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Saturday, 27 November 2004

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Shwekyar Thingan to Dhammacakka Mudra Buddha Image at Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon)

YANGON, 26 Nov — The ninth Buddha Pujaniya, the consecration ceremony, the Shwekyar Thingan offering ceremony and the provisions offering ceremony were held at Varadatha Dhatuṇetiya Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) on Dhammapala Hill in Mayangon Township, this morning, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing. Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaṇariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws,

Sayadaw of Theravada Ovadaṇariya Committee and members of the Sangha totalling 45, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Shwekyar Thingan to Dhammacakka Mudra Buddha Image at Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon).— MNA

Donations in total amount to over K 21 million.

Ovadaṇariya Sayadaws of the pagoda board of trustees, members of the Sangha from International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the Rector Sayadaw of the State Pariyatti Sasana University, chairmen Sayadaws of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committees of all Ganas, the Chairman

and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, the ministers and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attor-

ney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board and their wives, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, members of the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and the sub-committees for Or-

ganizing the Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda, members of the pagoda board of trustees and guests. First, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered dawn 'soon' and fruits to Buddha images at the pagoda and dawn 'soon' to invited Sayadaws.

Next, Senior Gen-

eral Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Coun-

cil Commander of Yangon Command and the ministers offered dawn 'soon' to members of the Sangha.

The consecration ceremony started at 6 am. Adviser U Arnt Maung acted as master of (See page 8)

INSIDE

Perspectives
For achieving greater success in international sports events (Page-2)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party taking Nine Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 27 November, 2004

For achieving greater success in international sports events

The objective "Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation" is embodied in the twelve political, economic and social objectives being implemented by the Government for transforming the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one.

In this regard, it sends national sports contingents abroad to participate in international sports events, while it holds national level sports events and hosts international level sports games in the nation.

The opening of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships was held on a grand scale at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, on 24 November. The occasion was graced by Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein with his attendance.

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

Myanmar is proud to host the Championship, in which top Wushu athletes of 25 Wushu federations from Asian nations are contending for medals. And as for local Wushu athletes, they get a golden opportunity to compete with international teams and gain invaluable experiences.

On the opening day, Khaing Khaing Maw won gold medal in women's Taijiquan event, opening a new chapter in Myanmar's sports history for having won the first gold medal in an Asian Wushu championship.

On the second day, Swe Swe Thant got the second gold medal for her motherland, Myanmar, which helps enhance Myanmar's dignity and realize the national sports goal in an endeavour to elevate the level of national sports standard.

Indeed, high sports standard reflects a nation's dignity, honour, cultural standard and development. So, upholding the concept that winning victory in international sports events raises the dignity of the motherland, Myanmar athletes are to try all their might for achieving success in sports, regarding it as a national task.

Myanmar athletes are thus urged to strive with might and main and perseverance for greater success in international sports events so as to bring honour to the motherland.

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

Myanmar, India to promote trade and economic cooperation

YANGON, 26 Nov—In connection with the first India-ASEAN Car Rally, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held a meeting on trade and economic cooperation between Myanmar and India at the Sedona Hotel in Mandalay yesterday morning.

It was attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ne Win, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr RK Bhatia, officials, UMFCCI President U Win Myint, the president of Mandalay Chambers of Commerce and Industry, private entrepreneurs, President of the CII Mr Abhijeet Barooah and Indian entrepreneurs and enthusiasts.

The presidents of the CII and the UMFCCI and the Indian Ambassador extended greetings. Indian Minister Mr Santosh Mohan Dev and Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein also delivered speeches.

The meeting discussed to cooperation in trade, economy and information between Myanmar and India, and establishing bilateral special trade zone infrastructures. The two ministers also held discussions on bilateral economic cooperation, investment, and promotion of border trade. — MNA



The precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda being thronged with devotees.— NLM

6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 continues

YANGON, 26 Nov — The 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 continued at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township today. President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U



Silver medal winner Swe Swe Thant seen in the women's Nanquan event.— NLM

Khin Maung Lay presented the first prize to Kweong Heung Seok of Korea with 9.26 points, second to Lim Yew Fai of Malaysia with 9.25 points and third to Willy Wang of the Philippines with 9.21 points in the men's Jianshu event. In the women's Nanquan event, Mao Yaqi of China won the first prize, Swe Swe Thant of Myanmar second and Huang Yan Hui of Macao third. In the men's Taijiquan event, Hei Zhi Hong of Hong Kong stood first, Goh Qin Bin of Singapore second and Chin Foh Nan of Malaysia third.

In the men's Taijiquan and Taijiquan combined event, Goh Qin Bin of Singapore secured the first prize, Hei Zhi Hong of Hong Kong second and Jang Yong Ho of Korea third. In the men's Nanquan event, Su Kefeng won the first prize, Ho Ro Bin of Malaysia second and Zaw Moe of Myanmar third.

Yesterday evening, Khaing Khaing Maw won a silver medal in the Taijiquan combine event together with first prize winner Peng Lili of China and third prize winner Bui Mai Phuong of Vietnam. Khaing Khaing Maw also took one bronze in the women's Taijiquan event. Chinese athletes won first and third prizes in the event. Pyae Wai Phyo of Myanmar secured a bronze medal in the men's Taolu event. The Philippines and HK athletes won first and second prizes.— MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for PRC

YANGON, 26 Nov — Chief Editor U Thein Htut of Myanmar News Agency (External) and Assistant Director U Ra Khant of the Information and Public Relations Department left here by air this morning for the People's Republic of China to attend the 10th Asia-Pacific Region Environmental Journalist Forum to be held in PRC from 27 to 29 November.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Editor of Myanmar Daily U Ye Myint Pe, officials and their families.— MNA



Myanmar delegation seen at the airport before departure for China.— MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ ဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလအတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)၂၈-၁၁-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်

(၁၂-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့နှင့်

(၂၆-၁၂-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

The best time to plant a tree was
20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

China's tourism speeds up after WTO entry

SHANGHAI, 25 Nov— China's tourism sped up after the nation joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), an official with the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) said here on Wednesday.

Hotel industry in China is already opened in an all-round way, and almost all the well-known international hotel groups are already in China, said Shen Huirong, director of CNTA's International Department at the opening ceremony of China International Travel Mart (CITM). In July 2003, CNTA approved the first application to set up a wholly foreign-owned travel agency in China, fulfilling its commitment to the WTO four years ahead of schedule.

At present, there are 5 wholly foreign-owned travel agencies and 13 joint venture travel agencies in China. CNTA also encouraged China's big tourist enterprises "to go abroad". By the end of this year, Chinese tour groups will be allowed to visit 63 countries and regions. CNTA just signed tourism memorandum with two Caribbean nations and three Latin American nations, which will allow group tourists to visit the above region in the near future.

The tourism industry was among the earliest opened in China and has been enjoying the highest level of opening up. With

good investment and development environment, it is also an advantageous field designated by the government for foreign investment.

The entire scale of the use of foreign investment in the tourism sector in China reached 50 billion US dollars, accounting for about 11 per cent of the total 450 billion US dollars foreign investment that all industries have absorbed.

The World Tourism Organization forecasts that China will become the number one tourist destination and the fourth tourist generating coun-

try by the year 2020. According to the long-term goal formulated by the Chinese Government, by the year 2020, inbound tourist arrivals to China will reach 210 million. International tourism receipts in foreign exchange will reach 58 billion US dollars and domestic tourism income will reach 250 billion US dollars.

The total tourism income will surpass 300 billion US dollars, representing eight to 11 per cent of the country's GDP.

MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ပြန်နှစ်ဆ မိုးမြင့်ခြင်း

Jordanian tourist delegation leaves for China

AMMAN, 25 Nov— A Jordanian tourist delegation headed by Tourist Minister Alia Buran left here Wednesday for China in a bid to promote a tourism cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Buran will hold a meeting with Chinese tourist officials and brief them on the latest developments and facilities that Jordan offers to the Chinese tourist organizations, local Press said.

Buran said in a statement before leaving that since signing the agreement on October 2003, the Jordanian side has paid all its efforts to activate the agreement and to attract the Chinese tourists.

The Jordanian delegation, which comprises senior tourist officials, will also discuss with a number of Chinese officials on the cooperation in the aviation field between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to build world's greatest shopping street

SINGAPORE, 25 Nov— Singapore government is making efforts to sharpen its competitive edge in the region's tourism by upgrading Orchard Road, the island state's most popular shopping belt, according to local news reports.

Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, said on Wednesday that the initiative is part of the country's efforts to remain attractive for foreign shoppers. "More than just a preferred retail hub, we want Orchard Road to be 'one of the greatest shopping streets of the world', a lifestyle destination in Singapore," he said, adding that cities in the region such as Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok are becoming more and more popular.

Measures to be taken include releasing vacant sites and car parks along

Orchard Road for flagship retail stores, improving the public infrastructure and pedestrian mall, and introducing more events to inject greater vibrancy into the road. Details will be released in weeks.

In October last year, the government set up a Remaking Orchard Road Committee, comprising the Singapore Tourism Board, the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Land Transport Authority, to study ways of making Orchard Road a more compelling shopping destination for both Singaporeans and tourists.—MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians cross Orchard Road in Singapore's shopping district. Singapore is aiming to turn its famous Orchard Road district into one of the greatest shopping streets of the world, in a revamp aimed at meeting rising retail competition from other Asian cities. — INTERNET

Bestselling author Hailey dies

LONDON, 25 Nov—British-born author Arthur Hailey, who wrote 11 best-sellers, has died at his home in the Bahamas.

Hailey, who was 84, died in his sleep on Wednesday at his New Providence island home, his wife Sheila said.

Doctors believe the author of thrillers including *Hotel*, *Airport* and *The Moneychangers* had a stroke. He had already had a stroke two months ago.

Luton-born Hailey wrote 11 books which were published in 40 countries, with 170 million copies in print. In his novels he often depicted ordinary people thrown into extraordinary situations.

"I don't think I really invented anybody. I have drawn on real life," he



Arthur Hailey

told the AP news agency in 2001. Born 5 April, 1920, Hailey had to stop school at 14 because his parents couldn't afford to send him beyond England's free education system.

His first novel, *The Final Diagnosis*, was published in 1959 and was about a hospital pathologist who causes an infant's death by mistake.—INTERNET

Rumsfeld warns of pre-election dangers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Nov — Donald Rumsfeld said US troops, celebrating Thanksgiving after some of their bloodiest weeks in Iraq, should brace for even more losses as they pursue guerillas bent on wrecking an election scheduled for January.

The US assault on the Sunni Muslim city of Fallujah has already made November the second deadliest month of the war for Americans, Pentagon figures showed.

With time running out to quell rebellion among Saddam Hussein's Sunni minority before the vote, a close aide of al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was captured in Mosul.

And US, Iraqi and British forces seized 81 suspected insurgents south of Baghdad, including at country villas used by Saddam's old elite.

"No doubt attacks will continue in the weeks and months ahead, and perhaps intensify as the Iraqi election approaches," Defence Secretary Rumsfeld told reporters in Washington.

Internet

Turkey MP blasts US over Iraq

ANKARA, 25 Nov— The chief of the Turkish parliament's human rights committee Thursday accused the United States of using non-conventional weapons against Iraqis. Mohammed Takmash said prior to an emergency meeting of the Committee on Developments in Iraq Thursday "the US might have even used a nuclear bomb in its wars against Iraqi cities."

He accused Washington of conducting a campaign of mass killings in the various Iraqi cities "with an unprecedented savagery."

Internet



A British soldier takes position as armoured carriers form battle lines in the desert west of the Euphrates, south of Baghdad. — INTERNET

China, Kenya to exchange training programme

NAIROBI, 25 Nov—Kenya and China have reached an agreement to hold a training exchange programme involving athletes from both countries ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, local officials said on Wednesday.

A Chinese Olympic Committee delegation, led by its vice-president Duan Shijie, has been in Kenya to inspect local training facilities and to hold discussions with National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) and Athletics Kenya (AK) officials. NOCK chairman Kipchoke Keino said China had shown a serious improvement in athletics, hence the country's double Olympic gold medal victory in Athens by Liu Xiang in the men's 110m hurdles and Xing Huina in the 10,000 metres.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan to host 1st int'l conference on volunteerism

ISLAMABAD, 25 Nov—The first international conference on volunteerism is to be held in Islamabad on 5 December, International Volunteer Day, to help achieve the goals of the UN Volunteers programme (UNV), according to a Press release issued here Wednesday by the UN Information Centre.

The three-day meeting on Volunteerism and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will focus on the actions needed to promote and advance volunteer contributions as an essential ingredient to achieve the eight goals such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education and promoting gender equality and empowering women.

The meeting will also feed into the discussions that will take place at the UN General Assembly in 2005 on progress made towards achieving the MDGs and on action that needs to be taken to ensure

that all the targets are met by 2015.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will officially launch the conference, which will be attended by experts from around the world, UN officials and Pakistani Government officials.

Based in Bonn, UNV is the UN organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism, including the mobilization of volunteers.

It emphasizes the ingenuity, solidarity and creativity of millions of ordinary people through voluntary action.

MNA/Xinhua

US Iraq casualties near record levels

BAGHDAD, 25 Nov—November has been the second deadliest month for US troops in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion, says the Pentagon.

At least 109 US troops have been killed in Iraq this month, about half of whom died in an offensive that began on 8 November in Fallujah, according to Pentagon figures. In the 20-month war, only April 2004, with 135 military deaths, produced a higher monthly US death toll.

The offensive in Fallujah, a city west of Baghdad, was part of efforts to reduce the level of violence ahead of January's elections. But even as the US military

said 1200 to 1600 fighters had been killed in Fallujah and their operations decisively halted, fighters continued their anti-US attacks numerous other cities.

The Pentagon's latest official count, provided on Wednesday, listed 1230 US military deaths in the Iraq war. It also listed more than 9300 US troops wounded in action, more than 5000 of whom were too badly injured to return to duty. —Internet



Japan's trade surplus in October rose 8.8 per cent as exports hit a record high on strong demand for ships, automobiles and steel even as export growth overall slowed.—INTERNET

ဝက်မွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Singapore, Bahrain promote health care cooperation

SINGAPORE, 25 Nov—Singapore and Bahrain signed here on Wednesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in health care.

According to a statement issued by the Health Ministry of Singapore on Wednesday, the MoU reflects the deepening of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Under the MoU, the

two countries will exchange highly qualified medical expertise, send health care professionals for training, and refer patients for advanced medical treatment and care in one other's country.

The MoU was signed by the health ministers of the two countries during Bahrain's Health Minister Nada Haffadh's visit to Singapore from 22 to 26 November.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore might ban smoking in more areas

SINGAPORE, 25 Nov—The National Environment Agency (NEA) of Singapore is examining the list of places where smoking is not banned at present.

According to local Press reports, Environment and Water Resources Minister Yaacob Ibrahim told Parliament on Wednesday afternoon that the review is in response to public feedback.

"We do have evidence to show that non-smokers who are exposed to the smoking environment eventually take up the smoking habit and this is something we want to prevent," Yaacob said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in attack on deputy Iraqi governor's convoy

BAGHDAD, 25 Nov—A convoy of Nineveh Province's deputy governor came under fire Wednesday in Iraq's northern city of Mosul, killing one of his bodyguards and a member of the Interior Ministry special forces, the deputy governor said.

Two other bodyguards were wounded, Khesro Gouran said, including his brother, who also works as a bodyguard, in the attack which took place at about 1:00 pm (1000 GMT) near the city administration building. Authorities of the city are probing the incident for the possibility that the convoy was mistakenly fired upon by the Interior Ministry special forces in the area.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi police car burns after it was attacked by gunmen in Baghdad.

INTERNET



An AirAsia airplane taxis on the tarmac while a Malaysia Airlines System's airplane approaches the runway at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on 22, November 2004. Shares in Asia's only major listed budget airline, Malaysia's AirAsia Bhd., jumped 16 percent in their debut on Monday, as investors bet that cheap fares would drive strong growth in air travel across the region.

INTERNET

More ancient pine trees discovered in south China

NANNING, 25 Nov— Chinese scientists have discovered a new group of 31 *cathaya argyrophylla*, a type of ancient pine tree that has been around since the Tertiary Period, in a nature reserve in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region recently.

The discovery of the first group of 1,040 *cathaya argyrophylla* trees in Huaping Nature Reserve in Sanmen, a town in Longshen Gezu Autonomous County, in 1955 stunned botanists around the globe. The recently-discovered *cathaya argyrophylla* trees include two trees taller than five metres: one is 11.2 metres tall and the other 6.3 metres tall. Twenty-nine of the group is lower than five metres and four trees are dead.

