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With participation of national people, government beavering away at successful implementation of set objectives, aims Road Map being implemented to speed up transition process to peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democracy



YANGON, 18 Nov — The Preliminary Meeting of the Annual General Meeting (2004) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the central training school of the association in Hmawby Township here on 13 November, with a speech by Member of the Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

It was also attended by Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo, secretariat members, central executive committee members, secretaries of state/division USDAs and representatives of state/division/district/township USDAs.

At the preliminary meeting, Executive of Chin State USDA Daw San Kyae Htwe and Executive of Ayeyawady Division USDA Daw Nwe Nwe Oo acted as master of ceremonies and as co-master of ceremonies respectively.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win in his speech said that standing as a united national force and upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the Association is actively participating in implementing political, economic and social objectives under the correct leadership of the Government. Besides, the Association has given priority to the public interest in carrying out the management, organizational, economic and training tasks. It is rewarding that the number of USDA members is remarkably on the increase with people from all strata of life, as a result of instilling the Association's noble policy, aims and tasks into mass of youths and people.

Since its birth, the Association has been able to realize the projects with added momentum for strengthening

the unity of the USDAs at all levels, while making efforts for restoration of community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order and national progress.

Members are being trained and nurtured through a wide variety of courses and workshops for mental as well as physical development and efficiency not only in quantity but in quality.

With respect to central level courses, the course on Myanmar and international studies has been conducted six times, management course for executives 24 times, management course (advanced) for executives 10 times, special refresher course seven times, instructors course on study of Myanmar's development four times, workshop on public relations and information manage-

ment course two times, computer-aided accountancy diploma course and computer (basic level and office) courses. A total of 14,663 members have completed these courses, reflecting the Association's endeavours for development of human resources.

Regarding State and division, district and township level courses, 473 members have completed management courses for executives, 70,739 members course on study of Myanmar's development, 492,564 members basic organizing course, 16,270,003 members national culture and moral conduct course, 14,656 members vocational training courses, 1,137,629 members proficiency courses, 148,788 members three R's course, 69,117 members sports courses, 31,591 members arts courses, and 652,880 members other courses. So, the Association has enhanced qualifications of 18,903,103 members morally and physically.

The Association is training and nurturing its members to become qualified ones imbued with good moral conduct and good leadership so as to produce more and



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers an address to preliminary meeting for USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). — MNA

more human resources and to shape brighter future of the nation.

At such a time when the State is gaining development momentum under the correct leadership of the Government, all members are to grasp unique opportunities to play an active role in implementing the Association's objectives in the interests of the nation and the people.

As is known to all, the Government has been striving day in, day out, for ensuring all-round development of the nation. In the process, pri-

ority has been given to progress of far-flung areas and border areas. After laying down tasks, the Government has established development (See page 6)

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Dignitaries at the preliminary meeting for USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 November, 2004

Further strengthen national solidarity, safeguard peace and tranquillity

The fourth-day session of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Annual General Meeting 2004 was held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Central Training School of the USDA in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on the morning of 17 November, and it was attended by Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

In his address on the occasion, Senior General Than Shwe said that the government has adopted "Our Three Main National Causes" as its national policy and always adhered to them in the interests of the nation and the people and that it firmly believes the national solidarity is the sine qua non for peace, prosperity and development of the nation as well as for its democratization and modernization endeavours. He also reiterated that the government will further strengthen the national solidarity for the sake of the nation and the people. A study of the past history of Myanmar will show that we Myanmar people had to live in miserable conditions under the colonial rule. And even after the nation regained her independence, due to the ill effects of the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists, national solidarity weakened, resulting in the lack of peace, tranquillity and development.

The political objectives being practised today cover the past, the present and the future and the economic and social objectives have also been laid down in such a way that they can meet the absolute needs of the nation and the people. As the government has succeeded to some extent in realizing them hand in hand with the people, it is found that there have been tangible results in various sectors. The government firmly believes that national solidarity is the key to national development. Accordingly, it built national solidarity and mutual trust among the national people. As a result, border areas are now enjoying peace and tranquillity and security. The Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, formed with Senior General Than Shwe himself as its head, implemented development tasks and therefore tangible results have been achieved in transport, communications, agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health sectors.

We would like to call on the entire national people to further strengthen the national solidarity and safeguard peace and tranquillity, especially at a time like this when development tasks are gaining momentum.

Multisectoral Workshop on National Tobacco Control Legislation held

YANGON, 18 Nov — Multisectoral Workshop on National Tobacco Control Legislation was opened this morning at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Resident Representative of WHO Dr Agostino Borra delivered addresses at the opening ceremony of the workshop.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo Presided over the meeting. Those present discussed matters regarding to the tobacco control legislation group-wise. The directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Health, rectors, resident representatives of the organizations under UN, officials from NGOs and officials concerned also attended the workshop. — 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

Ministry of Information holds Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 18 Nov — The 12th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Information was held at Dagon Pariyatti Monastery on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township at 8.30 am to

Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Panñida Bhivamsa, Presiding Sayadaw of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddhata Gunananda and members of Sangha, directors-General, managing directors, deputy directors, chief



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party share merits for offering Kathina robes and alms to Sayadaws. MNA

day, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan Township Aung Myebonsan Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma

editors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, the head of office of Ministry of Information and officials, advisers, the chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone, the chairman of Myanmar Music Asiayone and members, staff and guests.

On the occasion, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aung Myebonsan Sayadaw.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan offered Kathina robes and provisions to Aung Myebonsan Sayadaw and

departmental heads and guests to members of the Sangha. Aung Myebonsan Sayadaw delivered a sermon to the congregation. Next, the congregation shared the merits gained. After the ceremony, departmental heads and officials offered "Soon" to members of the Sangha. MNA

Work coordination meeting of World Buddhist Summit held

YANGON, 18 Nov — A work coordination meeting for organizing successfully the World Buddhist Summit was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, the deputy ministers of the ministries, subcommittee members, departmental heads, the chairmen of district/township peace and development councils and the secretaries and guests.

Chairman of work Committee for holding World Buddhist Summit Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung



Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addresses meeting for World Buddhist Summit. — MNA

made an opening speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, officials reported to the minister on the arrangements made for the summit and those present took part in the discussions. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Chirac says US-led war on Iraq made world more dangerous

LONDON, 18 Nov— Last year's US-led invasion of Iraq and ousting of President Saddam Hussein has, if anything, made the world more dangerous, French President Jacques Chirac said on the eve of a state visit to key US ally Britain.

The French leader's interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, excerpts of which were aired on Wednesday, indicate little chance of success for British Prime Minister Tony Blair's efforts to mend Franco-American ties damaged by the Iraq war. "I'm not at all sure

that one can say the world is safer," Chirac said. "There is no doubt there has been an increase in terrorism."

MNA/Reuters



British soldiers of Delta Company from the Black Watch Regiment take up positions during an operation on the banks of the Euphrates River, 25 miles south of Baghdad, on 17 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Thai Army launches vocational training for southern youths

BANGKOK, 18 Nov— The Royal Thai Army has launched vocational training programmes for both youths from Thailand's southern border provinces of Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani, Thai News Agency reported Tuesday.

The training programmes were aimed to create more jobs for residents in the country's deep South, the report quoted General Chaisit Shinawatra, supreme commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces as saying, adding the move would support the government's policy on poverty eradication in the region through income-generating.

"The first batch of 24 youths from the deep South is being trained at the Army engineering school. When they finish the course, they will go back and work in their hometowns," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Fallujah diehards resisting as clashes spread

FALLUJAH, 17 Nov—Resistance fighters in Fallujah are continuing to hold out in the face of massive firepower US forces are unleashing to try and seize overall control of the city.

"Fierce resistance is still raging with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns against the US forces stationed on the outskirts of Fallujah," according to Fadi al-Badrani, an Iraqi journalist in the city.

Badrani said American war planes and tanks had resorted to bombing the holdout sectors of the city and some areas were still not under their control.

"Clashes are still continuing at the southern and eastern edges of the town. US forces have so far failed to storm the northern al-Jolan neighbourhood," he said.

In fact they have abandoned al-Jolan and all the northern parts and resorted to attacking these neighbourhoods with tanks and aerial bombing in an attempt to weaken the resistance there. News agencies reported heavy machine gunfire and explosions were heard on Wednesday morning coming from the south-central parts of the town as US Marines continued to hunt remaining fighters. Fighting flared on a number of fronts across the country. In Ramadi, west of Baghdad, clashes erupted on Wednesday evening between US soldiers and armed groups opposed to the US-led government, leaving seven people dead, according to hospital officials. The fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds and Kalashnikov rifles at US forces at several locations in the town, Abd al-Karim al-Hiti of Ramadi General Hospital said. —Internet

Two Marines killed in Iraq

FALLUJAH, 17 Nov—Two Marines from Indiana were killed during combat this week in Iraq, their families said.

Lance Cpl Lance Thompson, 21, of Marion, died Monday during fighting at Ramadi, said his father, Gregory Thompson. He said he was notified of his son's death by two Marines who visited his home Monday night.

"They told us he was killed in an explosion, and we were told a report would be filed later," he said. Lance Cpl James Swain, 20, of Kokomo, was killed Monday during the fighting in Fallujah, his grandfather said today.

Ed Swain said his son and daughter-in-law were notified of the younger Swain's death Monday by the Marine Corps. Swain was a 2002 graduate of Kokomo High School and enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 2002 and was based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The military said that at least 37 Marines and soldiers had been killed during the recent Fallujah

offensive.

The deaths of Thompson and Swain increase to 33 the number of people from Indiana to have died after being sent to the Mideast since the buildup for the invasion of Iraq began in early 2003.

Thompson had been on his second, seven-month tour of duty in Iraq since September, his father said.

"Last year, during the run up to Baghdad, he was stationed at Hillah at the mass grave. He told me about seeing a young mother clutching a small child. He thought they had been buried alive. He saw that and thought he was doing the right thing," Gregory Thompson said.

