillas attack police stations in Iraq's Baquba

BAQUBA, 9 Nov —Guerillas attacked three police stations in and near the town of Baquba on Tuesday, officials said, but there were conflicting casualty reports.

The official in charge of Baquba's main morgue, Ahmed Fuad, told *Reuters* 45 bodies were received following the string of coordinated attacks, adding that 32 people had been wounded.

But Fuad later retracted these figures and denied

he had dealt with any dead from the attacks.

Police initially reported that guerillas firing rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles had killed 25 people in the attacks on the Wahda, Tahrir and Mafraq police stations around Baquba, 40 miles

north of Baghdad.

They said rebels also attacked a key bridge near the town and warned residents to stay at home in leaflets.

Walid Abdul-Salam, Police Chief of Diyala Province, of which Baquba is the capital, said

four policemen and four civilians were wounded in the attacks on police stations.

He told Arabic Al Jazeera television that seven attackers had been killed and more than four wounded in the clashes. But he said the assailants had carried away their dead.

The Baquba attacks came as US-led forces stormed into rebel-held Fallujah, west of Baghdad. Later around 50 gunmen attacked a police station in the southwest of the capital, police and residents said. —*Internet*



US soldiers tend to an injured comrade in this TV image as US troops, along with Iraqi forces, powered their way into the centre of Fallujah, Iraq, on 9 November, 2004. — INTERNET

Jordanian firm pulls out of Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov—The owner of a Jordanian truck company announced today a halt to his firm's activities in Iraq in an effort to save the lives of three of his drivers abducted in the war-ravaged country.

"I have decided to stop my firm's activity in Iraq to ensure the release of the three drivers," Abdullah Fady al-Masalmeh of Al-Safa company said.

"I am ready to do anything to secure their release."

Drivers Atta Haddad, Mahmud Abu Zaytun and Jamal al-Shneyk were snatched by gunmen in Iraq on 2 November, while a fourth trucker was killed when his vehicle overturned as he tried to flee, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Masalmeh said he learnt of the abductions when he tried to phone one of them last week and was "surprised to hear a man tell me that the drivers had been abducted and that their pictures would be aired on television".

The abductor "told me that his group wants the Jordanian government to prevent Jordanian trucks from going to Iraq and demands as well that my

company stop working with Iraq", Masalmeh said. Masalmeh who co-operates with an Iraqi firm in food distribution, said the abductors never called him back with any other demands and did not ask for a ransom.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday that Jordan was closely

monitoring developments through its embassy in Baghdad. Abdel Rahim al-Jamal, a regional head of the Jordanian truck drivers' union, said last week that the drivers were abducted near the flashpoint city of Fallujah after unloading refrigerated goods in Iraq. —*Internet*

Two US soldiers killed in mortar attack on military base in Mosul

MOSUL, 9 Nov —Two US soldiers were killed in a mortar attack on a military base in Mosul, a city in northern Iraq, the US-led coalition press office said in an e-mailed statement from Baghdad.

One soldier was killed at the time of the attack and the other died of wounds sustained in the assault, which came at about 10 am local time, the military said.

A civilian contractor was wounded in the attack and evacuated to a military hospital in Baghdad, the statement said. None of the victims was identified.

The deaths came as US and Iraqi troops in west-central Iraq battled for control of Fallujah, a city held by guerillas and one the US and interim Iraqi governments say must be pacified for national elections to take place in January.

Internet

ဝက်သနက်နေ့: ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Iraq council member shot dead

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov—Gunmen today fatally shot a provincial council member in central Iraq as he was breaking his fast in a restaurant, police and hospital officials said.

Kamil Iliyan, a prominent member of one of Samarra's biggest tribes, was shot twice in the head, said Dr Abdul-Nasser Hamid of Samarra General Hospital.

Mr Iliyan was having his iftar, the traditional sunset meal which breaks the daylong Muslim fast during Ramadan, about 5.30pm (local time) in the western Qalaah neighbourhood of Samarra when he was gunned down, said police Major Saadoun Ahmed said.

Mr Iliyan had escaped a previous assassination attempt, Major Ahmed said.

Government officials are frequent targets of guerillas who often accuse them of collaborating with the Americans.

Samarra is about 95km north of Baghdad. —*Internet*

1,145 US troops killed since begining of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov —As of Tuesday, 9 Nov, 2004, at least 1,145 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 877 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians. The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President

Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,007 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 768 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

—Two soldiers were killed Tuesday in a mortar attack in Mosul, Iraq.

—Three soldiers were killed Tuesday in combat in Fallujah, Iraq.

Internet

Colombian police capture rebel chief

BOGOTA, 9 Nov—Colombian police have captured the head of the urban militias in Bogota of the leftist rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Jose Buitica, officials said Monday.

Buitica, alias Carlos Guevo, confessed having participated in the kidnapping and murder of

the girl, Daniela Venegas, from Panama, who was kidnapped on 5 October, 2003.

He said the murder of the girl "was ordered by Romala", head of the Eastern Bloc of this guerilla organization.

Police believe Buitica is also involved in the attacks on the night club El Nogal, and another

place of the "pink zone" of north Bogota, as well as the attack with a bomb-bicycle on a police station of the Fatima neighbourhood, south of this capital.

Buitica is considered to be one of the close men of the two most important FARC chief-tains, Mono Jojoy and Romala.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier performs a bore site on the main gun of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle at Camp Fallujah on 10 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Bush Admin suffers setback in Guantanamo Bay trials

WASHINGTON, 9 Nov— A federal judge's ruling that sidetracked the Bush Administration's plan to prosecute foreign enemy combatants is the latest in a string of legal defeats for the government.

Some legal observers saw more roadblocks ahead, but a conservative-oriented group predicted the decision would be reversed because of the President's constitutional powers.

A judge in Washington said the military short-circuited the rights of Osama bin Laden's driver, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, 34, of Yemen. Last month, another judge rebuked the government for limiting foreign detainees' access to lawyers.

The administration has defended to the Supreme Court its detention of hundreds of men in Cuba without constitutional protections, and lost in a landmark ruling this summer.

"The government keeps

trying to push the edge of the envelope," said Neal Sonnett, a Miami defence attorney who has monitored some Guantanamo Bay proceedings for the American Bar Association.

He predicted more losses for the Bush Administration, which is holding military trials for a few of the suspected terrorists. The process was halted Monday, after the decision by US District Judge James Robertson, who served in the Navy.

The Bush Administration immediately said it would appeal.

The government has been holding 550 prisoners from more than 40 countries, some for

nearly three years. Only four have been charged, including Hamdan, who says he never supported terrorism but did work as bin Laden's driver.

Robertson said Hamdan has not been given a chance to show he is a prisoner of war and entitled to far more legal protections, most notably the right to appeal all the way to the Supreme Court.

"This is a major speed bump," said Scott L Silliman, a former Air Force attorney and Duke University law professor.

The decision puts the spotlight on President George W Bush's plan for military commission trials for foreign terror suspects. Defence attorneys have said the rules are so

vague that a fair trial is impossible.

Many legal and civil rights groups have criticized the plans, and lawyers representing detainees have filed lawsuits like the one involving Hamdan that prompted Monday's decision.

MNA/AP

Suicide car bomber kills five policemen in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — A suicide car bomber killed five policemen on Monday outside a hospital where victims of two church bombings earlier in the night were being treated, police said.

At least three people were killed and 40 injured in two car bomb explosions outside the two churches in central Baghdad, Hospital officials said. The victims from the church bombings were taken to Yarmouk hospital, where a suicide bomber later drove into four police cars parked outside the entrance. A wave of bombings hit the Iraqi capital throughout Monday as US forces launched an all-out assault to capture the rebel-held city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters



A tank fires around into a building in this TV image as US troops entered the centre of Fallujah, Iraq, on 9 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Jordan supports Iraqis to regain their sovereignty

AMMAN, 9 Nov — Jordan would stand firmly with the Iraqi people to regain their sovereignty, Jordan's Government Spokeswoman Asma Khader said on Monday.

Khader said at a Press conference that Jordan would support the Iraqi people to alleviate their sufferings, build their institutions, achieve security and stability.

Jordan would not sever its relations with Iraq due to historical, social, economic and political considerations, she added.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman said Jordan would seek more ways to promote the cooperative ties with Iraq in all fields.

She said the establishment of the Jordanian-Iraqi

Higher Joint Committee last week was a fruitful move toward enhancing the cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. In addition, Khader said the Jordanian Government was following up with utmost con-

cern the issue of the Jordanians kidnapped in Iraq.

Five Jordanian drivers were kidnapped by an unknown armed group last Tuesday near the Iraqi restive city of Fallujah.

