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Pathein Bridge ready for inauguration Senior General Than Shwe urges proper maintenance of Bo Myat Tun Bridge

YANGON, 14 Nov — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe arrived at Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division, by car yesterday morning. He was welcomed there by Ayeyawady Division PDC Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials. The Senior General was accompanied by SPDC members Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe views progress of Pathein Bridge across Ngawun River.—MNA

Bo Myat Tun Bridge is the one which is used most by a lot of traffic in the division. It is necessary to maintain the bridge and constant measures are to be taken for prevention against erosion. Local authorities are needed to assign duties to bridge supervisory committees to maintain the 39 bridges including the Bo Myat Tun.



Pathein Bridge across Ngawun River. — MNA

Health Dr Kyaw Myint, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the SPDC office and departmental heads.

At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe and party heard a report by Director of the Water Resources and Improvement of River Water Systems Development Department U Hla Myint Thien on the current of the Ayeyawady River and changes of the river bed. Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on maintenance of Bo Myat Tun Bridge and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing on assistance being rendered by the Ayeyawady Division in taking measures for prevention of erosion, and maintenance of the bridge.

Next, Senior Gen-

eral Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that Bo Myat Tun Bridge is the one which is used most by a lot of traffic in the division. It is necessary to maintain the bridge and constant measures are to be taken for prevention against bank erosion, he said. Local authorities are needed to assign duties to supervisory committees to maintain the 39 bridges including the Bo Myat Tun built by the State for better transport.

The Senior General and party went to Pantanaw Test Well-1 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise near Pyindongalay Village in Pantanaw Township where they were welcomed by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister

Brig-Gen Than Htay, officials, locals and USDA members.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on geological surveys for exploration of oil and natural gas in Pantanaw region, drilling at Pantanaw Test Well-1, drilling up to over 10,000 feet, feasible study, daily production of oil and natural gas from Nyaungdon oil and natural gas oil field, conducting of seismic surveys to expand the exploration of

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Myanmar archers bag 7 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze (Page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 15 November, 2004

Discharge national duty conscientiously

The Government with the participation of the national people has been making earnest efforts for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in keeping with the national policy.

Toady is the time when efforts are being made for the nation to keep abreast of the global nations. With the aim of serving the interests of the State and the people, the Union Solidarity and Development Association has been formed with the youths who will be shouldering the responsibilities of the nation.

The USDA was formed with the five objectives—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty, promotion and vitalization of national pride, and emergence of a prosperous, peaceful and modern nation.

The USDA stands as a national force on which the State can rely since it was formed with those who cherish the State and the people, those who want to forge national solidarity, those who are in favour of prevalence of law and order and community peace and those who want to safeguard the national culture.

The USDA which is the only national association of the State was formed on 15 September 1993. Since then, it has been serving the interests of the State and the people with might and main. As the USDA at different levels were formed in all the states and divisions, the youths from urban and rural regions are actively participating in nation-building endeavours.

The USDA members have been participating in a wide range of national development tasks under the leadership of USDA at different levels. The State/Division/District and Township USDA Annual General Meetings were held recently to present prizes to outstanding USDA members who had served the interests of the State and the people.

At the meetings, the USDA CEC members dealt with matters related to implementation of the five objectives laid down by the USDA, ensuring solidarity among USDA members after enhancing the four capabilities, participating in the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map of the State by doing their bit and actively participating in the nation-building endeavours.

Therefore, the USDA members are urged to serve the public interest to their utmost while participating in the nation-building endeavours with Union Spirit, the spirit of national solidarity and the spirit of safeguarding sovereignty risking their lives.

Sepak Takraw tourney opened

YANGON, 14 Nov — A ceremony to open the Sixth Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup Sepak Takraw was held at Thuwunna Gymnasium this morning with an address by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik.

Present on the occa-

sion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, Chairman of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and CEC members and guests. The tournaments continue up to 19th November and altogether 84 teams are taking part in the women's and men's events.

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

Customs Dept holds 26th Kathina

YANGON, 14 Nov — The 26th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at Customs Dhammatukha-yeiktha on Shwedagon Pagoda Road this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kitti, Director-General of the Customs Department Col Khin Maung Lin and wife Daw Ei Ei Lwin and staff families.



Director-General of the Customs Department Col Khin Maung Lin and wife offer Kathina robes to a Sayadaw. — CUSTOMS

On the occasion, the director-general and wife and staff families offered robes and provi-

sions to members of Sangha, followed by paying respects to older staff. Next, staff families paid

respects with provisions to over 70-year old staff retired from the Customs Department. — MNA

Road construction in Bago Div (west), Magway Div inspected

YANGON, 14 Nov — Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 10 November inspected road construction in Bago Division (West) and Magway Division.

First, the director-general inspected construction of laterite road and repair work of bailey bridge in Okpo Township and gave necessary instructions.

The village-to-village linking road is six miles and four furlongs long and the bridge is 130 feet long.

Afterwards, he proceeded to the road construction project near



Director-General of the Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint inspects road construction in Magway Division. — MNA

AungChanTha Village in Gyobingauk Township and gave instruction on quality of the road, timely completion of work and work site safety.

Similarly, Col Myo Myint also inspected the road construction near

GaDinNgaSint Village in Paukkaung Township.

The director-general went to Taungdwingyi Township in Magway Division the next day and inspected the construction of road linking Taungdwingyi, Sin-

baungwe and Aunglan townships. Of the construction of the district-to-district linking road, 33 miles of earth work has been carried out and 20 miles and two furlongs has been gravelled.

MNA



Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaik delivers an opening address at 6th Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup Sepak Takraw competition. — NLM

Iraq, US divert troops from Fallujah to Mosul to quell uprising

FALLUJAH, 13 Nov — The US Army has diverted an infantry battalion from the fighting in Fallujah and sent them back to Mosul after an uprising there by guerillas, US military officials said Saturday.

The 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, a unit of the 25th Infantry Division, was ordered back to Mosul late Thursday after militants attacked bridges, police stations and government buildings in the city, officials said.

The battalion, which

is now part of the Stryker Brigade of Task Force Olympia, was already back in the Mosul area.

Fearing an uprising in support of embattled guerillas in Fallujah, the Iraqi government rushed reinforcements to the key city of Mosul after

police fled and gangs brandishing automatic weapons seized control of the streets.

The surge of violence in Mosul, a city of about 1 million people, making it Iraq's third-largest, came as US troops on tightened control over most of Fallujah —

cornering the largest pocket of remaining resistance fighters in the city's southwest as airstrikes and strafing runs continued.

The four-day fight to wrest control of the city from guerillas and help pave the way for elections in January has claimed 22 American lives and wounded about 170 others. An estimated 600 guerillas have died, according to the military.

Four other US helicopters were hit by groundfire in two separate attacks near Fallujah but their crews were not hurt and were able to return to base.

Associated Press reporters Jim Krane near Fallujah and Tini Tran, Sameer N Yacoub, Mariam Fam, Sabah Jerges, Katarina Kratovac and Maggie Michael in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Internet



Guerillas await US Marines on a street corner in the war torn Iraqi city of Fallujah, on 8 Nov, 2004. US forces fired at least 20 mortar barrages at guerilla targets in Jolan, a district in north west Fallujah.—INTERNET

1,179 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 13 Nov — As of Saturday, 13 Nov, 2004, at least 1,179 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 903 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The AP count is thirteen higher than the Defence Department's tally, which was last updated Friday at 10 am EST.

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, 1,041 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 794 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

INTERNET

Missing Syrian driver found in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov — A Syrian driver kidnapped along with two French journalists, who remain missing, has been found in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, the US military said on Friday.

But there was no immediate word on the fate of Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot, who were abducted in August. "We do not have any information about the two reporters," a military spokesman said. He had no further details.

The driver, who was not named, was found by US Marines in Fallujah, 32 miles west of Baghdad, where 10,000

US troops backed by 2,000 Iraqis launched an offensive on Monday to wrest the city from guerilla control.

During house-to-house hunts for guerillas, Iraqi soldiers discovered "slaughterhouses" where Islamic militants held and beheaded hostages, as well as records of victims and hundreds of CDs of killings.

But it is not known if any records relate to the dozens of foreigners kidnapped since April, several of whom remain missing, including two Americans and a British-Iraqi aid worker.