These trees are found in a 500-square metre mountainous area, with a grade of 50 to 80 degrees in the state-level Huaping Nature Reserve, which is also home to other rare plants such as yew

and *pinus parviflora*, a kind of pine tree with acrose leaves. More than 600 species of wild animals including bear, leopard, monkey and giant salamander also live in the nature reserve. *Cathaya argyrophylla* trees, a rare plant species unique to China, is an evergreen and can grow 10 to 20 metres, with a trunk diameter of about 40 centimetres and some even 85 Centimetres. This kind of trees mainly grow in mountainous areas with an elevation of 1,400 to 1,600 metres. They are found in Guangxi and provinces of Hunan, Sichuan and Guizhou in southwest China.

MNA/Xinhua

61 killed in typhoon in northern Philippines

MANILA, 25 Nov — As many as 61 people were killed and 100 others injured in the northern Philippines due to heavy flooding and rains caused by Typhoon "Violeta", the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported on Wednesday.

Storm-battered Oriental Mindoro was placed under a state of calamity as 80 people were reported still missing, the NDCC said.

Disaster officials said some 68,000 families in six provinces were affected by "Violeta". About 200 families displaced by the typhoon were taken to evacuation centres. Damage to infrastructure reached 3.7 million US dollars, to agriculture 2.19 million dollars and to fishery 946,430 US dollars, the NDCC said.

In Nueva Ecija and Aurora in the northern Philippines, 18 people were feared dead while six others were reported missing after flash floods hit the provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran-India gas pipeline part of India-Pakistan eco cooperation

NEW DELHI, 25 Nov— India said Wednesday the 4.16 billion US dollar Iran-India gas pipeline passing through Pakistan will have to be considered as part of the wider economic and trade cooperation between New Delhi and Islamabad.

"The project cannot be looked at in isolation," the *Press Trust of India* quoted Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar as saying after a 45-minute meeting with the visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

Aiyar said the wide economic and trade cooperation includes Pakistan granting India Most Favored Nation status and allowing New Delhi to use its territory as transit for sourcing gas from Central Asia.

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riyaz Khokkar said the Iran-India gas pipeline passing through Pakistan is "a major confidence building measure not just for the two countries but for the whole region, including Iran".

Iran has been pursuing the pipeline proposal, which will save India millions of dollars in energy cost, with New Delhi and Islamabad since 1996, but tensions between the two nations have blocked progress. —MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed, another wounded in Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Nov— Two US soldiers were killed and a third wounded Wednesday by a homemade bomb in central Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province, the US military was quoted by media reports as saying.

"Two American soldiers were killed in the vicinity of Deh Rawood, and one soldier was wounded," said the US military.

"That soldier was evacuated to a medical facility nearby and as of right now he is in a stable condition," it added.

No one claimed the responsibility for the event yet.

MNA/Xinhua

Explosion rocks western Baghdad, four wounded

BAGHDAD, 25 Nov — A bomb planted inside a commercial building in western Baghdad detonated Wednesday, wounding four people including a police officer, witnesses said.

The blast took place around 7:30 pm (1630 GMT) in the Ramadan 14 Street, one of the busiest districts in the Iraqi capital.

A police captain, speaking on condition of anonymity, told *Xinhua* that four people were injured, including a police officer.

Earlier, another policeman said the officer was killed in the explosion.

An aged woman making a phone call near the building at the time of the explosion fell to the ground because of a heart attack. She was then transferred to a hospital. —MNA/Xinhua

Over 60% of Japanese against extending military mission in Iraq

TOKYO, 25 Nov— More than 60 per cent of Japanese are against extending the mission of the country's military in Iraq, a newspaper poll showed on Thursday, three weeks before the government has to decide whether to carry on or pull out.

In the survey published by the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, 61 per cent of respondents opposed extending the mission and said the troops should pull out. Only 25 per cent said the military should remain in Iraq beyond the December 14 deadline.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is believed to be leaning towards extending the deployment, but the worsening security situation has raised concerns about the safety of the Japanese troops.

In line with Japan's

pacifist Constitution, the 550 members of the Self-Defence Force stationed in the southern Iraqi city of Samawa are only allowed to operate in a "non-combat" zone, carrying out humanitarian and reconstruction work.

MNA/Reuters

Film festival enhances HK people's interest in Latin America

HONG KONG, 25 Nov— The ongoing Latin America In... side film festival, which is rolling out in Hong Kong between November 12 to November 27, has aroused local people's interest in Latin American films.

As one of the events of the Latin America in Hong Kong festival, the film festival is showcasing different Latin American films and has successfully grabbed the attention of Hong Kong audiences, said the organizer of the film festival here on Wednesday.

Films from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Peru are being featured and they are produced by the most famous Latin American directors and about Latin people.

Some of the films have won awards and are very well received in

many international film festivals. The films hold an invitation to glimpse through various points of view, ranging from tradition, humor, romance, drama and culture and showing the inside of the roots of Latin American countries.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi suspect is led by a British soldier during a raid. The UN's anti-torture panel has urged Britain to publish the findings of investigations into alleged cases of torture by British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a report obtained by AFP. —INTERNET



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate Kathina robe to a Sayadaw at Ninth Buddha Pujaniya of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). (News on Page 1)—MNA

Eight townships in Upper...

(from page 16)

Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt clarified measures taken for ensuring supply of potable water to rural regions. He said that altogether 286 township development committees and 59 township development committees branches have been taking measures for development of urban and rural regions under the supervision of the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

Efforts are being made for ensuring supply of potable water to 6,078 villages out of 8,042 villages in three arid divisions where water is scarce, and 76 per cent of the project was completed. Up to the end of October 2004, the Development Affairs Department has been able to supply potable water to 6,098 villages out of 15,183 villages in 14 states and divisions, and 40 per cent of the project was completed.

Work for ensuring supply of potable water to rural regions has achieved greater momentum with the participation of well-wishers.

From the first and eighth cash donation ceremonies, altogether 1,203 well-wishers donated over K 933.03 million plus US\$ 68,222, Euro 770 and FEC 10,012.

At the ninth cash donation ceremony, altogether 132 well-wishers donated K 120.035 million plus US\$ 2,030.

Moreover, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations have been participating in successful realization of the project.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has sunk 129 artesian wells and 22 tube-wells in 11 townships, and the Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) has sunk 68 tube-wells in Bagan NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung Townships.

In addition, the UNICEF has launched 421 activities for ensuring supply of potable water to ru-

ral regions. With the participation of the State, the Development Affairs Committees and well-wishers, altogether 7,374 tube-wells have been sunk in 6,078 villages in the three arid divisions, and work is well under way to sink the remaining tube-wells. To complete the project sooner, well-wishers are requested to make cash donations.

Nowadays, all the villages in eight townships is now enjoying sufficient supply of potable water. Each village in those townships has one tube-well each. However, steps are to be taken for full supply of potable water to those villages to meet the demand of the

With the participation of the State, the Development Affairs Committees and well-wishers, altogether 7,374 tube-wells have been sunk in 6,078 villages in the three arid divisions.

growing population there.

Likewise, KhinU, Myaung, Pwintbyu, Saw, Thazi, Singaing, Amarapura and TadaU Townships will soon be able to enjoy full supply of potable water. In conclusion, the minister added that with the goodwill and assistance of the well-wishers, people in those villages have now been able to enjoy full supply of potable water, and wished the well-wishers to enjoy the benefits for the donation of water.

Next, the cash donation ceremony followed. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepted K 1 million donated by the Ministry of Defence; K 6.3 million by Myanma Economic Holdings Ltd; K 2.5 million by Myanma Economic Corporation; K 1 million by Myanmar War Veterans Organization; K 1 million by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association; and K 250,000 by staff of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Headquarters). Later, Lt-Gen Tin Aye accepted K 5 million by Chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association U Than

Lwin; K 3 million by Max Myanmar Co; K 2.5 million by Waterworks Engineering Group Co and K 2 million by Moe Sin Kye Co.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 2 million by Yuzana Construction Co; K 3 million by Asia World Co; 2 million each by Golden Flower Co Ltd, TZTM Co Ltd, KAF Co Ltd and U Zaw Win (Dawn Construction Co).

Next, Minister Col Thein Nyunt accepted K 2 million each U Myint Shwe (Shwebayin Construction Co); Aung Kaung Kyaw Co; Eikhstian Co Ltd; WHK Co Ltd; U Tint Hsan-Dr Htay Htay Nyein (ACE Construction Co); ASPIDIN Co Ltd; Myanma Ahla Co Ltd; Tetlan Co Ltd; Yadana Sein Tharaphu Co and Diamond Mercury Co Ltd.