Thompson was a 2001 graduate of Eastbrook High School near Marion, about 60 miles northeast of Indianapolis. —Internet

Vice-Premier says China to observe WTO commitment

BEIJING, 17 Nov — China is a responsible country and will observe its commitments to the World Trade Organization, said Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi here on Monday.

Wu told Finnish Trade and Development Minister Paula Lehtomäki that China attaches importance to the protection of intellectual property rights, which helps create a better environment for foreign investors and is conducive to domestic economic development.

Wu said China and Finland have maintained good relations and high-level exchanges have been frequent. She noted that China and Finland are complementary in economy and relevant cooperation has developed rapidly. She voiced her hope that enterprises from the two countries expand cooperation in forestry, paper making and infrastructure.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing calls upon star hotels to save energy

BEIJING, 17 Nov— Beijing has called upon its star-rated hotels again to take power-saving measures as part of the city's efforts to host a green Olympics in 2008.

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG) on Monday dished out a batch of power-saving handouts to the 70 hotels in the Chinese capital that have been designated as accommodation suppliers during the 2008 Games, urging them to raise air-conditioned room temperature by one degree during the summer months while lower by one degree in winter.

Study shows that if the temperature of air-conditioned room were set one degree higher in summer, the electricity consumption would be reduced by 10 per cent. As a result, Beijing would be able to save 250 million to 320 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

MNA/Xinhua



US Marines search destroyed buildings while conducting a security operation during engagements with gunmen in the war-torn western city of Fallujah on 17 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Sri Lankan HIV/AIDS cases on increase

COLOMBO, 17 Nov— An increasing number of Sri Lankan youngsters are now threatened by Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) including HIV and AIDS mainly due to unprotected sexual activity, the local newspaper *The Island* quoted a Sri Lankan health official as saying on Tuesday. The official in charge of National STI, AIDS control programme said at a seminar on "Current trends of STI and HIV/AIDS" organized by the Health Education Bureau in Colombo recently that the reported numbers of HIV and AIDS case were 591 and 174 respectively up to the end of September 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

Policeman says extremists abduct 63 fellow officers in west Iraq

KARBALA, 17 Nov—Extremists abducted 63 police officers in western Iraq overnight, a police officer who escaped said in Karbala on Wednesday.

The group of 65 police officers had organized their own journey back from a training course in Jordan, Leith Saad Naama told DPA.

They were staying in two hotels in the town of Rutba on the road from the Jordanian border, when the

abduction occurred, he said.

Naama said that only he and another officer had escaped.

Some of the extremists spoke with a Syrian accent, he said after returning to his home city of Karbala Wednesday morning.

Naama had no information regarding the fate of the 63 abducted officers.

He said other officers who had completed their training were waiting in Jordan for the Iraqi interim government to arrange their transport back to Iraq, as they did not want to travel without escort.

Internet



British soldiers of Delta Company from the Black Watch Regiment run for cover after a mortar round exploded near their position at the bank of the Euphrates River 25 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

ဝက်ရှမ်းအား ခေါ်တော်မူသော

Two more Turkish drivers killed in Iraq

ANKARA, 17 Nov — Two more Turkish drivers were killed in Iraq, semi-official *Anatolia News Agency* reported on Wednesday.

The report said unidentified Iraqi gunmen shot dead the drivers, and then set their bodies ablaze near the Iraqi city of Balad.

The identities of the two drivers could not be confirmed yet, according to the report.

Seven Turkish drivers have been killed so far this week in the violence-plagued Iraq, the report added. Turkish truckers working in Iraq have been frequent targets of kidnappings and killings by guerillas, prompting the Turkish government to seek enhanced security measures for its nationals.

More than 60 Turkish citizens have been killed in Iraq since the US-led war in March last year.

Internet

British soldier injured by Iraq bomb

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov—A Black Watch soldier was seriously injured today after being hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

He was in a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle about 10km from the British base at Camp Dogwood, 25 miles south west of Baghdad.

It was a separate incident to the one in which members of the Queen's Dragoon Guards were targeted by a suicide bomber today.—Internet

Remittances from OFWs rise 8.7%

MANILA, 17 Nov—Remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) rose 8.7 per cent to 6.2 billion US dollars in the first nine months of the year due to more deployment, the Central Bank said on Tuesday.

The Central Bank said in a statement that more and more skilled Filipino workers went abroad this year for better employment, which is likely to prompt OFW remittances to surpass the 2004 target.

Central Bank Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura said the country was deploying more workers than originally expected and their remittances were offsetting spiralling oil prices.

"Without OFW remittances, we won't have the cushion we have now in our reserves," he said.

In the first three quarters, Buenaventura said that OFW remittances accounted for over 16 per cent of the country's current account receipts and over 11 per cent of gross domestic product.

Apart from more deployment, expanding remittance business in commercial banks also boosted remittance by attracting OFWs away from informal channels, the governor said.

According to the Central Bank, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Italy, the United States, Britain, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) still remain the major resources.

The deployment of land-based workers went up by 3.1 per cent to 519,785 workers in the first nine months, mostly highly-paid professionals and technical workers, service staff and skilled production workers, the Central Bank said.

The bank expects more demand for OFWs because of their skills, easy trainability and high level of professionalism.—MNA/Xinhua

HK, Hainan sign memorandum to promote closer trade ties

HONG KONG, 17 Nov—Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Hainan Province signed a memorandum of cooperation here on Tuesday, according to a government Press release.

Denise Yue, Hong Kong's Permanent Secretary for Commerce, industry and technology, and Peng Rui Lin, Director of the Commerce Department of the Hainan Provincial Government, signed the memorandum on behalf of each side.

On the basis of enhancing complementary, mutual benefits, and closer co-operation, and with a view to promoting the prosperity and development of Hong Kong and Hainan Province, both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in trade and investment between Hong

Kong and Hainan, facilitate the exchange of information, and promote business opportunities of the two places.

Hainan-Hong Kong cooperation has achieved remarkable success over the past 16 years. Hong Kong becomes the largest investment source and the most important trading partner of Hainan. The ac-

cumulative real investments made in Hainan by Hong Kong enterprises have exceeded 4 billion US dollars, accounting for 60 per cent of the total foreign investments introduced into the province, and the Hainan-Hong Kong trade volume has taken up over 80 per cent of Hainan's total volume of foreign trade.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi woman passes a US soldier taking cover after troops came under fire, in Baghdad, Iraq, following an incident where a car bomb rammed into a civilian convoy along Baghdad's airport road, setting vehicles on fire, on 17 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Afghan Govt tries to secure UN hostages safe release

KABUL, 17 Nov — Despite unproductive talks and failure to meet the kidnapers' demand for the last over two weeks, Afghan Government is still hopeful to secure the safe release of three UN employees taken hostages in Kabul by a little known militia group, Presidential spokesman said on Tuesday.

"All our efforts are going on to secure the safe release of the hostages and we are hopeful to have a positive outcome very soon," Jawed Luden told journalists here.

The trio, including two European ladies and a male Filipino diplomat, were abducted in daylight by supporters of former Taliban regime on October 28 in Kabul downtown.

Belonging to a radi-

cal Islamic group Jaishul-e-Muslimeen or Army of Muslims, the abductors have linked the release of the hostages to the release of 26 Taliban leaders from the US prisons in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay.

Afghan Government, according to unofficial reports has agreed to offer 1.5 million US dollar ransom to secure the safety return of the abductees while the US deputy Sec-

retary of State Richard Armitage rejected any negotiations with the abductors during a visit last week here.

Blaming Armitage for the failure of the talks, the kidnappers on Sunday again extended the deadline to Tuesday evening which will decide the fate of the three international workers.

They warned that they will execute the captives if the government failed

to deliver any significant deal.

"This is the responsibility of Afghan Government as well as Afghan people to spare no efforts in securing the safe release of their three guests, and we do what we can in this direction," Luden noted while avoiding to disclose details.

"Unfortunately I cannot give specific details in this case," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

US forces detain deputy head of Iraq's parliament

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov — US forces detained a senior official of the Iraqi Islamic Party in a dawn raid on his house on Tuesday, colleagues said, a week after the leading Sunni Muslim party pulled out of the government.

"The Americans took Naseer Ayef from his house at dawn," an Islamic Party official told *Reuters*.

"They shot one of his guards in the stomach and searched his house. We don't know why he was detained." The US military had no immediate comment. Ayef is deputy head of Iraq's provisional National Assembly and a member of the Iraqi Islamic Party politburo, the official said.

The party pulled out of Iraq's US-backed interim government a week ago in protest at the onslaught by

US forces on the guerrilla-held city of Fallujah.

But its one Cabinet representative, Industry and Minerals Minister Hajem al-Hassani, refused to resign and left the party instead.

The party's decision to quit the government highlighted splits among Iraqi politicians over the government's move to crush the bloody insurgency by force. US forces say they have taken 100 per cent of Fallujah in an eight-day assault to root out for-

eign Islamic militants and Saddam Hussein loyalists they say are entrenched in the Sunni Muslim city.

The Iraqi Islamic Party has four representatives on the 100-member National Assembly, a body created in August as a check on the activities of the interim government. The party, established in 1960, has strong ties to Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and was suppressed under Saddam, who regarded it as too staunchly Islamic, prompting many of its members to flee the country. — *MNA/Reuters*

IAEA says found no proof of secret Iranian nuclear programme

VIENNA, 17 Nov — The UN nuclear watchdog said Monday it had found no proof of a secret Iranian nuclear weapons programme.

"All the declared nuclear material in Iran has been accounted for, and therefore such material is not diverted to prohibited activities (such as weapons). The agency is, however, not yet in a position to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran," the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report.

"The agency's legal authority to pursue the verification of possible nuclear weapons-related activity is limited," it said.

The report said the IAEA is still investigating Iran's efforts to acquire equipment that could have been used in uranium enrichment.

Iran allowed IAEA inspectors to visit the Lavizan military site in Teheran, it said. However, it said the IAEA had requested to visit the military complex of Parchin, 30 kilometres south-east of Teheran, "in order to provide assurance regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities at that site" but was still waiting for

permission to go there.

