

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 228

4th Waning of Tazaungmon 1366 ME

Tuesday, 30 November 2004



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects coffee plantations in PyinOoLwin. —MNA

A&I Minister inspects coffee plantations in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 29 Nov — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited Doegwin Farm in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, on 26 November. Officials explained the planting of flowers and cinchona with the use of tissue culture, and production of quality vegetables and conservation of rare plant species. The minister sought means to distribute quality strains to the public and fulfil the technical requirements.

The minister observed samples of fruits, cinchona and other crops plantations, lettuces for hotels, a laboratory where tissue culture is conducted to

preserve rare orchids of local and foreign species.

In Pwedaung Farm, he inspected the thriving coffee plantations and met with officials, entrepreneurs and farmers, who explained extension of coffee plantation in PyinOoLwin and Nanwghkio townships, coffee research programme and requirements.

PyinOoLwin Township is extending plantation of coffee, that grows well in the region, said the minister. The Government will provide assistance to entrepreneurs to extend coffee plantation and markets, he said. Myanmar coffee is a marketable crop, he added. The minister also inspected cultivation of

various species of mushrooms that have medical potency, and medicines, coffee seeds, packages of coffee, coffee farms and mixed cropping. He then visited the section where Myanmar and FAO experts are jointly implementing a programme to produce coffee of high quality.

The following day, the minister observes private coffee farms where officials of Myanma Farms Enterprise explained land allotment and coffee plantation plans. The minister met with entrepreneurs and laid down the future work programme and made arrangements to provide assistance to them. — MNA

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

Third Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Women commences

YANGON, 29 Nov — The opening ceremony of the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women hosted by Myanmar was held at Grand Ballroom of Sedona Hotel this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa.

Also present on the occasion were Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, President of MWAFF Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of panel of patrons of MWAFF, Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Lay Myint, members of the MNCWA, ministers, deputy ministers, heads of departments, officials of ASEAN Secretariat, (See page 8)



Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivers an address at the opening of the Third Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Women. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 30 November, 2004

Make concerted efforts for national development

The State Peace and Development Council, enlisting the united strength of the national intellectuals and intelligentsia, is striving for the Union of Myanmar to be modern and developed and to be able to stand proudly among the international community.

This being so, it has systematically organized national forces in every sector so that they can actively participate in nation-building endeavours.

A coordination meeting on the holding of the 22nd Conference on ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22) was held in Yangon on 28 November and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address on the occasion, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the government, with the knowledge and skills of Myanmar engineers and architects, was building basic economic and urban development infrastructures necessary for strong national economy and higher living standard of the people and considerable success had been achieved.

Thanks to constant support and encouragement of the government, the Myanmar Engineering Society has been able to stand firmly as a national force.

With a membership of more than 7,000, including engineers both in government service and private sector, architects, construction entrepreneurs and engineering students, the MES is taking an active part in national endeavours.

Myanmar engineers have constructed 176 bridges 180 feet and above long, 167 dams, 271 river water pumping stations, transport infrastructures, socio-economic infrastructures and urban development infrastructures the length and breadth of the nation.

Since Myanmar joined the ASEAN, the Myanmar Engineering Society, like any other social organizations, has been actively cooperating with the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations.

We would like to call on Myanmar engineers to make continued efforts in nation-building endeavours for the Union of Myanmar to be modern and developed and to be able to stand proudly among the international community.

People's Desire

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

Minister receives Singaporean ambassador

YANGON, 29 Nov — Minister for Industry-I U Aung Thaung received Singaporean ambassador to Myanmar Mr T Jasudasan at his office this evening and discussed mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung receives the Singaporean ambassador. — MNA

Myanmar finance delegation returns from PRC



The Myanmar delegation being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials. — MNA

YANGON, 29 Nov — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the Sixth Informal Meeting of Deputy Heads of Finance and Central Bank ASEAN+3 held in Hainan Province,

People's Republic of China, on 27 November. The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, heads of department under the ministry and officials and families.

MNA

16th century artifacts found in Bago

YANGON, 29 Nov — Two men came across 16th century artifacts in Bago on 25 November while making preparations to hold the Tazaungdaing lighting festival in their ward.

The two, U Tin Win and U Than Win, of Nandawya Ward, found three bronze bells, with heights six inches, five inches and 4.5 inches respectively, three 3-inch-

high bronze bells, two pieces from a set of bronze cymbals and five bronze pieces while digging ground to erect a pole for a temporary pandal.

They presented the artifacts to the Bago branch of the Archaeology Department, the Ministry of Culture. The department will honour them with handsome awards. —MNA



The 16th century artifacts found in Bago Division. — CULTURE

New waterway under Hsinbyushin Bridge

YANGON, 29 Nov — A new waterway has been marked under Hsinbyushin Bridge on Chindwin River between piers No 11 and 12 with effect from 10 November.

The clearance of the new waterway is 64 metres in width and 11 metres in height. A triangle sign in green colour illuminated with green at night is fixed at the entrance to the waterway.

The no-entry sign is a red-coloured red cross lighted with red bulbs at night.

The waterway can be used only by a single boat at a time and priority must be given to the vessels sailing downstream the river. —MNA

စာပေဒါန

ကျေးဇူး ကိုယ့်အားကိုးကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များနှင့် စာပေဒါန ငွေပဒေသာပင် လှူဒါန်းပွဲကို အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပပါမည်။

နေ့ရက် - ၃-၁၂-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့)

အချိန် - မွန်လွဲ (၂) နာရီ

နေရာ - မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊

အစည်းအဝေးခန်းမ

သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

စာပေဒါနပြုလိုကြသော စေတနာရှင်၊ အလှူရှင်များ အချိန်မီတက်ရောက် လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်ဖိတ်ကြား အပ်ပါသည်။

မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
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Township Education Officer Daw Tin Tin Mya presents the first prize to fourth standard student Maung Sithu Aung who got the first five years consecutively at the prize presentation ceremony of No15 BEPS, North Dagon Township on 28th November. — H

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

Merchandise exports up in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 28 Nov—The value of total goods exports, comprising re-exports and domestic exports, rose 16.1 per cent in October compared with the same month last year, to 191.2 billion Hong Kong dollars (24.6 billion US dollars), according to a Hong Kong Government report on Friday.

The value of re-exports rose 16.2 per cent to 178.9 billion Hong Kong dollars (22.99 billion US dollars), while the value of domestic exports grew 14 per cent to 12.3 billion HK dollars (1.58 billion US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua



The Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, seen here in 1999 is one of the seven architectural achievements named here as winners of the 2004 Aga Khan award for architecture.—INTERNET



Japan requests ASEAN's support for inclusion in UNSC

VIENTIANE, 28 Nov—Japan has requested support of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for its inclusion in the reformed United Nations Security Council, spokesman of the 10th ASEAN Summit Yong Changthalangsy said Saturday.

He told a Press briefing that the ASEAN+Japan Ministerial Meeting held here Saturday exchanged views on the need to reform the United Nations and agreed that an expanded membership of the UNSC was the core of this reform. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Plan of Action to carry out the "Tokyo Declaration for the Dynamic and Enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium," which was adopted in 2003.

The ASEAN foreign ministers at-

tending the meeting acknowledged Japan's role in the economic development of Southeast Asia, particularly in the areas of trade, investment and tourism, according to Yong, who is also director of the Press Department of the Lao Foreign Ministry.

The meeting endorsed the draft Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism for adoption by the ASEAN+Japan Summit on 30 November.

MNA/Xinhua

Govt promotion key to Pan-PRD cooperation

HONG KONG, 28 Nov — Government promotion, coupled with market-driven strategies, is a key principle underlying cooperation within the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PRD) region, Chief Secretary for Administration Donald Tsang said here Friday.

Addressing the Pan-PRD Think-tanks Cooperation Meeting organized by the Central Policy Unit, Tsang said policy research is a prerequisite of government promotion efforts, noting cooperation among provincial, autonomous and special administrative region governments in the Pan-PRD region will open up opportunities for Hong Kong.

He said areas within the Pan-PRD region are important manufacturing bases and consumer markets. With a cosmopolitan outlook and a competitive edge in capital, financing and information, Hong Kong will be a proactive promoter and service provider in enhancing the future development of the region.

"Being a cosmopolitan city, Hong Kong can make use of its advantage to encourage regional and, in particular, private enterprises to set up offices here for activities in trading, investment and corporate finance. As such, the territory will become a 'gateway' to the world," Tsang said. — MNA/Xinhua

Seven US soldiers killed in three days

BAGHDAD, 29 Nov—Two US marines have been killed in action south of Baghdad, bringing to seven the total number killed in Iraq over the past three days, according to US authorities.

Three US servicemen were killed on Sunday in clashes in Al-Anbar province of western Iraq. Two others were killed on Friday, he said.

The US military could not immediately release any details on the circumstances of their death.

Elsewhere on Sunday, five Polish soldiers were injured in an accident which was unrelated to any attack, a Polish military spokesman said. The five soldiers received medical treatment and returned to their duties, said Colonel Zdzislaw Gnatowski.

In the south of the country, a group of unidentified assailants blew up an oil pipeline which transports crude oil from al-Zawahiriya district to the south of Basra town. The pipeline transporting oil from Zubair-1 pumping station to the Gulf shore across al-Faw island, was set on fire.

Firefighters and Iraqi national guards rushed to the scene and managed to extinguish the fire.—Internet

Chinese Agri still top priority in govt eco work next year

BEIJING, 28 Nov—Strengthening agriculture will again top the agenda of China's State Council, or Cabinet, for economic work next year, according to the decision made at a State Council executive meeting held here Friday.

The participants in the meeting, presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, agreed that grain production has turned for the better and the income of farm-

ers has increased rapidly since the government issued a series of favourable policies to boost agriculture, and grain production in particular, earlier

this year, said sources with the meeting.

Although this has provided a major foundation for maintaining economic and social stability and

development, fundamental improvements have been made in agriculture, and strengthening agriculture will remain the top priority of the government's economic work next year, the sources said.

To further boost agricultural and rural development, the State Council listed the major for this winter and next spring in seven areas, including protecting farmland and farmers' interests, keeping a reasonable and stable grain price to protect the enthusiasm of grain growers, and speeding up construction of irrigation and water conservancy projects and water supply projects in the countryside.

The State Council also called for measures to ensure crops to survive the winter and prevent livestock diseases, as well as intensified efforts for poverty reduction, disaster relief, and the supply of seeds, chemical fertilizers, diesel oil, plastic films and other capital goods for agricultural production.

