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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at coordination meeting to hold 22nd Conference on ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22).—MNA

Success achieved in government's endeavours to establish much-needed infrastructures with help of Myanmar engineers, architects Secretary-1 addresses coord meeting on CAFEO-22

YANGON, 28 Nov — A coordination meeting on the holding of the 22nd Conference on ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22) took place at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta here this morning, with an address

by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon

mayor, deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, the chairman and the vice-chairman of the MES, the secretary

and officials.

In his speech, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said concerted efforts were to be made in unison for the success of

infrastructures for development, economy and urbanization with the help of Myanmar engineers and architects, the Secretary-1 said, adding that

had produced more than 7,000 engineers, architects and construction contractors in addition to engineering students, the Secretary-1 praised.

The Myanmar Engineering Society comes into existence with encouragement of government

the conference as it would be an important occasion for Myanmar as well as for the member countries of the ASEAN family.

The SPDC was working hard by enlisting the expertise of national intellectuals and technocrats to enable the motherland, Myanmar, to stand shoulder to shoulder with the international community in terms of development, he explained.

Success has been achieved in the government's endeavours to establish much-needed in-

those infrastructures were essential for the modernization drive, sustainable economic growth and the social advancement.

He also said that the government had encouraged national forces playing a pivotal role in national development tasks to establish themselves as consolidated social organizations.

The Myanmar Engineering Society came into existence with the encouragement from the government, and now it participated actively in nation-building tasks and

After joining the ASEAN, Myanmar willingly extended itself to all activities and campaigns at different levels launched under the auspices of the Association, for example, Heads of State/Government level, ministerial level, senior officers level, and social (See page 8)



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin submits matters related to 22nd Conference on ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22).—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reports on holding of 22nd Conference on ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22).—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 29 November, 2004

ASEAN-India Car Rally boosts Myanmar's image

The Union of Myanmar has been fostering friendly ties with neighbouring nations, ASEAN nations and those in the region.

To further cement friendly ties with other nations and ensure development in trade, tourism and transport, it is taking part in the international sports meets.

With the aim of further strengthening friendly ties between ASEAN nations and India, the first ASEAN-India Car Rally organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry was opened in Guwahati, India on 22 November 2004.

Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh formally opened the car rally. Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and party.

Altogether 60 cars from ten nations—India and ASEAN nations (exclusive of the Philippines)—with 240 drivers are participating in it.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on 23 November 2004 greeted drivers of Myanmar, who were to start the car rally at Guwahati, India.

The distance of the car rally is 7,869 kilometres—690 km in India, 439 km in Myanmar, 2,230 km in Thailand, 642 km in Laos, 1,312 km in Vietnam, 642 km in Cambodia, 853 km in Malaysia and 50 km in Singapore.

All the participants will arrive at the finishing point in Battam, Indonesia, on 11 December 2004.

The rally will take 19 days including pilgrimage in Cambodia. The caravan of the cars arrived in Tamu of Myanmar on 24 November, in Mandalay on 25 November, in Loilem on 26 November, in Kengtung on 27 November, where they spent the night. On 28 November, the caravan was scheduled to enter Thailand through Kengtung-Tachilek.

As the caravan passed through Myanmar, the car rally was to contribute much to further cementing friendly ties between Myanmar and neighbouring nations and development of tourism and transport sectors of Myanmar.

Thanks to the car rally that passed through Myanmar and with the participation of drivers from Myanmar, it is believed that the riches and development of Myanmar will be better known to the world.

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

Dry Day inspection teams discharge duties



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and party supervise functions of dry day inspection teams.—MNA

YANGON, 28 Nov — Dry Day Supervisory Committee Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Vice-Chairman Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, members Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye

Myint Kyu, Vice-Adjutant General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Director General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Vice-Quartermaster General Col Tin Shwe, No 1 Provost Company Commander Major Win Myint Tun, Director

General U Khin Maung, directors U Myo Nyunt and Major Zaw Win Shwe and Secretary Deputy Director-General of the Government Office U Sein Hla supervised dry day inspection teams which were checking the running of Tatmadaw

and departmental vehicles at the main points of Yangon City today.

The inspection teams also checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax, and wearing of departmental uniforms and the violation of traffic rules and regulations.—MNA

AWF President and party return home

YANGON, 28 Nov — Minister of Sports of the People's Republic of China President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian and party, who attended the meeting of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships and International Wushu Federation Executive Committee Meeting, were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint this afternoon.



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint sees off Asian Wushu Federation President Mr Li Zhijian and party.—NLM

They were also seen off at the airport by

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials,

officials of the Ministry of Sports, President of Myanmar Wushu Fed-

eration U Khin Maung Lay and officials.

MNA

စာပေဒါန

ကျေးဇူး ကိုယ်အားကိုးကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များနှင့် စာပေဒါန ငွေပဒေသာပင် လှူဒါန်းပွဲကို အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပပါမည်။

- နေ့ရက် - ၃-၁၂-၂၀၀၄(သောကြာနေ့)
- ဖွဲ့စည်းလှူ - ဖွဲ့စည်းလှူ (၂) နာရီ
- နေရာ - ဖြန့်ဖြူးရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အစည်းအဝေးခန်းမ၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။

စာပေဒါနပြုလိုကြသော စောစောရှင်၊ အလှူရှင်များ အချိန်မီတက်ရောက် လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါရန် မှီဆော်ဖိတ်ကြား အပ်ပါသည်။

ဖြန့်ဖြူးရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ဖြန့်ဖြူးရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန
၂၂-၂၄၊ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
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Director-General Col Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department inspects construction of Lhyetsiyon Road in Kungyangon Township on 27 November, 2004.—DAD

Health Deputy Minister returns from Thailand

YANGON, 28 Nov — The health delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the meeting on bird flu prevention and treatment of WHO member countries of SEA region held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 26 November.

The delegation was welcomed back by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, the Directors-General of the departments under the Ministry and officials of WHO.

Director Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein of Health Planning Department, Director (Research) Dr Kyaw Moe of Medical Research Department (Yangon) and Director U Than Hla of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries also returned home on the same flight.—MNA



ASEAN, South Korean officials finalize cooperation document

VIENTIANE (Laos), 27 Nov — Senior officials from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Korea here on Friday finalized the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership between ASEAN and South Korea to be adopted by their leaders.

The declaration covers political and security cooperation, closer economic relations, including the establishment of an ASEAN-South Korea Free Trade Area, cooperation to narrow the development gap within ASEAN, and education and science and technology cooperation, said spokesman of the 10th ASEAN summit Yong Changthalangsy.

This is a follow-up to the decision of the ASEAN-South Korea Summit in 2003 during which the leaders agreed to launch an Experts Group Joint Study of

ASEAN-South Korea economic cooperation, including the possibility of establishing a free trade agreement, Yong, who is also director of the Press Department of the Lao Foreign Ministry, told a news conference.

He also said the ASEAN+South Korea Senior Officials Meeting held here Friday agreed on the arrangements for the signing ceremony of the South Korea's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on Saturday. —MNA/Xinhua



South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun waves upon his arrival in Vientiane before the 10th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Laos, on 28 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

China donates for Filipino typhoon victims

MANILA, 27 Nov — The Philippine Government on Friday received a donation of 50,000 US dollars from the Chinese Government for the flood victims left by two tropical storms that hit the northern islands this week.

Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Franklin M. Ebdalin, who received the donation from Chinese ambassador to the country Wu Hongbo, said that his government is most appreciative of this generous donation for the victims.

"The affected families will be most grateful for this assistance from the Chinese Government and people," he said.

According to the government's estimation, typhoon Violeta has caused damage of 281.15 million pesos on crops, mostly rice and corn, while Unding caused damaged of some 131.7 million pesos on agriculture and fisheries and 65 million pesos on property. —MNA/Xinhua

1,236 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov —As of Saturday, 27 November, 2004, at least 1,236 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the

Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,098 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military.—INTERNET

Japan eyes closer cooperation with ASEAN in destroying WMD

VIENTIANE (Laos), 27 Nov — Japan said here Friday that the two issues in which it wanted to advance cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the reduction of tension in the Korean Peninsula.

Japan made the remarks at the ASEAN+Japan Senior Officials Meeting held here Friday.

The meeting finalized the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism, which will be adopted at the ASEAN+Japan Summit on November 30.

The declaration will

include such activities as information exchange, intelligence sharing and capacity building, law enforcement cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters including extradition.

The meeting recalled that the ASEAN+Japan Economic Ministers Meeting agreed in Sep-

tember 2004 that negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership would commence in April 2005 to be completed within two years.

Japan invited ASEAN members to participate in the Asia Non-Proliferation Meeting in February 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's manufacturing output up 2.4% in October

SINGAPORE, 27 Nov — Singapore's manufacturing output rose 2.4 per cent in October as compared with the same period of last year, official statistics indicated.

According to figures released by the Economic Development Board (EDB) on Friday, for the first ten months of this year, Singapore's total manufacturing output registered an increase of 13 per cent over last year.

The growth in some clusters was moderated by the decline in the biomedical manufacturing cluster, which fell 19.6 per cent in October. The electronics cluster grew 11.4 per cent in October and the transport engineering cluster rose 31.1 per cent. The chemicals cluster reported an increase of 6.1 per cent while the precision engineering cluster fell slightly by 0.8 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese textile industry opposes US limits on fabric imports

BELING, 27 Nov — The Chinese textile industry issued a statement on Thursday, opposing a US Government agency's acceptance of an industry appeal to limit imports of Chinese fabric products.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile Products said in the statement that the US Government has "trampled the principle of free trade" as well as the spirit of the Agreement on Textile and Clothing.

"The Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the whole Chinese textile industry, expresses strong protest and firm opposition," it said.

The US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements announced on November 17 that it has accepted an appeal from domestic industry on import limitations of 301 kinds of Chinese cotton yarn.

According to the statement, US industrial organizations have also

appealed to extend existing import quotas on 222 kinds of Chinese fabric products for another year.

"The 301 products are still restricted by the US import quota and hold too little market share to disrupt the US market," the statement said. "The existing restriction on another 222 products has hurt the Chinese textile industry, the interests of US cotton growers, consumers, importers, fabric machinery makers and US investors in China as well."

The Chamber of Commerce urged the US Government to stop activities that harm China-US ties and to abide by WTO rules. It said the restriction will not cause a boom in the US textile industry nor offer more jobs to US people.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi national guardsmen secure area of al-Yarmouk hotel in the southern city of Basra, on 26 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Malaysia offers to host East Asia Summit in 2005

VIENTIANE (Laos), 27 Nov— Malaysia has offered to host an East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2005 if there is a consensus among the relevant countries, spokesman of the 10th ASEAN Summit Yong Chanthalangsy said at a Press briefing here Friday.

The spokesman said the ASEAN + 3 Senior Officials Meeting held here Friday discussed the issue on the EAS proposed by the East Asian Vision Group and recognized the potential value of the EAS at an appropriate time.

