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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets athletes of 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004.

NLM

## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends opening ceremony of 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004

YANGON, 24 Nov — A ceremony to open the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 hosted by Myanmar was held on a grand scale in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council the Commander of Yangon Command, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, heads of department, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Presidents and officials of Myanmar Sports Federations, officials of World Wushu Federation, Chairman of WFA Minister of Sports Mr Li Zhijian of the People's

Republic of China, President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay and officials, Ambassadors of foreign embassies in Myanmar, international Wushu referees, athletes, students, guests and fans.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address. In his speech he said that he was honoured to address the opening ceremony of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 on behalf of the Union of Myanmar and the Myanmar Olympic Committee. He added that Myanmar is proud of being able to host the 6th AWC in which some 500 athletes of 25 Wushu Federations in Asia are taking part.

He congratulated the Asia Wushu Federation and the Myanmar Wushu Federation for holding the Wushu event in Myanmar.

He expressed his thanks to officials who made all-out efforts for successful holding of the event and said he believed that there will be good prospects for more development of the Wushu sports

(See page 8)

**Some 500 athletes of 25 Wushu Federations of Asia are taking part in the Asian Wushu Championships 2004.**

### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

## Khaing Khaing Maw bags one gold

YANGON, 24 Nov— Selected Myanmar Wushu athlete Khaing Khaing Maw won a gold medal in the women's Taijiquan event of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 hosted by Myanmar at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded the first prize to Khaing Khaing Maw and second and third to other winners. Later, President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay presented the flower bunches to them.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and guests enjoy skill demonstration of Chinese Wushu athletes.—NLM

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 25 November, 2004

## Work in concert for emergence of peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy

The Union of Myanmar is home to various national races and all those residing in it are making concerted efforts for the emergence of a peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy with national unity as its foundation.

Therefore, the State Peace and Development Council has adopted the seven-point policy Road Map and has been implementing it step by step with enthusiastic support of the entire national people.

The coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee was held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 23 November and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission.

In his address at the meeting, the Secretary-1 said that the seven-point policy, widely known as the Road Map to the nation's future, had been adopted by the State Peace and Development Council, not by any individual person alone, and that the State Peace and Development Council was determined to carry on with it till the emergence of a peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy. Now, the National Convention, the first and very important step of the seven-point policy, is well under way.

The National Convention started on 17 May, 2004, and it was adjourned on 9 July, 2004. It will resume in February, 2005, and preparations are now being made by various committees of the National Convention Convening Commission.

National races make up over sixty per cent of the delegates to the National Convention and more than 100 delegates belong to peace groups. Armed groups that have returned to the legal fold have pledged that they believe in the seven-point policy and support it and that they will attend the National Convention till it comes to a successful end.

We would like to call on the entire national people to cooperate with all the delegates to the National Convention for its total success. Only then will the emergence of a peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy be ensured.

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## 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

Geospatial IT Conference  
launched

YANGON, 24 NOV — The Geospatial IT Conference, organized by Myanmar Credent Technology, began today.

The conference was opened with the addresses by President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Thein Oo and Vice-Chairman of Credent Technology Asia Mr Pagadala Vijay.

General Manager of Myanmar Credent Technology U Zaw Naing also extended greetings.

At the opening ceremony of the conference, Mr Pagadala Vijay and party donated GIS softwares.

MNA



KATHINA ROBES OFFERED: Bahan BEPS-10 held its 21st offering of Kathina robes on 23-11-2004. Headmaster Daw Sein Myaing and executives of parent-teacher association offer Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.—H

## Minister for Mines tours townships in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 24 NOV — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected Kyadwinyay Mine of No 3 Mining Enterprise in PynOoLwin on 20 November morning.

In the afternoon, the minister proceeded to No 1 Iron and Steel Plant and inspected the production process.

Next, he met with officials of PynOoLwin Sub-Power Station of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and gave necessary instructions to staff of the station.

On 21 November,

the minister arrived at the work site of Tagaungtaung nickel mine in Thabeikkyin Township. The mine is being operated as a joint venture by No 3 Mining Enterprise and China Non-Ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Group Co Ltd (CNMC). After hearing the reports on the mine, the minister instructed the officials to implement the plan on mining works.

He inspected test pits in the mine and sample metals. In Mogok, the minister met with

employees of the enterprise under the ministry.

On 22 November, the minister made an overall inspection of mining tasks at Koelan, Kyaukpok and Bawbadan gem mining plots and Shwepyithar Gems Camp of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd.

Accompanied by Managing Director U Hla Thein of No 2 Mining Enterprise, the minister met with gold entrepreneurs at the hall of the local battalion in Thabeikkyin Township and discussed salient

points and gave instruction to fulfill their requirements. Later, he inspected Sharchet and Shwepyitha gold mines.

On 23 November morning, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party inspected tasks of Myauk Kyunthu Ma Ma Co and Eternal Mining Co in the gold mining plots.

In Patheingyi Township, they inspected the Gold Production Plant being jointly operated by No 2 Mining Enterprise and Myanmar Golden Point Firm Mali Company. — MNA

## Myanmar-Qatar air services agreement inked

YANGON, 24 NOV — An air services agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the

the bilateral air services agreement and exchanged documents in the presence of Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than.

getting approval of the respective governments for the promotion of tourism, trade and investment between the two countries.

resenting their respective countries to operate air services between the two countries for specified routes and the designated airlines of each country can enjoy 14 weekly services between the two countries.

The designated airline of the State of Qatar is planning to operate four weekly services between Dohar and Yangon in the early 2005 and Myanmar Airways International and the designated airline of the Union of Myanmar is also planning to operate passenger transportation as a marketing carriers for the route of Yangon-Dohar-some Europe destinations, under airlines cooperation arrangement with Qatar Airways.

MNA



Director-General Brig-Gen Myo Tin and Qatari Managing Director Mr Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Noaimi sign the agreement. — TRANSPORT

State of Qatar was inked today.

Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation Brig-Gen Myo Tin and Mr Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Noaimi, Chairman and Managing Director of Civil Aviation Authority of Qatar, signed

The agreement is based on the drafted agreement initiated by the representatives of the two countries as a result of consultation for the conclusion of Air Services Agreement between the government of the two countries and signed upon

According to the agreement, one or more airlines can be designated rep-

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



## Cambodian PM appeals to enhance ASEAN traffic safety

PHNOM PENH, 24 Nov—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday appealed to all ASEAN member countries to make efforts to reduce traffic accidents.

Hun Sen made the appeal at his speech delivered at the opening ceremony of the 10th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting held here on Tuesday.

Ten Transport Ministers of ASEAN member countries and ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong attended the meeting.

Calling it (traffic accidents) the second secret murderer followed HIV/AIDS, the Premier called the ministers to accelerate their efforts to prepare and implement action plans for traffic safety in ASEAN region, so as to reduce accidents and keep a safe environment of ASEAN road network in the ASEAN

member countries.

Since roads are being improved and transportation goes up, traffic accidents are unfortunately also on the rise every year in ASEAN countries.

The figures from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday showed that some 75,000 persons were killed and more than 4.7 million were injured in road crashes in South-East Asian countries during 2003.

At the same time, the annual economic losses from road accidents are estimated at around 15 billion US dollars, or 2.2 per cent of the region's total gross domestic product.

ADB warned that "if South-East Asian nations

do not start taking road safety seriously, there will be 385,000 road deaths and 24 million injuries in the next five years, incurring more than 88 billion dollars in economic losses".

Cambodia also witnessed more traffic accidents and more people killed and injured in recent years causing more than 116 million dollars of losses annually, accounting for three per cent of the nation's GDP (gross domestic product).

At Tuesday's meeting, ministers will consider and adopt the final drafts of the ASEAN Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan and the Phnom Penh Ministerial Declaration on ASEAN Road Safety.

ASEAN consists of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore hosts 1st Int'l Crime Prevention Conference

SINGAPORE, 23 Nov—The first International Crime Prevention Conference (ICPC) opened here on Monday with the participation of over 300 law enforcement officials from 30 countries.

The four-day conference is aimed to provide an opportunity for crime prevention practitioners to exchange their experience and enhance crime prevention strategies. Issues to be discussed include youth crime, security for the elderly and the fight against terrorism. Addressing the conference, Singapore's Minister for Education Tharman Shanmugaratnam introduced two fundamental factors in crime prevention in the city state, which have proved effective in Singapore's low crime rate of less than 1 per cent.

"The first has to do with upstream interventions and the second, the adoption of a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approach. Besides an effective criminal justice system, both these factors have been fundamental to Singapore's strategies to minimize crime," Tharman said.

He further explained that Singapore endeavours to locate the principal causes of crime and correct behaviour that leads to crime, adding that many approaches, resources and social interventions are needed to tackle crime or the factors leading to crime.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine of the 1st Division walks through the deserted western part of Fallujah, Iraq, on 15 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET



## Vietnam, China to work for closer parliamentary ties

HANOI, 23 Nov—Vietnam and China will strengthen exchanges of parliamentary delegations to share experience and step up the overall relations between the two countries, Vietnamese Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly said on Monday.

He made the statement when receiving the visiting Chinese Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC)'s Foreign Affairs Committee — Li Chongmin.

"More and more delegations from the Vietnamese people and the assembly are visiting China to learn things and exchange experience," Duoc said, expressing his thanks for Chinese assistance in helping Vietnam in various fields, including industry and culture.

Li said the parliaments of China and Vietnam should beef up their good ties so that the ties will be as rich as the relations between people and parties of the two countries, adding that the top legislative bodies should frequently visit each other as if they were in the same house.

"The NPC will send a high-ranking delegation to attend the 13th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum to be held in Vietnam in January 2005," he noted. — MNA/Xinhua



Officials check computers in a work area at main press centre for upcoming 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos, on 23 Nov, 2004.

