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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe receives Indian Air Chief Marshal

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received an Indian delegation led by Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi PVS

M, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence here at 2:30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and De-

velopment Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe greets Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi PVS, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe receives Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi PVS, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 22 November, 2006

National Convention work gaining momentum

In its bid to establish a durable democratic system, the government is holding the National Convention for the emergence of a constitution that will protect the interests of the entire national people.

If we look at the steps that have been taken at the National Convention, we can find that detailed basic principles have been laid down regarding the legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Region or State Hluttaw in the Chapter "Legislation". In addition, the National Convention has also laid down the detailed basic principles on the citizens and their rights and responsibilities and the Tatmadaw.

Now the eight delegate groups have put forward to the Work Committee proposals for chapters on elections, political parties and state of emergency provisions. In the same way, when the delegate groups have compiled proposals for chapters on amendment of the constitution, the national flag, the state seal, the national anthem, the capital, transitory provisions and general provisions, they will be submitted to the National Convention plenary sessions.

Due to the concerted efforts of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee and the enthusiastic and conscientious participation of the delegates, great strides are being made and the future state is beginning to take shape.

If all the delegates to the National Convention make continued efforts while keeping the favourable conditions and the achievements already gained, we believe that the National Convention will realize the set goals.

Course for Strategies and Framework of Productivity and Standards Development in ASEAN opens

YANGON, 20 Nov — Under the programme of project on cooperative measures of the ASEAN Secretariat, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board opened a course for Strategies and Framework of Productivity and Standards Development in ASEAN at Traders Hotel this morning.

First, Project Officer Ms Chandrasa Edhityas Sjamsudin of A Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat extended greetings and course instructors Mr Johnson Tan and Dr Wong Wai Nam of International Trade Institute of Singapore gave introductory speech on the occasion.

Responsible personnel of the CSSTB and officers from the ministries concerned totalling 20 are attending the course. The course will conclude tomorrow. The CSSTB opened 8 courses during 2006 and it is making arrangements to conduct a similar course in December. — MNA

Peoples' 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 inspects systems of communication and E-Government

YANGON, 20 Nov — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw together with responsible personnel arrived at Express Mail Service International on Pyay Road here on 18 November morning. The minister looked into functions of EMS there. Responsible personnel briefed on progress of work and the minister gave necessary instructions.

The minister proceeded to Hanthawady Auto-Exchange and oversaw installation of machines and functions of the exchange. The next day the minister went to Myanmar Info-Tech where he inspected the installation of Translation Machine and preparation for e-Government system. Next, the minister gave

necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

Upon arrival at International Exchange, Chief Engineer U Zaw Tint briefed the minister on work being carried out. Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on extension of international communication lines and urged officials to take systematic measures in line with the rules and regulations of the service personnel.

Next, the minister arrived at GSM Exchange in Bahan Township. Chief Engineer U Thein Oo presented reports on extension of GSM lines. Afterwards, the minister inspected the training courses being conducted at Communications and Postal Training School and attended to the needs. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw speaking at the meeting with officials at Myanmar Info-Tech. — MNA

Painting Show for Orient 2006 Myanmar-Japan Rainbow Bridge opens



Japanese Counsellor to Myanmar Mr Tetswro (Amano) speaking at Painting Show for Orient 2006 Myanmar-Japan Rainbow Bridge. — MNA

YANGON, 20 Nov — Jointly-organized by Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon and Asian Artist Network of Japan, Painting Show for Orient 2006 Myanmar-Japan Rainbow Bridge was opened at National Museum here this afternoon.

Japanese Counsellor to Myanmar Mr Tetswro (Amano), Secretary of MTAAA U Thant Zin (a) Artist Hla Tin Tun and Chairman of Asian Artist Network artist Yoko Yamada made speeches on the occasion.

Next, Chairman of MTAAA U Thaug Han and Japanese artist Yoko Yamada formally opened the show where the guests viewed paintings on display. The art works created by 15 artists from Japan and eight from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iraq, Nepal, the Philippines and India are on display at the show.

The show will exhibit artistic works of 12 countries daily from 9 am to 4.30 pm up to 24 November and the admission to the show is free of charge.

MNA

S Korean President starts state visit to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 20 Nov—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun arrived here Sunday on a four-day state visit which aimed at facilitating his country's business to step into the Cambodian market.

Acting Head of State and Senate President Chea Sim received Roh at the airport, as King Sihamoni had left for China to visit his father there.

During his country's first top-level state visit since both sides restored ties

in 1997, Roh is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday morning and sign agreements to promote bilateral trade and Korean investment in the kingdom.

The bilateral trade between South Korea and Cambodia stood at 150 million US dollars in 2005, while Korean investment in Cambodia has amounted to 219 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

APEC economic leaders' meeting concludes in Hanoi

HANOI, 20 Nov—Leaders of the 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) wrapped up their two-day meeting here Sunday after issuing a Hanoi Declaration.