Yong also said the issue remains a subject of further consideration by the ASEAN + 3 Foreign Ministers Meeting.

He said the Senior Officials Meeting discussed the need to undertake stock-taking exercise, including on the concept, modality and future direction for the EAS.

Japan has offered to host a meeting of ASEAN + 3 foreign ministers in Kyoto in May 2005 for this purpose, he added.

On the establishment of East Asia Community, the Senior Officials Meeting reiterated the view that it is a long-term objective that would be achieved through a building bloc and step by step approach. The meeting

reiterated support for ASEAN's leading role in this process.

On the East Asian Free Trade Area (EAFTA), the meeting continued to deliberate on this matter. The ASEAN + 3 Economic Ministers Meeting in Jakarta on September 4, 2004 endorsed China's proposal to set up an expert group comprising scholars from research and academic organizations to study the feasibility of establishing an EAFTA starting in 2005.

Friday's senior officials meeting was held to prepare for the ASEAN + 3, ASEAN + China, ASEAN + Japan and ASEAN + South Korea summits, which will be held here on November 29-30.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua



Maldives keen to expand cooperation with Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Nov— Maldives is keen to expand bilateral cooperation with Malaysia, especially in information and media exchange, a visiting Maldives' minister said here Friday.

The cooperation could be in the area of training to improve the capacity and quality of its television and radio programmes, Maldives' Minister of Information, Cultural and Arts Ahmed Abdullahtold

reporters after meeting with Malaysian Information Minister Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

"The media in our country has become a huge challenge especially in the globalized system. Our media has to become more vigilant, approachable and responsive to the aspirations of the people of Maldives," he said.

"Our President Maumon Abdul Gayoom has a very close relationship with Malaysian leaders and we are very grateful of the long term friendship and cooperation with Maldives. We are also very thankful to Malaysia for providing us continuous support and cooperation," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

CPC initiates education campaign

BEIJING, 27 Nov—The Communist Party of China (CPC) has decided to launch a mass internal educational campaign from January next year to prevent its members from wavering in their convictions.

The decision, aiming to keep the nature of the Party members intact, was made at the meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on this October 21, the CPC's top power organ.

"It is the first time that the Party linked the internal education with its ruling principle and governance capability," said Ye Duchu, Professor of the Party School of the CPC.

The campaign was initiated after an internal survey involving 300,000 Party members in 2000, which showed some of them had begun to waver in their conviction on the Party's principles and disciplines, according to the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee.

The Party's leaders have realized that under the new conditions, maintaining the advanced na-

ture of the Party affects the Party's governance capability, prosperity of the causes of the Party and the people and the country's lasting peace and stability.

The survey recently held in Southwestern China's Sichuan Province showed that about one-third of Party cadres were most focused on the will and interests of their superiors, not their service to the people. About 32 per cent of Party's cadres at or above county levels chose "realizing individual's value" and "build well-off families" as their life purposes, not service to the people. Experts here said the wavering convictions of the Party members, a major source of corruption in some regions, had seriously eroded the consolidation of the Party's governing status.—MNA/Xinhua



Vietnam's Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, centre, smiles as he is greeted on 27 Nov, 2004, in Vientiane, Laos, on his arrival for the 10th ASEAN summit.

INTERNET

'Iraq's security forces are target of increasing campaigns by guerillas

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov— The warning left in the garage of Omar Hameed, Iraqi National Guardsman, showed two bloody swords and a message: "If you don't quit your job in three days, you will be killed."

The next day, Hameed, still recovering from a leg injury after gunmen attacked his patrol, gave his reply in signs he hung in the market of his hometown of Mahmoudiya and

on the street leading to his home: "I wash my hands of the Iraqi National Guard." He said the decision to give up his job, which paid a relatively hefty \$190 a month, was easy because he knew the alternative. "They have killed many people," Hameed said. "They can reach you anywhere. They can easily break into homes to kidnap or kill you."

As the 30 January election approaches, guerillas aiming to wreck Iraq's democratic transformation have been targeting mem-

bers of the country's fledgling security forces with increasing brutality and precision.

Car bombings, mortar attacks and drive-by shootings have been followed by kidnappings, ambushes, executions and beheadings, with corpses dumped in orchards and on roadsides, sometimes laid out in rows.

The operations show enough sophistication and planning to raise the question of whether guerillas get inside help. Such attacks also continue to undermine efforts to build strong security forces key to the exit strategy of foreign troops and have cast doubt on the Iraqi forces' ability to protect themselves, let alone the country.—Internet

Mainland, Hong Kong join hands to protect insurance market

BEIJING, 27 Nov— The insurance regulatory authorities of the Chinese Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region have joined hands to fight illegal insurance policies, according to a senior Chinese insurance official.

Li Kemu, vice-chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, signed an insurance regulatory cooperative agreement here Friday with Richard Yuen, Hong Kong's Commissioner of Insurance.

Li said that the agreement marks a new stage of cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the insurance industry.

The agreement covers broad areas of insurance regulation that will effectively promote mutual understanding of regulatory practices, exchange regulatory experience and timely sharing of regulatory information.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) patrol the northern Iraqi city of Mosul in Stryker armoured vehicles.—INTERNET

ASEAN leaders to sign peace action plan

MANILA, 27 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other leaders of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are set to sign and adapt next week an action plan to increase peace and security cooperation efforts in the region.

Signing of the ASEAN Security Community (ASC) Plan of Action will be held during the organization's 10th summit in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the *Philippines News Agency* Friday quoted the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as saying.

The signing of the proposed ASC Plan of Action will complement the ASC Framework which ASEAN member-countries established to ensure stability of security conditions in South-east Asia, the report said.

Under the ASC Framework, ASEAN leaders acknowledged there are broad political, economic, social and cultural aspects associated with comprehensive security.

They also vowed to abide by the United Nations Charter and other international laws while up-

holding ASEAN's principles of consensus-based decision-making, national and regional resilience, respect for national sovereignty, renunciation of threat or use of force and peaceful settlement of differences and disputes.

The framework likewise assures leaders of ASEAN member-countries of their right "to lead their national existence free from outside interference in their internal affairs".

Moreover, the ASC Framework declared that the organization's existing political instruments shall continue to play crucial roles in terms of confidence-building, preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution.

Among such political instruments are the Zone of Peace, Freedom and

Neutrality Declaration signed in Kuala Lumpur on November 27, 1971 and the Treaty of Amity Cooperation in Southeast Asia that leaders signed during the first ASEAN Summit in Bali in February 1976.

Individual frameworks for ASC, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community were adapted by Southeast Asian leaders on October 7, 2003 to help realize the ASEAN Vision 2020, the organization's vision statement on transforming the region into a single community by the end of the next decade.

ASEAN's unification efforts are targeted at increasing Southeast Asia's competitiveness for sustained economic growth and equitable development.—MNA/Xinhua



Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing (C) listens to a speech at a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Vientiane on 27 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Greater anti-HIV/AIDS efforts urged for women

HANOI, 27 Nov— Women and girls should be the focal point of the global war against HIV/AIDS, foreign and local officials said here on Friday.

"One of the objects most affected by HIV/AIDS is women and children," Ha Thi Khiat, chairwoman of the Vietnam Women's Union, said at a Press conference to introduce this year's global advocacy campaign with the theme "Women, Girls, HIV/AIDS". She called for an urgent action to minimize the increasing number of people, especially women, living with HIV via a focus on women and girls — preventing new infections, promoting gender equality and mitigating the impact of AIDS.

"Women are more physically vulnerable to the infections than men," Nancy Fee, country coordinator for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Vietnam, said at the Press conference held by the Vietnam Women's Union, the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, the United Na-

tions Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UNAIDS.

There is a link between domestic violence and HIV infections, since women are victims of forced sex, and too frightened to get services and information about HIV/AIDS, she said, adding that discrimination against AIDS patients is harmful to women.

Now, nearly half of 37.2 million adults worldwide living with HIV are women, according to the latest UNAIDS report. The percentage of Vietnamese pregnant women having HIV rose to 0.39 per cent in 2003 from 0.02 per cent in 1994, said the ministry.

By mid-October 2004, Vietnam had detected over 86,000 HIV carriers, of whom 62 per cent are in the age bracket of 20-29. Over 13,600 cases have developed into AIDS, including 7,834 fatalities.

MNA/Xinhua

12 die as guerillas intensify Iraq raids

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov— Violence continued unabated in Iraq as guerillas stepped up attacks, blasting US patrols in Baghdad and killing a US soldier north of the capital.

A car bomb exploded on the dangerous road to the Baghdad airport, targeting an armoured vehicle generally used to transport VIPs, an AFP photographer reported.

There were no reports of any casualties and no details immediately available on who might have been inside the truck.

A US soldier was killed early yesterday when a roadside bomb hit his vehicle in the Sunni town of Dhuluiyah, north of Baghdad.

Three bodyguards of Iraq's deputy governor of Diyala province were killed when clashes broke out between national guardsmen and guerillas at a checkpoint, the provincial police chief said.

Internet

UN criticizes Britain for unsatisfactory conditions in prisons

GENEVA, 27 Nov — A United Nations anti-torture body criticized Britain on Friday for the "unsatisfactory" conditions in its prisons, including a "substantial number of deaths in custody", and urged it to act at once to improve them.

The UN Committee Against Torture, reviewing British compliance with an international treaty outlawing inhuman and degrading treatment, also expressed concern at parts of an anti-terrorism law which allows "potentially indefinite detention" of foreigners without trial.

It called on the British Government to study "as a

matter of urgency" alternatives to the sweeping powers to imprison any foreigner suspected of involvement in international terrorism given by the 2001 Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act.

The committee of 10 experts said there were reports of "unsatisfactory conditions" in Bri-

tish prisons, including "substantial numbers of deaths in custody, inter-prisoner violence, overcrowding ..."

It was the fourth time the Geneva-based committee had focused on Britain as part of its regular scrutiny of the 138 states to have ratified the 1984 treaty.

MNA/Reuters



Carrying the torches: Two Turkish women hold torches during a demonstration on 26 Nov, 2004 in a downtown Istanbul street against US politics in the Middle-East and the attack on Fallujah, Iraq.—INTERNET

Fighters in Fallujah resume attacks against US forces

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov — Fighters in Iraq's battle-torn Fallujah City said Friday they have resumed attacks against US forces and their Iraqi allies since Wednesday after they had reorganized their groups in the city.

The fighters made the remarks in a statement signed by Mujahedin Council on Islamic web site.

The statement said "the Mujahedin (holy fighters) launched Wednesday many well organized attacks, aimed at destroying the myth of the coalition forces, and the traitors and collaborators who work

for Allawi and Naqib," referring to Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and Interior Minister Falah Naqib.

The former Iraqi Army forces are "participating in fighting and supporting efforts in the battles of Fallujah's northern districts, Jolan, Mualemeen, Shurta, Jughaiifi and the Askeri District," said the

statement.

