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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

National Convention to resume in Feb 2005 Armed groups trust in and support Road Map Already made pledge to attend National Convention till its successful conclusion

YANGON, 23 Nov — The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee held a coordination meeting in Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnhapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 3 pm today.

Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that the Road Map or the seven-point future policy programme of the State is not laid down by an individual person but by the Government, that is the State Peace and Development Council itself, as its policy. It does not concern only single individual, he reiterated.

Thus, the State Peace and Development Council

will continue to work step by step in accord with the Road Map, without making any changes, for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, he asserted.

Concerning the armed groups, which have negotiated and reached agreement with the Government to return to the legal fold, the Secretary-1 made it clear that they have not reached an understanding and agreement with any individual alone, but only with the Government to do so.

As the armed groups have trust in and supported the Road Map, they have already made a pledge during their talks with the Government that they will attend the National Convention till its successful conclusion, he noted.

The Government on its part will continue to

convene the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map as well as the most important part, without fail, he vowed.

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the meeting of NCC Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

The armed groups, which have negotiated and reached agreement with the Government to return to the legal fold have not reached an understanding and agreement with any individual alone, but only with the Government to do so.



Dignitaries at the meeting of National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 November, 2004

Strive for regional and national development

For parallel development of all states and divisions and higher living standard of the entire national people, development tasks are being carried out systematically in the Union of Myanmar. In doing so, networks of roads and bridges that will contribute to regional development are being constructed and many plans for the construction of new roads and bridges are also under way.

With a view to serving the long-term interests of various national races living in different parts of the Union the government is building roads and bridges essential for regional development and higher socio-economic status of the people.

The opening ceremony of the Patheingyi Bridge was held near Mayangchaung village in Patheingyi Township on 22 November and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of Central Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport.

In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that it is very important to make special efforts to boost the all-round production of Ayeyawady Division by making effective use of favourable conditions created by the government and it is necessary for the people in the region to safeguard sovereignty of the State with patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

The newly-built bridge is the 176th in the entire nation and the 40th in Ayeyawady Division built since 1988 and it is 2,140 feet long. The bridge will help contribute to higher living standard of the people residing in Patheingyi Township on the west bank of the Ngawun river and Thabaung and Ngapudaw Townships. People living on the west bank of the river can now easily go to downtown Patheingyi and do the shopping and trading. Moreover, holidaymakers can reach such beach resorts as Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung in a short time.

The government has been spending large sums of money on transport infrastructure for socio-economic development of various regions across the nation. Therefore, the people, on their part, are required to strive for the sake of regional and national development and their own interests by making effective use of development infrastructures built by the government.



Deputy Director U Maung Myint of the Social Welfare Department and the principal accept K 50,000 and toys donated by Chairman Mr Shuko Murakami of Rurikakuen School in Japan. — H

The best time to plant a tree was
twenty years ago.
The second best time is now.

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

F & R Minister meets trainees of Banking Services Course

YANGON, 23 Nov — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun yesterday met with trainees of the Banking Services Course No 4 (Officer Level) and gave instructions.

A total of 41 trainees from the Central Bank of Myanmar and private banks are attending the course conducted by the supervisory committee for banks at the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects the warehouse of the Customs Department on Strand Road. — MNA

storehouse of the Customs Department on Strand Road and inspected the storage of goods and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Workshop on improvement of efficiency of civil service opens

YANGON, 23 Nov — Workshop on improvement of efficiency of civil service-2004, organized by Civil Service Selection and Training Board (CSSTB) and Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, was opened at Sedona Hotel today.

Chairman of the CSSTB Dr Than Nyun delivered an inauguration speech and U Aye Lwin of Sasakawa Peace Foundation extended greeting.

Dr Than Nyun gave talks on interface between centre and periphery in Myanmar. Next, Associate

Professor Dr Charas Suwanmala of the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, Dr Charas Suwanmala and Pro-rector of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) Dr Kan Shein also read the papers on Decentralization in Thailand and Development Plans in Myanmar and the Civil Service respectively. Those present also took part in discussion and the first day session of the workshop concluded in the afternoon.

MNA

10th Asia Wushu Federation Congress held

YANGON, 23 Nov — The 10th Asia Wushu Federation (WFA) Congress was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the WFA Mr Li Zhijian of the People's Republic of China and executives, representatives of member coun-

tries to participate in the 6th Asia Wushu Championship and 25 regions.

After the Chairman of the WFA had delivered a speech, the representative of Myanmar Olympic Committee extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, officials concerned presented re-

spective reports on functions of the WFA and techniques and President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay, preparations for holding the 6th ASIA Wushu Championship. Afterwards, preparation for adding to the rules and regulations of the WFA, constitution of members of

the WFA, preparations to hold the Asia Youths Wushu Championship 2005 in Singapore and Wushu event in the 15th Asia Games 2006 to be held in Doha of Qatar were discussed.

Also the 27th Executive Meeting of WFA took place at Nikko Hotel this morning. Present on the occasion were President of the WFA Minister of Sports Mr Li Zhijian of the People's Republic of China, vice-presidents, the secretary, executive U Khin Maung Lay and executives. The managers and coaches held the meeting on techniques at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel this morning.

Those present and the participating athletes were hosted a dinner at Nikko Hotel in the evening. — MNA



The 10th Congress of the Asian Wushu Federation in progress. — MNA

APEC leaders promise to revive world trade talks

SANTIAGO (Chile), 22 Nov — Asia-Pacific leaders promised on Sunday to try to revive world trade talks and fight terrorism.

The leaders of 21 Pacific Rim states from China to Canada, gathered in Chile, said they would try to push forward with ambitious free trade talks that began in Doha in 2001 but broke down two years later in a dispute over farm subsidies.

The 21 leaders to pose for pictures with brightly coloured ponchos draped over their suits. An appearance in local costume is an APEC tradition.

"We welcomed the new momentum acquired by the Doha Development Agenda negotiations," the APEC leaders said in a final communique. "We pledged to provide leadership to continuing this momentum."

The final declaration also called for "substantially greater market access and fewer distortions" in agriculture, which is heavily subsidized in industrial nations such as those of the European Union, Japan and the United States.

Leaders also promised to consider standardizing bilateral free-trade pacts proliferating across the world's most economically dynamic region. They

pledged cooperation to fight terrorism and corruption.

The sagging dollar and US trade and budget deficits and AIDS, were discussed during the summit.

But the biggest interest among business leaders was generated by China.

Seeking to lock in supplies for its booming economy, China last week launched trade talks with the world's largest copper exporter, Chile, and discussed big deals with agriculture powerhouses Brazil and Argentina.

Next year's APEC summit will be held in South Korea, which wants the group to achieve free trade among members by 2020, Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon told *Reuters*.

"When we hold this APEC leaders meeting in 2005, Korea will place more emphasis so that APEC can give much bigger and stronger impetus" to key World Trade Organization talks to be held in Hong Kong in December 2005, Ban said.

MNA/Reuters

Asia's first bat protection, research centre opens in Beijing

BEIJING, 22 Nov — A bat protection and research centre, first of its kind in Asia, has set its debut in the suburban Beijing, according to sources with Beijing Municipal Wildlife Protection Centre.

The new centre was launched by the Animal Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Fangshan District Government, where it is located. The bat protection reserve covers an area of 1.61 square kilometres.

Bionic research conducted in the centre is expected to shed some light on aircraft production and renovation, said CAS scientist Zhang Shuyi.

The centre consists of two parts,

namely, the exhibition hall and a huge living room for the bats. By the year 2005, bat samples and pictures as well as living bats will become features of the base. Visitors can watch the bat-catching-fish scenes through infrared telescope, according to Zhang.

China's bat population shrank drastically in the past 30 years, causing serious problems in environmental protection, said the CAS expert.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia calls for closer cooperation among big Asian cities

JAKARTA, 23 Nov — The Indonesian Government on Monday called on Asian big cities to strengthen co-operation to cope with the challenges facing global community today.

"We live in an open world with mutual de-

pendence in economic, social, technological and security fields," Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said when opening the gathering of 12 Asian governors and mayors here.

"We remember during the wake of the SARS (se-

vere acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak, all Asian cities were terrified and forged cooperation to deal with it," he said. Kalla added that Asian cities also need to join hands in the global fight against terrorism. — MNA/Xinhua



APEC leaders compare traditional Chilean ponchos during a group photo in Los Naranjos courtyard in Santiago, on 21 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Arab states suggest Iraq poll postponement

BAGHDAD, 23 Nov — Amid continuing violence in Iraq, Arab delegations to an international conference on the conflict-stricken country said it might be better to delay Iraqi elections beyond January to ensure full participation.

The Iraqi government said however that after the US assault on the city of Fallujah it was optimistic about the prospects for holding the elections on 30 January despite the possibility that some Iraqis Sunnis will boycott them.

Egypt, Jordan and the Arab League all raised the possibility of delaying the elections beyond January, the date set by the UN Security Council, if the process is not inclusive. Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu al-Ghaith of Egypt, the conference host, said the debate would indicate "whether it is really possible to hold these elections at the time fixed or whether the matter requires additional thought".

Hisham Yusuf, a senior adviser to Arab League chief Amr Musa, said many delegations had raised the question: "We would prefer inclusiveness by giving them more time rather than exclusiveness and on time," he told *Reuters*.

But a senior US official travelling with Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Sharm al-Shaikh conference said Washington believed the 30 January election date was "very feasible" and was working to help Iraqi leaders meet their goal. — Internet

MNA/Reuters

1,228 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov — As of Monday, 22 November, 2004, at least 1,228 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 955 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department's tally, which was last updated Monday at 10 am EDT.

A group of Iraqi boys watch as soldiers with the US Army's Stryker Brigade examine an abandoned police station in Mosul, on 21 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

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

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat

operations in Iraq had ended, 1,090 US military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 846 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A US soldier died Monday of wounds suffered in an attack in Baghdad the night before. —Internet

China, Belgium hold seminars to enhance trade ties

BEIJING, 23 Nov— China and Belgium started series of seminars in downtown Beijing on Monday to enhance trade and economic ties. Belgian Prince Philippe addressed the opening ceremony, vowing to further bilateral commercial cooperation, especially between small enterprises.

