

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 224

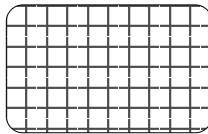
Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon 1366 ME

Friday, 26 November 2004



*Vice-Senior
General Maung
Aye greets new
Pakistani Defence
Attaché Colonel
Zafar Jamil at
Zeyathiri Beikman.*

MNA



*Vice-Senior
General Maung
Aye greets outgoing
Pakistani Defence
Attaché Colonel
Ihsan Ul Haq at
Zeyathiri Beikman.*

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Pakistani Defence Attachés

YANGON, 25 Nov — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Defence Attaché Colonel Ihsan Ul Haq

of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan who had completed his tour of duty and his successor Colonel Zafar Jamil at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta, here, at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council

General Thura Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Pakistani Defence Attaché Colonel Ihsan Ul Haq and his successor Colonel Zafar Jamil at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 26 November, 2004

Fullmoon day of Tazaungmon : a day for doing meritorious deeds

Today is the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon, the eighth month of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is the month when the rains is out and the cold season is in.

As trees and plants have had enough rain water, they are lush and green and in full blossom. With no more rain, strong wind and rough seas and rivers, the environment is at its best and the weather neither too cold nor too hot. It can be said that Tazaungmon is the best and most pleasant of all months in Myanmar.

Myanmar is a nation where *Theravada* Buddhism flourishes. It is also known as a land of festivals and there is no month in Myanmar when a festival of one kind or another is not held.

And most of the festivals are religious ones. The *Kathina* robe offering festival is one of the significant religious events in Myanmar.

Kathina thingan (robe) offering ceremonies can be held beginning from the first waning day of Thadingyut, the seventh month of the Myanmar calendar, to the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon.

It is in this period, especially on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon, that ministries, departments and enterprises, wards and villages, schools and markets and other social organizations offer *Kathina* robes to the monks residing at various monasteries in their locality. *Kathina* is derivative of a Pali word *Kathina* and means 'firmness and durability'.

Therefore, those who offer *Kathina* robes will be able to enjoy five benefits in the circles of lives.

These rewards or benefits are that no untoward accidents or dangers befall them wherever they go, that they can succeed in whatever they do, that they can have plenty of good clothes, that they need not to be worried about food or food poisoning and that their possessions cannot be destroyed by any kind of enemy.

On the night of the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon, there are sermon-giving ceremonies in villages and wards in towns and cities and many devotees come these ceremonies to listen to the teachings of Lord Buddha expounded by learned Buddhist monks. Moreover, Buddhists do meritorious deeds, keep sabbath and meditate.

We believe that Buddhists will always stick to the traditions of their religion and practise such good deeds *dana* (giving), *sila* (precepts) and *bhavana* (meditation) on such an auspicious day.

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses concluding ceremony of special course for health staff.—MNA

Special course for health staff concludes

YANGON, 25 Nov — A closing ceremony of special course for health staff (2/2004) jointly organised by the Ministry of Health

and the Civil Service Selection and Training Board was held at the hall of the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech on the occasion. Later, the minister, Chairman of the CSSTB Dr Than

Nyun, members U Nyunt Swe, U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo presented certificates to the trainees respectively.—MNA

Myanmar finance delegation leaves for PRC

YANGON, 25 Nov — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe left here by air for the People's Republic of China yesterday evening to attend the Sixth Informal Meeting of Deputy Heads of Finance and Central Bank ASEAN+3 to be held in Hainan Province on 27 November this year.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, department-



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun sees off Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe at the airport.—MNA

tal heads and families. The deputy minis-

ter was accompanied by Vice-Governor of the Cen-

tral Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein. —MNA



Director of Social Welfare Department accepts 22 beds and one washing machine donated by U Thein Lwin of Love Myanmar Ministries (NGO), (OCHP), Finland.—(H)

Cash and kind donated to YCH

YANGON, 25 Nov — Wellwishers Daw Kyin Paing and son Dr Kyaw Tun and family donated medicines worth K 500,000 and cash K 500,000 in memory of the late U Mya Maung, and U Aung Moe Kyaw and wife Daw Mar Mar Tun and family, ten oxygen cylinders worth K 800,000 to Yangon Children's Hospital this afternoon.

First, the wellwishers explained purpose of the donation. Next, they presented cash and kind to medical superintendent Dr Chit Ko Tin. After presenting certificates of honour, he expressed his thanks.—MNA

Workshop on Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service continues

YANGON, 25 Nov — The Workshop on Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service-2004 organized by the Civil Service Selection and Training Board and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, continued for the third day at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning.

Present were Chairman of CSSTB Dr Than Nyun, members U Nyunt Swe, U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo, officials of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, directors-general and rectors of departments and institutes under CSSTB, resource persons and senior officers.

The resource persons explained matters

concerning notes of group discussions on papers of Dr Charas Suwanmala of Chulalongkorn University of Thailand, Pro-Rector Dr Kan Shein of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi), Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department and Associate Professor Phiphat Thairry of Chulalongkorn University of Thailand. Next, Mr Shankaran Nambiar of Malaysian of Economic Research, Associate Professor Dr Jin-Young Chung of Kyunghee University of ROK submitted their papers. Later, the participants took part in the group discussions.

MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ ဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်း
အတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်
များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ - ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁၀ - နိုဝင်ဘာလအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) ၂၈-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့

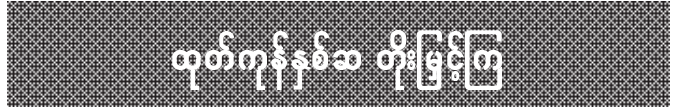
၂၀၀၄ - ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁၀ - နိုဝင်ဘာလအတွက်

(၁၂-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့နှင့်

(၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့



A Cambodian farmer collects rice from a field in Takeo Province. Up to 10 percent of impoverished Cambodia's rice crop has been lost since last month to drought, but rains that started overnight could bring relief recently.—INTERNET



Vietnam Red Cross diversifies humanitarian activities

HANOI, 24 Nov— The Vietnam Red Cross Society (VNRC) has diversified its operations this year so that it can offer greater assistance to needy people in the country, *Vietnam News Agency* reported Tuesday.

The association has raised money to poor people, supported projects on healthcare and vocational training for the handicapped, provided animal breeds and seedlings for poor farmers, and carried out social welfare projects

in Vietnam. It has mobilized nearly 6.4 million US dollars to improve the health and lives of 222,200 Agent Orange victims in the last six years.

The VNRC has also received great support from the international community. The Fund for International Development of the Organization of the Petroleum-Export-

ing Countries (OPEC) has financed a project on HIV/AIDS control in Vietnam through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, while the International Red Cross Committee has pledged to continue supporting a project on orthopedics and rehabilitation for the handicapped in Vietnam. —MNA/Xinhua

Romania welcomes Chinese tourists

BEIJING, 24 Nov — The Romanian Embassy in Beijing plans to issue tourist visa to Chinese citizens beginning in January, 2005, Romanian Ambassador to China Viorel Isticioaia Budura announced here Tuesday.

The move will carry out relevant tourism agreements signed between Romania and China in Bucharest, capital of Romania in June this year, Isticioaia said.

During the state visit to Romania in June, Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Romanian counterpart, Ion Iliescu, signed a statement, pledging to establish an "all-round friendly and cooperative partnership" between the two countries.

In the statement, China agreed to designate Romania as the tourist destination for Chinese citizens and welcomes Romania to open tourists office in Beijing.

In addition, the two sides signed four bilateral documents that will expand their cooperation in the fields of culture, tourism, economic cooperation and overall relations.

During the talks with Iliescu, Hu said the two countries should expand tourism cooperation because Romania has become a tourism destination of China.

To implement these agreements, Isticioaia said Tuesday that Romania and China are also planning to set up a joint-venture youth travel agency to advance

the tourism cooperation between the two countries.

As one of celebration events to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the China-Romania diplomatic ties, 55 young Romanians came to visit China in May this year as guests of the All-China Youth Federation. In return, 55 Chinese young people visited Romania in late October.

"The young people has played an important role in expanding and enhancing the exchanges and cooperation between Romania and China," Isticioaia said. "We can see that there is no lack of successors to carry forward the friendship between the two countries."

Meanwhile, Romania and China are speeding up efforts to broaden exchanges and cooperation in culture area, he said. A Romanian culture centre will be established in Beijing next year to help Chinese people learn better Romanian culture.

"In addition, the culture ministries of the two countries will launch a 'Chinese Culture Year' in Romania next year and a 'Romanian Culture Year' in Beijing in 2006, if conditions permitted," Isticioaia said.

MNA/Xinhua

China becomes largest business partner of Sweden in Asia

SHENYANG, 24 Nov — Dr Borje Ljunggren, Swedish Ambassador to China, said here Tuesday that China has replaced Japan as Sweden's largest business partner in Asia.

The economic exchanges between two nations have developed quickly in these years and so far about 250 Swedish companies have invested in China, said the ambassador at the opening ceremony of "Sweden Day" in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province.

Because many of the Swedish investments were implemented through overseas subsidiary companies, it is difficult to calculate the exact number in China, but it should be more than 10 billion US dollars, said foreign trade experts.

Telecommunications and auto manufacture are the most vigorous parts in the bilateral economic cooperation. Ericsson and Volvo have achieved noticeable results on Chinese market, said experts.—MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai, Antwerp agree to expand cooperation

SHANGHAI, 24 Nov— China's economic hub Shanghai and Belgium's port city of Antwerp signed an agreement here Tuesday evening, vowing to strengthen cooperation.

The agreement was reached during Belgian Prince Philippe's visit to Shanghai.

According to the agreement, the future cooperation between the two cities will cover the fields of port construction, education and personnel training. Prince Philippe brought with him a 500-member delegation to China, consisting of representatives from the financial sector, ports and airports, universities, industrial and service companies and government officials.—MNA/Xinhua

UK politicians start bid to impeach Blair on Iraq

LONDON, 24 Nov— Parliamentarians and celebrity campaigners launched a bid on Wednesday to impeach Tony Blair for "gross misconduct" over his justification for the Iraq war.

The impeachment move, a symbolic parliamentary process rather than a realistic proposition in Blair's case, is the first since the mid-19th century.