It added that "the Mujahedin will teach a memorable lesson to the collaborators who sold Iraq and prove to Arab regimes in Sherm al-Sheikh, who gave Allawi's government a false legitimacy, that only the language of guns and martyrs makes a difference".—MNA/Xinhua

WTO approves trade sanctions on US over illegal law

GENEVA, 27 Nov— The World Trade Organization (WTO) gave final approval on Friday to the European Union, Japan and others to hit the United States with an initial 150 million US dollars in trade sanctions in a row over an illegal anti-dumping law.

"They've got the go-ahead," said Kenyan Ambassador Amina Mohamed, chairwoman of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body.

The case, one of a number pitting Brussels against Washington, involves the so-called Byrd Amendment, which the WTO has repeatedly said breaks trade rules by handing out duties raised in anti-dumping cases to US firms.

The opening round of punitive duties — which will be reviewed each year — is relatively modest, when compared, for example, with the 4.0 billion US dollars the EU was awarded in a case over corporate tax breaks. But the figure could soar in coming years.

The Administration of US President George W Bush has called on Congress to drop the law. But it enjoys wide support

among legislators, who see it as a way of punishing foreign companies accused of dumping, or exporting goods at below the cost of production.

The Lion's share of the right to retaliate goes to the European Union and Japan, because their companies are the most affected, Brussels has warned it could slap additional duties on US goods early in 2005 if Washington does not repeal the law. "We are delighted that the authorization confirmed our case... We hope that the US will bring the legislation as soon as possible into conformity (with international rules)." EU trade spokeswoman Claude Veron-Reville said in Brussels.

The green light for sanctions was automatic because the case has exhausted all the WTO steps for settling disputes, includ-

ing appeals and arbitration. Only a unanimous decision by all 148 WTO member states, including those seeking the sanctions, could have blocked it.

Both the EU and Japan, given the right to additional levies of 50 million US dollars and 80 million US dollars, respectively, by arbitrators, have presented the WTO with a list of products they plan to hit — ranging from sweetcorn to metals and textiles.

Canada, which along with Brazil, South Korea, India, Mexico and Chile is also involved in the complaint, has said that it is studying whether to impose sanctions and on what. The US amendment has been applied to billions of dollars of imports of Canadian softwood, the subject of a separate dispute between the two North American neighbours.

MNA/Reuters



Construction on Yangtze's water diversion project approved

WUHAN, 27 Nov — Construction on a key section on the central route of the water diversion project from the Yangtze River and its tributaries to northern China has been approved by the State Council recently.

Construction will begin soon on the section, which will raise the height of the Danjiangkou Dam from the present 162 metres to 176.6 metres. This will be the most important part of the central route of the south-north water diversion project, said officials with the Yangtze River Water Resources Committee.

The Danjiangkou Reservoir, located 800 metres below the meeting point of the Hanjiang River and its tributary Danjiang River in northwestern Hubei, central China, was the largest man-made lake in Asia when it was built in 1966. It is to be the principal source of water on the central route of the south-to-north water diversion project.

Officials said when the height of dam is raised, the dam's storage capacity will be 29.05 billion cubic metres, 11.6 billion cubic metres more than the early stage capacity. The project should divert 9.5 billion cubic metres of water to the North China on an annual basis and 13 to 14 billion cubic metres by the year 2030.

Completion of the dam project will ease the pressure on the middle and lower reaches of the Hanjiang and Yangtze rivers in the flood season and provide

high-quality water to the arid areas in northern China, said experts.

Sources from the Yangtze River Water Resources Committee said that the total cost for the dam project will be more than 2 billion yuan (about 246 million US dollars).

More than 2,000 local people who lived in villages in the construction site and dam area will soon be moved to other regions, said the committee.

Currently, the government of Danjiangkou is working on the issues of migration and protection of ancient cultural relics excavated in the dam area.

The massive south-to-north water diversion project, which began construction in December 2002, will divert water from the Yangtze, China's longest river, to the country's drought-affected north via eastern, central and western routes.

The central route project, with a total length of 1,427 kilometres, is designed to divert water from the Danjiangkou Reservoir on the upper reaches of the Hanjiang River right up to Beijing and Tianjin municipalities, and Hebei, Henan and Hubei Provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to keep stability of currency

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Nov— A Malaysian minister has reiterated that the government has already mentioned the country has to have stability in its currency.

The re-pegging of the local currency ringgit should have got to do with Malaysia's competitiveness, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz told reporters after addressing the Panasonic Scholarship Programme 2005 Award Ceremony here

Thursday. "The government would have to look at how the number in the system of pegging affect us vis-a-vis the changes in other currencies. It has got to do with our competitiveness. It is not as simple as removing the peg," she said.

Malaysian currency has

been pegged at 3.8 ringgit to one US dollar since September 1998 when the country was hit by the Asian financial crisis.

She was asked about comments by some economists to review ringgit peg as it has outdated its usefulness and they are calling for re-pegging by June next year. "Malaysia cannot be subjected to observation and recommendation by others pertaining to the re-peg of the ringgit," she said.

MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani crocodile keeper Sajjad Barfat (C) feeding a crocodile at the 700-year old Mango Pir Shrine, some 25 kms (15.5 miles) southwest of Karachi.— INTERNET



A 'Long March' rocket carrying the manned 'Shenzhou V' spacecraft is launched from the Jiuquan launch centre. China will launch its lunar orbiter Chang'e 1 to explore the moon's environment and study the thickness of its soil by the end of 2007.— INTERNET

World Family Summit to be held in China next month

BELING, 27 Nov— The 2004 World Family Summit will be held in Sanya City of Hainan Province, south China, from December 6 to 9, marking the 10th anniversary of the International Family Year, said a Chinese family planning official here Friday.

More than 250 officials and experts from some 60 countries, non-governmental organizations and international institutions have applied to attend the meeting, co-sponsored by the World Family Organization,

China's State Population and Family Planning Commission and the All-China Women's Federation, said Xi Xiaoping, director of the federation's Press department.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia accuses West of intervening in Ukraine election crisis

MOSCOW, 27 Nov — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday accused Western countries of intervening in Ukraine's election crisis in an attempt to encourage the former Soviet state to move towards the West.

"Some European capitals have refused to recognize the election and have put forward the thesis that Ukraine should be with the West," Lavrov said at a Press conference, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Russia is not indifferent to what happens in Ukraine," said Lavrov, adding that the Russian Government is alarmed by the attempts of some countries to steer the situation in Ukraine from a legal path.

"Geographically Ukraine is near the West but also near Russia," he said. "We hope that the world will respect the choice of the Ukrainian people, respect its right to decide on its own its internal affairs."

MNA/Xinhua

Discussion of Pensioners

Hein Myint

Almost all of my friends and I are in our sixties. We had experienced the colonial era in our childhood. And we had also seen the multi-party democracy system throughout our student life from the primary to the university. I had worked as a service personnel from the time of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party to that of the current Tatmadaw government. We took retirement when we turned sixty.

Having lived different eras, all the friends my age have had a sense of scruple to weigh pros and cons. As we took full-age retirement as military and civilian service personnel, we still have to earn our living in retirement. This being the case, we can only

is unthinkable how much it would be for years."

"It should come as no surprise that the price does not drop since valuable items like houses, land and cars are in the hands of those with great wealth. We couldn't imagine to buy such expensive things let alone to afford it."

"Because of that incident, 186 service personnel from three military and civil departments were charged. That was a terrible blow to the State."

"Those who were held accountable for that incident are to blame for their weak control and supervision, else only less severe action would have been taken."

"They paid no heed to the repeated guidance of the Senior General as

My friends asked me whether such incidents took place in China as they knew I had discharged my duty there. I replied:

"No doubt they did. Even in my tour of duty in China, I heard a lot of smuggling and corruption cases, for instance, the collapse of diversion weirs when the Yangtze River swelled was due to sub-standard quality in construction; the collapse of a bridge claiming numerous lives was due to sub-standard quality in construction; and the ruined conditions of a highway while it was still under construction. Punitive action was taken against those who were held responsible, and the newspapers reported them."

"Such things are unavoidable in countries which are in a process of transition to the market-oriented economic system. Special care should be taken for it."

"It is the right thing to do to abolish the National Intelligence Bureau. People everywhere had to live in fear of them."

"They became selfish as they then were people in authority. The act of corruption grew worse in the absence of control and supervision. Not everyone was involved in it. The good and the bad by nature coexist."

"A large number of illegally-imported cars can be seen in almost every town. It is heartening to hear the news that unlicensed cars which cause corruption are now being confiscated."

"Making arrests on those committing the act of corruption and traffick-

ing is in the interests of the country. In consequence of it, there are some who have remedied their misconduct. If they continue their act, they will no doubt will face action."

"By the way, I have heard so many times that some foreign media say that present Myanmar State leadership are hardliners. You are a war veteran pensioner and so may I know your opinion in this regard?"

"Of course, they say so because they don't understand anything about the administrative principles of Myanmar Tatmadaw. And they are intentionally manufacturing fabrications to mislead the people."

"Oh! Is that so? Would you please elaborate?"

"Myanmar Tatmadaw has a tradition that it practises the policy of a single command. So, all the Tatmadaw members have to discharge their duties under the supervision of their superiors and guidance of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. Since the Tatmadaw had assumed the State responsibilities, it first formed the State Law and Order Restoration Council and then the State Peace and Development Council at present, and it has been adopting and implementing State policies under the guidance of the Chairman also the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and in coordination with the Vice-Chairman, who is the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and SPDC members taking effective responsibilities."

"The Tatmadaw leaders have to take responsibilities individually in carrying out tasks, based on collective leadership".

"The Government and the ministries have to carry out their tasks in consonance with the policy laid down by the SPDC".

"Therefore, I'd say implementation of the State's seven-point Road Map, carrying out nation-building tasks in coopera-

tion with national armed groups after building up peace through talks with them, and the adopting of foreign policy are the works of by the State Peace and Development Council under the leadership of the Head of State, but not of an individual".

"Overall, the State's political, economic, social and nation-building tasks are being implemented in conform-

regional affairs after her membership of the ASEAN and maintains friendly relations with her neighbours. That is another example reflecting her flexible attitude".

"Personally, I'd say the SPDC is a government, so sometimes it must take a hardline stand and sometimes it has to be soft, as the case may be. I don't think it is proper for the government to tolerate the

"Myanmar Tatmadaw has a tradition that it practises the policy of a single command. So, all the Tatmadaw members have to discharge their duties under the supervision of their superiors and guidance of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services."

ity with the policy laid down by the SPDC. So, one should not assume that some of the State leaders are flexible and some hardliners".

"I'm sure, it must be, in fact, certain schemers' plot to mislead Myanmar people into thinking some State leaders as flexible-minded and pro-democracy persons and some, as hardliners. It is very clear if present State leaders were not pro-democracy persons but hardliners, there would be no chance for the seven-point Road Map to come into existence. It is known to all that Myanmar is now on the path towards discipline-flourishing democracy just because State leaders are really in favour of democracy".