Leading Belgium's largest-ever business delegation, Prince Philippe said that the two countries should promote cooperation between small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the Belgium-China equity investment fund will spur such cooperation.

As the location of the European Union headquarters, Belgium enjoys good geographic advantage and hopes to see more Chinese companies to go to Belgium for investment.

"We are important partners not only in commercial sector, but also in science, technology, education, research and culture," he said, noting Belgian enterprises hope to contribute to the Olympic Games 2008 to be held in Beijing.

Belgium is one of the first developed countries investing in China. The number of its invested projects in China reached nearly 500 by September this year, with a contractual investment of 1.16 billion US dollars, according to Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Zhang Zhigang.

Those projects range from telecommunication, medicine and bio-technology to printing, beer, textile

machinery and steel, Zhang said, adding there is huge potential for further cooperation thanks to mutually complementary economies.

China has become Belgium's second largest trade partner and import source, as well as fourth largest export market besides EU members. The two countries' annual trade volume has surged by 300 times since they forged diplomatic ties in 1971.

In the first nine months of this year, China-Belgium trade hit 6.6 billion US dollars, up 36 per cent year-on-year and was close to the trade volume last year, according to Chinese statistics.

During the seminars, the participants will discuss issues related to the sustainable development of forestry, transportation, Chinese trade laws and two-way investment.

The 500-member delegation is composed of representatives from the financial sector, ports and airports, universities, industrial and service companies and government officials. After their two-day stay in Beijing, they will also visit Shanghai, China's economic hub. — MNA/Xinhua

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Vietnam to post bigger rubber export earnings in 2004

HANOI, 23 Nov — Vietnam's rubber export turnover this year will surpass last year's figure of 383 million US dollars due to price increases, the Trade Ministry said on Monday.

The export price of SVR 3L, Vietnam's main rubber item, stood at 1,288 US dollars per ton last week, up 25 dollars compared to late last month, said the ministry, adding prices of other rubber items increased by three to 22 dollars per ton.

Vietnam exported 301,000 tons of rubber worth 346 million dollars in the first 10 months of

this year, down 14.4 per cent in volume, but up 17.8 per cent in value against the same period of last year. Its biggest markets were China, the United States and Singapore.

Prices of Vietnamese rubber in China surged in the 10-month period due to rising demand for the product of Chinese tyre producers. The prices, however, are likely to decline in the market in the coming time, the ministry predicted.

Vietnam cultivates 460,800 hectares of rubber trees with an estimated output of 404,600 tons of rubber this year, posting year-on-year rises of 4.5 per cent and 11.3 per cent respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

US death toll in Iraq for Nov tops 100

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov—Three Marines who were wounded in action during the Fallujah offensive later died at American hospitals in Germany and the United States, the Pentagon said Monday, raising the US military death toll in Iraq for November to at least 101.

Since the initial US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the only other month in which US deaths exceeded 100 was last April, when insurgent violence flared and Marines fought fierce battles in Fallujah and Ramadi.

The Pentagon said two Marines died Saturday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany. Cpl Joseph J Heredia, 22, of Santa Maria, Calif, was wounded in action 10 November in Fallujah, and Lance Cpl Joseph T. Welke, 20, of Rapid City, SD, was wounded there 19 November, officials said.

Landstuhl is a hub for seriously wounded US soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, and officials last week said the flow of injured to the hospital jumped to about twice the normal rate after the battle for Fallujah began.

The Marines have suffered most of the Fallujah battle casualties. An exact number is not available because the Marines usually do not specify the city in which a casualty happened. Since 1 Nov, the Marines have had at least 69 deaths throughout Iraq — mostly in Fallujah. That is by far the deadliest month of the war for the Marines; their previous high was 52 last April. —Internet



Thai Deputy Prime Minister Pinij Charusombat, right, gestures during his meeting with Miss Universe 2004 Jennifer Hawkins of Australia, second right, Miss USA 2004 Shandi Finnessey, left, and Miss Teen USA 2004 Shelley Henning, second left, at the government house in Bangkok on, 22 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

70 antiques returned to Iraq's Nasiriyah museum

BAGHDAD, 23 Nov—Police in Iraq's southern city of Nasiriyah, some 350 km south of Baghdad, retrieved 70 stolen antiques and gave them back to the city's museum, local newspaper *Al Sabah* reported on Monday.

Nasiriyah's antiquity protection police force, which was estab-

lished to prevent the smuggling of the ruins and antiques, managed to seize 70 stolen antiques of the ancient times in the regions of Oma and Jokha with the help of the Italian police, said the report.

The Nasiriyah antiquity inspection committee received these antiques from the police and restored them to the

museum, added the report.

Museums throughout Iraq, especially the Iraqi National Museum located in Baghdad, witnessed a wave of rampant robberies and lootings shortly after the US-led coalition forces launched the war on Iraq in March, and thousands of antiques have been stolen and smuggled out of the country.

Although great efforts are being made to retrieve these valuable antiques, a large number of them are still missing. —Internet

Chinese, Peruvian presidents meet to further ties

SANTIAGO, 22 Nov—Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo Manrique said here Saturday that Peru recognizes China's full market economy status and is ready to further develop bilateral cooperation in investment, economic and trade.

The Peruvian President made the remarks when meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the 12th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in the Chilean capital, according to a Press release issued by the Chinese delegation. Both China and Peru are members of the forum.

Toledo said Peru encouraged more Chinese business investment in the South American country. He also reiterated Peru's one-China policy.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers force their way into a house in the Iraqi flashpoint city of Ramadi, 100 kms west of Baghdad on 21 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

China's cotton information market draws investors

BEIJING, 23 Nov — China's fledgling but growing cotton information market is attracting attention from international investors, with two of the world's leading information firms rolling out plans to increase their presence in China.

Globecot Inc, a US-based cotton information provider, plans to launch a web site by the end of this year or early next year to offer Chinese and international cotton information in both English and Chinese, Monday's *China Daily* quoted Gong Wenlong, chief executive officer of China Cotton Information Centre (CNCIC), as saying.

CNCIC is Globecot's Chinese partner. They entered a strategic partnership in July and vowed to form a 50-50 joint venture.

"Although the venture has not been officially registered, CNCIC and Globecot have begun information swaps and technical cooperation," said Gong.

Gong said that the portal could attract 2,000 paid users within three years. He plans to set subscription fees at an average of 2,500 US dollars a year.

The two sides already launched the Globecot-CNCOTTON International Cotton Price Index, based on Asian and Pan-Pacific markets, in September. The index will be a "thermometer" of the world's cotton prices, Gong said.

Meanwhile, Britain-based Cotlook Ltd, the world's leading cotton and textile market information provider, also plans to launch a series of products via

a joint venture it has formed with two Chinese partners.

Beijing Cotton Outlook (BCO), as the JV is named, was created in August by Cotlook, China Cotton Association (CCA), the umbrella organization of the Chinese cotton industry; and the China National Cotton Exchange (CNCE), the body responsible for spot auctions of government reserves and e-trading for forward delivery.

"We are going to promote our products through web sites, mobile messages, journals and tailored information services for special users by combining CNCE and CCA's local resources and Cotlook's international experiences," BCO General Manager Sun Juan said.

The need for information is all the more pressing since China's cotton industry has been greatly integrated into the global market, and domestic cotton prices are subject to the market instead of State direction or instruction.

And steep slumps in cotton prices in the last quarter of 2003, which led to great losses for textile companies and cotton distributors, also made them keen on obtaining timely information, in a manner without precedent. — *MNA/Xinhua*

25th annual senior citizens' week starts in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 23 Nov — The 25th annual Senior Citizens' Week, with the theme of "stay active and involved", was launched here on Sunday.

Speaking in a hospital to celebrate the beginning of the event, Dr Balaji Sadasivan, Senior Minister of State for Information, Communications and the Arts and Health, encouraged all Singaporeans to plan for their golden years so that they can continue to live healthy lives, be financially stable and have fulfilling lives as grandparents and active senior citizens in the community.

He announced that the Ministry of Health has launched a web site to pass useful information to older

adults and their families to help them plan for their care in their old age.

"This web site has health information on the effects of aging, the actions that one can do to cope with aging, and the long-term health services that are available to the older adults," said Balaji, adding that it is part of the e-citizen government web site. According to local Press reports on Sunday, more than 50 different activities will be taking place all over the island state during the coming week. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia committed to free trade under WTO

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — Indonesia remains committed to the goals of free trade but it will also exercise its right to protect its industries and workers as far as allowed under the World Trade Organization (WTO), Chief Economic Minister Aburizal Bakrie has said.

"There is no question that free trade will have to

be implemented. The opportunities presented are immense," Aburizal was quoted on Monday by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

"The Bogor Goals for free trade and investment in the Asia Pacific Region remain in place," Aburizal said, referring to the phrase now widely used to denote the campaign to turn the huge region into one giant free trade zone.

MNA/Xinhua

US announces death of six troops from Iraq force

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — The US Defence Department announced the recent deaths of a soldier and five Marines from its forces in Iraq, including three who died after being transferred out of the country for treatment.

All had been on duty in Al-Anbar Province which includes the city of Fallujah, where US forces say they are completing a major operation to eject insurgents, said a Pentagon statement. Two Marines, identified as Corporal Bradley Arms, 20, and Lance Corporal Demarkus Brown, 22, died Friday in Al-Anbar.

The others died in US military hospitals in Germany and Washington.

Internet

Bomb found on commercial flight in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov — A homemade bomb was found Monday on a commercial flight inside Iraq, prompting additional screening measures to go into effect at Baghdad International Airport, the US Embassy said.

No further details were released and the statement did not say whether the affected flight had arrived or was preparing to depart.

"American citizens are encouraged to review their travel plans to determine whether travel on commercial carriers servicing Iraq is necessary at this time," the embassy said.

Commercial flights

resumed to and from Baghdad on 15 Nov after being suspended for a week under a state of emergency declared on the eve of the US-led assault on the insurgent stronghold of Falluja. Aircraft flying into and out of Baghdad have been fired on frequently by guerillas, and planes take a number of precautions to minimize attack.