Iran has denied carrying out any nuclear-related work at Parchin, but the United States suspected the site was used for developing nuclear weapons.

Iran's pledge to suspend uranium enrichment activities was also mentioned in the report to the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors that will meet in Vienna on November 25 to decide whether to send Iran to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

The report, quoting an official letter sent by Iran to the IAEA on Sunday in which Teheran agreed to suspend uranium enrichment activities, confirmed that Iran had invited it to verify the suspension as of 22 November.

This leaves IAEA inspectors only three days before the board meeting to verify Iran's suspension.

The IAEA report was issued after Iran agreed in a deal with Britain, France and Germany to suspend uranium enrichment activities.

MNA/Xinhua



A man searches through the rubble of al-Zuhour police station in Mosul, Iraq, on 17 Nov, 2004, that was blown up by armed guerillas ahead of the US troops advance on Tuesday. — INTERNET



US Marines stop and check a truck loaded with humanitarian goods as it tries to enter the town of Saqlawiyah on the outskirts of Fallujah. — INTERNET

Investigation of alleged abuses in Fallujah demanded

GENEVA, 17 Nov — Top United Nations human rights official Louise Arbour called on Tuesday for investigation of alleged abuses in Fallujah, Iraq, including disproportionate use of force and the targeting of civilians.

Those responsible for any violations — US and multinational forces, Iraqi Government troops or guerillas — should be brought to justice, the former UN war crimes prosecutor said in a statement.

"There have been a number of reports during the current confrontation alleging violations of the rules of war designed to protect civilians and combatants," Arbour said.

She gave no specific examples. But on Monday, Amnesty International accused both sides of breaking rules designed to protect civilians and wounded combatants during conflict.

Attacking US and Iraqi troops had failed to take necessary steps to ensure non-combatants did not come under fire. Guerillas had abused flags of truce and fired indiscriminately, the London-based group said.

All violations of international humanitarian and human rights law must be investigated, including "the deliberate targeting of civilians, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, the killing of injured persons and the use of human

shields", Arbour said.

Arbour, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said she was especially worried about civilians still in Fallujah, who might lack access to aid, and about the paucity of information on civilian casualties.

Iraq's government says civilian casualties during the US-led assault on the rebel bastion have been minimal and that reports of a humanitarian crisis in the city are exaggerated.

But a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) insisted in Geneva on Tuesday there were civilians still in the city, in need of food, water and medicine.

"The ICRC is very worried about the humanitarian situation in Fallujah, because we are receiving information from families that are still there that the injured have no access to medical care," Rana Sidani told *Reuters*.

The ICRC did not know how many people were left in the shattered city of 300,000, but the Iraqi Red Crescent put the figure at around 150 families, she added. — *MNA/Reuters*

PBOC says national economy develops towards anticipated direction

BEIJING, 18 Nov — The People's Bank of China (PBOC), the nation's central bank, predicts that in the fourth quarter of 2004 the nation's economy will continue to develop "towards the anticipated direction" under the state's macroeconomic control policies.

The central bank's

third quarter report on monetary policies, published Tuesday, says that the speed of economic growth will continue to moderate, the growth rate of consumer price index will be stable and the national economy will maintain "steady growth".

According to the report, residents are optimis-

tic about the prospects of the economy and expect higher incomes, which will support the increase of consumer spending.

Various localities are still keen to expand their investment, and there is the possibility of a rebound in fixed asset investment.

MNA/Xinhua

Families of abducted UN staffers plead for their release

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Nov — The families and friends of the three UN staff members abducted in Afghanistan on Tuesday issued a statement, expressing hopes that their loved ones could be released as soon as possible.

In the emotional appeal, families and friends of Annetta Flanigan, Angelito Nayan and Shqiye Hebibi, express hope that the people holding them would "place them somewhere safe where they can be found and restored to us."

MNA/Xinhua

With participation of national people....



(from page 1)

regions for progress of urban regions, and border and rural areas for equitable development of all parts of the nation.

The Association is to play an active role as measures for national progress are for the sake of the people.

Myanmar still has to depend on agriculture

competition with each other. The transport sector is the key to raising the economy of the people. So, the Government is extending air, water, road and rail transport services. Up to 2004, it has constructed 35,212 miles of roads, 1,128 miles of railroads, 12 airports, and 188 bridges each of which is 180 feet and above long. In the future, there will emerge Highways linking Myanmar with her neighbours.

Natural resources and oil and natural gas reserves are being exploited for industrial development. So far, 767 more megawatts have been generated across the nation.

divisions including border areas.

Rural people make up more than 70 per cent of the nation's population. So, the five rural development tasks are being carried out with added momentum for bridging the development gap between rural and urban areas.

In cooperation with departments, committees, work groups, social organizations and local people, the Association is putting the five rural development tasks into motion to the best of its ability. Necessary measures are being taken to electrify rural areas. Rural development and successful organization of rural populace are indeed interre-



Member of Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win signs the attendance book. — MNA

ganizing and leading rural people.

The objectives of this year's annual general meeting are:

- to keep in the fore our three main national causes as national policy
- to successfully implement the political, economic and social objectives
- to successfully implement the seven-point future policy programme
- to add momentum to the socio-economic de-

velopment of the State

with the full sense of Union Spirit, showing unswerving determination at state and division-level mass rallies and the Bagan Mass Rally held in support of the National Convention. It is necessary to take as the pragmatic national cause the successful holding of the National Convention and the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map.

In doing so, it is necessary to make the country to be financially strong with a reliable source of well-rounded human resources.

The government, on its part, is implementing national economic plans after drawing up them so as to secure financial strength.

So far, all over the nation there have emerged 271 water pumping stations, 167 dams and reservoirs, and 36 irrigation facilities under construction.



Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo signs the attendance book. — MNA

for economic progress, so all possible ways and means are being sought for supply of water essential for improvement of agricultural sector. So far, all over the nation there have emerged 271 water pumping stations, 167 dams and reservoirs, and 36 irrigation facilities under construction. According to the present economic plan, efforts are being exerted for remarkable progress of the industrial sector. The Government has established 18 industrial zones the length and breadth of the nation for promotion of the State-owned and private-owned industries. It can be witnessed that the industrial zones have achieved success in manufacturing items through

Efforts are being made to raise the health and education standards to produce healthy and qualified human resources needed for modernization and constant development of the nation. In the basic education sector, plans are being implemented so that each and every citizen can fully enjoy the right to basic education. As a result of Education for All programme, literacy rate is now more than 93 per cent. About 900,000 students are studying at 156 universities and colleges across the nation. More and more subjects are being taught and doctorate courses conducted.

For public health, 813 new hospitals have been opened in states and



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo makes clarification on tasks for USDA Annual General Meeting. — MNA

related. The Association will win greater trust and support of the people by making efforts for raising the living standard of the rural people and regional development and studying their life and fulfilling their needs and wishes. It is the correct way of or-

development of the State

- to guard against the internal and external destructive elements with the strength and unity of the people
- to enhance the efficiency and capacity of the members, and
- to launch organizational campaigns on a broader scale.

So profound are they that USDA members are taking pragmatic measures to implement them successfully.

With the participation of the national people, the government is beavering away at the successful implementation of the set objectives and aims around the clock. Thanks to these endeavours, the country has now been on the track of development. At a time when national unity, favourable eco-

and intelligentsia, State service personnel, political parties, representatives-elect, and other invited persons. They are doing their bit in this process

At the same time, the government is also implementing the plans for the promotion of the national education level to ensure

(See page 7)

Objectives of this year's USDA AGM

- * To keep in the fore our three main national causes as national policy
- * To successfully implement the political, economic and social objectives
- * To successfully implement the seven-point future policy programme
- * To add momentum to the socio-economic development of the State
- * To guard against the internal and external destructive elements with the strength and unity of the people
- * To enhance the efficiency and capacity of the members, and
- * To launch organizational campaigns on a broader scale.



USDA Secretariat Member U Thaung presides over USDA Annual General Meeting together with CEC Members U Thein Nyunt and U Thein Aung. — MNA

With participation of...



(from page 6)

the development of human resources. It is therefore necessary for the USDA to play an active part in these measures.

The USDA representatives of respective states and divisions are to present their reports in earnest with respect to the tasks carried out in their

regions last year in accord with the future work programmes laid down by the USDA Annual General Meeting 2003. These work programmes are:

- the USDA members, namely, upholding our three main national causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty, are to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation;
- the USDA members are to adopt the 12 political, economic and social objectives laid down for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, which is the goal of the State, as the policy of the Association;
- the USDA members are to ensure the active partici-



The preliminary meeting of the group for the sector of the successful implementation of the seven-point policy programme in progress. — MNA

Map, and organizational campaigns. In this context, it is necessary for them to note strong points from the reports of the others and put them into practice in their regions.

Broad discussions should be held at group-wise seminars on the topics ranging from organizational campaigns, management, economy, social and cultural affairs, education, and stability to the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map and the enhancement of youth efficiency.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the

USDA Secretariat member U Thaung chaired the second session of the meeting, which resumed at 9.35 am, together with USDA CEC members U Thein Nyunt and U Thein Aung as members.

On the occasion, USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo gave an account of the tasks for the annual general meeting. In his explanation, he said the USDA is founded with those willing to turn the country into

Make concerted efforts to lay down future work programmes of the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 by taking the findings and suggestions as the base at the day's meeting.



The preliminary meeting of the group for the economic sector in progress. — MNA

pation of the entire national people by doing their bit with Union Spirit in the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map of the State in accord with the resolutions of the Bagan Mass Rally held on 21 October 2003;

- as peace and stability of the State, strong economy of the State and the people, and high standard of national education are the basic requirements for the establishment of a discipline-flourishing democracy, the USDA members are to actively participate in the successful realization of the requirements;
- the USDA members are to participate in the implementation of the third short-term five-year project and the five rural development tasks;
- the USDA members are to fully engage in the organizational works by enhancing the four capabilities of the Association; and
- the USDA members are to adopt the guidance of the USDA Patron as their work guidelines.