"As you know, the previous governments were not able at all to persuade any armed groups to return to the legal fold, but 17 armed groups had entered the legal fold during the time of the present government. And they are even cooperating with the government in nation-building tasks. That reflects the genuine goodwill of the SPDC led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. According to the norms of foreign media, this should be described soft or flexible, isn't it?"

"Moreover, Myanmar is cooperating with regional countries in

insults. But it has to make political or military responses if being assaulted".

"And I don't think it is wise to call State leaders as hardliners just because of not reaching an agreement with those who always hamper nation-building efforts but have never done anything in the interests of the nation".

"The government has been able to build up peace with armed groups through peace talks. So, if all the political parties give priority to national interests but not to their own, no doubt, fruitful results will be achieved. But what they should do is just to show their goodwill".

When our chat was at its peak, there was a phone call for me and I had to return home, saying goodbye to my friends.

On my way home, I was absorbed in my thought that our country, Myanmar, will be able to turn itself into a peaceful, modern and developed nation if certain political parties give up their attempts to serve their own interests, and if there is no destructive act nor corruption and bribery in the nation, and they are united in serving the interests of the nation and the people with goodwill.

(Translation: KTY + MS)
Myanma Alin, Kyemon:
(28-11-2004)

"It is necessary for all of the powers that be to follow the guidance. They must keep themselves aloof from the four kinds of selfishness. What's more, they also should urge their wives and children to refrain from such acts. If they do so, undesirable things would not occur."

meet just once or twice a month for a chat about the events of the past and the present. We have read in a supplement booklet of the dailies the full text of explanation given by State Peace and Development Council member General Thura Shwe Mann and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. Our conversation goes...

"The corruption in Muse was a spine-chilling story."

"If the sum of money was that much even in two or three months, it

to being in the service of public interest and the avoidance of the four kinds of selfishness: 'for my own, for my wife, for my children and for my relatives'.

"It is necessary for all of the powers that be to follow the guidance. They must keep themselves aloof from the four kinds of selfishness. What's more, they also should urge their wives and children to refrain from such acts. If they do so, undesirable things would not occur."

ကမ္ဘာ့ဝမ်းသာကျဆင်းမှုလှူဒါန်းစာအုပ်တိုက်ချက်မူရင်း
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၁) ရက်

World AIDS Campaign
1st December, 2004

**“အေအိုင်ဒီအက်စ်ကင်းစင်ဖို့
အမျိုးသမီးများဘဝမြှင့်တင်ဖို့”**

“Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Success achieved in government's endeavours...

(from page 1)
 organizations level, he continued. It is delightful to see the MES, like other social organizations engaged in their relevant fields, playing an active role in the AFEO, he said, pledging that the government on its part would render assistance for the successful holding of the conference in accord with its set aims in the country.

Next, MES Chairman Dr Sein Myint reported on the birth of the AFEO and its activities, and ar-

committees for the upcoming conference, tasks being carried and those left to be done by respective committees, and the assistance required to be provided.

Ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers and officials also reported on assistance to be rendered by their respective departments for the success of the conference.

After hearing the reports, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects samples of prizes, gifts, bags, souvenirs and pamphlets to mark the CAFEO-22.— MNA

to the needs through coordination with officials concerned.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the medals

rative shoulder-bags and handbags, and books to be distributed at the

Society, the CAFEO-22 will be hosted in Myanmar at the Sedona



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.— MNA

rangements being made for hosting the CAFEO-22. Later, MES General Secretary U Than Myint presented reports on measures being taken by the MES in cooperation with the AFEO, the organizational setup of the MES, the conducting of engineering courses, the MES's participation in nation-building endeavours, the formation of the central committee and sub-



Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society Dr Sein Myint. MNA



to be awarded at the upcoming conference, souvenirs, commemo-

conference.

Organized by the Myanmar Engineering

Hotel here on 18-19 December this year.

MNA

Caravan of First India-ASEAN Car Rally arrives Kengtung

YANGON, 28 Nov— A ceremony to flag off competitors of First India-ASEAN Car Rally was held in Mandalay on 26 November morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and the Indian Ambassador.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint flagged off the rally.

The caravan of the rally arrived in Ywangan along Mandalay-Kyaukse-Ywangan-Aungban-Taunggyi

Road. They were welcomed by Brig-Gen Thaung Htaik of Aungban Station and officials, local people and national races.

In the afternoon, the competitors stopped over at Ayethayar Golf Resort Hotel in Taunggyi. Next, they left Taunggyi.

On arrival at Loilem, they were welcomed by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials. The competitors spent the night in Loilem.

On 27 November, the competitors left Loilem and proceeded to Kunhing through Loilem-Kengtung Road. They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of

Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials, local people and national races.

The drivers stopped over in Kunhing.

In Mongpyin, the competitors were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin, officials and local people.

At night, the caravan of the rally arrived in Kengtung where the participants were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, officials and local people. The drivers spent the night in Kengtung.

MNA

CLMTV ECS TRADE FAIR



1st Five Countries Trade Fair-2004
 Yangon, Mindhamma Road, Myanmar Convention Centre
 (From 3 to 7 December, 2004)

Ash of the remains of Myingyan Sayadaw...

(from page 16)

religious associations and disciples proceeded to the confluence of Yangon River and Bago River.

After reciting Aniçcavata Sankhara Gatha by the congregation led by members of the Sangha, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhandabhivamsa and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Brig-Gen Myo Myint scattered ash into Yangon River at 8.50 am.

MNA

Ash of Chairman Sayadaw being scattered into Yangon River in Dharudaka Puja.

MNA



Commander, Minister for Industry-1...

(from page 16)

Next, the commander, the minister and guests offered "Soon" to members of the Sangha.

At noon, Industry-1 Minister U Aung Thuang, accompanied by officials, went to PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory Project and inspected installation of machines in the Tablets & Capsules Production Unit and Water Distill Plant. He gave necessary instructions for the tasks. Next, the minister inspected completion of installation of machines at Damin Plant.

Afterwards, the minister inspected test-running of Tablet Press and Film Coating Machines and the machines in Dry-

ing Oven FBD Units. The commander gave instructions on efforts to be made for arrival of the machinery as quickly as possible, running of the machines and making of systematic arrangements in accord with GMP system. Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries Managing Director U Myint Oo and officials conducted the minister around the sites chosen for constructing the buildings of Quality Control, Galenic Product Department and Syrup Department.

At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Myint Oo and General Manager U Tin Maung Win reported on the tasks

of constructing the factory, running the machines and greening around the factory.

On arrival at Mandalay Division USDA Office, Secretariat Member U Aung Thuang met with district and township USDA secretaries and fulfilled the requirements for the tasks of the association. Next, he instructed the officials to abide by the future programmes laid down by the USDA Annual Preliminary Meeting 2004, to implement the five rural development tasks and to play an active role in striving for the success of seven-point future policy Programme of the State.

MNA

Myanmar-Thai Kathina robes offering ceremony held

YANGON, 28 Nov — The third Myanmar-Thai communal Kathina robes offering ceremony was held at Myanmar-Thai Friendship Monastery in Ward 27, Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 26 November morning.

Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Mayangon Township Kalewa Tawya Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa administered

the precepts and delivered a sermon. Later, Myanmar and Thai disciples donated Kathina robes to Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kondanña of the monastery.— MNA

Dinner hosted in honour of sports teams of Yangon Command

YANGON, 28 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended a dinner in honour of sports teams representing Yangon Command which won championship

shields in the 2004 Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions, at the hall of the command headquarters yesterday evening. First, the judo team, gymnastic team, the cyclist team, track & field teams handed over their

trophies to the commander who presented cash prizes to the winners. Next, the commander gave a speech. Afterwards, the commander and wife hosted a dinner to those present. Yangon Command has won championship shields in 10 sports events so far.— MNA

Deputy Minister inspects construction of roads in Bago Division

YANGON, 28 Nov — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected repaving of No 28th Street, and Bandoola Road in Leikpyagan Ward, Bago, this morning.

The deputy minister also inspected landscaping works of Bago Township

Development Affairs Committee.

In Thanatpin Township, the deputy minister looked into No 1 Tube-well sunk for supply of water to local people in Zaypaing Ward, Thanatpin. He also inspected repaving of Zabuyit Road.

Next, Col Tin

Ngwe proceeded to the construction site of the bridge at the entrance of Thakkala Sanpya Village in Kawa Township. The deputy minister then inspected upgrading of Nguwa Road. After inspecting Paukkon-Zwekaik gravel road, the deputy minister gave instructions on maintenance tasks.—MNA

Yangon vice-mayor inspects agricultural tasks in Thanlyin

YANGON, 28 Nov — CEC member of Union Solidarity Development Association Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected agricultural tasks being undertaken by USDA (Central) in Sitpinkwin village-tract, Thanlyin Township,

Yangon South District this morning. The vice-mayor inspected harvesting and winnowing monsoon paddy and farmlands.

At the briefing hall, Yangon Division Manager U Aung San of Myanma Agriculture Service and officials reported on harvesting monsoon paddy and agriculture purpose

vehicles. The vice-mayor attended to the needs. At the hall of Thanlyin Township USDA, the vice-mayor met members of township USDA and briefed an account of seven-point future policy programme of the State, five rural development tasks and objectives of the USDA.— MNA



Swe Swe Thant who wins one gold in Nanquan, Nangun and Nandao event, one gold in Nandao and one silver each in Nanquan and Nangun events.— NLM

ကမ္ဘာ့ဖုဒ္ဘောသား ထိပ်သီးညီလာခံအတွက် ကြိုဆိုပို့ဆောင်ရေး

မော်တော်ယာဉ် ကုသိုလ်အလှူရှင်များ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ခြင်း

၁။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ မရမ်းကုန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ကမ္ဘာ့အေ.ကုန်းမြေရှိ မဟာပါသာဏလိုဏ်တော်ကြီးတွင် ၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့မှ ၁၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့အထိ ကျင်းပလှုပ်မည် ကမ္ဘာ့ဖုဒ္ဘောသား ထိပ်သီးညီလာခံကြီးသို့ ကြွရောက်တော်မူလာမည့် ပြည်ပနိုင်ငံများမှ အဖွဲ့ခေါင်းဆောင် ဆရာတော် (၃၅)ပါးအတွက် တစ်ပါးစီ အသုံးပြုရန် ဆလွန် (1995 Model) မော်တော်ယာဉ် (၃၅)စီးကို ခေတ္တအသုံးပြုခွင့် အကူအညီပေး လှူဒါန်းမည့် အလှူရှင်များလိုအပ်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။

၂။ မော်တော်ယာဉ်သုံးစွဲခွင့် လှူဒါန်းရမည့်ကာလမှာ စုစုပေါင်း (၈)ရက် (၇-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့မှ ၁၄-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့အထိ) ဖြစ်ပြီး အဆိုပါယာဉ်များ၏စက်သုံးဆီနှင့် အုပ်ချုပ်မှုကိစ္စကို ကြိုဆိုပို့ဆောင်ရေးဆပ်ကော်မတီက တာဝန်ယူပါမည်။ လှူဒါန်းလိုသူအလှူရှင်များသည် အောက်ပါပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များထံ ဆက်သွယ်၍ ကြိုတောင်းကြမ်း ကုသိုလ်ရယူလှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း နိဗ္ဗာန်အကျိုးမျှော်၍ နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (က) ဦးလှသောင်းမြင့် ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ် မှန်း ၅၇၀၀၀၉ ကုန်းလမ်းပို့ဆောင်ရေးညွှန်ကြားမှုဦးစီးဌာန
- (ခ) ဒေါ်ခင်ခင်ဝင်း ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး ကုန်းလမ်းပို့ဆောင်ရေးညွှန်ကြားမှုဦးစီးဌာန မှန်း ၅၇၃၀၀၅
- (ဂ) ဦးမြင့်မော် ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး ပို့ဆောင်ရေးစီမံကိန်းဦးစီးဌာန မှန်း ၂၉၅၁၇၃

ကြိုဆိုပို့ဆောင်ရေးဆပ်ကော်မတီ

International-level Buddhist Pitakas (Treatises) Library soon to emerge

YANGON, 28 Nov — With the assistance rendered by the Central Universities Library of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Education, an e-library will be facilitated on the eighth floor of the Mahasantisukha Buddhist Missionary Centre in Natchaung Ward, Tamway Town-

ship. Thanks to the establishment of the library, Buddhist treatises all the world over can be studied at one stop.