All localities were urged to implement the favourable policies to support agriculture, especially those concerning subsidies to grain production, the reduction and exemption of agricultural taxes, and the payment of arrears of farmer workers' wage and compensation for land acquired.

MNA/Xinhua

1,237 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 28 Nov—As of Sunday, 28 November, 2004, at least 1,237 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 seven 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 1 May, 2003, when Presi-

dent Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,099 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:

A US soldier died Sunday in a traffic accident north of Baghdad, Iraq.

Internet



A truck transporting blast walls burns after it came under attack in western Baghdad, on 24 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Chinese Premier hails Sino-Malaysian relations

VIENTIANE, 29 Nov— The Sino-Malaysian relations have entered a new era of “maturity and comprehensive development”, said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao when meeting his Malaysian counterpart, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, here Sunday afternoon.

“We would make joint efforts with Malaysia to maintain the good momentum of the bilateral ties, and push forward the strategic cooperation in all fields,” said the Chinese leader, according to a Press release from the Chinese delegation.

Wen, who arrived here earlier in the day for his first official visit as Chinese Premier to Laos, will also attend the eighth summit between ASEAN and China, and between ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea, as well as the sixth China, Japan and South Korea

summit.

On the South China Sea issue, Wen said, China has advocated proper settlement in the spirit of “shelving difference and making joint exploration”.

This is in conformity with the principles laid out in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and is conducive to peace and stability of South China Sea, he said.

“We would like to find a way of making joint exploration with Malaysia in the disputed waters of South China Sea,” he said.— MNA/Xinhua



India's Taj Mahal is seen here recently. Tourists flocked to the northern Indian city of Agra to see the Taj Mahal by moonlight after the Supreme Court lifted a 20-year ban on night viewing of the 17th-century monument to love.—INTERNET

Three ISAF soldiers injured in northeast Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 Nov — Three German soldiers affiliated with NATO-led International Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF) were injured in a roadside explosion overnight Saturday, top officials of Kunduz Province told *Xinhua*. The vehicle that the foreign soldiers were travelling in was damaged,” Said Omar, the governor of the province said. “The Taleban claimed responsibility in a letter left beside the blast site, and they threatened to plot more attacks on foreign troops.”— MNA/Xinhua



Indonesians march toward the US Embassy during a rally in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 28 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

စက်မှုဦးအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

ADB to provide \$180m loan for Bangladesh

DHAKA, 28 Nov— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed to Bangladesh that it would provide a loan worth 180 million us dollars for the post-flood rehabilitation programmes in different sectors.

The proposal was made on the basis of a joint assessment of damage and needs, which was undertaken in September by the ADB and the World Bank (WB) in consultation with the government, *The Financial Express* Saturday quoted official sources as saying.

According to the joint ADB and WB assessment, the combined losses to assets and output have amounted to at least 2.2 billion dollars, which is 3.9 per cent of the gross domestic product of Bangladesh.

In its proposal, the ADB observed

that there would be a gap in financing needs of about 680 million dollars to 730 million dollars even with diversion of resources by the government of the country from low-priority development projects to post-flood rehabilitation of infrastructures.

The Manila-based Bank viewed that the proposed loan would enable the government to finance a portion of the overall recovery programme as well as help restore the economic activity essential for recovery in affected areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Floods leave 25 dead in Vietnam

HANOI, 29 Nov— Floods and landslides have killed 25 people and left four others missing in Vietnam's central region, the Central Vietnam Television reported Saturday evening.

As of Saturday afternoon, the central province of Quang Ngai was

hardest hit by floods and landslides caused by heavy rains over the past three days with nine fatalities and two cases of missing. A family in the province's Tay Tra District was buried in soil and rock, causing three deaths, leaving two missing and se-

verely wounding one.

The floods have inundated tens of thousands of houses and hectares of crops in the five central localities of Hue, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam and Da Nang. Also, they have badly affected roads and railways, blocking seven trains on the North-South route from running.

The central and local governments are actively mobilizing all forces, especially soldiers, to fight against floods, move some residents to safer locations, and conduct rescue and relief activities. Local farmers are urged to grow subsidiary crops to prevent potential hunger in the post-flood period.— MNA/Xinhua

Explosion hits oil pipeline in south Iraq

BASRA, 28 Nov—An explosion on a pipeline in southern Iraq today caused a fire and disrupted the flow of oil from wells in Rumaila field toward the Basra terminal but did not affect exports, an oil company official said.

Iraq's Southern Oil Company said the cause of the explosion was being investigated but exports through the south, which are around 1.8 mln barrels a day, were unaffected.

Firefighting officials said the explosion was caused by smugglers piercing the pipeline, 35 kilometres east of Basra. This caused an oil leak which started the fire.

They said the fire, which broke out around 11.00 am (0800 GMT), was extinguished some two hours later and that the company had used an

emergency pipeline to maintain production.

In another incident, a pipeline south of Basra was damaged during maintenance work, interrupting the oil flow from wells to a pumping station, an oil source said.

Again, an emergency pipeline was used to maintain flow from the wells. Internet

Coalition fire leaves one Afghan dead in Kabul

KABUL, 28 Nov — The US-led coalition troops shot and killed an Afghan after their vehicle came under light arm attack in the capital Friday, a coalition statement said Saturday.

“A local national was shot by coalition troops after firing a handgun at their car as it was leaving camp Phoenix at approximately 11.00 am,” confirmed the statement.

Camp Phoenix, a US military base, supported the Afghan Government in ensuring security in and around the capital city. In a sharp reaction, coalition soldiers returned fire and wounded the attacker.

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands in Turkey protest US ‘massacres’ in Fallujah, Iraq

ISTANBUL, 28 Nov—Several thousand demonstrators followed an appeal by the Islamic Saadet party today in Turkey to protest against what it called US ‘brutalities’ in neighbouring Iraq.

The party's leader Recai Kutan said US forces were responsible for ‘violence and massacres’ in the central Iraqi city of Fallujah.

Another speaker, former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who was kicked out of office by the military in 1997, alleged that the attack on Fallujah was an attempt to ‘break the back of Islam.’—Internet

Malaysian PM hails ASEAN cooperation with partners

VIENTIANE(Laos), 29 Nov— Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Sunday hailed economic cooperation between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and countries out of the grouping, expecting it to promote the region's growth and competitiveness.

"We should recognize that ASEAN cannot remain competitive merely by strengthening intra-regional cooperation," said the Malaysian leader at an ASEAN business investment summit held in the Lao capital of Vientiane.

Noting that economic integration process has brought about positive impacts on ASEAN members, Badawi said the grouping now is faced with challenge as how to maintain the momentum of growth.

One of major measures to address the issue is to "extend our sphere of

cooperation with our main trading partners through strategic alliances," he said.

ASEAN is now negotiating free trade areas with China and India, and plans to start negotiations with Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand beginning from 2005.

Urging more cooperation with non-ASEAN trading partners, Badawi said, "The synergies of cooperation with these countries will enable us to promote growth...provide the competitive environment for the region to be attractive to trade and investment flows." — MNA/Xinhua



General view of the 10th summit of the 10 Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Vientiane on 29 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Chinese, Singaporean premiers vow to further relations

VIENTIANE, 29 Nov— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong pledged here on Sunday to make more efforts to develop relations between the two countries.

"The Chinese side is glad to see that the Singaporean side has recently repeated its adherence to the one-China policy and opposition to 'Taiwan independence,'" Wen told Lee in a meeting here.

"This lays a more solid foundation for development of bilateral ties," Wen said.

A Press release from the Chinese delegation also quoted Wen as saying that economic and trade relations between China and Singapore are gaining momentum. Wen said that the two countries have always attached importance to linking their economic and trade ties with their own development strategies.

"This is the prominent feature of Sino-Singaporean economic and trade cooperation," Wen noted.

Strengthening Sino-Singaporean relations is in the interests of both countries and conducive to promoting peace, stability and development in the region, said the Chinese leader.

MNA/Xinhua

CLMV pledge to further sub-regional cooperation

VIENTIANE (Laos), 29 Nov— Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), four countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), on Sunday vowed to further their sub-regional cooperation so as to narrow their development gap with six other ASEAN member countries.

Prime ministers of the four countries signed the Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Integration among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam at their meeting, the first summit of its kind, held here on Sunday, one day before the 10th ASEAN summit.

The declaration would serve as the guideline for strengthening coordination and mutual assistance among the CLMV and enhancing their economic cooperation.

Under the document, the four countries identified their cooperation priorities in the fields of trade and investment, agriculture, industry, energy, transport, information technology, tourism and human resource development. The four countries also reaffirmed their commitment to the ASEAN integration process and determination to explore more development opportunities under the Great Mekong River sub-region cooperation initiative.

"The leaders recognized that due to historical circumstances, the level of development of CLMV countries is lower than that of the other ASEAN countries," said Yong Changthalangsy, spokesperson for the 10th

ASEAN Summit and director of the Information Department of the Lao Foreign Ministry.

"The leaders agreed to intensify their individual and collective efforts to catch up with economic development," Yong told a news conference.

Leaders from ASEAN countries have arrived in Laos' capital of Vientiane for their summit to be held on Monday and Tuesday, which is expected to accelerate a 2020 free trade timetable among the ten-country grouping.

If the free trade agreement (FTA) is implemented as scheduled, the ASEAN countries will become a single market claiming an annual total trade volume of 720 billion US dollars.

However, huge economic gap between ASEAN member countries is believed to be a major barrier for the realization of the planned single market.

"The per capita GDP of the CLMV countries last year is only 20 per cent that of the six other ASEAN countries, the older members," M.C. Abad, head of a unit of the ASEAN Regional Forum, said at the news conference.

MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers wounded in car bomb blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 29 Nov — A car bomb exploded near a US convoy in central Baghdad on Sunday, wounding two American soldiers, the US military said.

The bomb was detonated at about 8:40 a.m. (0540 GMT) at the access to the highway leading to the Baghdad International Airport to the south, the military said, adding a vehicle was also destroyed.

Earlier witnesses

said a convoy of several sports utility vehicles (SUV) were hit in a bomb blast and at least two cars were seen damaged.

Four-wheel drive SUVs were usually used by senior officials or Western contractors.

The airport road has

been a scene of frequent attacks on US patrols and civilian convoys.

The group led by al-Qaeda linked militant Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi sometimes claimed responsibility for the ambushes.

MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills US soldier in north Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 28 Nov — Guerillas detonated a roadside bomb next to a US tank patrol north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing a US soldier, the Army said.

A statement from the 1st Infantry Division said the blast occurred near the town of Duluiya, 58 miles north of Baghdad, shortly after dawn.