Its supporters, including well-known figures like novelist Frederick Forsyth

and actor Corin Redgrave, want to punish Blair for allegedly misleading the country over the threat from Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

With only 23 lawmakers backing an impeachment motion in parliament, Blair can rest assured he will not face the ultimate sanction of removal from office but it could embarrass a prime minister who remains vulnerable to events in Iraq.

Internet



US Marines are picked up by a helicopter after conducting a search operation in al-Qaim, near the Syria border, western Iraq, on 24 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

1,230 members of US milt killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 24 Nov—As of Wednesday, 24 November, 2004, at least 1,230 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 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine;

Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,092 US military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet

*The best time to plant a tree was
twenty years ago.*

The second best time is now.

Portuguese President discusses trade, diplomacy with Putin

LISBON, 24 Nov—Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed bilateral trade and international issues Tuesday.

Putin arrived here from Brazil for a one-day visit to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the resumption of bilateral ties between the two countries, said the Portuguese Foreign Ministry.

In 2004, Portugal's import from Russia totalled about 650 million US dollars and its export to that country was only 51 million US dollars.

"We understand Portugal's concerns about the trade imbalance and we will try to resolve this," said Putin after meeting with Sampaio.

They also discussed Russia's relations with the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the situation in the Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

Before arriving here, Putin attended the Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on November 20-21 in Chile, and then visited Brazil.

MNA/Xinhua

Tourists bringing wealth to China

BEIJING, 24 Nov—China's tourism industry enjoyed robust growth in the first 10 months this year, Beijing-based English newspaper *China Daily* reported on Tuesday.

According to statistics from the National Tourism Administration, China received 89.79 million tourists in the Mainland areas in the first 10 months this year, up 20.34 per cent year-on-year, an 11.09-per-cent increase over the same period in 2002.

Among tourists, 13.84 million were from overseas countries, up 52.66 per cent year-on-year; 55.03 million were from Hong Kong, up 14.68 per cent; 17.83 million from Macao, up 15.63 per cent; and 3.08 million from Tai-

wan, up 39.41 per cent.

The top five countries on a list of those that witnessed the fastest growth in tourists entering China in the same 10-month period included India, Russia, South Korea, Australia and Singapore with growth rates of 45.32, 40.96, 31.93, 27.28 and 27.16 per cent, respectively.

The administration said foreign currency income from the tourism sector in the surveyed time period was estimated at 19.26 billion US dollars, which rose 37.45 per cent

and represented 14.08 per cent in additional income over the same period in 2002.

And 49.79 per cent of the tourism exchange revenue came from overseas tourists, 26.89 per cent from Hong Kong, 9.81 per cent from Macao and 14.01 per cent from Taiwan.

China's inbound tourist arrivals set a record in 2002, when China ranked fifth in the world in terms of both overnight tourist arrivals and tourism income in foreign exchange.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese worker removes plants from a canal as part of clean-up operation in Beijing on 25 Nov, 2004. China's capital Beijing has started preparations for the 2008 Beijing Olympics with clean up activities around the city from toilets to canals and waterways as well as air pollution control. — INTERNET

'No RP troops to Iraq for polls'

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov—The Philippines will not send any new peacekeeping troops to war-torn Iraq when it holds its first democratic elections in January, President Arroyo said here Tuesday.

She emphasized that the country would not shy away from its international obligations to help preserve world peace, but she said it would have to be under the aegis of the United Nations.

At a press conference at the Marriott Hotel Airport here before she took a commercial flight back to Manila last night, the President was asked if the Philippines would send troops to Iraq for the elections.

"I don't foresee that because first of all, the coalition in Iraq was called 'coalition of the willing,' because it was not a UN coalition mandate," the President

replied.

"We support the leadership of (United States) President Bush in the overall anti-terrorism campaign. Now each country in the coalition gets engaged where we can, the way we can, and we sent troops to Iraq who served very well for 18 months," she explained.

Mrs Arroyo obviously referred to the 51-man Philippine humanitarian contingent which she withdrew from Iraq in August this year to save the life of a Filipino truck driver held hostage by militants.

Internet

Halliburton Iraq payments should be cut, says auditor

WASHINGTON, 24 Nov—The U.S. Army should withhold payment of 15 percent of Halliburton Co.'s future invoices in Iraq due to billing problems, said the chief auditor for U.S.-funded work in Iraq on Wednesday.

Stuart Bowen, Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, said in a memorandum to Army auditors and commanders he believes US contract laws requiring a withholding when conditions are not met should be imposed on Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root.—Internet

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ဓာတ်တော်လှူ

Vietnamese President highlights ties with Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 24 Nov—Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong highlighted Tuesday the "special sentiments of solidarity and friendship" shared by Argentina and his country and the common will for bilateral cooperation.

The Vietnamese head of state made the remarks here when addressing the Argentine Congress.

Luong told the legislators that the two sides should promote cooperation and friendship between the two countries, not only in trade but also in culture, tourism and friendly exchanges.

He thanked the government and people of Argentina for their solidarity with and support for Vietnam's past struggle for independence and national sovereignty.—MNA/Xinhua

Philips to offer over 1,000 jobs in China

BEIJING, 24 Nov—Electronic giant Philips planned to recruit 1,000 to 1,500 people in China in 2005, which could be 120 per cent more than its China recruitment in 2003, according to sources with the company.

Xu Chengkai, vice-president with the human resource department of Philips Electronics China Group, said the company also aimed to employ 100 more senior Chinese executives by 2007, which observers see as the company's latest effort for localizing human resources in China.

Currently, Chinese only account for some 30 per cent of the country's total number of senior executives, because of a shortage in qualified Chinese personnel, and Philips intended to raise the proportion to 50 per cent in five years, said Xu.

Philips also planned to recruit 150

graduates mainly majoring in semiconductor and medical systems from 15 top-notch Chinese universities in 2005, an increase of 120 per cent over 2004. The company has applied to its headquarters for funds to send the new recruits for training in Europe or other Asian countries, he said.

"We'll focus on the recruitment and training of personnel and senior executives who are specialized in medical treatment, technological development, and mobile telecommunications," said Xu, "and we are now in dire need of personnel and managerial staff in the semiconductor field."—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam loses \$37m due to drought

HANOI, 24 Nov—An ongoing severe drought in Vietnam is estimated to incur losses of 36.9 million US dollars, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said on Tuesday.

The drought has already destroyed some 100,000 hectares of rice and other cereal and cash crops in the central region and Tay Nguyen (the central highlands region), said the ministry, adding another some 67,000 hectares of cultivated land in the two regions are in dire need of water.—MNA/Xinhua



US Marines provide security while others conduct a search on houses in al-Qaim, near the Syria border, western Iraq, on 24 Nov, 2004.

INTERNET

Honda improves sale ranking, Toyota leads market in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Nov— The launching of new, cheap models has helped Toyota maintain its lead in Indonesian car market and Honda improve its sale ranking from fifth to fourth in the first 10 months of 2004, a local newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Honda surpassed Daihatsu to rank fourth in Indonesian car market by selling 39,317 units in the January-October period, with newly-launched mini sedan Honda Jazz making up of 20,237 units, reported *Bisnis Indonesia*.

The achievement is the first in Honda's history in Indonesia.

The soaring demand for Honda Jazz prompted PT Honda Prospect Motor (HPM), the local partner of Ja-

pan-based Honda Motor Co, to procure components from neighbouring Thailand to meet around a half of national demand in Indonesia, HPM marketing manager Jonfis Fandy was quoted as saying. Over the same period, Toyota reported a sharp rise of 32.3 per cent to 115,048 units when compared to the same period a year earlier, making it the top car seller in Indonesia.

Mitsubishi and Suzuki trailed behind with 75,684 units and 66,962 units, respectively.—MNA/Xinhua



Thai guides wait for tourists next to the famous bridge on the River Kwai.

INTERNET

Sales of digital cameras soar on Chinese market

BEIJING, 24 Nov— The total number of digital cameras sold on Chinese market hit a new record of 684,200 in the third quarter, up 117.1 per cent year-on-year, official statistics showed here Tuesday.

In the first half of this year, 1.27 million digital cameras were sold in China, up 235.7 per cent year-on-year, sources said. Imports of digital cameras have risen markedly since China cancelled quotas on imported cameras in early 2003.

Beijing, for example, imported 174,000 digital cameras last year, 480 per cent more than the previous year. The value of imported cameras totalled 30.84 million US dollars, up 2,230 per cent, local Customs statistics show. Experts had predicted imports of medium and low-price digital cameras would have a larger market share in 2004, posing a threat to domestic brands. In 2004, among the one million digital cameras sold in China; the domestic brands accounted for less than 10,000, sources said.

However, the homemade digital cameras such as Legend and Aigo have ranked among the top ten in sales volume, according to statistics of the CCID Consulting Company Ltd.—MNA/Xinhua

GMOs release blocked at World Conservation Congress

BANGKOK, 24 Nov— The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has agreed to impose a moratorium on the further release of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) in a bid to guard against its possible adverse effect on biological resources, local Press reported here on Tuesday.

After discussion among 1,000 plus IUCN members, the congress approved the proposed resolution, which demanded a moratorium on further release of GMOs until it can be demonstrated posing no threat to biodiversity and human and animal health.

According to the resolution, GMO products have been introduced and promoted across the world, especially in developing countries, with inadequate control on their entry into national

or regional markets.

By far, the potential role of GMOs in achieving global food security has not been adequately defined.

The resolution set one-year deadline for the director-general of IUCN to compile a report on GMOs' impacts on biodiversity and human health.

Although the IUCN resolution was not legally binding, the member countries were morally obliged to carry out the adopted items, Schwann

Tunhikorn, of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants, was quoted by *Bangkok Post* newspaper as saying.

The assembly on Monday approved another motion calling on the Association of South-East Asian Nations and Mekong River riparian states to crack down on illegal wildlife trade by making related law enforcement more effective and reinforcing controls on airport and land borders.

MNA/Xinhua

China invests \$500m in Cuban nickel industry

HAVANA, 24 Nov — China and Cuba affirmed their growing economic partnership on Tuesday with a 500-million-US-dollar Chinese investment in the Cuban nickel industry.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Cuba has turned to China for trade, credit and investment, and China is now its third trading partner after Venezuela and Spain.

Capping off a two-day state visit to Cuba, China's President Hu Jintao received Cuba's highest decoration from Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

"Each nation must adapt its revolutionary strategy and objectives to its own concrete conditions ... no two revolutionary processes are absolutely the same," said Castro.