Next, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein accepted K 2 million each by Dagon International Co, Universal Co and U Thein Han (Tokyo Pipe); K 1.65 million by Advocate U Kya-Daw Ohn Khin; K 1.28 million by U Win Maung Thein-Daw Nan Sanda Win; K 1 million by U Sein Tun and family; K 1 million by Daw Kyin Sein; and Major Thein Han (Retd)-Daw Mya Mya Han.

After that, Minister for Education U Than Aung accepted K 1 million by U Bo Ohn-Daw Khin Sein; K 750,000 each by Saya Theiddi Win; U Kyi Nyunt-Daw Aye Aye; U Thi Ha-Daw Mya Mya Aye; Major Tin Maung Yi (Retd)-Daw Khin San Myint and U Aung Aung-Daw Tin Mar Cho; and K 575,000 by U Ba San Hla-Daw Yi Yi San.

Next, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone accepted K 500,000 each by Dr Soe Tun-Daw Khin Myo Nwe; Captain Than Naing-Daw Than Than Aye; U Tin Maung Tun-Daw Win Yi; U Kyaw Myint-Dr Daw Khin Win; Lt-Col Myo Win (Retd)-Daw Khin Khin Taw; U Tun Myint-Daw San San Oo and U Htan Hlyan Po.

Next, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa accepted K 500,000 each by Daw Lwin Lwin Tin Oo and Daw Hla Hla Myint; Daw Kyin Twa; Ko Myo Zaw-Ma Nwe Nwe Hlaing; Lt-Col Han Tin and party; U Kyaw Kyaw Thet-Daw Pyu Hla Win; MWEP Co Ltd and U Ba Hsaing-Daw Hla Bi and family; and K 460,000 by U Myint Thein-Daw Thi Thi Khine.

Next, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun accepted K 250,000 each by Major Maung Aye (Retd)-Daw Shu Kye and family; Daw Ohn Kywe and family; Daw Mya Mya Kwe and family; U Aung Thet-Daw Thin Le Maw and family; U Zaw-Daw Yi Yi Aye and family; U Tun Yi-Daw Ahmar and family; and U Aung Myint-Daw May Win Kyu and family.

Next, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe accepted K 250,000 each by writer Maung Khit Tun-Daw Myint Myint Yi; Daw Mar Mar Aye and family; Daw Myint Myint Win and family; Daw Khin Win Maw, Daw Khin Aye Win and family; Major Thet Naing-Daw Mon Mon Cho and family; U Soe Tint-Daw Aye Thida; U Tin Win-Daw San San Nwe; and U Kyaw Myint-Daw Khin Yi and family.

Writer Maung Khit Tun, on behalf of well-wishers, explained the purpose of the cash donations.

(See page 10)

Kasco Open Golf Championship 2004 commences in Mandalay

YANGON, 26 Nov—A ceremony to open 1st Kasco Open Golf Championship 2004, organized by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation, was held at Shwe Mantaung Golf Course yesterday. Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan

Thein, Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Thein and Executive U Ko Ko Lay of Myanmar PGA and MGF formally opened the championship.

After second day 18-hole event, Kyaw Swa Lin (Srixon) and Min Naing (Srixon) are leading the Professional Golfer event with 135

strokes each.

Zaw Zin Win is leading the Amateur event with 136 strokes.

The championship was mainly sponsored by Heritage Sports and Golf Co Ltd of Kasco and co-sponsors are Air Bagan, Imperial Jade Drinking Water, Myanmar Brewery Ltd and Shwe Mantaung Golf Club.

MNA



Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein tees off to open First Kasco Open Golf Championship.—MGF



Family members of Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and party share merits for building Maha Punnyawpakara Dhammayon at Kyaunggyi Monastery in Kyimyindine Township.—MNA

Merits shared for donation of Maha Punnyawpakara Dhammayon in Kyimyindine Township

YANGON, 26 Nov — The merit-sharing ceremony for Maha Punnyawpakara Dhammayon donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Coun-

cil and wellwishers led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw

Kyaing Kyaing and family was held in the precinct of Kyaunggyi Monastery in Kyimyindine Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Kyimyindine

Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Administrator Sayadaw Thadu Monastery Bhaddanta Okkamsa and members of the Sangha, U Kyaing San Shwe and wife Major Daw

Before the ceremony, family members of the Senior General and wife, the commander and wife and party offered flowers and water and paid homage to Maha Sakya

nated alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Okkamsa. Next, the commander and wife, officials and wellwishers presented alms to the Sayadaws. Sayadaw Bhad-



U Kyaing San Shwe and wife Major Daw Khin Win Sein and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay offer 'soon' to Sayadaws.—MNA



U Kyaing San Shwe and wife Major Daw Khin Win Sein donate alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ukkamsa.—MNA



Newly built Maha Punnyawpakara Dhammayon.—MNA

Khin Win Sein, representing of the Senior General and wife and family, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, local authorities, officials and wellwishers.

Muni Buddha Image in the precinct of the monastery. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Okkamsa administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited *Parittas*.

On behalf of the family of the Senior General and wife, U Kyaing San Shwe and wife Major Daw Khin Win Sein do-

danta Okkamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

Afterwards, on behalf of the family of the Senior General and wife, U Kyaing San Shwe and wife Major Daw Khin Win Sein, the commander and wife offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.—MNA

Transport Minister returns from Cambodia

YANGON, 26 Nov — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe returned home by air last night after attending the Tenth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, Third ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting and Second

ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 23 and 24 November.

The delegation was welcomed back by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung,

heads of department and their families.

Likewise, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and party who attended ASEAN Transport Senior Officials Meeting held on 20 and 21 November returned on the same flight.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe being welcomed back on his return from 10th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting in Cambodia.—TRANSPORT



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' and fruits to the Buddha Image of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon).— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donate Kathina robes and alms to a Sayadaw.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife...

(from page 1)

ceremonies and supplicated on the agenda of the ceremony.

Next, members of the Sangha consecrated Buddha images in nine styles of Mudra

and the Tooth Relic Pagoda.

Before the merit-sharing ceremony and the Shwekyar Thingan offering ceremony, the occasion was opened with three-time recitation of

Namo Tassa.

The congregation including Senior General Than Shwe and wife and party took the Nine Precepts from Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmye b o n s a n Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa.

Next, members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta. Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet,

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their

donated Shwekyar Thingan to Varada Mudra Buddha Image.

Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, offered Shwekyar Thingan to Uttarakodi Mudra Buddha Image.

Similarly, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet



Senior General Than Shwe presents alms to a Sayadaw at the provisions offering ceremony of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon).— MNA



Daw Kyaing Kyaing donates alms to a Sayadaw at the provisions offering ceremony of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon).— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offer 'soon' to Sayadaws at the Ninth Buddha Pujaniya of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon).— MNA

wives, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and the ministers donated robes and alms to the Sayadaws.

Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Next, the Senior General and wife offered Shwekyar Thingan to Dhammacakka Mudra Buddha Image.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San also

offered Shwekyar Thingan to Labha Mudra Buddha Image. Likewise, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe donated Shwekyar Thingan to Mahakaruna Mudra Buddha Image.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win also offered Shwekyar Thingan to Jana Mudra Buddha Image.

Then, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and wife Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint offered Shwekyar Thingan to Bhumiphasa Mudra Buddha Image.

(See page 9)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer Shwekyar Thingan to Varada Mudra Buddha Image.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Daw Mya Mya San donates alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer Shwekyar Thingan to Labha Mudra Buddha Image.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet donate Kathina robes and alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife...

(from page 8)

Similarly, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and wife Daw Khin Hnin Wai and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and wife Daw Marlar Tint offered Shwekyar Thingans to Santida Mudra Buddha Image and Patihariya Mudra Buddha Image.

Later, the ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

Afterwards, the offering of alms followed.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than

Than Nwe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, the ministers and their wives, the

(See page 10)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, offers Shwekyar Thingan to Uttarabodi Mudra Buddha Image.—MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, donates provisions to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer Shwekyar Thingan to Mahakaruna Mudra Buddha Image.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe donate Kathina robes to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer Shwekyar Thingan to Jhana Mudra Buddha Image.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win present Kathina robes to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife...