An Abrams battle tank was also damaged, the Army said. No further details were provided.

The area around Duluiya, between the rebellious towns of Samarra and Baquba, has been a focus of guerillas attacks in recent weeks.

MNA/Reuters

CLV Summit adopts plan to establish development triangle

VIENTIANE (Laos), 29 Nov— The Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (CLV) Summit on Sunday adopted the Master Plan for the CLV Development Triangle and signed the Vientiane Declaration on the Establishment of CLV Development Triangle.

The summit was attended by the prime ministers of the three countries, according to a statement of the CLV Summit chairman, Lao Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith.

The prime ministers reaffirmed the great importance of the establishment of the development triangle to the socio-economic development of the three countries.

They stressed that the establishment of the development triangle not only marks an important step forwards traditional relations of friendship and cooperation among the

CLV countries, but also contributes to the strengthening of peace, cooperation among the nations of ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) and countries in the region.

The prime ministers agreed to the expansion of geographical coverage of the triangle development area consisting of 10 provinces in the three countries and in eight fields of cooperation such as infrastructure development, trade, agriculture, industry, environment conservation, tourism, health and education.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 24 Infantry Regiment, search for guerillas in Mosul, Iraq. —INTERNET

Sino-Indonesian relations a new type of strategic partnership

VIENTIANE, 29 Nov — The Sino-Indonesian strategic partnership is a new type of state-to-state relationship of non-alliance, non-confrontation and non-targeting any third party, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Sunday.

At a meeting with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Wen said the bilateral ties of mutual trust, reciprocity, equality and cooperation, is aimed at enhancing peace, stability and prosperity of the two countries, as well as of the region and the world, according to a Press release from the Chinese delegation.

Wen is here for an official visit to Laos, and for attending the eighth summit between the Association of South-East Asian

Nations (ASEAN) and China, and between ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea, as well as the sixth China, Japan and ROK summit.

Wen expects the two nations to expand cooperation in trade, agriculture, energy and infrastructure, expressing the hope that bilateral trade would hit 20 billion US dollars at an early date.

He said China will work together with Indonesia to push forward the relationship among ASEAN nations.

"We attach importance to the role that Indonesia has played in regional and international affairs, and will make joint efforts with Indonesia to enhance unity among developing countries and to promote cooperation at the United Nations," Wen said.

Susilo said it is significant that Indonesia and China have reached an agreement on building up a strategic partnership, and that Indonesia will discuss with China on ways to implement the agreement.

MNA/Xinhua

မြို့ပြခွေတာ၊ သိန်းဝါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



People line the streets, waving flags of member countries, as leaders arrive for the 10th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane on 29 November, 2004.—INTERNET

Over 100,000 people join in "Putonghua Festival 2004" in HK

HONG KONG, 29 Nov—The three-month "Putonghua Festival 2004" has attracted over 100,000 participants, its organizer the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) said here on Sunday at its Closing cum Award Presentation Ceremony.

The "Putonghua Festival 2004", held for a third consecutive year, ran for 12 weeks with 16 school and community-based activities attracting over 100,000 participants.

Michael Tien, Chairman of SCOLAR, noted, "In the years to come, SCOLAR will further explore ways to promote the use and learning of Putonghua (Chinese mandarin) among our working population, by, say, riding on our success story of the Workplace English Campaign". The Closing cum Award Presentation Ceremony for Putonghua Festival 2004 was held with Joseph Wong, Secretary for the Civil Service, as the guest of honour. At the ceremony, awards were presented to

winners in the "Best Student Awards for Progress in Putonghua" and the "Most Creative School Awards for Promoting Putonghua" categories, with performances by Putonghua-promotion organizations and the winners of the festival's singing and drama competitions already held earlier.

Funded by the Language Fund, the Putonghua Festival has been held annually since 2002 to raise people's awareness of the importance of Putonghua and to provide them with more opportunities to learn and use the language. Over the years, more than 220,000 people participated in some 40 activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka hosts 42nd World Congress of Medicina Alternative

COLOMBO, 29 Nov — The 42nd World Congress of Medicina Alternativa hosted by Sri Lanka opened here Saturday.

Jayasuriya presided over the opening ceremony at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, whose construction was aided by China, and he welcomed the delegates from 140 countries including Brazil, Mexico, the United State, Sweden, South Africa and China.

The meeting to be held from 27 to 30 November

will have a wide ranging discussions in the fields of the traditional medicines and natural treatment, ways to spread the CAM, health promotion and protection, alternative medicine in the prevention of cancer and other aspects.

The delegates will also visit the oldest Allopathy Hospital and Medical College in Asia, the Samuel Fiske Green Memorial Hospital in Manipal, which is 154 years old.

MNA/Xinhua

Greek, Egyptian PMs hold talks on bilateral ties

CAIRO, 29 Nov — Visiting Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Karamanlis held talks Saturday with his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Nazef to explore ways of promoting bilateral relations, the official MENA news agency reported.

The talks, held at the Egyptian Cabinet headquarters here, covered means of promoting Egyptian-Greek relations in various domains, especially in the

economic field.

The two sides also discussed cooperation in the tourism industry as Greek tourists to Egypt have reached 100,000 annually.

Karamanlis, the first Greek Prime Minister to come to Egypt since 1992, arrived in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria Friday for a three-day visit to the country. He is due to hold talks with President Hosni Mubarak later.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines to seek more jobs, exports during ASEAN summit

MANILA, 29 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said on Sunday she would explore job possibilities in the other member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

for Filipino workers, seek ways to increase Philippine exports during the ASEAN Summit in Laos.

"That's my aim as I leave today for the ASEAN summit today in Laos," Arroyo said in a pre-departure statement.

Likewise, she said she would look for opportunities for small-scale businesses and boost the country's tourism industry.

"Our vision is to have by 2020 an ASEAN community enlivened by the free flow of goods, services, investments and skilled labour, and the free flow of capital," she said.

ASEAN leaders would meet together with leaders of China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand to expand the depth and scope of economic cooperation, Arroyo added.

"I will tell them that what the Philippines needs is to be a strong partner for regional prosperity and peace," she said.

She emphasized that the Philippines would continue to integrate its domestic and international policy framework to ensure that every international arrangement entered into by the government gives jobs for the Filipinos.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to test all pregnant women for HIV/AIDS

SINGAPORE, 29 Nov — Singapore, facing a rise in AIDS cases, is considering making it compulsory for pregnant women to be screened for HIV/AIDS, an official said on Saturday.

"If all mothers had been tested for HIV, and treatment started for HIV positive mothers, the risk of the baby having AIDS would be reduced from 25 per cent to 2 per cent," said Balaji Sadasivan,

Senior Minister of State for Health, at the fourth Singapore AIDS Conference.

Although Singapore has one of the lowest levels of HIV infection in Asia, the number of new

infections hit a record high with 257 cases reported in the first 10 months of this year, more than the 242 new cases reported for all of 2003.

MNA/Reuters



A whale is seen jumping above water. Dozens of whales and dolphins mysteriously beached themselves on an Australian island, state government officials said.—INTERNET

Hand down fine heritage of national reconsolidation

Aung Moe San

The only policy due to be practised in Myanmar after 1988 is to cooperate with the Tatmadaw government that has been introducing reforms to ensure national reconsolidation and flourishing of democracy.

In order to put this policy into reality, the Tatmadaw government held the 1990 elections, introducing multi-party democracy system in the nation. Political parties whose representatives won the majority of votes were to coordinate with the existing government in drawing the State Constitution. However, the political parties were totally opposed to holding talks with the government. Instead they confronted it and demanded immediate

government emerged in the country. It has come into existence according to the historical necessity.

In 1988, the political unrest led to uncertainty of the nation's future and anarchy across the nation, and the entire people were in alarm at the highest degree. With an intense rivalry among the groups of the people, the nation was on the verge of collapse. At that time, there was no political party nor leader capable of keeping the situation under control. The Tatmadaw had to unavoidably shoulder the responsibilities of the State. In reality, the 1988 political unrest was turning the centralized socialism into the market-oriented economic system, but followed by destruc-

democracy had given a helpful hand to the government that was carrying out these bounden duties, the nation would have been transformed into a democratic one at minimum adversity and sufferings in a shorter time.

In the early days of the Tatmadaw government (the State Law and Restoration Council), former prime minister U Nu could not win the public's support for his plan to form a regional parallel administrative body. Similarly, the public did not pay heed to the call of the NLD to go on strike. Because, it was not in conformity with the prevailing objective conditions, but extreme opposition to the government.

From that time on, the people discarded the policy of confronting the government. Besides, the people were constantly opposed to the instigation of the anti-government destructive elements abroad holding negative views. Because, the people had come to realize that such instigation and agitation could not yield any benefits but evil results.

In retrospect, Myanmar awfully suffered the bad consequences of the World War II for two times. Although it was time to reconstruct the war-torn nation the people faced internal strife due to deterioration of national unity caused by discord and hatred sown among national races by the colonialists. Internal armed conflicts spread throughout the nation. Therefore, the Tatmadaw

had to tackle the armed conflicts. Furthermore, in the time of the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, economic crisis occurred due to the centralized socialist economic system. By contrast, in the time of the Tatmadaw government, the market-oriented economic system has flourished across the nation including border areas, after the restoration of peace and stability. The basic social life of the people has improved unprecedentedly. And armed groups have returned to the legal fold.

However, the NLD and some political parties founded a Pyithu Hluttaw representative committee and demanded negotiations. From the political point of view, the formation of a Pyithu Hluttaw representative committee implies disregard for the existing government while the demand for negotiations shows recognition. It is double-talk, which causes obfuscation. This made it hard to understand to reconcile. But if the NLD chose the sole path of national reconsolidation, there is no reason not to reach an understanding nor smooth out matters. The government provided help to make secure and safe the trips of NLD leaders. The government also extended VIP treatment to them, conducting them around some irrigation projects. This is a pragmatic attempt of the government to restore national consolidation. However, the NLD did not reciprocate the positive attitude. Throughout successive eras, alien interference was found to have been an

obstacle and a threat to national reconsolidation.

In such a time like this, people no longer stand the internal and external destructive elements creating disruption and instability, especially some big countries and news agencies instigating national disintegration, imposing economic sanctions, and cutting humanitarian aids. They have drawn lessons

Bernard Shaw, is the election by the ignorance for the corrupted few.