Castro praised China as the best hope for Third World countries as it becomes "the main motor of the world economy".

"We share common ideals and convictions, and the resolve to follow our own development paths, adapted to our own national realities," Hu said in a speech opening an investment seminar with Castro's younger brother and designated successor, Raul.

The Chinese leader, who was accompanied by 200 Chinese businessmen, said strong political ties between the two countries' ruling Communist parties would ensure growing trade with Cuba. China is particularly interested in Cuba's nickel reserves, the third largest in the world. Since 2000, half of China's nickel, used to make stainless steel, has come from Cuba.—MNA/Reuters

Robbers in Iraq kill three, wound six

BAQUBA (Iraq), 24 Nov — Robbers in Iraq killed three people, wounded six and made off with half a million dollars in cash on Tuesday after attacking a group of workers after they had picked up their firm's payroll money from a bank.

Survivors said the gunmen trailed the employees of state-run Diyala Company for Electrical Industries from a Baquba bank in three cars, cut them off in the street and opened fire.

They grabbed several sacks packed with 700 million dinars and made their getaway.

Armed robberies and kidnappings for ransom have become increasingly common in Iraq in the past year as embattled police and Iraqi security services struggle to maintain law and order.

MNA/Reuters

State Department official dies in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 24 Nov — Secretary of State Colin Powell announced on Wednesday that a State Department education specialist was killed in Iraq.

James Mollen, who had spent about a year in Iraq, was killed outside the "green zone," the special high security area to which Iraqi officials and US diplomats normally are confined, US officials said.

Powell said in a statement that Mollen was a consultant to Iraq's Minister of Education and the Minister of Higher Education.

"Jim dedicated his life to a noble cause: improving the quality of education for thousands of Iraqis," Powell said.

In October, a State Department security officer, Ed Seitz, was killed during an attack at a U.S. base near Baghdad International Airport.

Internet



An Iraqi man loads humanitarian aid into a truck in Baghdad's Sadr City, collected by Shiite clerics, on 24 Nov, 2004 and bound for Fallujah, Iraq.—INTERNET

UAE sends relief supplies to Iraq

ABU DHABI, 24 Nov —

The Red Crescent Society (RCS) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday sent a plane loaded with relief supplies to Iraq's capital of Baghdad, the official WAM news agency reported. It is the 32nd plane with relief supplies that the UAE has sent to the war-torn country, according to the report. The relief supplies to Iraq included food and clothing, which would be distributed to the people of Fallujah displaced by the US-Iraqi military offensive that led to a serious humanitarian crisis in and around the war-devastated town. According to UAE's RCS Secretary-General Sanaa Darwish Al Kitbi, the aid organization would continue with its relief assistance programme in Iraq in order to help the Iraqi people overcome their predicaments.—MNA/Xinhua

China seeks practical cooperation, common prosperity with ASEAN

PHNOM PENH, 25 Nov— China and the ASEAN have played increasingly important role in regional economic cooperation through a partnership of mutual trust and practical cooperation, said a Chinese minister here on Wednesday.

Zhang Chunxian, China's Communications Minister, who is here attending the 3rd ASEAN-China Transport Minister's Meeting, praised the cooperation and efforts made by both sides in a speech titled "Taking a Practical Approach for Cooperation and Seeking Common Prosperity for Future".

He said that the ASEAN-China transport cooperation is becoming more consolidated with every step forward and has constituted an essential part in building up a partnership of mutual trust and practical cooperation between the two sides.

"Its increasingly important role in regional economic cooperation is demonstrating to the world the strong aspirations of the people of ASEAN and China in seeking cooperation for a win-win result," he said.

Zhang put forward proposals to further enhance the transport cooperation.

"A 'result-and action-oriented' principle should be observed and more attention focused on promoting the specific projects while harmonizing the development of different modes of transport so as to deliver more benefit to the people," Zhang said.

Moreover, he noted that "while relying on our

own, we may also consider the possibility of enlarging the channels for project financing from the international financial institutions."

At the meeting, ministers approved a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) on transport cooperation between China and ASEAN member countries, which, Zhang said, will become a legally based medium-to-long term cooperation partnership between the two sides.

The ASEAN ministers highly evaluated the progress made by ASEAN and China since the 2nd ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar, citing the construction of the Laos section of the Kunming-Bangkok Highway; the navigation channel improvement project on the upper Mekong River; the pre-feasibility study of the missing link of the Trans-Asian Railway inside Cambodia, and the fact that direct flights have been in service linking major cities of China and ASEAN countries.

They also praised China's active role in supporting the capacity building projects in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Guangdong launches low-cost Hepatitis C tests

BEIJING, 25 Nov— Residents in south China's Guangdong Province now have access to low-cost tests for the Hepatitis C virus at about 100 hospitals with the beginning of a programme on Hepatitis C control on Tuesday.

The goal of the programme, which will run through December 18, is to discover the estimated one million Hepatitis C patients in the province and provide them with timely treatment, said Hou Jinlin, an expert on infectious diseases and one of the major initiators of the programme.

In most hospitals, the initial check-up costs 20 yuan, and those with a positive test will be diagnosed free of charge. The hospitals will also offer collective treatment to the diagnosed patients.

The Hepatitis C virus, discovered in 1989, may cause viral hepatitis like the Hepatitis B virus, but it is much harder to detect. Hepatitis C virus carriers may not feel any symptoms for as long as 20 years after they become infected before developing hepatocirrhosis or even liver cancer.

MNA/Xinhua



Philippines President Gloria Arroyo (R) visits previous disaster victims in the city of Pampanga, northern Philippines recently. One thousand people were displaced and three killed as Typhoon Muifa hit. —INTERNET

Typhoon "Muifa" expected to skirt Vietnam

HANOI, 25 Nov— Typhoon Muifa is expected to skirt Vietnam's southern coast though rains are likely to pound the area with strong winds later on Wednesday as the storm moves into the Gulf of Thailand, weather forecasters said.

Ahead of the storm's approach, the government issued protective orders, including asking state oil monopoly Petrovietnam to guard oil drilling facilities. Operators said the oil rigs were fixed so they can withstand the typhoon.

Most of the workers on the oil facilities have been evacuated, state media reported.

Authorities urged boats to return to shore or seek cover, and dozens of military helicopters and high-speed boats were used to help direct fisher-

men away from dangerous areas. Children in the southern province of Ca Mau were asked to stay home from school.

Typhoon Muifa, or 'plum blossom' in Chinese, killed at least 24 people as it crossed the Philippines over the weekend.

Southern Vietnam is rarely hit by storms. Typhoon Linda caught the region unawares in November 1997, killing at least 464 people. The government never revised an initial tally that listed more than 3,200 people as missing. — MNA/Reuters



Worldwide city development strategies discussed in Vietnam

HANOI, 25 Nov— Delegates from 25 countries and regions are to touch pressing urban issues at the 3rd International City Development Strategies (CDS) Conference which opened here on Wednesday.

"Let's jointly assess advantages and disadvantages of as well as share experience on city development, especially urbanization all over the world, to seek best models and solutions to planning and poverty in urban areas," Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung addressed the 3-day conference.

Attaching urban development to sustainable development and poverty reduction is a strategy of cities in many countries, including Vietnam, he noted.

"Strategic decision-making in managing urban growth is not yet common practice in many developing countries' cities. The Cities Alliance has sought to promote CDS as a collaborative decision-making process designed to help reduce urban poverty and provide the basis for sustainable urban development,"

Mark Hildebrand, Manager of Cities Alliance, a global coalition of cities and their development partners committed to improve the living conditions of the urban poor, said at the conference's opening session.

At the conference christened "CDS: from Vision to Growth and Poverty Reduction", its delegates are to focus their discussions on CDS — an action plan for equitable growth in cities and their surrounding areas to improve the quality of life for all citizens, their impacts on investment, policy reforms, and improving prospects for cities for economic growth and poverty reduction.

They will also touch other specific issues such as urbanization trends, municipal finance, urban employment and international donors.

MNA/Xinhua

Bus for disabled begins operation in Beijing

BEIJING, 24 Nov— The first bus service catering to handicapped and senior citizens in Beijing began operation Tuesday.

As the one-step bus boarding platform is low enough to be level roughly with raised sidewalk roadbed, handicapped people will no longer to worry about lifting their wheelchairs onto the bus without help of others.

As there are no barriers within the

12-metre-long bus, it is convenient for people in wheelchairs to move around in the bus and get on and off from three doors. Moreover, wheelchairs can be parked at a multi-function zone in the centre and be fixed with hooks.

MNA/Xinhua



Thailand's Miss Spinster 2003 Saovapa Devahastin crowns her successor Chompoonuch Kamnerdkerd (R) at the Miss Spinsters contest in Bangkok.

INTERNET

From Mandalay to Bagan on board the Shwe Keinnari

Soe Tint (IWT)

(Continued from yesterday)

Downstream the town, Pakokku, the Ayeyawady is dotted with islands that are far from the waterway on which the Shwe Keinnari is sailing. After passing the four-mile-long Natthami bank, NyaungU comes into view. Of the villages lying on both banks, timber rafts can be seen at Palin village, and the Pakokku Textile Factory Project is in Shwetantit. Near the Kyaukpahu Pagoda on the river bank is a large natural cave. The legend has it that the cave reaches Shwezigon Pagoda and Ananda Temple in Bagan, Pindaya Cave in Shan State and old Inwa town in Mandalay Division. There is a boat service for tourists who want to visit the cave and its surrounding areas. Near the opposite bank of NyaungU is Yonhlut Island. Nyaung Oo Phi, one of the four heroes of King Anawrahta swam from Natthami bank to the island and then back to the bank during the Bagan era. The ship has to cruise 10 hours to reach NyaungU that is 119 miles from Mandalay.

As soon as Shwe Keinnari passes NyaungU, Shwezigon comes into view like a gold hill. The Bagan period lasted for over 300 years from 10th to 13th century. Till now, the ancient religious edifices stand witness to the glory the ancient Bagan had enjoyed during the period. The Archaeology Department is carrying out the excavation work of ancient Bagan in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. On the opposite bank of Bagan lies the Tantkyi mountain range on which the famous Swedaw (tooth relic) Pagoda is located. Bagan can be said the soul of Myanmar, as a large number of ancient religious structures there testify its past glory, the high standard

of Myanmar culture and architecture and the ability and might of the rulers like King Anawrahta and King Kyansittha. Bagan is 129 miles from Mandalay and the cruising time between the two destinations is 10.5 hours. Shwe Keinnari arrives at Bagan port at 4.30 pm. In addition to its archaeological riches and beautiful scenery, the sunset and the dawn in Bagan and the hospitality of the local people also attract a large number of tourists from abroad.