(from page 9)

Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Chairman of CSSTB and their wives, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, departmental heads, division, district and township level authorities, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and wellwishers donated alms to members of the Sangha who attended the ceremony. Today's donations in total amounted to over K 21 million. After the provisions offering ceremony, Head of Yangon Division Religious Affairs Department U San Thinn Hlaing shared merits gained.—MNA

Competitors of 1st...

(from page 16)

of social organizations, students and local people.

The Indian Embassy hosted a dinner to the competitors at the hotel. The Commander, the Minister and officials were also present.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint flagged off the Rally for the fourth day at the top of Koethein Bridge at the corner of 73rd and 12th Streets in Mandalay at 6 am today. Three cars of Myanmar are participating in the rally. —MNA

Eight townships in Upper...

(from page 6)

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech. He said that the government has laid down projects for development of border areas and national races, the 24 special regions development projects and the five rural development tasks and is implementing them for the nation to keep abreast of the global nations.

Priority is being given to development of rural regions where 70 per cent of Myanmar population reside. In doing so, necessary steps are being taken to bring about better transport in and ensuring supply of clean water to rural regions. People from villages of three arid divisions and some villages in Upper Myanmar have to struggle for availability of clean water on a daily basis and their regions were struck by outbreaks of water-born diseases such as diarrhoea and dysentery.

The government, well-wishers, the USDAs and social organizations have been contributing their share in the projects for supply of clean water to rural areas as from 2000-2001 fiscal year. The Development Affairs Committees have been able to sink tube-wells in

6,078 villages out of 8,042 villages in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and 76 per cent of the project was completed. The Development Committees are also taking measures for supply of clean water to some regions of other states and divisions, where water is scarce, he added. Moreover, the development committees sank test tube-wells in delta and coastal regions and there have been prospects for gaining clean water in the regions.

The Development Affairs Committees have been able to sink tube-wells in 6,078 villages out of 8,042 villages in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and 76 per cent of the project was completed.

Villages of eight townships have now been able to sufficient supply of clean water under projects for supply of clean water to rural regions. Likewise, another eight townships will soon be able to enjoy

full supply of clean water, he stressed.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 expressed his thanks to social organizations and wellwishers who contributed their share in nation-building endeavours by doing their bit. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 greeted those present on the occasion and wellwishers and inspected documentary photos on activities for ensuring supply of clean water to rural regions made by the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. At the ninth cash donation ceremony, altogether 132 wellwishers donated over K 120 million plus US\$ 2030.—MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects construction of Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda in Myeik Township

YANGON, 26 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by departmental officials, arrived at Myeik Airport on 22 November.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hone Ngaing and officials.

Accompanied by the commander and officials, Lt-Gen Maung Bo offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks and paid homage to the Buddha Image at Maha Theikdzaya Pagoda on Sandawady Hill near Myeik-Dawei Road at Sandawut Village of Myeik Township.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo instructed officials to carry out the renovation tasks of the pagoda and inspected progress of construction tasks.

Maha Theikdzaya



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint offer Kyar Thingan to Buddha Image at Buddha Sasana Beikman of Laygyunhsimi Pagoda in Myeik.— MNA

Pagoda is 108 feet high and the pagoda will have four archways.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the ninth Kathina robes offering ceremony of the camp of Coastal Region Command at the Dhammayon. At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander offered robes to the Buddha image. Lt-Gen Maung Bo donated Kathina robes and alms to the Shwedaung Monastery Sayadaw. Next, the commander and wife and

officials presented provisions to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the communal Kathina robes offering ceremony organized by wellwishers and Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council at the Sasana Beikman of Laygyunhsimi Pagoda in Myeik. It was attended by 98 members of the Sangha. Myeik Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Bhaddanta Pandavamsa administered the Five Precepts and

members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander offered Kyar Thingan to the Buddha Image of the Sasana Beikman. Next, they offered Kathina robes and provisions to the Sayadaws. Next, they donated Kyar Thingans to Buddha images in the ordination hall of the pagoda. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and officials offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha.— MNA

Shwekyar Thingan offered to Buddha Image

YANGON, 26 Nov — A ceremony to offer Shwekyar Thingan to Buddha Image at Shwephonepint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township was held at New Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda at 4 am today (Samanyaphala Day).

Patron of the Organizing Committee for the 14th Mathoe Thingan Weaving Competition and Shwekyar Thingan Offering Ceremony Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win attended the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were departmental heads under the Ministry of Information, the head of office and officials, Chairman of Pazundaung Town-

ship Peace and Development Council U Tin Maung Soe, Secretary of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Sonny and members, wellwishers, religious organizations and people.

The minister and officials offered Shwekyar Thingan to the Buddha Image in the Dhammayon. Next, officials and wellwishers donated Shwekyar Thingans to Buddha images at the pagoda.

Afterwards, the minister presented first, second and third prizes to winners from Khema Loom, Gotami Loom and Meidaw Maya Loom respectively.

The 14th Mathoe Thingan Weaving Competition was held at the Dhammayon yesterday evening. Present on the occasion were Adviser to the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha and officials, authorities and wellwishers. On behalf of the minister, Adviser U Tin Kha and officials formally opened the competition.

Later, Adviser U Tin Kha and party enjoyed participation of looms in the competition.— MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan offers Mathoe Thingan to Buddha Image at Shwephonepint Pagoda.— MNA

Fisheries Department offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 26 Nov — The 6th Kathina robes offering ceremony of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Fisheries Department was held at Pali Kari Pariyatti Monastery in Thakayta Township this morning. Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Angisa of Pali Kari Pariyatti Monastery administered the Nine Precepts. The minister and wife and families of the ministry offered robes and provisions to the Sayadaws.

Director-General U Than Tun and Deputy Director General U Hla Win of Fisheries Department presented 1.8 million for the monastery.

Later, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, which was followed by the sharing of merits gained.— MNA

News from the Districts

Wetlet gets enough drinking water

WETLET, 8 Nov — As part of a project to supply drinking water in the arid areas, a new-tube well which was sunk at a cost of K 800,000 was opened on 11 October in PhoWinTat Village in Pignon Village-tract in Wetlet Township.

Wetlet Township Development Affairs Department provided K 300,00 and a wellwisher K 500,000 for sinking the tube-well.

Installed with 7.5 horse power engine and a compressor, it can supply 1800 gallons per hour.

The newly-sunk tube-well was opened in the presence of Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Head of Division Development Affairs Department U Khin Maung Swe.

Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs is making concerted efforts joining hands with wellwishers to supply sufficient clean drinking water to rural areas where water is scarce.

MYANMA ALIN

TVs donated to villages in Pindaya Township

PINDAYA, 15 Nov — Pindaya Township Information and Public Relations Department on 6 November handed over two television sets donated by Pao Peace Group in Special Region-6 to villages in the township.

Officials of the peace group presented the TVs to Head of the Taunggyi District IPRD Daw May May Ni.

Afterwards, an official of the township IPRD handed over TV sets to DuTae Village and KyaukPaLin Village.

MYANMA ALIN

Self-reliant libraries opened

GANGAW, 8 Nov — With the contribution of local people, a self-reliant library was opened on 23 October in Chaing Village in Gangaw Township.

An official of Gangaw District Information and Public Relations Department provided 55 books on knowledge and locals donated cash for the emergence of the library.

Similarly, the opening ceremony of "AlinThit" self-reliant library was held in MoeKaung Village in Pale Township, Monywa District.

According to the IPRD, it is learnt that a total of 10,239 libraries have been opened so far on self-reliant basis all over the nation.

KYEMON



Products of Sam Hwa Climate Control Co Ltd and Korloy Inc being displayed at Korean Products Show 2004 at Yangon Trade Centre on 26 November.— UMFCCI

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**M.V "MAWLAMYINE" VOY NO. 110/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V "MAWLAMYINE" Voy No. 110/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 27-11-2004 and will be berthing on about 28-11-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into 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.

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone: 294147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**M.V "DAWEI" VOY NO. (29)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V "DAWEI" Voy No. (29) will arrive on 28.11.04 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone: 295279, 295280, 295281, 295258, 295259

**HIV infections rise to 1.7
million in Latin America**

BOGOTA, 25 Nov— The number of HIV-infected people in Latin America has reached 1.7 million and will keep increasing, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said in a report Tuesday.

The total of HIV-infected people accounts for 0.5 per cent of the region's population, but the actual figure may be 30 or 40 per cent higher than the official statistics, the report said. Last year alone, 95,000 people died from the virus and 240,000 people were newly infected in the region, the report added.

The situation is even worse in Venezuela, where about 110,000 people were infected last year, the report added.