At a time when the country is in the transitional process to democracy in accord with the seven-point Road Map, it is high time for the utopian democracy activists within and without the country to strive with determination for the well-being of the country and

It being the case, the peaceful process of transition to democracy has now been in progress with the seven-point future policy programme (Road Map) conducive to Myanmar Society. National brethren are all lending themselves actively to this process.

If the forces at home and abroad opposing the Tatmadaw government and making demands for democracy had given a helpful hand to the government that was carrying out these bounden duties, the nation would have been transformed into a democratic one at minimum adversity and sufferings in a shorter time.

handing over of State power to them. That is the reason why it has delayed realization of national reconsolidation and building of a democratic nation. To make matters worse, some big powers' instigation, political pressure and economic sanctions caused a tremendous hindrance to nation-building efforts.

A careful analysis of the Myanmar history will show why the Tatmadaw

tive acts and anarchy dominating the whole nation. Therefore, the Tatmadaw, the most disciplined force, had to shoulder the duties for historical development of the nation. So, the one that built the foundation for democracy of the nation was no one but the Tatmadaw.

If the forces at home and abroad opposing the Tatmadaw government and making demands for

the amalgamation of national forces into consolidated ones by giving constructive suggestions on weak points and strong points for national reconsolidation.

If they persist in confronting the existing Tatmadaw government to gain the upper hand at the expense of people and relying on the sanctions imposed by some powers, it will only destabilize the country and exhaust the national forces. Nor will it be able to bequeath fine legacy of national unity to the posterity.

It is therefore necessary to hand down the fine tradition of national consolidation to posterity while rendering cooperation in the drive for the establishment of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in line with the seven-point future policy programme.

Translation: MS+KTY
Myanma Alin, Kyemon:
29-11-2004

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World AIDS Campaign
1st December, 2004

“အိုင်ဒီအက်စ်ကင်းစင်ဖို့
အမျိုးသမီးများဘဝမြှင့်တင်ဖို့”

“Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



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

Commander, minister tour industrial zones in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 29 Nov — Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, and Myanma Industrial Development Committee Chairman, In-charge of Mandalay Industrial Zone, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung arrived at the industrial zones development project in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, yesterday.

At the briefing hall of the project, officials reported on progress of construction of machine shops, ware houses, and foundries. The commander and the minister met with the chairman and members of the supervisory committee of industrial zones, and industrialists at the briefing hall. They also heard reports on improvement of the industrial zone and the volume of shares pooled by industrialists.

Speaking at the meeting, Minister U Aung Thaung said industrialists should make relentless efforts with added momentum for industrial development as the government was rendering assistance to accelerate the pace of industry. He continued that with the economy on the upswing the industrialists were to co-operate in the development projects for industrial zones. He also called for their active and harmonious participation in the government's endeavours for the development of the political and economic sectors.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint delivered an address. In his speech, the commander said encouragement was being given to the construction of modern foundries, factories and workshops in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Ayethaya industrial zones so that the standard of iron works central to industrial development projects would become higher.

It was necessary for the industrialists to double their efforts for speedy emergence of modern industrial zones, he urged, adding that that was the only way to win the trust and confidence of shareholders and attract their attention and cooperation to the development projects for industrial zones.

Giving technological training to the new



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister U Aung Thaung and party inspect progress in building of machine shops, ware houses and foundries in Mandalay Industrial Zone. — INDUSTRY-1

generations would help raise the standard of machinery in pragmatic fields, whereupon high-quality machine parts could be manufactured as import-substitute goods, he pointed out.

He also called upon the members of the supervisory committee and the industrialists to make

The minister and party proceeded to the chocolate factory project, which is being undertaken by Myanma Foodstuff Industries at Kyaukse Industrial Zone. The minister oversaw the chocolate-making process, production and packaging lines, and raw materials and left instructions on close supervision for quality control.

It was necessary for the industrialists to double their efforts for speedy emergence of modern industrial zones.

concerted efforts so that the development projects would bear fruit.

Later, the commander, the minister and party inspected the test-production of CNG cylinder with a capacity of 18 horsepower produced by U Myint Swe's Man Star Group Auto Manufacturing. They also inspected other CNG cylinders with a capacity of 12 and 20 HP.

The minister also visited the vest factory (Kyaukse) of Myanma Textile Industries, and the sewing machine factory (Kyaukse) and the bicycle factory (Kyaukse) of Myanma General Maintenance Industries. In the afternoon, the minister went to Winthuza Shop (Kyaukse), where he inspected the sale of products manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-1.—MNA

Third Meeting of ASEAN ...

(from page 1)

delegates from ASEAN member countries, ambassadors of ASEAN countries in Myanmar, officials of the USDA and Work Committee for

ber correspondents, members of MNCWA and guests. During the ceremony, Chairperson of Myanmar National Committee For Women's Affairs Minister for

aware, the role and status of women in every nation are being prominently empowered with quality so as to pursue their functions and working side by side with men in the development of the country. Many achieve-

significant outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women In Beijing in the years 1995. Next year, in 2005 will be commemorating the tenth year anniversary of this conference and the adoption of the Beijing

and obstacles. The overall vision established at this First World Conference on Women. Gender Equality-Development-Peace continues to guide us today and the importance of the integral links between equality, development and peace is increasingly highlighted.

I'm sure we can all recall that 30 years after the First World Conference on Women and also, of course, building on the achievements of the Second and Third World Conferences on Women in Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985), as well as the International Conference on Population and Development (1995) the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of its review in General Assembly in New York in 2000, moved the global agenda for the advancement of women forward significantly.

With the adoption of Platform for Action, Governments committed themselves to the effective mainstreaming of gender

perspectives throughout all policy development and planning processes. Gender mainstreaming remains an important global strategy for women's empowerment and gender equality. While many achievements have been made on gender mainstreaming, serious gaps and challenges remain which need to be explicitly identified and addressed. And one of the challenges I'm sure you all with agree is to eliminate Violence Against Women. Violence Against Women in all its forms including domestic violence, trafficking in women and girls, spousal abuse, harmful practices and sexual abuse is a grave social problem. One of the strategies to eliminate violence against women is to empower the women and thus the theme for this meeting 'Enhancing the links between Women's Empowerment and Protecting Vulnerable Women' is an appropriate theme for the advancement of women.

See page (10)

Gender mainstreaming remains an important global strategy for women's empowerment and gender equality.

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and mem-

Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address. In his speech he said as we are all

ments have been made in relation to women's empowerment and gender quality over the past decades which is a highly

Declaration and Platform for Action. The year 2005 will also be the thirtieth anniversary of the First World Conference on Women held in Mexico in 1975. The First World Conference set the stage for a new era in global efforts to promote the advancement of women by establishing a concrete global commitment on the empowerment of women and gender equality. In nearly every country, researches and analysis were conducted on women's issues for the first time, goals were set, and progress was reviewed as well as gaps, challenges



The Third Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Women in progress in Mindon Hall of Sedona Hotel. — MNA

Injury prevention, control discussed

YANGON, 29 Nov — The Health Department and the WHO have jointly sponsored a Workshop on Developing National Policy Framework for Injury Prevention and Control in Myanmar at Myanmar Medical Association here today.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivered an opening address.

Also present were

Resident Representative of WHO Dr Agostino Borra, directors-general, rectors and officials of the ministry, medical superintendents, specialist physicians, representatives of other related departments and social organizations and guests.

The workshop continues tomorrow. MNA

*The commander and the minister
inspects the MEB and the IRD
in Patheingyi. — MNA*



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw initiates the First ASEAN-India Car Rally Flag-off in Kengtung. (News on page 16) — MNA



Commander, Minister meet staff

YANGON, 29 Nov — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met with the ministry staff in Patheingyi on 27 November.

Officials of Myanmar Economic Bank, Myanmar Insurance, Customs Department, International Revenue Department, and Myanmar Small Loans Depart-

ment presented reports on functions sector-wise.

The commander said that the departmental personnel will have to serve the interest of the people while striving to meet the targets.

The minister said as their work concerns financial matters, the ministry staff will have to perform their duties with sincerity and competency.

The commander and the minister inspected the MEB and the IRD in the town. — MNA

Commander meets mountaineers who scaled Madwe Glacier

YANGON, 29 Nov — Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met the mountaineering team which scaled Madwe Glacier in Putao District, Kachin State, at the Kachin State PDC office in Myittha on 27 November afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Myittha Air Base Commandant Col Zaw Tun, senior military officers, Secretary of Kachin State PDC Lt-Col Maung Myot and members, Head of State Sports and Physical Education Department U Sein Thawng, Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Association Secretary Dr Khin Maung and executives.

Dr Khin Maung recounted the experience of climbing the glacier, and the commander delivered a speech. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe posed for a documentary photo together with the mountaineering team.

MNA

Deputy Minister receives President of Olymp Beznars Gmbh Co Ltd

YANGON, 29 Nov — Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun received President of Olymp Beznars Gmbh Co Ltd of the Republic of Germany Mr Eberhard Beznar and party at his office this morning. — MNA

1st Kasco Open Golf Championship 2004 concludes

YANGON, 29 Nov — The prize presentation ceremony of the 1st Kasco Open Golf Championship 2004 organised by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation was held at Shwe Manntaung Golf Course in Mandalay yesterday evening. It was attended by President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and executives and others.

Secretary of Mandalay City Development Committee Lt-Col Maung Pu presented prizes to the golfers who won Daily Best prizes in amateur event, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win to the golfers

who secured the Daily Best prizes in professional golfers event. Chairman of MCDC Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein presented prizes and round trip air ticket (Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon) provided by Air Bagan to Zaw Zin Win who stood first with 277 strokes in amateur event and prizes to Myo Min Aung and Thein Zaw Myint who came by second and third in the same event. President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented champion trophy and round trip air ticket (Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon) provided by Air Bagan to Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) who won

the first with 277 strokes in professional golfers event and prizes to Min Naing, Kyaw Swa Lin and Zaw Zaw Latt (all from Srixon) who stood second with 277 strokes each in the event.

President U Sein Than Wai of Heritage Sports and Golf Co Ltd of Kasco presented cash award to Soe Kyaw Naing who won the first in professional golfers event and souvenir to President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd).

Next, he also gave away souvenir to General Manager of Shwe Manntaung Golf Course Lt-Col Saw Nu (Retd).