The leaders, after two days of discussions under the theme of "towards a dynamic community for sustainable development and prosperity", reached consensus on a range of issues including advancing free trade and investment, enhancing human security, and building stronger societies and a more dynamic and harmonious community.

Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet read out the Hanoi Declaration at the west entrance island of the National Convention Centre.

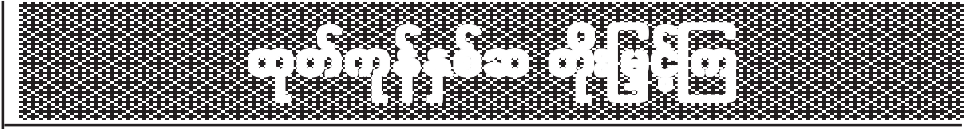
"With a strong commitment to achieving the vision of stability, security and prosperity for the Asia-Pacific Region, we agreed to make every effort for realizing APEC's goals of free and open trade and investment," the declaration said.

"We dedicated ourselves to preventing threats to sustainable development, to building a secure and favourable business environment and to enhancing human security," it said, adding, "We pledged to continue our work towards a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by building strong societies for the well-being of our peoples."

For advancing free trade and investment, the leaders reaffirmed in the de-

claration their resolve to revive the stalled Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, and endorsed the Hanoi Action Plan to implement the Busan Roadmap for realizing the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the region by 2020. Before concluding the meeting, the leaders posed for an official photographing, the highlight of the annual meeting, wearing traditional Vietnamese ao dai, or long dress, to show their solidarity.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao(L) holds a welcoming ceremony for the visiting Bulgarian Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev in Beijing, on 20 Nov, 2006. —XINHUA

Researchers say massage may ease infant sleep problems

LONDON, 20 Nov—A research review suggests babies may take comfort from a gentle massage just like their stressed-out parents.

Infant massage has long been used in many Asian and African cultures to ease babies' colic and fussiness, help them sleep and even aid their growth and development.

There is growing interest in infant massage among parents in Western countries as well.

To assess the science behind the practice, UK researchers analysed 23 clinical trials in which infants younger than six months were randomly assigned to receive massage or not.

They found across nine

of the studies that gentle massage appeared to improve infants' sleep patterns, ease crying and strengthen mother-child bonding.

Some studies found massage lowered babies' levels of certain stress hormones.

Given this apparent hormonal effect, it is "not surprising" massage seemed to improve sleep and crying, the researchers — led by Angela Underdown of the University of Warwick in Coventry, England — say.

On the other hand, the nine studies showed no benefits for infants' growth and development.

Overall, the results offer "tentative support" for teaching parents and care-givers infant massage, although there is not enough evidence to universally recommend the practice. The trials included in the review were conducted in China, North America, Great Britain and Israel and included 598 healthy, full-term infants. In some studies, researchers provided the massage, while in others parents did.

It is not clear how often, when or for how long babies should receive massage to get the most benefits.

Internet



A Kashmiri shopkeeper sits among traditional Kashmiri firepots known as 'kangris' in Srinagar on 21 Nov, 2006. With the arrival of winter in the Kashmir valley, people are beginning to stock up on traditional firepots made of clay and twigs. The firepots are filled with hot coals and placed under loose clothing for warmth during the harsh winter. —INTERNET

Egypt succeeds in first separate surgery on conjoined twins

CAIRO, 20 Nov—The first separate operation on conjoined twins in Egypt achieved success in a public hospital in Cairo on Saturday, Egypt's official news agency MENA reported.

The report quoted Egyptian Health Minister Hatem el-Gabali as saying that the surgery on a pair of 10-month-old twins, who have been conjoined at the abdomen, took place at Ahmed Maher Hospital, one of the oldest hospitals in Egyptian capital of Cairo.

It was the first successful separate case conducted by Egyptian public hospitals, which are under the administration of the Egyptian Health Ministry, according to Gabali, who is scheduled to address a Press conference on next Monday on details of the surgery.

MNA/Xinhua



Actress Claire Danes arrives at the 40th annual Friends of the Los Angeles Free Clinic in Beverly Hills 20 Nov, 2006. —INTERNET



Nissan Motor Co COO Toshiyuki Shiga unveils the 12th generation Skyline featuring all-new exterior and interior designs at the headquarters of the automobile company in Tokyo on 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET



Zimbabwe clinches deals with six Chinese firms

HARARE, 20 Nov — Zimbabwe has clinched tourism marketing and development deals with six major Chinese tourist wholesalers during the on-going China International Travel Mart in Shanghai, local newspapers reported on Saturday.