MNA/Reuters

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Guerillas vow to spread fight across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Nov — Islamic groups including one led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi have vowed to take their battle in the rebel city of Fallujah to all corners of Iraq.

In a video obtained by the media, a masked gunman reading a joint statement from several militant groups also warns Iraqi government workers and soldiers will be targeted unless they stop work immediately.

The video, obtained by *Reuters* in Fallujah, showed three masked men carrying assault rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

The tape could not be immediately authenticated.

"In response to the crimes and mass annihilation the Muslims of Fallujah are facing, the groups Qaeda Organization of Jihad in Iraq, the Islamic Army, the 1920 Revolution Brigades ... announce the spread of the battle to all governorates and parts of Iraq," one gunman read from a handwritten piece of paper.

"We warn all employees in the Government and ministries, both civilian and military, not to go to work and to announce civil disobedience because remaining at work is doing a service to the Americans and collaborator Government.

"Anyone who does otherwise will make himself a target for us." Essential services such as health, water and electricity were exempt, he said.

Some of the 11 groups named have claimed some of the bloodiest bombings, killings and kidnappings in Iraq. US-led forces began a major offensive against Fallujah last Monday, aimed at clearing it of foreign Islamic militants and Saddam Hussein loyalist guerillas.—*Internet*

Zarqawi's tape urges Fallujah guerillas to resist US-led attacks

DUBAI, 13 Nov — An audio tape from al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi urged guerillas in Fallujah to resist US-led attacks on the guerilla city, saying victory was certain.

"We have no doubt that the signs of God's victory will appear on the horizon," said the speaker, who sounded like Zarqawi in the tape posted on web sites used by Islamists.

"O you heroes of Islam in Fallujah ... don't be selfish with your lives," said the voice, which the web sites said was Zarqawi. "America and those with them felt the winds of Jihad (holy war) which

will shake their thrones and foundations."

"I speak to you my nation as the blood of your sons is flowing in Iraq and especially in Fallujah after the onslaught of crusaders," he said.

Supporters of Zarqawi's al-Qaeda Organization of Holy War in Iraq are reported to be among the guerilla fighting US and Iraqi forces in Fallujah.

Another guerilla organization, the Army of Ansar al-Sunna, said on its web site it had joined Zarqawi's group and the Islamic Army in Iraq in a rare joint attack on a government building south of Baghdad. — *MNA/Reuters*



An Iraqi boy stands near the burning wreckage of a car bomb after it exploded near a security force convoy in the northern city of Mosul, on 13 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

US and UN renew quarrel over Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Nov — Secretary General Kofi Annan's reluctance to commit staff members to Iraq in large numbers and a series of comments he has made about the war have strained relations with the Bush administration and left many Americans bewildered, according to both supporters and critics of the United Nations.

Mr Annan withdrew international staff members from Iraq in October 2003 in the wake of attacks on relief workers and the bombing of the United Nations' Baghdad headquarters, which killed 22 people, including the mission chief, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Although the United Nations has been assigned the task of setting up elections scheduled for January, Mr Annan has declined to

send more than a handful of electoral workers to Iraq, citing the lack of security forces to protect them.

"The Iraqis and the Americans are completely frustrated," said a senior American official at the United Nations, reporting views he said he heard in the White House this week. "The secretary general is still recommending many thousands of peace-keepers in Sierra Leone and the Congo, and yet there are

seven election workers in Iraq. That tells the whole story."

This official said that warnings were resurfacing at the White House that the United Nations was risking becoming irrelevant and that such comments were now being combined with a dismissive attitude toward Mr Annan himself.

"We're beyond anger," the official said. "We won re-election, Kofi's term is

up in '06 and though we have been asking him to define the UN role in Iraq, he is thumbing his nose at us."

In an interview Thursday night at his office overlooking the East River, Mr Annan said he was distressed by the criticism.

"I have tried to be as helpful as possible, and I have stated at every opportunity that the stabilization of Iraq is everyone's responsibility," Mr Annan said. "I have argued that regardless of one's position on the war, we must all come together to stabilize Iraq."

Internet

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: အေဘီအီး

Iraq's airport shut until further notice

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov — Iraq's international airport in Baghdad will remain closed for commercial flights until further notice, the office of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said.

Allawi on Monday decided to shut the airport for 48 hours after he declared a state of emergency in a desperate bid to curb unrest engulfing the country.

On Wednesday, he extended the closure for another 24 hours.

Attacks against symbols of the US-backed government and security forces have spiked since US and Iraqi forces invaded the rebel epicentre of Fallujah on Monday in a bid to regain control.

Curfews have also been imposed on several cities, including Baghdad.

Internet

More than 70 US injured soldiers leave Iraq

FALLUJAH, 13 Nov — More than 70 US soldiers from Iraq have been flown to a military hospital in Germany, most of them wounded in the battle for Fallujah, officials said.

The 73 new patients at the US military's Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre pushed the number of arrivals this week to 412, nearly all of whom were injured in Fallujah, hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw said. Bed capacity at the hospital in rural western Germany has been increased to handle the influx.

US and Iraqi forces launched a ground assault on Fallujah late on Monday after the city's clerical leadership refused to hand over guerillas, including Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Military officials could not provide an exact breakdown on the number of wounded from Fallujah or the nature of their injuries.

Landstuhl is the biggest US military hospital overseas, and its doctors also handle soldiers with injuries and illnesses not related to combat. It usually treats between 30 and 50 injured military personnel per day.

A C-141 transport brought the 60 newest patients from Iraq to the US Air Force's Ramstein base on Saturday, including 25 on stretchers. They were put on buses for the short trip to Landstuhl. Another 13 injured arrived earlier.

Internet

Turkish tanker driver killed in Iraq

SAMARRA, 14 Nov — A Turkish tanker driver was killed in Balad, 75 kilometres north of Iraqi capital of Baghdad, on Friday, police said.

Police said that armed assailants opened fire on the vehicle, and killed the Turkish driver named Adil Abdullah.

The police noted that Abdullah had earlier been kidnapped, and released after he promised not to carry fuel to US forces.

Thus, the number of Turkish lorry drivers killed in Iraq within a week reached five. —Internet



Smoke is seen in the distance as a US marine from the 3/5 Lima company aims his rifle during operations in Fallujah on 13 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Argentine ex-President criticizes Bush's anti-terrorism policy

MADRID, 13 Nov — Former Argentine President Raul Alfonsín on Friday attacked US President George W Bush, accusing him of promoting terrorism more than anybody else in the world.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, Bush, with his preemptive policy, just multiplied terrorism rather than reduced it, said Alfonsín.

"I don't believe there is anyone in the world to have empowered terrorism more than Mr Bush," Alfonsín said at a

two-day meeting of the Club of Madrid.

Alfonsín said that the US strategy of combating violence with violence and promoting security other than freedom could be counterproductive in the end. Participants in the meeting will debate on "Democracies in Danger: Diagnosis and Action Proposals." —MNA/Xinhua

ICRC concerned for civilians in Fallujah

GENEVA, 13 Nov — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Friday that it is extremely concerned about the fate of civilians caught up in fighting in the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

"We have two main humanitarian concerns in Fallujah. First, that civilians are still trapped in the city. They need to be spared from attacks," Rana Sidani, a senior official of the Geneva-based agency, said in an interview with a Swiss official web site Swissinfo.

"Our second concern is that there are many injured civilians who are in the part of the city which is not under the control of the multinational forces," she added.

Sidani said she hoped the message would be heard by United States military authorities in Iraq.

Around 10,000 US Marines, soldiers and Iraqi forces have been involved in the assault on Fallujah, located 65 kilometres west of the capital, Baghdad.

According to the US military, hundreds of guerillas have been killed in fighting in Fallujah since the latest offensive on the city started on Monday.

There are no official figures on the number of civilian casualties, but the ICRC said it, together with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, is providing food, water and medical supplies to thousands of citizens of Fallujah who have fled the city. —MNA/Xinhua



A US Army soldier from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, takes cover behind a destroyed car in Fallujah on 13 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Dutch troops in Iraq to be brought home in March

AMSTERDAM, 13 Nov— The 1,350 Dutch troops in Iraq will be brought home as planned in March, the Defence Ministry said on Friday, but the Netherlands will contribute to a NATO training mission there.

The Dutch contingent has been based in the Muthanna Province, in southern Iraq, since August 2003 and Parliament in June extended their stay until March 2005.