On 27 June insurgents fired on an Australian C-130 military trans-

port after takeoff from Baghdad's airport, killing an American passenger and forcing the aircraft to return.

INTERNET

A US soldier takes position during a house search in the Iraqi flashpoint city of Ramadi, 100 kms west of Baghdad on 21 Nov, 2004. — *Internet*



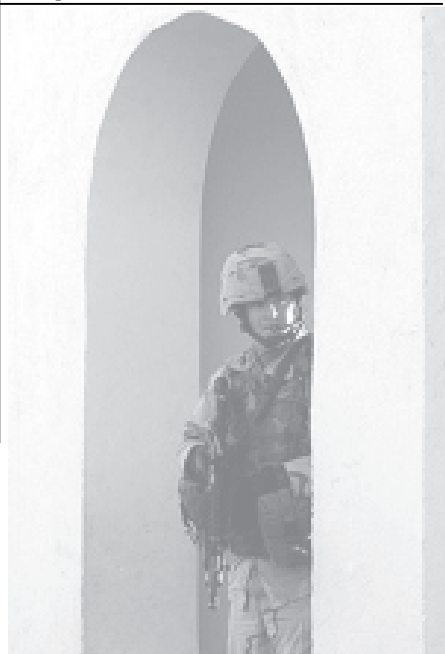
Bulgarians visit the 'Snailart' exhibition in central Sofia, on 18 Nov 2004. Some 30 snails designed by local artists will be displayed around key areas of the Bulgarian capital to illustrate the country's slow but sure progress to the European Union. — INTERNET

Bangkok ranks best Asian city tourism destination

BANGKOK, 22 Nov — Bangkok and the northern capital of Chiang Mai have been ranked by a popular magazine the *Conde Nast Traveller* the 1st and 4th respectively best tourism destinations in Asia, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Los Angeles was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying on Sunday.

The magazine has made a survey for the 17th consecutive year in its "Top 100 Best in the World 2004" in which frequent travellers were asked about their favourite cities, resorts, islands, hotels and luxury liners, the report said. In the category of favourite islands, Phuket and Samui were ranked second and fifth respectively out of the 10 most popular islands in Asia and the Indian Ocean. Three Thai resorts namely Amanpuri in Phuket, Four Seasons in Chiang Mai and Le Meridien in Phuket were ranked 5th, 8th and 10th respectively, the agency quoted the survey by the upmarket magazine as saying.

Eight deluxe hotels in Bangkok were ranked among the top of 50 hotels in the region. The Peninsula Hotel was chosen as the number one on the list, the report added. — *MNA/Xinhua*



China to work with Egypt to promote bilateral relations

CAIRO, 22 Nov— China will work with Egypt to promote the development of bilateral strategic and cooperative relations, said Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju at a meeting here on Sunday with Egyptian President Muhammed Hosni Mubarak.

Huang said Egypt is an important cooperative partner of China among Arab and African countries, and bilateral relations, especially economic and trade cooperation, have witnessed positive progress with efforts from both sides under the direction in the new century mapped out by heads of the two countries.

Mubarak said Egypt and China boast sound political relations and there are vast potentials for bilateral economic and

trade cooperation.

He said Egypt is building its Suez economic zone and it hopes to learn from China's experiences and strengthen cooperation with China. He said the Egyptian Government and he himself attach great importance to the strategic and cooperative relations with China, and are full of confidence in the prospects for bilateral ties.

In the talks here on Sunday with Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef, Huang made a four-

point proposal for the further development of bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The first is to enhance contacts between enterprises of the two sides and strengthen trade relations in their complementary fields.

The second is to expand bilateral cooperation in telecommunications, aviation and other high-tech areas, push forward energy cooperation, and encourage joint investment in other countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian cocoa output expected to drop

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — Indonesia expects to see lower cocoa output this year and next year as unfavourable weather and widespread pest infestation continue to suppress productivity, an industry association has said.

Indonesian Cocoa Association Chairman Zulhedy Sikumbang said that a possible severe drought could further drag down cocoa production already hurt by an attack of cocoa pod borers.

"Cocoa is very sensitive to rainfall levels. A severe drought would certainly cut our production," Zulhedy was quoted on Monday by The *Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

He said this year's production could be as low as 385,000 tons, down from last year's 390,000 tons because of a longer-than-expected dry season.

"Rain just started falling in November, delaying our harvest from the expected September to this month," he said.

A severe drought next year might further cut production to no more than 375,000 tons, according to the chairman.

There is a growing fear that a long drought, possibly caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, could occur next

year.

Zulhedy said a drop in cocoa production as a consequence of a drought would boost the price of the commodity. When El Nino hit the region in 1997, cocoa prices soared to 2,000 US dollars a ton from 1,000 dollars a ton.

Cocoa prices hovered at about 1,400 dollars per ton throughout the year until early this month, when unrest in the Ivory Coast drove up prices to about 1,800 dollars.

With the situation in Ivory Coast apparently improving, Zulhedy projected price would return to 1,400 dollars by January next year.

Indonesia, now the third largest cocoa exporter after Ivory Coast and Ghana, accounts for about 11 percent of global supplies, which stand at 3 million tons per annum, the newspaper said.

In 2002, Indonesia's cocoa output reached its peak at 433,411 tons.

MNA/Xinhua



US troops secure part of a highway in western Baghdad, on 21 Nov, 2004 after a car bomb exploded next to US military convoy wounding five soldiers, according to the military.—INTERNET

မြန်မာ့စာပေသိပ္ပံလေ့လာမှုတိုက်

China's native tiger in wild reduced to less than 30

GUANGZHOU, 22 Nov— The results of a recent survey show that number of south China tigers living in the wild is now less than 30.

The conclusion was based on scientific analysis made by a joint survey team consisting of scientists from the State Forestry Administration of China and the World Nature Fund. It was released at a national symposium on South China Tiger held in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

Many of the tigers in the wild are scattered throughout Mount Luoxiao and Mount Leigong, located on the borders of Jiangxi, Hunan and Guangdong provinces in south China.

In addition, China has 66 South China Tigers raised in 19 zoos. The 38 males and 28 females are all offspring of six wild tigers seized in 1956.

South China tiger, also known as the Chinese Tiger, is an endangered animal native to southern China. The tiger used to roam around mountain forests in south, east, central and southwest China. Due to war, hunting and environmental deterioration over the past century, the species is on the verge of extinction. The species has

been listed as one of the world's ten most endangered animal species. International experts predict tigers will disappear by 2010 if they are not well and meticulously protected.

To prevent the species from extinction, China will send five to 10 Chinese tigers to South Africa for wilderness survival training. These Chinese tigers and their offspring will be sent back to China in 2008, coinciding with the Olympics Games in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese President says development top priority for HK

SANTIAGO, 22 Nov— Chinese President Hu Jintao told the chief executive of Hong Kong on Sunday that development is the top priority for the special administrative region.

Hu and Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa had breakfast together on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting.

The President said Hong Kong now enjoys social stability, economic recovery and the main consensus in Hong Kong is seeking development and harmony. Hu hoped that Hong Kong would continue to remain prosperous and stable and put development at top priority so that people in Hong Kong can have concrete benefit.

He promised that the Central Government will continue to be concerned

about and support the socio-economic development of Hong Kong.

Tung Chee-hwa thanked the Central Government's support and said the special administrative government will continue to operate according to law, and unite all Hong Kong citizens to for a better performance of Hong Kong.

The chief executive said Hong Kong will further develop its economy through seeking new growth areas. The special administrative government will improve the livelihood of people and help those in need.

MNA/Xinhua

Filipino health workers wear face masks at San Lazaro hospital in Manila on 22 November, 2004.—INTERNET

WHO calls for closer ties against epidemics

KAMPALA, 22 Nov— The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for close inter-country cooperation in the fight against anthrax, cholera and other epidemics along common borders of the Great Lakes region countries.

WHO inter-country epidemiologist for the Great Lakes Region Dr Nestor Ndayimirije was quoted Saturday by local Press as saying that inter-border cooperation was vital in disease control, prevention and response.—MNA/Xinhua

Successful goodwill visit to Nanning, PRC

U Zaw

A Myanmar delegation headed by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the first China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China, to further enhance friendship and cooperation in the region. Myanmar, a member of the Association of the

in Nanning on 3 November morning, and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit continued in the evening. The summit was held with the aim of establishing the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA) and promoting mutual understanding, mutual investment and exchange of knowledge between one region and another. Exchange of views through the China-ASEAN Expo has con-

Autonomous Region with a population of over 48 million is home to 12 national races. With 14 towns including Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Region is located in the southern China and adjacent to the northern Vietnam.

Guangxi Zhuang Region, where south-east China, southern China and ASEAN regions meet, is a strategic region enjoying trade prosperity. Paying a courtesy call on

economic development is brighter than Yunnan Province. The region also enjoys better transport of commodities as it can be accessible by sea.

At first, I didn't think highly of Nanning for it was learnt to be an autonomous region. Only when I arrived there, was I amazed to see the scenic beauty of Nanning which is clean and pleasant with parks, lawns and flowering plants. Under grand urbanization project, there are concrete roads. Nanning had won many medals as the green city of China, the cleanest city of China and as the best city of China in environmental conservation. The city dwellers are proud of their city as it has a lake, a river and a mountain. Nanhui lake of the city however cannot match Kandawgyi and Inya Lakes of Yangon in terms of natural beauty and size.

The holding of such ceremonies on a grand scale in the clean and beautiful city, which were attended by the representatives from various nations, is something to be proud of not only for Nanning but also for the entire PRC. Although all the hotels were occupied by guests, all the guests and people of host nation China took their positions at the Expo and other ceremonies in a systematic manner. All abided by rules and regulations prescribed. The master of ceremonies was articulate in both Chinese and English. The PA system installed at the hall was excellent.

Huge TVs were provided for those who were seated far from the stage. This being the case, the opening ceremony of the Expo which was attended by over 300,000 people was of high standard.