The deals, which are in conformity with the national economic turnaround programme and the Look East Policy, should bolster Zimbabwe's penetration of Asia and increase Chinese tourist arrivals from the current 30,000 to at least 100,000 by 2008, *The Herald* said.

sidelines of the China International Travel Mart.

Among the deals to be signed next week by the Zimbabwean delegation led by Tourism Authority chief executive officer Karikoga Kaseke, is the twinning of the Great Zimbabwe National Monument with The Great Wall of China in Beijing.

Historically revered as a symbol of Chinese ancient cultural and architectural supremacy, the Great Wall is visited by an average of 3,000 tourists per day, a thing that Great Zimbabwe should benefit from.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe has clinched deals with The Great Wall Society, China International Travel Services, China Travel Services, China Youth International Travel Services, Zhejiang Tourism Group and Shandong Tourism Administration on the

S African 'most wanted' makes Houdini-style prison break

SYDNEY, 20 Nov—Police were hunting one of South Africa's most wanted criminals after he pulled off a Houdini-style escape from the country's maximum security prison

by greasing himself in petroleum jelly.

Ananias Mathe—who was awaiting trial on 51 charges including murder, rape, and robbery—slipped through a tiny

window in his cell that measures just 20 centimetres by 60 centimetres in Pretoria's C-Max prison over the weekend.

The former Mozambican soldier, believed to have extensive military training, is the first person who has managed to escape from C-Max in 36 years.

The *Pretoria News* reported that Mathe, shackled in leg irons and handcuffs, smeared himself in the jelly before breaking off two steel bars from his bed, which he wedged on either side of the window to help him slide his shoulders out of the window.

He took another steel pipe from his bed and made a hook from it, tied his clothes and bed linen to it and used it to slide out of the cell and down the firewall.

The 28-year-old Mathe is described by police as a "scrawny little guy" who managed to evade police for months and has used his military experience to stage several escapes.

Internet



Kandula rips through a birthday sign at his fifth birthday celebration at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington on 19 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Geological disasters threaten south China cities

GUANGZHOU, 20 Nov—Geological disasters are threatening the booming southern Chinese cities on the Pearl River Delta, a 40,000-square-kilometre area that contributes nearly 10 per cent to the country's GDP, a report said Saturday.

Ground cracks, cave-ins, rock-mud flows and landslides are among the major disasters to plague these cities as their fast urbanization drive in the recent decades has sped up natural and environmental changes, said the report by Guangdong provincial land and resources department.

The provincial capital Guangzhou alone reported 33 geological disasters in the past

decade, causing a direct economic loss of 500 million yuan (62.5 million US dollars) at least, it said.

The loose, riverfront

ground sank in the past 10 years in at least nine of the delta's 14 cities, including Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen.—MNA/Xinhua



A Frenchman named Xia Yang (R) fondles giant panda "Xi Xia" at the Wild Animal Rescue Centre in Zhouzhi County of Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 20 Nov, 2006.—XINHUA

and flooding caused by continuous torrential rains experienced in the island, officials said Sunday.

NDHettiarachchi, director of the National Disaster Management Centre, said that floods had been reported in many parts of the country with low lying areas going under several feet of water.

Main highways between the northwestern Kurunegala and north-central Anuradhapura, the Bandaragama-Kalutara in the western province are impassable due to flooding, while the Kandy-Mahiyangana in the central province and Kandy-Kurunegala highway linking the northwestern and central provinces are impassable due to landslips.

MNA/Xinhua



An Algerian Football Association official presents a painting to Samuel Eto'o of Cameroon (R) during a celebration to award the best African soccer players, in Algiers on 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Man kills three, commits suicide in Norway

STOCKHOLM, 20 Nov — Three people were killed and two others injured recently when a man ran amok in Norway, Norwegian news agency NTB reported.

The report said the man attacked a total of five people at random near Sandefjord Town, about 120 kilometres southwest of Norway's capital Oslo.

Local police then chased the man and fired a gunshot at him. He committed suicide after police negotiation attempts with him failed.—MNA/Xinhua



A labourer works at a construction site in Changzhi, in northern China's Shanxi Province, on 20 Nov, 2006. China will double land-use fees for new construction projects from 1 January in order to slow fixed-asset investment growth, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.
INTERNET

Russia, US sign agreement on WTO deal in Vietnam

HANOI, 20 Nov—Russia and the United States Sunday signed a bilateral agreement on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the sidelines of the ongoing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Hanoi. The agreement was signed by US Trade Representative Susan Schwab and Russian

Minister of Trade and Economic Development German Gref.

Describing the agreement as an important milestone in Russia's bid to join the WTO, Schwab said the document signed will be presented to Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President George W Bush, who were here attending the APEC leaders' meeting.