It is estimated that the establishment of the library will cost nearly K 6.84 million.

Under the patronage of the parents of both sides, the family of U Thein Oo and Daw Khin Khin Sein donated the

total cost to mark their 34th anniversary of marriage through Col Saw Myint (Retd), Chairman of the Executive Board of Trustees.

They presented their donation before Sayadaw Agga Maha Gantavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Janita on the ninth floor of the MBMC.

MNA



U Thein Oo-Daw Khin Khin Sein and family presents K 6,840,000 for Pitakat Taik of Maha Santisukha Missionary Centre to Chairman of the Monastery Board of Trustees Col Saw Myint (Retd).—(H)

Sub-printing House (Mandalay) offers Kathina robes to Sayadaws

YANGON, 28 Nov — The third communal Kathina robes offering ceremony was held at Myanmar Alin/Kyemon Sub-printing House (Mandalay) of News and Periodicals Enterprise

on 22 November.

Officials donated Kathina robes and alms to Thangedaw Meditation Centre Sayadaw Bhaddanta Varitta of Patheingyi Township and members of the

Sangha.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Editor U Nyunt Zaw and wife, assistant managers, staff families and guests.

MNA

Commander attends harvesting of Shweyinaye monsoon paddy in Yaksawk

YANGON, 28 Nov — A ceremony to harvest the model plot of Shweyinaye monsoon paddy was held in Htikham Village of Yaksawk Township on 23 November.

Present were Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Zaw Win of Bahtoo Station, local authorities and local farmers.

The commander in-

spected harvest of the model plot and harvester of Agriculture Mechanization Department.

The Chairman of the Yaksawk Township Peace and Development Council reported on facts about the region, cultivation of monsoon paddy and Shweyinaye paddy strain. Officials reported on their respective sectors.

The commander gave 10 baskets of paddy seed to the national race groups each.

On behalf of the

national race groups, U Khun San Lwin expressed gratitude.

The model plot of Shweyinaye monsoon paddy yielded 135.13 baskets of paddy per acre.

After the ceremony, the commander and party inspected sample paddy and rice, pesticide, fertilizers, rubber, corn, maize and coffee.

Later, the commander inspected Htikham Basic Education Middle School, Taungni Village and Market.

MNA

Bangladesh makes law to stop waterways grabbing

DHAKA, 28 Nov — The Bangladeshi Government will make a law banning the practice of filling water bodies and riverbanks and construction of structures on them in this most densely populated South Asian country, according to the official news agency BSS Saturday. The grabbing of both banks of the river Buriganga, which flows just south of Dhaka and once the lifeline of the country's capital, and filling of lakes in the posh Gulshan and Dhanmondi

areas in Dhaka prompted the government to make the law with provision of five-year prison term and fine for violators. A draft bill will be presented to the Cabinet meeting for approval to make it a law through the national Parliament, the agency said.

However, the environment activists criticized the draft bill saying it failed to come up with measures to recover the land that has already been grabbed.

The pressure on land in the capital of around

10 million people has increased and this is the reason of grabbing lands in the capital.

Both the banks of river Buriganga have been grabbed by people and different organizations defying the government rules and environment activists.

The environment activists have formed an organization named "Save Buriganga" and the organization is campaigning against the grabbing asking the government to evict those illegal occupants.

MNA/Xinhua

CPC urged to lift advanced culture construction ability

BEIJING, 28 Nov — Li Changchun, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said improving the Party's ability to construct advanced socialist culture is of great importance for its governance in China.

"The ability is well in alliance with the Party's general governance targets," said Li. "And it should be viewed as a major means in enhancing the Party's governance capability."

Li, who is a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said the fostering such an ability will be of guiding and nationwide significance if China simply wants to win the international national power competition between countries.

Li made the remarks during an investigation and investigation tour on the Party's capability in improving the construc-

tion of advanced socialist culture in Anhui, Guangdong and Fujian provinces.

"To achieve that goal, the Party must make more efforts in the study and construction of the Marxism theory and fully implement the arduous task of arming the whole Party and educating the people with Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin's Party building thoughts."

MNA/Xinhua

Major gap in China's maternal mortality rates announced

BEIJING, 28 Nov — The Chinese Ministry of Health said here Friday the rate of rural women dying in childbirth in 2003 was 2.4 times that of the urban women.

The maternal mortality rate for rural Chinese women in 2003 was 65.4 deaths for every 100,000 mothers, compared with the 27.6 per 100,000 for the urban women, according to the ministry. But the country's general maternal

mortality rate had dropped from 53 per 100,000 in 2000 to 51.3 per 100,000 in 2003.

The mortality rate for infants in rural areas was 2.5 times that of babies in urban areas.

But overall, China's infant mortality rate

dropped to 2.55 per cent in 2003, compared with 3.22 per cent in 2000, according to the ministry.

The mortality rate for the children under 5 also fell, from 3.97 per cent to 2.99 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



Swe Swe Thant of Myanmar stands second in women's Nanquan event held on 27-11-2004. (News reported)— NLM

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

ASEAN, China sign MoU on transport cooperation

VIENTIANE, 28 Nov— The 10-member ASEAN signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Transport Cooperation with China here on Saturday.

China's Minister of Communications Zhang Chunxian and ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) signed the MoU. Zhang said in an interview with *Xinhua* after the signing ceremony that with the signing, ASEAN and China will have a legally based medium-to-long-term cooperation partnership.

He said that the MoU covers ASEAN-China transport cooperation on infrastructure, transport facilitating, marine transport and marine affairs, capacity building and information sharing.

The minister said he believed that the MoU is a breakthrough for ASEAN-China transport cooperation as it not only lays down a legal base for launching future cooperative projects, but has a strong guiding role and high operability.

He said, "The fundamental objective of the cooperation is to accelerate infrastructure linkages and enhance cross-border movement of goods and people, which in turn reinforces the establishment of an ASEAN-China free trade area as well as the synergy in seeking common prosperity for nearly 1.8 billion population with 1.2-trillion-US-dollar annual trade volume in the ASEAN countries and China."

He said, "We feel so

much assured that the ASEAN-China transport cooperation is becoming more consolidated with every step forward and has constituted an essential part in building a partnership of mutual trust and practical cooperation between ASEAN and China."

The minister said it is the strong aspirations of the people of ASEAN and China in seeking cooperation for a win-win result.

He said China has over 100 land and river ports at different levels bordering with the ASEAN countries. The potential for further promoting transport cooperation is great.

Zhang said that the ASEAN-China cooperation has been fruitful in the past months.

He said the construction of Lao section of Kunming-Bangkok Highway started in April this year, with 30 million US dollars of investment from China.

He added that the Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network covering 32 countries was concluded in Shanghai in April this year, to which some of the ASEAN countries have become parties.

The minister added that China's linkage with this road network accumulates a mileage of 26,000 kilometres, accounting for 20 per cent of the total length of the network.

He added that China is also stepping up the construction of highways to connect with this network.

The minister said China has provided one-million-US-dollar financial assistance for the pre-feasibility study of the missing link of the Trans-Asian Railway inside Cambodia.

He believed that with the stable long-term cooperation framework and practical cooperative operations, ASEAN and China would surely have a great prospect for the future.

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

MNA/Xinhua

News from the Districts

Self-reliant Library opened in Hopin Township

HOPIN, 12 Nov — Alin Saytaman Self-reliant Library, organized by Hopin Township Information and Public Relations Department, was opened at the monastery in Thegon Village, Tagwin Village-tract, Hopin Township, on 23 October.

Officials opened the library and gave lectures on the purpose of establishing the library and advantages.

Later, the chairman of the construction of the library accepted K 5,000 and 100 copies of magazines and journals donated by the District USDA; 50 copies of periodicals by Hopin Township IPRD; K 8,500 and 50 books by local authorities and 200 books by wellwishers.

MYANMA ALIN

Progress of gravel road inspected in Kyaiklat

KYAIKLAT, 27 Nov—Kyaiklat Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Mya Han, Secretary of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Than Win and officials inspected progress of Kyaunglan Road being built by the Township Development Affairs Committee under the arrangement of Kyaiklat Township USDA on 7 November.

It is 900 feet long and 10 feet wide gravel road. The government had spent K 2.5 million on the construction task.

KYEMON

Construction of tarred road supervised in Mahlaing

MAHLAING, 15 Nov— The two miles and two furlongs long earth road linking Meiktila-Myingyan Road and Htanbinkan Village in Mahlaing Township is being upgraded to the tarred road.

On 8 November, Executive of Township Development Affairs Committee U Tun Aung Khin and officials supervised the upgrading tasks.

Wellwishers U Htoo Maung-Daw Htar Htar Aye and family of Mogok sponsored to build the road spending K 37 million.

MYANMA ALIN

Livestock breeding tasks extended in Mongyawn

MONGYAWNG, 24 Nov — A ceremony to hand over poultry and pig to locals was held at the hall in Poncho Village, Mongyawn Township, Mongphyat District, on 21 November.

Chairman of Mongphyat District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Nyunt and Head of Shan State (East) Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Hlaing gave 440 poultry and 92 pigs to the local people.

MYANMA ALIN

Phakant Township gets self-reliant village library

PHAKANT, 5 Nov—Yadana self-reliant library was opened in Mawsisa Village, Lonkhin Village-tract of Phakant Township, on 18 October.

Head of Phakant Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Wai Lwin and officials opened the library.

Later, those present donated 535 books and periodicals and K 170,000 to the library committee members.

MYANMA ALIN



China's Premier Wen Jiabao is greeted at Vientiane Wattay international airport on the eve of the 10th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Laos on 28 Nov 2004. —INTERNET

ASEAN-ROK free trade area to be established within 10 years

VIENTIANE, 28 Nov— Foreign ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) here Saturday welcomed a document under which an ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Area will be established within 10 years, spokesman of the 10th ASEAN Summit Yong Changthalangsy told a Press briefing.