The championship was mainly sponsored by



Chairman of the Myanmar PGA and the MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presents first prize winner Soe Kyaw Naing of Srixon in Kasco Open Golf Championship Prize Presentation Ceremony. — MNA

Heritage Sports and Golf Co Ltd of Kasco and co-sponsors are Air Bagan,

Imperial Jade Drinking Water, Myanmar Brewery Ltd and Shwe Manntaung Golf

Club. The championship was organised by Han Event Management. — MNA

Courses on Interpreting and Translation No 1/2004, Work Efficiency 2/2004 conclude

YANGON, 29 Nov — A ceremony to conclude courses on Interpreting and Translation No (1/2004) and Work Efficiency (2/2004) organised by the Ministry of Industry-1, was held at the Ministry of Industry-1 this morning. It was attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

The minister spoke on the occasion and presented prizes to the outstanding trainees in Interpreting and Translation Course No (1/2004) and certificates to the leader of trainees.

Later, the minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees in Work Efficiency Course No (2/2004) and certificates to the leader of trainees.

Altogether 52 trainees attended the ten-week courses. — MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung presents a completion certificate to a trainee at the closing ceremony of Courses on Interpreting and Translation No 1/2004 and Work Efficiency 2/2004. — INDUSTRY-1

Commander, USDA Secretary-General meet members

YANGON, 29 Nov — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with secretaries and executives of Shan State (North), and Lashio, Hseinwi, Tangyan and

Mongyai Township USDAs in Lashio on 27 November.

Secretary of Shan State (North) USDA U Sai Naw Hkam explained the regional development endeavours of the association.

The Secretary-General said that the USDA has already accepted itself as a national strength, and it is formed with persons who love their race and nation and are willing to serve

the national interest. The members will have to work in harmony and union in regional development undertakings. They are required to strive for maintaining peace and stability, and economic and education development in their respective sectors. They are going to serve the public interest with united force, he said.

The commander also delivered an address.

MNA

Minister presents teaching aids

YANGON, 29 Nov — The Ministry of Education presented teaching aids to No 4 Basic Education High School in Mingaladon Township today.

After making a speech,

Minister for Education U Than Aung presented two computers, a cassette player and 15 sets of ear phones to headmaster U Win Aung.

Accompanied by officials, the minister in-

spected the multimedia classrooms of the Phaunggyi BEHS in Hlegu Township. The education officer, the headmaster and teachers explained salient points of the rooms. — MNA

Health Deputy Minister attends ASEAN+3 Senior Officials' Meeting on Avian Influenza and Health Ministers' Meeting

YANGON, 29 Nov — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo attended the ASEAN+3 Senior Officials' Meeting on Avian Influenza and Health Ministers' Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 26 November 2004.

The deputy minister was accompanied by Director Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein of Health Department, Director Dr Kyaw Moe of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) and Director

Dr Than Hla of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

At the senior officials' meeting held on 25 November, outbreaks of avian influenza were reviewed, and matters related to control of the epidemic, requirements, preparations and drawing of plans discussed.

At the senior officials' meeting held on 26 November, a joint statement was released after reviewing the current situations of avian influenza.

The joint statement

includes preparations to be made by every nation and cooperation among them to effectively control the epidemic in case it has become a world catastrophe, constant monitoring of its outbreak, its health, economic and social consequences, systematic livestock breeding to control its spread from avian to human and medical treatment and research.

The deputy minister and party arrived back here on 27 November.

MNA

Export promotion booths on display

YANGON, 29 Nov — Export promotion booths were displayed at Yangon Trade Centre on Lower Pazundaung Road here this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun extended greet-

ings and gave a brief account of the purpose of displaying the booths.

The deputy minister and officials viewed around the booths displayed by ministries, organizations and companies.

The exhibition is designed to boost export items of domestic companies through coordination with foreign companies. A total of 31 booths were on display at the YTC.

MNA

CNG shop, filling stations inspected

YANGON, 29 Nov — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, together with Chief Engineer of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise U Kyaw Nyein, inspected Paleik CNG shop in Mandalay

Division. Next, he reported to the chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council on plans to speed up the distribution of gas and cordially met with the staff of the shop.

Later, the deputy minister and party inspected the filling station Nos 0617 and 0633 and LPG shop and gave necessary instructions to staff members.

MNA

Third Meeting of ASEAN ...

(from page 8)

As you all are aware, Myanmar has always joined hands with other ASEAN countries and worked diligently to achieve the policies and expectations laid down by ASEAN.

We are indeed fortunate to have ASEAN leaders who have a far-sighted Vision, adopting Vision 2020 and Hanoi Plan of Action which is aimed at creating ASEAN as a region of dynamic economy and cohesive society on the basis of gender equality. We've witnessed ASEAN women making great contribution to the common tasks and now it is heartening to see ASEAN women gathering here again today to discuss how they can contribute more to the

common task.

I am fully confident that there will be fruitful discussions, and the outcome will be beneficial for the women in our countries.

I wish you all the best of luck in the deliberation.

Let me conclude my address by thanking the organizers who worked tirelessly for the success of this meeting, to the ASEAN secretariat for its full support and once again a hearty welcome to all the delegates, and wish all of you a pleasant and enjoyable stay in our country Myanmar, the Golden Land.

After the ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, ASEAN delegates and guests posed for a documentary photo

and the meeting continued at Mindon Hall in Sedona Hotel.

Present at the meeting were delegates from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Vietnam and host Myanmar, officials of ASEAN Secretariat.

During the meeting, member of Work Committee for MNCWA Daw Khin Ohn Thant presided over the meeting and extended greetings.

Next, delegates from ASEAN member countries read out reports on Beijing Declaration and matters relating to advancement of women were discussed.

The meeting continues tomorrow for the second day.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa together with delegates from ASEAN member countries pose for a documentary photo at the opening ceremony of the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women at Sedona Hotel. — MNA

Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS

Dr Min Thwe

World AIDS Day falls on the 1st of December in every year. Societies around the world have been commemorating World AIDS Day since last (17) years. Main objectives of World AIDS Day activities include the following: to remind the communities and the societies about the knowledge that relates to prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and to urge them for the better participation and collaboration in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

Why do we need to fight against AIDS globally?

HIV has been transmitting throughout the world in an epidemic state. According to the statistics at the end of 2003, globally, it was estimated that there were (38) million people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), of which (17) million were women and (2.1) million were children under the age of (15) years. In the year 2003 alone, about (4.8) million individuals have been newly infected with HIV, and deaths related to AIDS account for (2.9) million individuals in the same year. As for the Asia, there were (7.4) million PLWHA cumulatively and (1.1) million individuals have been newly infected with HIV in 2003. About (0.5) million deaths occurred due to AIDS in the same period in Asia. As for Myanmar, according to the results of the estimation exercise that jointly conducted by the Ministry of Health and related Ministries, UN Agencies and NGOs in 2004, the estimated number of PLWHA was 338,911.

Why women's role in HIV/ AIDS prevention and control is important?

In short, it is not only that the risk of HIV infection in women and girls is far higher than that of men but also the consequences of, or the impact of, HIV/AIDS is more obvious among women and girls when compared to that of men.

It is found that more than half of the HIV infected persons are women. In developing countries more than 60% of HIV infected persons are youths with the age between (15) to (24) years. Among them, nearly two-thirds are women.

Moreover, the probability of HIV transmission from a single act of unprotected sexual intercourse is twice higher in women than that of man. Nowadays, the practice of monogamy can not fully protect against the HIV infection. It will be protected only if both partners are faithful to each other in monogamous relationship. It was also found that HIV prevalence among the married women of (20) years in age from the developing countries was higher than that of unmarried women from the same countries.

Besides, the level of knowledge related to HIV/AIDS among women was found to be far less than that of men. A study conducted by UNFPA in (38) countries during 2002 revealed that the level of HIV/AIDS knowledge was found to be extremely lower among (15) to (24) year old women.

The impact of HIV/AIDS among women and girls depends on the activities that related to prevention and control of HIV and activities that can increase the life skill and professional skills of them. Thus, during the World AIDS Day and World AIDS Campaign this year, the activities will be conducted with the aim to increase the women and girls role in the society, to share the experiences and lessons learned by the infected women and girls to their peers so as to prevent the infection when they face with similar situations, and to raise the self-esteem of the infected persons leading to a positive living life and contribution to the society.

It is planned to conduct World AIDS Day related activities nationwide in Myanmar during 1st to 7th December, 2004 with the lead initiatives of the Ministry of Health, and the participation of related Ministries, UN Agencies, Local and International NGOs and the communities. Exhibitions, educational talks, debates, essay competitions, poster competitions, concerts, stage shows and sports will be conducted during the period.

In Myanmar, a committee known as "National AIDS Committee" has been formed and is working under the guidance of "National Health Committee". A working committee has also been formed to support the National AIDS Committee and to implement the activities that decided by it. Similarly, AIDS Prevention and Control Committees have been formed and are working at various levels of administration, namely, State/Divisional/District and Township AIDS Committee. Moreover, Ministry of Health has organized a committee known as Country Coordinating Mechanism with the membership of representatives from Ministry of Health, UN Agencies, Local and International NGOs.

National AIDS Control Programme under the department of health of the Ministry of Health is taking it's all out efforts in fighting against HIV/AIDS in Myanmar. The programme has been implementing various types and forms of prevention and control activities throughout the country. These can be briefly summarized as follow.

As HIV is closely associated with sexually transmitted infections, activities are also conducted with the aim to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV. These include dissemination of educational messages highlighting the traditional and cultural values that prevent the occurrence of STIs, training of health care providers on syndromic management of STIs and implementation of 100% condom promotion among targeted population group.

Efforts are also made to the prevention of HIV transmission among injecting drug users as well. Moreover, activities such as dissemination of educational messages to women, provision of counseling services, provision of voluntary counseling and confidential testing services (VCCT) provision of Anti Retroviral, Drugs (ARV) to the mothers and the babies, and counseling for the breast feeding are being conducted as part of prevention of mother to child HIV transmission.

Activities are also conducted for the provision of safe blood supply in the country. These include voluntary donor recruitment and education, practising the self-deferral system among blood donors, and provision of HIV test kits to hospitals of various levels.

As for the care and support activity, provision of counseling and VCCT services, provision of ARV drugs, treatment of opportunistic infections, provision of home based care and production of guidelines and manuals related to care are conducted.

Since partnership development is one of the essential factors for successful implementation of programme activities, Ministry of Health is in partnership not only with the related ministries such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Rail Transportation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Information, but also with (7) UN Agencies, (17) Local NGOs and (18) International NGOs for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country. Moreover, Myanmar is also participating in the ASEAN level activities, Regional and Global activities related to HIV/AIDS.

Lastly, activities are also conducted for the planning, supervision, monitoring evaluation of the HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the country.