"I'm pleased that we have concluded this important agreement with Russia's WTO accession negotiations. This is a strong and far-reaching agreement that meets the high standards of President Bush's market-opening trade agenda and moves Russia closer to full integration into the global, rules-based trading system," Schwab said.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN, US agree to advance enhanced partnership

MANILA, 20 Nov—The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) member economies and the United States have agreed to advance the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership and the Plan of Action to Implement the Enhanced Partnership, said the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines (DFA) on its website Sunday.

The ASEAN and the United States have resolved to focus on cooperation in a range of priority areas including political and security cooperation, economic cooperation, health, scholarships, information and communications technology,

transportation, energy, disaster management and environmental management, said DFA quoted a recent joint communique between ASEAN and the United States.

These nine areas of priority will support the ASEAN-US endeavour to create an enabling regional environment in ASEAN conducive to sustained economic growth, enhanced economic interaction and stronger linkages between ASEAN and the United States, said the communique.

"Our efforts will build upon various ongoing programmes such as the Enterprise for ASEAN

Initiative (EAI), ASEAN Cooperation Plan (ACP), ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility and USAID initiatives," it said.

Specific priority measures for ASEAN-US cooperation in 2007 include cooperation in promoting good governance and work to combat corruption, initiatives to promote intellectual property rights protection, the use of internationally adopted standards, increased transparency, and simplification of rules and procedures.

MNA/Xinhua

Three Colombians, 3.5 tons of cocaine seized in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 20 Nov—A joint operation of the United States, Costa Rica and Colombia has led to the arrest of three Colombians and seizure of 3.5 tons of cocaine hidden in a homemade submarine along Costa Rica's Coco Islands, police said on Sunday.

Costa Rica's coast guard, Colombia's National Police and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) worked together to capture the submarine — a boat that is 14 metres long, 1.3 metres wide and capable of travelling two metres under the sea.

"The DEA agents are very interested in the boat

and want to know more about how it works," the police told local media.

Carlos Alvarado, director of the Costa Rica's Coast Guard, said that no Costa Ricans have been arrested. According to

Costa Rica Public Security Minister Fernando Berrocal, the Coco Islands sector of the country's Pacific waters was being used for the bulk of drugs heading for the United States.—MNA/Xinhua



A boy plays in the snow in El Ajusco, a mountainous forest region on the southern outskirts of Mexico City, on 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Death toll rises to 22 in Hilla bombing attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Nov—Death toll in a suicide car bombing attack in Iraq's Hilla Town rose to at least 22 construction labourers on Sunday, with more than 40 injured, said reports reaching here from the town south of Baghdad.

Police and medical sources were quoted as saying that the suicide bomb hidden in a minivan exploded near a crowd of labourers on Sunday, killing 22 and wounding 44, many of them seriously.

Earlier, local police said that a suicide car bomber blew himself up on Sunday among a

group of construction labourers in the town of Hilla south of Baghdad and 17 were killed.

MNA/Xinhua

China issues porkey gold bars to commemorate Year of the Pig

BEIJING, 20 Nov—China Gold Coin Corporation issued a series of gold bars made of 99.99 per cent gold to commemorate the forthcoming Year of the Pig. The total volume of gold bars being issued in China this year is 3,000 kilogrammes, at a price of 175 yuan per gramme in Beijing, the first city to issue them to the public. They can be bought in weights of 1000g, 500g, 200g, 100g and 50g.

Sales of the gold bars are expected to be boosted due to the Year of the Pig

being the last year in the 12-year rotation of the Chinese lunar calendar making it a lucky and rich year, according to traditional superstition.

Add to the fact that out of the five Chinese elements—metal, wood, water, fire and earth — 2007 is the year of metal, or gold, and people are expected to snaffle up the pig bars. China first issued the gold bars to commemorate the Lunar New year in 2002, the Year of the Sheep. The wooly gold bars were sold for 92 yuan per gramme.—MNA/Xinhua



American film director Stephen Spielberg holds up his Founders Emmy award at the International Emmy Awards in New York, on 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Zambian President says China trip successful

LUSAKA, 20 Nov— Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa, who returned home on Saturday morning from the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, said his trip to China was “very successful”.

Mwanawasa, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mundia Sikatana, said upon his arrival that his trip to China was very successful and the assistance from China was practical.

Briefing journalists at the airport, the President said the Chinese Government has agreed to help Zambia construct a modern stadium upon a

request by the Zambian Government.

He said his government had also secured a debt cancellation in connection with the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) which was designed and built with the assistance from China in the 1970's.

During the two-day summit held on November 4-5, China announced to

double its 2006 aid to Africa by the year 2009.

China has also written off debt in the form of interest-free government loans that matured at the end of 2005 owed by the heavily indebted poor countries and the least developed countries in Africa that have diplomatic relations with China.