The document, the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership, will be adopted by the ASEAN+ROK Summit

on 30 November.

Yong, who is also director of the Press Department of the Lao Foreign Ministry, said that during the ASEAN+ROK Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN welcomed the ROK's decision to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on Saturday.

The ROK called on ASEAN to continue its support for the six-party talks for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. ASEAN urged the ROK to use the ASEAN re-

gional Forum as another forum to discuss the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

ASEAN expressed appreciation for the ROK's support to economic integration and in narrowing the development gap in ASEAN.

The ministerial meeting noted that the ROK's cumulative investments in ASEAN amounted to 11 billion US dollars as of the end of 2003, which accounted for 15.2 per cent of the ROK's total FDI outflow, making

ASEAN the third largest investment destination for the ROK's firms after the United States and China.

The spokesman said that to commemorate the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-ROK relations, the ROK will be launching two special projects, namely, visit of ROK celebrities to ASEAN cities to promote greater cultural understanding and issuance of commemorative stamps which will be presented to the ASEAN-ROK Summit on November 30.

MNA/Xinhua

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:-

SrNo.	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), Myanma 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, Myanma Railways,
Botataung, Yangon

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
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Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
Email: MYINT.Advocate@myintlaw.com
Ph: 371 990 2004

**India test-fires
"Akash" missile**

NEW DELHI, 27 Nov— India successfully test-fired Friday the *Akash* surface-to-air missile from a range in Orissa State in east India, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted a local defence source as said.

The home-grown multi-target missile was fired from the integrated test range at Chandipur at 12:30 pm, the source said.

Akash, which has a 25-kilometre range, uses a ramjet propulsion system and is powered by an air-breathing engine.

The missile is deployed in tandem with the

indigenously developed radar Rajendra, which can simultaneously track 64 aircraft within a range of 40 kilometres to 60 kilometres.

Akash is one of the five missiles under various stages of development by the Defence Research and Development Organization.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines likely to keep 2004 budget deficit below ceiling

MANILA, 27 Nov—The Philippines is likely to keep well within the 2004 budget and consolidated public sector deficit targets due to improved revenue flows and increased electricity tariffs, officials said Friday.

The budget deficit for the first 10 months this year fell 9.9 per cent year-on-year to 147.7 billion pesos (2.62 billion US dollars), while the deficit in October alone reached 5.8 billion pesos (103 million US dollars), according to the government statistics.

"As far as the national government is concerned, we expect a lowering of our deficit for 2004 because of certain improvements in our revenue collection," Finance Secretary Juanita Amalong told a news conference.

The full-year ceiling of about 197.8 billion pesos (3.51 billion US dollars), or 4.2 per cent of the expected gross domestic product (GDP), should be met with room to spare, Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima said in the same briefing.

"The most likely outcome will be much lower. It's going to be 196 billion

pesos (3.48 billion US dollars)," he added.

The full-year figure of the consolidated public sector deficit, which includes financing gaps of state-owned corporations including loss-making National Power Corp, should be much less than the original target of 6.7 per cent of GDP, the two Cabinet members said.

"Our outlook for this year is a 5.6 per cent consolidated public sector deficit," Amalong said.

This would be equivalent to about 257 billion pesos (4.56 billion US dollars), instead of the planned 316 billion pesos (5.61 billion US dollars), Purisima said. Amalong said that 2005 should be a "much better year" with the expected passage in Congress of some of the eight tax measures proposed by President Gloria Maca-pagal-Arroyo.

MNA/Xinhua

**German police
seize firearms;
arrest two**

BERLIN, 27 Nov—German authorities have seized firearms and arrested two suspected far-right extremists who they say led a society that re-enacted battles dressed as Adolf Hitler's SS bodyguards.

Police raided two homes in western Germany and other addresses in the north and east of the country on Thursday, police and prosecutors in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia said on Friday.

Two suspects aged 20 and 31 were detained after police found two pistols, two machineguns, a home-made automatic weapon and ammunition at their homes.

Neither of the men had licences for the firearms and both were brought before an examining magistrate on Friday.

MNA/Reuters



Chirac to offer French telecom chief finance portfolio

PARIS, 27 Nov —France Telecom chief Thierry Breton emerged as the frontrunner to replace Nicolas Sarkozy as France's finance minister after a report on Thursday that President Jacques Chirac had offered him the job.

Sarkozy is due to step down on Monday to take over as head of the ruling Union for a Popular Movement Party (UMP), a post that will give him a platform to launch an expected presidential bid in an election due in 2007.

Conservative daily *Le Figaro* reported Chirac had telephoned Breton to offer him the finance portfolio and that Breton had promised to reply by Saturday. If he turned the offer down, Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy would get the job, it said.

"We are not aware of anything about this," a France Telecom spokesman said when asked about the report. A spokeswoman at Chirac's office declined to comment on the report in *Le Figaro* and Sarkozy's spokesman said he had no information on who would take over at the Finance Ministry.

Whoever replaces Sarkozy will face a big task — to trim the public deficit to below 3 per cent of gross domestic product in 2005 to meet European Union targets, help the government reduce un-

employment from close to 10 per cent and carry out a pledge by Chirac for more cuts in corporate and income tax.

The name of Breton, 49, has been mentioned increasingly in recent weeks in the absence of an obvious successor. He has been trying to keep telecommunications giant France Telecom afloat after turning around television manufacturer Thomson.

Neither Breton or Douste-Blazy has the experience or political weight of Sarkozy. Whoever succeeds him will largely be an instrument of policies set by Chirac, ensuring none would be in a position to make major policy changes as minister.

"I make decisions, he carries them out," Chirac said of Sarkozy in July, spelling out the relationship he expects to have with his finance minister.

Another newspaper report earlier this week suggested Breton was not interested in the job. Breton himself has remained silent.

MNA/Reuters

US regulators do not ensure airlines comply with rules

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov— US regulators are doing an incomplete job of ensuring that passenger and cargo airlines comply with rules for monitoring hazardous materials, a government audit showed on Friday.

The audit was led by Alexis Stefani, the Transportation Department's assistant inspector-general.

It found that enforcement actions take, on average, more than a year to complete, and many are not pursued because the FAA does not move fast enough to meet deadlines. Also, regulators often agree to accept far less in fines than the amounts they propose.

The investigation found that enforcement by the Federal Aviation Administration remains flawed, even though the agency boosted oversight of dangerous cargo after

the 1996 crash of *Valujet* Flight 592.

The crash, in Florida's Everglades, killed 110 people and was blamed on improperly packaged oxygen generators that caught fire.

While the FAA has improved monitoring of dangerous cargo in recent years, the investigation concluded that current enforcement was "cumbersome, lengthy, and sometimes ineffective." New approaches are needed, the audit recommended.

But the FAA disagreed with the audit's conclusions.

"We don't agree our

programme is flawed," said Diane Spitaliere, an FAA spokeswoman. "Hazardous materials is an issue the FAA takes seriously and we have taken many steps to strengthen the programme."

The FAA investigated more than 11,000 enforcement cases between 1999 and 2003 and handed out more than 35 million US dollars in fines, the inspector general's audit reported.

The critique also found the government does not keep thorough records on authorized shipments of hazardous materials.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistani President embarks on Latin America visit

ISLAMABAD, 27 Nov — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf embarked Friday on eight-day visit to three Latin American countries — Brazil, Argentina and Mexico, becoming the first Pakistani leader to visit the region.

"My discussion in Latin American states would focus on increasing economic and trade ties," Musharraf told reporters at the Chaklala military air base in Islamabad on his departure.

"Our political relations are good with all of them but it needs to be consolidated through economic, commerce and trade relations," he said.

A trade delegation is also accompanying the President on the visit to

explore ways and means of enhancing economic relations with these countries, primarily in the private sector.

Musharraf will also visit the United States, Britain and France.

MNA/Xinhua

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Buckingham Palace terms "Time's" Prince report "irresponsible"

LONDON, 27 Nov — Buckingham Palace on Friday termed "irresponsible" newspaper reports that a kidnap threat forced Britain's Prince Harry to cut short a trip to a polo pony farm in Argentina.

A spokesman for Harry, son of heir-to-the throne Prince Charles and the late princess Diana, played down front page reports in most British newspapers that armed police foiled a plot to kidnap the young prince.

"I have seen the headlines. It is just hugely irresponsible," the royal spokesman said, declining to categorically deny the stories.

"We never comment on security matters," he added.

Harry, third in line to the throne, arrived back in Britain early on Friday and made no comment to waiting reporters.

The Times trailed the story on its front page with the banner headline: "Kidnap threat forces Prince Harry home".

Citing the Argentine newspaper Pagina 12, the Times said a murder suspect in the local underworld tipped off the Argentine Government about a plot to kidnap the Prince.

The Times report said 15 armed officers were sent to patrol the ranch, in Lobos in the Pampa region, 60 miles southwest of the capital Buenos Aires.

It said police fired shots into the air on Wednesday night after detectives suspected kidnapers were near the ranch.

Local police told Reuters on Thursday that shots were heard near the horse ranch, but said this was nothing unusual.

The mayor of Lobos, Gustavo Sobrero, attributed the shots to hare hunters in comments to radio station Mitre on Thursday.

The British Embassy in Buenos Aires would not comment.

The 20-year-old Prince arrived at the ranch less than a month after scuffling with a photographer outside a central London nightclub.

Harry earned the reputation as a royal "wild child" after revelations that he smoked marijuana and drank when underage.

MNA/Reuters

Russia's Duma passes stricter law on beer

Moscow, 27 Nov — Russia's Lower House of Parliament unanimously passed a stricter law on beer sales and consumption on Friday that widened a proposed list of places where the amber liquid may not be consumed.

The bill now has to be approved by the Upper House, which rejected it earlier this month, and signed into law by the President.

The amended bill is even stiffer than the original, banning beer sales on public transport and in cultural and sports buildings in addition to a list of places including hospitals and schools and the land around them.

In the last five years, beer consumption has doubled in Russia, especially among the younger generation, making it the fastest growing beer market in the world after China.

Both the brewers and the government, which strongly opposes the bill,

agree any street ban would be hard to enforce because there are about 600,000 outlets selling beer.

The bill would introduce a ban on beer drinking on the street and in stadiums, parks, public transport and other public sites except restaurants and places selling draught beer.

Some 30 per cent of beer sold in the country is intended for immediate consumption. SUN Interbrew, controlled by Belgium's InBev, says 67 per cent of its Russian sales are made at small street kiosks.

SUN Interbrew sells only 6 per cent of its beer in restaurants in Russia, compared with nearly 30 per cent in Europe, be-

cause eating out is prohibitively expensive for most Russians.

The amended bill would come into force 30 days after its publication in the official gazette, instead of on April 1, 2005.

Deputies plan to speed up work on amendments to current legislation that would provide for a 100 rouble (3.50 US dollars) fine for drinking and selling beer in public.