The report stressed that

HIV transmission cannot only occur among the high-risk groups such as homosexuals and drug users but can also spread through heterosexuality.

Faced with growing AIDS threat, Latin America should take measures to further enhance preventive efforts and the governments of these countries should establish free test and rapid reaction mechanisms to ensure infections are found and cured in a timely manner. — MNA/Xinhua

**Aging population to greatly
slow down Australian economy**

CANBERRA, 25 Nov— A sharp increase in the number of aged people in the coming decades will enormously slow down Australia's economic growth and increase health spending, an official report released on Thursday said.

A draft report of the Productivity Commission, the Australian Government's principal review and advisory body on microeconomic policy and regulation, said the proportion of people aged 65 years or more in Australia is expected to double by 2044.

By contrast, labour force participation rates will fall by almost 10 percentage points.

As a result, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth per capita could fall to 1.25 per cent per year in the 2020s, only about half of its present rate. — MNA/Xinhua

**TRADE MARK CAUTION
NOTICE**

(Myanmar)

CONRAD

Reg.No. 5880/2001

Notice is hereby given that Conrad Hospitality, LLC, a company organised and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A., established at 8336 Civic Center Drive, Boverley Hills, California 98210, United States, are the sole proprietors and owners in Myanmar of the above trade mark which is used in connection with "Accommodation, hotel, motel, bar, cafe, restaurant, banqueting and catering services; hotel management; reservation services for hotel accommodation; provision of facilities for functions, conferences, conventions, exhibitions, seminars and meetings".

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 Conrad Hospitality, LLC 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., J.G.P., D.B.L.
for Conrad Hospitality, LLC
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 27 November 2004

**Flight controllers had
warned crashed jet it
had flown too low**

HOUSTON, 25 Nov— Flight controllers warned a private jet on its way to pick up former President George Bush it was flying too low just before it struck a light tower and crashed in foggy weather on Monday, killing the three people on board, officials said.

The Gulfstream jet should have been at 1,000 feet altitude, but was at 400 feet when controllers radioed the pilots, National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Mark Rosenkott told reporters on Tuesday as investigators from the NTSB and FBI probed the crash.

Shortly after the warning, the aircraft struck a 120-foot tower beside a Houston highway and plunged into a field. The jet, owned by a Tulsa, Oklahoma, charter company, was en route to pick up Bush to fly him to Guayaquil, Ecuador, to make a speech.

MNA/Reuters

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပဆက်သွယ်ရေး**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 Material which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No.	Tender No	Description	Qty	Closing Date & Time
1	49/MaMa	Hard Coke	100-Tons	13-12-04 (12:00)
2	55/MaMa	Transformer (315 KVA, 11/0.4 KV)	1-No	13-12-04 (12:00)
3	56/MaMa	Air Conditioner (3HP Split Type)	16-Set	13-12-04 (12:00)
4	57/MaMa	Lubricants	1-Lot	13-12-04 (12:00)
5	12(T)28	Vacuum Brake Cylinder (18" F-Type)	100-Nos	29-12-04 (12:00)

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, 291985 (201555 Ext-602, 613, 605, 612)

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways,
Botataung, Yangon**

**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**

**Africa expected to see increase
of 22% in FDI in 2004**

ADDIS ABABA, 25 Nov—Africa is expected to register over 22 or 25 per cent increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the just ended year of 2004, local media reported Tuesday.

Anne Miroux, head of Investment and Technology at the UN Conference on Trade and Development, was quoted as saying that FDI flows to Africa have increased over the last two decades, despite the ongoing conflicts in the region. "FDI shows a 28 per cent increase to 15 billion US dollars on 2003, after two years of decline. Such levels, however, remain low," Miroux said, adding that about 22 or 25 per cent FDI increase is expected in 2004.

While addressing a regional forum on Monday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on "Capacity Building for promoting FDI in Africa," Miroux said that currently FDI flows to Africa account

for less than 3 per cent of all FDI flows in the world.

"FDI prospects for Africa are however promising. Higher flows to natural resource industries can be expected against the backdrop of improving commodity prices and string oil investment in the region. An improving policy environment, and regional arrangements should also support greater FDI in the region," she said.

She also indicated that privatization programmes in public utilities such as telecommunications and electricity will also contribute to further increases in services FDI in the region as will the increase in intra-regional investment flows.

MNA/Xinhua

**Jeepney accident
kills four in
southern Philippines**

MANILA, 25 Nov— Four passengers were killed and seven others were hospitalized as a passenger jeepney plunged into a deep ravine in the southern Philippine province of Maguindanao on Wednesday, police authorities said.

Local police officer Marawasa Midpantao said among those killed was the driver of the ill-fated Town Ace jeepney, identified only as Akob, a resident of Lanao del Sur Province also in the south. The three other fatalities were also identified only by their first names.

MNA/Xinhua

**Air France to restart
Paris-Abidjan flights
next week**

ABIDJAN, 25 Nov— Air France will restart flights between Paris and Ivory Coast's commercial capital Abidjan from next Monday authorities of the international airport in Abidjan said Tuesday.

A representative of the French airline in Abidjan, who confirmed the announcement, said the Paris-Abidjan flights may stop at Togo's capital Lome for a "technical stay" after they are restarted, and the company will later consider increasing the number of flights in light of demand.

Many foreign airlines, except that of Belgium, have either restarted or decided to restart their flights to the commercial capital of the Western African country. — MNA/Xinhua

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Bangladesh's biggest software exposition opens in Dhaka

DHAKA, 26 Nov — The largest ever software exposition in Bangladesh kicked off in the capital Dhaka on Thursday afternoon, showing what technologies and products are hot today and what is coming tomorrow.

Over 120 local and international Information Communication and Technology (ICT) companies are showing their products and service capabilities at the Software Exposition 2004, the biggest showcase for software products, IT enabled services and ICT system solutions in the country.

A large number of big manufacturers, service industry players, small and medium enterprises, development organizations, different government agencies, consultants, system integrators are expected to visit the show and see how to meet the

ever increasing needs and expectations through harnessing the power of technology.

A series of seminars and workshops will also be held during the five-day event, which is organized by Board of Directors of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) and sponsored by AKTEL, a leading telecommunication company here, along with three global IT giants — Microsoft, Intel and Sun Microsystems.

According to the BASIS, there are more than 350 software application

development companies with some 15,000 programmers and technical staff in Bangladesh.

The local software companies have started to make their mark in the international software and ICT market. Bangladesh is now exporting software and ICT services to 23 countries. The exports in this field grew by over 70 per cent in 2003 over that of previous year.

The growing of local software industry is based on the rapid development of the ICT sector in Bangladesh, as the developing country enjoys the advantages including cost effective

human resources, high programmer productivity and a widespread knowledge of English.

Syed Faruque Ahmed and Fahim Mashroor, directors of BASIS, said that during the last five years Bangladesh has experienced an increase of 35 per cent in Personal Computer (PC) imports and currently it is reported that the total number of PCs in the country stands at 1.5 million. Moreover, since the introduction of Internet to Bangladesh in 1996, the number of Internet users amounted to some one million at present.

MNA/Xinhua

US durable goods orders fall 0.4% in October

WASHINGTON, 25 Nov — October orders for durable goods from US factories fell 0.4 per cent following a brisk jump of 0.9 per cent the previous month, the Commerce Department reported on Wednesday.

The news surprised economists who had predicted a 0.5 per cent rise in October.

New orders for automobiles and parts fell 2.8 per cent following a 1.8 per cent decline in September while orders for computers plunged 10.3 per cent compared with a 17.5 per cent jump the previous month.

Orders for electrical equipment, appliances and components fell 3.5 per cent in October, following a 2.7 per cent Septem-

ber decline and orders for primary metals slipped 2.0 per cent after a 3.7 per cent decline the previous month. But new orders for machinery, fabricated metal products, communications equipment and airplanes and parts for military use all registered gains in October.

Shipments of durable goods in October, a barometer of current demand, rose 0.6 per cent compared with a 1.1 per cent drop the previous month. — MNA/Xinhua



Erika Sylva and her husband Jack Sylva, and their children Taylor (L), 4, and Jarred, 3, of Las Vegas, Nevada, ride the Forest Express train through a holiday light display at Opportunity Village's 13th annual Magical Forest in Las Vegas on 25 Nov, 2004. Opportunity Village is a private, nonprofit organization that assists mentally and physically disabled people. — INTERNET

Russian Govt ratifies SCO convention on immunities

MOSCOW, 25 Nov — The Russian Government has ratified the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the ITAR-TASS news agency reported on Wednesday.