MNA/Xinhua



Jane Leu (L), Founder and Executive Director of Upwardly Global, and Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles City Council President, pose with their 2006 John F Kennedy New Frontier Awards after ceremonies at the John F Kennedy School at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 20 Nov, 2006.
INTERNET



Black swan babies stay with their parents on the Bird Island in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 20 Nov, 2006. The hatch of six black swan babies there on 12 Nov, under the temperature of minus 8 Celsius degrees, was very rare one for the bird.—XINHUA

Canada's PM gets 15 mins with Chinese leader

HANOI, 20 Nov— Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper finally got his 15 minutes with Chinese President Hu Jintao, ending a mini-controversy over whether they would meet during an Asia-Pacific summit.

The 15-minute chat occurred just before a gala dinner on Saturday for the leaders of the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Hanoi.

“President Hu approached me at the reception prior to dinner last night,” Harper told reporters on Sunday, although he gave few details of their “very frank” discussion.

In the runup to the summit, Canadian media

had said Hu refused a request for a meeting with Harper, who has been an outspoken critic of China's human rights record.

Beijing later denied the snub. “It was quite a brief one,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said of the pre-dinner chat, adding there had been no plans for a more formal sit-down meeting

MNA/Reuters

China launches long-term biodiversity protection plan

BEIJING, 21 Nov — China has launched a long-term protection plan of biological diversity in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, reports Monday's *China Youth Daily*.

The project, jointly initiated by the State Environmental Protection Administration and Nature Conservation China, will gradually be implemented across the country. According to the plan, experts will begin by evaluating the biological diversity of southwest China's Sichuan Province and submit their recommendations to the provincial government.

The long-term protection plan will provide comprehensive and systematic support for biological diversity protection in China and help governments at various levels to take biological diversity protection into consideration when making decisions, according to the plan.

The deterioration of the biological environment, caused by rapid economic development and population growth, has harmed China's biological diversity and threatened China's sustainable development.

MNA/Xinhua

China to become major tourist source for US

SHANGHAI, 20 Nov— China will enter the top 10 chart of sources of tourists for the United States by 2007, a US tourism official said here on Saturday.

Tourism observers have noticed that Chinese tourists were constituting a growing part in the market, although Europe and Japan are still the major sources, said Mark A. Turner, a tourism official to China, at the China International Travel Mart here on Saturday.

More than 50 US tourism companies and agencies have come to the fair to woo Chinese sightseers.

China is currently the 12th largest tourist source for the United States. The

number of Chinese tourists to the country surged 24 per cent last year.

Turner said that the US Embassy had begun a pilot programme which offers interview appointments through seven qualified travel agencies in a bid to speed up the visa application process. The programme may be extended to consulates in Shanghai, Chengdu, Shenyang and Guangzhou if it goes well in the Chinese capital, Turner said.

China and the United

States have made progress in negotiations on making the United States a destination for Chinese tourists, Shao Qiwei, director of the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), said in Los Angeles last September.

According to Shao, China registered 30 million overseas travels last year, with only 530,000 to the United States. Last year, 1.56 million Americans visited China, according to the CNTA

MNA/Xinhua



Australian William Kirby, Michael Klim, Ian Thorpe, and Todd Pearson, left to right, celebrate their world record gold medal win in the 4x200m freestyle relay at the Olympic Games in Sydney recently.—INTERNET

China refutes US religious report

BEIJING, 21 Nov — China refuted here Monday a recent US report which listed China as a “country of particular concern” with regard to religious freedom, saying the move constitutes blatant interference in the country's internal affairs.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said China expresses “strong dissatisfaction” and “firm opposition” to being on the list.

Recently, the US State Department claimed to have listed China as one of eight “countries of particular concern” with regard to international religious freedom in 2006. “The United States' action violates the basic rules of international relations, and constitutes a rude intervention in the internal affairs of another country,” Jiang said.

The Chinese Government has always guaranteed citizens' right to religious freedom in accordance with the law, she said. People of various ethnic groups and regions in China enjoy broad and adequate freedom of religious belief according to law, Jiang added.

“It is the Chinese people that is entitled to speak on this matter,” the

spokesperson said.

“We demand the United States respect the truth, and stop interfering in China's internal affairs under the pretext of religion,” she said.

Jiang urged the US side to do more to promote mutual understanding between the two countries instead of worsening relations.

MNA/Xinhua

Nine Chinese honoured for heroism posthumously

BEIJING, 21 Nov — Qin Zhanfeng and other eight people who died trying to stop criminals or help others in emergencies have been honoured by the Chinese Government for their bravery.

Their awards were among 57 acts of heroism honoured by Luo Gan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau.

Public security Minister Zhou Yongkang delivered a speech at a gathering on Monday, where their heroic stories were told to audiences.

Qin Zhanfeng, a 19-

year-old student of the Capital Economic and Trade University in Beijing, was stabbed to death on 29 April, 2005 when he saw three thieves stealing and intervened in Fengtai District. The three assailants were caught later.