They should also present progress reports on their participation in the tasks for stability and prosperity, development of human resources, rural development, the successful implementation of the seven-point Road



The preliminary meeting of the group for the education sector in progress. — MNA

USDA representatives concerned to make concerted efforts to lay down future work programmes of the USDA Annual General Meeting 2004 by taking the findings and suggestions as the base at the day's meeting. Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greeted members of the delegations to the meeting.

and USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe in the morning of 17 November, the fourth day of the meeting. The USDA Patron himself has never failed to attend the annual general meetings held in successive years since the birth of the Association. Moreover, he always attends the opening ceremonies of courses conducted by the USDA (Central) and gives guidance on such occasions. The Association always takes his guidance as working guidelines and implements them in all seriousness.

The Association is formed with a majority of the youths who will discharge national politics. It is a national force implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives by upholding our three main national courses while nurturing the youths to be high-minded and efficient individuals. It also goes hand in hand with the general public in the drive for the development of human resources and the promotion of national education under the auspices of the government. In this process, outstanding youths will be awarded as in previous years. Brilliant students at the matriculation examinations, outstanding members of Red Cross and Fire Brigade, winners of at least five

(See page 8)



The preliminary meeting of the group for the sector of boosting qualifications of new generation youths in progress. — MNA

With participation of...



(from page 7)

gold at the performing arts competitions, and outstanding youths of different sectors will also be awarded.

The goal of the Association is to establish our beloved motherland as a peaceful, modern and developed nation in cooperation with the entire people. It has set its definite goal. The government, on its part, is implementing the seven-point Road Map after drawing it so as to reach that goal. The Road Map is the one and only vehicle for the realization of that goal. This being the case, the onus is on the Association to cooperate with the public in the successful implementation of the Road Map. Efforts are to be made with added momentum to ensure national stability, stronger economic growth, and higher national education in respective regions. With firm conviction and determination, USDA members are to instill national aspiration in the people around them and launch organizational campaigns to prevent the instigation perpetrated by destructive elements. Moreover, it is also necessary for them to comprehend the desires and feelings of the people around them. Only then will they be able to provide help for them, they



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets delegates to preliminary meeting for USDA Annual General Meeting. — MNA

and forming of seven groups for boosting the skills and qualifications of the new generation youths. Then, the meeting went into recess.

The group-wise meetings took place at designated places starting from 10 am. The preliminary meeting of the organization group was held at Bayintnaung Hall. USDA Secretariat Member U Thaung, CEC Members U Thein Nyunt and U Thein

ters related to the preliminary meeting. Next USDA secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives from various townships and districts of states and divisions discussed management matters.

The preliminary meeting of the group of economic sector was held at Myawady Hall. USDA Secretariat member U Aung Thaung and CEC members U Ohn Myint and U Maung Maung Thein pre-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win watches the opening of preliminary meeting for USDA Annual General Meeting (2004). — MNA

are thus to try to win public trust. And they are to cooperate with the public in the nation-building tasks.

As a national force, the Association will always stand in solidarity with the public in transforming the country into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In this process, it has been taking pragmatic approaches to the goal. In today's meeting, broader and deeper discussions will be held on

Aung presided over the meeting. Executive of Gangaw Township USDA in Magway Division Daw Yee Yee Swe acted as master of ceremonies together with Joint-Secretary of Monghsat District USDA in Shan State (East) Daw Nan Khin Hla Nyunt.

The chairman of the meeting briefed those present on the preliminary meeting, and assigned duties to 17 delegates would present reports on or-

sided over the meeting. Shadow Township USDA member Daw Chaw Su Yee acted as emcee and executive of Yangon South District USDA Daw Moe Moe Ei as co-emcee. Secretary U Aung Thaung gave an account of the meeting. Next USDA secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives from various townships and districts of states and divisions discussed economic matters and Meeting Chairman U Thaung gave a concluding remark.

The preliminary meeting of the group of social and cultural sector took place at the hall No 8 Innwa Hall. The meeting was presided over by USEA Secretariat member U Tin Htut and USDA CEC members U Maung Pa and U Tin Naing Thein. Taungoo District USDA executive Daw Ni Ni Ma of Bago Division (South) acted as master of ceremonies and Leikha Township USDA Joint-Secretary of Shan State (South) as co-master. USDA Secretariat member U Tin Htut explained matters pertaining to the meeting. Next USDA secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives from various townships and districts of states and divisions discussed social and cultural affairs.

The preliminary of education the emcee gave an account of putting organization, administration, economy, social affairs, culture, education, stability and unity into successful implementation of the seven-point policy programme, and forming of seven groups for boosting the skills and qualifications of the new generation youths. Then, the meeting went into recess.

The group-wise meetings took place at designated places starting from 10 am.

(See page 9)



The preliminary meeting of the group for management sector in progress. — MNA

the grounds of the objectives of the Association and its 11-year-long experience.

In conclusion, he expressed his belief that the meeting would lay down future work programmes beneficial to the country and the people.

The emcee gave an account of putting organization, administration, economy, social affairs, culture, education, stability and unity into successful implementation of the seven-point policy programme,

ganization at sector-wise meetings.

The preliminary meeting of the administration group was held at Anawrahta Hall. USDA CEC Members U Thein Swe and Thura U Aung Ko presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary of Mon State USDA Daw Yi Yi Myint acted as master of ceremonies and Executive of Myingyan District USDA Daw Khin Swe Win as co-master of ceremonies. USDA CEC member U Thein Swe explained mat-

With participation of...



(from page 8)

The preliminary meeting of the organization group was held at Bayintnaung Hall. USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung and CEC members U Ohn Myint and U Maung Maung Thein presided over the meeting. Shardow Township USDA member Daw Chaw Su Yee acted as emcee and executive of Yangon South District USDA Daw Moe Moe Ei as co-emcee. Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung gave an account of the meeting. Next USDA secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives from various townships and districts of states and divisions discussed economic matters and Meeting Chairman U Thaung gave a concluding remark.

The chairman of the meeting briefed those present on the preliminary meeting, and assigned duties to 17 delegates who will present reports on

Myawady Hall. USDA Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung and CEC members U Ohn Myint and U Maung Maung Thein presided over the meeting. Shardow Township USDA member Daw Chaw Su Yee acted as emcee and executive of Yangon South District USDA Daw Moe Moe Ei as co-emcee. Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung gave an account of the meeting. Next USDA secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives from various townships and districts of states and divisions discussed economic matters and Meeting Chairman U Thaung gave a concluding remark.

The preliminary meeting of the group of social and cultural sector took place at the hall No 8 Innwa Hostel. The meeting was presided over by USDA Secretariat Member U Tin Htut and USDA CEC members U Maung Pa

and U Tin Naing Thein. Taungoo District USDA executive Daw Ni Ni Ma of Bago Division (East) acted as master of ceremonies and Leikha Township USDA Joint-Secretary of Shan State (South) as co-master. USDA Secretariat Member U Tin Htut explained matters pertaining to the meeting. Next USDA secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives from various townships and districts of states and divisions discussed social and cultural affairs.

Next, the preliminary meeting of group of education took place at Tagaung Mess. Secretariat Member of USDA, U Kyaw Hsan presided over it together with USDA CEC member U Thein Sein.

Executive of Hpa-an District USDA of Kayin State Daw Tin Tin Hlaing acted as master of ceremonies together with Executive member of Chin State USDA Daw Hsan Kye Htwe as co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremony declared the



Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win greets Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Somsavat Lengsavad. (News on Page 16) — MNA

meeting of the group of education open with the permission of the chairman for the attendance of 60 delegates.

Next, Secretariat Member of USDA U

Kyaw Hsan gave explanations as to the meeting and 17 delegates who are to report on regarding the education sector were selected to assign duties.

Afterwards, CEC member U Thein Sein gave explanations and the meeting went into recess.

After that, the preliminary meeting of the group for participation of the association in successful implementation of the State's seven-point roadmap took place at Khattaya Mess.

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo presided over it together with Coordinator U Than

Aung, CEC members U Aung Min and U Aung Thein Lin. Executive member of Ingyanyan Township USDA of Kachin State Daw Nan Ywe acted as master of ceremonies together with Joint-Secretary of Namhkham Township USDA of Shan State (North) Daw Nan Han Sein as co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the meeting of the group open with the permission of the chairman for the attendance of 60 delegates.

(See page 10)

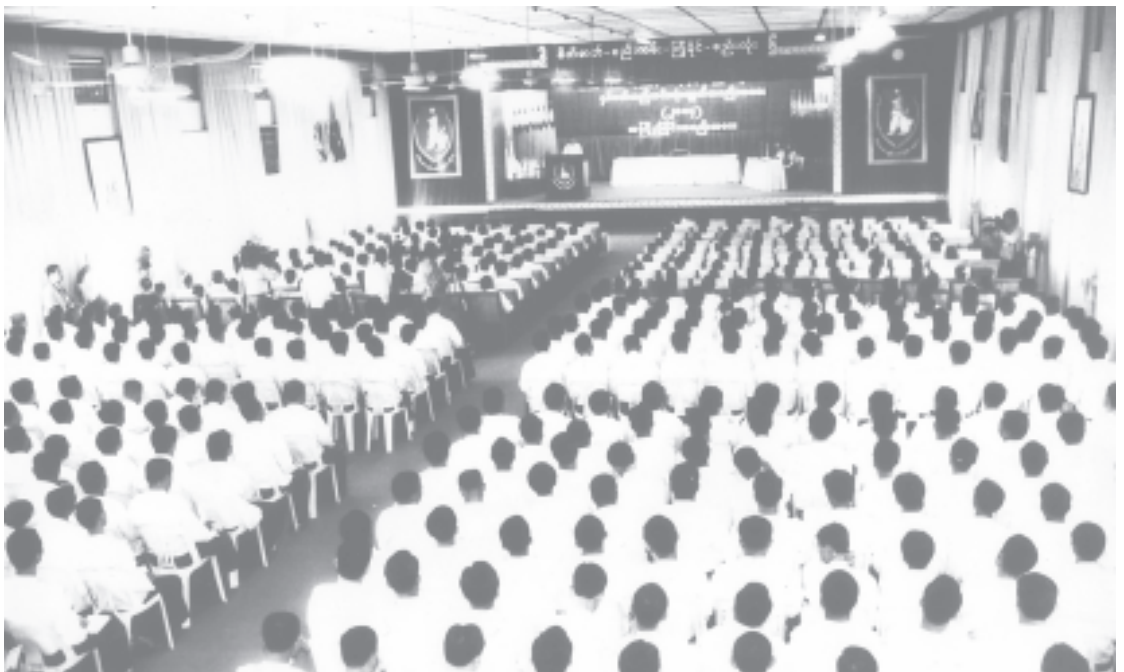


The preliminary meeting of the group for social and cultural sector in progress. — MNA

organizational matters to the meeting.