MNA/Xinhua

Allawi says Fallujah curfew starts from 6 pm

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said Monday that a curfew will be imposed on Fallujah from 6 pm (1500 GMT), indicating an imminent major offensive against the restive city, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad.

MNA/Xinhua

At least 35 people wounded in explosion in southwestern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — An explosion outside a Catholic church in southwestern Baghdad on Monday evening wounded at least 35 people, police and hospital sources said.

The blast destroyed the outer wall of St Bahnam's Church and set the house next door ablaze, witnesses said.

A doctor at Yarmouk Hospital said 35 people had been brought in from the blast in the capital's Dora District.

Police said a car bomb had detonated outside the church but witnesses said it appeared explosives were planted nearby.

Five churches were hit in a string of bomb attacks in October that seemed designed to intimidate the country's small but deep-rooted Christian community, already shaken by a series of church bombings that killed 11 people in August. Iraq's 650,000 Christians, mostly Chaldeans, Assyrians and Catholics, comprise about 3 per cent of the population. — MNA/Reuters

Four Iraqis killed in car bombing attack west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 Nov — A car bomb detonated on Monday as US convoy was passing by in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi, killing at least four Iraqis and wounding over a dozen others, including a US soldier, witnesses said.

A Ramadi's main hospital said it received four bodies and one wounded in the blast.

The US military had no immediate comment on the incident.

Ramadi, 100 kilometres west of Baghdad, was another guerillas bastion other than the flashpoint city of Fallujah in the Anbar Province.

It remained on the top list of restive cities to be retaken before the national elections slated for January.

MNA/Xinhua

British public oppsn to Iraq war reaches record high

LONDON, 9 Nov— The British public's opposition to the war in Iraq has reached a record high, according to an opinion poll in the *Times* newspaper on Tuesday.

The survey found 57 per cent thought taking military action to oust former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was wrong, compared to 31 per cent who supported it.

The same poll in April, 2003, a month after the US-led invasion, found nearly two-thirds of Britons supported the war, compared to 24 per cent who thought it was wrong.

Populus questioned 1,504 people over the weekend after three British soldiers died in a suicide bomb attack at a checkpoint near the Sunni Muslim rebel stronghold of Fallujah. — MNA/Reuters



Army Nurse supervisor Parrick McAndrew tries to save the life of an American soldier by giving him CPR upon arrival at a military hospital in Baghdad, on 9 Nov, 2004 but the soldier died. —INTERNET

Turkish PM calls on US to improve security in Iraq

ANKARA, 9 Nov — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan asked US President George W Bush to take necessary measures to restore stability in Iraq, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported Monday.

Erdogan told Bush over a telephone call that Turkey attached great importance to stability in Iraq, and necessary actions should be taken to restore peace in the war-torn country.

"Protection of national

unity and territorial integrity of Iraq is important for Turkey, the region and international community," Erdogan was quoted as saying.

Erdogan also congratulated Bush on his re-election, the report said.

Meanwhile, Turkish *Daily News* reported that unidentified gunmen killed a Turkish driver in northern Iraq on Sunday, bringing to two the number of Turkish victims who died over the weekend in attacks in the

neighbouring country.

In Sunday's attack, the driver was burned alive after assailants hit his fuel tanker with rocket-propelled grenades near the Sunni Muslim city of Samarra, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Another Turkish driver died when a roadside bomb exploded near a Turkish fuel convoy on Saturday in northern Iraqi city of Mosul, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad. A total of 60 Turkish citizens have been killed in Iraq so far.

MNA/Xinhua



British troops guard the perimeter after a car bomb injured three Iraqi Police officers in Basra, Iraq, late Monday, on 8 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Poll shows Japanese Govt should withdraw troops from Iraq

TOKYO, 9 Nov — More than half the respondents to a poll said Japan's Government should withdraw its troops from Iraq next month when the mandate for their reconstruction and humanitarian mission expires, the daily *Mainichi Shimbun* said on Monday.

Asked if the deployment should be extended beyond the December 14 deadline, 51 per cent said it should not while 27 per cent said it should, the paper said.

Japan's Prime Minister

Junichiro Koizumi, a close ally of US President George W. Bush, has emphasized his determination to keep the 550 troops in southern Iraq, despite the worsening security situation.

The main opposition

Democratic Party has called for the troops to come home next month and Koizumi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is sharply divided on the issue.

MNA/Reuters

Russia launches new-generation space booster rocket

Moscow, 9 Nov — Russia launched a new-generation space booster rocket on Monday in a move that could eventually help send civilian cargoes into space, *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported.

The *Soyuz-M2* booster lifted off from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwest Russia at 9:30 pm Moscow Time (1830 GMT), *TASS* said. It had been originally due to blast off in October.

Defence officials have said the new rocket would initially carry military satellites. If successful, it would also take commercial, civilian and scientific loads into orbit.

The move is also designed to bring most launches onto Russian territory and away from the Soviet-era base of Baikonur in Kazakhstan.

The *International Space Station* depends on Russia's *Soyuz-TM* boosters, a model designed in the 1980s, for all supplies and crew changes. The US

shuttle fleet was grounded after *Columbia* broke up on re-entry in 2003, but should start flying again in May to June next year.—MNA/Reuters

Cuba ends circulation of US dollar

HAVANA, 9 Nov — Cuba ended circulation of the dollar on Monday to reduce its vulnerability to US sanctions, and shops, restaurants, gas stations, hotels and other businesses began accepting only Cuban convertible pesos.

Cubans still have another six days to swap their dollars for the locally printed currency — pegged at par to the dollar — before facing a 10-per-cent exchange fee to be levied only on dollars, not other currencies.

MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာ့စွေတာ၊ မိန်းပါလေလွင်၊
ထုတ်ကုန်ခြင်း

Syrian FM arrives in Ankara for talks on Iraq

ANKARA, 9 Nov — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara arrived in Ankara on Monday for talks on Iraq ahead of an international conference on the same issue scheduled later this month in Egypt.

Shara said he brought a message from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Necdet Sezer on recent developments in the Mideast region. The first international conference on Iraq is set to take place on 22-23 November in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh.

The conference, which precedes Iraq's January elections, is to be attended by Iraq, Iraq's neighbouring countries, China, the G-8 group of industrialized nations, the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Al-Shara will be received by President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and hold talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul. — MNA/Xinhua

Solana says little prospect of Iraq holding elections on time

THE HAGUE, 9 Nov — EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, questioning the Western and Iraqi Government line, said on Monday there was little prospect of Iraq holding national elections on time in January because of deteriorating security.

"The situation from the point of view of security does not give much of a hope that that will be realized on the date," Solana told reporters just three days after Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi gave EU leaders an upbeat forecast.

Solana said a 60-day emergency declared by Allawi to crush guerillas would take the country almost to the date targeted for elections.

The US-backed Iraqi leader had given EU leaders "a picture of security that was probably more optimistic than the reality has shown", the EU official said.

Solana's cast doubt not only on US and Iraqi policy but also of the official declaration of last Friday's EU summit, which endorsed the election timetable.

MNA/Reuters

China announces grain production increase

BEIJING, 10 Nov — China's grain production in 2004 will be substantially higher than last year, ensuring the "inevitable" realization of the anticipated goal of 455 billion kilos.

The State Council, or the central government, made the announcement at one of its latest conferences, admitting that the cheering increase of grain production is an obvious recovery from the decline of the previous years, and that gap still exists between the grain

supply and demand.

"It is still an arduous and long-term task for China to encourage grain planting and safeguard grain security," it said in a statement.

Annual grain production in China used to be around 500 billion kilos in the mid-1990s,

roughly balancing the long-lasting grain shortage of the populous nation.