The minister spoke highly of the Chinese people's traditional virtues of helping others, advocating justice and assisting those in danger and need.

He urged media and local governments to publicize the stories of these heroic people and severely punish any criminals.—MNA/Xinhua



Golfer Tiger Woods smiles during a swing clinic at the Grand Slam of Golf at the Poipu Bay Golf Course in Poipu Beach, Hawaii, on Monday, 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Abe assures Hu that Japan will not go nuclear

HANOI, 21 Nov — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday he had assured Chinese President Hu Jintao Japan would not acquire nuclear weapons, but use its position as the only country to have suffered atomic attacks to urge members of the nuclear club to reduce their arsenals.

Abe was speaking at a news conference during an official visit to Vietnam following a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Hanoi, at which the issue of how to deal with North Korea's October nuclear test was high on the agenda.

“Our country is the only one in the world to

have suffered a nuclear attack,” Abe said. “We have to take the lead in persuading the world to give up nuclear weapons,” he added.

In a bilateral summit on Saturday, Hu thanked Abe for repeatedly maintaining Japan's commitment to its non-nuclear status.

“In my meeting with the Chinese leader, I reiterated that Japan will not obtain nuclear weapons,” Abe said. “I also spoke of the necessity for nuclear countries to reduce their arsenals.”

Senior members of Abe's ruling Liberal

Democratic Party have recently sparked controversy by saying Japan should debate the question of going nuclear, but Abe said there would be no discussion of the issue within his government.

Pacifist Japan relies for protection on the US nuclear umbrella under a bilateral security pact. Many analysts say that obtaining nuclear weapons, although technically feasible, would be likely to create more risks for Japan than it would resolve.

MNA/Xinhua

Protesters occupy US-franchised restaurants in Indonesia

BOGOR (Indonesia), 21 Nov — Furious protesters occupied and sealed US-franchised restaurants in the provinces of East Java and Central Java, in Indonesia on Monday, as an expression of disagreement over the visit of US President George W Bush on Monday afternoon.

In Malang regency of East Java Province, over 700 students occupied fast-foot restaurants of McDonald, Pizza Hut, and Dunkin Donut, the Antara news wire reported here on Monday.

In Surabaya, the capital city of the province, over 70 people sealed a McDonald restaurant and involved in a clash with the police. No immediate report of injuries, Elshinta online said.

In Semarang, the capital of Central Java Province, over 200 demonstrators sealed a Dunkin Donut restaurant, but no violence, the wire said.

The fears on the reaction of the Bush visit have made some other US-

franchised restaurants and mall shopping centres, in which the restaurants located, to close ahead of the visit.

In Bogor City near Jakarta, the venue of the Bush meetings, some US-franchised restaurants, such as a fast-foot Kentucky Fried Chicken in Sudirman Street, closed on Monday, and so do those in Lampung Province, also near Jakarta.

A mall shopping centre of the Parango Plaza Internusa Plaza in the downtown of the city has also closed since Saturday.

“We have to close on Saturday and Sunday, with the financial loss of two billion rupiah (about 200 thousand US dollars)

per day, (a huge number according to the local standard),” said Untung

Napolleoon Pandjaitan the Manager of the Plaza.

MNA/Xinhua



Masked Special Police commandos stand guard behind blindfolded detainees inside a police headquarters compound in Basra, 550 km (340 miles) south of Baghdad, on 19 Nov, 2006. About 200 men, suspected of being kidnappers, were arrested by police over the past ten days in Basra, police said.—INTERNET

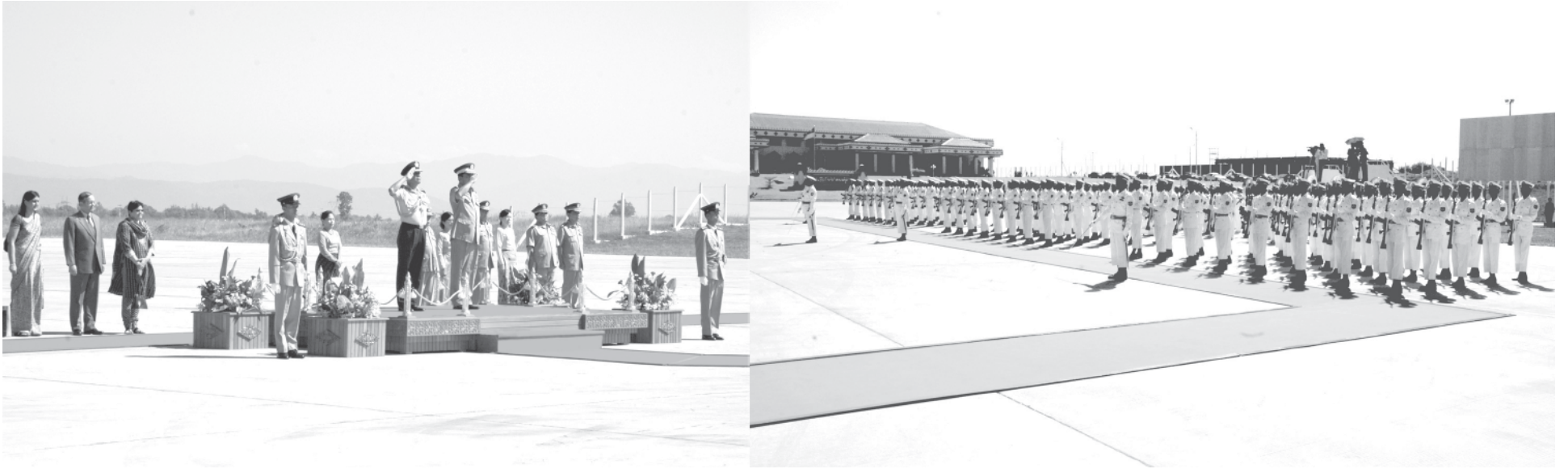
8 students killed, 7 injured in N-E China traffic accident