"We think that by March 2005 the security situation in al Muthanna will be stable enough to hand over the task to Iraqi security," Defence Ministry spokesman Otto Beeksema said.

"This does not mean we won't have a presence in Iraq at all. We will send about 100 men to provide support and training in the NATO training mission," he said.

The Netherlands has been under US and British pressure to keep its troops in Iraq beyond the March deadline as the interim administration tries to contain mounting violence and hold elections.

Foreign Minister Bernard Bot recently suggested an extension might be possible, but Defence Minister Henk Kamp said the Cabinet had now ruled that out.

NATO agreed in June to set up a military academy outside Baghdad to complement a far larger US-led operation aimed at training 150,000 secu-

rity personnel before Iraqi elections.

The Dutch presence in Iraq, an issue which has divided public opinion, has led to several threats from Islamist groups.

The Netherlands has been under a heightened security alert since July when a man was arrested on suspicion of planning attacks on key buildings including Schiphol Airport and Parliament.

The government also believes it has foiled a new attack with a spate of arrests since the murder last week of filmmaker Theo van Gogh, whose

criticism of Islam enraged some Muslims.

In Iraq, two Dutch soldiers have lost their lives, one in May and one in August, while a commander was flown back to the Netherlands pending an investigation following a shooting incident in which an Iraqi civilian was killed.

Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has been touring Europe this week to drum up support, even as some European countries say they intend to scale back their military presence.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier shot dead in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov— Guerillas shot dead an American soldier on Friday after attacking a US patrol in southern Baghdad, the US military said.

In a statement, it said the patrol was attacked by roadside bombs, small arms and rocket-propelled grenades in an apparently well-coordinated assault.

Two US soldiers and an Iraqi working as an interpreter were wounded in the attack.

There have been sporadic clashes between guerillas and Iraqi and US forces in southern and western Baghdad in recent days, witnesses said.

On Friday, there were gunbattles in the northern Sunni Muslim district of Adhamiya and in Abu Ghraib, to the west of the

capital.

Masked gunmen roamed the streets in the west and south of the city on Thursday night, planting roadside bombs, setting up checkpoints and turning back civilian cars on some roads, said a Reuters photographer, stopped at one road block.

There has been a spike in attacks on Iraqi and US forces in Sunni Muslim cities across Iraq during a US assault on Fallujah to clear it of foreign Islamic militants and Saddam Hussein loyalists they say are entrenched there.

MNA/Reuters



US Marines of the first division call for support after coming under fire in the western part of Fallujah, Iraq, on 13 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Rumsfeld arrives Latin America to tighten security cooperation

SAN SALVADOR, 13 Nov— US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Latin America on Thursday to press Washington's southern neighbours to tighten security cooperation to prevent a new terrorist attack in the Americas.

"We certainly believe that it's important for the region to have strengthened security systems and security arrangements that our country can be helpful in," Rumsfeld said, landing in the El Salvador capital on a trip that will take him to Ecuador next week to meet hemisphere defence ministers. The secretary also told reporters flying with him from Miami he would visit Nicaragua and Panama.

Rumsfeld called for better cooperation between militaries and police forces in accordance with each country's laws, stressing there must be "understanding (of) the nature of terrorism and narco-trafficking and how they can take advantage of seams" in security intelligence efforts.

On Rumsfeld's first for-

eign trips since last week's reelection of President George W Bush, he will hold bilateral talks with defence chiefs from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Bolivia in addition to a group session with Central American defence ministers.

The rugged national borders of Central and South America have historically been soft targets for smuggling and drug trafficking, and Washington worries Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda militant group or other anti-Western militants might try to infiltrate the United States from the south.

"They take advantage of borders," Rumsfeld told reporters. Security cooperation has been increasing over the past two years among nations such

as Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Colombia to stem money laundering and the movement of arms and guerillas.

The Pentagon is encouraging police, border guards and the military to work closely together. "In the backdrop of this (ministers') conference is the growing awareness in the region that there's a connection between drugs and terrorism and organized crime gangs," said one US defence official, who asked not to be identified.

"There are important Islamic communities throughout the (Latin American) region," the official added in a briefing with reporters. "It is known that fund-raising for Hizbollah and Hamas takes place."

MNA/Reuters

WHO urges govts to provide funds to drug makers

GENEVA, 14 Nov— The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday urged governments to provide funds to drug makers developing vaccines against a feared influenza pandemic, which could kill millions of people.

Representatives of 11 drug companies, governments and vaccine licensing agencies ended a two-day meeting amid fears Asia's lethal bird flu virus endemic could mutate and infect humans.

Klaus Stohr, head of the WHO's global influenza programme, said companies were reluctant to invest some 11 million euros to develop a vaccine that may never be used.

"There is a need to raise the profile of pandemic preparedness as a matter of national security planning," Stohr told a news conference.

Funding was the "most important barrier" to making vaccines against a pandemic that could strike a third of the world population with a fatality rate of about 1 per cent, he said.

"It looks as if the companies will not come up with this money — somebody else has to step in," Stohr said.

Japanese officials said they were considering backing four Japanese drug makers in developing a vaccine for clinical testing in the country, he said.

Only two drug makers — Aventis-Pasteur of France and British manufacturer Chiron Corp have been working on potential pandemic vaccines with funds from the US National Institutes of Health.

Both are producing clinical batches of a vaccine and testing is expected to begin on humans and animals early next year. In the event of a pandemic, vaccines, antiviral agents and antibiotics to treat secondary infections will be in short supply and unequally distributed, said the WHO.

The greatest influenza pandemic occurred in 1918-1919, causing an estimated 40 to 50 million deaths, more than were killed in World War I which preceded the outbreak.

"Pandemic influenza will be the largest public health infectious disease emergency we ever face in most countries and certainly globally," said Arlene King, a director at the Canadian Public Health Agency. — MNA/Reuters



A US Marine aims his gun after coming under attack in the western part of Fallujah, Iraq, on 13 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraqis condemn US assault in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov— Iraqis slammed on Friday the United States for its military campaign in the guerilla-held Iraqi city of Fallujah, criticizing it as “worse than Saddam regime”.

“The US authority is worse than Saddam regime. They make us hate even the words of freedom and democracy,” a spokesman of the Association of Muslim Clerics (AMC) said at a rally.

“The US forces do everything that the former regime did, from using internationally banned weapons against civilians to oppressing people,” Mohammed Bashar al-Faiydh told hundreds of worshippers.

Another member of the leading Sunni religious body read a letter from Fallujah, saying “the mischief of the city is beyond all limits of human rights and norms. It’s a brutal genocide”.

The dead and wounded were lying scattered in the Fallujah streets and US snipers were shooting at everything moving including those trying to rescue the wounded, said the letter.

All infrastructure installations and medical clinics were destroyed in US bombardments and doctors and their aides were among the deceased, it added.

A 36-year-old man, who declined to be identified, told *Xinhua* that he felt “ashamed” that he had left Fallujah before the offensive started from Monday and only sat at his refuge hearing news of killing and dying.

“I regret, for the pains are killing me, and if it’s not for my sons and girls I will travel back to Fallujah to fight to the end,” he said, tears in his eyes.

A middle-aged doctor, who also refused to be named, said he was told by residents fleeing Fallujah that women and children had died in doors without any apparent wounds suffered, indicating possible use of medical weapons.

The doctor lingered around the makeshift refugee camps outside the besieged city but did not get access permission into the town, he said.

Medicine and careful treatment were badly needed in the camps, he said. “Please, please, please help these children before they die in despair,” he deplored.

MNA/Xinhua



One-year-old Mohammed Abdullah is carried by his mother from a hospital in Ramadi, Iraq after suffering shrapnel wounds while being inside his home during clashes between guerillas and US forces on 13 Nov, 2004—INTERNET

Azerbaijan resumes cargo plane flights to China

URUMQI, 13 Nov— Azerbaijan resumed cargo flights to China on an irregular basis Friday, ending the suspension of such flights between the two countries following the crash of an Azerbaijani cargo plane in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, northwest China, on 18 May this year.

Russia-made *IL-76* cargo liners belonging to Azerbaijan Airlines will make the flights.

A cargo aircraft will depart Baku, Azerbaijan at 9:30 am (Beijing Time) and arrive at Urumqi at 1:30 pm (Beijing Time) the same day.