Shwe Keinnari after sailing downstream the Ayeyawady and showing tourists the beautiful landscape and nature of Myanmar people reaches Bagan.

Bagan can be said the soul of Myanmar, as a large number of ancient religious structure there testify its past glory, the high standard of Myanmar culture and architecture and the ability and might of the rulers like King Anawrahta and King Kyansittha.

After an overnight stay at the old city, tourists travel upstream the river back to Mandalay on board the Shwe Keinneri again.

The travel time for the boat is from 5.30 am to 6.30 pm. The breakfast on board the ship is cheaper than that served at by hotels. The tourists on board the Shwe Keinneri like to dine at the ship's restaurant, while enjoying the surrounding view, want the ship staff to explain the salient points of the places they have seen along the route and the local products, wish to breathe fresh air rather than staying in the air-

conditioned rooms, and prefer enjoying the scenic natural beauty to watching local or foreign video plays and musical programmes.

Usually tourist season in the country starts in August, and majority of guests who arrive Myanmar during September are Spanish. Westerners and Japanese visit Myanmar in package tours in September, October, November and December.

The Shwe Keinnari staff at all levels of Inland Water Transport are doing their best to ensure every satisfaction and convenience of tourists. Shwe Keinnari 1 was launched on 29 January 1996, and Shwe Keinnari 2 and 3 on 23 September the same year.

The annual income of the Shwe Keinneri services and the number of passengers are stated in the following table:

Year	Number of tourists	Income (US \$)
1995-1996	669	10689
1996-1997	4872	76497
1997-1998	9682	111474
1998-1999	8936	142728
1999-2000	8915	142181
2000-2001	10860	172968
2001-2002	11650	185709
2002-2003	14707	234649
2003-2004	14805	236881

Although the IWT is not a foreign exchange earning body, it is playing its own role to earn more and more foreign currency for the nation.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 7.9.2004.

ASEAN to formalize regional integration of priority sectors

MANILA, 25 Nov — The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is scheduled to formalize its bid to integrate the economies of its 10 member countries with the signing next week of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the integration of priority sectors.

ASEAN countries will sign the agreement in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic on November 29 during the 10th ASEAN Summit to mark the formal commencement of economic integration in Southeast Asia which regional leaders are seeking to transform

into the ASEAN Economic Community by 2020, the *Philippines News Agency* reported on Wednesday.

To achieve this goal, leaders in the region decided to implement economic integration in 11 priority sectors through eliminating tariff on products and services under such sectors by 2010.

These sectors are wood-based products, automotive, rubber-based products, textile and apparel, agro-based products, fisheries, electronics, e-ASEAN, health care, air travel and tourism, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

ကမ္ဘာ့အေးချမ်းရေးရက်ကျင်းပရေးအဖွဲ့
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁) ရက်

World AIDS Campaign
1st December, 2004

“အအိုင်ဒီအက်စ်ကင်းစင်ဖို့
အမျိုးသမီးများဘဝမြှင့်တင်ဖို့”

“Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS”

ကျွန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ကမ္ဘာ့အေးချမ်းရေးရက် ကို ဆိုလိုဆောင်ရွက်

မော်တော်ယာဉ် ကုသိုလ်အလှူရှင်များ မိတ်စုခြင်း

၁။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ မရမ်းကုန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ကမ္ဘာ့အေးချမ်းရေးရက် မဟာပါဏာဇာတိဇာတိတော်ကြီးတွင် ၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့မှ ၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့အထိ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည့် ကမ္ဘာ့အေးချမ်းရေးရက် ကို ဆိုလိုဆောင်ရွက်ရန် အတွက် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့ အဖွဲ့အစည်းများမှ အဖွဲ့ခေါင်းဆောင် ဆရာတော် (၃၅)ပါးအတွက် တစ်ပါးစီ အသုံးပြုရန် ဆလွှန်း (1995 Model) မော်တော်ယာဉ် (၃၅)စီးကို ခေတ္တအသုံးပြုရန် အကူအညီပေး လှူဒါန်းမည့် အလှူရှင်များလိုအပ်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။

၂။ မော်တော်ယာဉ်သုံးစွဲရန် ရမည့်ကလေးများ စုစည်း (၈)ရက် (၇-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့မှ ၁၄-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့အထိ) ဖြစ်ပြီး အဆိုပါယာဉ်များ၏ စက်သုံးဆီနှင့် အပ်ချပ်မှုကိစ္စကို ကြိုဆိုလိုဆောင်ရွက် ဆပ်ကော်မတီက တာဝန်ယူပါမည်။ လှူဒါန်းလိုသူအလှူရှင်များသည် အောက်ပါပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များထံ ဆက်သွယ်၍ ကြိုတောင်းကြိုခံ ကုသိုလ်အလှူရှင်များ နှိုင်းပါကြောင်း နိဗ္ဗာန်အကျိုးမျှော်၍ နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| (က) ဦးလှသောင်းမြင့် | ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ် | ဖုန်း ၅၇၁၀၀၉ |
| | ကုန်းလမ်းပို့ဆောင်ရေးညွှန်ကြားမှုဦးစီးဌာန | |
| (ခ) ဒေါ်ခင်ခင်ဝင်း | ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး | ဖုန်း ၅၇၃၁၀၅ |
| | ကုန်းလမ်းပို့ဆောင်ရေးညွှန်ကြားမှုဦးစီးဌာန | |
| (ဂ) ဦးမြင့်မော် | ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး | ဖုန်း ၂၉၅၁၇၃ |
| | ပို့ဆောင်ရေးစီမံကိန်းဦးစီးဌာန | |

ကြိုဆိုလိုဆောင်ရွက်ဆပ်ကော်မတီ

Environment risks killing 2.5m people per year in Asia, Pacific

MANILA, 25 Nov — Over 2.5 million people were killed per year in the Asia and Pacific region due to environmental risks, such as exposure to urban and indoor air pollution, unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene, and climate change.

The warning was issued at a special meeting which was jointly organ-

ized by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) here on Wednesday.

The high-level three-day meeting on health and environment at ADB's Headquarters in Manila, brings together representatives of ministries of health

and of environment and other key institutions from the 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), People's Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, and Mongolia. The meeting aims to develop a better understanding of the linkages between poverty, health, and environment.

MNA/Xinhua

Measures for holding World Buddhist Summit...

(from page 16)

In his address, the Prime Minister said that now the preparations tasks are nearing completion as systematic measures have been taken for some time after forming the Leading Committee and respective sub-committees.

The Prime Minister called on the committee and subcommittees to continue to work together until successful completion of the Summit.

The chairmen and officials of the Leading Committee and subcommittees reported on work progress. Respective ministers gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Soe Win gave closing remarks. After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected religious books and treatises, commemorative badges and samples of souvenirs. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects sample stationery and souvenirs to be used at World Buddhist Summit.— MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint reports on health matters for World Buddhist Summit. MNA



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw submits reports on communication matters. MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein reports on information matters for World Buddhist Summit. MNA

Competitors of India-ASEAN Car Rally stop over in Mandalay



YANGON, 25 Nov — A ceremony to mark the 1st India-Myanmar Car Rally to pass through Myanmar was held at Mahuya Road in Tamu, Sagaing Division, at the border of Myanmar and India at 6 am today.

The rally is organized by Confederation of Indian Industry with the aims of raising the level of public consciousness of India-ASEAN relations, enhancing trade, investment, tourism and people to people links between India and ASEAN and road connectivity. Present on the occasion were Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay

Station, Director-General U Thaug Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, Deputy Director-General U Tin Maung Shwe of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, local authorities, officials of the Indian Embassy, managers and contestants of Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia and India, students, social organizations and local people.

Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye flagged off the competitors to pass through Myanmar. The competitors stopped over at Myittha Bridge in Kalewa along Tamu-Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa-Sagaing-Mandalay Road. On arrival at Monywa, the competitors were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials, students, social organizations and local people.

Similarly, they were welcomed in

Mandalay in the evening by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, departmental officials, students and local people. The drivers spent the night in Mandalay.

The 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally was flagged off in Guwahati, the city of northeast region of India, on 23 November. On 24 November evening, when they arrived at Tamu of Sagaing Division through Moreh, the border of India and Myanmar, they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, Director-General U Thaug Htaik of SPED, Deputy Director-General U Tin Maung Shwe of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Chairman of Tamu District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Zaw, officials of the Indian Embassy, departmental officials, students and local people. MNA

Chamber of Buddha Tooth Relic of Shwehsandaw Pagoda temporarily opened for public obeisance

YANGON, 25 Nov—The chamber of the Buddha's Tooth Relic of the Layhu Datpyaw Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Pyay, Bago Division (West), was opened temporarily for the 105th successive year for public obeisance on 22 November.

Presiding Nayaka of SanNanOo Monastery in Pyay Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Indavudha and members of the Sangha graded the occasion by their presence.

Also present were Chairman of Bago

Division (West Branch) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min, officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees, wellwishers and local people.

Members of the pagoda board of trustees conveyed the ruby ceti, the diamond ceti, and Shwekalat out of the chamber.

And the members handed over the ruby ceti to the Commander, who then placed it onto the temporary throne. The members also handed over Shwekalat to Bago

Division (West Branch) PDC Secretary Lt-Col Ohn Myint, who then placed it onto the temporary throne.

U Tin Lay-Daw Ruby Kyaing and family of No 451 on Aungthitsar Street, Dagon Myothit (North), donated K 2.05 million; and Karaweik Thingantaik family, a gold tray with stem weighing more than 17 ticals to funds of the pagoda.

The Commander and officials presented alms to the Sayadaws. MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့

ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့

၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၂၃)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်
ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၀၂၃၇) တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး
ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

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

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of Inter-Basic Education School Sports Competition. — MNA

Yangon Div Inter-school Sports Competition commences

YANGON, 25 Nov — A ceremony to open Inter-school Sports Competition in Yangon Division for 2004-2005 academic year of No 3 Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education was held in Aung San Stadium this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Education U

Than Aung, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general of the departments, heads of department and officials concerned.