HARBIN, 21 Nov — Eight students were killed and seven more injured in a traffic accident in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province Tuesday morning, said local traffic police.

The accident occurred at about 6:40 in Zhoujia town of Shuangcheng city, 50 kilometres from the provincial capital Harbin.

The injured have been rushed to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, said traffic police.

MNA/Xinhua



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff taking the salute of the Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

Indian Air Chief Marshal...

(from page 16)

Next, the goodwill delegation led by the visiting Indian Air Chief Marshal and wife left for the Nay Pyi Taw hotel zone where they will put up. — MNA



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff inspect the Guard of Honour. — MNA

Energy Minister receives President of Fritz Werner Co

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov— Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met President Mr Werner Schoeltzke of Fritz Werner Company, Germany, and party at his

office here, today.

Present at the call were Deputy Director-General U Soe Aung of Energy Planning Department and officials. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives President of Fritz Werner Co of Germany Mr Werner Schoeltzke and party. — MNA

Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety commences

YANGON, 21 Nov— The opening of the 5th Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety took place at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo in his speech said that the

outbreak of food-borne diseases ranging from diarrhoea to malnutrition and chronicle illness is due to food chain “farm to mouth approach”. Food-borne diseases occur in children especially under-five children most. Therefore, the international community

is making arrangements to pay serious attention to foodhygiene. WHO, FAO and international organizations are contributing towards various projects on food safety of ASEAN countries.

Next, Dr Bounpheng Philavong of the ASEAN

Office delivered a speech.

The experts of ASEAN countries held discussions on accomplishment of resolutions passed by the meetings on food safety and future plans.

The meeting continues till 23 November. — MNA

Community-based health care provided in Pakokku

YANGON, 21 Nov— Preliminary meetings on community-based disease prevention and health care services are being held in Pakokku. At the meetings held at Magway Division Health Department on 30 September, at Pakokku People’s Hospital on 2 October and 4 October, officials concerned explained the tasks to be carried out. On 5 October, at the meeting on cooperation of social organizations for the project of community-

based disease prevention and health care services, officials concerned explained providing the health care services for those living with HIV/AIDS and chronic diseases.

On 5 October, the Head of Magway Division Health Department and health staff and social organization members in two groups visited 20 patients in Ward-11 and Ward-15 and provided medicines and food aid. They normally visit the

houses of the patients every two weeks and the project will cover all the wards of Pakokku by 31 December. The teams also visited the patients of Ward-13 and Ward-14 on 27 November and provided them with medical treatment. During the visits, educative talks were given and educative pamphlets and posters were distributed to the patients and their families.

MNA

Meetings of NC delegate groups held

YANGON, 21 Nov — The meetings of the delegate groups of the National Convention—the delegate group of political parties, the delegate group of national races and the delegate group of peasants—were held at the respective venues of the Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division this morning.

The delegate group of political parties

The meeting of the delegate group of political parties was held at the meeting room-1 at 9 am today.

The meeting was presided over by U Saw Phillip (a) U Phillip Sam of Wa National Development Party together with U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party and U Li Kwe Chin of Shan State Kokang Democratic Party as members of the panel of chairmen.

Deputy Director of the Work Group-3 of the Work Committee Office U Khin Maung Phyu acted as MC and Assistant Director Daw Htay Htay Win, as co-master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 28 delegates out of 30 were present, representing 93.33 per cent, and the start of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Meeting Chairman U Saw Phillip (a) U Phillip Sam made an opening speech.