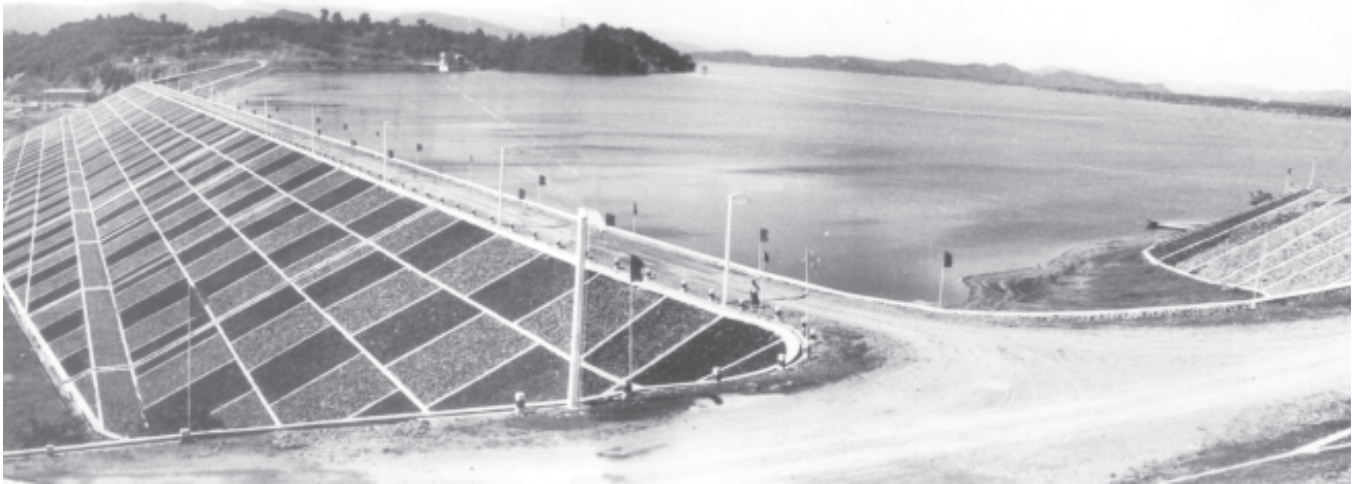
However, grain prices, along with grain production, have begun to drop, causing worldwide worries about a possible food crisis in China.

MNA/Xinhua

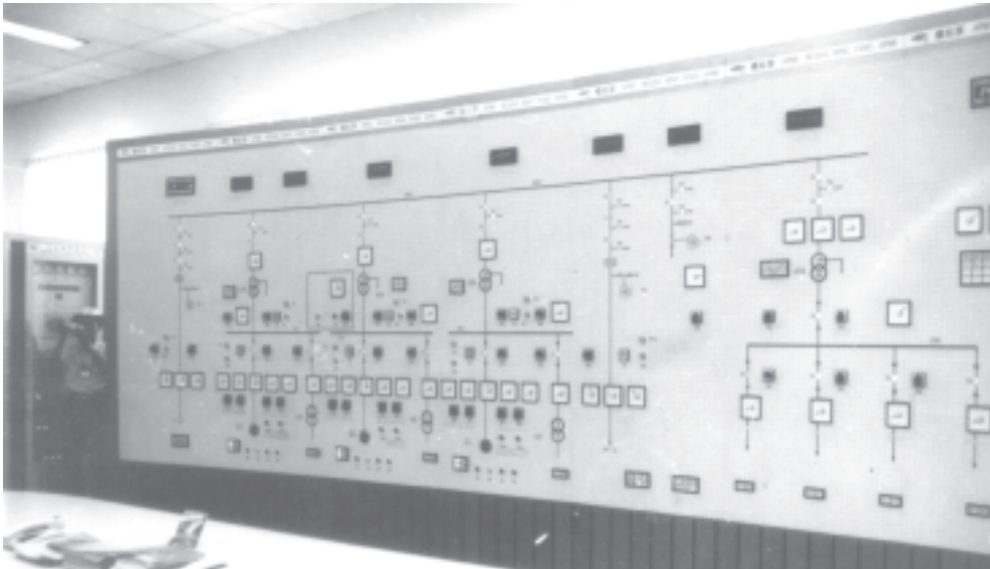


US Marines take position on the northern outskirts of Fallujah on 9 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project for irrigation and power generation



Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project in Sedoktara Township, Magway Division.



Control Room of the hydropower station of the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project.

**Mone Creek
Dam will be
able to irrigate
108,000 acres of
farmlands and
generate 75
megawatts.**

Location — Sedoktara
Township,
Magway
Division

Irrigated area —
108,000 acres

Generating Capacity —
75 megawatts



*Construction work of tunnel of
the Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam Project
in Sedoktara Township, Magway Division.*

Myogyi Dam will supply...

(from page 1)

of the building. So far, about 95 per cent of the Project has been completed.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Myogyi Dam Project near Myogyi Village in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South), which is part of the Project for Greening of Meiktila Plain. Director of the Irrigation Department U Khin Maung Chit reported on preparations for the project; and Deputy Director-General of the Water Resources Utilization Department U Hla Myint Maung, on water supply system.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint in-



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myogyi Dam Construction Project in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South). — MNA

Lying on Zawgyi River near Myogyi Village, Ywangan Township, Myogyi Dam will be 2,270 feet long and 223 feet high on completion. The earthen dam will be able to store 271,850 acre feet of water and can generate 12 megawatts.

structed on systematization in implementing the project, and betterment of support of water to Kinda Diversion Weir.

Lying on Zawgyi River near Myogyi Village, Ywangan Township, Myogyi Dam will be 2,270 feet long and

223 feet high on completion. The earthen dam will be able to store 271,850 acre feet of water and can generate 12 megawatts.

Annual average water flow into the dam is 200,000 acre feet.

Water from Myogyi

Dam and that from Zawgyi dam will be supplied to the Project for Greening of Meiktila Plain via Kinda Diversion Weir.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the flow of Zawgyi River and the lower part of the embankment and left necessary instructions.

They also inspected the Dan Creek Bridge on mile post 392/5 on Ywangan-Hanmyinmo Road near Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway.

Project Manager U Saing Philip Yee reported on the project.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to ensure meeting the set standard and complete the project as scheduled.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects monsoon paddy fields on the 300-acre land in Kanchaw Village, TadaU Township. — MNA

Ayeyawady Division targets to...

(from page 1)

Departmental personnel, national entrepreneurs and locals are to cooperate in implementing all-round development of Ayeyawady Division.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented reports on efforts to be made for realization of agricultural projects and arrangements to be made for rendering assistance and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on increased livestock breeding for development of meat and fish sector and rendering assistance.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented prizes to officials of Maubin district and townships for best performance in economic development, officials of Hinthada district and townships for best performance in realization of projects and to officials of townships and companies for best perform-

ance in reclamation and cultivation. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented prizes to officials of Wakhama, Inga and Hinthada for best performance in cultivation of rice, edible oil crops and beans and pulses. Minister Brig-Gen Maung Thein presented prizes to officials of townships for best performance in sown acreage.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe presented prizes to peasants for best performance in per acre yield.

After that, officials presented prizes to winners in agriculture and livestock and breeding sectors and 31 six-distinction winners in matriculation examination 2004.

Next, an outstanding peasant expressed his thanks and the ceremony came to a close. And the commander and ministers cordially greeted those present.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing addresses the presenting of prizes for outstanding performance in agriculture in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Commander views harvesting and winnowing in Khayon Village in Kyaikmaraw Township

YANGON, 10 Nov —Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, accompanied by officials, on 7 November inspected the digging of 6,400-foot long outlet channel in Khayon Model Village in Kyaikmaraw Township and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander and party also viewed harvesting and winnowing of monsoon paddy using machinery at the field of a farmer in Khayon Model Village and ploughing to cultivate summer paddy. At the model village, the commander held a meeting with departmental officials and locals. At the meeting, an official of the Myanmar Agriculture Service reported to the commander on cultivation of monsoon paddy in this rainy season, measures taken to grow summer paddy and an official of the Agricultural Mechanization Department on use of machinery in agricultural sector.

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung urged the officials to carry out more reclamation, to boost per acre yield using quality strains and to effectively use fertilizer and machinery. After hearing reports presented by the local farmers, the commander attended to the needs.

Later, the commander proceeded to Thanlwin Bridge construction project and inspected progress of the construction of motor road, rail road and motorway and railway on the bridge. He also inspected the progress of the construction of the approach road of the Thanlwin Bridge at Mawlamyine bank and cleanliness and beautifying tasks of the Strand Road. — MNA

USDA CEC Member tours Shan State (East)



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects extension of the runway of Kengtung Airport. — TRANSPORT

YANGON, 10 Nov—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met executives of Shan State (East) USDA in Kengtung yesterday morning. On the occasion, the USDA CEC Member dealt with participation of the members in tasks for development of the association whatever role they may be.

In the afternoon, the Minister inspected the runway extension of Kengtung Airport. After hearing reports by the officials concerned, the Minister gave instructions on security, cleanliness of the airport and its environs, good public relations with the passengers, safety measures for the planes and inter-departmental cooperation. — MNA

Secretary-General meets USDA members

YANGON, 10 Nov—Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC Member of USDA Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein held discussions with members of Division, District and Township USDAs at Patheingyi in Ayeyawady Division on 8 November.

In his speech, the USDA Secretary-General

highlighted the importance of participation of the members in successful implementation of the State's seven-point Road Map hand in hand with the people, rural development and implementation of the five tasks.

The USDA CEC Member discussed matters on current situations of the nation.

Next, the USDA members presented performance of the association. — MNA

Commander inspects agricultural tasks in Nyaungshwe township

YANGON, 10 Nov — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and officials inspected an experimental cultivation of 201-paddy strain in Pawrithat village, Tilaw village tract, Shwenyaung township on November 7.