The preliminary meeting of the administration group was held at Anawrahta Hall. USDA CEC Members U Thein Swe and Thura U Aung Ko presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary of Mon State USDA Daw Yi Yi Myint acted as master of ceremonies and Executive of Myingyan District USDA Daw Khin Swe Win as co-master. USDA CEC member U Thein Swe explained matters related to the preliminary meeting. Next USDA secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives from various townships and districts of states and divisions discussed management matters.

The preliminary meeting of the group of economic sector was held at



The preliminary meeting for USDA Annual General Meeting (2004) in progress. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gives a speech at the opening of the 43rd Defence Services C-in-C's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Soccer Tournament. — MNA

Commander-in-Chief's Shield Soccer Tournament kicks off

YANGON, 18 Nov — Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Management Board Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein this afternoon delivered an address at the opening ceremony of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Soccer Tournament

at the Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) here.

After delivering the opening address, Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally opened the tournament.

Afterwards, Southern Command Team played against South-East Command Team and the former beat the latter 3-2.

First round matches will be held from 22 No-

vember to 2 December in Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Monywa, Mandalay and Tounghoo.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, military attaches, officials of the Ministry of Sports and enthusiasts watched the tournament. — MNA

With participation of...



gether with CEC members U Pyi Sone, Thura U Aye Myint and U Nyan Tun Aung.

Joint Secretary of Paungye Township USDA of Bago Division (West) Daw Myo Thida Myint acted as master of ceremonies together with Executive of Ayeyawady Division USDA Daw Nwe Nwe Oo as co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremony declared the meeting of the group open with the permission of the chairman for the attendance of 60 delegates.

Next, Secretariat member of USDA U Thein Zaw gave explana-



The preliminary meeting of the group for the sector of organizational campaigns in progress. — MNA

member of Pruhsa Township USDA of Kayah State Daw Aye Aye Khine, executive member of Kawkaeyik Township USDA of Kayin State Daw Nan Cherry Oo, secretary of Phalan District USDA of Chin State U Tan Aung, Secretary of Kawlin Township

USDA of Bago Division (West) U Saw Htoo Han, joint secretary of Htantabin Township USDA of Bago Division (East) U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, executive member of Taungdwingyi Township USDA of Magway Division U Ye Tint Thein, executive member of Kyaukse District USDA of Mandalay Division Daw Thwe Thwe Win, acting secretary of Kyaikto Township USDA of Mon State U Soe Win Aung, secretary of Kyaukphyu Township USDA of Rakhine State U Tun Lwin Lay, secretary of Htantabin Township USDA of Yangon Division U Than Myint, coordinator of Taunggyi District USDA of Shan State (South) U Aung Naing Tun, executive member of Kutkai Township USDA of Shan State (North) U Sai San Myint, secretary of Tachilek Township USDA of Shan State (East) U Sein Lwin and joint secretary of

Kyaiklat Township USDA of Ayeyawady Division U Tun Tun Than presented respective reports.

Next, 17 delegates who are to report on promotion of efficiency for

new generation youths sector were selected to assign duties.

The chairman of the meeting gave concluding remarks and it went into recess.

MNA



USDA CEC members sign the attendance book. — MNA

liminary meeting of the group for promotion of efficiency for new generation youths took place at Bagan Mess.

Secretariat member of USDA U Thein Zaw presided over it to-

gether with CEC members U Pyi Sone, Thura U Aye Myint and U Nyan Tun Aung. Joint Secretary of Paungye Township USDA of Bago Division (West) Daw Myo Thida Myint acted as master of ceremonies together with Executive of Ayeyawady Division USDA Daw Nwe Nwe Oo as co-master of ceremonies. First, the master of ceremony declared the meeting of the group open with the permission of the chairman for the attendance of 60 delegates. Next, Secretariat member of USDA U Thein Zaw gave explana-

tion as to the meeting. Regarding the meeting of promotion of efficiency for new generation youths, executive member of Bhamo Township USDA of Kachin State U Ko Ko Oo, executive



Delegates to preliminary meeting sign the attendance book. — MNA



Chin State USDA Executive Daw Hsan Kye Htwe acts as master of ceremonies with Ayeyawady Division USDA Executive Daw Nwe Nwe Oo. — MNA

Indian goodwill delegation visits DSTA, tours Shan State

YANGON, 18 Nov — Visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Air Chief Marshal S Krishnaswamy, COSC, PVSM, AVSM, VM & Bar, ADC, Chief of the Air Staff and wife Mrs Harveen Krishnaswamy, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, yesterday morning visited Defence Services Technology Academy in PynOoLwin.

Before leaving the academy, Air Chief Marshal S Krishnaswamy signed in the Visitors' Book and exchanged souvenir with Brig-Gen Win Myint, Rector of DSTA.

In PynOoLwin, they also made an observation tour around National Kandawgyi Garden. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint hosted a lunch to the delegation at Club House in the garden.



The visiting Indian goodwill delegation poses for a documentary photo together with Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and senior military officers. — MNA

Afterwards, the Indian delegation flew to Shan State. When they arrived at Heho Airport, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu, and military officers welcomed them.

Next, they pro-

ceeded to Taunggyi and visited ShwePhonePwint Pagoda there. In Taunggyi, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian delegation at Mount Pleasant Guest House.

The delegation this morning went to Nyaungshwe Township and paid homage to PhaungDawOo Buddha

Images in Inlay Lake and made cash donation. They also observed the traditional weaving at Shwehintha Weaving Factory in Inlay.

Afterwards, they visited Alodawpauk Pagoda and contributed cash to the fund of the pagoda.

They arrived back here this afternoon.

MNA

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs of LPDR arrives

YANGON, 18 Nov — At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Mr Somsavat Lengsavat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, arrives here by air this morning.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and party were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thura U Aung Htet, Director General of the Protocol Department, U Thauang Tun, Director General of the Political Department and officials concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kobkeo Luangkhot, Charge d' Affaires of the embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Embassy staff.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win called on visiting Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E Somsavat Lengsavat at the Sedona Hotel at 11:30 am the same day. Present on the occasion together with the Minister for Foreign Affairs were U Thauang Tun, Director-General of the Political Department and official concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together with the Lao Deputy Prime Minister's Cabinet



Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Somsavat Lengsavat calls on Minister U Nyan Win. — MNA

was present. The two Foreign Ministers exchange views on the matters relating to the forthcoming 10th ASEAN Summit to be held in Vientiane, Laos, on 29-30 November 2004.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Somsavat Lengsavat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and party at Sedona Hotel in the evening of 17th November 2004.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic His Excellency Mr. Somsavat Lengsavat and party left here by air in the morning of 18 November 2004.

Visiting Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

and party were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thura U Aung Htet, Director General of the Protocol Department, U Thauang Tun, Director General of the Political De-

partment and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kobkeo Luangkhot, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and embassy staff.

MNA

Prize winners announced

YANGON, 18 Nov — Organizing Committee for 15th National Motto Literature and Photo Contest for 2004 held the literature contests. Prize winners who won in short story and poem contests were announced today. In short story contest, Margainda (Patheingyi) stood first, Muse Wongkham second and Shwe Nyatha Myat Min third.

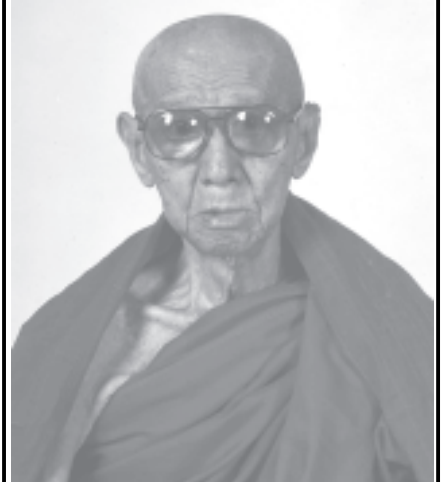
In poem contest, Min Thwenwe (Zegone) secured the first, Win Way Naung the second and Maung Maung Thet Tun the third.

Prize winners will be awarded at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Road, Yangon on 12 December 2004 (Sarsodaw Day).

To attend the rehearsal on 10 December 2004, prize winners are to contact in person to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of Organizing Committee, MRTV on 9 December 2004.

MNA

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita passes away



YANGON, 18 Nov — Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita, Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, passed away peacefully at the age of 95, vasa 76, at 11.35 am yesterday.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita (Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika) was born in Thiri Pissaya village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division.

He was novitiated at the age of 10. He studied basic religious knowledge since he was very young, and continued to learn Pariyatti at various monasteries. He became a lecturer Sayadaw when he attained five vasa as a monk.

The Sayadaw had dedicated his whole life to studying Pariyatti and practising Patipatti and disseminating the religious knowledge to disciples.

He had been to Japan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Laos, and England as a missionary Sayadaw.