The cargo liner will depart Urumqi at 8:00 pm for Baku the same day.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq’s Kirkuk Governor survived car bombing

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov— The Kurdish Governor of Iraq’s northern province of Kirkuk survived assassination when a car bomb exploded Thursday as his convoy passed by, police said.

The attack took place at about 8:30 am (0530 GMT) in the centre of the oil rich city of Kirkuk, close to the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a leading Kurdish party, the police said.

Kirkuk Governor Abdel-Rahman Mostafa was not hurt in the attack, while one pedestrian was killed and four others wounded at the Al-Tabaqchali overpass,

some 100 metres from the PUK building, according to witnesses and hospital officials.

Kirkuk, some 250 kilometres north of Baghdad, is inhabited with different ethnic and sectarian groups.

The city has been repeatedly hit by assassinations and attacks on senior police and political leaders.

MNA/Xinhua

US economists see budget deficit as Bush’s top challenge

WASHINGTON, 13 Nov— Cutting the record-high US budget deficit should be the top economic priority for the second term of President George W Bush, a survey of economists by the *Wall Street Journal* said on Friday.

The survey of 55 economists by the paper showed that more than half of them said that the budget deficit would be the biggest economic challenge for the Bush Administration in the

coming four years.

The US federal deficit hit a record high of 413 billion US dollars in the fiscal year of 2004 which ended on September 30, comparing with the previous record of 377 billion

US dollars in the fiscal year of 2003.

Many economist surveyed said that they placed the need of reducing the soaring federal deficit ahead of social security, health care and tax reform.

Some economists expected the US federal deficit to contract as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) to 3.1 per cent at the end of fiscal year of 2005 from 3.6 per cent in last fiscal year and to 2.5 per cent in 2008. However, they still cautioned that the deficit is likely to be a persistent long-term problem for the US economy.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldiers frisk a man at his home in the center of the northern city of Samarra on 13 Nov, 2004.

INTERNET



Aid agencies ask allowance to deliver humanitarian aid to Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov — Aid agencies called on US forces and the Iraqi Government to allow them to deliver food, medicine and water to Fallujah on Friday and said four days of intense fighting had turned the city into a “big disaster”.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society, which receives support from foreign agencies including the Red Cross and UNICEF, said it had asked US forces and Iraq’s interim government to let them deliver relief goods to Fallujah and establish medics there. But it said it had received no reply.

“We call on the Iraqi Government and US forces to allow us to do our humanitarian duty to the innocent people,” said Firdoos al-Ubadi, Red Crescent spokeswoman.

“This is their responsibility,” she said, adding that judging by reports received from refugees and pictures broadcast on television, Fallujah was a “big disaster”.

AUS military spokesman said the Red Crescent had permission to help refugees in towns around Fallujah, but could not say if it had been granted access to the city itself.

The Red Crescent has seven teams of doctors and relief workers, backed by trucks of food and other aid ready to go into each of Fallujah’s districts when the word

is given.

About 10,000 US soldiers and Marines, backed by heavy artillery and war planes, surged into Fallujah from several directions on Monday night, launching an offensive on guerillas.

The US military estimates that 600 militants have been killed in four days of street fighting.

Scores of buildings in Fallujah have been completely destroyed, with TV footage showing some districts all but levelled. There has been no water and electricity for days and food shops have been closed, residents say. The stench of dead bodies is hanging over some areas of the city, they say.

US commanders say civilian casualties have been low, but residents dispute that, describing incidents in which non-combatants, including women and children, have been killed by shrapnel or hit by bombs.

In one case earlier this week, a nine-year-old boy died after being hit in the stomach by shrapnel. Unable to reach a hospital, he died hours later of blood loss.

MNA/Reuters

Panmon Creek Bridge supporting regional development tasks



Panmon Creek Bridge constructed by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction on Kale-Gangaw Road near Natchaung Village in Kale Township, Sagaing Division. — MNA

Facts about Panmon Creek Bridge

Location	— At mile post 15/5 on Kale-Gangaw Road, in Kale District, Sagaing Division
Length	— 220 ft long
Width of motor road	— 18 ft
Width of Pedestrian lanes	— 3 ft
Clearance	— 140 ft
Type of the bridge	— Upper structure is of steel frame and lower structure reinforced concrete type
Load permitted	— 30-ton loads
Launch date of construction work	— 1-8-2004
Inauguration date	— 23-5-2004.

After completion of the Panmon Creek Bridge, people can go to Kale in Sagaing Division and Chin State in a short time and local and forest products can be transported easily. The bridge supports regional development tasks.



Panmon Creek Bridge on Kale-Gangaw Road near Natchaung Village in Kale Township on inauguration.— MNA



Senior-General Than Shwe and party pay homage to Buddha Image at Shwemokhtaw Pagoda in Patheingyi. — MNA

Test Well No 1 is located about 10 miles south-west of Nyaungdon natural gas field where natural gas has been commercially exploited

(from page 16)

Next, Senior General Than Shwe viewed the map showing Patheingyi Bridge and link roads and gave guidance. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing also reported on the site chosen to build the government computer college in Patheingyi. Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the progress of the Patheingyi Bridge construction from the briefing hall. They

also inspected the Patheingyi Bridge in a motorcade.

Patheingyi Bridge across Ngazun River is constructed by the Road Construction Group-8 of Public Works.

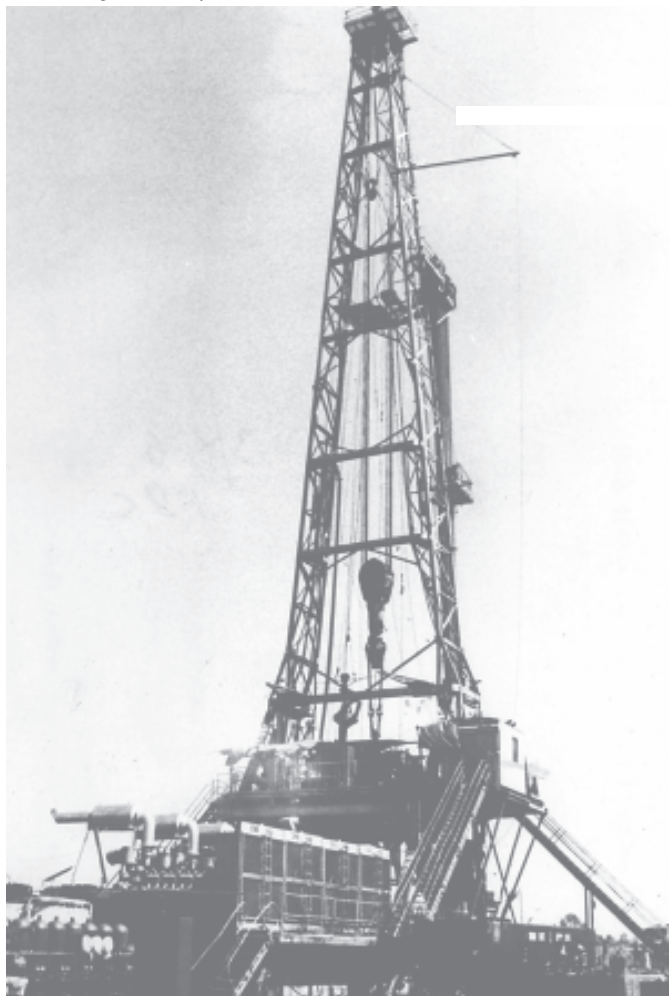
The bridge can withstand 75-ton loads. Arrangements are being made to inaugurate the bridge this month. Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected condition of the link road to Chaungtha Beach and

viewed thriving paddy fields along the road in a motorcade. Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the laying of concrete on the link road to Ngazun Beach.

In the evening, they paid homage to the Buddha Images at Shwemokhtaw Pagoda in Patheingyi. Next, Senior-General Than Shwe signed in the Visitors' Book and made cash donations. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe views drilling for oil at Pantanaw test well No 1.—MNA



Myanmar archers bag 7 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze

YANGON, 14 Nov — Myanmar Archery Team secured two gold, one silver and one bronze on 13th November in the third Asian Archery Championship-2004 being held in Hanoi, Vietnam and a total of twelve medals has been achieved. On 13th November, in the man's compound event, Paw Oo won one gold and Ye Min Swe one bronze. In the man's recurve event, Nyi Nyi Tun won one gold and Tun Lin Aung one bronze. Today in the men's compound event, Myanmar team received one gold medal, in the men's recurve event, one gold, in women's compound event, one gold medal and in the women's recurve event, two gold medals and two silver medals.