Next, the township manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported to them on features of 201-paddy strain and Shweyinae paddy strain.

And the commander and the deputy minister inspected the paddy plot and gave suggestions attended to the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander attended the harvesting competition of Shweyinae monsoon paddy in Kyawtmaungge village of Shwenyaung.

At the briefing hall, the commander and the deputy minister inspected samples of Shweyinae paddy and combined harvesters and threshers manufactured from Ayethaya industrial zone and viewed winnowing of Shweyinae paddy.

Next, the commander proceeded to Taunggyi where he was welcomed by Director U Thang Sein of

Township Development Affairs Committee and officials concerned.

They presented reports to him on construction of platforms. The commander inspected progress of work of construction of platforms and gave suggestions to fulfil the requirements. — MNA

Rural road repaired in Taikkyi Township

YANGON, 10 Nov — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected the damaged part of a rural road in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division.

Officials reported on arrangements to repair the damaged part of the Tawlati-Kalawthaw road. The deputy minister spoke of the need to use heavy machinery to repair the part damaged by heavy rain.

The deputy minister also inspected the repair of wooden bridge, which is 80-foot long and 12-foot wide, on Pakun creek bordering Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions. He stressed the need to ensure durability of the bridge and to prevent bank erosion.

MNA

CSSTB holds 16th Kathina

YANGON, 10 Nov — The 16th communal Kathina of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board was held at its office yesterday.

Sayadaw of Thirimingala Monastery in Hline Township U Sumana and members of the Sangha, CSSTB Chairman Dr Than Nyun and members, directors-general, rectors of the departments and universities under the CSSTB and staff families attended the robe offering ceremony.

On the occasion, Dr Than Nyun, officials and staff families presented robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha and shared the merits gained.

MNA

Minister inspects basic education high schools in Amarapura Township

YANGON, 10 Nov—Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by officials, met the Township Education Officer, the headmistress, teachers, parents of the students, and members of the school board of trustees at Shwekyetay affiliated Basic Education High School in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

The Minister elaborated on arrangements made by the State for creation of opportunities for students to study for raising the education standard of the entire people, and opening of mobile schools in rural areas.

The Minister presented exercise books and pencils to the students and inspected multimedia classrooms of the school.

He also held a meeting with the principal and teachers of Yaykypauk Village affiliated BEHS, local authorities, members of the USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Societies and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, parents of the students, and the school board of trustees, and stressed the importance of cooperation between the State and the people for promotion of national education.

MNA

AIDS Control Work Committee meets

YANGON, 10 Nov — AIDS Control Work Committee of the Ministry of Health held a meeting at the National Health Committee Office here today.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo made a speech at the meeting. Officials reported on implementation of the resolutions of the previous meeting

and in launching the anti-AIDS and anti-VD drives.

Those present at the meeting also discussed work done and future programmes.

MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo addresses Meeting No 1/2004 of the Work Committee for Prevention and Control of AIDS. — HEALTH

China opens its first culture, science park

BEIJING, 10 Nov — Beijing-based People's University of China (or Renmin University) opened the nation's first culture and science park Monday, according to sources with the university.

The park will serve as an open platform for knowledge services and become a major base for cultural industries by taking advantage of the leading academic research and human resources in the university, said officials with the university.

The park, designed mainly to develop the cultural industry, has drawn a great variety of companies from industries including publishing, mass media, information technology (IT) and finance.

The park was approved by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Science and the Beijing Municipal Education Commission in July 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

Fourth estate will lose original aim if press freedom has negative effects on national interest

Minister hopes the course will produce good journalists who serve the interest of the nation and people

YANGON, 10 Nov—The conclusion of journalism course No 1/2004 conducted by the Ministry of Information was held at the training hall of The New Light of Myanmar on Strand Road in Botahtaung Township, this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

of news and periodicals, foreign policy, news coverage, news reporting and articles and general knowledge.

Continuing, he said, newspaper has been a mass media since many years ago.

Newspapers still play an important role in building a peaceful, modern developed and

It is important for the journalism world to use media as a weapon.

A nation must use the four pillars to develop itself and to ensure peace and stability and rights for every citizen.

The fourth estate or the media has to help steer all the three other pillars, namely, the legislative, the judiciary and



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan browses the works of the trainees. — MNA

In his address Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said the course is much important for the nation and people and the department and the media world; and it also benefits the trainees.

He said the course was conducted with three aims—improvement of basic journalism and newspaper publishing, work efficiency and correct mental attitude for

Personnel of the profession will have to pay serious attention to observing and materializing the ministry's objectives, which are, to lend a helping hand in the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map and convening of the National Convention successfully; to strive for media to cover the whole nation; to extend the nation's media to penetrate foreign countries; and for media to become dynamic and efficient.



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presents prize (cooperation) to U Moe Kyaw of the Bureau of Special Investigation. — MNA

trainees and publication of quality newspapers in the service of the nation and people.

He urged the trainees to try to follow these aims and realize them.

He said the lectures at the course included political, economic, social and international affairs such as national politics and Our Three Main National Causes, the twelve objectives, the press ethics, the history

discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

He expressed hope that the course would produce good journalists who serve the interest of the nation and its people.

He spoke of the need for the trainees to apply the theoretical knowledge gained at the course and put it into practice and work with high quality of journalism.

the executive. If freedom of press goes beyond its boundary, harming the interest of the nation and people, politics, administration and economy, the fourth estate will lose its original aims.

Thus, the fourth estate must be established to stand for interest, of the nation and the people correctly.

Personnel of the profession will have to pay serious attention to



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents third prize to Daw Khin Thuzar of the Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA

observing and materializing the ministry's objectives, which are, to lend a helping hand in the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map and convening of the National Convention successfully; to strive for media to cover the whole nation; to extend the nation's media to penetrate foreign countries; and for media to become dynamic and efficient.

In conclusion, the minister urged the trainees to strive to realize the three aims of the course, to extend the nation's media till reaching border areas and foreign countries, to exert

efforts to sharpen the efficiency of the media, to use innovative methods for the dynamism of the media, and to serve the interest of the nation and people.

After the speech, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein presented prizes to trainees for their outstanding performances.

Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win presented certificates to the trainees through their leader. The managing director also presented gifts to course instructors.

The minister and party viewed the news papers published by the trainees, their media works and documentary photos.

Present on the occasion were the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, advisers, directors of News and Periodicals Enterprise, head of office of the Ministry of Information, chief editors, managers, Patron and President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, veteran journalists, the principal of journalism training school and course instructors.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Thein Sein presents prize (news collection) to Daw Lat Lat Nyein, Proof Reader of Myanmar Alin Daily. — MNA

အစိုးရ

ဝန်ကြီးဌာန

အထွေထွေအရာရှိ

၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၁၄)ရက် ၄ (၂၁) ရက်နေ့စွဲ

“ဗဟုသုတဖြန့်ချိရေး၊ ကမ္ဘာ့အဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ရေး၊ စွမ်းဆောင်ရည်မြှင့်တင်ရေး၊ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး၊ အဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ရေး”

ဦးစီးဌာနအတွင်းတွင် တစ်နှစ်တည်း၊ တစ်နှစ်တည်း ထိန်းသိမ်းပါမည်။

ယခင်က ဝန်ကြီးဌာနအတွင်းထုတ်ဝေခဲ့သည့်အခါမှစ၍ မထုတ်ဝေတော့ပါ။

အသက်(၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အရွယ်ကလေးတို့အား ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။

ကတိတရားရှိရှိ တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း/တစ်ခါမျှတည်း

အသက်(၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အရွယ်ကလေးတို့အား ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။

Activities for rural knowledge banks

Chit Naing (Psychology)

In Myanmar at present, there are about 380 township libraries opened and run by the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information. The IPRD has opened free public libraries in almost every town in the nation, with the aim of enhancing the knowledge of the people of all ages. They are open every day except Sunday. Each library carries from 3,000 to 30,000 different kinds of books.

However, 380 libraries are still not enough for over 53 million people of Myanmar. Departments, wards, schools and military units also have their own libraries, and their development and effectiveness depend on the ability and goodwill of the head of the respective bodies or wards.

There may be one-thousand or two-thousand other libraries in addition to IPRD libraries. But are they enough for the population of Myanmar? There are over 37 million rural people in Myanmar and most of them do not have access to books.

The number of books published annually and the number of journals in circulation monthly or weekly are increasing significantly when compared to those in 1988.

Let alone books, some villages do not even get dailies or journals. But now they are establishing libraries on self-reliant basis. Up to 12 October, the number of self-reliant rural libraries reached 9,355, up from just over 2,000 in 2003.