The resolution devoted to the convention was signed by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, a Russian Government Press service official was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying.

The convention will be submitted to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who will introduce it in the State Duma, or the Lower House of Russian Parliament, for ratification, according to the report.

The convention on SCO immunities and privileges was signed in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, on 17 June, 2004.

The leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan signed the Declaration on the Creation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Shanghai in June, 2001.

In accordance with the declaration, the SCO objectives are to stabilize the situation in Central Asia, consolidate friendly and good-neighbourly relations among the member-states and develop cooperation in the political, economic, scientific and other spheres.

MNA/Xinhua

Shortage of doctors, nurses threatening health initiatives

LONDON, 26 Nov — A shortage of doctors, nurses and midwives around the globe is threatening health initiatives and could have dire political and economic consequences, public health experts said on Friday.

Without an estimated four million more healthcare workers, efforts to battle HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases could fail.

"Millions of people around the world are trapped in a vicious spiral of sickness and death. For them there is no tomorrow without action today," said Lincoln Chen, of Harvard University in Massachusetts, co-author of a report on health resources.

"At stake is nothing less than the course of global health and development in the 21st Century," he and his colleagues added in *The Lancet* medical journal in a summary of the study.

The report, "Human Resources for Health: Overcoming the Crisis," identifies the causes of the problem and examines strategies to strengthen health systems teetering on collapse.

It was conducted under the auspices of the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI), an independent network of more than 100 world health leaders.

"This is the first global view of this huge challenge," Chen told journalists during a conference call.

Poverty, political instability and uneven economic growth are the backdrop to the health crisis, according to the study.

It is exacerbated by rising infections of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, a brain drain of medical professionals from poor to wealthy countries and rural areas to cities and a legacy of chronic underinvestment in education and training.

"We estimate the global shortage at more than four million workers approximately," he added.

There are more Malawian doctors working in Manchester, England than in Malawi. Only a fraction of doctors trained in Zambia remain there, according to the report. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa must nearly triple their current healthcare workforce by adding about one million workers to deliver health services.

MNA/Reuters

India to support Sub-Saharan Africa in capacity building

HARARE, 25 Nov — The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Indian Government are on Thursday expected to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on capacity building support efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In a statement to Zimbabwe's official media, New Ziana, ACBF official Rosa Ongeso said the MoU would see India providing additional one million US dollars in financial backing, making the country the first Asian

nation to join the membership of the foundation.

"This signing heralds a significant commitment to the promotion of South-South partnership with regard to Africa's development progress," she said.

Ajit Kumer, the Indian Ambassador to Zimbabwe and ACBF executive secretary Soumana Sako are expected to sign the agreement on behalf of the Indian Government and ACBF, respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

World Basketball Invitational for Chinese kicks off in China

SHANTOU, 26 Nov — The 20th World Basketball Invitational Tournament for Chinese kicked off Thursday in Shantou, Guangzhou Province.

Featuring the largest ever field, the annual event attracted more than 2,400 basketball players of Chinese origin all over the world.

The 180 teams will compete in the four-day event in four categories for women over 35 years of age while six categories for men over 40.

Since 1985, the tournament has been held continuously without interruption in major cities around the world. Most recently in Emerald City Seattle, the United States (2003), Yangzhou, near Shanghai, China (2002), Bangkok, Thailand (2001) and Sydney, Australia (2000).

MNA/Xinhua

Arsenal will reach knockout phase of Champions League

LONDON, 26 Nov — Manager Arsene Wenger believes Arsenal will reach the knockout phase of the Champions League despite a dearth of midfield options and red card suspensions for captain Patrick Vieira and right back Lauren.

"It's still in our hands, the last game is at Highbury and I'm confident," Wenger told reporters after nine-man Arsenal held on for a 1-1 draw with PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday.

Lauren, sent off in the 65th minute, and midfielder Vieira (78th) have given Wenger severe selection problems for their last Group E match against Rosenborg Trondheim on December 7.

The draw secured

PSV's passage to the next round while Arsenal clung to second spot, one point ahead of third-placed Panathinaikos after they drew 2-2 with Rosenborg in Norway.

Vieira's obvious replacements are almost certainly unavailable for the Rosenborg game. Gilberto is suffering from back trouble that could keep him out all season and fellow Brazilian Edu is suffering from a broken toe.

Wenger's more immediate concern, though, is

putting together a team for this weekend's Premier League match at Liverpool although Vieira will be available to the champions.

He could be partnered by Spanish 17-year-old Cesc Fábregas, who performed well on Wednesday, or Mathieu Flamini if the 20-year-old Frenchman has recovered from a knee injury.

Arsenal have been in a slump since arch-rivals Manchester United ended their unbeaten league run at 49 matches with a 2-0 win at Old Trafford a month ago.

Wenger's side have since managed only one win and five draws in six matches in the Premier League and Champions League. Disciplinary problems highlighted by the 56th red card, and Vieira's 10th, of Wenger's eight-year reign have resurfaced as the pressure mounts on the London side. Arsenal have never got beyond the Champions League quarterfinals.

"We are still second (in the group) and we have our destiny in our own hands. Maybe it wasn't how we wanted it but we know people have questioned us recently and we showed commitment tonight," striker Thierry Henry, who scored Arsenal's equalizer, said.

PSV coach Guus Hiddink had a different take on the red cards, pointing at Wenger as the culprit. Hiddink said the Frenchman's constant complaints wound up the players.

"You can have a reaction to some things on the touchline but not that frequently," Hiddink said.

MNA/Reuters



Andre Ooijer of PSV Eindhoven, right, gestures as Thierry Henry of Arsenal holds a lighter that was thrown on the pitch during the UEFA Champions League soccer match between PSV Eindhoven and Arsenal at the Philips Stadium in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. —INTERNET

Seongnam beat Al-Ittihad 3-1 in AFC Champions League

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Nov — South Korea's Seongnam Ilhwa took a major step towards winning Asia's premier club competition when they beat Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad 3-1 in the first leg of the AFC Champions League final on Wednesday.

Two goals in the final 10 minutes stunned the home crowd at the Prince Abdullah al Faisal Stadium in Jeddah as deposed K-League champions Seongnam scored three valuable away goals.

Seongnam, who had won the Korean title three years in a row before this year, are now overwhelming favourites to be crowned champions of Asia and make amends for a disappointing domestic season in which they finished ninth out of 13 teams. The second leg will take place at the Seongnam Sports Complex on December 1.

Seongnam's naturalized Russian-born striker Denis Laktionov gave the Koreans the lead after 27 minutes, beating two defenders before firing in off the underside of the bar. —MNA/Reuters

China beats Brazil for women's world youth soccer final

BANGKOK, 26 Nov — China defeated Brazil 2-0 to make the final of the women's world youth soccer championship here Wednesday evening.

Thus, China will vie against Germany for the top honour on Saturday, after the latter beat the United States 3-1.

In the semifinal, the Chinese exploited the defensive lapses of the South Americans by netting twice in the first half while Brazil has been denied its goal twice by the wooden frame in

the second half.

In the 11th minute, Lou Xiaoxu slammed home the opener with a nice pass before she made her second with a free kick in the 42nd minute.

"We succeed in our counter-attack tactics," said Chinese head coach Wang Haimin.

MNA/Xinhua

Hungarian discus thrower banned for one year

BUDAPEST, 26 Nov — Discus thrower Robert Fazekas was handed a one-year ban for doping by the Hungarian Athletics Federation on Wednesday, who also dismissed similar charges against hammer thrower Adrian Annus.

The decisions came as the result of appeals filed by the athletes after they were each suspended for two years in September, and stripped of their Athens Olympics gold medals.

Fazekas' gold was taken away after he refused to provide a complete urine sample in his post-competition drug test, while Annus lost his medal after the International Olympic Committee said his samples indicated possible tampering.

Fazekas' ban was reduced to one year from two years because the Hungarian federation found that he did not commit his doping infraction on

purpose.

Spokesman for the athletes Gabor Pal said Fazekas was planning to appeal his one-year ban in a Hungarian public court.

Annus' ban was suspended because the federation could not find proof that the athlete had been officially notified of Olympic officials' request that he submit another sample for testing.

The IOC said Annus passed two drug tests, one before and one right after his event on August 22.