First, the participating athletes took their designated places. Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu briefed on the holding of inter-school sports and formally opened the competitions.

After reciting sport oaths, the athletes left the sports grounds. Next, schoolgirls demonstrated callisthenics and the band played music.

After the ceremony, inter-school U-13 (Men) football match took place. Yangon East

District (A) team played against Yangon West District (B).

The inter-school sports events which include 12 games will continue at the designated places till 3rd December.

MNA

Development of townships in Bago Division inspected

YANGON, 25 Nov — Director-General Col Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department and officials inspected beautifying of townships and rural and urban development works in Bago Division on 24 November.

In Yedashe, the director-general inspected Swa-Gonminkwin rural gravel road and Aung Myanmar road. He proceeded to Toungoo and made overall inspection of Banyadala rural laterite road and Kandawgyi Nursery.

In Ottwin and Pyu, the director-general inspected construction of Inwa Road, Pyu-Banlaung Road, Nyaungbintha-Zeyathiri Road. After inspecting construction of Kanyutkwin-Meikthalin gravel road and repair of bridges, Col Myo Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the construction tasks and minimizing loss and wastage.

Bago Division DAD built four miles and 3.63 furlongs long urban road, 21 miles and seven furlongs long rural roads and 11 bridges in 2004-2005 financial year. In Kyaukdaga, the director-general heard reports on containing of arsenic in drinking water. Out of 485 wells in Kyaukdaga, DaikU and Waw townships, 369 wells have been tested containing of arsenic.

MNA

Korean Products Show 2004 starts



Myanmar-Korean Friendship Association Chairman Dr Khin Shwe, Chief of Asia Regional KOTRA HQ, Singapore, Mr Lee Chae Kyung, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo and UMFCFI Adviser U Khin Maung Yi formally open Korean Products Show-2004. — NLM

YANGON, 25 Nov — Korean Products Show 2004 commenced at the Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road (Lower) here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads and officials, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung Woo and wife, foreign ambassadors and diplomats, foreign correspondents, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the chairman of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association and

members, and guests.

At the outset, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo delivered an opening speech.

Minister Col Zaw Min, Mr Lee Kyung Woo, Chief of Asia Regional KOTRA Mr Lee Chae Kyung, UMFCFI Adviser U Khin Maung Yi, and

Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association Chairman Dr Khin Shwe formally opened the show. Next, the minister and party made a tour of the show.

Supervised by the Ministry of Commerce, sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea

in Myanmar, and organized by the Korea Trade - Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), the show displayed 59 booths of 31 companies. On display at the booths are products of Korea. The show will be kept open till 27 November.

MNA



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and party visit Korean Products Show-2004. — MNA

Village gets tube-well

YANGON, 25 Nov — Under the programme for supplying sufficient clean water for rural areas where the water is scarce, Director of Mandalay Division Development Affairs Department U Kan Hla and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Myint Oo inspected progress in sinking a tube-well in Khabat Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, on 4 November.

They also inspected supply of water to the villagers. — MNA

Armed Forces Day colour photo contest to be held

YANGON, 25 Nov — The Work Committee for Organizing 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 Commemorative Literary and Colour Photo Competition will hold the Colour Photo Contest. Photo enthusiasts can send up to four entries for each title. The size of the print photo entry should measure 10" by 12" and above. As those who won first, second and third prizes in the previous contests will be categorized into separate groups, it means that there are many chances of winning prizes for those who have not yet won any prizes.

Data and caption regarding the photo should be provided on a separate sheet of paper and enclosed. If there are any models in the photo, their consent will be needed.

The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize-winning work in local and foreign photo competitions. The entry photos taken by digital camera will not be considered. Winners standing first, second and third will be awarded in Yangon on 27 March 2005, when the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day will be observed.

Consolation prizes will also be presented to winners at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremonies to be held at the respective military commands and LIDs concerned. The entry photos should be sent to U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, No 22/24, Pansodan Street, here, not later than 14 February 2005.

MNA



The remains of Chairman Sayadaw being conveyed to Sankyaungdaw in the precinct of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

Chairman Sayadaw's remains offered by four white umbrellas

YANGON, 25 Nov — A ceremony to convey the remains of Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera was held in the precinct of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery on Pale Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township this afternoon.

Present were Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha

Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence, members of the funeral organizing committee, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, local authorities and disciples.

Next, the remains were conveyed to the Sankyaungdaw pandal in

the precinct of the monastery. Disciples, members of the Sangha and lay persons paid homage to the remains along the road. Artists sang the homage-paying songs.

In the Sankyaungdaw, the remains were honoured by covering of four white umbrellas.

At night, Pyinmana Wa Wa Shwe and troupe and Mandalay Pho Tha Aung Mingala Orchestra troupe participated in the dirge for the remains.

MNA

Dirge for remains of Chairman Sayadaw on 26-27 November

YANGON, 25 Nov — Artists will sing a dirge for Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera at Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery from Dagon

Myothit (South) Township at 8 am on 26 November, Phan Khwet Sein Drama Troupe at 1 pm on that day and disciples of the Sayadaw at 3 pm.

At night, Sein Sten and Mandalay Pho Tha Aung Mingala Myanmar Orchestra troupes will perform entertainment.

Similarly, Shwechanthu Thida Win and troupe will participate in the dirge for the Sayadaw at 8 am on 27 November and Sein Sten and Mandalay Pho Tha Aung Mingala Myanmar Orchestra troupes will play music for paying homage to the Sayadaw at 10 am. — MNA

Swe Swe Thant wins gold medal

YANGON, 25 Nov — Swe Swe Thant, a selected Myanmar Wushu athlete, today won the gold medal at the Nandao event on the second day of the 6th Asian Wushu Championship 2004 held at National Indoor Stadium-1.

Nguyen Thi Ngoc Oanh of Vietnam and Huang Yan Hui of Macao stood second and third in the same event respectively.

In Men's Nangun event, Song Lin of the

People's Republic of China won a gold medal while Le Quang Huy of Vietnam and Zaw Zaw Moe of Myanmar obtained silver and bronze medals respectively.

Member of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu awarded the winners and President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay presented the bouquet to them.

MNA



Gold medalist Swe Swe Thant in Nandao event of 6th Asian Wushu Championships-2004. — NLM



The remains of Chairman Sayadaw being paid homage by offering four white umbrellas at Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

Monks, lay persons pay homage to remains of Chairman Sayadaw

YANGON, 25 Nov — Members of the Sangha and disciples from here and there paid homage to 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, aged 95 and 76 vasa, who passed away on 17 November, are being kept at the temporary building in the precinct of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery on Pale Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township today.

At 9 am, member of

the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Administrator Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tilakabhivamsa supplicated on the paper to pardon their mistakes.

Next, members of the Sangha paid homage to the remains. Lay persons and associations recited religious verses in paying respects to the Sayadaw. — MNA

Shwethingan weaving competition commences

YANGON, 25 Nov — A ceremony to open the Ninth Buddha Pujaniya and Shwethingan weaving competition was held at Damapala Hill, Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township this evening.

Patron of the Organizing Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Devel-

opment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony and formally opened it.

Next, the Commander delivered an address on the occasion. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen

Thura Aung Ko and Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees U Than Nwe formally opened the competition.

The commander and party watched Shwethingan weaving competition.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held at 4 am tomorrow. — MNA

Education Research

Bureau offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 25 Nov — The 13th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Myanmar Education Research Bureau was held at the department in Kamayut Township today. Wife of Minister for Education U Than Aung, wives of Deputy Minis-

ters U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, and departmental officials presented robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw of Bogalay Monastery Bhaddanta Nananda.

MNA



Kathina robes donated to Sayadaws

YANGON, 25 Nov— The Kathina robes offering ceremony, organized by Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, was held at the ordination hall of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) this morning.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and party took the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññinda-bhivamsa.

The deputy minister offered Kathina robes



Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko offers Kathina robes to a Sayadaw.— MNA

to Rector of the university Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa.

Director-General U Sann Lwin of DPPS

and wellwishers donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Later, Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.— MNA

Directorate of Resettlements offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 25 Nov— The Directorate of Resettlements of the Ministry of Defence and families of Thanmyanthu bus line held the eighth



The Kathina robes offering ceremony of Directorate of Resettlements of Ministry of Defence and families of Thanmyanthu bus line in progress.—MNA

Kathina robes offering ceremony at the hall of North Okkalapa Township this morning.

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Saddhamma of TheingiU Monastery of North Okkalapa Township administered the Five Precepts.

Next, the director and families of Thanmyanthu offered Kathina robes to the Sayadaws.

Later, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

MNA

Matho Thingan weaving competitions conducted

YANGON, 25 Nov — The 20th Matho Thingan (robe woven before dawn) weaving competition, conducted by Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, was held this afternoon on the platform of the pagoda.

Members of the board of trustees formally opened the competition and nine weaving teams participated in it.

Similarly, 22th Matho Shwekyia Thingan weaving competition was also held at Botahtaung Pagoda this afternoon. Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters Commodore Maw Thein and wife, and departmental officials attended the opening ceremony of the competition.

A total of 10 weaving teams took part in the competition. After the competition, the newly-woven robes will be offered to the pagoda, and Buddha images at the pagoda before dawn.

Likewise, Pagoda Board of Trustees of Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township this afternoon organized the 25th Matho Thingan weaving competition at the pagoda.

The competition launched at 7 am and a total of five weaving teams participated in the competition. — MNA

Photo art exhibition opened

YANGON, 25 Nov — Photo art exhibition of the five photographers was opened today at Sakura Tower here.

Penta-Prism photo art exhibition is an art collection of five photographers — Ko Htin Lin (Golden Arrow), Moe Min (Rays), Ko Maung Maung (Bagan), Ko Pe Myint Oo (Comet) and Actor Ko Lwin Moe.

It will continue till 5 December and admission is free. — H



Patrons of Myanmar Photographic Society open Photo Art Exhibition in progress.— H

News from the Districts

Bio gas-powered generator inaugurated in Wetlet

WETLET, 1 Nov — A bio gas-powered generator was inaugurated in Myindaw model village in Wetlet Township on 11 October.

It is the first of its kind in the township. Secretary of Wetlet Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Soe Aye and Chairman of the village Peace and Development Council U Nyunt Pai opened the generator by cutting a ribbon.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint who was also present on the occasion turned on the light to mark the inauguration of the facility. Before he left there, the minister also inspected it.