Thanks to the ardent efforts of youths under the assistance of local authorities, children are reading more and more books. Rural people of all ages are hungry for knowledge. A man may lead a miserable life not because of lack of wealth, but because of poor knowledge. Besides, he may meet his end as a worthless person for this reason. Because of his poor knowledge, he will meet with unnecessary sufferings leading to an early death.

Knowledge can be found in books. And it can be gained through books at small cost or even free. With nearly 10,000 rural and ward libraries set up on self-reliant basis, we can say that we are now launching a knowledge revolution.

We should have the desire to read to extend our scope of knowledge. So we must set up libraries and must collect books by all possible ways and means. After reading books, we will have to make wider discussions among ourselves to enhance our knowl-

edge and to use the knowledge effectively, and to disseminate the ever advancing science in the whole country, especially in villages. We will have to compete with other nations.

Moreover, we should always be in touch with the advanced technologies and sciences. We will have to conduct scientific farming, facilitate transport, and increase quality production significantly to penetrate foreign markets.

We should prepare to compete with others in exporting any kind of product whether it be agricultural produce or fish or meat and to compete with other countries. And they are the challenges we have to face. We must try to continue our existence in this age of globalization.

But globalization has seen the unjust and cruel domination of the strong over the weak. But we the Myanmar people never have any wish to intrude upon others, nor have they yielded to the domination of others. And that is the inborn national spirit of Myanmar people.

We have safeguarded our independence since the time of our forefathers. But if lost, we will have to restore independence risking many lives and much blood. So, we need to improve our knowledge to be

The colonialist media enjoying superiority in techniques and technology never hesitate to make a mountain out of a mole hill. They can apply various means to deceive others. Thus, we need to possess knowledge to protect ourselves from their perpetration.

able to safeguard our independence. International incidents stand witness to the fact that independence can be lost all of a sudden.

Thus, it is the most fundamental and important task for all the people to nurture themselves to have advanced knowledge and visions for the nation to always stand tall as an independent and sovereign nation in the world. The poisoning of the food may kill five or six people at the table. But poisoning of minds may make the entire people live as slaves oblivious to their true situation.

The colonialist media enjoying superiority in

techniques and technology never hesitate to make a mountain out of a mole hill. They can apply various means to deceive others. Thus, we need to possess knowledge to protect ourselves from their perpetration.

As such, all the national people of Myanmar should have clear and correct knowledge, so that they may be able to see things in their true light, realize the wickedness of persons in advance, and see their own future clearly. If they can think freely, they will be able to differentiate between right and wrong, justice and injustice, good and bad.

From thousand years ago, the Myanmar people have their own country and culture. Because Myanmar were backward for the entire 19th Century they had to pay much for it until falling under subjugation. Only after struggling for over 100 years did the nation was able to restore independence in the 20th Century.

In this 21st Century, the nation is still facing the danger of being exploited totally by others if the people lack knowledge and unity. We all have already seen and heard the terrible intrusion and domination launched on all fronts. We need to know and avoid the danger in advance.

People need to have knowledge and vision. Thus, an ardent national drive is required to maintain libraries for long-term existence because nothing is more valuable than knowledge.

Books can give people new and better ideas and thoughts, the foundation to uplift the social conditions. But people will have to read books of various subjects and fields according to their field of work and personal interest.

But the setting up of more and more libraries is a long-term task, which needs constant encouragement and support. With much patience and zeal we need to find ways to amend the required parts. We accept libraries as the valuable heritage for posterity. So, it is the duty of all to maintain the momentum of establishing more and more libraries. The nation will develop only if the majority have become educated and possess greater knowledge.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 17.10.2004.

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်တိုင်အားကိုးစားကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊

ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၉)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်
ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ်တိုင်အားကိုးစားကြည့်တိုက် (၁၀၀၀) တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်တိုင်အားကိုးစား စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသစာအုပ်များကို
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

သတိ

၁။ ပြောက်အိုး၊ မီးရှူးနှင့် ခုံး (ရှူးဒိုင်း) ပစ်ဖောက်ခြင်းဖြင့်
ပြည်သူများ အထိတ်တလန့်ဖြစ်စေခြင်း၊ မသမာသူများမှ
ရပ်ရွာအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် လုံခြုံရေးကို ထိခိုက်အောင်
လုပ်လာနိုင်ခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် ပြောက်အိုးဖောက်ခြင်းကို တားမြစ်သည်။

၂။ တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက-

(က) ပစ်လွှတ်သည့်နေရာမှ အနီး၊ အဝေး၊ အနိမ့်နှင့်
အမြင့်တို့တွင် ပေါက်ကွဲစေတတ်သော ပြောက်အိုး၊
မီးရှူးနှင့်ခုံးများ (ရှူးဒိုင်း) ဖောက်လှောင် ထောင်ဒဏ်
၃ နှစ်။

(ခ) ပြောက်အိုး၊ မီးရှူးနှင့်ခုံးများ (ရှူးဒိုင်း) ရောင်းလျှင်၊
ထုတ်လုပ်လျှင် ထောင်ဒဏ် ၅ နှစ်။

(ဂ) သတင်းပေးသူကို ထိုက်တန်စွာ ဆုပေးမည်။

ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ

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HIV tests proposed for asylum seekers in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, 9 Nov — Sweden's Integration Board has proposed obligatory HIV tests for all new asylum seekers as part of a larger general health check-up. Radio Sweden reported on Monday.

The reason behind the proposal is the increased number of HIV cases in Sweden. Last year, 379 people were infected with the virus, the largest number in ten years, with the majority of those cases among new immigrants to this country.

Some are critical of the proposal. Pehr Olov Pehrsson, a senior physician, said: "this is a dangerous path to go down. If asylum-seekers are found to have HIV and are sent home, there is no guarantee that they will find treatment there, while here in Sweden, treatment could be provided." —MNA/Xinhua

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Indonesia, Singapore to enhance bilateral cooperation

JAKARTA, 9 Nov — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong agreed on Monday to enhance bilateral cooperation.

To achieve the goal, Susilo suggested to establish a joint council to discuss bilateral issues. "All these demonstrate the strong commitment of PM Lee and I to work together to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two close neighbours," Susilo told a joint Press conference.

"In my part I expressed

my hope that the joint cooperation council (JCC) can be established in the near future for the council to start its work in managing the ranging bilateral issues," he said.

Susilo said that they also agreed to enhance consultation and cooperation to strengthen ASEAN. "We are committed to work together for the ASEAN community, which includes the ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Social Cultural Community," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian population at 25.7 million

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Nov — Malaysia had a population of 25.7 million by September 2004, an increase of 2.8 per cent over the figure of last year, according to the latest figures from the Department of Statistics.

The department's Statistical Bulletin released Monday shows the total population includes 24 million citizens and 1.7 million foreign nationals. The number of males had

increased from 12,751,900 last year to 13,093,300 in September this year. Of this total, 12,137,900 are citizens, while 955,400 are foreign nationals.

The number of females however is slightly less, having increased from 12,296,400 to 12,624,700 over the same period. Of this number, citizens comprise 11,868,200, while 756,400 are foreign nationals, according to the statistical Bulletin.

MNA/Xinhua

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Microsoft to pay \$536m to end dispute with Novell

WASHINGTON, 9 Nov — Microsoft Corp announced Monday it would pay 536 million US dollars to its rival Novell Inc to resolve an anti-trust dispute between the two software giants.

Novell Inc's Netware operating system and WordPerfect business software compete directly with Microsoft products.

Novell agreed to

withdraw its claims over the damaging effect of Microsoft products on Novell's Netware operating system and halt its case against Microsoft lodged at the European Commission.

However the two companies were unable to reach agreement over anti-trust claims relating to Novell's WordPerfect business software.

MNA/Xinhua

MI5 warns businessmen to be aware of terror threat

BIRMINGHAM (England), 9 Nov — British businesses need to be aware of the "serious and sustained" terror threat to Britain and its interest abroad, the head of Britain's security service said on Monday.

While al-Qaeda has been weakened by deaths and arrests of senior members round the world since September 11, 2001, it is still able to attack Western interests, MI5 director-general Eliza Manningham-Buller told a business conference.

"There is a serious and sustained threat of terrorist attacks against Britain interests at home and

abroad, including against the business community," the spy chief said in prepared remarks at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) meeting.

"There might be major attacks like Madrid earlier this year. They might be on a smaller scale," she said.

Manningham-Buller's remarks, to a panel advising businesses on how to deal with a wide range of security threats, were the latest in a series of warnings from British officials that a terrorist attack on British soil is inevitable.

Britain is considered a

top target for radicals due to its support of US President George W Bush, particularly in Iraq.