The Religious Affairs Department today announced that the remains of Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Koesaungtaik Maha Withutayama Pakokku Kyaungthit Monastery in Myingyan, Mandalay Division, Bhaddanta Sobhita (Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika), aged 95, vasa 76, is now kept in temporary building in the precinct of Pitakathonebon Monastery on Pale Yadana Street in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, here. At 1 pm on 27 November (Saturday), the remains will be conveyed to the pyre near the monastery with the use of decorated carriage for final rites for the Sayadaw. — MNA

Kazakhstan Wushu Team arrives

YANGON, 18 Nov — Kazakhstan Wushu Team arrived at Yangon International Airport this evening to take part in the 6th ASEAN Wushu Championships to be hosted in Myanmar from 20 to 28 November. They were welcomed by officials concerned of the Ministry of Sports.

The team consists of Manager Mr. Raduntsev Aleksandr and two participants. — NLM



Kazakhstan wushu team being welcomed at the airport. — NLM

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Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **Sanofi-Synthelabo**
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 19 November 2004

အမည်ပြောင်း
အဘဦးဝင်းဇိုလုံ/ဝေအု(ဇို)၊
ဝက်လုံရာ အိမ်ထောင်စုဝင်းအား
လက်မှတ်စဉ် မနုဇာအောင် ဟုပြောင်း
လဲခေါ်ဝေါ်ရန်၊ မနုဇာအောင်

**Heavy rains
leave one dead,
580 homeless in
Venezuela**

CARACAS, 17 Nov—At
least one person was killed
and 580 others were made
homeless in recent torren-
tial rains in Venezuela's
northern states of Nueva
Esparta and Vargas, local
daily *El Universal* re-
ported Tuesday.

Civil Protection Direc-
tor Antonio Rivero was
quoted by the newspaper
as saying the victim was
Venezuelan surfer
Jonathan Avila who was
battered by strong waves
at a beach of the Caraballeda area, Vargas
State. About 580 people
became homeless in
Nueva Esparta.

The number of victims
will likely increase as
weather forecasts show
new rains with strong
winds are coming, Rivero
said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. LONG XUYEN VOY: NO (007)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. LONG XUYEN VOY NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-11-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 Noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority**
Agent For: DONGNAMA SHIPPING CO LTD. KOREA
Phone No: 256924/256914

Chilean tanker sinking off Brazilian port

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 Nov— Chilean tanker *Vicula* was about to sink Tuesday after one of its two tanks exploded Monday night off the port of Paranaguá Bay in Brazil.

Authorities said that the vessel accidentally crashed into the dock while loading a cargo of ethanol, and sparks triggered by crashing ignited the highly flammable fuel.

The fire caused explosion of one tank, and subsequently the ship was ruptured into two parts, one of which sank later. Four crew members

(two Chileans and two Britons) on board were missing and 24 others safe, reports said.

One charred body was found when environmental personnel and local firemen rushed to the scene to prevent the spread of the fuel by surrounding the ship with buoys.

At the moment of the explosion, the vessel con-



South Korean President in Brazil for closer economic ties

BRASILIA, 17 Nov—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun arrived here Tuesday to seek closer ties with South America's biggest economy.

During his three-day visit, Roh will sign with his Brazilian counterpart, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a document on cooperation in information technology, energy, natural resources, science and technology.

South Korea is Bra-

zil's third largest trading partner in Asia, after China and Japan. In the first nine months of the year, trade between the two countries totalled 2.3 billion US dollars, said the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon

said his country is studying the feasibility of a free trade zone with Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Roh will travel to Sao Paulo Wednesday to meet Rio Governor Gerardo Alckmin and business representatives.

MNA/Xinhua

APEC helps Chile deepen relations with Asia-Pacific region

SANTIAGO, 17 Nov— The Chilean Government said Tuesday that the presidency of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) has helped Chile to deepen relations with the Asia-Pacific Region.

Ricardo Lagos Junior, president of the High Representatives of APEC, Director of Multilateral Policies of the Chilean Foreign Ministry and a son of Chilean President Ricardo Lagos made the comments on Tuesday.

He said that in the past year, presidency of the forum has let Chile increase its presence in the Pacific Rim through bilateral agreements with South Korea, the United

States and Mexico, and strengthen ties with China, Singapore, New Zealand, Peru and Japan.

Lagos Junior pointed out that the Chilean Government expects its efforts as pro tempore president of the forum will lead to a successful meeting slated for this weekend.

The meeting will be attended by leaders of the 21 economies that constitute APEC.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin asks big business to pay taxes

MOSCOW, 17 Nov—President Vladimir Putin told Russian big business on Tuesday to pay its taxes, but sought to allay fears that the state may launch major new tax probes.

"Business should get used to paying taxes and observing the law, and not seek ways to avoid paying taxes," Putin said in a speech to the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the country's largest business lobby.

Putin did not refer explicitly to the case of oil major YUKOS, which faces ruin after being hit with a total of 18.5 billion US dollars in back-tax claims. But he suggested the YUKOS case may be a one-off.

"The state will guard the interests of reputable business, and large-scale investigations, including tax probes, should not be regarded as a signal that every newly founded company poses a threat to the state's interests,"

Putin said.

The Kremlin's onslaught against YUKOS, Russia's largest oil exporting company, has been widely seen as a drive to neutralize the company's politically ambitious former chief executive, Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Offering reassurance to other Russian "oligarchs" who acquired vast industrial assets at knock-down prices, Putin pledged the government would respect property rights and would not roll back past privatizations.

"Overall, the state should guarantee the inviolability of the existing results of privatisation and the comprehensive defence of property rights as one of the foundations of a market economy," he said. — *MNA/Reuters*

China to promote healthy shrimp farming modes

BEIJING, 17 Nov— China will actively promote the healthy, safe and environmentally-friendly shrimp farming methods to ensure the sustainable development of the sector, said a high-ranking official from the Ministry of Agriculture here on Monday.

Liu Zheng, deputy director of the fishery administration under the ministry, said at a seminar that shrimp has been a major aquaculture for more than 20 years and played an important role in China's aquatic export.

Statistics from the ministry shows that from 1996, the country's shrimp culture has experienced a recovery after 1993's outbreak of shrimp-related disease. In

2003, the country yielded 780,000 tons of artificially-bred shrimp, and exported 119,000 tons of shrimp.

Meanwhile, there is no report of trade dispute on quality problems so far this year in shrimp export. The European Commission also lifted export ban of aquatic products from China on October 18 this year.

Liu admitted that there are still some prob-

lems still lagging the sector, citing the unbalanced development between different areas, frequent occurrence of some diseases in some aquaculture farms, and low quality of shrimp fries. Liu noted that the country is now taking measures to strengthen quality control and technical training to ensure a healthy development of shrimp sector.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

China raises fund to save miners from black lung disease

SHIJIAZHANG, 17 Nov— China is raising funds to finance the treatment of black lung, a disease that claims at least 5,000 lives a year.

The country's black lung therapy foundation has launched a public welfare project for coal miners nationwide. The miners, who are most vulnerable to the disease, will be able to receive timely treatment and prolong their lives, according to sources with the foundation at its first council after it was established in October, 2003.

Black lung, or pneumoconiosis, is caused by coal dust inhaled in underground mines and is the severest occupational disease among miners. Its patients suffer from acute pains in the chest, a bad cough and often come down with colds. The worst cases normally die of respiratory failure.

Experts say lavage treatment has proven safe and effective in removing dust from the patients' lungs and restoring lung function. However, at least 200,000 black lung disease sufferers in China cannot afford such treatment, according to statistics provided by the foundation.

The foundation has started to raise funds at home and abroad, hoping to offer treatment for free to patients from poverty-stricken areas at a sanitarium for mine workers in Beidaihe, a seaside summer resort in the northern Hebei Province.— MNA/Xinhua

Unmanned jet breaks world record for speed

LOS ANGELES, 17 Nov — An unmanned experimental jet broke a world record for speed on Tuesday, cruising over the Pacific Ocean at just under 7,000 miles per hour in a NASA test of cutting-edge "scramjet" engine technology.

The X-43A aircraft flew at a speed of around Mach 9.6 — nearly ten times the speed of sound — after a booster rocket took it to around 110,000 feet and then separated.

A modified B-52 airplane had carried the experimental plane and booster aloft.

It was the last of three test launches for the X-43A series and its supersonic-combustion ramjet or "scramjet" engine. The scramjet scoops up oxygen from the air rather than carrying liquid oxygen in a tank like an ordinary rocket.

Scramjet technology, NASA has said, could open the way to cheaper, safer and faster flights into the upper atmosphere, with

smaller and lighter craft.

"I think it's easier than people think it is. We can really do this stuff. I don't mean to make it sound too easy, but it's definitely doable," said Randy Voland, a senior research engineer on the project, at a news conference after the test.

The eight-year, 230-million-US-dollar programme got off to a rough start in June 2001 when the first X-43A and its booster rocket had to be destroyed in mid-air. The second attempt, in March of this year, successfully reached a speed of Mach 7.

That Mach 7 flight set the previous world record for a jet-powered vehicle, NASA said.

The silvery-black

scramjet, just 12 feet long by five feet wide, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in the desert north of Los Angeles perched below NASA's B-52 in the early afternoon Tuesday.

After reaching launch altitude over the Pacific, the modified bomber dropped the scramjet and its booster rocket for a run at the speed record.

MNA/Reuters



An X-43A scramjet accelerates after it is released from a launch aircraft over the Pacific Ocean. NASA confirmed that the X-43A had flown nearly 10 times faster than the speed of sound. — INTERNET

ESA says "SMART-1" entered lunar orbit

PARIS, 17 Nov— The first European spacecraft sent to the moon has entered lunar orbit, the European Space Agency (ESA) said on Tuesday.

The SMART-1 spacecraft reached its closest point from the moon so far, coming within 5,000 kilometres of the lunar surface on Monday, the ESA

said. Scientists were now seeking to stabilize the spacecraft in orbit around the moon. "By about mid-January, SMART-1 will be orbiting the moon at altitudes between 300 kilometres (over the lunar south pole) and 3,000 kilometres (over the lunar north pole), beginning its scientific observations," the ESA said in a statement.

The small spacecraft will make the first comprehensive inventory of key chemical elements in the lunar surface and investigate the theory that the moon was formed following the collision of a smaller planet with Earth, 4.5 billion years ago.