Damsels from the PRC and ASEAN nations saying prayers with each pot filled with water from rivers of the respective nations could be vividly seen through TVs. The objective could not be yet realized. According to the agenda of the ceremony, Chinese youths presented jugs of the respective nations to Vice-President of the State Council of the PRC Madame Wu Yi and leaders of ASEAN nations, who were on the stage. Next, the leaders poured water from the jugs at the designated places and there has emerged a beautiful fountain. The meeting of water from China and ASEAN nations means the integration of China and ASEAN nations in fostering friendship and understanding and bilateral trade. The performance of Chinese cultural troupes made the ceremony alive all the more.

The opening ceremony with a wide range of items on display could reflect the integration of China and ASEAN nations. Altogether 516 foreign companies including those from Myanmar along with their Chinese counterparts participated in it. It is learnt that altogether 231 contracts on

marketing were signed. As a result, trade and business in the region could be created.

It is sure that the Expo held in Nanning, the green city of China, will contribute much to ensuring mutual understanding, cooperation and bilateral trade between China and ASEAN nations. It is safe to say that the trade volume between China and ASEAN nations will increase up to US\$ 100 billion in 2005 as expected, from US\$ 78.2 billion.

On 3 November evening, together with the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, the Cambodian Prime Minister, the Laotian Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers of Thailand and Vietnam, the commerce ministers from respective ASEAN nations, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials and entrepreneurs, who had been invited by Vice-President of the State Council of the PRC Madame Wu Yi, attended the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and party together with their counterparts from other nations also attended the summit.

Vice-President Madame Wu Yi, the prime ministers from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar and the deputy prime ministers from Thailand and



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit at Nanning, the People's Republic of China on 3-11-2004. — MNA

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), has stood as a Paukphaw nation maintaining friendly ties with the PRC.

During his tour of the PRC, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win was accompanied by Minister for National Planning & Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and heads of department.

The China-ASEAN Expo 2004 is the product of the meeting between leaders of the PRC and ASEAN nations, held in Bali, Indonesia. The China-ASEAN Expo, which would be able to further enhance friendship and cooperation between the two main regions for the establishment of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA), to be held in Nanning, the PRC, yearly.

The first China-ASEAN Expo was opened on a grand scale

tributed much to further strengthening cooperation between the PRC and the ASEAN region.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Sandech Hun Sen and wife, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and wife, the deputy prime ministers from Vietnam and Thailand, the respective ministers from Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia, Vice-President of the State Council of the PRC Madame Wu Yi, the Minister of Commerce, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials were already in Nanning. In addition, over 18,000 entrepreneurs at home and abroad were also there.

Nanning where the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the first China-ASEAN Expo were held is the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and is also known as the Green City of China. The population of Nanning is over six million. Guangxi Zhuang

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, General Secretary of the Regional Party Mr Cao Bochun said that he was so pleased that the Prime Minister himself attended the China-ASEAN Expo; that their region has been in a position to take the leading role in the process of cooperation between the PRC and ASEAN nations; that economic development of their region is just fair compared with the whole China; and they would like to cooperate with Myanmar not only in the economic sector but also in the social sector.

It is learnt that the Guangxi Zhuang Region is also called "Gui" region in short. It means the valuable region. The region is rich in terrestrial and aquatic resources. It also tops the production of aluminum and cement. It will be in the second position in hydel power supply after the Three Gorges Project being implemented in the PRC. This being the case, the prospect of its eco-



The opening of the first China-ASEAN Expo in progress at Li Yuan International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, China. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaks at the meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

National Convention to resume...

(from page 1)

It has already been announced that the National Convention will resume in the open season, when the work of the harvesting and winnowing of paddy is completed, he said. The National Convention was adjourned on 9 July 2004.

The National Convention will resume in February 2005, he declared, urging the respective committees to make preparations for completion of their work programmes.

NCCC Vice-Chairman Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut also attended the meeting, which was emceed by Secretary of the Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

In his turn, NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported on the programmes, which the Work Committee will have to present to the plenary session of the National Convention, when it resumes in the

coming open season.

Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported to the meeting on progress in making amendments to the administrative functions, based on the experiences of the previous sessions of the National Convention, extension and renovation of the open air theatre, landscaping, and arrangements to complete the work programmes in January next year.

The Secretary-1 gave advice.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs the attendance book. — MNA



NCC Work Committee Secretary Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan emceeds the meeting.

MNA



NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Brig-Gen Lun Maung reports on arrangements of the committee. — MNA



NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe reports on arrangements of the committee. — MNA

Winners of Performing Arts Competitions honoured

YANGON, 23 Nov—Artists from Mandalay Division who won prizes at the 12th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions were honoured at the National Theatre in Aungmye Thazan Township, Mandalay, on 13 November.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and wife, Deputy Chief Justice

of Supreme Court (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt and wife, Deputy Attorney-General of Attorney-General's Office Branch (Mandalay) U Han Shein and guests.

After making speeches on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and officials presented gifts and certificates of honour to artists who won prizes at the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions.

Next, Secretary of Mandalay Division PDC Lt-Col Kyi Thein presented gifts to team managers, judges and supervisors.

The ceremony ended with the performance of the prize-winners.

Altogether 442 contestants from Mandalay Division participated in the 12th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions and won 26 gold, 32 silver and 43 bronze totalling 101.

MNA

National Convention Convening Management Committee meets

YANGON, 23 Nov—The work coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Management Committee was held at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this evening.

Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung made a speech.

Present were members of Management Committee, chairmen of various sub-committees and officials.

Chairmen and officials of decoration sub-committee, invitation and accommodation sub-committee,



NCC Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung gives a speech at the meeting of National Convention Convening Management Committee. — MNA

reception sub-committee, entertainment and welfare sub-committee, transport sub-committee,

information sub-committee, health sub-committee, finance sub-committee, security sub-committee

and furniture sub-committee reported on work done and work to be done before February 2005.

Next, those present made suggestions on general matters.

The meeting came to a

close with the concluding remarks by Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects upgrading of Yuzana-Khwanyo Road in Pantanaw Township. — MNA

Minister inspects regional development affairs in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 23 Nov — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs together with officials concerned of the Development Affairs Department went on inspection tour of Pantanaw Township on 21st November.

During the inspection on tarring of Yuzana and Khwanyo roads being built by Pantanaw Township Development Affairs Committee, where the minister was conducted around by the executive officer and engineer in-charge. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of construction of roads meeting the set standards.

At the meeting hall of

Ayeyawady Division USDA, CEC member of USDA Minister Col Thein Nyunt met with the secretaries and executives of division, district and township levels. During his meeting, he instructed them to actively participate in the tasks of public welfare and rural development and to follow and live up to future programmes laid down by Annual General Meeting of USDA 2004.

After the secretaries had presented detailed reports on measures for public welfare, rural development and future tasks, the ministers gave suggestions to them to fulfil the requirements. On the following day, the

minister and party inspected upgrading of the Strand Road which links MyinttaU bridge of Patheingyi Township and the approach road to Patheingyi bridge. Next, they looked into construction of concrete road and tarring of road and gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on measures being taken for upgrading of the Strand Road of Patheingyi Township and its arrangements presented by the executive officer and engineer in-charge of Patheingyi Township Development Affairs Committee with the help of charts.

After providing necessary assistance, the minister inspected development affairs and beautifying measures in Patheingyi Township. — MNA

Interview with National Literary...

(from page 16)

creation is to enrich knowledge of the youths and to help them emulate unprecedented and great advancements in the science world" he said.

He said it seemed that the space science was beyond the reach of normal people, yet he took great interest in science, which was directly useful to man, and international affairs and he happened to put his wish into reality.

With writer Maung Su San and writer Mya Thet, he shared the work *Iraq Ayay Shudaunt Ah-phophon Myinkwinson* (Points of views about Iraq affairs) in 2002 and it was his first one. His second work was *Iraq Myinkwin Kye* (Wider views about Iraq affairs), and his prize-winning work was the third, he said.

"I was an engineer of Public Works, but I decided to live by my pen and so I left the department in 1990-1991. Then I established Parami Publishing House on 29th Street in Yangon and I have put myself into writing and publishing".

(Translation: AMS+MS)

Commander meets athletes

YANGON, 23 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe met with athletes of the command who will participate in the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Championship trophy (Army, Navy and Air) sports meet today at the command.

At the meeting, the

commander said that the command has been achieving victories again and again at the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's championship trophy (Army, Navy and Air) sports meets, urging the athletes to maintain the fine traditions of success and try to become outstanding sports men and women. The Government has been endeavouring to raise the nation's sport's

level in order to bring out fit and healthy persons capable of defending and building the nation, he noted. In this regard, the athletes, the coaches, the managers and officials concerned will have to strive for the sports men and women to become the ones representing the nation in the international competitions, he stressed.

MNA

Minister U Than Aung donates stationery to monastic education students

YANGON, 23 Nov — Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, today arrived at Naga Cave Kalewa

Monastery in Mayangon Township and provided stationery to the students of monastic school through Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa.

First, the minister and party paid obeisance to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa of the monastery and discussed matters on monastic education. — MNA



Third Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women
29 November - 1 December 2004
YANGON, MYANMAR

Disciples pay respects to remains of Myingyan Sayadaw

YANGON, 23 Nov—Members of the Sangha and lay disciples far and near paid reverence to the remains of Myingyan Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita today.

Religious associations of wards in Dagon Myothit (South) Township took turns to recite *praittas* and religious verses in the temporary hall of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery on Pale Yadana Street in the township. — MNA



A religious association reciting parittas and religious verses at the temporary hall. — MNA.



Minister U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yee offer alms to a Sayadaw. INDUSTRY-1

Ministry of Industry-1 holds 7th Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 23 Nov — Ministry of Industry-1 held its 7th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony this morning at the training hall of the ministry.

At the ceremony, the congregation led by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife

Daw Khin Khin Yi, and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun received the Five-Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visadara of Kyaunggyi Monastery and presented Kathina robes to the members of the Sangha.

In the afternoon, Minister U Aung Thaung

attended the 4th Kathina robes offering ceremony of Tamway Township Union Solidarity and Development Association held at the Tamway Township USDA office. Minister U Aung Thaung presented Kathina robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha. — MNA

Staff families of Ministry of Information offer *Soon* to monks

YANGON, 23 Nov — Staff families of the Ministry of Information had an offer a day's *Soon* to members of Sangha residing at a certain place in State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) of Kaba Aye Hill at Moegok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present on the occasion were Rector Sayadaw of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pannitabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the de-



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

partments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, guests and staff families.