He was ordered to take another drug test after he returned to Hungary, but he failed to show up. —MNA/Xinhua

Porto beat CSKA Moscow 1-0

MOSCOW, 26 Nov — South African striker Benni McCarthy threw Porto's Champions League hopes a lifeline on Wednesday when he earned the holders a 1-0 win at CSKA Moscow.

Last season's surprise title winners have struggled to hit top form in the competition and a defeat at Moscow's Lokomotiv stadium would have ended the defence of their title.

Two incidents were decisive for Porto's first victory in their five Group H games to date —McCarthy's 28th minute header and a 35th minute penalty that CSKA defender Sergei Ignashevich ballooned over the bar.

Victory in icy conditions in Moscow catapulted Porto from bottom to provisional second place in the group on five points, seven behind already-qualified Chelsea but one ahead of Paris St Germain and CSKA, both on four points.

Although they had much of the early pressure, forcing two good saves from Porto reserve keeper Nuno Espirito Santo, CSKA never seemed to recover from the missed penalty — awarded after Ignashevich was brought down by Porto's Costinha.

It was CSKA's second penalty miss in their last two Champions League matches. Brazilian striker Vagner Love sent a penalty high over the bar in a 1-0 defeat by Chelsea three weeks ago at the same stadium.

"Our main mistake was to let through strong counter-attacks and one of those ended up in a goal for our opponents," CSKA defender Sergei Semak told NTV television after the game.

With temperatures in the Russian capital drop-

ping below minus 8 degrees Celsius (17 Fahrenheit), players donned leggings and gloves for a match that officials had earlier considered cancelling because of the icy conditions.

CSKA coach Valery Gazzayev said that although the result was disappointing, there was still all to play for in his team's final group match against PSG next month. "We've still got another game and we hope everything will be OK," he told NTV television. —MNA/Reuters

Former cycling world champion retires

ROME, 26 Nov — Former cycling world champion Michele Bartoli said he was retiring from the sport on Wednesday, one year before his contract with the Danish team CSC expires.

Bartoli, 34, World Cup champion in 1997, said he made the decision because of recurring back pain.

Physical problems prevented him from competing for Italy at the Athens Olympics and the world road championships in Verona this year.

"I don't know the reason for the pain, perhaps due to the streak of accidents I suffered in the last few years," Bartoli was quoted as saying by Italy's sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Bartoli secured 57 wins in his pro career, including seven in World Cup races from 1996 to 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



Disciples pay homage to the remains of Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita at Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.— MNA

Monks, laity pay obeisance to remains of Myingyan Sayadaw

YANGON, 26 Nov—Members of the Sangha and disciples from far and near paid obeisance 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 Pitaka 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, being kept at the temporary building in the precinct of Pitaka Thonbon Nikaya

Monastery on Pale Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township today.

Religious associations recited parittas in paying respects to the Sayadaw.

MNA

Prizes awarded at Shwekya Thingan Weaving Competition

YANGON, 26 Nov—The prize-presentation ceremony of the 9th Buddha Pujaniya Festival Shwekya Thingan Weaving Competition was held at the Tooth Relic Pagoda on Dhamapala Hill in Mayangon Township here yesterday morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung awarded prizes to winners.

First, U Than Nwe, Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees presented certificates of honour to members of panel of judges of the competition.

Yagon City Development Committee Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Deputy Commander



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents winners of Meidaw Maya Loom at Shwekyar Thingan Weaving Contest of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon).— MNA

Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Religious Affairs Department Director General Dr Myo Myint, Director General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U San Lwin, Yangon West District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and officials presented certificates of honour and cash awards to the win-

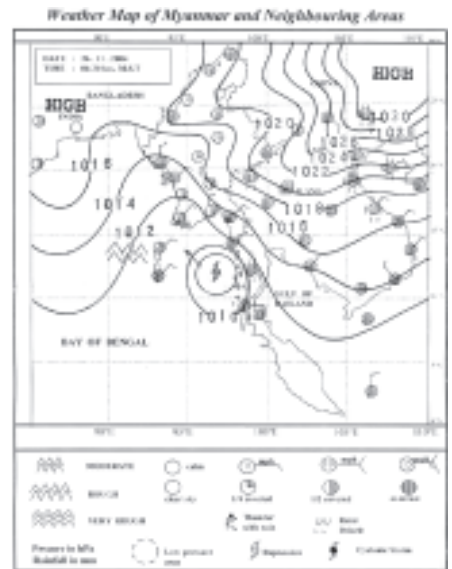
ning teams which won consolation prizes.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa presented the third prize to Suseikta Loom of Yangon North District; Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, the second prize to Thunanda Loom of Yangon West District; and the commander, the first prize to

Meidaw Maya Loom of Yangon Division USDA.

After the ceremony, the commander, the minister and the congregation conveyed the woven Shwekya Thingans to Ganthagutaita where the Thingans will be offered to the Buddha Image.

MNA



WEATHER

Friday, 26 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.16) inch. Night temperatures were (6°C) below normal in Kachin State, (3°C) above normal in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. (5°C) above normal in Mon State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (6°C) and Putao and Pinlaung (8°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 25-11-2004 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 26-11-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-11-2004 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 25-11-2004 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-11-2004 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 12 mph from North at (12:30) hours MST on 25-11-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hours MST today, the tropical storm "Muifa" in the Gulf of Thailand has moved into Andaman Sea as a depression which has not intensified and centered at about (100) miles Southwest of Myeik. It is forecast to move slowly North or Northwest ward. Weather is cloudy in the Andaman Sea and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-11-2004: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-11-2004: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for last weekend of November 2004: During the coming weekend, isolated light rain are likely in Yangon Division and weather will be fair in Mandalay Division.

Untimely rainfall warning

(Issued at 09:00 hours MST on 26-11-2004)

According to observations at (06:30) hours MST today, due to the influence of the depression in the Andaman Sea, isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions within the next (48) hours commencing morning today.



Korean Products Show 2004 draws a large number of visitors on Friday.— NLM

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



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts K 1 million from Ministry of Defence at the ninth cash donation ceremony for supply of clean water in rural areas.— MNA

Eight townships in Upper Myanmar enjoy sufficient supply of clean water

Secretary-1 attends cash donation ceremony for supply of clean water to rural areas

YANGON, 26 Nov—The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held the ninth cash presentation

ceremony for ensuring sufficient supply of clean water to rural regions at the meeting hall of the Development Affairs Department in Thanhlyetsoon,

Botahtaung Township, this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, well-wishers and guests. Minister for Progress of

(See page 6)



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha being seen off at the airport.— MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Laos

YANGON, 26 Nov — At the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha left here by air this morning for Vientiane to attend the Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers

and ASEAN Economic Ministers to be held in Vientiane, Laos, on 26 to 27 November.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Charge d' Affaires of the embassy of the LPDR Mr Kobkeo Laungkhot, officials of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.—MNA

Piety on Fullmoon of Tazaungmon

YANGON, 26 Nov — Today is Fullmoon of Tazaungmon as well as Samanyaphala Day.

From morning to evening today, wellwishers and devotees performed meritorious deeds such as offering of Mathoe Thingans, fruits, flowers and joss sticks to pagodas in Yangon City and recitation of Dhamma Desanas and practice of meditation.

The prize presentation ceremony for the 20th Mathoe Thingan weaving contest was held at Shwedagon Pagoda last night. Myatlay Loom won the first prize. At dawn, the pagoda board of trustees offered Mathoe Thingans to Buddha images at the pagoda.

Similarly, Shwekyar Thingan offering ceremonies and Mathoe Thingan weaving contests were held at Sule, Botahtaung, Kaba Aye, Kyaikkasan and Kyaikkhauk pagodas.

At Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, offering of the dawn 'soon' and Shwekyar Thingan and the consecration ceremony were held this morning. The 15th communal Kathina offering ceremony was held at Bayintnaung Market this morning. Wellwishers donated Kathina robes and offertories to 25 members of the Sangha.

Charity fairs of the local people were held in Shwepaukkan Myothit, Sangyoung, Kyimyindine and other townships in the capital on the fullmoon day. At night, pagodas, monasteries, markets, factories, offices and public buildings were illuminated.— MNA

Competitors of 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally leave Mandalay

YANGON, 26 Nov—The first India-ASEAN Car Rally was flagged off for the third day in Tamu, Sagaing Division, at 6 am and the caravan arrived at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay at 6 pm yesterday.

There, the participants were accorded a rousing welcome by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Rally Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises of India Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr RK Bhatia and officials, members

(See page 10)



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein welcome competitors of 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel.— SPED