MYANMA ALIN

Aged veterans in Maubin District get cash assistance

MAUBIN, 3 Nov — War veterans in Maubin District aged 75 and above were provided with cash on 21 October.

At the ceremony to provide cash assistance held at Maubin District Peace and Development Council office, Chairman of Maubin District Peace and Development Council Chairman of the district War Veterans Organization supervisory committee Lt-Col Sein Maung presented K 10,000 each to the aged veterans in the district.

MYANMA ALIN

Locals in Nyaungdon receive free medical treatment

NYAUNGDON, 8 Nov — A group comprises officials of Nyaungdon Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, township Health Department and Traditional Medical Department on 27 October went on a trip to Wadawzun Village in Nyaungdon Township and carried out rural welfare services.

First, Secretary of the township USDA U Aung Mya Than met the local people and briefed on rural area development tasks.

Next, Dr May Khine Ye Naung of Nyaungdon Township Health Department gave talks on prevention of six infectious diseases.

Dr May Khine Ye Naung and an official of Township Traditional Medical Clinic made medical check-ups and gave free medical treatments to the locals.

MYANMA ALIN

Diarrhoea preventive measures carried out in Aungmyaythazan

MANDALAY, 3 Nov — Officials of Aungmyaythazan Township Health Department has carried out measures to prevent diarrhoea in the township.

On 18 October, Head of the health department Dr Daw Khin Mar Win gave talks on prevention against diarrhoea in AhNateDaw Ward in the township.

Afterwards, the officials joining hands with members of social organizations inspected the wells and lakes. Besides, they sprayed the fly-injected places with insecticide to get rid of flies in the township and gave necessary assistance to build fly-proof laterines.

KYEMON

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for Supply of the following General Material which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Tender No - 53/MaMa/Local/General/

Sr. No	Description	Quantity
1	Electrical Equipment	1-Lot
2	Steel Product	1-Lot
3	Computer Equipment	1-Lot
4	TV, Audio & Camera Equipment	1-Lot

Closing Date. -13.12.2004 (Monday) (12:00) Hours.
2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from (29.11.2004) during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291994, (201555 Ext-602,613)

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. YANGON STAR VOY: NO (366)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. YANGON STAR VOY NO (366) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent for: M/S EAGLE CONTAINER

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Ministry of Construction
Public Works**

Announcement of Cancellation of Quotation

1. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit, hereby gives notice of the cancellation of bid for the supply of Steel Truss for **Ngaik Chaung Cable Stayed Bridge** Project.

2. Refund of bid bonds would be made by the Public Works, one week after this announcement of cancellation and the bidders are requested to apply for refund, together with receipts previously issued, at the Accounts Section, Road Division, Public Works, Head Office, No.60, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, within one month from the date of this announcement of cancellation.

Managing Director
Public Works

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. SEA MERCHANT VOY: NO (535)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. SEA MERCHANT VOY: NO (535) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent for: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

**TRADE MARK CAUTION
NOTICE
(Myanmar)**



Reg.No. 2989/2001

Notice is hereby given that Livingwell Health and Leisure Limited, a company organised and existing under the laws of England and Wales, established at Maple Court, Central Park, Reeds Crescent, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 4QQ, England are the sole proprietors and owners in Myanmar of the above trade mark which is used in connection with "Health club facilities, gymnasiums; health club services (exercise and fitness); provision of exercise facilities; exercise classes and instructions; educational services relating to exercise; sports instructions and training services; sports coaching; children's activity centres; recreational services relating to sports and fitness; rental of sports equipment".

The said proprietors and owners claim the right to use the said trade mark in all colours, sizes and styles of type.

Any person who without the authority of the said Livingwell Health and Leisure Limited uses in Myanmar any such mark or any imitation thereof, or otherwise infringes their rights in respect of the said trade mark in Myanmar, will be prosecuted according to the Law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Livingwell Health and Leisure Limited
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 26 November 2004

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY: NO (071)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (071) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 Noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent for: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM

Phone No: 256908/3783126/376797

**Brazil, Canada
pledge to solve
aviation
disputes**

BRASILIA, 24 Nov—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said here Tuesday that his country and Canada will try to reach an agreement "in the near future" on solving trade disputes over their aviation industries, which have strained the bilateral trade and political relations.

At a joint Press conference with visiting Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin after their meeting, Lula said that progress had been made in solving the disputes, in particular the "mutual understanding, the improvement of transparency and the creation of confidence".

"We advance in bilateral conversations on the aeronautical industry. We are deepening the understanding and extending confidence for the conclusion of an agreement in the near future," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Bank credits in Latin America
"scarce, costly, volatile"**

MEXICO CITY, 24 Nov—President of the Inter-American Development Bank Enrique Iglesias said Monday that bank credits are "scarce, costly and volatile" in Latin American countries, which has hindered the development in the region, according to reports from Guatemala City.

"Unfortunately, bank credits remain to be scarce, costly and extremely volatile," which prevents local and foreign investors from taking advantage of banks to spur development and fight against poverty in the region, Iglesias said at an annual convention of the Latin American Banking Federation in Guatemala City.

Guatemalan President Oscar Berger opened the

meeting, which was attended by more than 1,000 bankers from 40 countries in Latin America, Europe, Africa and North America.

Iglesias noted that Latin America has performed poorly in credit lending, in comparison with other developing regions, like the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East and North Africa, which have grown faster because of active bank financing.

MNA/Xinhua

Second black box of crashed plane found

BAOTOU (Inner Mongolia), 25 Nov—The second black box of the crashed CRJ-200 plane was also found on Wednesday morning in Baotou City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The second black box, or the flight data recorder, was found at 12:49 am Wednesday. The first of the two black boxes, the cabin voice recorder (CVR), which was found at 11:40 am Wednesday had received some damages and need to be taken

to Beijing for further study, said experts at the site of the air crash.

A 50-seat short-haul jet CRJ-200, with 47 passengers and six crew members aboard, left Baotou in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region for east China metropolis Shang-

hai at 8:21 am on Sunday, but crashed into the lake of Nanhai Park shortly after it took off.

All of the people aboard, together with at least one senior person on the ground, were killed.

MNA/Xinhua

Oil prices rise in US

NEW YORK, 24 Nov—Oil prices rose on Tuesday but retreated from an earlier break above 50 US dollars, as dealers awaited a US Government report that is expected to show a small increase in thin heating oil stocks ahead of winter.

US light crude rose 30 cents to 48.94 US dollars a barrel after hitting as high as 50.25 US dollars in open-call trade, adding to a more-than-3.50 US dollars rebound since last week on renewed supply jitters. London Brent rose 7 cents to 44.45 US dollars. "There is a stay of execution while the weather does not go cold, but I still think that distillates are a problem in the longer term," said Geoff Pyne, analyst for Sempra Energy. Traders who are short of heating oil futures contracts fear a repeat of the past two weeks when US distillates inventories, including heating oil and diesel, failed to build as expected due in part to soaring domestic consumption and ferocious competition for imports. US distillate demand has been running about 8 percent above last year on the back of strong trucking and manufacturing activity, pushing national stockpiles down for nine straight weeks to 15 per cent below a year ago, according to the latest government data.—MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်များတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Plant samples from Tennessee for Asian soybean rust

WASHINGTON, 25 Nov— Plant samples from Tennessee are being tested for the highly contagious Asian soybean rust, a withering disease that has rapidly marched throughout the US South, the US Agriculture Department said on Tuesday.

If confirmed, Tennessee would be the seventh state infected with the fungus since its initial discovery in the mainland United States two weeks ago. The yield-slashing fungus has already been found in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Arkansas. Claude Knighten, spokesman for

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the Tennessee test results were expected on Wednesday.

The suspect field is in Cannon County, about 50 miles southeast of Nashville, according to the Tennessee Agriculture Department. Tennessee is a relatively small producer of soybeans and harvested

about 47.2 million bushels this year.

Farmers fear the fungus will spread by next growing season to big soybean states such as Iowa and Illinois, which together harvested about 989 million bushels or one-third of this year's US crop.

Worries about the rapidly spreading disease have sent US soybean

futures prices more than 50 cents a bushel higher since the first report of soy rust was confirmed on November 10.

Soybean futures at the Chicago Board of Trade rose again on Tuesday, with the January delivery contract settling at 5.61-1/4 US dollars per bushel, up 6-3/4 cents.

MNA/Reuters

Former academy member fined for leaking Oscar screener DVDs

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov— A US judge has fined Carmine Caridi, former member of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 300,000 US dollars for leaking two Oscar screener DVDs, Warner Bros studio said on Tuesday.

The fine was imposed by US District Judge Stephen Wilson against Caridi, who as an Academy member had received DVDs of "Mystic River" and "The Last Samurai" in 2003, both of them were contending for Oscars.

Caridi, who acted in small parts in two of "The Godfather" movies, sent his DVDs to Russell Sprague of Homewood, Illinois, who digitized them for posting on the Internet. Sprague was later charged with violating copyright law and he pleaded guilty. Caridi was not charged.

MNA/Xinhua

TV Al-Jazeera to spend \$30m for English language news channel

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Nov — Arab satellite TV network Al-Jazeera plans to spend up to 30 million US dollars to launch an English-language news channel by the end of 2005, a spokesman for the network said on Tuesday.

The Qatar-based broadcaster will hire more than 300 people and operate out of three regional centres, including Kuala Lumpur as its Asian hub, Jihad Ballout said by telephone from Doha.

"We plan to spend 25 to 30 million US dollars initially," Ballout said. "We hope to go on the air in November next year."

Mainly Muslim Malaysia currently chairs both the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO), which groups 57 Muslim states, and the

116-member Non-Aligned Movement of developing nations.

The network has said that the new channel, to be called Al-Jazeera International, will try to counteract what it says unbalanced reporting from Western networks such as CNN and BBC.

"We believe there's a market for it out there," he said. "We hope to be a channel of choice about the developing world and the Middle East."

Ballout said Kuala Lumpur was chosen over

Hong Kong and Singapore as the Asian hub mainly due to economic factors.

"It was a very close decision, everything was taken into consideration — manpower costs, location and communication facilities," he said.