Next, the congregation received the *Five Precepts* from the Rector Sayadaw. Minister Brig-

Gen Kyaw Hsan offered alms to the Sayadaw and presented cash donation for the day's *Soon* to Director of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Chit Aung.

Ministry of Cooperatives holds 22th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 23 Nov — Under the patronage of Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and wife, staff families of the Ministry of Cooperatives held 22th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony

today at the ministry.

At the ceremony, Minister Col Zaw Min and wife Daw Khin Mi Mi, and departmental heads presented Kathina robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha led by

Sayadaw of Gandayon Monastery in North Okkalapa Township.

The congregation also offered *soon* (a day meal) to the members of the Sangha.

MNA



Minister Col Zaw Min and wife Daw Khin Mi Mi offer Kathina robes to a Sayadaw. COOPERATIVES

Trainee members of the Sangha invited to WBS

YANGON, 23 Nov—The World Buddhist Summit will be held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, from 9 to 11 December 2004.

The Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana has invited all the trainee members of the Sangha for 1365-1366 academic year of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) to arrive at the university during the period from 6 to 7 December 2004 without fail, along with two passport-size photos, it is learnt.

MNA

MVA holds Annual General Meeting for 2004

YANGON, 20 Nov—The Annual General Meeting for 2004 of the Myanmar Veterinary Association was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here on 20 November morning with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Vice-Chairman of MVA Dr Than Hla formally opened the vet-medicine and medical equipment booth and viewed the booth.

In the afternoon, the paper reading session was held.

MNA

Festivals of Tazaungmon

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

"Old man bent and double, don't die so soon for watch again the pwe (festivals) at next Tazaungmon's full moon."

The above Myanmar nursery rhyme bespeaks that Tazaungmon the 8th month of Myanmar calendar has many festivals. Though Kahtein robe offering festival is the traditionally designated fes-

self took part in the weaving.

When finished she took it with pomp and ceremony to lord Buddha who was residing at Nijordta Vihara and offered it to him. This great event set a good precedent for Myanmar Buddhists to perform the weaving of Ma-tho thingan on the fullmoon night of Tazaungmon and offering

came to acquire a wider meaning — any offering by an anonymous donor to an anonymous recipient greater merit is gained by making Pant Thaku offering because no personal attachment is involved as both the donor and the recipient are anonymous and unknown to each other. On the fullmoon night of Tazaungmon, robe or any priestly utensil or dry ration with the letter Pant Thaku written on it, is placed by the donor on the ground in the neighbourhood of monastery or nunnery. The monk or nun who finds it takes it and can use it.

Kya robe is Lotus robe woven with the threads made out of lotus stems; fibre. Lotus flower is the symbol of Buddhism. Four lotus flowers represent the four Buddhas already appeared and one lotus bud represents the future Buddha. Lotus robe woven with threads made from fibres of lotus stems is fine, smooth and light. It makes the wearer cool in summer, and warm in cold season. Lord Buddha had worn lotus robes offered by some donors.

In Myanmar lotus robes are woven in Shan, Mon and Rakhine States for offering them to reputed learned head monks on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon.

One religious festival used to be held in Tazaungmon is Shin Ma Lei festival which originated in post-Buddha time. There are references in stone inscriptions. Literature and old chronicles pertaining to the holding of Shin Ma

Lei festival in the time of Myanmar kings and there still exist Shin Ma Lei pagoda in upper Myanmar. In Mandalay near the Temple of Maha Muni Buddha Image there is a Shin Ma Lei pagoda at which Shin Ma Lei festival is held annually in Tazaungmon.

Shin Ma Lie was one of arahats (saints) who appeared in the post-Buddha time. Legend has it that he was a great monk who resided in a village recluse in Sri Lanka through intense concentration of mind and regular meditation he gained certain super natural powers by means of which he went up to Tavatimsa the Celestial Kingdom of Sakka Deva to worship Sulamani Pagoda in which the sacred hairs of Prince Sidhartha and the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha were enshrined. There at that pagoda he met a deva (god) who was the future Miteya Buddha. The deva requested Shin Ma Lei to preach to the people Vessantara Jataka (the story of the last penultimate life of the future Gotama Buddha, on every fullmoon day of Tazaungmon. The great monk consented and when he returned to earth he preached the said Jataka with one thousand Pali poems to the people on every fullmoon day of Tazaungmon.

To commemorate this event, Shin Ma Lei festival is held on Tazaungmon's full moon night at which one thousand fruits, one thousand lotus flowers, one thousand fistfuls of "soon" (cooked rice) and one thousand lights of oil lamps placed on a Hlawka boat are offered to Shin Ma Lei.

One thousand represent his one thousand Pali poems and the Hlawka boat represents the ferry boat (the Dhamma or the teachings of the Buddha) to save the sentient beings from the whirlpool of rebirths (samsara) to the Lord of Niverna, the end of cravings and sufferings.

There are three other festivals which were held in this month.

They are now nearly extinct. In some remote rural areas they still persist. These festivals originated in pre-Buddhist time. The first and foremost is the festival of constellations and planets known as Net-Khat Thabin. As Tazaungmon enjoys a pleasant weather with a clear blue sky all heavenly bodies are visible at night, especially on fullmoon night. Before Buddhism came to Myanmar, people worshipped natural phenomena. Heavenly bodies were believed to exercise their influence upon human life and career. They were thus propitiated for favour. According to Myanmar astrology there are 27 constellations and nine planets, each guarded by a diva (god). They all appear only on fullmoon night of Tazaungmon.

Therefore a feast is held on that night, fruits, flowers, incense, milk, honey, juice, rice cakes are offered to heavenly bodies followed by illumination of light, musical and dance entertainments and all kinds of celebrations. The name

namely Me Zali fest and Kyi Ma No Pwe. Legend has it that on the fullmoon night of Tazaungmon when the constellation "Kyattika" and the moon shine together, the guardian gods of all herbal plants and trees come together to attend on the guardian god of Me Zali tree (Casia Siamea).

Another version says that it was on the fullmoon night of Tazaungmon that the guardian god of constellation Kyattika which is also Fire god (Agni) used to come down to earth and stayed with the guardian god of Me Zali tree. The guardian gods of herbal plants and trees came to Me Zali tree to pay respect to Kyattika god. So it is believed that on the fullmoon night all curative properties of herbal flower are concentrated in Me Zali tree.

Me Zali tree grows in any part of Myanmar. Its tender leaves and flower buds are edible.

Myanmar treatises on herbal medicine say that Me Zali is medicinal. That is the reason why Myanmar people are fond

The name Tazaungmon is derived from the festival of constellations and planets. "Tazaung" means illumination by oil lamps and "Mon" means to embellish. So Tazaungmon is the month in which "Net Khat Thabin" (Festival of constellations and planets) is embellished with lights.

Tazaungmon for this month is derived from the festival of constellations and planets. "Tazaung" means illumination by oil lamps and "Mon" means to embellish. So Tazaungmon is the month in which "Net Khat Thabin" (Festival of constellations and planets) is embellished with lights. In Ommadanti Jataka, one of the 550 birth stories of the Buddha the celebration of Net Khat Thabin was recounted.

Myanmar chronicles and literature have mentioned of Net Khat Thabin Pwe in Tazaungmon closely associated with Net Khat Thabin are two festivals

of eating slightly bitter but appetising Me Zali salad made out of its buds boiled and seasoned with ingredients like peanut, fried garlic, sesamum, fresh peeled onion, cooking oil and salt.

In cities and towns male youths collect money from the adults to hold midnight picnic and play pop music and sing love songs the whole night to attract the attention of the fairer gender in the neighbourhood.

Like in Tabang, pagoda and nat festivals are also held in Tazaungmon. No other month of Myanmar calendar has more festivals than Tazaungmon.

* * *

To mention Buddhist festivals associated with the festival of Kahtein robe offering is the weaving of Ma-tho thingan which if literally translated means "non-stale" robe. Ma-tho thingan is a monk's garment made all at once within the period of the night.

tival of this month there are other festivals held in this month. They are pre-Buddhist, Buddhist and post-Buddha festivals in origin.

To mention Buddhist festivals associated with the festival of Kahtein robe offering is the weaving of Ma-tho thingan which if literally translated means "non-stale" robe. Ma-tho thingan is a monk's garment made all at once within the period of the night. It has to be woven on the night of the fullmoon of Tazaungmon. If the weaving of this garment takes longer than the allotted period the garment is regarded as "stale".

In the lifetime of Lord Buddha his foster mother Gotami made a robe for him. It was of the finest cotton and skilfully woven. The weaving was done at the Palace by master weavers throughout the night. Gotami her-

of it to the Buddha image the following morning. Myanmar kings held competitions of Ma-tho thingan weaving at the palace and winners were awarded prizes.

Two other types of robe offering either to Buddha images or monks in Tazaungmon are "Pant Thaku robe offering and Kya robe offering. "Pant Thaku" is a word derived from Pali, meaning clothing food, or anything discarded on the ground for anyone to take. During the first twenty ordained years of lord Buddha there was no donor of robe.

Lord Buddha and his disciples had to go round to collect clothings discarded on the ground for making robes by themselves. Such robes were called Pant Thaku robes meaning robes made of clothings discarded on the ground.

Later Pant Thaku

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Uganda to spend \$5m for rural communication services

KAMPALA, 23 Nov — The Uganda government will spend five million US dollars to boost rural communication services in 154 sub-counties by the end of 2005, reported local Press on Monday.

Ugandan Minister of Works, Housing and Communications John Nasasira was quoted as saying the money would come from the energy for rural transformation project under the information and communication technology (ICT) component.

"We are consulting the World Bank to finance the second phase of this programme, which will involve expansion of the project to cover the whole

country, address targets set in the millennium development goals and meet the objectives of the world summit of information society," the minister said.

He said through the rural communications development fund, 20 Internet cafes have been set up in various districts.

"Twenty-six district information web sites with various information including economic activities have been established.