Although there has been no attack on British soil, the threat to British targets was dramatically illustrated a year ago with a suicide bombing at a consulate in Turkey that killed 17 people including Consul General Roger Short.

Manningham-Buller said the British counter-terrorist response since September 11 has been effective, there was better international cooperation and plots had been disrupted. —MNA/Reuters

Beijing to keep population within 18 million by 2020

BEIJING, 9 Nov — Facing increasing pressure of resources restriction, the Chinese capital plans to slow down its population growth in order to make the city more life friendly, according to a city plan for 2004-2020.

The long-term plan, a fundamental document to guide the city's development in the next 16 years, says the city will try to keep its population within 18 million by 2020, which means the city's annual population growth rate will be lowered to 1.4 per cent from the current 2.5 per cent.

So far, there are about 14.5 million people living in Beijing, three million of whom are outsiders without permanent

residence registration in the city, according to Monday's *China Daily*.

Experts have long appealed for the city's population to be kept in line with the capacity of its resources, involving land, energy and water.

For instance, Beijing is severely lacking in water. Its annual water availability per capita is less than 300 cubic metres, some one-32th of the international levels.

Some experts estimate that the city's water resources can only bear at most 17 to 18 million people.

Beijing has undergone rapid expansion that far exceeded expectation in the past decade.

According to the old

city plan made in 1993, the city predicted 14 million residents by 2040. However, the target figure was reached last year, 37 years earlier than expected.

And the number of vehicles in the city exceeded 2.2 million by June this year, far higher than the 1.3 million set for 2010 by the old plan.

As a result, the city had to revise city plans early this year, and introduced the concept of "building a society suitable for living" for the first time.

Besides slowing down the population growth figures, the revised plan, made public on Saturday, stresses the role of "satellite towns" to alleviate pressure on central areas.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Spain, Germany to boost military cooperation

MADRID, 9 Nov— Spain and Germany agreed to boost cooperation in defence at a summit meeting Monday between Spanish Prime Minister Rodriguez Zapatero and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in the northern Spanish city of Leon.

According to the deal, Germany would extend to year 2016 a loan of 108 Germany-made *Leopard* armoured combat vehicles, and Spain would pledge to strengthen its relations with the German defence industry.

Schroeder told a joint Press conference that Spain has done "a good business" for the Spanish side can keep the tanks after the agreement expires.

"We generally want to strengthen military cooperation," Schroeder said in Leon, some 290 kilometres northwest of the Spanish capital.

Zapatero said Spain, which is modernizing its Armed Forces, has a "clear" will to reinforce military relations with France and Germany.

The two leaders also agreed to undertake a flexible approach to the financial rules set down by the European Union.

"We are a government that believes in budget stability but we understand that we must be flexible in terms of the Stability Pact," Zapatero told the news

conference.

The European Union's 2007-2013 budget was also on the agenda. Schroeder said the two countries should work to "match" their interests and reach "reasonable solutions" regarding the distribution of community funds.

Spain has received billions of dollars in development aid from Brussels since it joined the bloc in 1986 and it fears that it may lose out to new EU members.

The German Government does not want a confrontation with Spain over the budget, said Schroeder, admitting the negotiations are difficult.

"We need to give both parties time. There is not going to be any pressure from either of us," he said.

The reduction of funds received by Spain should be "progressive", said Zapatero, adding the Spanish Government, with an open attitude, is willing to see a reasonable balance in the distribution of funds.

MNA/Xinhua



Doggy fashion : A dog sports a winter coat made from bobcat fur during a dog fashion show in Moscow on 8 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Nigeria, China hold talks on bilateral ties

ABUJA, 9 Nov — Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo held talks here Monday morning with visiting top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo, focusing on strengthening bilateral ties.

The two exchanged views and reached consensus on Sino-Nigerian relations, Sino-African ties and international and regional issues of common concern.

Obasanjo expressed warm welcome to Wu, who was on a four-nation Africa tour, and asked Wu to convey his greetings to Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), conveyed the greetings from Hu to his Nigerian counterpart and Hu's invitation to Obasanjo to visit China

next year in the capacity of both chairman of the African Union and Nigerian President.

Wu also appreciated Obasanjo, an old friend of China, for his contribution to improving the friendship between the two peoples as he, together with Chinese leaders, established direction for bilateral ties development and laid a solid foundation for sustainable, healthy and stable development of bilateral relations during his previous visits to China. He said that the two peoples have cherished profound tradi-

tional friendship and Sino-Nigerian relations have been developing smoothly.

"The Chinese side is satisfied with the smooth development of bilateral ties," Wu said, adding that the two countries have strong economic complementarity in trade and economic cooperation. China's new leaders attach great importance to development of Sino-Nigerian relations and are willing to join hands with the Nigerian side to increase exchanges and cooperation in all sectors between the two countries, he said

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam needs huge investment to develop shipbuilding industry

HANOI, 9 Nov — Vietnam needs over 1.4 billion US dollars to develop its shipbuilding industry by 2010, according to local newspaper *Liberation Saigon* on Monday.

Under a national shipbuilding development plan, the industry needs over 1.4 billion dollars to renovate technologies, repair and build seagoing vessels with large capacity in the 2002-2010 period. Of the capital, nearly 51.8 million US dollars will come from foreign loans.

Vietnam is to start

building ships with 100,000 dead weight tons (DWT) next year. Its shipping firms are estimated to need 150 new vessels with total loading capacity of 3.6 million tons from 2006 to 2010.

The country's largest shipbuilder, state-owned Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (Vinashin), has recently

accessed China's preferential loans of 99.8 million dollars to build a big shipyard in the central province of Quang Ngai. After becoming operational in 2008, the Dung Quat shipyard will be able to construct seagoing vessels with 300,000 DWT and repair 600,000 DWT ships.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam disposes biggest bomb ever found in Indochina

HANOI, 9 Nov— Vietnam has succeeded in disposing a bomb weighing 5.5 tons, the biggest bomb found in Indochina,

local media reported Monday.

Six local Army engineers Sunday took 3.5 tons of explosive out of

the bomb dropped by the US Army in the central highlands province of Gia Lai in the Vietnam War. Earlier, they had to dig hundreds of cubic metres of soil and rock.

The once biggest bomb found in the country is displayed at the Vietnam People's Army Museum. It weighs nearly 1.4 tons.

During the war, the United States troops used nearly 15.4 million tons of bombs, mines and shells, of which exploded ordnance (UXO) accounts for 2-5 per cent. There are over 300,000 tons of UXO in Vietnam.

Local scrap collectors often saw UXOs for metal and explosive, while small children play ammunitions by breaking them, resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries annually.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing Int'l Scientific Film Festival begins

BEIJING, 9 Nov — A total of 184 scientific films, such as "16 Days": Columbia's "Final Mission", "Minotaur" and "Explore the Death Valley", are to be shown at the 2004 Beijing International Scientific Film Festival, which began here Monday morning.

The festival organizers, the China Association for Science and Technology and the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, selected all the 184 films, which were produced after 2002, from 79 production companies in 19 countries.

An expert panel, consisting of 12 popular scientists and film producers, have narrowed the selection to 68 films, which are eligible for the grand prize and other awards.

MNA/Xinhua

Logistics Development Conference held in Macao

MACAO, 9 Nov — The Logistics Cooperation and Development Conference among China's Mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan was opened here in Macao Monday.

The two-day conference convened over 400 industry insiders to discuss the prospect of cross-border cooperation in logistics flow.

Participants to the meeting held that the Mainland's endorsement of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) with Hong Kong and Macao, and the signing of a framework agreement for the cooperation in the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) region has brought new tasks and unprecedented opportunities for the development of logistics industry in the region.— MNA/Xinhua



Cables for the media : Cables are displayed on the road to bring electricity to the media caravans parked in the street of the Percy military hospital in the Paris southwestern suburb of Clamart on 7 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Six Greeks nominated for European footballer of the year

PARIS, 10 Nov— Six Greek players have been nominated among 50 footballers in an initial list for the European Footballer of the Year award, the web site of sports daily *L'Equipe* said on Monday.

Traianos Dellas, Angelos Charisteas, Michalis Kapsis, Antonis Nikopolidis, Yourkas Seitaridis and Theodoros Zagorakis are named for the continental award after Greece made history with their Euro 2004 triumph in Portugal in June.

Six French players, including Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane and Arsenal duo Thierry Henry and Patrick Vieira, are also in line for the award, along with seven Brazilians.

The 2004 winner of the Golden Ball as the European Footballer of the Year, to be announced in December, will be decided by a poll of European soccer journalists from 52 countries published by *France Football* magazine. Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved of Juventus won the award last year.—MNA/Xinhua

Edu suffers broken toe

LONDON, 10 Nov— Arsenal's Brazilian international midfielder Edu suffered a broken toe in their League Cup fourth round 3-1 victory over Everton at Highbury on Tuesday.