The network, which has been heavily criticized by the US Government for its coverage of the war in Iraq, will also house regional hubs in London and Washington besides its headquarters in Doha

MNA/Reuters



Apple Store customers in San Francisco test the iPod on 24 Nov, 2004. The iPod is one of the hot electronic items on the Christmas list of many a holiday shopper.—INTERNET

Brazilian police seize 500 kilos of drugs in Sao Paulo

BRASILIA, 25 Nov — Brazilian police on Tuesday seized nearly 500 kilos of cocaine and arrested two drug suspects in Sao Paulo.

Machineguns and guns were also found.

Police said the drugs belonged to the Red Command, one of the biggest criminal rings of the country.

"It is one of the most organized and dangerous rings of the Red Command. Some weapons even could be utilized to bring down helicopters," said Inavey Cayres, director of Brazil's anti-narcotics agency, DENARC.

MNA/Xinhua

Goldmine tunnel collapse in Hainan Province kills four

HAIKOU, 25 Nov— Four miners died in a tunnel collapse accident that happened Sunday afternoon in Ledong Li Autonomous County in China's southernmost province of Hainan, local police confirmed on Wednesday. At around 2:00 pm Sunday, a tunnel collapsed suddenly when seven miners were working 300 metres underground at the Baolun Goldmine in the county, killing four of them. — MNA/Xinhua



A man and his Taser. Australian police say they may soon follow the United States' lead and issue air marshals with electric stun guns after a trial of the weapons by an elite security unit.—INTERNET

Milk drinking beneficial to cardiovascular health

MELBOURNE, 25 Nov— Milk drinking is not harmful to cardiovascular health as some people suggest and it may be beneficial, said a report released Tuesday at the World Dairy Summit held here.

The report, Milk and Cardiovascular Disease: A Review of the Epidemiological Evidence, said drinking milk may significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke.

The conclusion is based on 10 long-term studies into milk drinking and cardiovascular disease, according to the report by Peter Elwood of Great Britain's Cardiff University.

The studies, involving 400,000 subjects, the equivalent of 8 million man-years of observation and 8,500 vascular disease events, provided no evidence of an increase risk of cardiovascular disease from drinking milk.

Instead, the studies found that the incidence of heart disease and stroke was lowered by about 16 per cent in people with the highest intake of milk.

More than 700 delegates from around 30 countries and regions attended the four-day annual summit meeting of the International Dairy Federation (IDF). The IDF is a century-old international industry body with over 40 member countries and regions around the world. It serves as a forum for discussion and exchange and a dairy information centre.

MNA/Xinhua

Number of people with HIV at record 39.4 million worldwide

TOKYO, 24 Nov— The number of people living with HIV has come to an estimated all-time record of 39.4 million worldwide, two UN agencies said in an annual report released Tuesday.

The death toll from the

virus is expected to be 3.1 million this year, according to the AIDS Epidemic Update 2004 report released by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization.

The report stressed the

need for measures to protect women from selling sex for money or daily necessities, a practice it says is a major source of infection. Women constitute about a half of the estimated 37.2 million adults with HIV, the report said.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Kariuki, Oswald, meet for super heavyweight title in China

KUNMING (Yunnan Province), 25 Nov—New Zealand's Peter Kariuki and Dutchman Maneno Oswald will vie for the World Boxing Association Pan Asian and the Pacific super heavyweight title next month in the southern city of Kunming in China, organizers said Tuesday.

The champion's belt was present in Kunming on Tuesday while the fight takes place on December 17, when another four WBA matches are also arranged featuring boxers from China, Thailand, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa and Iran, said Cao Zeyuan, secretary general of Kunming boxing association.

The 27-year-old Kariuki, born in Nairobi, Kenya, has nine victories, six losses and two draws with eight knockouts. Former IBF African champion Oswald, 34, is 22-8-1 with 17 KOs.

MNA/Xinhua



Bremen's Finn Petri Pasanen, left, watches Inter's Dutch Andy van de Meyde, Serbian Dejan Stankovic, Nigerian Obafemi Martins, Guiseppe Favalli, Dutch Edgar Davids, Argentinian Esteban Matias Cambiasso, Christian Vieri, from left to right, celebrate during the UEFA Champions League group G soccer match between German Werder Bremen against Italian Inter Milan on Wednesday, 24 Nov, 2004. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — INTERNET

Werder Bremen draw 1-1 with Inter Milan

BREMEN (Germany), 25 Nov — Werder Bremen had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Inter Milan on Wednesday despite dominating possession, leaving their Champions League hopes resting on their final match in Valencia.

The German champions and Cup holders went ahead with a Valerien Ismael penalty four minutes after the break but only held the lead for six minutes as substitute Obafemi Martins nodded home an equaliser for Inter.

Werder only need a draw from their last Group G match against Valencia in Spain on December 7 and could still sneak through to the last 16 with a defeat, depending on the score. Group leaders Inter have already qualified.

Werder, seeking to settle their fate at home, put the pressure on throughout the match but rarely converted their territorial advantage into clear chances and when they did catch sight of the visitors' goal they invariably shot tamely or missed.

Werder's players expressed disappointment not to have shut down the match after going 1-0 up, but coach Thomas Schaaf preferred to stress the positives.

"We pushed forward for 90 minutes," he said. "We had chances. We showed that we wanted it. At least we have our fate in our own hands in the last game. I also must say that to have got 10 points is a great achievement."

A nine-to-one corner count attested to the advantage of the home side, who had 23 shots to Inter's nine. Ismael's penalty, after Argentine striker Julio Cruz had pushed Ludovic Magnin at a corner,

could have secured the victory required.

But substitute Martins preserved the Italian side's unbeaten run in the competition three minutes after replacing Cruz when he was left with a simple nod-in after Dejan Stankovic's superb long-range lob rebounded off the bar.

The German side continued to push forward and threw on Greece's Euro 2004 hero Angelos Charisteas as a third striker.

Miroslav Klose forced a decent low save from Inter keeper Francesco Toldo with a header in the 72nd minute, while Frenchman Johan Micoud shot just wide seven minutes from time.

"We can go home happy with our commitment and our willingness, although we would have preferred a win. You can't blame the team. They tried," said Schaaf.

Inter coach Roberto Mancini said he thought a draw was a fair result. "Werder Bremen definitely wanted to beat us, but we held them back. My team stood up very well on the whole and put in a fine performance," he said.

Valencia still trail Werder by three points going into the final match between the clubs after they won 2-1 at Anderlecht.

The Spanish side can only progress to the last 16 if they better Werder's 2-1 victory in the first group match between the clubs in Germany in September.

MNA/Reuters

AC Milan, Barcelona, PSV Eindhoven qualify for Champions League

LONDON, 25 Nov — AC Milan, Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven all qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League on Wednesday with one match remaining in their groups.

They joined already-qualified Inter Milan, Chelsea, Manchester United, Olympique Lyon, Bayern Munich and Juventus in the last 16.

PSV made sure of progressing for the first time in their ninth campaign after drawing 1-1 at home to Arsenal, who had Lauren and Patrick Vieira sent off within 13 minutes of each other midway through the second half of their Group E match.

Andre Ooijer put PSV ahead after eight minutes, Thierry Henry equalized after 31 but the English champions held on for a draw and will also qualify if they beat eliminated Rosenborg Trondheim at home in two weeks' time.

Rosenborg drew 2-2 with Panathinaikos at home leaving the Greeks still in with a chance of progressing depending on the last results.

Milan made sure of their place with a thumping 4-0 win over Shakhtar Donetsk to head Group F on 12 points, two more than Barcelona, who also qualified despite being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Celtic.

Inter Milan, already through from Group G, drew 1-1 at Werder Bremen, who will also advance if they avoid defeat in their last match at Valencia on Decem-



AC Milan's Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf (R) vies with Shakhtar Donetsk's Nigerian forward Julius Aghahowa during their Champions League Group F football match at San Siro Stadium in Milan. — INTERNET

ber 7. Valencia won 2-1 at Anderlecht, who have now lost all five matches, and the Spaniards can still qualify.

Chelsea dropped their first points of the competition in a 0-0 home draw with Paris St Germain, who are level on points with European champions Porto, 1-0 winners at CSKA Moscow.

Although Chelsea had already qualified, the second-placed team will not be decided until the last match when PSG host CSKA and Porto welcome the group leaders and their former manager Jose Mourinho in two weeks.

MNA/Reuters

Barca extends Larsson's contract despite injury

MADRID, 25 Nov — Swedish Henrik Larsson has got a year's extension on his contract on Tuesday although the Barcelona striker would miss the rest of the season due to a serious knee injury.



FC Barcelona's Brazilian Ronaldinho (R) vies with Celtic's Joos Valgaeren (L) during their Champions League football match at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona.

INTERNET

"Barcelona want the player to concentrate on recovering from the injury without having to worry about his contractual situation," the Catalan club said on its website on Tuesday.

Barca said that the one-year contract that Larsson had signed with the club would have been extended if he had played 60 per cent of matches, but given the impossibility of reaching such a figure they had decided to renew the deal automatically until June 2006.

The 33-year-old striker, who tore the cruciate ligament in his left knee during his side's 3-0 victory over Real Madrid on Saturday, told the Barcelona website he was "enormously grateful" to the club for its decision.

"This offer means a great deal to me and my family," he said. "It's a serious injury, but this sort of thing is part of football."

"It's a contact sport and these things

can happen, but I'm ready to face up to the situation and I'm optimistic about it.

Larsson, who has scored 32 goals in 82 appearances for Sweden, signed for Barcelona at the start of the season after spending seven highly successful years at Celtic.

The Swede is the fourth Barcelona player to be ruled out for the remainder of the season because of a serious injury.

Midfielder Thiago Motta and defenders Edmílson and Gabri suffered almost identical injuries during the last two months. — MNA/Reuters

Two arrested over Blackburn racism allegations

LONDON, 24 Nov — Two men, suspected to committed a racist offense at Sunday's Premier League match at Blackburn Rovers, have been arrested on Tuesday following a formal complaint by Birmingham City striker Dwight Yorke.

The men in their twenties voluntarily attended a police station where they were arrested, Lancashire police said in a statement on Tuesday.

Birmingham manager Steve Bruce said after Sunday's match at Ewood Park that Yorke had suffered monkey chants similar to those faced by England players during last week's 1-0 friendly defeat in Spain.