MNA/Reuters



The first European spacecraft sent to the moon has entered lunar orbit, the European Space Agency (ESA) said on 16 Nov, 2004. The SMART-1 spacecraft reached its closest point from the moon so far, coming within 3,100 miles of the lunar surface on Monday, the ESA said. — INTERNET

Survey says Sweden leads world in social sustainability

STOCKHOLM, 17 Nov — Sweden is the world's best performer in environmental and social sustainability, a Swedish official web site reported on Tuesday quoting a new report.

A survey of 30 leading members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) by the Swiss bank Zurich Kantorbank gave Sweden 9.5 points out of a maximum 10.

Denmark came second, with 9.4 points, followed by Switzerland on 8.8 points. At the bottom of the list was the United States on 2.2 points, well behind Turkey and Mexico in 28th and 29th places respectively. The rankings were based on an index that considers countries' performance across a range of indicators, including emissions, biological diversity, energy consumption and participation in international treaties.— MNA/Xinhua

Women make up 60% of Thailand's young HIV patients

BANGKOK, 17 Nov— Women have made up 60 per cent of young HIV/AIDS patients in the 15-24 age group of Thailand, warned the Public Health Ministry.

Some 70,000 Thai youngsters aged between 15 and 24 have HIV and 60 per cent of them young women, Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan was quoted by newspaper *The Nation* as saying on Tuesday.— MNA/Xinhua

Tom Hanks to star in "Da Vinci code" movie

LOS ANGELES, 17 Nov— Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks is expected to star in a film adapted from Dan Brown's popular novel *The Da Vinci Code*, the *Hollywood Reporter* reported Monday.

Hanks, who will play the role of Robert Langdon, the professor

who unravels the mystery, was the top choice for director Ron Howard and producer Brian Grazer, the

report said. Columbia Pictures hopes to begin shooting the film next year.

Talks have begun for Hanks to join the project. "Tom is an exciting actor to watch thinking," Howard was quoted as saying. "We probably don't need his status from a box office standpoint, but he gives Langdon instant legitimacy."

Hanks, who currently can be seen onscreen in animated form in Warner Bros. Pictures' *The Polar Express*, previously worked with Howard in 1995's *"Apollo 13"* and 1984's *"Splash"*.

MNA/Xinhua



Tom Hanks poses with school children as he arrives for the European premiere of 'Polar Express,' at the Vue theatre, Leicester Square in central London on 17 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Global warming threatens Himalayan region

LONDON, 17 Nov — Mount Everest should be put on a United Nations danger list as global warming threatens the Himalayan region, environmentalists said on Wednesday.

Britain-based campaign group Friends of the Earth said melting glaciers had swollen Himalayan lakes and could create floods that would risk lives and damage a unique environment.

The group will deliver a petition to the UN's World Heritage Committee in Paris on Thursday,

together with Everest climbers such as Reinhold Messner, asking for the world's highest mountain to get monitoring and assessment of the risks.

"Mount Everest is a powerful symbol of the natural world, not just in Nepal — if this mountain is threatened by climate change, then we know the

situation is deadly serious," said Prakash Sharma, director of Friends of the Earth Nepal.

"In 1953 snow and ice reached all the way to base camp, but now it ends five miles above," said Pemba Dorje Sherpa, who climbed the mountain in the fastest time of just over eight hours in May.— MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Serbia & Montenegro continue fine form in WC qualifier

BRUSSELS, 18 Nov—Group Seven leaders Serbia & Montenegro continued their fine form in World Cup qualifying with a smash-and-grab 2-0 victory at Belgium on Wednesday.

The result was a big blow to Belgium's hopes. They have only one point from three matches. The unbeaten Serbs have 10 points from four games and have scored 10 goals without reply so far.

Lithuania are second on eight points from four games with favourites Spain on five points from three matches.

Belgium were left to rue a host of missed chances after Zvonimir Vukic gave Serbia a 1-0 lead in the seventh minute in Brussels.

Belgium's Walter Baseggio lost possession and Savo Milosevic fed an offside-looking Vukic who raced clear and beat Silvio Proto in the Belgium goal. Baseggio and Wesley Sonck went close for the Belgians and in the second half substitute striker Luigi Pieroni hit the crossbar twice, first with a right-foot shot and in the final minute with a header. —MNA/Reuters



Serbia and Montenegro's Zvonimir Vukic makes the Serbian sign in victory at the end of their World Cup European Zone Group Seven qualifying match against Belgium at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels on 17 Nov, 2004. Serbia and Montenegro won 2-0. —INTERNET

Ukraine upset Turkey 3-0 in World Cup qualifier

ISTANBUL, 18 Nov — Striker Andriy Shevchenko scored twice as Ukraine upset Turkey 3-0 in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday to move clear at the top of Group Two.

The convincing victory raised Ukraine's points tally to 11, five clear of nearest rivals Turkey, Albania and Denmark.

Ukraine midfielder Oleg Gusev opened the scoring after nine minutes, latching on to a pass from Andriy Voronin and firing the ball into the net from the edge of the penalty area.

Shevchenko doubled the visitors' lead after 17 minutes when he raced away from a shaky Turkish defence on the break and sent a shot from inside the area wide of goalkeeper Rustu Recber.

The AC Milan forward sealed an emphatic victory for Ukraine in the dying minutes, jumping acrobatically to hook a cross into the net from close range.

Turkey coach Ersun Yanal looked glum after the match, which dealt a severe blow to the prospects of the World Cup semifinalists reaching the 2006 tournament in Germany. —MNA/Reuters

Greece beat Kazakhstan 3-1

ATHENS, 18 Nov — Two first-half goals from Werder Bremen striker Angelos Charisteas helped Greece kick-start their World Cup qualifying campaign with a 3-1 victory over Kazakhstan on Wednesday.

Substitute Costas Katsouranis added a third four minutes from time for the European champions while Ruslan Baltiyev grabbed a consolation from the penalty spot a minute later for Kazakhstan.

With captain Theodoros Zagorakis celebrating his 100th cap, Greece's first competitive win since they beat Portugal in July to win Euro 2004 marked the real start to their bid to reach the World Cup finals in Germany in two years time.

After a defeat and two draws in their opening Group Two qualifiers, Greece now have five points from four games — the same as Georgia — and are one point behind Denmark, Turkey and Albania who all have six. —MNA/Reuters

Netherlands ease to 3-0 win over Andorra

BARCELONA, 18 Nov—The Netherlands eased to a 3-0 win over Andorra in Barcelona on Wednesday to go top of World Cup qualifying Group One.

The experienced Philip Cocu opened the scoring after 21 minutes and winger Arjen Robben doubled the lead 10 minutes later with a strike from the edge of the penalty area. Midfielder Wesley Sneijder sealed a comfortable win 12 minutes from time.

The Dutch have 10 points and a game in hand on Romania, who were held to a 1-1 draw by Ar-

menia. The Czech Republic are third with nine points.

The Netherlands started with the 34-year-old Barry van Galen, replacing the injured Rafael van der Vaart, and the AZ Alkmaar midfielder became the oldest player to make his debut for the Dutch national team.

Robben created the first chance for the visitors but after a solo run past two defenders his shot missed target.

After 13 minutes Ildefonso Lima seemed to have opened the scoring for Andorra when he beat goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar in an aerial battle but the goal was ruled out for a foul.

Eight minutes later

Cocu broke the deadlock when he headed a Robben free kick into the net.

The in-form Chelsea winger doubled the Dutch lead 14 minutes before the break with a shot from the edge of the box after the referee missed an obvious handball on the goal line by an Andorra defender.

Moments later Netherlands coach Marco van Basten brought Roy Makaay on for striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, who left the pitch with a hip injury.

The Dutch failed to punish their weak opponents with a hatful of goals in the second half but a Robben cross finally created a chance for Sneijder who scored with a fierce shot. —MNA/Reuters

Sweden thrash Scotland 4-1

ED INBURGH, 18 Nov—Scotland's woes continued as they were thrashed 4-1 at home by Sweden in the first match since the resignation of head coach Bertie Vogts. Forward Marcus Allback led the rout for the visitors at Easter Road on Wednesday with goals after 30 and 49 minutes before substitute Johan Elmander and Fredrik Berglund struck midway through the second half.

Scotland, with Vogts' former assistant Tommy Burns in temporary charge, pulled one back when James McFadden scored with a penalty after 78 minutes.

A lively opening period brought chances to either side. Sweden goalkeeper Magnus Hedman saved Kenny Miller's blistering drive while at the other end Olof Mellberg headed narrowly wide.

Despite being without three of their best attacking options — Henrik Larsson, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Fredrik Ljungberg were rested — the Swedes always had too much class for the hard-working home team.

Ian Murray was forced to head teammate Russell Anderson's header off his own line before Sweden struck when the excellent Christian Wilhelmsson of Anderlecht crossed for Allback to sweep home the opener on 30 minutes.

A strong ending to the first half gave the home fans belief of a recovery but it proved false hope when the visitors cut open Scotland with ease for their second, Kim Kallstrom picking out Allback to score soon after the restart. —MNA/Reuters

Czech Republic beat Macedonia 2-0

SKOPIJE, 18 Nov—Late goals from substitute Vratislav Lokvenc and Jan Koller spared the Czech Republic's blushes and handed the visitors a 2-0 win against Macedonia in a Group One World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

The Czechs, who lost striker Milan Baros to an early injury, had struggled to break down a well-organized Macedonia side beaten by Andorra in their last game.

Lokvenc's appearance as a 76th minute substitute to partner fellow beanpole striker Koller changed the course of the game. VfL Bochum's Lokvenc headed home Karel Poborsky's cross three minutes from time to break the home side's resistance.

Koller then sealed victory in the last minute with a header from Marek Jankulovski's cross.