"He played very well but now has a broken bone on his toe," said manager Arsene Wenger after the Premier League champions fielded a second-string side that beat experienced Everton at Highbury.

"I think it's the right foot. I don't know how long he will be out. It's the bad news of the night." Edu limped off in the 65th minute to be replaced by Sebastian Larsson, but Everton manager David Moyes thought the Brazilian was fortunate to stay on the pitch in the first half.

Edu's two-footed challenge on James McFadden got him booked and led to some shoving before referee Alan Wiley had to intervene to calm things down.

"The match could have changed if Edu was sent off in the first half," said a disappointed Moyes. "We were 1-0 up and things could have changed definitely."—MNA/Reuters



Lindsay Davenport, who thought just months ago that her career was on the wane, instead heads into the elite WTA Tour Championships seeking to position herself for an assault on Grand Slam glory in 2005.—INTERNET

British-US consortium will buy Leeds United

LONDON, 10 Nov— Leeds United should be sold to a British-American consortium by Friday afternoon, the English Premier League club and buyers said in a joint statement on Tuesday.

It said the consortium, Nova Financial Partners and Sebastian Sainsbury, had agreed to transfer 25 million pounds (46.10 million US dollars) into Leeds' lawyers' account by close of business on Thursday.

"Provided the funds are verified, Nova confirmed it would complete a deal with the Club on or before 1pm on Friday 12th November," added the statement.

Leeds chairman Gerald Krasner said: "The intention of the Board is to secure the best possible future for the Club and we look forward to completing a successful deal on Friday."

The Yorkshire club, one of the great names in English soccer, were top of the Premier League in January 2002 but fell into the second division after being forced to sell top players to service debts estimated at 80 million pounds.

The dominant club in the English game in the late 1960s and early 1970s, they reached the Champions League semifinals in 2001 before financial profligacy caught up with the club.

They teetered on the edge of financial collapse earlier this year and were relegated from the Premier League in May.

Sainsbury, great-grandson of the

founder of the British supermarket chain that bears his name, has said he wants to rid the club of its debts and prevent the Elland Road stadium from being sold.

"We can build this club back up and take it back to the level it was at in the 1970s. That's my objective," he declared last month.—MNA/Reuters

Benfica's Gomes sprains left knee

LISBON, 10 Nov— Benfica striker Nuno Gomes sprained his left knee during a league match at the weekend but will not need surgery, the Portuguese league leaders said in a statement on Monday.

The Portugal international was hurt in a clash with Vitoria Setubal goalkeeper Marco Tabuas during Benfica's 4-0 win on Sunday, and a medical examination confirmed he had suffered a sprained left knee.

The 28-year-old, however, did not need surgery, according to the club's statement. It was not disclosed that how long he might be out of action.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombian venues for S American sub-20 C'ship approved

BOGOTA, 10 Nov— The South American Soccer Confederation (CONMEBOL) approved two Colombian cities as venues for the coming South American under-20 championship.

According to the CONMEBOL decision, the tournament would be held from January 12 to February 6, 2005, in the cities of Armenia, Pereira and Manizalez, all of them in central-west Colombia.

The president of the Colombian Soccer Federation, Oscar Astudillo, said on Monday that CONMEBOL officials

Hildo Nejar and Romer Osuna, approved the two cities but ruled out the city of Ibague.

Astudillo explained that the CONMEBOL officials said that both coaches and physical trainers would complain about same-day trips between the cities.

The federation chief said that "in no way this decision has to do with

problems of organization or infrastructure or, as suggested, that this was a retaliation for the resignation of Gabriel Camargo to the Executive Committee of the Federation".

According to the source, CONMEBOL will release within days the official competition schedule of the 10-team men's tournament.—MNA/Xinhua

Mutu fires agents

BUCHAREST, 10 Nov— Banned Romanian striker Adrian Mutu, dismissed by English Premier League club Chelsea for taking cocaine, fired his agents on Monday.

"Mutu came to our office and told us of his decision not to cooperate with our company any more," agent Gheorghe Popescu told Reuters. "He did not give any reason for his decision."

The player, represented until Monday by the

Popescu and Becali Sport Management company, said he had decided "to give other people a chance" to represent him.

The 25-year-old was banned for seven months by the English Football Association last week for failing a drugs test.

Giovani Becali, one of Mutu's now dismissed agents, confirmed last month that Mutu had taken cocaine and that Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho asked for the doping test because he had suspected the Romanian striker.

MNA/Reuters

Southampton crash 5-2 at Watford in League Cup

LONDON, 10 Nov— Premier League Southampton crashed 5-2 at Second Division Watford while Tottenham Hotspur gave new manager Martin Jol the perfect start with a 3-0 win at Burnley in League Cup fourth round action on Tuesday.

Arsenal's youngsters joined their north London rivals in the quarterfinals after a battling 3-1 win over Everton at Highbury while fellow Premier League side Portsmouth overcame Second Division Cardiff City 2-0 at Ninian Park.

Southampton's embarrassing collapse at Vicarage Road increases the pressure on under-fire manager Steve Wigley after just one victory in 12 league games this season.

Bruce Dyer put Watford ahead just before the break with a header but the visitor's troubles really began six minutes into the second half when James Chambers volleyed home from close range before adding his second just after the hour mark.

Heidar Helguson struck another

volley four minutes later to make it 4-0 and although Southampton pulled a goal back through Dexter Blackstock their defence was undone again as Hameur Bouazza volleyed Watford's fifth goal six minutes from time.

Brett Ormerod's late strike to make it 5-2 was little comfort to Wigley who must now prepare his shell-shocked team for a local Premier league derby at home to Portsmouth on Saturday.

A double from Robbie Keane and another strike from Jermain Defoe gave Tottenham's new Dutch manager Jol the tonic he needed after a controversial week at the club following former France coach Jacques Santini's shock decision to quit on Friday.

MNA/Reuters



Dyer pursued by Saints defenders.—INTERNET

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

Son of late Namhkyek Duwa Maran Zau Tawng-Du Jan Share N-hkum Ja Doi, Son-in-law of late Col. L. Hkun Nawng - Lahtaw Nang Seng,

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 service will be conducted at 0900 am on (12-11-2004) Friday at Judson Memorial Hall, No. (143) Minye Kyaw Swar Road and thence proceed to Yayway cemetery.

Bereaved family members.

Sales of China information products to exceed

NANCHANG, 10 Nov— Sales volume of China's electronics and other information products in the first nine months of this year equalled last year's total.

This year's total should exceed two trillion yuan (about 240 billion US dollars), said Xi Guohua, Vice-Minister of Information, Monday at the fourth China Network Media Forum.

China's information industry has enjoyed drastic growth in recent years, especially the busi-

ness of telephone and Internet service, he said.

China has added more than 90 million telephones annually in recent years, and the number of its telephone users, 627 million, leads the world, Xi said, noting that there are 49.3 telephones for every hundred Chinese people.

After a decade of development, Internet surfers in China have surpassed 90 million, second in the world, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia celebrates 51st Independence Day

PHNOM PENH, 10 Nov— Cambodia on Tuesday held a grand ceremony here to mark the country's 51st Independence Day.

King Norodom Sinamoni presided over the celebration and lighted the ceremonial flame on the monument.

More than 3,000 local people from all walks of life and diplomats participated in the ceremony.

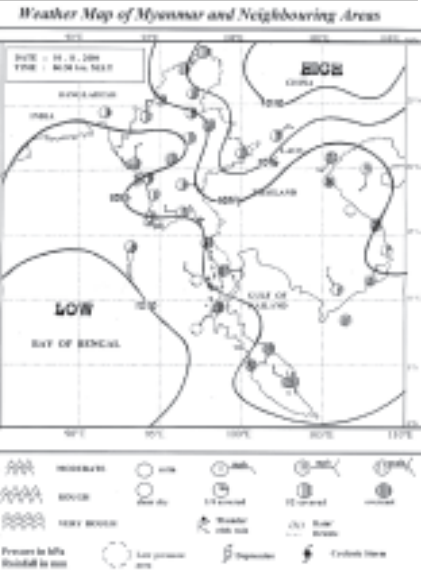
Prime Minister Hun

Sen and Senate President Chea Sim also attended the event.

The 51-year-old King greeted the people along the road, where local people flocked to welcome the new King and touched his hands.