In conclusion, HIV/AIDS is no longer a health condition. But it is a development problem. Because of HIV and AIDS, individuals have to suffer chronic illness that leads to death, individuals and families have lost their incomes, societies and countries have lost their workforce and productive power giving rise to hunger and poverty, thereby affecting the social and development status of the country. Since HIV/AIDS is considered as one of the priority diseases in Myanmar, it is urged that every effort should be made by the individuals, families and societies so as to become Myanmar from HIV/AIDS and its impact.

News from the Districts

Pyapon gets self-reliant library

PYAPON, 24 Nov — Pyapon District Information and Public Relations Department organized opening of Po Yaza self-reliant library in Amayoseik Village, Pyapon Township, on 18 October.

District IPRD Staff Officer U Aye Kyu, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U San Tha Tun and Head of the village U Than Htaik formally opened the library.

District IPRD Staff Officer U Aye Kyu explained the purpose of opening the library and called for its durability.— MYANMA ALIN

Construction of earth road, culverts inspected in Paungde

PAUNGDE, 25 Nov — Bago Division (West) Development Affairs Committee Director U Soe Lwin, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Shwe and officials went down a field trip to Paungde Township on 22 November.

Officials reported on construction of culverts and roads in Paungde Township. The director gave instructions on timely completion of the roads and culverts meeting the set standard.

Four miles long earth road and 12 culverts have been built in Paungde Township in 2004-2005 fiscal year.— MYANMA ALIN

Self-reliant library opened in Kyonpyaw

KYONPYAW, 14 Nov — Thauγγgyi Village of Kyonpyaw Township opened AyonU self-reliant library organized by Kyonpyaw Township Information and Public Relations Department on 8 November.

Officials formally opened the library. Next, the chairman of the library supervisory committee accepted 55 books donated by IPRD (Head Office).

MYANMA ALIN

Rural roads, bridges inspected in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 27 Nov — Director of Kachin State Development Affairs Committee U Tin Cho and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Aung Ngwe inspected the one mile and six furlongs long tar-road linking Panmati Village and Myitkyina Computer College on 20 October.

They also made overall inspection of the five miles and six furlongs long gravel road up to Pyihtaung Village and bridges along it.— KYEMON

Gust overturns three boats near MraukU

YANGON, 29 Nov — A gust of wind capsized three pleasure-ride boats at the convergence of two creeks and a river five miles north of MraukU, Rakhine State, yesterday, killing five passengers on them.

Fourteen tourists were on board four boats on a sightseeing tour of MraukU, an ancient town in the state, when the gust occurred at about 7 pm, overturning three of the boats and drowning five Italians — two men and three women — at the convergence where Suyin and Thantaya creeks meet Baw River, at a place between Pyate and Kanthaya villages.

Rescuers were able to save the lives of other nine tourists. The bodies of five tourists were also salvaged. Tourist guide U Saw Thein Tun was also missing. The tourists left Sittway for the town at 6 pm.— MNA

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Swiss firefighters trapped under collapsed roof

GRETZENBACH (Switzerland), 28 Nov—Rescuers raced against time on Saturday to save up to seven firefighters trapped under the collapsed roof of a burning underground car park.

The men are believed to be trapped in a 20-centimetre-high space in the car park in the northcentral Swiss town of Gretzenbach, where 80 firefighters supported by earthquake rescue specialists and construction experts are trying to rescue them.

"Rescue attempts are now in full swing. Layers of rubble are being hauled off with the help of heavy construction machinery, construction experts, specialists and other fire and rescue personnel," police said in a statement.

But the rescue services were not optimistic that the men would be saved.

"Radio contact that was working at first has in the meantime broken off. The chances are slipping constantly," a police

spokesman said.

Chief fire inspector Paul Haus said, "The chances are very low that the firefighters will be found alive."

The fire broke out in a residential car park in Gretzenbach, between the cities of Basel and Zurich. Police confirmed six firefighters were trapped in the rubble and feared an additional firefighter who had gone missing in the chaos following the roof collapse was also trapped.

The town fire department sent at least 10 firefighters into the blaze when the car park's concrete roof collapsed, police said.

Three were able to extract themselves and one was rescued and hospitalized for smoke inhalation, the police statement said.—MNA/Reuters

HIV/AIDS devastates children in Southern Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 28 Nov—HIV/AIDS was particularly devastating to children in Southern Africa, a minister told Southern African Development Community (SADC) counterparts at talks in Cape Town on Saturday.

Zola Skweyiya, South African Social Services and Population Development Minister, said research into the effect of HIV/AIDS on children was critical for building a secure future for the region and the continent.

At least 76 per cent of young people aged between 15 and 24 living with AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa are female, according to a global report released on Friday. The report said 57 per cent of adults living with AIDS in the region are women.

The minister said the time had come to collect data on how many children were affected and infected, where they were, the problems they faced, and to develop policies, strategies and programmes to help them.

HIV/AIDS was devastating communities and families and aggravating poverty by killing society's most productive members, he added, pointing out it had to be tackled more vigorously, in an integrated manner.

The social develop-

ment ministers agreed to unite not just in the fight against HIV/AIDS and poverty, but also to ensure the elderly, disabled and children were integrated into society.

They also agreed to set up a ministerial forum for social development to enhance cooperation and dialogue on policy and strategy measures on social development.

The ministers noted the reduction of poverty in Namibia and South Africa through the provision of social security grants, and the drop in new infections among the youth following HIV/AIDS prevention programmes.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia, Venezuela to intensify cooperation

Moscow, 28 Nov — Meeting with visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Russian President Vladimir Putin Friday said "Russia and Venezuela are large oil producers. Much on the international energy market depends on the condition of our energy sectors and our conscientious attitude", ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

At the meeting, Putin expressed the hope that relations between Russia and Venezuela "will be a weighty factor in the stabilization in Venezuela and the development of the two countries".

President Chavez, for his part, said Russia can always rely on Venezuela as a supporter of Moscow's vision of international affairs. After the meeting Chavez said that Venezuela intends to buy a big batch of Russian helicopters in the future. He was confident that deliveries of splendid Russian helicopters would begin next year.

"We are also interested in buying a large batch of weapons for anti-tank and air defence", and intend to purchase 100,000 Russian submachine guns, the visiting President said.

On Friday, several documents on economic cooperation between Russia and Venezuela were signed in the presence of both presidents, the report said. The two sides signed a protocol on the end of

bilateral negotiations about the access to the market of commodities and services in the course of Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), a memorandum on mutual understanding between Russia's Lukoil and Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA, an agreement on cooperation in the containment of money laundering and an intergovernmental agreement on fuel and energy cooperation.

The presidents also made a joint statement, reaffirming efforts to maintain stability of the international oil market.

The joint statement said Russia and Venezuela will promote multilateral efforts to achieve concrete results in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Putin and Chavez also condemned "the unilateral trade and financial embargo on Cuba, which has been in effect for over 40 years, and consistently call for its annulment"—MNA/Xinhua

Colombia interested in Slovak mine clearance technologies

BRATISLAVA, 28 Nov—Colombia is interested in Slovak technologies used in sweeping land mines, visiting Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Carolina Isackson said here Friday.

Isackson made the remarks while meeting her Slovak counterpart, Eduard Kukan,

At least 70,000 land mines remain scattered in Colombia and two people are killed by mines every day.

During their meeting, the two ministers also talked about issues like broadening political dialogue and strengthening cooperation in various fields.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian motor scooter-maker Piaggio set to buy Aprilia

ROME, 28 Nov—The sale of Italian motor scooter-maker Aprilia to its rival Piaggio will be finalized next month, Piaggio CEO Roberto Colaninno said in central city Pontedera on Friday.

Piaggio, the world's premier scooter manufacturer, and Aprilia, which is failing under a mountain of debt, have been in talks since the summer.

Colaninno said lawyers are putting the finishing touches to the contract which will probably be signed after December 10, when Colaninno returns from a trip to China.

Piaggio managers will start holding talks with

their Aprilia counterparts and union representatives starting next week in preparation for the takeover.

European Union anti-trust authorities this week gave a conditional green light to the deal.

Piaggio is the world's fourth-largest motorbike producer with a 10-per cent share of the European market, where it is surpassed only by Honda

and Yamaha, both with an 18-per cent share, and Suzuki with 12 per cent.

Aprilia racked up net losses of 43.1 million euro last year.

Together, Piaggio and Aprilia will create a group with a turnover of more than 1.5 billion euros, eight production plants and some 6,000 employees producing more than 600,000 motorbikes and scooters a year.—MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria interconnects electricity with west Africa

LAGOS, 28 Nov — Nigeria's electricity transmission lines have been interconnected with other countries in West Africa to facilitate regional power trade, a government official said here.

T O Makoju, managing director of Nigeria's state-owned National Electricity Power Authority, told reporters "a number of Nigeria's transmission lines have been integrated into the West African Power Pool to enhance trade in electricity between Nigeria and member countries of the sub region."

He said the Ikeja-West (Nigeria) and Sakete (Benin) transmission lines will

export electricity from Nigeria to the Republic of Benin, while the Calabar-Inga interconnection will enable Nigeria to import power from the Inga Dam project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "The country imports electricity where it is cost efficient to do so and exports the service where it maximizes profit by so doing," Makoju said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Blair's ally faces allegations of abusing ministerial office

LONDON, 29 Nov— A close ally of British Prime Minister Tony Blair faced allegations he abused his ministerial office after newspaper reports on Sunday that he intervened to speed up a visa for the foreign nanny of a former lover.

The opposition Conservative Party called for an inquiry into claims that Home Secretary (Interior Minister) David Blunkett helped get permanent residency for the nanny of publisher Kimberley Quinn.

Published reports that Blunkett has not denied say he had a three-year affair with the American-born Quinn, who is married. Blunkett is spearheading Blair's campaign against terrorism and crackdown on crime ahead of next year's expected general election and suggestions of impropriety could prove damaging.

Blunkett said he had looked at the visa application to check it was in order but denied he intervened in its processing. "These are clearly very serious allegations which impact on David Blunkett's public office," Conservative home affairs spokesman David Davis said in a statement.

"It is vital that the government sets up an independent judge-led inquiry to resolve the truth or otherwise of these allegations very quickly," he added, suggesting Blunkett should resign if he was shown to have intervened.

MNA/Reuters

Madagascar cuts deal that will allow some mineral projects

ANTANANARIVO, 29 Nov— Madagascar's ministries of environment and mining have cut a deal that will allow some mineral projects into environmentally sensitive areas of the island's remaining wild forests, the Environment Minister said on Friday.

Though largely unexplored, mining experts think the world's fourth-largest island has big untapped reserves of minerals, including nickel, sapphires, rubies, aquamarine, gold, platinum and bauxite.