INTERNET

## Arab states not ready to forgive Iraq debt

DUBAI, 23 Nov—Arab countries made clear Tuesday they are far from ready to commit to a deal to forgive more than \$30 billion owed them by Iraq, despite US pressure and a recent debt-relief package by other major countries.

The hesitation on the part of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, both strong US allies, could have widespread ramifications for the effort to help Iraq get back on its feet economically.

A weekend deal by Russia, Japan, Europe and the United States to

forgive 80 percent of their portion of Iraq's debt hinges on Arab countries going along.

Both Kuwait, Iraq's largest single creditor and Saudi Arabia have said no debt-relief commitments are possible until after Iraq has an elected and internationally recognized government.

Iraq takes the first step in that process in January, when it plans to hold elections for a National Assembly that is to draft a new constitution. If that is ratified, an election to choose a national government will be held in December 2005.

It remains unclear at what point in that lengthy process the Arab countries would view a debt-relief deal as possible.

Internet

## 1,229 members of US mili killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov—As of Tuesday, 23 November, 2004, at least 1,229 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 957 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Tuesday at 10 am EDT.

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 de-

clared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,091 US military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 848 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 9,326 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally.

Internet

## NZ researchers develop new device to stop drivers falling asleep

WELLINGTON, 24 Nov—An alertness monitor which can detect when a driver is at risk of falling asleep is being developed by health researchers in Christchurch of New Zealand.

The project, based at Christchurch's new Van der Veer Institute for Parkinson's and brain research, follows mounting national concern over the dangers of driving while tired, Christchurch-based daily *The Press* reported Wednesday.

Last week a Massey University research magazine published a study showing driver fatigue was a factor in one in six truck crashes - three times earlier estimates.

Also, in September Christchurch researchers published a study showing three out of four healthy men asked to perform a monotonous task for one hour actually fell asleep at least once.

Neurotechnology research Director Associate Professor Richard Jones, one of the authors of the Christchurch study, is now helping develop an alertness monitor. It would measure a person's brainwaves and eye movements while they were driving and would give them a wake-up call if needed.

"It has colossal potential," Jones was quoted as saying. "Cases of tired drivers falling asleep aren't uncommon. A system which could monitor a person and detect lapses of consciousness would be of considerable value in helping to prevent serious accidents."

It would not just be useful for the likes of long-distance truck drivers but for anyone who needed sustained alertness such as pilots and air traffic controllers. "Diminished alertness levels in these occupations can lead to disastrous consequences," Jones said. His research group, part of the Canterbury District Health Board, has signed a five-year contract with Canterbury University's Canterbury Ltd, to work together on commercializing a number of technologies, including the alertness monitor.

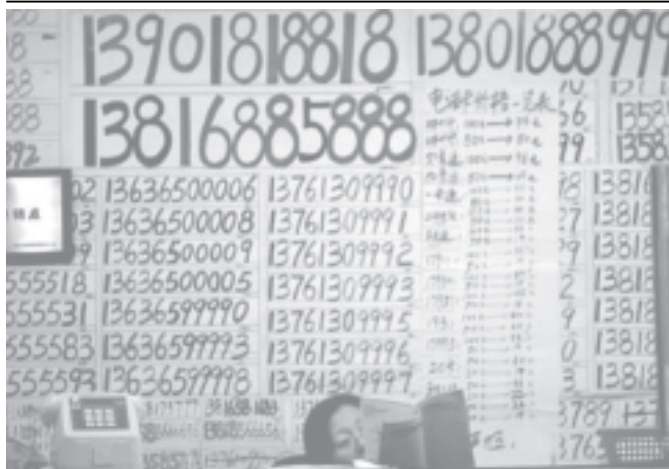
The alertness monitor is at least two years away from commercial release, Jones said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

စက်မှုပိုင်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

## Philippine Govt urges return of over staying workers in Japan

MANILA, 24 Nov— The Philippine Government Tuesday called for immediate return of overseas Filipino workers, who have overstayed in Japan, before a new immigration law takes effect in the country on Saturday.

Labour and Employment Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said in a radio interview that overstaying aliens face a maximum fine of three million yen, deportation and a 10-year ban from entering Japan, according to the law. Although amendments to the immigration law allows the provisional stay of illegal aliens who applied for refugee status, illegal aliens guilty of violating the penal code or other laws of Japan are not entitled for a provisional status or refugee status, she said. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A Chinese vendor waits for customers at a mobile phone number shop in Shanghai in this picture taken on 20 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

## US troops wounded in Iraq war tops 9,000

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov—The number of US troops wounded throughout Iraq since the Fallujah offensive began 7 November has surpassed 850, and the wounded total for the entire war has topped 9,000, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

In its weekly report on casualties the Pentagon said 9,326 US troops have been wounded since US forces invaded Iraq in March 2003. That's an increase of 370 from the previous week, reflecting not only the battles in Fallujah but insurgent attacks in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

The wounded total has increased

by 868 since the outset of the Fallujah offensive and by 1,039 since 1 November. The Pentagon has not given a comprehensive report on the number of American forces killed and wounded in Fallujah alone, but officials said last week that at least 51 had been killed and 425 wounded.

Internet



## Number of China's mobile phone users hits record high

BEIJING, 23 Nov— The number of mobile phone subscribers in China reached a record 320 million at the end of October, said the Ministry of Information Industry on Monday.

This is a rise of 55.081 million over the end of last year. On the average, China has 5.5 million new mobile phone subscribers a month in the first ten months this year, said the ministry in its Press release. At the end of October, there were 24.8 million phones for every one hundred Chinese.

Along with the increase of mobile phone subscribers, the business of short message also witnessed a sharp rise of 62 per cent year-on-year to more than 176.06 billion messages in first ten months, said the ministry.

Though facing heated competition brought by mobile communications, the number of fixed-line

subscribers rose 47.94 million over the end of last year to 310 million by the end of October. By then, there were 24.5 fixed-line subscribers every one hundred Chinese, the ministry said.

Statistics with the ministry show the total number of telephone users in China, including both mobile phone users and fixed-line users, reached 635.72 million by the end of October.

The ministry also said that in the first ten months China's total revenue of post and telecommunications reached 477.14 billion yuan (57.7 billion US dollars), up 12.2 per cent over the same period last year.

The postal revenue in the period was 45.46 bil-

lion yuan (about 5.5 billion US dollars), a rise of 2.3 per cent year-on-year, and the revenue of telecommunications hit 431.68 billion yuan (about 52.2 billion US dollars), up 13.3 per cent year-on-year. The fixed assets investment in telecommunications reached 155.62 billion yuan (18.8 billion US dollars) by the end of October, up 9.6 per cent year-on-year.

China's mobile phone users outnumbered fixed-line phone subscribers in October 2003. China imported its first mobile phone telecommunication facilities in 1987, and it took a decade for its number of subscribers to jump to 10 million.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bush's eco policies have set country on dangerous course

NEW YORK, 23 Nov— The economic policies of US President George W. Bush have set the country on a dangerous course that will likely end in crisis, Princeton economics professor Paul Krugman told *Reuters* in an interview.

Krugman, who may be best known for his opinion column in *The New York Times*, said he was concerned that Bush's electoral victory over Senator John Kerry earlier this month would only reinforce the Administra-

tion's unwillingness to listen to dissenting opinions.

That, in turn, could spell serious trouble for the US economy, which under Bush's first term was plagued by soaring deficits, waning investor confidence and anaemic job creation.

"This is a group of people who don't believe that any of the rules really apply," said Krugman. "They are utterly irresponsible."

Krugman is currently taking some time off from journalism to write and promote the second installment of his latest project—economics textbooks aimed at making the science more accessible to college students. In the meantime, however, he worries the Bush Administration's fiscal policies are going to push the world's largest economy into a rut.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi firemen and civilians try to extinguish fire in a car destroyed by a mortar shell attack in central Baghdad recently.—INTERNET



## Vietnam facilitates technology market

**HANOI, 24 Nov —** Vietnam is enhancing quality and commercialization of scientific and technological products by developing its technology market and perfecting legal documents on technology transfer.

The country will develop technology mediation establishments by setting up market promotion agencies, regularly holding equipment markets and exhibitions, and encouraging all economic sectors to participate in the activities, local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* said on Tuesday.

To ensure smooth operation of technology markets, Vietnam is perfecting its legal system, especially in the fields of intellectual property and technology trans-

fer. It is offering financial assistance for transferring technologies between departments of science and technologies nationwide, among localities, and from research establishments to enterprises and farmers, the report said.

The country will set aside a larger part of the state budget for assisting the commercialization of research products, the paper said, adding it is encouraging localities to join hands in scientific research

and technology transfer.

Vietnam's investment in scientific research and technological development is still modest, but the commercialization of its research results has recently shown encouraging signs. Statistics has it that 20 technology and agriculture universities in the country signed 13,000 contracts totalling more than 1.1 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 70.1 million US dollars) between 1996 and 2000. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Models display the 71-inch PDP television of LG Electronics in Seoul on 22 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

## Iran joins outcry against 'excessive force' in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 23 Nov —** The Iranian, Egyptian and Syrian governments accused the US yesterday of using excessive force to quell rebels in Iraq.

The Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, said at an international conference in Sharm el-Sheikh that although condemning terrorism, "we cannot over-emphasise the need to refrain from shelling civilians, destroying cities and killing innocent people".

More than 20 countries and organisations, including the US, Britain, the UN, and Iraq's neighbours took part in the one-day meeting on the future of Iraq at the Egyptian Red Sea resort.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrazi, criticised "the use of excessive force and bombing of towns" but also condemned the insurgents for kidnappings and other acts of violence, saying: "Such acts will help prolong the presence of foreign troops in Iraq." — *Internet*

## US, Syria quarrel over Iraq border

**SHARM EL SHEIKH (Egypt), 23 Nov —** The United States and Syria exchanged sharp words yesterday over what the Bush administration says is Damascus' failure to fully honour its commitment prevent terrorists, weapons and financing from crossing its border into Iraq.