Myanmar Archery Team won a total of 16 medals—seven gold, six silver and three bronze in all events. Selected Myanmar Archery Team stood first championship and will return home tomorrow evening.— MNA

Development works inspected

YANGON, 14 Nov — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun together with officials concerned arrived at Kale on November 9. The deputy minister met Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kale Station and officials, discussed with them progress of construction of Kalewa-Mawleik road section and gave instructions on timely completion of the construction of the project

meeting the set standards.

After inspecting the chosen site for construction of national races development training school, the deputy minister gave instructions on timely completion of the training centre.

On 10th November, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun and Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kale Station inspected progress of construction of Kalewa-Mawleik road section where they were conducted round by officials

concerned. The former gave instructions on supervision for the minimizing loss and wastage.

On arrival at Tiddim, the deputy minister inspected domestic science training school and national races development training school there. Afterwards, he met supervisory committee members of the training schools in Tonzang and Tiddim and explained the purpose of opening of the training schools and tasks to be carried out. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe hears report on flowing of Ayeyawady River near Bo Myat Tun Bridge and condition of river bed. (News on page 1)—MNA

Secretary-1 urges NDA members to live...

(from page 16)

He said the government and local authorities would provide assistance to those who had returned to the legal fold for their living and other social matters under the protection of law.

The government and the people would fulfil their food, clothing and shelter needs he added.

The Secretary-1 urged them to live and earn their living under the protection of law in response to the goodwill of the government and the

people, and to make endeavours in the interests of the State and the people hand in hand with the government.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said he was assigned duties to supervise work for development of economic, education and health sectors in Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Division.

He said it is found that present conditions in Taninthayi Division are quite different from those of the past. These are the results of peace, stability and prevalence of law



Senior General Than Shwe donates cash for Shwemokhtaw Pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees. (News on page 1)—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets members of NDA armed group. —MNA

and order.

With peace, stability and prevalence of law and order in the country, the government is implementing the development tasks.

Wherever members of the armed group go, they will find that progress has been made in every sector of border and rural areas, he said.

He spoke of the need for members of the armed group who returned to the legal fold to participate in regional and national development tasks in cooperation with the government.

Local authorities will fulfil basic social needs of those who returned to the legal fold after real-

izing the goodwill and endeavours of the government, he added.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave a welcome speech to those who exchanged arms for peace.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander presented cash assistance by the State Peace and Development Council and the people, supplies and essentials to leader of NDA Phado Ohn Thwin.

Next, he spoke words of thanks. He said that he joined the armed group that opposed the Government in 1967; that since then, he had been unable to engage in the tasks for national development,

prosperity of national people and enhancing their living standard but he had to lead a miserable life in the jungle and got into trouble, leaving his wife, children and parents.

He came to realize gradually that his decision to take up armed struggle line had led him to facing a series of difficulties.

At the same time, he learned the efforts of the Government to bring about harmonious development across the nation, in the hilly and plain regions.

At a time when he vividly witnessed the goodwill and noble

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein extends greetings to NDA armed group leader Phado Ohn Thwin and members.—MNA



Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun gives reports to Senior-General Than Shwe on completion of Patheingyi Bridge and road network. — MNA (News on Page-1)

Secretary-1 urges NDA members to ...

(from page 9)

endeavours of the government, he happened to review himself. As such, he realized that their acts did not benefit the State and the people at all and he made up his mind to discard the armed struggle line.

He decided to repay for his misdeeds of the past, by joining forces of the Government in national development tasks as much as he can in his future.

He, on behalf of his group, apologized to the

Secretary-1 and party greeted the armed group members who had exchanged arms for peace.

The NDA was formed with those who broke away from insurgent groups in 1990 and it was led by Phado Ohn Thwin who had left KNU.

The NDA then joined forces with Phado Mahn Aung Htay and Robert Zan with the rank of Colonel, and formed the All Burma National Democratic Front (ABNDF) and NDA was active militarily.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets NDA armed group leader Phado Ohn Thwin. — MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents gifts to Phado Ohn Thwin. — MNA

Government and the entire national people for his misdeeds perpetrated with the wrong view and concept in the past.

He expressed his thanks to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, senior military officers, townselders and the people, who warmly welcomed his group like brothers and relatives and provided necessary assistance.

After the meeting, the

On 3-5-2003, two NDA members led by Min Aung bringing in two M-79s, 31 projectiles and two hand grenades exchanged arms for peace; similarly on 7-1-2004, 48 NDA members including dependents led by Tin Maung Myint bringing in seven assorted arms and 156 rounds of ammunition, eight RPJ rockets, seven hand grenades and two landmines; and on 9-11-2004, 15

NDA members and nine family members numbering 24 led by Phado Ohn Thwin bringing in seven assorted arms, 260 rounds of ammunition, 28 projectiles of 40mm six hand grenades and four landmines exchanged arms for peace.

Cash and kind were provided to the NDA included K 500,000, clothing, foodstuff and personal goods by SPDC; K 2.5 million by fisheries

entrepreneurs; K 2.5 million by palm oil and rubber entrepreneurs; 50 bags of rice by U Htay

Merchants Association; 25 blankets and 25 mosquito nets by All Private Bus Line Control Com-

He decided to repay for his misdeeds of the past, by joining forces of the Government in national development tasks as much as he can in his future.

Way (OK Rice Trading); 20 containers of edible oil by U Soe Win (Hi-Fi Express); 20 containers of edible oil by U Kyauk Sein (Jade Flower Express); 50 bags of rice by Rice

mittee and personal and household goods by other well-wishers.

The Secretary-1 and party left Myeik by air and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint presents kitchen utensils to Phado Ohn Thwin. — MNA

“World Diabetes Day” observed

YANGON, 14 Nov —

The Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization jointly observed the “World Diabetes Day” at the hall of Institute of Nursing (Yangon), here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Prof Dr Mya Oo, the Directors-General, the Deputy Directors-General, the rectors, the medical superintendents of the Ministry of Health, officials of the WHO, the chairmen of the NGOs and others. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo spoke on the occasion and the first session ended. Next, talks on “World Diabetes Day”, continued and Deputy Director-General Dr Hla Pe of the Health Department spoke on the occasion. Dr Tint Swe Latt and Dr Win Win Myint, Associated Professors of Institute of Medicine-2 gave talks on notable facts about diabetes.

Dr Hla Kyi gave talks on test of obesity and Dr Daw Pyu Pyu Aung on treatment of obesity. Next, those present on the occasion were also given blood tests whether they had diabetes or not and distributed pamphlets.—MNA

Let's continue to create and maintain good legacy

Maung Ye Win

It is an inherent duty of all citizens to make concerted efforts to enable the Union of Myanmar to stand tall in the international community and exist as a sovereign nation as long as the world does.

Essential is the existence of a strong national force on which the State can rely. As an answer to the call of nationalism concerned with the entire national people, the Union Solidarity and Development Association was founded on 15 September 1993. Therefore, it turned 11 on 15 September 2004.

The USDA is a national force designed to serve the interests of the country and the people through the application of the efficiency of the new generation youths.

The Association was founded with these objectives: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuity of sovereignty, vitalization of patriotism through promotion of national pride, and emergence of a peaceful, prosperous and modern nation.

From the political, economic and social points of view, these five objectives are found inseparable from national responsibilities both in form and in essence for the entire national people.

National people are in love with peace and stability. They are desirous of prosperity. The goal the State has set is to establish a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In this context, there is an overlap among the government, the people and the USDA.

Peace and stability is a must for the establishment of a modern and developed nation. There also must be unity among the national brethren. With unanimously flourishing Union Spirit comes stability and peace in a nation.

With this end in view, the government put first the measures for the prevalence of law and order in the country and thus restored peace and stability. Later on, it stuck at the tasks for eternal unity of national people and the flourishing of Union Spirit.

Thanks to the relentless endeavours the government has exerted, peace and stability now reign all over the country, favouring the promising infrastructures for economic growth. Progress has also been

made in such sectors as agriculture, meat and fish, forestry, and industry. Moreover, infrastructures needed for education, health and technology are also being built. The national people residing in border areas are now enjoying the fruitful results of stability and prosperity. To put it another way, all the government do is pave the way for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democracy the national people have dreamed.