Exploiting those reserves is a key part of Madagascar's plan to fight poverty, but the government has also worked to preserve its bounty of unique wildlife, which brings tourists into the cash-starved nation.

Several proposed mining projects have drawn criticism from environmentalists who fear it would involve tearing up more of Madagascar's already-dwindling forestland, where many of the island's 200,000 species live. Nearly three-quarters

do not exist outside the island.

"Because of this we have worked closely to reach an accord with the ministry of energy and mines," Environment Minister Charles Sylvain Rabotoarison told Reuters.

"The trick will be to put the pledge into action while respecting that in and around the protected areas, we also have quite a wealth of mineral resources."

The ruling delimits exactly where mining projects that might encroach on sensitive areas can go, although he did not specify which areas are off-limits to extractive industries.

Nonetheless, it is a positive sign for miners who have concessions in sensitive areas, like Rio

Tinto's proposed titanium mine and Dynatec's nickel project. Environmental impact studies are underway for Dynatec's concession, while observers say Rio Tinto is in no hurry to start its mine lest its new production depress titanium prices in the region.

President Marc Ravalomanana last year delighted conservationists when he pledged to increase Madagascar's protected nature reserves to 6 million hectares from the present 1.7 million.

But the political will now is enough to reach a compromise, Helen Crowley, country representative of the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Fiat chief denies GM pullout

ROME, 29 Nov— Italian automaker Fiat chief Luca Cordero de Montezemolo denied on Saturday rumours that US car giant General Motors is planning to pull out of the Italian carmaker.

Montezemolo described rumours that world No 1 GM might sell its stake and waive an option to buy the rest as "just chatter".

One of Fiat's main creditor banks in its current re-launch, Unicredit, said it did not believe a report that GM was planning to pull out as Fiat forged an alliance with French carmaker Peugeot.

Fiat denied on Friday the Press report that it was considering ditching GM for a European partner such as Peugeot.

A spokesman for the Turin-based automaker said Fiat and GM enjoyed an "industrial and financial alliance" and that it was not engaged in talks

aimed at forming a similar partnership with alternative carmakers.

"This is Press speculation which has no bearing on reality," the spokesman said.

Italian daily *La Repubblica* triggered the denials with a report on Friday saying Fiat was "heading for a divorce" with GM and that France's Peugeot was shaping up as the most likely replacement.

In March 2000, Fiat sold 20 per cent of its car unit Fiat Auto to GM.

Montezemolo stressed last month that the alliance with GM was a profitable one which had produced significant cost-saving advantages.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian models display creations by Indian designer Nilofer Shahid at the Bridal Asia 2004 fashion show, in New Delhi, recently.—INTERNET

Tourists stranded in Reunion after Air Bourbon went bust

SAINT-DENIS-DE-LA-REUNION (France), 29 Nov— Hundreds of tourists were stranded on Saturday in France's Indian Ocean island of Reunion after regional airline Air Bourbon went bust, cancelling all its scheduled flights.

Some 250 passengers gathered on Saturday at the picturesque island's capital Saint-Denis, where they had been due to catch a

flight to France aboard the company's only Airbus A-340.

The passengers were told the loss-making firm, launched in June 2003 by a group of private investors, had suspended its activities after failing to agree on a rescue plan with the regional government.

Angry tourists shouted at Air Bourbon President Erick Lazarus, who had come to the terminal to explain the situation.

Regional representative Paul Verges asked Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin to provide funds for chartering extra flights and to help find new jobs for Air Bourbon's 165 staff.

Rival firms Air France, Corsair and Air Austral agreed to take on anyone stranded in Reunion or mainland France, for a fee of 300 euros excluding airport taxes.

However, many flights from Reunion to Paris are fully booked at this time of year, the high season for tourism in this tropical island.

An estimated 1,000 passengers were booked to fly on Air Bourbon's four scheduled flights next week, of whom 80 per cent were tourists. Some 10,000 people were due to travel with the airline in the next few weeks.

MNA/Reuters



This NASA satellite image released on 27 October 2004 shows a plume of ash (brown) from an eruption 24 October of the Manam Volcano (Lower-R), located in the Bismarck Sea across the Stephan Strait from the east coast of mainland Papua New Guinea.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Germany beat China to claim U-19 World C'ship title

BANGKOK, 29 Nov— Germany on Saturday won the women's Under-19 world championship by ousting China 2-0 in the final in Bangkok.

Simone Laudehr prodded home the first goal after only four minutes when Chinese goalkeeper Zhang Yanru was only able to parry a free kick flighted in from the left-hand side. The Germans controlled most of the game and restricted the Chinese to only a few chances in the second-half, confirming their supremacy late in the game when Melanie Behringer fired home after the ball broke to her on the edge of the area.

The victory was the crowning moment in the 12-team tournament for the Germans — ranked number one in women's world soccer — who defeated the strongly-fancied defending champions the United States in the semifinals.

The United States, who won the first championship in Canada two years ago, beat Brazil 3-0 to take the third place. —MNA/Xinhua

Everton ground out 1-1 draw at Newcastle United



Craig Bellamy, who scored after five minutes for Newcastle. Everton underlined their re-emergence as an English Premiership force after Lee Carsley struck a stunning equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw at Newcastle United.

INTERNET

LONDON, 29 Nov— Everton ground out a 1-1 draw at Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur ended a run of six Premier League defeats with a morale-boosting 2-0 victory over 10-man Middlesbrough on Sunday.

Newcastle made an ideal start when Wales striker Craig Bellamy worked a neat one-two with Dutch partner Patrick Kluivert and sped through to score after only five minutes.

Further chances went begging for Newcastle before Everton midfielder Lee Carsley curled a spectacular free kick over their wall in the 56th minute, while Bellamy had a close-range shot blocked in the closing minutes at St. James' Park. Everton stay third on 30 points, one behind champions Arsenal, who were playing Liverpool later. Chelsea, who thrashed Charlton Athletic 4-0 on Saturday, are top on 36 points.

Spurs were helped to their much-needed victory at White Hart Lane by a red card five minutes before the break for Boro's French defender Franck Queudrue.

They capitalized four minutes after the re-start when England striker Jermain Defoe fired home and Mali international Frederic Kanoute sealed the victory in the 76th minute. —MNA/Reuters

AC Milan beat Chievo Verona 1-0

MILAN, 29 Nov— Argentine striker Hernan Crespo continued his return to form by grabbing the winner in AC Milan's 1-0 win at Chievo Verona on Sunday.

Crespo's 50th-minute goal allowed second-placed Milan to move, at least temporarily, three points behind leaders Juventus who are away to Inter Milan later on Sunday.

The striker, on loan from English leaders Chelsea, had not scored until last week's Italian Cup win at Palermo but now has four goals in three games after his Champions League double against Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday.

Champions Milan also had their Brazilian goalkeeper Dida to thank after he produced a spectacular save in the 58th minute.

Juve have 31 points, Milan are on 28 and Udinese, who won 2-1 at Livorno on Saturday, are in third place on 22 points.

Cagliari moved up to fourth after a 3-2 win at Lazio with former Italy forward Gianfranco Zola on target for the Sardinians.

Chievo caused Milan plenty of problems, especially in the first half when Simone Tiribocchi and Roberto Baronio both hit the post.

Milan also created plenty, with Crespo and then Clarence Seedorf both going close, but it took a stroke of luck for them to break through five minutes after the break.

Kaka burst forward from midfield and the ball ricocheted straight into the path of Crespo who fired home with a first time shot.

Eight minutes later Dida produced a remarkable acrobatic save to tip over a deflected free-kick from Baronio.

"It was really, really hard work for us," said Crespo, "Chievo were excellent and created a lot.

"I'm pleased for myself of course because everything seems to be going well for me now and I hope it will continue like this," added the Argentine.

Lazio coach Domenico Caso is under pressure after his side slumped to a 3-2 defeat at home to Cagliari.

Goran Pandev put Lazio ahead in the seventh minute but the impressive Antonio Langella brought the visitors level before the break.

Lazio had goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi sent off for a "professional foul" in the 57th minute and Cagliari took full advantage with goals from Mauro Esposito and Zola making it 3-1.

Massimo Oddo pulled a goal back from the penalty spot 10 minutes from the end but the defeat leaves Lazio down in 13th place. Palermo climb up to fifth with a 2-0 win at Brescia while sixth placed Messina were held 1-1 at home by Fiorentina. —MNA/Reuters

Stoppage time goal gives Liverpool dramatic 2-1 win over Arsenal

LONDON, 29 Nov— A superb stoppage time winner by striker Neil Mellor gave Liverpool a dramatic 2-1 victory over struggling Premier League champions Arsenal at Anfield on Sunday.

Liverpool took a deserved first-half lead with a cracking shot from the edge of the area by Spanish playmaker Xabi Alonso, but Arsenal looked to have earned a draw after skipper Patrick Vieira knocked in a 57th minute equalizer.

However, Mellor's last-gasp drive consigned Arsenal to their second league defeat of the season and handed title rivals Chelsea a commanding five-point lead at the top.

Chelsea, who thrashed Charlton Athletic 4-0 on Saturday, are top of the table on 36 points. Arsenal stay second on 31 points, while Everton remain third, a point further back.

The main attraction on Sunday was at Anfield, where Liverpool bossed the first half and Arsenal looked to have secured a deserved point for their second-half display.

Mellor, playing only because of injuries to regular strikers Djibril Cisse and Milan Baros, rose to the occasion though with his first Premier League goal — a thundering shot on the bounce from 25



Arsenal's French Thierry Henry (blue) vies with Liverpool's Jamie Carragher during a Premiership clash at Anfield, in Liverpool. —INTERNET

metres out.

"Fantastic result and a fantastic game for all the supporters," Liverpool's Spanish manager Rafael Benitez told Sky Sports.

"The players ran a lot and tried to do all the things we prepared during the week. All I can say is congratulations.

"It's only three points, but against a very, very good team it's more important for the confidence."

The result is another bodyblow to Arsenal,

whose season has rapidly been turning sour since their record 49-match unbeaten league run was ended by Manchester United on 24 October.

Arsenal, who are also battling to qualify for the Champions League knockout stage, have taken just six points from a possible 18 on domestic duty and would have ended Sunday in third place had Everton won their game at St James' Park.

MNA/Reuters

Athletic Bilbao cruise to 3-0 win over Racing Santander

MADRID, 29 Nov— Athletic Bilbao eased concerns about their poor start to the season as they cruised to a classy 3-0 win over Racing Santander in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Santi Ezquerro opened the scoring with a delightful chip in the seventh minute after centre forward Ismael Urzaiz had toe-poked a neat pass into his path from the edge of the area.