The terse exchange came during a meeting between Secretary of State Colin L Powell and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa, both of whom attended a major international conference on Iraq's political future at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheik.

Washington and Iraq's interim government reached an agreement with Damascus last month on ways to patrol the porous Iraqi-Syrian border, which is a major entry point for militants and money headed for the Iraqi guerrillas.

"We discussed that rather directly," Mr Powell told reporters shortly after the conference concluded, using diplomatic speak for a

tense and argumentative, though respectful, conversation.

"The Syrians have taken some steps recently, but we think there is a lot they can do, and we are looking for greater opportunities to work with the Syrians," he said.

"We'll try to provide as much information to the Syrians about the activity that is taking place in Syria that they really need to get on top of and do something about," he said.

The meeting yesterday was in stark contrast with Mr Powell's encounter with Mr. Sharaa at the United Nations in September, when the secretary said he sensed "a new attitude from the Syrians."

*Internet*

## China, Switzerland reconstruct historical site

**KUNMING, 23 Nov —** China is working with Switzerland to reconstruct an ancient bazaar in the Shaxi Town, Jianchuan County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, which was among the watch list of 101 world's most endangered sites released by the World Monuments Fund (WMF).

The first phase of the reconstruction project has been finished and the ancient bazaar is ready to open to tourists, said the project authorities.

With intact theaters, inns, temples and gates, the bazaar, dating from the Qin and Han dynasties (BC 221 AD 220), is the only well-preserved example of its kind along a famous ancient tea trade route that connects the region with Tibet and south-east Asia.

To better protect the

site, the government of Jianchuan signed a memorandum on the reconstruction with the Switzerland Technological University in 2002, aiming to recover the prosperity of the ancient bazaar.

According to the memorandum, both sides will jointly invest 27 million yuan (about 3.26 million US dollars) to protect the bazaar and develop villages around it, help the town shake off poverty and protect the local cul-

ture of Jianchuan County, where 90 per cent of the population is of the Bai minority.

This year, a total of 4.5 million yuan (about 543,636 US dollars) foreign capital has gone to the reconstruction.

At present, both sides are to start the second phase of the project, which will focus on recreating the ancient scene of the bazaar, the region's poverty-elimination and local cultural protection.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Scientists say oceans turning up new species of fish

**REYKJAVIK, 23 Nov —** A survey of the world's oceans is turning up more than two new species of fish a week and revealing huge trans-ocean migration routes by creatures from turtles to tuna, scientists say.

"We're finding new marine species almost everywhere," said Ron O'Dor, senior scientist of the Census of Marine Life, a 10-year project running until 2010 by hundreds of scientists in 70 nations.

Even in well-studied waters like off Europe, the number of species is climbing. The census will aid understanding of the oceans, the least-known part of the planet's surface, and help in monitoring threats including over-fishing and global warming.

For fish alone, the census has turned up 106 new species so far in 2004, or more than two a week, according to a 2004 report to be released on Tuesday.

The finds bring the known total of fish species to 15,482.

Among fish, new species found in 2004 include a type of striped goby that lives off Guam in the Pacific.

Other finds in 2004 included two types of octopus in chilly waters off Antarctica and a burrowing 20-cm (eight-inch) worm, dubbed a "purple orchid", in the depths of the mid-Atlantic.

The census estimates that there are

about 230,000 known species of marine life, mostly tiny microbes and ranging up to blue whales, but that the real number may top two million.

"Below 3,000 metres (yards) there is a 50-50 chance that any species we find is new to science," O'Dor, a Canadian, told *Reuters*.

Some of the 2004 surprises were in the growing understanding of vast distances travelled by creatures from seals to fish tracked by tiny electronic tags. "It seems that these huge migrations are much more common than we believed," O'Dor said.

"Bluefin tuna tagged in California turned up off Japan and then swim back to California," O'Dor said. "It's been known that tuna swim across the Atlantic but the Pacific is three times broader."

"And green turtles tagged near the Equator go in huge loops around the Pacific, maybe three times in a lifetime of almost perpetual movement," he said.

And off western Canada rare green sturgeon were also found 620 miles north of their normal spawning grounds in California.

*MNA/Reuters*



A US soldier in his Humvee patrols the highway between the Iraqi Sunni cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, west of Baghdad on 21 Nov, 2004. — *INTERNET*

## Roads in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand deadliest in SEA

**MANILA, 23 Nov — Roads in Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand are the deadliest in Southeast Asia but accidents will cost the entire region 385,000 lives and 88 billion dollars in the next five years without a concerted plan for traffic safety, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Monday.**

The Asia-Pacific Region racks up 44 per cent of the world's road deaths each year, despite having just 14 per cent of its vehicles, the Manila-based Bank said in a report to be discussed by transport ministers' meeting in Cambodia this week.

Motorcycles figured prominently in crashes last year that killed 75,000 people, injured 4.7 million people and cost Southeast Asia about 15 billion dollars in economic losses, or 2.2 per cent of the region's total gross domestic product.

"Official statistics grossly underestimate the actual numbers of persons killed or injured in road accidents," the ADB said in a statement.

"Such huge recurring losses are not sustainable and action has to be taken to implement a regional strategy and action plan to promote road safety."

The ADB said it had helped the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations to draft a five-year programme, based on successful road safety

schemes from around the world. Implementing the plan — which calls for better analysis, a multi-sector approach and adequate resources — would save 42,000 lives and 10.6 billion dollars in the region over the next five years, the ADB said.

The biggest discrepancies between police reports and ADB research on the number of road deaths and injuries were in Indonesia and the Philippines, the Bank said.

Singapore fares best, losing 0.5 per cent of its GDP to road accidents each year. Cambodia suffers the most, at 3.21 per cent.

Indonesia lost the most last year in economic terms at more than six billion dollars from its estimated 30,464 traffic deaths.

Vietnam was second with 13,186 deaths last year, followed by Thailand at 13,116, the Philippines at 9,000 and Malaysia at 6,282. Singapore was the safest place with 211 fatalities. — MNA/Reuters



A nurse inspects medicines in Beijing on 22 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

## China, Albania hail 55th anniversary of establishing ties

**BEIJING, 23 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao and Albanian President Alfred Moisiu exchanged congratulatory messages Tuesday to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.**

"Albania was among the earliest to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and has made historic contributions to the restoration of China's legitimate seat at the United Nations," Hu said in his message to Moisiu.

Over the past 55 years, Hu said, Sino-Albanian relations have developed smoothly through mutual

understanding, equal treatment and close cooperation. "Facts have shown that the furtherance of our friendly relations and cooperation in all fields, based on the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit as well as non-interference in each other's internal affairs, serves the fundamental interests of our two nations and peoples," he said.

"China values its relations with Albania and stands ready to join Albania in working on the opportunities of the 55th anniversary of our diplomatic relations to build an even better future for our bilateral relationship," Hu said. — MNA/Xinhua

Likewise, Yaranon said the meningococemia cases have remained isolated and sporadic, adding that all of the cases can be traced to one area in the northern province of Benguet.

The DoH on Sunday denied an outbreak of meningococemia in the country amid reports that three people have already died of the disease since last week and at least eight since October.

Seven people are confined at the San Lazaro Hospital for treatment of meningococemia, said Luningning Villa, DoH spokesperson for infectious disease. She said none of those patients comes from Baguio.

MNA/Xinhua

## Philippines says no outbreak of Meningococemia

**MANILA, 23 Nov — The Philippine Palace officials on Monday declared that there is no outbreak of meningococemia, saying the reported cases of the disease have been contained.**

The Department of Health (DoH) has already submitted its report, stating that it can handle the spread of the disease, said Presidential Palace communications director Silvestre Afafe.

The DoH report considered as sporadic incidents the cases in the northern city of Baguio and San Lazaro Hospital in Manila.

Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez said meningococemia is treatable, with cases being reported worldwide every year.

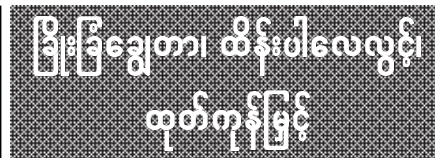
"There is a higher chance that you can get well from meningococemia because the drugs needed to fight the sickness is not very sophisticated," he told

the local DZMM radio station. He also said meningococemia bacteria can be transferred through respiratory droplets by spitting or sneezing.

Meanwhile, Baguio City Mayor Brulio Yaranon said news reports of a possible outbreak of meningococemia in Baguio has affected tourism in the city.

"It is inevitable that tourism is affected, especially with these kinds of reports (but I can assure that) there is no outbreak," he said.

Yaranon said influx of tourists into Baguio City has decreased since Friday after initial reports of the cases broke out in news reports.



## Chinese President begins state visit to Cuba

**HAVANA, 23 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived here Monday to begin a two-day state visit to Cuba.**

Hu is expected to meet with Fidel Castro, President of the Council of State and other Cuban leaders to exchange views on bilateral relations and major international issues.

"I believe that the visit will deepen our friendship and cooperation," Hu said in a written speech upon arrival at the airport. "We hope to work with Cuba for a better future of our friendly cooperation."

Cuba was the first Latin American country that established full diplomatic

relations with China in 1960. Hu previously visited Cuba in 1997.

Two-way trade between China and Cuba has been about 400 million US dollars annually over the past three years. The trade volume reached 401 million US dollars from January to September this year, up 36.7 per cent.

China mainly imports sugar and nickle from Cuba and exports machinery and electronic products to Cuba.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia, Chile agree on planned LNG supply deal

**JAKARTA, 24 Nov — Indonesia has reached initial agreement with Chile on the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the latter, which needs up to four million tons of LNG a year, a local newspaper reported on Tuesday.**

The agreement was signed between Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro and Chilean Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy Jorge Rodriguez Grossi in Chile over the weekend. *Bisnis Indonesia* said.