MNA/Reuters



Ukraine's Andriy Shevchenko (7) celebrates his second goal against Turkey with team mates, Oleg Gusev (9) and Yuriy Dmytrulin (18) as Turkey's Tolga Seyhan reacts during their World Cup European Zone Group Two match at Sukru Saracoglu Stadium in Istanbul on 17 Nov, 2004. Ukraine beat Turkey 3-0. —INTERNET

Portugal in top of group three by beating Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, 18 Nov — Striker Pauleta scored twice to lead Portugal's 5-0 rout of Luxembourg in a World Cup Group Three qualifier on Wednesday.

The win put Portugal top of the group with 13 points from five matches and their 20 goals is the highest scored by any European team in the competition to date. Slovakia are three points behind with a match in hand.

"This win makes us confident that we can go ahead with our preparations for a place in the World Cup finals," Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said after the match. Portugal, who crushed Russia 7-1 in their previous game, went ahead after 11 minutes when

striker Luis Boa Morte tapped in after defender Paulo Ferreira crossed from the right.

Winger Cristiano Ronaldo scored the second goal with a header from a corner by playmaker Deco Sousa. Midfielder Maniche Ribeiro added the third in the 51st minute with a shot from just outside area. Pauleta claimed his first after 66 minutes and added a penalty seven minutes from time — his 36th goal in 67 internationals.

Luxembourg have no points from six matches. Unmarked Manou Schauls squandered a rare Luxembourg chance to score when he failed to collect a cross from the right by Sebastien Remy in the 62nd minute. —MNA/Reuters



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) struggles with Luxembourg's Sebastien Remy during their World Cup European Zone Group Three qualifying match at the Josy Barthel Stadium in Luxembourg, on 17 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

An apple a day really keeps doctor away

WASHINGTON, 18 Nov — An apple a day really does keep the doctor away, thanks to strong antioxidants that fight cell damage, US researchers reported on Tuesday.

Rat brain cells exposed to the antioxidant — in this case quercetin — resisted damage much better than those not treated, the team at Cornell University in New York found.

Antioxidants are compounds that counteract the damage done by chemicals known as free radicals — generated by sunlight, chemical reactions and the stress of day-to-day living.

The researchers say their study adds strength to the theory that the risk of developing Alzheimer's and similar brain diseases might be reduced by eating plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Writing in the December 1 issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, the Cornell team said they soaked rat brain cells in either quercetin or Vitamin C — another potent antioxidant.

The cells were then exposed to

hydrogen peroxide to mimic the type of oxidative cell damage that is believed to occur with Alzheimer's disease.

Brain cells that were treated with quercetin had significantly less damage than the cells treated with Vitamin C and cells that were not treated with antioxidants.

"On the basis of serving size, fresh apples have some of the highest levels of quercetin when compared to other fruits and vegetables and may be among the best food choices for fighting Alzheimer's," CY Lee, a professor and chairman of the Department of Food Science & Technology at Cornell University, who led the study, said in a statement.

"People should eat more apples, especially fresh ones," he added.

Lee said the skins of apples contain the highest levels of quercetin so juice is not necessarily the best source.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand starts scanning container shipment departing for US

BANGKOK, 18 Nov — Thailand and the United States on Tuesday started a security initiative that scans containers bound for the US to prevent terrorist attacks.

"The programme is designed to protect the citizens of Thailand and the US as well as the trade between the two nations," said a Press release issued by the US Embassy in Bangkok.

Under an earlier-reached agreement on the programme, the US Customs and Border Protection will station a group of personnel at the Port of Laem Chabang in Thailand's eastern coast province of Chonburi.

They will work together with the Thai Customs officials in the screening of containers identified as potential terrorist risks.

Under the programme, Customs offi-

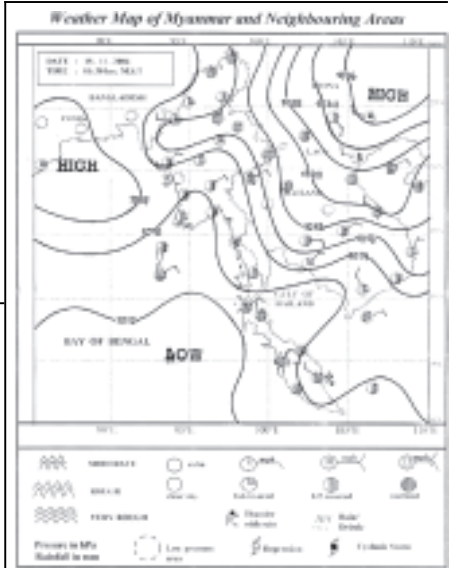
cials of the two countries will inspect and screen containers waiting at Port Laem Chabang to be loaded on US-bound vessels.

"This initiative would make it extremely difficult for terrorists to carry out their destructive plans, while allowing the flow of trade to continue as normal," the US Amba-

sador Darryl N Johnson said at the ceremony marking the launch of the programme.

Besides the port of Laem Chabang, 24 other international ports are currently in the container security initiative network, including Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong in the region.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Thursday, 18 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Yangon Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Co Co Island (0.04) inch. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Northern Shan State and Magway Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State and Upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (4°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 17-11-2004 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 18-11-2004 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-11-2004 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 16-11-2004 was (7.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-11-2004 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 8 mph from North at (13:30) hours MST on 17-11-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-11-2004: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Mon, Kayin State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-11-2004: Likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-11-2004: Generally fair weather.

Cambodia's registered investment projects rise sharply in 2004

PHNOM PENH, 18 Nov — The number of investment projects registered at the Centre for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) this year has increased sharply compared to the same period in 2003, though the overall fixed assets of these projects have seen a slight decline, local newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The CDC figures,

quoted by *The Cambodia Daily*, showed that from January to October, the agency approved 48 projects worth 206.4 million US dollars in fixed assets.

During the same period last year, the CDC only approved 37 large investment projects, worth a combined 219.4 million dollars in fixed assets, according to the CDC figures.

ures.


The real gains have been made among domestic investors. In the past, Cambodian investors were hesitant to take risks on larger enterprises, generally resigning themselves to small shares in joint ventures, said Chea Vuthy, director of the CDC's Information Department.

Chea Vuthy said the domestic investors were

encouraged by the government's commitment to offering more favourable private-sector environment.

The CDC statistics also showed the changes of capital investment by sector. As in 2003, the industries sector is still the largest investment sector, but has seen a significant decline.

MNA/Xinhua



Friday, November 19

View on today:

7:00 am

1. ရွေးချယ်စရာ: ကျွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြော၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောသံဃာတော်တို့၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရု၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှိခိုးသောအခါ၊ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

8:00 am

5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

6. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:20 am

7. စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းပုထိုးလုံးတံတား

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

4:55 pm

5. အစားသစ်ကဏ္ဍသို့ ပညာရေး ရရှိမြှင့်တင်ရေးသင်တန်း - ဘုရားတော် (ရတနာအလှူပြု) (ရတနာ)

5:05 pm

6. Song of national races

5:15 pm

7. ရှည်စရာနှင့်ပုခုံးအားကစားအပြိုင်

5:25 pm

8. ဂီတမဟာသရုပ်စရာ

5:50 pm

9. မြန်မာ့ဓမ္မပြန့်ပွားရေး

6:05 pm

10. Discovery

6:15 pm

11. Song of yesteryears

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လှန်လွှဲ "လွန်စွာလွန်စွာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)

7:35 pm

15. ပညာရေးအလှူတော် နတ်လှူသောအခါ

7:45 pm


16. ထက်မြက်စွာချွန်ပညာရည်စွန့် (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:55 pm

17. ခေတ်မီဆန်းသစ်စာပေလေး: လွှမ်းမိုး

8:00 pm

18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. Myanmar Movie: "ရွှေစုံကြွေးစုံကြွေးကောင်းကင်" လှမ်းမြင်ရာအခန်း: သားညို၊ ထက်ထက်၊ မိုး၊ ဦး၊ မိုး၊ မြတ်နိုးသူ၊ ကြည်လင်လှိုင်၊ မြင့်မြင့်စိန် (အပိုင်း-၂) (ခါရံတော်- နောင်ထွန်းလွင်ညိုလွန်းလွင်)
22. မင်းလွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစီးဦးဆောင်သော အရပ်အယံမျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘဝနာ ဖွားဖွားမြင်းတရားတော်
23. The next day's programme



Friday, November 19

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music: -Swear it again

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music: -Longer than life

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music: -Yah 3

9.05 am International news

9.10 am Music: -Simple thing

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Lunch time music: -Keep it to myself -One for sorrow

9.00 pm World of music: -Song from:

9.15 pm Article/Music

9.25 pm Music at your request: -Endless love -If you walk away

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

PM Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs of LPDR



YANGON, 18 Nov—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, Lt-Gen Soe Win received Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall

here this morning. Present together with Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win were, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the Political Department U Thauung Tun, and Mr. Kobkeo Luangkhot, Charge d' Affairs of the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Lao Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Somsavat Lengsavad. — MNA

Prison terms of 3,937 convicts suspended

YANGON, 18 Nov—The State Peace and Development Council had already dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau on 22 October, 2004.

It was observed that the NIB might have committed irregularities. And according to the review of the irregularities, prison terms of 3,937 convicts have been suspended with effect from today, 18 November 2004, and they will be released from the respective prisons.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off Myanmar Tatmadaw Sports Team

YANGON, 18 Nov—Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Management Board Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein saw off Myanmar Tatmadaw Sports team led by Col

Htein Lin, Principal of the Defence Services Self Defence and Sports Institute at Mingaladon Air Base this morning to participate in the ASEAN Armed Forces Football and Volleyball tournament in commemoration of 60th Armed Forces Day of Vietnam to be held in

the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw Sports team was also seen off by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy)

Captain Nyan Tun, Deputy Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence,

chairmen of Tatmadaw Football and Volleyball Committees and officials, Military Attaché Senior Colonel Nguyen Van Thanh of the Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam and officials.

Before their departure, at the hall of Mingaladon Air Base,

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein urged them to try to achieve success in the tournament and promote dignity of the Tatmadaw and the country.

Next, the Myanmar Tatmadaw Sports Team was seen off by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gives instructions to Tatmadaw sports contingent to ASEAN Defence Services soccer and volleyball tournaments. — MNA