Police said two detectives met with former Blackburn forward Yorke and other Birmingham players on Tuesday at their training ground where they interviewed several people. — MNA/Xinhua

N America box office's autumn sales fall short of past years

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov — Overall box office sales and admissions for the fall this year plunged well below the levels of the previous two years despite the success of two animation hits, the *Hollywood Reporter* reported on Tuesday.

The total national box office for fall — the post-Labour Day to pre-Thanksgiving weeks — was 1.39 billion US dollars, down a steep 14 per cent from the record 1.63 billion US dollars racked up last year, and off 12 per cent from the 1.59 billion US dollars tallied in 2002, according to the *Hollywood* news magazine.

Admissions for the season were disappointing as well, slipping by a sharp 18 per cent from last year's record tally and amounting to only the fourth best ever recorded for the fall, the report said.

Estimated number of tickets sold for the season was 219.9 million, compared with 268.3 million and 268.2 million in 2003 and 2002 respectively.

While this year's results were less than sterling, the season still bore two marks of distinction, the animation hits "Shark Tale" and "The Incredibles".

It was the first time that two animated pictures held the top two spots, and it was the first time that one film, let alone two films, grossed more than 150 million US dollars during the fall.

With "The Grudge" sitting in the third spot with more than 100 million US dollars, it was only the second time that

three films had surpassed that level during the fall, the report said.

Genre-wise, the fall was dominated by family entertainment with "Shark Tale" and "The Incredibles". Horror-thriller films, which have always been a staple of the fall season, were plentiful with "The Grudge", "The Forgotten", "Resident Evil 2: Apocalypse", and "Saw". Adult dramas also had an impact with "Ladder 49", "Friday Night Lights", "Ray" and "Shall We Dance?"

Part of the drop in box office and admissions this year can be attributed to the fact that the fall season was one of the more frequently occurring 10-week variety, while the previous two years were both 11-week seasons.

DreamWorks' "Shark Tale" fetched 157.9 million US dollars at the box office, followed by Disney/Pixar's "The Incredibles" with 151 million US dollars, and Sony's "The Grudge" with 100.6 million US dollars. Disney's "Ladder 49" climbed to 72.3 million US dollars and the fourth slot, followed by Sony's "Forgotten" in fifth with 66.6 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

NY enacts law banning sales of products containing endangered species

NEW YORK, 25 Nov — New York City became the first city in the United States to approve a law on Tuesday making it illegal to buy or sell products containing or advertised as containing, endangered species.

The law, passed by the City Council on Tuesday and awaiting the mayor's signature, follows an undercover investigation in New York last spring by TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network of the World Wildlife Fund and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The investigation found illegal products widely available claiming to contain endangered species, including tigers, rhinos, leopards and musk deer.

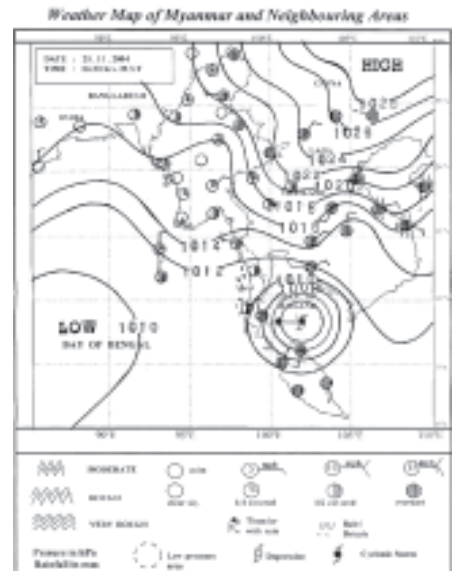
In a statement issued on Tuesday, Simon Habel, director of TRAFFIC, said his organization believes that New York City, by being the first to pass this type of law at the city level,

can lead by example other cities whose wildlife trade threatens endangered species.

"The new law would close local loopholes within New York City by making the sale of pro-

ducts containing, or labelled as containing, endangered species a violation of city law and give New York City enforcement officials the authority to take action," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Thursday, 25 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Bhamo (0.04) inch. Night temperatures were (7°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (6°C) below normal in Yangon Division. (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (4°C), Mindat and Namsam (7°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 24-11-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 25-11-2004 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-11-2004 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 24-11-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 25-11-2004 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 5 mph from North-east at (18:30) hours MST on 24-11-2004.

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

Special Features: According to the observations at (12:30) hours MST today, the tropical storm "Muifa" in the Gulf of Thailand is centered at about (160) miles Southeast of Kawthong, Myanmar and moving westwards. It is likely to cross South Thailand Coast and enter into the South Andaman Sea at tomorrow early morning.

Forecast valid until evening of 26-11-2004: Rain will be isolated in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, widespread in Mon, Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of widespread rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-11-2004: Fair weather.

Storm News

(Issued at 14:00 hours MST on 25-11-2004) According to observations at (12:30) hours MST today, the tropical storm "Muifa" in the Gulf of Thailand is centered at about (160) miles Southeast of Kawthong, Myanmar and moving westwards. It is likely to cross South Thailand Coast and enter into the South Andaman Sea at tomorrow early morning.

Under the influences of the storm, widespread rain, at times squalls and rough sea are likely off and along Taninthayi Coast during the next (24) hours commencing this afternoon. Wind speed in squalls may at times reach (50) mph.



Friday, November 26
View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာန်ရီတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘုဒ္ဓသိရိန္ဒာ ဘိဝံသ(မဟာဆရာတော်) မဟာကြားတော်မူသော ဥဉ္စိတသန္တိ ပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာဓာယက အမ္ဘ၊ ဒုတိယဥက္ကဋ္ဌဆရာတော်၊ ဝေးတိုင်း၊ ငြိညိဗ္ဗိ၊ ဓမ္မာတိကာရံ ပါဠိတက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းတိုက် ပဓာန ဓာယကဆရာတော် (အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာသုဗ္ဗ ဓမ္မာတိက ဓမ္မ) ဘုဒ္ဓကုဏ္ဍလဓမ္မာတိ မဟာကြားတော် မူဆပ်သော "သမ္မာဗျူဟာသုတ္တန် တရားတော်"

8:00 am

5. Nice and sweet song

8:10 am

6. လူ့စွမ်းရည်မြှင့်တင်မှုပွဲ

8:20 am

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အခေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရရှိမြှင့်တင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

-တတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု)

(သင်္ချာ)

5:15 pm

6. Songs of national races

5:30 pm

7. နည်းစနစ်မှန်မှန်အားထုတ်အခြေခံ

5:40 pm

8. Songs of yesteryears

5:50 pm

9. တန်ဆောင်တိုင်တေးများ

6:05 pm

10. Discovery

6:10 pm

11. ငွေကြေးတင်ဆက်ကြားသက်နိုး

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းကွဲ "လူ့စွမ်းရည်တော်" (အပိုင်း-၃၂)

7:35 pm

15. သီတဂူဆရာတော်အရှင်ဉာဏိ

သရဖူသံဃာတော်သုတ္တန်

တရားတော်

16. လင်းလက်မြောက်ကျွန်းကျွန်း

(တိကျကျောက်မီးသွေးလောင်စာ

သုံးစါတိအာပေးစက်ရုံစီမံကိန်း)

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. Myanmar Teleplay

"ကံ—ကံ၏အကျိုး"

ကျော်သူ၊ ရီဇယ်၊ မေသုဉ္ဇူ

မြတ်ကောင်းအောင်

(ဒါရိုက်တာ—မောင်နှင်းနိုး)

21. မင်းကွန်ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး

ဦးစီဦးညွှာသာရာတိဝံသ၏

အရပ်အဝန်းမှတ်တမ်း

ဘာသာစကားပြောကြားတရားတော်

22. The next day's

programme



Friday, November 26

Tune in today:

8.30 am

Brief news

8.35 am

Music:

-Running back to you

8.40 am

Perspectives

8.45 am

Music:

-I love rock and roll

8.50 am

National news/ Slogan

9:00 am

Music:

Positively somewhere

9.05 am

International news

9.10 am

Music

-My destiny

1.30 pm

News/Slogan

1.40 pm

Lunch time music:

-Nothing's gonna stop us now

-Lucky you

-My baby

9.00 pm

World of music

Songs from Malaysia

Article/Music

9.15 pm

Music at your request

- Real love

- Jambalaya

- Inside of my guitar

9.45 pm

News/Slogan

10.00 pm

PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses coordination meeting for organizing the World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

Measures for holding World Buddhist Summit coordinated

YANGON, 25 Nov—A meeting took place at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township here this afternoon to coordinate measures for holding the World Buddhist Summit.

Chairman of the

meeting.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Di-

Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, officials of the

SPDC Office, departmental heads, and officials of the Leading Committee,

the Work Committee and subcommittees.

(See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents security and discipline matters.

MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung participates in discussions to hold World Buddhist Summit.

MNA

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun reports on preparations for organizing World Buddhist Summit.

MNA



Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township here this afternoon to coordinate measures

Leading Committee for Holding the Summit Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address to the

vision Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint

5,311 more prisoners to be released

YANGON, 25 Nov— The State Peace and Development Council had already dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau on 22 October, 2004.

Release

It was observed that the NIB might have committed irregularities. After due review of the cases, prison terms of 5,311 convicts have been suspended with effect from today, 25 November, 2004, and they will be released from the respective prisons. This is the second time the convicts are released and the number rises to 9,248 from 3,937, which was announced the first time.—MNA

A & I Minister continues inspection tour of Bago Division

YANGON, 25 Nov— Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected No 5 Sugar Mill (Myo Hla) in Yedashe Township, Bago

Division, on 23 November.

At the meeting with the manager and staff of the mill, and those in charge of the agricultural zones, the Minister dealt with cultivation of sugarcane and extended growing of sugarcane for strains for 2005-2006, and purchase of sugarcane and production of sugar this year.

Next, the Minister inspected paddy fields, supply of water, and Swa Creek Dam in Yedashe Township. Director of the Irrigation Department U Victor reported on annual irrigation and cultivation

of crops. The Minister gave instructions on cultivation of paddy and sugarcane. — MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

Fullmoon day of Tazaungmon : a day for doing meritorious deeds (Page-2)

Article

From Mandalay to Bagan on board the Shwe Keinnari (Page-7)

Competitors of India-ASEAN Car Rally stop over in Mandalay (Page-8)



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects irrigation networks of Swa Creek Dam in Yedashe Township on 23-11-2004.— A&I