The preliminary agreement does not mention the agreed supply volume and LNG tariff.

"We will have further talks on this. We will send a team (to Chile) to discuss the matter because the key issue remains on price," Purnomo was quoted as saying.

Indonesia sees it no trouble to meet the delivery volume of LNG demanded by Chile with domestic gas reserves reaching 150 trillion cubic feet, 90 trillion of which already under sale contract, Purnomo said.

"We have remaining reserves of 60 trillion cubic feet, enough to meet domestic and export market demand," he said. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi families look back at a US Army soldier from the 1st Battalion, 24 Infantry Regiment during a mission searching for guerillas in Mosul, Iraq, on 22 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET



# From Mandalay to Bagan on board the Shwe Keinnari

Soe Tint (IWT)

The ship, Shwe Keinnari 1, started its journey from Gawwein jetty in Mandalay at 6 am in the morning. Ayeyawady branch of the Inland Water Transport launched the Shwe Keinnari's special Mandalay-Bagan cruise in 1996. Three ships, christened, Shwe Keinnari 1, Shwe Keinnari 2 and Shwe Keinnari 3, are sailing up and down the Ayeyawady between the two destinations.

They are all double-deckers transporting passengers in their cozy air-conditioned first deck, and housing a restaurant on the upper deck from which passengers can enjoy the scenic beauty of the river and the landscape on both banks.

They can marvel at the mountain ranges under the changing colours of the sky above them, and touch the sincerity of the Myanmar people. Actually, the tour programme aims at attracting foreign tourists. The Shwe Keinneri service runs every day except on Sunday and Wednesday, starting its trip at 6 am to sail downstream the river.

The Mandalay City ring road, the Yadanabon Shipyard, built during the Yadanabon period, the bluish Minwun hill or Sagaing Mountain range, and the new Ayeyawady Bridge Project after passing Shwekyetyet and Shwekyetkya, are all the attractive scenes tourists will see soon after the ship leaves the jetty. After sailing under the Sagaing Bridge, they can see the historic Thabyedan Fort, the Dokhtawady River or the Mytinge River flowing gently into the Ayeyawady, Mainu Brick Monastery, old Inwa town and ancient Hsinkyone Fort on the west bank, and on the east bank is the historic Asiyin Fort south of Sagaing.

After a two-hour sail, the ship arrives at a place where the river flows between a long reef on the east bank and Ywathitgyi on the west bank, 25 miles from the starting point. Ywathitkyi houses a garment factory, and the University for Development of National Races that is producing valuable human resources for the nation in the future. An island also lies in the river near Ywathitkyi. There is an overhead power cable

crossing the river. After passing the Phu River mouth, the ship enters the danger zone where three or four reefs are lying in the river. After sailing for another one and a half hour, the ship makes its first stopover at Myinmu jetty, which is 39 miles from Mandalay.

Banana is the main product of Myinmu in Sagaing Division. At the jetty, large shipments of banana await transport downstream or upstream. Some tourists travel to the town by car from Mandalay to catch the ship, and some tourists after visiting Monywa, also continue their journey to Bagan on board the Shwe Keinneri. Further downstream the river awaits the Rekkhadipa, Linkadipa, Nganmya,

**The Mandalay City ring road, the Yadanabon Shipyard, built during the Yadanabon period, the bluish Minwun hill or Sagaing Mountain range, and the new Ayeyawady Bridge Project after passing Shwekyetyet and Shwekyetkya, are all the attractive scenes tourists will see soon after the ship leaves the jetty.**

Myittha and Nyaungbintha villages on the east bank to catch tourist eyes. Linkadipa, with thriving crops fields, lies in the middle of the river. Tranquil villages such as Wetoe, Hsinpangon, Kyweyaik lie peacefully on the west bank at the place. After about five hours have passed, the ship anchors at Hsimigon village, 58 miles from Mandalay.

The Shwe Keinneri passes a number of peaceful and tranquil villages on both banks before making its third stopover at Gintge jetty, 64 miles from Gawwein jetty. After sailing down the river for ten minutes from the jetty, the ship arrives at Randabo, where Randabo Treaty was signed to end the First Anglo-Myanmar War, which broke out in 1824. A stone pillar still stands at the village, 69 miles from Mandalay. Its main and famous product is earthen

pots. On the opposite bank lies Pale village, the birth place of Yaw Atwinwun U Po Hlaing, who had helped develop treatises on various fields including medicine, religion and administration, during the Yadanabon period.

Beyond Randabo are Inchaung and Myingyan. The latter was once a busy port. But now it is located far from the river due to changes in river's direction. Ships can moor at its jetty only in the rainy season when the water level is high. After sailing from Mandalay for 87 miles, the ship reaches the most breathtaking point of the journey, the place where Chindwin, the largest tributary, meets mother Ayeyawady. Except in the rainy season, the colour of the Ayeyawady is blue or green, sparkling under the shining sun in the day time. But at the convergence, the muddy waters of Chindwin mix with the clear waters of the mother river. A long sand dune in the river is enhancing the enchanted beauty of the convergence, located in the place where Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions meet. On the east bank is Myinchi and on the west bank, Chaydawya.

Sailing down the convergence, tourists see more villages lying peacefully on both banks, some agricultural islands and tributaries till reaching Pakokku, a major town on the west bank, at 3 pm. Pakokku transports its products to Letpanshepaw on the opposite bank, which serves as a transit centre for the goods to reach various parts of the country by railroad or by car. Pakokku is famous for its large pariyatti schools for Buddhist monks, leather slippers and garments. It takes about nine hours to reach the town that is 103 miles from Mandalay. In summer, boats have to anchor at Yelemyin and Kokkohla islands seven miles from the town as the water is too shallow to reach its jetty. Urbanization is under way in Pakokku to develop it into the capital of the west bank in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 7-9-2004

## Interview with National Literary Award winners

Article & Photos by Thaung Win Bo

Writer Maung Thit Sar won the National Literary Award in the Myanmar culture and arts genre in 2003 for his book entitled "Ancient Myanma Ink Inscription and Myanmar Culture".

During the interview, the writer said that though palm-leaf inscriptions, Parabaik, inscriptions found on significant bells and inscriptions made on stone are well-known in Myanmar, ink inscriptions are very rare. With the aim of disseminating the knowledge

to the readers, he compiled facts about ink inscriptions which would soon disappear. In the past, scholars inscribed records in Pali, Mon and Myanmar languages, he added. In their works, the inscriptions in ink written by hand at pagodas, stupas, caves, tunnels, prayer halls, ordination halls and monasteries are called "Min Sar" (ink inscriptions or ink writings), he said.

The writer asserted that he tried hard to present his research works concerning ink inscriptions in Pali, Mon and Myanmar versions in the original style for other researchers. The aim of the book is to preserve Myanmar culture, he added. The writer concluded that ink inscriptions can be found in Bagan-NyaungU region, Sale, Pakhamnge, Hsale, Kyundaw, Khinmon, Mandalay and Patheingyi.

Hsaung Win Latt won the National Literary Award for the third time for his novel "3 a.m.", a story about an artist. The setting of the story is Ayeyawady Division.

"The award is of vital importance to me as I am a writer by profession", said Hsaung Win Latt, who won the award for collected short stories "Whither the little village?" in 1994 and the award for novel "It's worth longing for" in 2001.

"The late U Ba Nyan, a famous artist, is the main

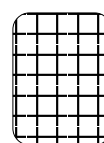
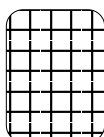
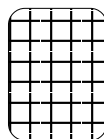
character, and the artists' world is what I have featured in detail", explained the writer regarding his latest award-winning work for the year 2003. It is a great pleasure and pride for me to receive this award, presented by the State, he said, thanking his mentors and parents for the success.

"As we, writers are responsible for progress of the literary profession in Myanmar, I will continue to strive for its development", he pledged.

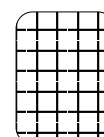
(Translation: TTA + TMT)



Maung  
Thit Sa



Hsaung  
Win Latt



## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein...

(from page 1)

would come out. Next, Chairman of WFA Minister of Sports Mr Li Zhijian of the People's Republic of China extended greetings and opened the 6th Asia Wushu Championships.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chinese Minister Mr Li Zhijian, President U Khin Maung Lay cordially greeted the Wushu athletes.

Next, athletes of the MWF and Chinese athletes demonstrated some aspects of Wushu sports.

The Wushu Championships included Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Macao, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, China (Taipei), Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen and host Myanmar. A total of 530 athletes of 24 teams are participating in the event which continues till November 27.—MNA



MOC Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses opening ceremony of 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004.—NLM



Selected Myanmar Wushu athlete Zaw Zaw Moe reciting sports oaths.—MNA



The Iranian referee reciting oaths of referees.—MNA



Chinese Minister of Sports President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian extends greetings.—NLM

## Minister for Sports enjoys Asian Wushu C'ships

YANGON, 24 Nov—The 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004, hosted by Myanmar, started its events at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna this morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chinese Minister of Sports

President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian and officials of World Wushu Federation, President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay and executives.

In the championships, the Women's Taijiquan event, the Men's Qiangshu event, the Men's Daoshu event, the Women's Gunshu event and the Men's

Taijiquan event were held. After the matches, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chinese Minister of Sports President of AWF Mr Li Zhijian, the secretary of WWF U Khin Maung Lay presented prizes and the bunches of flowers to the winners.

The championships will continue up to 27 November.—MNA



Myanmar Wushu athletes present skill demonstration.—NLM

## Successful candidates announced

YANGON, 24 Nov—The Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport and the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University under the Ministry of Science and Technology are going to launch their

classes for 2004-2005 academic year on 1 December 2004.