As regards the responsibility of the posterity, USDA Patron, State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance at the USDA Annual General Meeting held on 19 February 2002.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said: **"It is necessary for all the youth members of the USDA to work for the successful realization of rural development programmes as well as for the development of the State in accord with the future tasks laid down by the Association. The new generation needs to be able to preserve historical traditions, maintain the good legacy and improve the social status of Myanmar society."**

In this context, the role of the USDA at different levels and its members who are serving the interests of the country and the people has become crucial.

The USDA being an association carrying out the national duty, it is incumbent upon its members to arm themselves with confidence and conviction. Only then will they be able to overcome the hardships and obstacles. It is also necessary for them to have confidence in the Association by instilling aspiration into themselves.

The practice of self-help and the shouldering of national interests are included in the basic principles of the USDA.

Therefore, the courses on management, culture and proficiency are opened on a constant basis to provide training for the youths so that they can become well-rounded individuals.

With extensive organizational campaigns, USDA membership has swelled year after year, thereby making much contribution to public welfare tasks. The

members of the USDA are now fulfilling the requirements of local people at respective regions.

They are also lending themselves willingly to regionwise development projects being implemented by the government. Besides, they render cooperation in such activities as health care, national disaster

Peace and stability is a must for the establishment of a modern and developed nation. There also must be unity among the national brethren. With unanimously flourishing Union Spirit comes stability and peace in a nation.

preparedness, and public welfare tasks of NGOs and social organizations.

Furthermore, they join hands with the public and authorities concerned in the activities such as rural road construction, paddy cultivation, rural water supply, and health education campaigns. In this way they bring credit to the USDA.

This being the case, the onus is on all the members to work hard to enable the USDA to exist as a strong national force.

They are also responsible to maintain and safeguard the national independence so as to ensure the permanence of sovereignty. They are to make efforts to further vitalize national consolidation and Union Spirit, to take part dutifully in nation-building tasks, and to stand in solidarity with the people from all walks of life in the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map.

The new generation youths should devote themselves to the drive for social advancement of Myanmar Society while maintaining the good legacy.

Translation: KTY

Kanbawza Open Championship opened in Taunggyi

LONDON GOLF TOUR
YANGON, 14 Nov — A ceremony to open Kanbawza Open Championship, organised by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation was held at Ayethaya Golf Course, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South) this morning.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Executive of MPGA and MGF U Ko Ko Lay, Regional Sales Manager U Nay Myo Maung of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, U San Maung of Kanbawza Bank, Engineer U Soe Win of Ayethaya Golf Course opened the championship and 18-hole

event began for the first day. In Professional Golfers event, Aung Win (YCDC) took the lead with 71 strokes. In amateur event (man), Naing Naing Lin took the lead with 74 strokes.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd is Tour Sponsor, Kanbawza Bank Ltd is Title Sponsor and Air Mandalay, Tiger Beer, Eden Group Co Ltd, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Wilson, Srixon, Grand Slam (Musingwear), Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Sun Far Travels and Tours (Hole-in-One Sponsor) and Ayethaya Golf Resort are Co-Sponsors. The championship was organised by Han Event Management and 18-hole event will continue tomorrow for the second day.

MNA

Dry day inspection teams discharge duties



Dry day supervisory committee members supervise the dry day inspection teams. — MNA

YANGON, 14 Nov — Dry Day Supervisory Committee Members Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, Vice-Quartermaster-General Col Myint Ohn, No 1 Provost Company Commander Major Win Myint Tun, Director-General U Thaik Tun, U Khin Maung and Col Soe Thein, Director U Baw Htin, Secretary Deputy Director-General of the Government Office U Sein Hla and Joint-Secretary of Yangon Division Wireless and Traf-

fic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing inspected dry day inspection teams which were checking the use of Tatmadaw and departments vehicles at the main points of Yangon City today.

The inspection teams checked dry day pass, driving licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of departmental uniforms and took action against those who violated the traffic rules at the main points of Yangon from 7 am to 5 pm.

MNA

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UN appeals for \$1.7b in humanitarian aid

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Nov — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday urged world governments to offer 1.7 billion US dollars to fund UN humanitarian operations in Africa, the Middle East and other war-affected regions.

"We are here today to sound an alarm on behalf of 26 million people struggling to survive the ravages of war and other emergencies," Annan told a meeting of donor governments.

"Wherever they are, whatever the politics swirling around them, these millions of men, women and children need help in staying alive and in boosting their survival strategies," he said.

"Humanitarians do not offer solutions to the political problems that cause most of these emergencies. But they do provide indispensable services and support, without which our world would be far less secure and far more ruthless."

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Annan has taken the unprecedented step of writing to donor governments asking them to meet the requirements and state their funding intentions by mid-January.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland said the world body received only 52 per cent of the funding it requested for this year. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier holds talks with Luxembourg counterpart

BELING, 13 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker held talks at the Great Hall of the People, here Friday.

Speaking positively of China-Luxembourg relations, Wen said China and Luxembourg have neither fundamental conflicts nor any obstacle in the development of bilateral ties. The government of Luxembourg has adhered to the one-China policy, holding for enhancing mutual understanding through dialogues to lessen disparities.

The Chinese Government attached much importance to China-Luxembourg relations, and is willing to maintain the high-level contact between the two countries and strengthen political dialogues and consultation on important bilateral and international issues, Wen said. China is also willing to upgrade technological and financial cooperation with Luxembourg and

boost bilateral economic and trade ties, he added.

Juncker said Luxembourg and China, sharing the same or similar views on many bilateral and international issues in terms of politics and economy, have witnessed more frequent exchanges at all levels and increased economic and trade cooperation.

Holding an optimistic view on the prospect of bilateral ties, he said Luxembourg will continue dialogues and cooperation in all fields with China.

Wen said the China-Europe relations have developed in an in-depth way. The enlarged European Union (EU) has become China's biggest trade partner, with enhanced cooperation in fields of technology and culture. It has proved that to improve

China-Europe cooperation and consolidate and develop bilateral ties conforms with the reality and long-term interests of both China and Europe.

China and Europe, under current circumstances, should continuously enrich and develop their all-round strategic partnership and contribute to the world's peace, stability and development, Wen stressed.

He also hoped the 7th Sino-European Union Summit, to be held in early December, will have a new and positive impact on China-Europe ties.

Agreeing to Wen's remarks on Europe-China ties, Juncker said he will make his contribution to Europe-China ties, when Luxembourg holds the rotating EU presidency next year. — MNA/Xinhua

Expert says El Nino may affect Tibetan climate next year

LHASA, 13 Nov — The El Nino phenomenon which recently emerged in the atmosphere and ocean of the Pacific tropics zone is very likely to bring an anomalous climate to Tibet next year, a local expert warned.

Purbu Zhoima, a famous meteorologist from Tibet Autonomous Region Meteorological Bureau, said the latest El Nino phenomenon, formed this October, is very likely to bring about large scale snowfalls in northern Tibet and the marginal areas in the south this winter and next spring.

The probability for a massive drought next summer, except in the south, will be 80 to 90 per cent, he said.

Purbu said Tibet has already seen an obvious premonition of El Nino this autumn. The precipitation in Tibet's major places are reported 40 per cent to four times more than the same period last year, while the temperatures are one to two Celsius

degrees lower.

Both the 102.5 millimetres precipitation in Changdu and the biggest ever snowfall in Cuona, accumulating as deep as 24 centimetres, show that El Nino is approaching Tibet, said the meteorologist.

Purbu said the El Nino phenomenon, occurring every four or five years, usually triggers disastrous climate. There were four El Nino episodes during the 1990s, which caused three massive snowfalls in 1994, late 1996 and early 1997 in Tibet, significantly harming the local economy.

MNA/Xinhua

Four die in S Korean ship's crash accident

TOKYO, 13 Nov — Four crew members have died and one left missing in a crash accident involving a South Korean cargo ship in northern Japan, NHK TV channel said on Saturday.