Fellow midfielder Carlos Gurpegi made it 2-0 midway through the half when he got behind the Racing defence to nod home after a Fran Yeste free kick.

It was a particularly sweet moment for the 24-year-old who has been embroiled in a two-year legal battle in which he is appealing against a drug ban over a disputed positive test for the nandrolone metabolite 19-norandrosterone.

Athletic say they have scientific proof that the player produces the substance naturally as a result of physical exercise and his teammates took to the

field on Saturday wearing T-shirts in support of his case. Urzaiz wrapped up a comfortable win 18 minutes into the second half when he scored his eighth goal of the season with a trademark header after a perfectly weighted cross from young

midfielder Andoni Iraola.

League leaders Barcelona will have a chance to extend their seven-point advantage at the top of the table when they travel to Primera Liga newcomers Getafe in one of Saturday's late matches.

MNA/Reuters



Sporting's Liedson of Brazil (L) kicks the ball in front of Moreirense's Ricardo Fernandes during their Portuguese Premier League match held at Alvalade stadium in Lisbon on 28 Nov, 2004. Sporting won, 4-1. —INTERNET

Russia seeks to boost trade with Indonesia

JAKARTA, 29 Nov— Newly-appointed Russian Ambassador to Indonesia Mikhail Mikhailovich Bely pledged to boost trade between Indonesia and Russia during his tenure.

"The present total bilateral trade between the two countries is around 200 million US dollars. It's almost negligible, given the countries' economic potential. Just trading fertilizers, tea, palm oil and steel is not enough," he said in an interview with *The Jakarta Post* published on Monday. Russia's main exports to Indonesia consist of fertilizers, steel, military hardware and oil. We import palm oil, tea, spices and fabrics from Indonesia. We have to move further," he said.

Bely, who began his mission here on November 25, said he would work on identifying the areas where Indonesia and Russia have huge potential to improve.

"For example, Russia's major aluminum producer, Russal, the world's fifth largest aluminum company, approached me recently and revealed its

plans to invest in Indonesia and other countries in Southeast Asia. I will talk to the relevant ministries and people in Indonesia and arrange a meeting between the Russian company and Indonesian authorities," he said.

According to Bely, Russia and Indonesia have already agreed through several memorandum of understandings to cooperate in agriculture, fisheries, space technology, military technology and other areas.

He said Russian President Vladimir Putin planned to visit Indonesia at the invitation of his Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"Putin's visit, which will be the first ever visit by a Russian leader, will certainly open a new chapter in Russia's relations with Indonesia, a major power in Southeast Asia," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

Expert announces SARS vaccine good so far

SHANGHAI, 29 Nov— Volunteers receiving severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) vaccine in a clinical test show no obvious signs of side effects so far, said Zhong Nanshan, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, at an international seminar held here Saturday.

Zhong said that the results of the research will be released in January 2005 after researchers determine the effectiveness of the vaccine.

From May to August this year, 36 volunteers received China's first SARS vaccine at

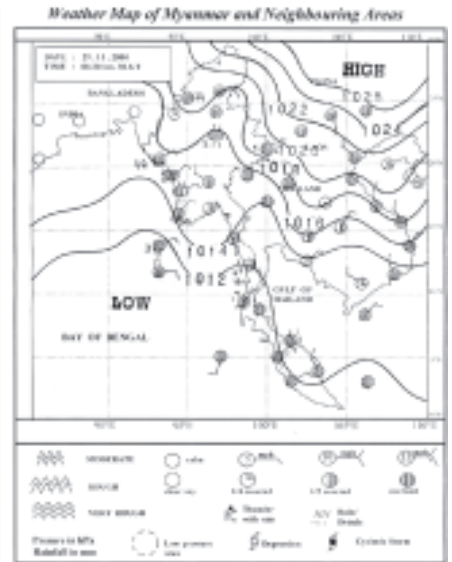
another clinical test.

Eighteen of them received an injection of low-dosage SARS inactivated vaccine while the other 18 received a high dosage.

Except for symptoms of side effects of the drug such as fever and discomfort, volunteers showed no other adverse reactions and their health was in good condition.

The antibody in volunteers' blood serum has increased by various levels, but the effectiveness of the vaccine is yet to be verified, said Zhong.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 29 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan, Chin States and Mandalay Division, scattered in Kachin and Rakhine States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, isolated in Bago and Yangon Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (1.89) inches, Sittwe (1.81) inches, Homalin (1.34) inches and Ann (1.30) inches. Night temperatures were (9°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Kayah and Chin States, Taninthayi and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha and Mindat (8°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-11-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 29-11-2004 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-11-2004 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 28-11-2004 was (5.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 29-11-2004 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 (11:40) hours MST on 28-11-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Central Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-11-2004: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-11-2004: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-11-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

"Untimely rainfall warning"

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 29th November, 2004)
According to the observations at (09:30)hrs MST today, isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions during the next (48) hours commencing this morning today.

"Earthquake report"

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST on today)
An earthquake of strong intensity (7.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (3,000) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (01) hrs (10) min (52) sec MST on 29th November 2004.

Heavy rains leave three people missing in Colombia

BOGOTA, 29 Nov— Heavy rains left two children and one adult missing in Colombia's north-western port city of Barranquilla, the Civil Defence said Saturday.

The three individuals were swept away by water, and they are unlikely to be alive.

Floods and landslides

triggered by downpours beginning from mid-September have destroyed 250 houses in 24 of the 32 departments in Colombia. The Colombian Government has provided aid worth 2 million US dollars to 25,000 people whose homes have been damaged by floods.

MNA/Xinhua



Tuesday, November 30
View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas
by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am

2. တီထွင်ရေး မြေကွက်ဝါရီကား
အရဟံသာဝတီကား ဘုရားသီရိရာ
ဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်) ဟော
ကြားတော်မူသော ဥဗ္ဗိတသန္တီ
ဝါဒီတော်

7:25 am

3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning news

7:40 am

5. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

6. ကဗျာနိဗ္ဗာန်

8:00 am

7. Songs of yesteryears

8:15 am

8. နိုင်ငံတော်နေ့တော်ခါး

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Let's go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday
Use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေး
ရရှိမြင်သကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
-ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဝေဒေရုက္ခပေ)
အထူးပြု (ရက္ခပေ)

5:15 pm

6. Dance of national races

5:30 pm

7. ခံစားစားဆင်တေးစာတော်ဝင်

5:45 pm

8. Sing and enjoy

6:15 pm

9. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"မေ့တော်မင်းဂျွန်နီ" (အပိုင်း-၄၆)

6:30 pm

10. Evening news

7:00 pm

11. Weather report

7:05 pm

12. Musical programme

7:20 pm

13. သားသီးဖွံ့ဖြိုးမြဲညီအစ်ကို

7:35 pm

14. The mirror image of
the musical oldies

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. လက်တန်းလေဝသန့်စလေပေး

ခန့်မှန်းချက်

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"သံဃာ့နိဗ္ဗာန်" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)

20. The next day's
programme



Tuesday, November 30
Tune in today:

8:30 am

Brief news

8:35 am

Music:
-Miss you finally

8:40 am

Perspectives

8:45 am

Music:
-Why

8:50 am

National news

9:00 am

Music:
-Book of love

9:05 am

International news

9:10 am

Music:
-You're my babe

1:30 pm

News/Slogan

1:40 pm

Lungh time music:
-Hello darling

-I love you

-truelly, madly,
deeply

-How do I live

9:00 pm

English speaking
course level-II

-Unit (12)

9:15 pm

Article/music

9:25 pm

Weekly sports reel

9:35 pm

Music for your
listening pleasure

-25 minute

-I just called to say

I love you

9:45 pm

News/Slogan

10:00 pm

PEL

Myanmar Tatmadaw sports team returns home from Vietnam

YANGON, 29 Nov — Col Htein Lin, Principal of the Defence Services Self-defence and Sports Institute, who headed the Myanmar Tatmadaw sports team, arrived back here by Tatmadaw aircraft this evening after the team's participation in ASEAN Armed Forces Football and Volley Tournament to hail the 60th Anniversary of Vietnam Armed Forces, held in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Tatmadaw sports team was welcomed back at the Mingaladon Air Base by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Vice-Adjutant General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, senior officers of the Ministry of Defence, Military Attaché of Vietnamese Embassy Col Nguyen Van Thanh and officials. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party welcome back athletes of Myanmar Tatmadaw Sports Team at Mingaladon Air Base. — MNA



Caravan of First India-ASEAN Car Rally proceeds to Thailand



YANGON, 29 Nov — A ceremony to flag off competitors of First India-ASEAN Car Rally was held in Kengtung yesterday morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin and officials.

The commander flagged off the rally.

The caravan of the rally arrived in Tachilek through Kengtung-Tachilek Highway, where it was welcomed by local people and national races.

The caravan then proceeded to Thailand through Myanmar-Thailand Friendship bridge.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials welcoming the caravan of the car rally in Kunhing Township in the First ASEAN-India Car Rally. (news reported) — MNA

Rural library opened in Ingapu

YANGON, 29 Nov — Member of Central Executive Committee of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung went to Pyokon Village Primary School, Ingapu Township on 26th November, met with locals and gave suggestions to provide assistance for repair of school building.

Next, the minister

attended the opening of Aung Kyaw library in Mezalikon Village. The library was formally opened by the Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council and the Staff Officer of Township Information and Public Relations Department.

Afterwards, the minister delivered an address on the occasion and he heard reports on requirements for establishment of libraries and tasks to be carried out presented by Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department. After that, the minister and the director-general presented books to be used in the library to the library in-charge. A local expressed thanks. On arrival at construction site of Yekyaw bridge in Ingapu Township

on 27th November, the minister drove a stake for construction of the bridge. He met with locals and gave suggestions to them on regional development tasks.

Next, the minister proceeded to embarkment in Tititu Kwinphauk creek

in the afternoon and inspected arrangements to be made for construction of the sluice gate, reconstruction of Singoundinn village primary school, progress in building Htoogyi village high school and primary school in C block. — MNA

Identity cards, car passes to be issued

YANGON, 29 Nov — Those who have already received invitation letters to attend the World Buddhist Summit to be held on Kaba Aye Hill can draw out identity cards and car passes from Director of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Khaing Aung of the Ministry of Religious Affairs during the period from 6 to 7 December. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung meets industrialists of the industrial zone at Myanmar Hall, Hinthada.

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