The list of successful candidates of the universities is available beginning on 25 November at the Higher Education Department

(Lower Myanmar) on Thaton Street, Kamayut Township, Myanmar Maritime University in Thilawa, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Technological University in Gyogon, Insein Township, and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in Meiktila.

The successful candidates are to register at respective universities from 29 November until 15 December.—MNA

## Rural tube-well put into service

YANGON, 24 Nov—Budalin Township Development Affairs Committee is sinking tube-wells in the township under the supervision of Sagaing Division DAC. With the cash donation of K 1.25 million by U Kyaw Hoe and Daw Thin Yee (Mibamyitta Pharmaceutical Store) in Yangon, Budalin Township DAC sank a two-inch tube-well at Pyutu Village in the township.

The facility was put into commission on 15 November. Deputy Superintending Engineer of the Division DAC U Kyaw Soe, Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Myat Thein Tun and wellwishers formally opened the facility.

MNA

## CECs meet USDA members

YANGON, 24 Nov—Two Central Executive Committee members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association met with executives of USDA in Pyay yesterday.

The CEC members, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay explained the political, economic and social developments

of the nation and the seven-point Road Map, which must be materialized with the participation of the entire people of the country.

Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and secretaries, joint secretaries and executives

of the division, Pyay District and eight township USDAs attended the meeting.

The CEC members also met with USDA secretaries, joint secretaries and executives of Thayawady District and six townships in Thayawady.

MNA

## Course on Practical Aspects of Exploration in Myanmar concludes

YANGON, 24 Nov—The concluding of Course on Practical Aspects of Exploration in Myanmar (professional level) organized by the Myanmar Geological Science Association was held at the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Head Office) on 18 November.

President of the association Dr U Thein presented completion certificates to the trainees.

MNA

## Roads in Taunggyi renovated

YANGON, 24 Nov—Repair work of the roads in Taunggyi are being carried out in the opening season by the township Development Affairs Department.

Officials led by U M Hla Thaug of the township DAD on 1 November supervised the tarring of road near Sao San Tun Market in Taunggyi.

MNA





Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh cordially greets athletes at the 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off ceremony.— MNA



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh flags off the 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally.— MNA

## First India-ASEAN Car Rally...

(from page 16)

Next, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong and delegates of ASEAN discussed

tourism in ASEAN-India region and development of border trade.

ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng

Yong also discussed border trade on ASEAN-India, transport, development of tourism and promotion of information

technology.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the first India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off ceremony in Nehru Stadium. Eleven parachuters representing ASEAN+1 jumped down from the plane and

speeches.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh greeted drivers and flagged off the car rally.

Two hundred and forty drivers of India and ASEAN (the Philippines not included) participated

party visited Myanmar drivers and watched the rally.

The distance of the car rally is 7,869 kilometres— 690 km in India, 439 km in Myanmar, 2,230 km in Thailand, 642 km in Laos, 1,312



Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party being welcomed by Commander of No 4 Army Corps Lt-Gen AS Jamwal and party.— MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party pose for documentary photo with Maj-Gen Diveli and officials of No 57th Rifle Division in Moreh, India.— MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attending North-East India's Gateway to the ASEAN Meeting.— MNA

landed. Bagpipes troupe and the military band of Indian Armed Forces performed their skills and students and national cultural troupes of ASEAN entertained the audience with traditional dances.

Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of State of Assam Mr Tarun Gogoi, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong and Confederation of Indian Industry Mr Sunil Kant Munjal delivered

in the rally in a caravan of 60 vehicles. Twelve drivers participated in three cars. In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the dinner hosted by Prime Minister of State of Assam Mr Tarun Gogoi at Brahmaputra.

On 23 November, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the rally at Justice Ground in Guwahati.

The Prime Minister of State of Assam flagged off the rally. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and

km in Vietnam, 642 km in Cambodia, 853 km in Malaysia and 50 km in Singapore. All participants will arrive at the finishing point in Battam, Indonesia.

It will take the rally 19 days including pilgrimage in Cambodia.

The caravan of the cars will arrive in Tamu on 24 November, in Mandalay on 25 November, in Loilem on 26 November and in Kengtung on 27 November.

(See page 10)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects dredging of drains along Tamu-Kalay Road.— MNA





Disciples and lay persons pay homage to remains of the late Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita.— MNA

## Homage paid to remains of the late Chairman Sayadaw

YANGON, 24 Nov.—The remains of Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Chief of Pakokku Maha Visutarama Nikaya Presiding Nayaka of Myingyan Koehsaung Monastery and Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery from Dagon Myothit (South) Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga

Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera is being kept at the temporary building in the precinct of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery.

Lay persons and members of the Sangha paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw this morning and evening.

The religious associations and the music troupes

recited religious verses and songs.

At night, Wakhinkon Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bahujana Hitadhara Bhaddanta Tikkha administered Desanas. Tomorrow night, Agga Maha Pandita Thegon Sayadaw Dr Nanissara (Sitagu) will administer Dhamma Desana.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attend 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off Ceremony.— MNA



Skill demonstration of cyclists at the 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off Ceremony.— MNA

## First India-ASEAN...

(from page 9)

On 28 November the caravan will enter Thailand through Kengtung-Tachilek. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the heliport and they were seen off by Lt-Gen AS Jamwal. They arrived in Tamu through Moreh and inspected development

activities there. They also inspected Tamu market and drainage along Tamu-Kalay Road, vehicles assembled in Kalay industrial zone. They arrived back here in the evening.—MNA



ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong extends greetings at the 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off Ceremony.— MNA



Myanmar athletes seen at the 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off Ceremony.— MNA

## Myanmar fashion designers leave for KL

YANGON, 24 Nov.—Chief-editors of two fashion magazines and fashion designers on 20 November left for Malaysia to attend the Asia Fashion Week-2004 which will be held in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysian hotels and tourism companies will organize the fashion week from 21 to 29 November. The Myanmar delegation comprises Chief-Editor of Empress Akari Magazine U Kyi Win, Emperor Akarit Magazine U Hla Phone Aung, Daw Tin Moe Lwin of T & M and seven fashion designers.— H



Myanmar fashion designers seen at the airport before departure for Kuala Lumpur.— (H)

## Commander...

(from page 16)

foundation. At the briefing hall of Irrigation Department, Director U Kyaw Thein reported on Progress of construction of the Ngamoyeik sluice gate project to the commander. The commander said that the number of sown acreage will rise and income of local people will increase after Ngamoyeik Sluice Gate. The commander gave instructions on cultivation of the summer paddy on both sides of the Ngamoyeik Creek in time, arrangements for greening 30 miles radius of Yangon City all the year round and completion of the tasks on time meeting the set standard. The Ngamoyeik sluice gate is 12 feet high and eight feet wide with 1,200-foot length including 26 valves for channels. On completion of the project, flow of salty water into the farmlands along the Ngamoyeik creek in the rainy season can be prevented and water supply also provided for over 5,000 acres of summer paddy cultivation.

MNA



## A & I Minister visits sugar mills

YANGON, 24 Nov—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo held meeting with the officials of Nos 2 and 3 Sugar Mills on 22 November. In his discussions, the Minister gave instructions on production of quality sugar in this season, and ensuring purchase of targeted amount of sugarcane. He said that it is needed to meet the targeted sown acreage of cultivation of sugarcane this cultivation season, calling for cooperation of related departments for sufficient water supply, timely ploughing and boosting per acre yield.

Yesterday, the Minister inspected Sugar Mill Nos 3 and 2.

Attending the opening of the Dhammayon to mark golden jubilee of the Institute of Agriculture and the planting of saplings, the Minister formally opened the Dhammayon. Next, the Minister visited the golden jubilee hall of the Institute of Agriculture. Upon arrival at Yayzin University of Agriculture, Pro-rector (Admin) U Hla Tun reported on academic matters. The minister said that Myanmar is producing human resources capable of raising the nation's economy based on agriculture. In this regard, the institute is to contribute towards progress of the agricultural sector by producing a number of agricultural experts, he said.

The Minister also inspected the library and computer room of the educational facility. — MNA



As a gesture of hailing the World AIDS Day which will falls on 1 December, a radio play is being recorded at Radio Myanmar.— MRTV

## Great Wall oil designated as official lubricant for 2008 Olympic

BEIJING, 24 Nov — The Great Wall lubricating oil has been designated as the official lubricant for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Chinese oil producer Sinopec Corporation announced here on Tuesday.

Sinopec, China's largest oil refining and petrochemical company, signed a deal with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics (BOCOG) last month, becoming an official partner of the games. According to the deal, Sinopec will provide funds and other forms of support for the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics, BOCOG, the Chinese Olympic Committee, as well as Chinese sports delegations for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin and 2008 Summer Olympics.

Song Yunchang, general manager of Sinopec's Lubricant

Company, said the 2008 Games provides an extensive platform for Sinopec to promote its brand and products.

"As the world's premier sporting event, the Olympic Games will help Sinopec present its excellent products and services to the world," Song told a Press conference.

Yuan Bin, deputy director of BOCOG's Marketing Department, was upbeat about the marketing prospects of the 2008 Games. "We're much delighted to see that so many enterprises, from home and abroad, show keen interest in sponsoring the Games," said Yuan. — MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore to become global hydro hub

SINGAPORE, 24 Nov — Singapore aims to build itself into a global hydro hub by growing its water industry to share 3 to 5 per cent in the global water market.

Speaking at the opening of Hyflux's Membrane Technology Research & Development (R&D) Centre here on Tuesday, Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, said that the well-developed R&D infrastructure is one of the advantages the city state enjoys to achieve this goal.

"Apart from R&D infrastructure, our strategic location also makes us an excellent knowledge hub for the testing and application of new environmental technology solutions developed for Asian conditions," Yaacob said.

He added that Singapore is also a choice location for many water companies seeking listing, while the Public Utilities Board (PUB) is nurturing the growth of the local water industry by tapping on leading edge technologies and expertise available in the private sector.