In August, the Duma passed a law to strictly limit beer advertising.

The bill was also opposed by the government, and the Federation Council is preparing an amendment that would allow breweries to advertise at sports events.

MNA/Reuters

UNSG's son paid monthly payments from Swiss firm

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Nov — The son of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan got monthly payments more than four years longer than was previously known from a Swiss firm that won a lucrative contract under the scandal-ridden UN oil-for-food programme, the United Nations said on Friday.

Kojo Annan, the UN leader's son, was paid 2,500 US dollars monthly — a total of 125,000 US dollars — by Geneva-based Cotecna from the beginning of 2000 through last February, as part of an agreement not to compete with Cotecna in West Africa after he left the firm, UN chief spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

There have been no specific charges of wrongdoing on the part of the Secretary-General in the world body's December 1998 award to Cotecna of a multimillion-dollar contract to monitor Iraqi imports under the oil-for-food programme.

But the disclosure of the extra years of payments renewed questions about conflicts of interest and left Annan and his staff looking inept in their handling of the matter.

The programme, which let Iraq export oil and use the proceeds to buy food and other goods despite a UN ban on oil sales, was shut down after last year's US-led invasion of Iraq.

MNA/Reuters



Sumatran Tiger female Assiqua (top), gives an affectionate lick to Sendiri (below), one of her three cubs at Sydney's Taronga Zoo.—INTERNET

Auto industry sees growth in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 27 Nov — The automobile industry in Nepal has seen a phenomenal growth in the last decade, with registered vehicles up from 131,839 in 1993-1994 to 432,264 in 2003-2004.

Data provided on Friday by the Nepali Department of Transport Management said the popularity of cars has sky-rocketed in the last couple of years, attesting to the expansion of a section of the society that can absorb the rising costs of vehicles and taxes on automobiles.

The average number of vehicles registered during the last five years stands around 4,500 a year.

Only 2,029 vehicles were registered in the fiscal 2002-2003, but a whopping rise of over 143.5 per cent took place in 2003-2004 with 7,079 vehicles registered, according to the data.

The growth in Business-segment has led to a fierce competition, especially after the entry of car makers like Hyundai and Kia.

Although there is no official figure, Suzuki-Maruti is the acknowledged market leader in this segment with about

40 per cent of the market share.

Industry experts say Hyundai comes the second with about 35 per cent.

The introduction of Santro from Hyundai in 1998 by Avco International Pvt Ltd, distributor of Hyundai motors in Nepal, brought a big change in the B-segment.

"After-sales relations with customers through services and customer-relations management has pushed us to this height.

"We sold more than 2,500 cars in six years," said Sunil Shrestha, director at Avco International.

"More than 90 per cent Hyundai cars are purchased under various financial schemes."

Good finance schemes and exciting offers in after sales services as well as changing lifestyle have led to his boom in B-segment, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Serious abuse of int'l aid uncovered

BRUSSELS, 27 Nov — The European Union's anti-fraud watchdog, OLAF, has uncovered serious abuse of international aid with major donors being overcharged for projects and money being siphoned off into secret private bank accounts.

The 25-nation bloc is one of the world's largest aid donors and in its annual report, published on Friday, OLAF said the EU's humanitarian and development aid to third countries was a victim of "complex and well-organized" financial fraud. "Such fraud takes an

advantage of the lack of coordination in the monitoring and auditing activities between the various international donors," the OLAF report said.

"The combination of multiple sources of financing and other factors has increased the complexity of accounting and

reporting requirements and so made it easier to divert funds for personal or criminal benefit," it added.

In one case investigated by OLAF, an Italian non-profit organization that was not identified received 11 million euros (14.34 million US

dollars) from the European Union and almost 17 million from Italy to finance 28 projects in the third world.

The probe showed the organization had sent fake or duplicate invoices and only part of the money had gone to projects.

MNA/Reuters

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Udinese beat Livorno 2-1

MILAN, 28 Nov— Udinese took a firm grip on third place in Serie A by picking up their fourth successive away win with a 2-1 victory at Livorno on Saturday.

Udinese are five points clear of fourth-placed Messina ahead of Sunday's games and within three points of AC Milan, who are second. Leaders Juventus face Inter Milan at the San Siro on Sunday.

Luciano Spalletti's side opened the scoring in the 13th minute with a beautifully worked move finished off in style by Vincenzo Iaquinta, who fired home a powerful shot on the turn.

Livorno almost equalized when their big striker Cristiano Lucarelli had a firm header well saved by Morgan De Sanctis but nine minutes after the break the visitors doubled their lead.

Giampiero Pinzi headed down a Marek Jankulovski corner and David Di Michele pounced to fire home amid protests from Livorno players that he handled the ball.—MNA/Reuters

Totti, Montella end Roma's run of defeats

MILAN, 28 Nov— AS Roma ended a run of four defeats with a 4-0 win at Siena in Serie A on Saturday with two goals each from Vincenzo Montella and Francesco Totti.

Udinese took a firm grip on third place by picking up their fourth successive away win with a 2-1 victory at Livorno to move five points clear of fourth-placed Messina ahead of Sunday's games and within three points of AC Milan, who are second.

Leaders Juventus face Inter Milan at the San Siro on Sunday.

Roma's game at Siena was held up for over 20 minutes in the first half when smoke bombs thrown by fans reduced visibility so much that the referee was forced to take the players off.

Roma's goals came in the second half and all four were created by troubled striker Antonio Cassano, who recently looked to be

on his way out of the club.

The rebellious Cassano showed his other side, as a gifted creative talent, when he crossed from the left for Montella to head home at the back post in the 59th minute.

Nine minutes later Cassano produced a sublime piece of skill when a corner looked to be going out of play but he managed to flick the ball with the outside of his heel into the path of Montella who converted from close range.

Montella, now Serie A's top scorer with 11 goals, missed a great chance to complete a hat-trick when he shot wide after breaking clear but Roma were unstoppable and soon made it 3-0.

After a swift break, Cassano slipped the ball into the path of Totti who converted a straightforward chance. Then in injury time the pair combined again with Totti coolly lifting the ball over the advancing Siena keeper Marco Fortin.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Alex Ferguson celebrates his team's win over Olympic Lyonnais and his 1,000th game as the team's manager. United will play second-from-bottom West Brom.

INTERNET

Wiltord's return to lead Olympique Lyon 2-1 over AJ Auxerre

PARIS, 28 Nov— Sylvain Wiltord scored one goal and made another as he returned to lead Olympique Lyon to a 2-1 victory over AJ Auxerre in a Ligue 1 game on Saturday.

Olympique Marseille, whose coach and president resigned in mid-week, left their worries behind as they beat Nantes 3-1.

Wiltord, who was back in the starting lineup after a month out with an ankle injury, scored after five minutes before setting up Juninho Pernambucano for the second in the 29th.

Lyon, the only unbeaten side in Ligue 1, now have a six-point lead over second-placed Lille, who host lowly Racing Strasbourg on Sunday.

Wiltord, who has been in excellent form since he joined from English champions Arsenal in the close season, scored from close range early on from a cross by Sidney Govou.

It was the French international's first Ligue 1 goal since he scored for Girondins Bordeaux in May 2000, although he has found the net in the Champions League this season.

"I was looking forward to it," said Wiltord, who had moved to Arsenal in the 2000-2001 season.

"It's my first (Ligue 1) goal with Lyon and it was an early goal. It helped us take it easy enough. I did not have any problems adapting here. I was well looked after. We have a great team and I hope we'll go all the way (in the title race)," he said.

Wiltord, who was a second-half substitute in Tuesday's 2-1 Champions League defeat at Manchester United, was also instrumental in Lyon's second goal scored by Juninho.

The forward crossed from the right wing for the Brazilian international to volley home his fourth goal of the season.

Benoit Cheyrou scored a consolation goal in the 66th minute as Auxerre dominated most of the second half. It was the first goal conceded by Lyon since August.

"We keep on winning in style. It was a good game overall and when our legs let us down, we had enough heart left to hold the result," said coach Paul Le Guen.—MNA/Reuters

Barca hold on leadership of Primera Liga

MADRID, 28 Nov— Barcelona held off a spirited comeback by newcomers Getafe to claim a nervous 2-1 win and cement their hold on the leadership of the Primera Liga on Saturday.

The Catalans went 2-0 up at the break thanks to a fiercely struck free kick from Mexican international Rafael Marquez and a superb strike from Portugal midfielder Deco.

But they had to endure a nervous half hour after Gica Craioveanu pulled a goal back for Getafe early in the second half before the pressure was eased when the Romanian was sent off seven minutes from

time for a foul on Deco. The win puts Frank Rijkaard's side 10 points clear at the top of the table, although second-placed Real Madrid can narrow the gap to seven on Sunday if they beat visiting Levante.

Athletic Bilbao eased concerns about their poor start to the season when they cruised to a classy 3-0 win over Racing Santander, a result that

pushed them up to 12th place, four points clear of the relegation zone.

A delightful chip from Santi Ezquerro and a neat header from fellow midfielder Carlos Gurpegi made it 2-0 at the break, while centre-forward Ismael Urzaiz wrapped up the win in the second half with his eighth goal of the season with a trademark header. Barcelona were quick to gain control of possession against Getafe but their well-drilled opponents gave them little time on the ball as they hounded them down in midfield and crowded them out at the back.

The visitors took the lead from a set piece in the 20th minute, Marquez scoring with a scorching 25-metre free kick after Ronaldinho had diverted attention with a decoy run across the face of the area.

Getafe were still dusting themselves down when Barca hit them again with a superbly worked goal after a lightning counter-attack.—MNA/Reuters

Bayern Munich strengthen grip at top of Bundesliga

FRANKFURT, 28 Nov— Bayern Munich strengthened their grip at the top of the Bundesliga with a 4-2 victory at home to FSV Mainz on Saturday as faltering Wolfsburg went down 3-2 at home to Hertha Berlin.

Bayern's sixth win in their last seven league games gave them 32 points from 15 games and took them five clear of second-placed Schalke 04, who are not in action until Sunday, and Wolfsburg, who drop to third.

Claudio Pizarro converted a Ze Roberto cross to put Felix Magath's side ahead after 14 minutes, Mehmet Scholl doubled the lead 10 minutes before the break and Roy Makaay was ruled outside to beat the keeper in first-half injury-time.

Bayern eased up after the break and Christof Babatz and Claudius Weber scored for the visitors late on, either side of a Michael Ballack header.

Wolfsburg recovered from 2-0 down against Hertha Berlin to level with

goals from Pablo Thiam and Thomas Brdaric but Brazilian forward Marcelinho completed a hat-trick in the 75th minute to consign the home side to defeat.

Schalke, with 27 points,

and VfB Stuttgart, in fourth a further point behind, can close the gap on Bayern on Sunday when Schalke host Arminia Bielefeld and Stuttgart visit Hanover 96.