Thirty more will be completed by the end of this year," Nasasira said.

He said Internet cafes and 33 ICT training centres would be established in most districts by the end of this year and another 23 by the end of 2005.

"When completed, the rural communications development projects will boost communications for the rural folk," Nasasira added. — MNA/Xinhua

Galeras volcano in Colombia erupts, spraying rocks

BOGOTA (Colombia), 22 Nov — The Galeras Volcano in southern Colombia erupted on Sunday, spraying rocks and starting short-lived forest fires, but no injuries were reported, the government said.

The mid-afternoon eruption of the 14,000-foot volcano, near the Ecuador border in the province of Narino, was felt 12 miles away, according to Colombia's Institute of Geology and Mining.

"The Galeras Volcano

erupted explosively, producing a ballistic expulsion of rocks in an eastward direction reaching about 1.8 miles," a statement issued by the institute said.

The column of material belched out in the eruption rose nine to 6.2 miles into

the air, the statement said.

More than 10 villages are near the volcano, which killed at least 10 people when it erupted in 1993.

MNA/Reuters

Zambian govt buys anti-retroviral drugs for "AIDS" patients

LUSAKA, 23 Nov — The Zambian Government has purchased anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) worth four million US dollars for AIDS patients, local newspaper *Daily Mail* reported Monday.

Health Ministry Spokesman Victor Mukonda was quoted as saying the first consignment of drugs has arrived in the country and is being distributed to the health centres nationwide.

Mukonda said the ministry had procured a big consignment of drugs using the Global Fund and is targeting 100,000 people to benefit from the drugs.

Mukonda was certain that the drugs that have been procured would not run out until the next consignment.

He explained that the drugs would be brought in batches so that they do not expire.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
NOVARTIS AG, a Company incorporated in Switzerland of 4002 Basel, Switzerland is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

ZOMETA

Reg. No. 6489/2004

In respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for NOVARTIS AG
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 24 November 2004.

Heavy rains kills eight dozens missing in central Philippines

MANILA, 23 Nov —

At least eight people were killed and dozens were missing in the central Philippines as heavy rains and giant waves whipped up by a tropical storm sank several boats, disaster officials said on Monday.

The Coast Guard rushed search and rescue teams to waters around the central Mindoro and Romblon islands to look for about 40 fishing boats that have been reported missing since Saturday, when tropical storm Muifa pounded the southern region of the main Luzon Island.

Apart from the missing vessels, three fishing boats and two barges had also capsized, said Neri Amparo of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

MNA/Reuters

PIF praises China for its support for Pacific legislatures

WELLINGTON, 23 Nov — Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretary-General Greg Urwin has praised China for providing new funding to support the work of Pacific legislatures.

"The 70,000-US-dollar donation by China will support the interim Secretariat of the Forum Presiding Officers Conference (FPOC), which represents the Speakers of Parliament and Congress in the Pacific," Urwin said in a statement reaching here from PIF Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, Monday.

"This will help Pacific legislatures to expand their work in the area of governance, in one of the most important institutions in

the region," he said.

The statement said the funding was handed over Monday by China's Ambassador to Fiji Cai Jinbiao. Earlier, China provided 30,000 US dollars to assist a FPOC delegation visit to Nauru in July this year.

Forum speakers now meet annually to discuss a range of capacity building activities and will hold their fifth meeting next April in Apia, Samoa.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
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ARMSTRONG

Reg. No. IV/1746/2001

In respect of: "Tyres, pneumatic, semi-pneumatic and solid tyres for vehicle wheels, wheels for vehicles, inner tubes, rims, parts" and fittings for all the aforesaid goods;

The above trademark was last registered in Myanmar in the name of Pirelli Tire LLC at 300 George Street, New Haven, Connecticut U.S.A. 06511 under Registration No. IV/350/1998.

The said trademark has now been assigned to Pirelli Pneumatici S.p.A. by virtue of "Assignment of Trademark" under Myanmar registration No. IV/1746/2001.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
LL.B., DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs (UK)
Email: MYINT.Advocate@mpmail.net.mm
Ph: 371 990 2004

Air France flight from Paris to Washington diverted to Maine

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — An Air France flight from Paris to Washington was diverted to Maine when authorities discovered the name of one of the passengers on a US no-fly list, a US Customs spokesman said on Sunday.

Air France Flight 026 was diverted to Maine on Saturday. One passenger was taken off the flight with an expired passport and his companion voluntarily decided not to continue travelling without him, said Barry Morrissey, spokesman for US Customs and Border Protection.

"The one individual that was the reason that the plane was diverted in the first place was found to be travelling on an expired passport," Morrissey said. "For that reason we deemed him inadmissible."

The two men were held overnight in Bangor, Maine, and were being taken to Massachusetts to be put on a flight back to Paris, Morrissey said.

He said he could not identify the two men by name or nationality.

MNA/Reuters

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

FLEETGUARD, INC., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, U.S.A., and having its registered office at 500 Jackson Street, Columbus, Indiana, United States of America is the Owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark:-

FLEETGUARD

Reg. Nos. 4/1098/1998 & 4/3479/2004

Used in respect of :-

Filters (being parts of engines, motors or machines); silencers; mufflers; starting apparatus for motors and engines and parts of the foregoing goods; engines and motors (not for land vehicles)

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

TIN OHNMAR TUN

B.A.(Law) LL.B. LL.M (U.K.)
P.O. Box. 109, Ph: 248108/723043
(For: Dommern Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 24 November 2004

WADA expenditure rise by \$1.47m in 2005

OTTAWA, 23 Nov — The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has approved a 1.47-million-US-dollar increase in its expenditure budget to lift the total to 21.7 million for next year, the Montreal-based agency said in a statement on Sunday.

WADA's foundation board, which made the decision, considered the extra responsibilities it would have in 2005, including monitoring of compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code and implementation of a computer-based Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS). The budget increase was also needed to offset currency fluctuations, which have had a negative effect on WADA's budget, the statement said. "I am very pleased the board saw the necessity in approving an increased budget for 2005," said WADA president Dick Pound.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရက်ဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Japanese electronic firms to develop LSI chips for 3G phones

TOKYO, 23 Nov — NEC Corp and NEC Electronics Corp announced Monday that they will jointly develop large-scale integration (LSI) chips for 3G mobile phone consoles to strengthen the competitiveness of NEC's 3G mobile terminal platforms for the global market.

The two leading Japanese electronic companies have set up a joint project team and begun developing a dual-mode 3G baseband LSI chip that can deal with both 2G and 3G mobile phone consoles, the two companies said in a joint statement.

Under the joint development deal, NEC's mobile terminals business unit will be responsible

for defining basic LSI specifications and verifying the LSI to be embedded in the mobile terminals.

Meanwhile NEC Electronics, which holds the largest share of the domestic market for LSI chips for 3G mobile phone communications, will be responsible for the LSI chip design, development and production.

The first mobile terminal to employ the LSI chip developed under the project will be introduced to the market in the second half of fiscal 2006. The two companies plan to launch the phones in overseas markets as well, and NEC Electronics plans to provide the LSI chips to other mobile phone console manufacturers.

MNA/Xinhua



Ema Tanaka, an employee of Japan's electronics giant Sharp, introduces the company's first Blu-ray Disc recorder 'BD-HD100' at its head office in Tokyo, on 21 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Dengue fever kills 5 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 Nov — Dengue fever has caused the death of five people and sent 64 others to hospitals in the Indonesian town of Medan in November alone, reports said on Monday.

At least nine sub-districts in the North Sumatra capital are seriously affected by dengue, reported Detikcom online news service.

Sjahrial Anas, an official with the Ministry of Health in the province, was quoted as saying that 26 dengue sufferers are still receiving treatment in

hospitals for serious illness.

Early this year, dengue fever was blamed for at least 250 deaths and more than 13,000 sufferers across 21 provinces. Jakarta residents made up the majority of the dengue-related toll with 47 deaths.

MNA/Xinhua

7.2 magnitude earthquake hits south island of NZ

WELLINGTON, 23 Nov — An earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter Scale struck off the coast of the South Island of New Zealand on Tuesday.

The quake hit at 9.26 a.m. (2026 GMT) 240 kilometres southwest of Te Anau on the South Island, at a depth of 33 kilometres, a Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) spokesman announced.

"We would expect very minor damage," GNS seismologist Peter McGinty said.

However, the quake

would have been felt widely throughout the South Island, and in the North Island as far north as New Plymouth which was on the same fault line, he said.

McGinty said it was a "moderate to deep" quake, but would not cause too many problems because it was so far offshore.

MNA/Xinhua

Five Germans to be charged with stealing Algerian antiques

ALGIERS, 22 Nov — Five German tourists reported missing in Algeria's Sahara Desert have been found unharmed but will be charged with violating laws on the movement of tourists and stealing antiques, the Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

Their disappearance on Thursday night near the southern town of Illizi, raised speculation they could have been abducted.

"They have been found safe and sound on board of their vehicle last night at around 11 o'clock inside the national park of Tassili 58 miles south of

Djanet in the Illizi Province," a ministry statement said. It said the the Germans had sneaked away from guides and had stolen Tassili antiques.

"The five Germans have been found in possession of archaeological protected parts. Those concerned will face legal action for violating rules related to movement of tourists in the Algerian Sahara Desert, entry to the national park of Tassili as well as stealing archaeological artefacts," it said.

MNA/Reuters

Chavez names Venezuela's oil chief as new foreign minister

CARACAS, 22 Nov — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez named Ali Rodriguez, chief of the state-run oil company PDVSA, as the country's new foreign minister, local media quoted government sources as saying on Sunday. Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez will head the oil giant.

The Venezuelan President made the appointment just before a planned tour to Spain, Russia, Qatar, Libya and Iran.

Rodriguez, a former energy minister, will replace Jesus Perez as the nation's top diplomat.

MNA/Xinhua

Guangzhou scales back plans to build world's tallest tower

HONG KONG, 23 Nov — The southern Chinese city of Guangzhou has scaled back plans to build the world's tallest tower.

Media reported on Sunday that the municipal government of the capital of Guangdong Province had rejected a design for a tower envisaged to stand from 1,903 to 1,997 feet tall.