There were 16 South Korean crew members in the 5,500-ton ship that crashed into a breakwater in Ishikari, Hokkaido Prefecture at around 2:00 am (1700 GMT). Rescuers saved 15 people, but four of them died from injuries. — MNA/Xinhua

Philip Morris involved in research into health effects of smoking

LONDON, 13 Nov — Philip Morris, one of the world's leading tobacco manufacturers, was involved in research into the health effects of smoking 30 years ago but did not reveal data on the dangers of passive smoking, scientists said on Thursday.

Although the tobacco industry claimed for many years that it was not aware of the toxic effects of cigarettes, the researchers said material from internal industry documents revealed Philip Morris used a German research facility to study the health impact of smoking from the early 1970s.

"Arrangements were made to conceal the process, not only from the wider public, but also from many within Philip Morris, although some senior executives did know," said Martin McKee, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London, in research published online by *The Lancet* medical journal.

But New York-based Altria Group Inc, the parent company of Philip Morris, said the allegations in the journal were not new and had been made in many of the prod-

uct-liability lawsuits filed against Philip Morris.

"We have successfully defended against them," said John Wunderli, a lawyer for Altria.

McKee told *Reuters* that although the company has said for a long time that the evidence on the harmful effect of passive smoking is debatable, they had been undertaking research that showed second-hand smoke is dangerous.

The scientists at the German facility only reported some of their findings, he added.

"In particular, the unpublished reports provided evidence that second-hand smoke is even more harmful than mainstream smoke, a finding of particular relevance given the industry's continuing denial of the harmful effects of passive smoking," McKee and Swiss colleagues said in the journal.

MNA/Reuters

CBS fires producer for interrupting regular programme

LOS ANGELES, 13 Nov — CBS News has fired the producer responsible for interrupting the last five minutes of a hit crime drama with a special report on the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a network source said on Friday.

Word of the dismissal came a day after CBS apologized to viewers for breaking into "CSI: NY," one of its top-rated shows, on Wednesday night.

"An overly aggressive CBS News producer jumped the gun with a report that should have been offered to local stations for their late news. We sincerely regret the error," the network said in a statement on Thursday.

The network, owned by Viacom Inc, declined comment on a report of the dismissal posted on the web site of trade publication Broadcasting & Cable. But a network source told *Reuters* that CBS fired the producer who decided to break into "CSI" with a report from "Up to the Minute" anchor Melissa McDermott.

According to the source, the producer failed to follow standard procedures that require a senior CBS News executive to be

consulted before interrupting regular programming. The fact Arafat already had been reported near death for several days also figured in the network's decision.

MNA/Reuters



A computer model. Computer sales in the Asia-Pacific region outside Japan increased almost 10 percent to 8.5 million units in the September quarter, boosted by exceptionally strong orders in India, an industry report says. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Valencia hold 0-0 at home by Real Zaragoza

MADRID, 14 Nov— Struggling Spanish champions Valencia failed to win for their tenth match in a row on Saturday as they were held 0-0 at home by Real Zaragoza in the Primera Liga.

Valencia, seventh place in the league and 10 points behind leaders Barcelona, came out hungry to end their poor run but failed to threaten Zaragoza's goal despite dominating territory.

Their first chance came more than 30 minutes into the first half when Mohamed Sissoko's powerful right-foot volley was blocked by Luis Garcia.

Coach Claudio Ranieri brought off Marco Di Vaio and replaced him with Mista in the second half but Valencia continued to splutter.

When Ruben Baraja did manage to find the net in the dying minutes the goal was disallowed for offside.

Barcelona play at Real Betis on Sunday while second-placed Real Madrid host Albacete.—MNA/Reuters



John Ruiz of Methuen, Massachusetts and Andrew Golota (L) of Warsaw, Poland, fight in the ninth round of Ruiz' unanimous decision for the WBA Heavyweight Championship at New York's Madison Square Garden, on 13 Nov., 2004. — INTERNET

Celtic crush managerless Inverness Caledonian Thistle 3-0

GLASGOW, 14 Nov— Celtic striker Chris Sutton marked his return from injury with the champions' opening goal in a 3-0 Scottish Premier League victory against managerless Inverness Caledonian Thistle on Saturday.

Sutton, out since last month with a chest injury, headed home on three minutes to boost Celtic's morale after their League Cup quarterfinal defeat at Glasgow rivals Rangers on Wednesday.

Wales striker John Hartson added two sec-

ond-half goals for the league leaders. They have 37 points from 14 games. Rangers, who host Celtic next week, are seven points back. They play Hibernian on Sunday.

"We got off to a great start but probably made life more difficult for ourselves than we should have done," Celtic manager Martin O'Neill told reporters.

"We were trying to get the disappointment of Wednesday out of our system but it's welcome back to Chris who scored a great goal for us."

Barry Wilson had a 74th-minute penalty saved by Celtic keeper Magnus Hedman after Stanislav Varga fouled Richie Hart.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal to go back to top of table with exhilarating 5-4 win

LONDON, 14 Nov— Arsenal took advantage of some woeful Tottenham Hotspur defending to go back to the top of the table with an exhilarating 5-4 win at their north London rivals on Saturday in a day of derbies in the Premier League.

The champions ended a run of three league matches without a victory with only the second 5-4 win in Premier League history but Chelsea can reclaim top spot if they win at Fulham in the west London derby later.

"Usually derbies are 0-0 or completely crazy. In the end it was a cricket score," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports. "We are back to winning habits in a derby we don't traditionally win."

Moroccan defender Nourredine Naybet gave the hosts the lead in Martin Jol's first league game in permanent charge by turning in Michael

Carrick's free kick in the 37th minute.

Thierry Henry hit back in first half stoppage time, chesting down Lauren's cross before guiding the ball past England goalkeeper Paul Robinson.

Tottenham looked nervous after the break and their defence began to fall apart as first Noe Pamarot pulled down Fredrik Ljungberg in the area and right back Lauren slotted home the penalty.

Five minutes later Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira was allowed a clear run on goal to finish coolly before Arsenal's defence also went missing as

Jermain Defoe stormed into the area to smash the ball into the top corner.

Ljungberg then finished off Francesc Fabregas' superb reverse pass in the 69th minute and Tottenham defender Ledley King nodded in another good Carrick free kick before substitutes Robert Pires and Frederic Kanoute traded goals.

In another early kick-off striker Kevin Phillips helped Southampton to a 2-1 win at home to Portsmouth in the south coast derby to ease the pressure on manager Steve Wigley after 10 league games without a win.

MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea stay top with eighth successive win

LONDON, 14 Nov— Dutch winger Arjen Robben was again in inspirational form to keep Chelsea top of the table as the English club and fellow Londoners Arsenal won high-scoring derbies in the Premier League on Saturday.

Frank Lampard opened the scoring in the 33rd minute but Papa Bouba Diop equalized after half time before Robben produced an excellent left-foot finish to cap another impressive display of pace and power.

William Gallas and Tiago then completed the easy victory, the side's eighth win in a row and the third time in four

league games they have scored four goals, to keep Chelsea two points clear of champions Arsenal.

Arsene Wenger's side ended a run of three league matches without a victory in the joint highest scoring match in Premier League history.

Czech striker Milan Baros hit a hat-trick, including a last-minute penalty, to give Liverpool a 3-

2 win over improving Crystal Palace and move them into sixth.

Third-placed Everton kept up their excellent away form with a 1-0 win at Birmingham. Thomas Gravesen converted a 69th-minute penalty after midfielder Muzzy Izzet was sent off for pushing Lee Carsley's shot over the bar with his hands.

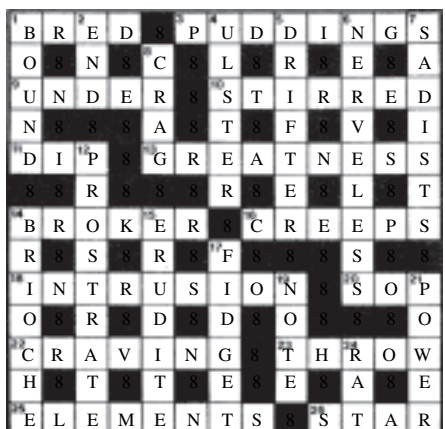
Bolton, in fourth, lost their first home league game this season, going down 2-1 to Aston Villa with German midfielder Thomas Hitzelsperger winning the game from long range.

Jonatan Johansson scored twice in Charlton's 4-0 victory over winless Norwich and Paul Dickov scored a late penalty to earn Blackburn a 1-1 draw at Manchester City, who had defender Danny Mills sent off.