This is the first time for King Sihamoni to preside over the Independence Day festivities after he ascended to the throne on October 29.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 10 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Southern Shan State and weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, Mawgay, Bago and Taninthayi Division and fair in the remaining areas. Night temperature were (3°C) above normal in Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 9-11-2004 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 10-11-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-11-2004 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 9-11-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 10-11-2004 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 6 mph from Northwest at (13:20) hours MST on 9-11-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-11-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Kachin, Chin and eastern Shan States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

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

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

China becomes world's second diamond processing base

BEIJING, 10 Nov— With an annual export of over three million carats, or nearly one billion US dollars' worth of diamond, China has become the world's second largest diamond processing base, said Jiao Jianqun, official with the trade department of the General Administration of Customs.

Meanwhile, along with the rapid consummating techniques in diamond processing and the ever improving living standard of the Chinese people, China has become the largest diamond consumption nation in Asia and the fifth largest diamond consumption country in the world, *Beijing Youth Daily* quoted Jiao as saying on Tuesday.

According to Jiao, sales volume of diamond ornaments amounted to 19.6 billion yuan (2.37 billion US dollars) in Chinese Mainland in 2003.

Diamonds processed in China, with their unique favour, are called by the international diamond circle

as "China craft", comparing with "Belgium craft" and "Israel craft" as the world's most superb technique in the trade.

Statistics from the General Administration of Customs showed that China imported 11.44 million carats of raw diamond in 2003, and exported 3.3 million processed diamond with an export volume of 803 million US dollars during the same period.

In the first nine months of 2004, export volume of processed diamonds reached 788 million US dollars. The anticipated export volume for the whole year was more than one billion dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai Airways granted Cambodian airport service contract

PHNOMPENH, 10 Nov— Thai Airways has received a five-year licence to provide aircraft maintenance services at Phnom Penh and Siem Reap International Airports, a local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Granted by the French-owned Societe Concessionnaire de l'Aéroport (SCA), the Thai Airways International Co will provide services such as routine technical inspections of planes, maintenance and provision of spare parts, said the *Cambodia Daily*.

The agreement will help the airports cater to carriers serving medium-range destinations and "in the future the prospected companies with long haul flights," Jean-Francois Gouedard, chief executive for SCA was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

<div> </div> <p>Thursday, November 11 View on today:</p> <p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:55 am 5. Dance of national races</p> <p>8:05 am 6. Dance variety</p> <p>8:20 am 7. ကျော့ကြီး ဆိုက်တံတား</p> <p>8:30 am 8. International news</p>	<p>8:45 am 9. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. English for everyday use</p> <p>4:45 pm 4. Musical programme</p> <p>5:00 pm 5. အဝေးသံတက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယပတ် (ရုပ်စာအုပ်ဖြင့်) (ရုပ်စာ)</p> <p>5:15 pm 6. Cute little dancers</p> <p>5:30 pm 7. "အမူနီမြတ်ဆုံးလက်ဆောင်" နေရလင်းနှင်းညိုမနုဿာဇော်၊ ဓမ္မာနီ(ရှမ်းပြည်)၊ ဒေါ်တင်တင်လှ (ဒါရိုက်တာ - မောင်မောင်မြင့်)</p> <p>5:50 pm 8. မြန်မာ့ဓမ္မမြန်မာစကား</p> <p>6:00 pm 9. Muscial programme</p>	<p>6:15 pm 10. နိုင်ငံအခွန်သစ်တော့စွမ်းမြင့်စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်</p> <p>6:30 pm 11. Evening news</p> <p>7:00 pm 12. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm 13. နိုင်ငံကြီးစတင်လမ်းဆွဲ "လွန်လွန်ကောင်း" (အပိုင်း-၅)</p> <p>7:40 pm 14. စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းဆွမ်းဦးတင်ခွင့်</p> <p>8:00 pm 15. News</p> <p>16. International news</p> <p>17. Weather report</p> <p>18. "နိဗ္ဗာန်လွင်လွင်ဆွေညီတော်တော်တော် အားလုံးနီးပါး" (အပိုင်း-၂) ညွှန်စမ်းရန်အောင်၊ ကော့ရိုအောင်လွင်နီးရိယာ၊ ဝေသနန်းနုမြတ်သူဇာ၊ နီးမြတ်နုနုခိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ ရတနာအောင် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်) မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးမိတ္ထသောရတင်ဝံသာ၏အလို ဆယ်မျက်နှာကဏ္ဍာဝဏ္ဏာပဒေသနာများဖြင့်တရားတော်များစွာ</p> <p>20. The next day's programme</p>
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<div> </div> <p>Thursday, November 11 Tune in today:</p> <p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: -I love rock and roll</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: -Anyman of mine/ National news/ Slogan</p> <p>9:00 am Music: Love won't wait</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music: -Until the end of time</p> <p>1:30 pm News/Slogan</p> <p>1:40 pm Lunch time music: -Forever and a day -Give me love -You get what you give -I need love</p> <p>9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar</p> <p>9:10 pm Rakhine traditional squeezed rice noodle Pouri</p> <p>9:20 pm -Children born to older fathers risk developing schizophrenia -Oestrogen treatment to woman can lead to fertility problems -Coloredoman received now kidneylin 1st transplant operation</p> <p>9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers -From this moment on -I've never been to me -The day you want away</p> <p>9:45 pm News/Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>

Yangon Command wins C-in-C's Shield in Tatmadaw Judo & Acrobatics Contest

YANGON, 10 Nov—The concluding of the Commander-in-Chief's Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Judo and Acrobatics (2004) took place at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna here this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, senior military officers, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, commanding officers of regiments and units, other

ranks and their families, members of social organizations.

After the final matches, senior military officers presented prizes to the winners. Brig-Gen Myo Myint presented shield for basic and higher level acrobatics to Yangon Division, shield for Judo (novice division) to Central Command, shield for Judo (B division) to Yangon Division, shield for Judo (A division) to Yangon Division. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented championship shield for judo and acrobatics and championship shield for judo to Yangon Command.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents championship shield (Judo) to Yangon Command. —MNA

Myanmar to host ASEAN Optimist Championship

YANGON, 10 Nov — Myanmar will host the 2004 ASEAN Optimist Championship to improve her yachting skills, said Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint at a meeting today. The meeting was held at National Indoor Stadium-1 here to discuss the holding of the championship at Chaungtha Beach in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Division, from 13 to 21 December.

The international championship will help further strengthen friendship among ASEAN nations

and enable foreign participants to witness peace, stability and developments in Myanmar, he noted.

President of Myanmar Yachting Federation U Thein Tun and General Secretary U Moe Myint explained preparations to host the championship, followed by a general round of discussions. After the meeting the minister watched the inter-State/Division shooting contest in South Okkalapa, and presented the championship trophy to Yangon Division team which won five gold, two silver and one bronze. — MNA

Minister inspects Maubin Paper Mill

YANGON, 10 Nov — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 8 November met with local farmers, departmental officials and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association at Samalauk Village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division and discussed matters on boosting production of crops, reducing the cost of cultivation as well as double cropping.

Afterwards, the minister viewed the harvesting of monsoon paddy, winnowing, land reclamation for soy bean and cultivation of matpe.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to Maubin Paper Mill of the Myanmar Jute Enterprise in Maubin Township and supervised the trial-run of the mill. Factory Manager briefed the minister on measures taken to boost production of high quality paper. At the mill, the minister urged the officials concerned to see to the worksite safety, to minimize wastage and to produce finished goods from by-products.

Modern machinery installed at the factory utilizes the entire jute plant as raw material.

The factory now produces 5,000 tons of quality



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Maubin Paper Mill near Pantaput Village, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division, on 8-11-2004. — AGRI & IRR

paper annually. Managing Director of MJE Col Ye Phone Myint said.

Later, the minister held discussions with farmers

on matters regarding monsoon, summer and jute cultivation and inspected thriving paddy cultivation in Maubin Township. — MNA

Drilling of natural gas starts at Well No Shwe-2

YANGON, 10 Nov—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials attended a ceremony to start drilling of Well No Shwe-2 in Block A-1 in Rakhine Offshore, yesterday.

Chairman of Daewoo International Corporation E&P Myanmar Dr Su Yeong Yang and officials of the Ministry of Energy explained the operation.

In January 2004, Well No Shwe-1 was drilled and natural gas was struck at the depth between 10,035 ft and 10,104 ft. Daily production then was 32 million cubic

feet. According to geological survey, it was estimated that the well can produce four to six trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The well No Shwe-2 was drilled for confirmation of the estimated deposits.

The drilling ship, Frontier Duchess, will start drilling and testing at the well No Shwe-2 to be completed within 53 days. The ship will also survey geological conditions in Block A-1 and will complete its operations at the end of December 2004.

Another drilling ship, Southern Cross, will continue its operations at

Well No Shwe-3 in early December 2005.

The ministry is making arrangements to seek foreign markets for natural gas to be produced from Block A-1 and to meet local demand. —MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party pose for a documentary photo together with experts at Block A-1. — MNA

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