Instead, Guangzhou will now take up a design for a 1,312-foot tower, the Hong Kong Government-funded radio station RTHK said on Sunday.

The new design falls 66 feet short of Shanghai's Jinmao Tower, the tallest in China at 1,378 feet, and is only slightly higher than Guangzhou's CITIC Plaza, which stands 1,283 feet tall and dominates the city's skyline.

The world's highest office tower is the World Financial Centre in Taipei, Taiwan, at a height of 1,667 feet.

MNA/Reuters

Global fund approves new round of funding

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 22 Nov — The 23 executive board members of the Global Fund have unanimously approved a new round of funding, much to the delight of African countries that account for the lion's share of the beneficiaries of the fund grants. A statement released by the Global Fund available here on Saturday said that the approval of the fifth round of funding was made after thorough discussion between the board members and experts from Global Fund institutions.

The statement invited applications from countries eligible for Global Fund grants to reach the board's next meeting in March next year. The board is scheduled to scrutinize the applications before deciding the amounts of grants to offer in September. Richard Feachem, director of the Global Fund, said that the fifth round of funding would not only hasten the implementation of a number of programmes and projects but would also inspire more contributions from donors.

Before the Global Fund meeting in Arusha, the executive members were divided into two groups, one favouring the continuation of the funding whereas the other favouring bilateral arrangements of funds. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Dinamo Zagreb coach resigns

ZAGREB, 23 Nov—Dinamo Zagreb coach Nenad Gracan resigned on Sunday after a string of poor results and supporter unrest at the top Croatian club, state news agency Hina reported.

"After the defeat by Rijeka, I spent the whole night thinking and decided the best thing to do was quit. I hope it will have the effect of a positive shock on players," Gracan told Hina.

Dinamo, who have claimed seven league titles since Croatia's independence in 1991, lost 4-2 at Rijeka on Saturday and have won only six of their 16 matches this season. They are fifth in the table, six points behind leaders Inter Zapresic.

Gracan is the second Dinamo coach to step down this season. He took over from Nikola Jurcevic, who resigned in August.

Assistant coach Djuro Bago will take charge of the team temporarily. Dinamo face Benfica in the UEFA Cup on Thursday.

Former Croatian national coach Otto Baric, now the sports director at Dinamo, has been tipped to take over.—MNA/Reuters



A Brazilian player completes an overhead kick in a match against Australia at the FIFA Futsal World Championship in Taipei on November 22, 2004. Brazil won 10-0.—INTERNET

Ferguson enters debate over Glazer's pursuit of Man United

LONDON, 23 Nov—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has entered the debate over US tycoon Malcolm Glazer's pursuit of the club by saying: "We don't want the club in anyone else's hands".

United called off talks with Glazer last month over his proposed offer for the club worth almost 800 million pounds (1.5 billion US dollars).

However, Glazer, the club's second-biggest shareholder with a 28.11-per cent stake, used his position to vote three directors off the board at the company's annual meeting this month.

Fans' groups are against Glazer making a move for the club and Ferguson said the close bond between United and the supporters was most important.

"There's a stronger rapport between the club and the fans than there's ever

been," he was quoted as saying in the *Sunday Times* in an interview due to appear on the club's official web site later. "We are both of a common denominator: we don't want the club to be in anyone else's hands."

"I have always tried to be a bridge between the club and the fans. I have tried to support the fans in a lot of their pleas and causes. It is important for the club to recognize the fans." *The Observer* newspaper on Sunday said United could offer Glazer a seat on their board if he put his attempt to buy the company on hold for a year.—MNA/Reuters

Villa climb to 5th in Premier League

LONDON, 23 Nov—Aston Villa climbed to fifth in the Premier League on Monday with a 1-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur—the London club's sixth straight league defeat.

Peru midfielder Nolberto Solano conjured up some magic after 57 minutes to seal the points at Villa Park, juggling the ball before hooking a shot past goalkeeper Paul Robinson from close range in a crowded penalty area as the Spurs defence dithered.

Until Solano's effort Tottenham had looked threatening as new coach Martin Jol, who took charge for last week's 5-4 defeat by Arsenal, looked for his first league win.

Spurs' England striker Jermain Defoe forced a sharp save from Thomas

Sorensen shortly before Villa took the lead, while midfielder Michael Brown was also denied in the first half.

Solano came close to a second goal when his close-range effort was blocked by a sprawling save from Robinson before Ulises de la Cruz came close to extending Villa's lead.

Fredric Kanoute headed wide for Tottenham as they went in search of an equalizer but Villa, who are unbeaten at home in the league, comfortably held out to move on to 24 points, nine behind leaders Chelsea.—MNA/Reuters

First Asian PGA Tour to be opened in S Korea

SEOUL, 23 Nov—Top golfers in the PGA Tour will compete in the 2004 Shinhan Korea Golf Championship on the South Korean resort island of Jeju, tournament officials said Monday.

"We have invited 38 players from the PGA Tour and PGA European Tour," said officials from the tournament's organizer, the (South) Korea National Tourism Organization.

Padraig Harrington of Ireland with a PGA world ranking of eighth, Spaniard Miguel A. Jimenez ranked 14th and Nick Faldo of Britain may become strong contenders in the tournament, officials said.

South Korean PGA member, Choi Kyung-ju, who finished last season without a trophy but with a world ranking of 29, will be aiming for his first trophy this year. Fellow South Korean PGA member Kevin Na is also expected to make an effort to win his first trophy on his homeland, and Jang Ik-je, the money leader of (South) Korean Professional Golfers' As-

sociation (KPGA) will take part in the course.

Mark Calcavecchia, who won the Maekyung Open Tour of the KPGA in his first visit to South Korea in May, Michael Shaun and Rich Beem of United States will also compete for the trophy.

The Shinhan Championship, part of the PGA Tour's Challenge Tour, will be held at the 7,431-yard Jungmun Golf Club's course in Seogwi-do on Jeju Island from November 25 to November 28. Total prize money is 3.55 million US dollars, including the top prize of one million dollars.

Players are scheduled to arrive on the island Monday and Tuesday for practice rounds before the tournament begins.

MNA/Xinhua

Beckham dismisses talk Real in decline

MADRID, 22 Nov—David Beckham has dismissed talk that Real Madrid's comprehensive 3-0 defeat by Barcelona is a sign that the side are in decline and says they should not be written off from the title race just yet.

"People always say it's a crisis when a big club like Real Madrid lose a game," Beckham told a news conference on Sunday. "Two or three weeks ago there was a crisis when we were 10th or 11th in the league."

"Now we are second and we are seven points behind the leaders, but we've got a big game on Tuesday (against Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League) and if we win everyone will be happy again."

Barcelona produced a sparkling display of fluent attacking football to out-class arch-rivals Real at the Nou Camp on Saturday, the Catalans going 2-0 up at the break thanks to goals from African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o and Dutch defender

Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

The outstanding Ronaldinho wrapped up an emphatic win when he fired home from the penalty spot 15 minutes from time.

"I think they were better than us last night, but I feel

that there isn't that much between us," said Beckham. "They are playing very good football and they have some of the best players in the world and they've got a strong togetherness as a team.—MNA/Reuters

Larsson may be out of action for up to 6 weeks

MADRID, 23 Nov—Barcelona striker Henrik Larsson is to undergo surgery after injuring his left knee during his club's 3-0 league win over Real Madrid on Saturday and is likely to be out of action for up to six weeks.

The Swede will miss Barcelona's last two Champions League group matches, including the game against his former side Celtic on Wednesday.

Larsson, who was carried off 20 minutes from the end on Saturday after twisting his knee when he turned sharply.

Club doctor Lluís Til said that the 33-year-old would undergo an arthroscopic operation on Monday "to repair the cartilage and to evaluate the state of his anterior cruciate ligament, which has been strained". Til said Larsson could be out of action for up to six weeks.—MNA/Reuters

FIFA President would support England walk-off

LONDON, 23 Nov—FIFA President Sepp Blatter said on Sunday he would have supported the England team if they had walked off the pitch in protest at the racial taunts during their friendly with Spain in Madrid last week.

A number of England players, in particular Ashley Cole and Shaun Wright-Phillips were subjected to monkey chants from the Bernabeu crowd on Wednesday in the 1-0 defeat. Racial abuse also marred the Under-21 clash between the two countries on Tuesday.

Blatter said that he was "shocked" to hear of the racist abuse and feel "sad about these new expressions of racism in a stadium that has been a temple of football". "I would have supported their walking off," Blatter told BBC radio. "We have to maintain discipline and respect on and off the field."

"We are investigating and are going to give out recommendations and instructions. Something like that (walking off) could be possible.—MNA/Xinhua



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy scores one of his two goals in the 2-2 draw at Lyon. United manager Sir Alex Ferguson looked defiantly forwards rather than back ahead of his 1,000th game in charge of the club, saying he would see it as a failure not to win another Champions League title before retiring.—INTERNET

Successful goodwill visit to...

(from page 7)

Vietnam made opening speeches. Next, the ASEAN Secretary-General, the ministers from the respective ASEAN nations including Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, the governor of Guangxi Zhuang Region held discussions. The summit lasted two days.

On the first day session of the summit, leaders of the respective nations and ministers held discussions. On the second day session, officials representing the respective nations exchanged views on the impact of the CAFTA and the establishment of the CAFTA.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Myanmar will cooperate with the PRC and ASEAN nations to realize the goal in which all the nations will be able to share the fruitful results; that the goal is to ensure the emergence of a region with higher economic and social status; that by means of ASEAN-China integration, there will emerge a market for 1,700 million consumers, one third of the world population; and that natural and human resources of China and ASEAN nations will be able to create a huge market for ASEAN products.

Hailing the establishment of the CAFTA, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win also dealt with matters related to improving the bilateral trade by sea and by land, and making more investment in the production sector of Myanmar by the PRC and ASEAN nations.

Moreover, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win met the respective leaders of the PRC, Laos and Cambodia, and discussed matters related to further strengthening friendly ties and cooperation in political, diplomatic, economic and social sectors among the nations and ensuring mutual understanding in the region.

Thus, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win's goodwill visit to Nanning, the PRC, has made great achievement.