Hyflux, a water treatment specialist, has been playing a significant role in expanding Singapore's water supply in the past 15 years. Its newly-opened R&D centre is the largest of its kind in Asia outside Japan with 130 researchers. — MNA/Xinhua

## S Korean PM holds talks with Chinese senior official

SEOUL, 24 Nov — South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hai-chan held talks with Chinese State Councillor Chen Zhili on bilateral exchanges on Monday afternoon in the South Korean Government Complex Building.

Lee and Chen agreed on promoting co-operation and exchanges in science, technology and education fields. They also reached consensus on providing convenience for exchanges of personnel of the two countries.

The South Korean Premier highly appraised the rapid development of South Korea-China relations and the accomplishments China has achieved since it adopted the reform and open policy. During the meeting, Lee also hoped the two countries can expand cooperation in politics, economy and trade.

Chen said since China and South Korea established diplomatic ties in 1992, the Sino-South Korean relations have enjoyed rapid development and borne fruit.

She also took note of the consolidation and development of the Sino-South Korean ties after the two countries announced to build the full cooperation partnership ties in July 2003.

Chen said exchanges and cooperation in science, technology and education fields are important components of Sino-South Korean relations. She hoped the two neighbouring countries can make further progress on such exchanges and cooperation to attach new meaning to the full cooperation partnership ties.

Chen Zhili also met South Korean Vice-Prime Minister and Education and Human Resource Development Minister Ahn Byung-young earlier Monday. — MNA/Xinhua

## No new bird flu case detected in Malaysia

KUALALUMPUR, 24 Nov — No new bird flu case has been detected nationwide recently, Director of Malaysia Veterinary Services, Dr Hawari Husin, said Tuesday.

This means that all chicken and duck products, including eggs, sold in the market are safe for consumption, he said in a statement released here.

However, north state of Kelantan would be declared free of bird flu only after the H5N1 virus strain is no longer detected there, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

## News from the Districts

### Locals in Natogyi Township get more drinking water

NATOGYI, 10 Nov — With the aim of supplying drinking water to local people in Mogan Village-tract in Natogyi Township, a tube-well was inaugurated on 27 October in Mogan Village (East) in the township.

Under the arrangements of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, the tube-well was sunk by Natogyi Township Union Solidarity and Development Association at a cost of K 728,740. Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council also provided K 400,000 for the project. Similarly, local people and a wellwisher donated K 99,400 and K 229,340 respectively. — KYEMON

### Self-reliant libraries mushrooming nationwide

PALE, 8 Nov — An opening ceremony of a self-reliant library was held in Minma Village-tract in Pale Township on 10 October.

The library was opened with the assistance of the township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD). At the opening ceremony, local bookworms provided a total of 375 books on general knowledge for the library. Head of Township IPRD handed over 53 books provided by IPRD. Similarly, a self-reliant library was opened in Saikkaung Village in Namtu Township. Namtu Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Nay Tun, Head of the township IPRD Daw Ei Ei Phyu and Head of the village U San Pwint formally opened the library.

Daw Ei Ei Phyu handed over 106 books provided by IPRD, and other wellwishers donated 71 books on general knowledge. Up to 16 November, altogether 10,139 self-reliant libraries have been opened all over the country. — KYEMON



Photo shows inauguration ceremony of a newly-constructed tar-road. — KYEMON

### A tar-road inaugurated in Muse Township

MUSE, 6 Nov — A tar road linking SwanSaw Ward and Khwein Village in Muse Township was commissioned into service on 6 November in Muse Township.

It is 3,200 feet long and 10 ft wide. Wellwisher U Yan Moe Ann donated K 7.5 million and Muse Township Development Affairs Department DAD provided K 1.5 million for construction of the tar road.

Director of Shan State (North) DAD U Kyi Myint, Secretary of Muse District Peace and Development Council Maj Tin Yu and U Yan Moe Ann formally opened the road. — KYEMON





# မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## "Fahrenheit 9/11" director tops Hollywood's least-intriguing celebrities

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov— Director Michael Moore, whose anti-Iraq war film "Fahrenheit 9/11" touched off a firestorm of controversy, topped an annual list on Monday of Hollywood's least-intriguing celebrities.

The outspoken documentarian, who seemed to be everywhere during the 2004 US presidential campaign, urging defeat of President George W Bush, ranks No 1 on this year's "Frigid 50" published by online movie magazine FilmThreat.com.

The web site, known for an anti-establishment take on the entertainment industry, said its list names the stars it found to be the "least-inspiring, least-intriguing people in Hollywood".

Ranked No 2 was actress Halle Berry, who followed up her Oscar-winning turn in "Monster's Ball" with less critically lauded roles in such films as "Gothica" and "Catwoman".

"The Frigid 50 ice pack have left audiences cold with their overbearing personalities, poor career choices and chronic inability to stop making fools of themselves," the site said.

Moore qualified because of what the editors saw as an oversized ego. "Message to Michael: Remember, it's not always about you. Lose the chip on your shoulder," the editors said.

"Fahrenheit 9/11," hailed by Democrats for its scathing critique of Bush and the US-led war in Iraq but condemned by Republicans as a distorted piece of propaganda, grossed nearly 120 million US dollars at the US box office, a record for a political documentary. Moore has said he plans to make a sequel before the next election. Walt Disney Co chief executive Michael Eisner was ranked No. 3 on the list, which cited this year's revolt by dissident shareholders, a hostile takeover bid by Comcast, public spat with Pixar and Miramax and a string of such flops as "Home on the Range," "The Alamo" and "Hidalgo".

He was followed at No 4 by director M Night Shyamalan whose latest thriller, "The Village" and its "surprise ending" were widely seen as falling far short of the pre-release hype.

Comic actors and frequent co-stars Ben Stiller & Owen Wilson were jointly listed at No 5 for their appearances in a recent string of "mass-produced mediocrity". —MNA/Xinhua

## World milk production slows down in 2004

MELBOURNE, 24 Nov— World milk production is significantly slowing down in 2004, only to see an increase of three million tons, according to figures from the International Dairy Federation (IDF).

The world will have a total of 612 million tons of milk for this year, according to a report on the world dairy situation released by the IDF at the World Dairy Summit being held here.

The reduced growth is compared with an increase of 80 million tons of milk production over the decade since 1994.

The situation is attributed to the declining production of cow milk in Europe, North America

and Oceania, despite a growing buffalo milk sector, whose production now reaches 15 per cent of the total milk production compared to 9 per cent ten years ago, said the report.

The buffalo milk production mainly concentrates on the Indian sub-continent, said Adriaan Krijger, chair of the standing committee on dairy policies and economics.

Together with the surge

ing of bovine cow milk production in China, additional milk supplies are almost produced in markets where they are fully used to cover the domestic needs and will not become available to cover international demand, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Zambia says conserving natural resources vital for poverty reduction

LUSAKA, 24 Nov— The Zambian Government has called for interventions that would stimulate sound management practices for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the country, local newspaper *Daily Mail* reported Tuesday.

Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary Lillian Kapulu was quoted as saying Zambia's bio-diversity was being lost due to human and livestock activities that have resulted in land degradation and other environmental disorders.

Kapulu said bio-diversity conservation was central to the development of the national environmental policy.

She said the policy related to poverty reduction through sustainable and judicious use of natural resources as the nation targeted the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of reducing bio-diversity loss by the Year 2015.

Kapulu underscored the govern-

ment's commitment to the development of a national environmental policy within the context of the poverty reduction strategy paper.

She said at the core of the envisaged environmental policy was the need to ensure that Zambia maintained its bio-diversity and ecosystem that were essential to the survival of people.

Kapulu stressed that conservation and sustainable use of natural resources was increasingly recognized as a component of global efforts to reduce poverty since the livelihoods of many people depended on the environment.

MNA/Xinhua

## 163 kilos of heroin seized in Istanbul

ANKARA, 24 Nov— Turkish security forces have seized 163 kilos of heroin in their recent operations in Esenler and Umraniye districts of Istanbul, the semi-official *Anatolia News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

Concerned sources were quoted as saying that a total of eight people were taken into custody and the detainees confessed that they were planning to market the drugs in European countries. A full investigation into the drug trafficking is under way. —MNA/Xinhua



Spanish actress Paz Vega arrives as a guest for the premiere of the new film 'Closer' in Los Angeles on 22 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

## Painkillers should be used on short-term basis

LONDON, 24 Nov— Painkillers taken by millions of arthritis sufferers worldwide are actually of limited use in relieving symptoms, Norwegian scientists said on Tuesday.

Researchers from the University of Bergen said their findings suggested the drugs should be used only on a short-term basis and be prescribed much more critically in future.

Current guidelines in many countries recommend using non-steroidal

anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including so-called COX-2 inhibitors, for treating patients with osteoarthritis.

But there are mounting concerns about their safety, following the withdrawal of Merck & Co Inc's COX-2 drug Vioxx in September due to heart attack risk. At the same time, many older NSAIDs, such as Naproxen and Ibuprofen, can cause gastrointestinal problems.

Jan Magnus Bjordal and colleagues pooled the results of 23 previous clinical trials to find out just how useful all types of

NSAIDs and COX-2 drugs were in relieving pain in patients with knee osteoarthritis, the most common form of the disease. Their findings, published online by the *British Medical Journal*, showed that the drugs reduced pain in the short term only slightly better than placebo.

"We were surprised that the effects were so small. These drugs are very commonly used but their effect is below what many patients report as clinically relevant for them," Bjordal told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters

## Honda recalling 257,616 of its Accord sedans

DETROIT, 24 Nov— Japan's Honda Motor Co Ltd is recalling 257,616 of its Accord sedans from the 2004 and 2005 model years because of potentially faulty air bags, US federal safety regulators said on Monday.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said a tear may occur in the driver's side front air bag of the Accords, increasing the risk of injury in a crash.