MNA/Reuters



Thomas Bjorn of Denmark hits a shot during the third round of the US\$1 million Volvo China Open at Shanghai Silport Golf Club on 27 November, 2004.—INTERNET

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle

U	P	P	E	R		G	U	M	T	R	E	E
N	I	U		R		E		E		V		
C	A	P	R	I	C	E		L	O	D	G	E
I	E	N		E		O		O		R		
V	I	R	G	O		C	E	N	T	U	R	Y
I				U	S	E	D			B		
L	A	V	I	S	H		G	E	N	T	L	E
				A			O	P	E	N		N
K	E	N	N	E	D	Y		T	H	O	N	G
N	D		X		T		R		L		A	
E	X	A	C	T		H	E	A	R	I	N	G
A	L		R		S	O		N		V		E
D	I	S	D	A	I	N		T	W	E	E	D

Japan, ASEAN to outline anti-terrorism cooperation among police

TOKYO, 28 Nov— Top leaders of Japan and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are set to adopt a statement next week in Laos outlining anti-terrorism cooperation among their police forces, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Japan and the 10 member states of ASEAN will finalize a joint declaration for international anti-terrorism cooperation at their annual summit meeting scheduled next Tuesday in the Laotian capital of Vientiane.

In a draft declaration obtained Saturday by *Xinhua*, the countries agree to launch an annual working-level conference among their police officials to review the results of their counterterrorism measures and to examine ways to eradicate the sources of funding for terrorists.

The document also points out that the countries reject attempts to link terrorism with specific religions, ethnic groups or nationalities, likely in consid-

eration of the diverse ethnicities, religions and cultures represented in ASEAN countries.

The leaders are expected to agree to reinforce police cooperation and to call for the early conclusion of treaties aimed at preventing terrorism and for efforts to stop terrorists from taking advantage of charity organizations.

They will also promote cooperation with the Southeast Asian anti-terrorism centre operated by the Malaysian Government and seek to improve the abilities of staff at anti-terrorism organizations through training and other means, according to the draft.

MNA/Xinhua

China to establish 18-container distribution centres

NANNING, 28 Nov— China will establish 18-container distribution centres to form a cargo transport network composed of 16,000 kilometres of railways by 2020, an official said here Saturday.

Wang Zhaocheng, Vice-Minister of Railways, said the project would help the country

meet the surging demand of freight transport in the railway sector.

According to Wang, the 18 containers distribution centres will be built in major coastal and inland cities, which will be linked by railroads capable of handling double-decker container trains.

Construction on the first centre, based in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province in southwest China, began in July this year.

It is expected to go into operation in two years at a cost of 500 million yuan (60 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Typhoon "Muifa" kills 11 in central Vietnam

HANOI, 28 Nov— Flash floods triggered by Typhoon Muifa have killed at least 11 people in central Vietnam, officials said on Saturday.

Rains started this week in the central region, wreaking havoc, but no damage has been reported to the harvest in the Central Highlands coffee belt.

"A red alert has been issued as floodwater is rising in all rivers in the area," said a disaster management official from the coastal province of Quang Ngai. He said at least four people from the province had been swept away in flash floods.

Officials from neighbouring provinces including Quang Nam, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri said seven people had been killed.

State weather forecasters said floodwater levels in the Thach Han River in Quang Tri Province, around 372 miles south of the capital Hanoi, had peaked at a year-high of 18.54 feet early on Saturday morning.

Weather forecasters

reported only mild, occasional rains in the Central Highlands coffee belt.

"The sprinkle has not affected the coffee harvest yet. There might be some delay to the beans-drying process," said a coffee trader in Daklak, Vietnam's key coffee growing province.

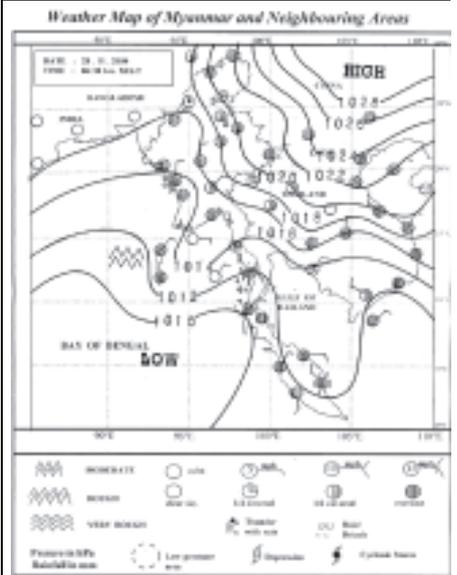
The central region in-

corporating the Central Highlands coffee belt is not a key area for rice.

Vietnam is the world's second biggest exporter of the grain after Thailand, and the largest producer of robusta coffee.

Low-lying areas in Thua Thien Hue Province were inundated.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Sunday, 28 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been scattered in Kachin and Rakhine State, Magway Division, isolated in Chin State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kyauktaw (0.55) inch. Night temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Magway, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Putao (8°C), Nansam (9°C) and Mindat (10°C).

Maximum temperature on 27-11-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 28-11-2004 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-11-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 27-11-2004 was (6.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-11-2004 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 8 mph from Northeast at (11:35) hours MST on 27-11-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Andaman Sea and adjoining East Central Bay has become unimportant. Weather is partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and East Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperature in the eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-11-2004: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-11-2004: Partly cloudy.



Monday, November 29
View on today:

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. ရေချိုးခန်းမင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အင်္ကျီတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌရာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအရှေ့ဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မတော်က၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာနိဂါ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒမိမိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:15 am</p> <p>2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာနိဂါ၊ အရှေ့ဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိရာတိဝံသ(ဓမ္မာဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူသော ဥပ္ပါယ်သင်္ဂြိုဟ်တော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>3. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>4. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>5. Nice and sweet song</p>	<p>7:55 am</p> <p>6. Song of national races</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>7. Cute little dancers</p> <p>8:15 am</p> <p>8. ဘိုင်းခါးတံတား(ပဲခူးတိုင်း)</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>9. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>10. Grammar made easy</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. Musical programme</p> <p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. အပေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေးရပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗောဓိအကျင့်ပြု) (သတ္တဗောဓိ)</p> <p>5:15 pm</p> <p>6. Dance variety</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးစိတတေး</p>	<p>5:40 pm</p> <p>8. Songs and dance of national races</p> <p>5:55 pm</p> <p>9. Musical programme (The radio myanmar modern music troupe)</p> <p>6:05 pm</p> <p>10. Discovery</p> <p>6:15 pm</p> <p>11. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လမ်းတို့ "ဓမ္မာတော်မင်းကုန်း" (အပိုင်း-၅၅)</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>12. Evening news</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>13. Weather report</p> <p>7:05 pm</p> <p>14. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစာကား</p> <p>7:15 pm</p> <p>15. Industrial achievement</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>16. Musical programme</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>17. News</p> <p>18. International news</p> <p>19. Weather report</p> <p>20. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လမ်းတို့ "သံဃာ့ဓမ္မာတော်" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)</p> <p>21. The next day's programme</p>
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Monday, November 29
Tune in today:

<p>8:30 am Brief news</p> <p>8:35 am Music: -Tell it to your heart</p> <p>8:40 am Perspectives</p> <p>8:45 am Music: -Rose in my heart</p> <p>8:50 am National news</p> <p>9:00 am Music: -All I ever need is you</p> <p>9:05 am International news</p> <p>9:10 am Music: -These are your days</p> <p>1:30 pm News/Slogan</p> <p>1:40 pm Lugh time music: -I live my life for you</p> <p>9:00 pm Spotlight on the star "C 21"</p> <p>9:10 pm Aritle</p> <p>9:20 pm Radio magazine</p> <p>9:35 pm Vocal games: -Walk in glory</p> <p>9:45 pm News/Slogan</p> <p>10:00 pm PEL</p>

Ash of remains of Myingyan Sayadaw scattered into Yangon River

YANGON, 28 Nov— A ceremony to hold Pujaniya for ash of the remains of Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Chief of Pakokku Maha Withutarama Nikaya Presiding Nayaka of Myingyan Koehsaung Monastery and Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (South) Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Myingyan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera was held at the pandal of the pyre in the sports grounds on Pale Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township this morning.

Next, the ash of the Sayadaw were scattered into water at the confluence of Bago River and Yangon River.

Present on the oc-

casation were Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Presiding Nayaka of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Silakkhandhabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, local authorities, departmental officials, religious and social organization members, relatives of the Sayadaw and disciples.

The Magway Sayadaw and members of the Sangha paid homage to the ash and conveyed the ash kept in the golden and silver urns and the golden bag onto the carriage.

They carried the urns to Nanthida Jetty by the carriage along Pale Yadana Road, Pyidaungsu

Road and No 2 Highway in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Laydaunkan Road in Thingangyun Township, East Race Course in Tamway Township, Shwegondaing Road, Arzani Beikman Road, Kandawmingala Road and Ahlon Road in Bahan Township, Pyay Road, Phoneyyi Road and the Strand Road.

At the jetty, the urns and the bag were conveyed by members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials onto Bala Yaza Double Decker Vessel of Inland Water Transport.

Next, Bala Yaza Vessel carrying members of the Sangha, officials and relatives of the Sayadaw and Bala Kyaw Khaung Vessel carrying

(See page 9)



Dhatudaka Puja of ash of the remains of the Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw in progress.— MNA



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspects installation of machines at PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory.— INDUSTRY-1

Commander, Minister for Industry-1 attend Kathina robes offering ceremony, inspect factories in Mandalay

YANGON, 28 Nov— A ceremony to offer Kathina robes of Chanayethazan Township Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at Maha Aungmyay Dhamma Beikman of Taungsalin Monastery in Aungmyaythazan Township this morning, attended by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Mandalay Division USDA Patron Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, USDA Secretariat Member Minister for In-

dustry-1 U Aung Thuang, Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, Mandalay Division USDA Secretary U Tin Maung Oo and executives.

On the occasion, the congregation received Five Precepts from the Taungsalin Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tikkha.

Afterwards, the commander, the minister and guests offered Kathina robes and provisions to

Sayadaws and shared the merits gained.

(See page 9)

All 9,248 prisoners released

YANGON, 28 Nov — The State Peace and Development Council had already dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau on 22 October 2004.

It was observed that the NIB might have committed irregularities. According to the review of the irregularities, prison terms of 9248 convicts in total had been suspended — 3,937 on 18 November 2004 and 5,311 on 25 November 2004. And it is learnt that all the 9,248 convicts have now been released from the respective prisons. — MNA

Dinner hosted in honour of athletes of Wushu C'ships 2004

YANGON, 28 Nov— Myanmar Wushu Federation hosted a dinner in honour of athletes of 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road on 27 November evening.

Present at the dinner were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, MOC Member Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Chinese Minister of Sports President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian, officials of the Ministry of Sports, International Wushu Federation and

AWF, the president, the vice-presidents and executives of MWF and athletes. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Minister Mr Li Zhijian delivered addresses.

Next, those present were served with dinner. Before and during the dinner, artists from the hotel entertained variety of dances to the audience.— MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the dinner hosted to athletes and officials of 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004.— MNA