(Translation : TS)

(Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 21-11-2004)

China, Mexico pledge to push forward strategic partnership

SANTIAGO, 23 Nov— Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox, agreed in their talks Sunday to push forward the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The meeting took place here on the sidelines of the 12th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Both China and Mexico are members of the forum.

The Chinese President spoke highly of Sino-Mexican strategic partnership and appreciated Mexico's support on Taiwan issues, according to a Press release issued by the Chinese delegation.

The meeting also focused on developing bilateral economic and trade ties.

Hu said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to strength-

ening cooperation in trade and investment with Mexico and encourages Chinese businessmen to invest in Mexico.

"We hope to work together with Mexico to expand the economic and trade cooperation, seek positive trade balance and achieve win-win results based on mutual benefit," said the Chinese President.

Fox said Mexico is following with interest China's economic development and its contribution to world trade, adding his country is looking forward to strengthening bilateral economic cooperation and trade.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 3,000 ducks die in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Nov — Over 3,000 ducks have recently died in Vietnam's central Binh Thuan Province after showing symptoms of swollen heads, paralysed legs, slow movement and exhaustion, local Press reported Monday.

Three owners of the ducks in the province's Thanh Binh District abandoned their fowls in fields after seeing that they suffered from cholera and could not be cured, newspaper *Vietnam Agriculture* said.

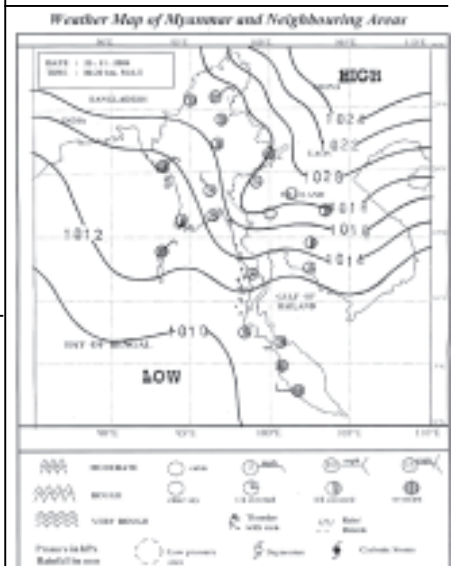
Samples from the affected ducks are being tested, the district's veterinarian bureau said, adding the poultry exhibited

no signs of bird flu symptoms.

Vietnam detected 20 chickens being infected with bird flu virus strain of H5 in mid-November in northern Can Tho City.

It remains highly alert to potential new outbreaks in winter when weather conditions favour the development of viruses.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 23 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, weather has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Namsam and Mindat (0.16) inch each. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (8°C), PyinOoLwin (9°C) and Moekok (10°C).

Maximum temperature on 22-11-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 23-11-2004 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-11-2004 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 22-11-2004 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 112.28 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 South at (10:40) hours MST on 23-11-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the West and Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Rakhine States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan State and Mandalay Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Moderate to rough seas accompanied with strong easterly winds of (35) mph are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coast. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-11-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-11-2004: Partly cloudy.

GM of Fudan University changed tickets for jet that crashed

SHANGHAI, 23 Nov — The general manager of the main listed unit of Shanghai's Fudan University changed tickets at the last minute to board a commuter jet that crashed in north China killing 54 people, a source close to the company said on Monday.

Chen Suyang, 56, the number two man at Fudan Forward Science & Technology Co. Ltd., a software developer controlled by the university, was one of 53 people on board.

A man on the ground was also killed when the Canadian-made Bombardier <BBD> CRJ200 plun-

met into a frozen lake shortly after takeoff from the industrial city of Baotou, nearly 370 miles west of Beijing, en route to eastern Shanghai.

Chen had flown to Baotou, Inner Mongolia, to survey a project with three other Forward executives.

MNA/Reuters



Wednesday, November 24
View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. မြန်မာ့အသံအဖွဲ့အစည်း

8:05 am

6. အဆိုတော်

8:15 am

7. ရုပ်ရှင်တစ်ပုဒ်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အခမ်းအနားနှင့် ပညာရေး

ရုပ်ရှင်တစ်ပုဒ်

—ပထမနှစ် (ရုရှစောအထူးပြု)

(ရုရှစော)

5:15 pm

6. Song of national races

5:30 pm

7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းစားကိစ္စ

5:40 pm

8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:50 pm

9. ကိုဗဟုသုတ

6:00 pm

10. ရုရှနိုင်ငံအသံအဖွဲ့အစည်း

6:10 pm

11. Discovery

6:15 pm

12. မဟာနဂါးသွယ်ဆိုကြပေ

6:30 pm

13. Evening news

7:00 pm

14. Weather report

7:05 pm

15. Musical programme

7:20 pm

16. Strong and Healthy Myanmar

7:35 pm

17. Musical programme

18. အလှူခံကောသလ်တံတား

—ဧရာဝတီ (ဧရာဝတီတံတား)

ရတနာပုံ

8:00 pm

19. News

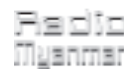
20. International news

21. Weather report

22. သုန္ဒရီရာဇာဏဂျာနယ်

(မျိုးမြင့်လေး)

24. The next day's programme



Wednesday, November 24

Tune in today:

8:30 am

Brief news

8:35 am

Music: -That's Okay

8:40 am

Perspectives

8:45 am

Music: -Good sign

8:50 am

National news/Slogan

9:00 am

Music: I've got my eyes for you

9:05 am

International news

9:10 am

Music: -Tarzan and Jane

1:30 pm

News/Slogan

1:40 pm

Lunch time music: -Till him

-For you I will

-Love doesn't have to hurt

-Moments

Variations on a tune

-My heart will go on

Article/music

Music at your request

-Story of love

-Love me for a reason

-Give it to you

-Eternal flame

9:45 pm

News/Slogan

10:00 pm

PEL



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers a speech at the meeting No 15/2004 of the National Convention Convening Commission. — MNA

National Convention Convening Commission meets

YANGON, 23 Nov—The National Convention Convening Commission held its 15/2004 meeting at Anawrahta Yeiktha in Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, this evening.

Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered a speech.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of the

National Convention Convening Commission Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary of the Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members.

Joint Secretary-2 of the commission Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman of the Commission the Secretary-1 spoke on preparations by the Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee.

Next, Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, the secretary and members discussed matters relating to the National Convention, work to be done and requirements. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman of the Commission.—MNA

Minister inspects irrigation works

YANGON, 23 Nov — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected the spillway of a support dam of Bawbin Dam Project near Bawbin Village in Zigon Township, Bago Division (West) on

20 November.

At his meeting with engineers of Irrigation Department, the minister coordinated matters relating to progress in construction of feeder canals and related structures, and irrigation of crops.

The main dam of the project is located near Thakoppin village in Gyobingauk Township. The minister held a meeting with officials at the briefing hall of the project. The total irrigation capacity of the main dam and

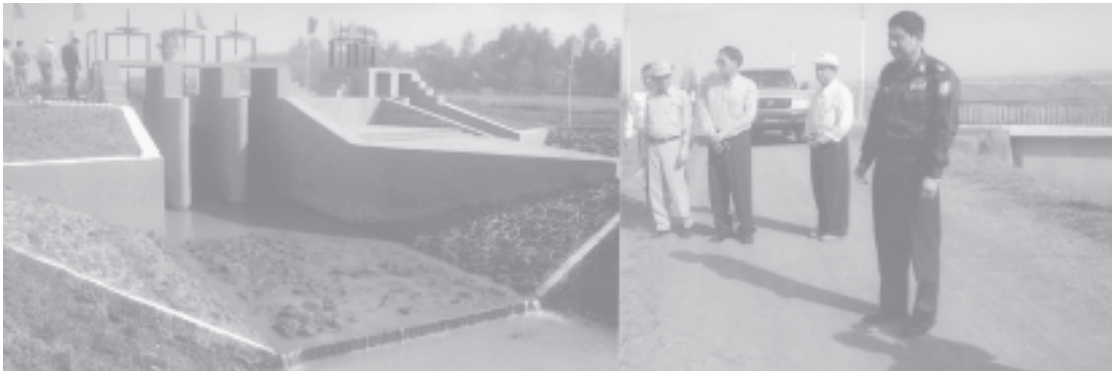
the support dam is 33,000 acres, and their storage capacity 97,700 acre-feet and 26,600 acre-feet respectively, the officials explained. The minister discussed crop irrigation of the two facilities and mix-cropping in the area.

After the meeting, he inspected the main dam, outlet conduit, irrigation of crops, maintenance of irrigation works, and harvesting of paddy.

At his meeting with officials in Letpadan Township, he discussed

the division weir, irrigation canals, and crop cultivation plan of Kantinbilin Dam.

In Thayawady, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo discussed with officials irrigation and crops cultivation plans of Thonze Dam and Kantinbilin Dam. The officials also presented future work programmes and requirements. The minister spoke of the need to strive for meeting the targets of the plans and laid down the future work programmes. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Bawbin Dam in Gyobingauk Township, Bago Division (West). — A & I

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Perspectives

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Interview with National Literary Award winners

Article and Photos by Thaung Win Bo

Writer Daw Kyan won National Literary Award in 2003 for Knowledge (Arts) for her novel entitled “*Maha WunShinDawMinGyi*”. It was her third literary award.

In 1978, she was awarded National Literary Award for the first time for her creation in which featured annexation of the British and condition of Myanmar.

In 2002, she received the literary award for the second time for her selected articles book.

In her third award-winning book, she wrote on administration, judicial system, taxation and centralized system under the British rule.



Writer Daw Kyan.

When interviewed, Writer Kyaw Oo said he was born of U Kyu Khaing and Daw Than Kyin in Dawei in 1948. When he was a university student in 1967, he started writing articles and he gained a firm foothold with his works published in Ngwetaryi Magazine, and Botahtaung, Kyemon and Loktha Dailies.

He won 2003 National Literary Award for Knowledge (Science) for his beautiful work *Ananda Setkyawala Ei Anarsun Pawthou* (Conquest of the Universe), which features milestones in the history of space travel during the 20th Century.

“The purpose of this literary (See page 9)



Writer Kyaw Oo.