The recall is expected to begin on 6 December and owners of the vehicles affected should contact the US division of Honda.

MNA/Reuters



A cheetah finds a dry spot to sit on after a snowfall on 23 Nov, 2004. A cheetah at a Czech zoo has become the first in the world to be fitted with an artificial hip, the zoo's vet Vaclav Pozivil said.

INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Dynamo beat Roma 2-0

KIEV, 24 Nov—Dynamo Kiev beat AS Roma 2-0 thanks to two late goals on Tuesday and need just a draw in their final Champions League group game at Bayer Leverkusen to make sure of reaching the first knockout round.

Dynamo picked up the tempo after an uneventful first half and they were rewarded late in the second period, which was played in a heavy snowstorm at Kiev's Olympic stadium. Greece defender Traianos Dellas put the Ukrainian champions ahead in the 73rd minute when he inadvertently headed into his own goal while trying to clear Tiberiu Ghioane's cross.

Substitute Maxim Shatskikh sealed victory for the home side nine minutes from time to the delight of some 55,000-strong home fans who had braved the foul weather to attend the match.

Shatskikh, who came on for Latvia striker Maris Verpakovskis just a few minutes earlier, tapped into an open goal after a nice feed from Brazilian midfielder Diogo Rincon.

Roma defender Giuseppe Scurto compounded the misery for the visiting side when he was sent off in the 76th minute for his second yellow card.

The Italians were missing several of their top players, including joint top scorer in Serie A Vincenzo Montella, through injury and suspension. Roma captain Francesco Totti was also absent due to a family bereavement.—MNA/Reuters



Andrii Husin (L) of Dynamo Kiev jumps for the ball with team mate Kleber during their Champions League Group B soccer match against AS Roma in Kiev on 23 Nov, 2004.

INTERNET

## Holyfield appeals suspension of NYSAC

NEW YORK, 24 Nov—Former undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield has appealed the suspension handed down by the New York State Athletic Commission earlier this month.

NYSAC chairman Ron Stevens placed Holyfield on an indefinite medical suspension following Holyfield's lackluster performance against Larry Donald at Madison Square Garden on November 13.

Donald scored an easy unanimous 12-round decision over Holyfield in the first of four bouts on the "The Battle for Heavyweight Supremacy" fight card. Donald controlled the action the entire fight, using his jab and overhand right to handle Holyfield, who landed just 78 of 264 punches, or 30 per cent. Meanwhile, Donald landed 260 of 643 punches, or 40 per cent.

The ruling by the NYSAC means that Holyfield will have to be cleared by Dr. Barry Jordan of the New York commission before he can box anywhere else in the United States. All other state commissions will honor New York's suspension.

Holyfield said he did not agree with the suspension and plans to continue his boxing career.

Donald improved to 42-3-2 with 24 knockouts with the clear-cut victory for the NABC title. He won by scores of 119-109 on two cards, and 118-109 on the other.

The 42-year-old Holyfield looked like a shell of the boxer that tamed Mike Tyson and knocked out other heavyweight contenders. He fell to 38-8-2 with 25 knockouts over a career that has spanned 20 years.

It marked Holyfield's first bout since suffering a ninth-round TKO loss to James Toney on October 4, 2003. Holyfield is just 1-4-1 in his last six bouts.

The New York State Athletic Commission has contacted Holyfield's camp regarding future steps in the appeal process.—MNA/Reuters

## Olympiakos edge Deportivo 1-0

ATHENS, 24 Nov—Olympiakos Piraeus ground out a 1-0 win over Deportivo Coruna with a goal by captain Predrag Djordjevic on Tuesday that leaves them on the brink of reaching the Champions League knockout phase.

Olympiakos top Group A with 10 points but with Monaco on nine and Liverpool on seven they need a draw from their last game at Anfield to be certain of qualifying for the knockout stage for only the second time.

Deportivo, who have failed to score in all five games and have just two points, are out of Europe this season since they cannot claim even third place which brings a UEFA Cup spot.

Olympiakos dominated the first half and should have scored twice as Yiannis Okkas, put through in space, fired at

Jose Molina and then Pantelis Kafes hit the underside of the bar.

"There is an unwritten law that when you miss to many chances you can pay for it later," said the Olympiakos coach Dusan Bajevic.

"I can't say that I got scared during the match because we missed these chances but they made us lose our concentration and we began to lose it in midfield."

Fortunately, Bajevic had the experience of Brazilian pair Giovanni and Rivaldo, who both contributed significantly throughout the night, as well as Djordjevic.

The goal came when Rivaldo played a ball into

the penalty area for Djordjevic to coolly slot home past Molina.

The victory ensured Olympiakos did not spoil their record at the new Karaiskakis Stadium where they have beaten Liverpool, Monaco and Deportivo all by 1-0.

The Spaniards had their chances, notably in the second minute of added time at the end of the match when Olympiakos goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis dropped a floating free kick.

Changui, a late substitute for Fran, retrieved and knocked the ball towards goal but Giorgos Anatalakis cleared it off the line.

MNA/Reuters

## Man United qualify for knockout phase

MANCHESTER (England), 24 Nov—Manchester United qualified for the Champions League knockout phase on Tuesday with a 2-1 victory over Olympique Lyon in manager Alex Ferguson's 1,000th game in charge.

Ruud van Nistelrooy's 53rd-minute header saved the blushes of United goalkeeper Roy Carroll who had gifted Lyon a first-half equalizer when he let Mahamadou Diarra's long-range strike under his body.

Appropriately it was one of Ferguson's longest-serving players Gary Neville who had given his team the lead after a goalmouth melee in the first half.

Lyon, who were previously unbeaten in Champions League and Ligue 1 action this season, had already

secured qualification for the last 16 from Group D.

United, who now top the group with 11 points to Lyon's 10, started aggressively and their best early chance came when Wayne Rooney hit the post with little more than five minutes gone.

After 19 minutes England defender Neville's pass to the flank found Alan Smith, who put a perfect ball across the box which Lyon's Anthony Reveillere had to intercept to prevent van Nistelrooy scoring.

Reveillere had another go at clearing his lines but succeeded in pushing the ball out to Neville who lashed it into the net. It was only Neville's seventh goal in a long career at his only club and his second in the Champions League.

United kept going forward but Lyon had probably the better chances through Pierre-Alain Frau and Essien before Carroll's howler got them back into the match after 40 minutes.

Diarra's shot was on target and Carroll had plenty of time to deal with it. Somehow the Irishman let it squirm under his body and into the net.

Neville, laid low by a virus, was substituted at halftime and his replacement Wes Brown nearly gave United the lead seconds after the restart but his shot flashed wide.

Eight minutes into the half United were back in front, however. A run and chipped cross from close in by England defender Rio Ferdinand reached the far post where Van Nistelrooy headed home his 45th goal in the Champions League.

Minutes later the Dutchman nearly got another but his delicate chip hit the outside of the post following great work by Rooney.—MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (L) keeps the ball away from Olympique Lyonnais' Lamine Diatta during their Champions League match at Old Trafford in Manchester, England. United won 2-1.—INTERNET

## Kovac's own goal give Fenerbahce win against Sparta

PRAGUE, 24 Nov—Radoslav Kovac's own goal in the 20th minute gave Fenerbahce a rare away win against Sparta Prague in Champions League Group D on Tuesday to guarantee them a consolation place in the UEFA Cup.

Fenerbahce made sure of finishing third in the group behind Manchester United and Olympique Lyon. Sparta finish bottom and are eliminated.

"Both teams had players missing, and that made it tough. We are still in Europe, that's the main thing," said Fenerbahce coach Christoph Daum.

Since their surprise victory over Manchester United in the 1996-97 season at Old Trafford, Fenerbahce had played 14 European away games without a single victory.

Their Brazilian trio of Alex de Souza, Marco Aurelio and Marcio Nobre turned up the heat on a cold night at Sparta stadium, creating several chances in the first half.

However the only goal came when Sparta keeper Jaromir Blazek tried to punch away Kemal Aslan's cross, only to see the ball glance off Kovac's head and back behind the startled keeper into the open goal.

"I didn't see him (Kovac) at all. It's too bad. What can you say?" said Blazek who made several spectacular saves to keep his team in the match.

Sparta tried to fight back in the second half, but once again showed their lack of polished finishing as several chances went begging.

MNA/Reuters



## China, Cuba agree to expand cooperation

HAVANA, 24 Nov—Chinese President Hu Jintao and Fidel Castro, President of the Cuban Council of State, agreed here on Monday to expand bilateral cooperation in political, economic and other areas.

Hu Jintao arrived here Monday afternoon for a state visit. He met with Castro soon after his arrival and they agreed to work together to expand mutually-beneficial cooperation.

China and Cuba established full diplomatic relations in 1960.

Hu said in the meeting with Castro that China-Cuba relationship has withstood the test of time and the change of international situation.

"We have helped each other and treated each other with sincerity," Hu said. "We are friends and brothers. A better relationship between China and Cuba will serve not only interests of our two countries, but also world peace and common development."

Hu proposed that China and Cuba increase exchange of visits by leaders of the government, the Parliament, political parties, and non-governmental institutions.

China and Cuba can also expand cooperation in areas of tourism, aquatic

products and bio-technology, Hu said.

In addition, China and Cuba can strengthen cooperation in international arenas to safeguard the interests of the developing nations and world peace, said the Chinese President.

Two-way trade between China and Cuba has been about 400 million US dollars annually over the past three years. The trade volume reached 401 million dollars from January to September this year, up 36.7 per cent.

China mainly imports sugar and nickel from Cuba and exports machinery and electronic products to Cuba.

Castro told Hu that he has paid great attention to China's development and been reading a lot about China lately. — MNA/Xinhua

## Pakistani PM says India-Pakistan relations improving

COLOMBO, 24 Nov—Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz hailed here Monday what he termed improving relations between Pakistan and India.