In another early kick-off, striker Kevin Phillips helped troubled Southampton to a 2-1 win at home to Portsmouth in the south coast derby, giving manager Steve Wigley his first Premier League win at the 11th attempt.

Faltering Manchester United visit Newcastle United in a late match on Sunday while Bryan Robson's first game in charge of West Bromwich Albion sees the visit of his former club Middlesbrough. — MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



Portland Trail Blazers' Theo Ratliff (42) scores in front of Toronto Raptors' Rafael Araujo (55) of Brazil during the second half in Portland, Ore, on 13 Nov., 2004. The Trail Blazers won 105-102.

INTERNET

Commander inaugurates Tamway branch of MEB



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveils the signboard of Myanmar Economic Bank (Tamway Branch).—MNA

YANGON, 14 Nov — The inauguration of Tamway branch of Myanmar Economic Bank of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the corner of Letwe Mindin and Leyashwemyay Streets, Myinttanyunt Ward, Tamway Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for F&R Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, Managing Director of MEB Col Hsan Tun, heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of F&R, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and officials, members of social organizations, band troupe and pom pom troupe and townsellers.

First, the managing director and the chairman of Yangon East District PDC formally opened the bank. And the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the bank.

After performing ritual of golden and silver

showers to mark the opening of the bank, the commander, the minister and party inspected banking services at the bank.

Next, the commander and the minister made speeches.

One building of the bank is of two-storey reinforced concrete type with a length of 90 feet and width of 60 feet. Another is of one-storey reinforced concrete type with a length of 60 feet and width of 30 feet.

MNA

China expects to be world's 3rd largest foreign trader

BEIJING, November 14 — China's foreign trade is expected to hit 1.1 trillion US dollars with an annual growth of about 30 per cent this year, ranking the world's third largest, after the United States and Germany, says a report issued Friday by the Department of Planning and Finance of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and MOC's think tank, the China Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.—MNA/Xinhua

Two Dutch teens charged with cyber crimes

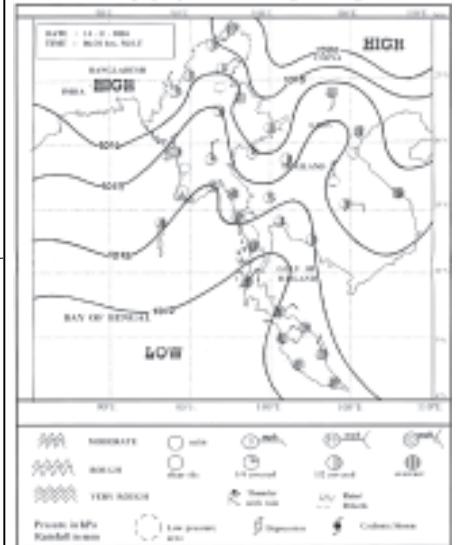
AMSTERDAM, 14 Nov—Dutch authorities have charged two teenagers with cyber crimes on suspicion of bringing down government web sites last month by flooding them with traffic, public prosecutor said on Friday.

The boys from the southern Dutch town of Breda were arrested earlier this week after a raid on their houses in which computers were confiscated. There could be more arrests, the public prosecution service said.

The two are believed to have hacked into other computers to launch a mass visit to government web sites, which collapsed under the strain.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 14 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 7°C below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Kayah, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 13-11-2004 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 14-11-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-11-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 11-11-2004 was (8.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 13-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (112.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.64 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southwest at (16:45) hours MST on 13-11-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 15-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-11-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-11-2004: Fair weather.



Monday, November 15

View on today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးဒိုင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံယောဇဉ် နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟောပြောချက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟောသဒ္ဒမ္မဇာတ်က။ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတဂါရဝ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားမိမိတ္တသကရာဇ်သေ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- Cute little dancers

8:05 am

- Song of national races

8:15 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

- ကရင်ပြည်နယ်နီးကောင်းတံတား

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- Practice in reading

4:45 pm

- Musical programme

5:00 pm

- အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ အထူးပြုများ) (သင်္ချာ)

5:15 pm

- Dance variety

5:30 pm

- လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတပေး

5:40 pm

- Song and dance of national races

5:50 pm

- Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:05 pm

- Discovery

6:10 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားကတန်းစာတိုလမ်းညွှန် "ဗျောက်မင်းဂုဏ်" (အပိုင်း-၄၁)

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာ

7:15 pm

- Industrial Achievement

7:30 pm

- Musical programme
- စစ်တောင်းရေအလျင် တည်တံ့ ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးလျှပ်စစ် စီမံကိန်း

8:00 pm

- News

8:15 pm

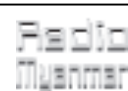
- International news

8:30 pm

- Weather report

8:45 pm

- သင်္ချာဗေဒ (အပိုင်း-၁၂)
- "နန်းသားတွင်ကမ္ဘာ့တင်မည် ကမ္ဘာ့ဗေဒ" (အပိုင်း-၁) ရန်အောင်၊ မိုးသူ၊ မေသန်းနု၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်
- ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းရောင်မောင်
- The next day's programme



Monday, November 15

Tune in today:

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

-Daddy DJ

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

-I'm not in love

8:50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music:

Full moon

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music(I Like it)

1:30 pm News/Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time

-Cassablanca

-Different

seasons

9:00 pm Spotlight on the star

-Crystal Gayle

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Radio Magazine:

Drug Elimination

9:35 pm Vocal gems

-Only you

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

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



Senior General Than Shwe hears report on daily production of oil and natural gas from Nyaungdon oil and natural gas field, exploration of oil and gas and connecting of gas pipeline linking Pantanaw, Nyaungdon and Yangon. — MNA

Pathein Bridge ready for...

(from page 1)

oil and gas in Maubin-Sakkaw-Dedaye region and connecting the natural gas pipe lines between Pantanaw, Nyaungdon and Yangon.

After hearing reports, Senior-General Than Shwe asked the prospects of Pantanaw test well No 1 and gave guidance. Next, he viewed the drilling at the Oil Well No 1 from the briefing hall.

The Test Well No 1 is located about 10 miles south-west of Nyaungdon natural gas field where natural gas has been commercially exploited.

Afterwards, Senior-General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Pathein and inspected the condition of road and bridges in a motorcade and also viewed the harvesting of monsoon paddy and preparations for summer paddy cultivation.

When they arrived at MyaAyeYa Hall of the South-West Command in Pathein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, senior military officers and departmental officials welcomed them.

At 2.30 pm, the Senior-General and party arrived at Pathein Bridge construction project where they were

welcomed by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, managing director of Public Works and superintending engineers.

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on facts about the Pathein Bridge across Ngawun River, progress of the construction work and preparations for inauguration ceremony of the bridge. He also reported on the road network linking Ngwehsaung Beach, Chaungtha Beach, Thabaung and Mawtinzun in the west of Ayeyawady Division. On completion of the bridge, these regions can be easily accessed, the minister said.

(See page 8)

Secretary-1 urges NDA members to live and earn their living under protection of law, to make endeavours for interest of State and people

YANGON, 14 Nov—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments left here by air for Myeik yesterday morning.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed at Myeik Airport by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers and departmental officials.

The Secretary-1 and party met NDA, an armed group led by Phado Ohn Thwin that exchanged arms for peace, at Coastal Region Command.

First, the Secretary-1 and Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted Phado Ohn Thwin, leader of the armed group that exchanged arms for peace, and its members. In his greeting, the Secretary-1 said the government and local people were pleased to see NDA armed group and its members and families who exchanged arms for peace. At one time, the armed group rose against the government due to their own belief. However, they realized that their armed struggle line did not do any good to the people including their own families, the region and the State, he said.

On behalf of the government, he warmly welcomed the group's decision to return to the legal fold. He said there was armed conflict among the national people for nearly 50 years due to the

instigations of the imperialists after regaining the independence. As a result, many lives and property of the people were lost. The conflict hindered national development and uplift of social life of the people. The country lagged behind in development in comparison

with neighbouring countries, he said. The Secretary-1 pointed out that if they had tried to achieve what they believed within the framework of law national people would not have suffered from such evils.

(See page 9)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gift to Phado Ohn Thwin, a leader of an NDA armed group that exchanged arms for peace. — MNA