Aziz, who arrived here on Sunday for a two-day visit to Sri Lanka, told reporters that Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has helped improve relations between the two countries.

Musharraf and Singh met in New York during the UN General Assembly sessions in September.

Aziz hoped that his Indian visit on Tuesday would help further the relations between the two nations. Aziz, who arrived here in his capacity as the outgoing chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), held talks with Sri Lankan President

Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Aziz said Pakistan and Sri Lanka have almost finalized the work leading to the formal signing of the free trade agreement between the two nations.

The Sri Lankan President has been invited to visit Pakistan in January and Aziz hoped that signing of the agreement could then take place.

"We are in the operationalizing stage and there are few issues to be sorted out," Aziz said.

Sri Lanka is the first leg of his four-day visit to three South Asian countries, which will also take him to Maldives and India. Officials said Aziz has left here for Maldives.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ugandan V-P urges NGOs to help address youth problems

KAMPALA, 24 Nov—Ugandan Vice-President Gilbert Bukenya Tuesday appealed to nongovernmental organizations engaged in youth activities in the country to set up institutions offering psychotherapy to help address their socio-economic and emotional problems.

Bukenya made the call when meeting with Dennis Dease, president of St Thomas and Paul University of Minnesota in the United States at Parliamentary Building in Kampala, according to a Press release issued here by the Vice-President Office.

The vice-president said this will help reduce the current moral degen-

eration among the vulnerable youth.

Bukenya expressed gratitude to his guests for coming to the country and exploring avenues of putting in place infrastructure for social and economic empowerment for Ugandans, which he emphasized are vital in providing incomes and ending poverty in the community. — MNA/Xinhua

## Turkey's winter blast takes deadly toll

ANKARA, 24 Nov—Heavy snowfalls and icy conditions claimed the lives of at least 14 people on Monday with most of those killed in traffic accidents, Turkish private NTV reported Tuesday.

Deteriorating driving conditions were blamed for accidents that left 13 dead and 121 injured in a spate of accidents across Turkey after many regions in the northwest, north, east and central Anatolia were blanketed in snow, said the report.

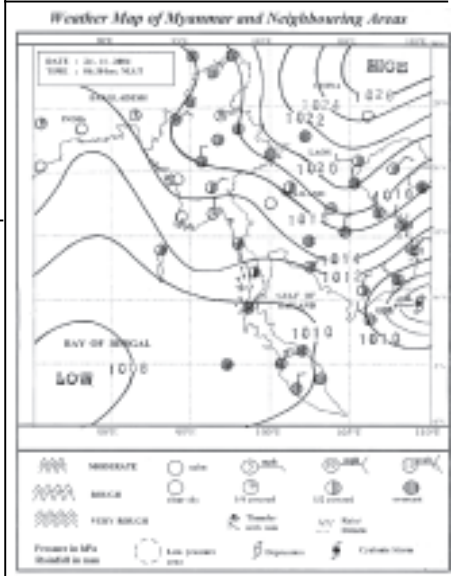
At least one other person froze to death in bitter cold, the report added.

It said that in the day's worst accident, four school children were killed and 42 other passengers injured

when a bus crashed off a bridge in the central Turkish city of Yozgat.

At one time Monday, more than 2,800 roads, mainly in rural Turkey, were blocked by snow and in the major cities of Ankara and Istanbul there were long delays for drivers due to congestion and accidents blocking traffic.

A new cold front, moving in from the Balkans, is expected to hit Turkey on Wednesday after a period of respite Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua



## WEATHER

Wednesday, 24 November, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, Lower Sagaing Division, scattered in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Moekok (0.79) inch. Night temperatures were (7°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin and Kayah States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (4°C), Putao (5°C) and Mindat (8°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-11-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 24-11-2004 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-11-2004 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 23-11-2004 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 24-11-2004 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 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from East at (11:30) hours MST on 23-11-2004.

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

**Special Features:** According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday's severe tropical storm 'Muifa' over the South China Sea has centered at about (270)miles Southeast of Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam). It is forecast to move westward direction.

**Forecast valid until evening of 25-11-2004:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin, eastern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**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-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight isolated rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-11-2004:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-11-2004:** Fair weather.



Thursday, November 25  
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. Dance of national races

8:05 am

6. Dance variety

8:20 am

7. ဆွေရောင်းရေလှောင်တံ

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. English for Everyday

Use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ဝဉ္ဏာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

-ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တစောအထူးပြု)

(သတ္တစော)

5:15 pm

6. Cute little dances

5:30 pm

7. "ဆေးလိပ်ကင်းကွာ

အနုပညာကမ္ဘာ"

လွင်ဇုံး၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ စာနုညို၊

ကင်းကောင်းနီမြင့်နုနုလှည့်လှည့်

ကြည့်လဲလဲနီ၊ ရွမ်းနီ

5:40 pm

8. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား

5:50 pm

9. တန်ဆောင်တိုင်တေးများ

6:05 pm

10. နိုင်ငံအခန်း သစ်တောမွှမ်းဖြင့်

မိမိလန်းမေ့ရမည်

6:15 pm

11. Musical programme

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းကွဲ

"လူ့စွန့်လှူကောင်း" (အပိုင်း-၃၁)

7:35 pm

15. မျှော်မှန်းခွင့်ခံဝင်ကန့်

တောင်ကြီးမြို့ရှိ တန်ဆောင်တိုင်ပွဲ

16. တစ်နေ့တန်(၂၀၀) ပြောတော်မူ

နိမိတ်နိမိတ်(သုတေသန)

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. Myanmar Teleplay

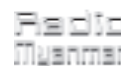
"ရဲရဲသဲသဲ" စစ်တမ်းရလေ

မင်းသွယ်သွယ်မင်းညိုနီနီမင်း

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သုတေသန)

21. The next day's

programme



Thursday, November 25

Tune in today:

8:30 am

Brief news

8:35 am

Music:

-Last thing on my

mind

8:40 am

Perspectives

8:45 am

Music:

-Don't you worry

8:50 am

National news/

Slogan

9:00 am

Music:

I feel so fine

9:05 am

International

news

9:10 am

Music:

-Learning by living

9:15 am

News/Slogan

1:30 pm

Lunch time music:

-When I need you

1:40 pm

-Big Big world

-Baby don't you

hurt me

9:00 pm

Aspects of

Myanmar

-Myanmar a

traditional ear-

thern waterpot

stand

Article

9:10 pm

Pouri

9:20 pm

-Menat health

and marital

satisfaction linked

-Soyuz delivers

three astronauts to

ISS

-Ancient ivory

fossil found in

Xingji

Favourite songs

chosen by music

lovers

9:30 pm

News/Slogan

9:45 pm

10:00 pm

PEL

# First India-ASEAN Car Rally starts



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh delivers an address at the opening ceremony of 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-Off.— MNA

YANGON, 24 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and officials left here and arrived at Monywa Airport on 21 November.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, left for Kalay.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Tamu by car. They inspected parking lot for racing cars from India-ASEAN Car Rally there.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Moreh in India through India-Myanmar bridge. They went to No 37 Assam Rifles where they were welcomed by Maj-Gen Divedi of No 57 Rifle Division and officials.

They proceeded to Guwahati and were welcomed there by No 4 Commander of

No 4 Army Corps Lt-Gen AS Jamwal and Myanmar Consul-General in Kolkata U Zeya Oo and officials. Lt-Gen AS Jamwal hosted a luncheon in honour of Lt-Gen Ye Myint at guest house of the corps.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Vishgarattana Hotel. Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and the minister attended the dinner hosted by Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry Mr Sunil Kant Mumjal at Brahmaputra Hotel.

On 22 November, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended North East India's Gateway to the ASEAN Meeting at Senate Hall of India Institute of Technology.

Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry Mr Sunil Kant Mumjal, Prime Minister of State of Assam Mr Tarun Gogoi and Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh delivered speeches.

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## Transport facilities inspected in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 24 Nov—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials of Public Works inspected bridge No 1/13 on Pathein-Monywa Road yesterday. He also inspected repair of sections of Pathein-Monywa Road.

On arrival at Ngawun Bridge, the Minister heard a report by the engineer of the Road Special Group 2 on progress of repair of Pathein-Monywa Road (Kankalay-Thongwa-Yekyi-Ngathaingchaung Section) and Betye-Yekyi-Ngathaingchaung-Gwa Road (Ayeyawady Division Section and Rakhine State Section). The Minister chose the site for construction of a bridge across Ngawun River and gave instructions on launching the project as soon as possible and cooperation with related departments for control of the waterway. In addition, the Minister inspected Hinthada-Myokwin-Kwinkauk Road, Pathein-Monywa Road and Pyay-Padaung-Taungup Road (Okshitpin-Pyay Section). — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint waves to the athletes at 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-Off.— MNA

## Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects agricultural tasks, Ngamoyeik Sluice Gate project

YANGON, 24 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Commander of No 1 Military Region Lt-Col Nay Win, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and

division level officials, made an inspection tour of Yangon East and North Districts today and attended to the needs of the tasks for regional development.

On arrival at Hlegu Township this afternoon, the commander and party

inspected the site chosen for construction of the police station.

Next, the commander and party proceeded to paddy field No 492A of Malit Village in Hlegu Township and inspected cultivation of summer paddy with wa-

ter supplied by compressed natural gas (CNG) pumps, building of a 3800-ft long canal on self-reliant basis, a seed nursery and winnowing of paddy.

Division Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung San con-

ducted them around the plot. The commander gave instructions, stressing the need to build the canal soonest, install pumps for irrigation, and distribute quality seeds to farmers.

Afterwards, they arrived at the construction

site of Ngamoyeik Sluice Gate in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and inspected the construction of a drain with the use of machinery, fixing of the frames of the sluice gate, erection of concrete piers and

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Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of Ngamoyeik Sluice Gate in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.— YANGON COMMAND

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