Next, U Tha Ban Aung of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, U Kya Har Shé of



Alternate Chairman U Saw Phillip (a) U Phillip Sam of Wa National Development Party delivers a speech at the group discussions of political parties. — MNA

The meeting was presided over by U Aung Zan Wai of Rakhine State together with U Mann Ohn Maung of Kayin State, U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Rai of Kayah State, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division and Duwah Zoak Daung of Shan State (North) as members of the panel of chairmen.

Deputy Director U Tin Maung Oo of the Work Group-5 of the Work Committee Office acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director U Ye Lwin as co-master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity

of the meeting as 470 delegates out of 645 were present, accounting for 72.87 per cent, and the start of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Next, Meeting Chairman U Aung Zan Wai made an opening speech.

U Win Myint Soe of Bago Division, Daw Hsaing Khaung of Kachin State, U Aung Than Oo of Yangon

Division and U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Division read the proposals of the delegate groups to be submitted to the plenary session regarding detailed basic principles to be laid down for chapters on election, political parties and state of emergency provisions to be included in the State Constitution, and sought the approval of the meeting chairman. The meeting ended at 10:30 am with the concluding remarks of the meeting chairman.

The delegate group of peasants

The meeting of the delegate group of peasants was held at the meeting hall-4 at 9 am today.

The meeting was presided over by U Mya Aye of Yangon Division together with U Sai Tint Aung of Shan State and U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division as members of the panel of chairmen.

Deputy Director U Nay Win of the Work Group-6 of the Work Committee Office acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein, as co-master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the validity of the meeting as 80 delegates out of 93 were present, representing 86.02 per cent, and the start of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Meeting Chairman U Mya Aye made an opening speech.

U Soe Naing of Ayeyawady Division, U Mann Abhee of Kayin State and U Haung Jone of Kachin State read the proposals of the delegate groups to be presented to the plenary session regarding detailed basic principles to be laid down for chapters on election, political parties and state of emergency provisions to be included in the State Constitution, and sought the approval of the meeting chairman.

The meeting ended at 10:25 am with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman. — MNA



Alternate Chairman U Aung Zan Wai of Rakhine State delivers a speech at the group discussions of delegate of national races. — MNA

Lahu National Development Party, U Saw San Shwe of Union Kayin League, U Khin Maung Aye of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and U Nyi Paloke of Wa National Development Party presented the proposals on clarification of the Work Committee Chairman at the plenary sessions regarding detailed basic principles to be laid down for chapters on elections, political parties and state of emergency provisions to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

After that, members of the panel of chairmen and delegates from political parties discussed matters on setting of the time for compiling proposals regarding the clarification of the Work Committee Chairman at the plenary meeting for detailed basic principles for amendment of the constitution, the national flag, the State emblem, the national anthem, the capital, transitory provisions and general provisions to be included in the State Constitution.

The meeting ended at 11 am with the concluding remarks of the meeting chairman.

The delegate group of national races

The delegate group of national races held its meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hall at 9 am today.

of the meeting as 470 delegates out of 645 were present, accounting for 72.87 per cent, and the start of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Next, Meeting Chairman U Aung Zan Wai made an opening speech.

U Win Myint Soe of Bago Division, Daw Hsaing Khaung of Kachin State, U Aung Than Oo of Yangon



Alternate Chairman U Mya Aye of Yangon Division delivers a speech at the group discussions of peasant delegates. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meets Tatmadaw members, families in Monghsat

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence met Tatmadaw members and their families of regiments and battalions at Yangyi Aung Hall in Monghsat Station on 19 November.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Brig-Gen Tin Yu of Monghsat Station, senior military officers and Tatmadaw members and families.

In his discussions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said Tatmadaw members and families are to participate in rural development tasks and community welfare tasks in cooperation with local authorities and the people and social organizations upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

He urged them to undertake agricultural and livestock tasks with momentum.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander went to Bayintnaung Yeiktha where Lt-Col Kyaw Nyunt reported on construction of Tarsan-Mongton-Monghsat-Mongkhok Road and Superintending Engineer U Aung Htay on work being done and transfer of machinery. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said the government is building roads and bridges for ensuring smooth and secure transport. He spoke of the need to maintain the roads and bridges built for durability. Local authorities and departments concerned are to provide assistance for easy transport and smooth flow of commodity.

On completion of the roads, altogether five



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects the honey orange farm in Monghsat. — MNA

roads will lead to Monghsat. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party inspected construction of fire service station and gymnasium in Monghsat.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met members of district and township peace and development councils and departmental officials and townselders.

Chairman of Monghsat peace and development council U Aung Myint reported on facts about the region.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said he came to the region to fulfill the requirements in economic, social, education, health and transport sectors. In transport sector, local people can travel to nearby regions easily as the rural roads have improved.

He spoke at length on exceeding targets in cultivation of ten major crops, extended cultivation of rubber, physic nut and tea in coordination with departments and authorities

concerned.

He said efforts are to be made for narrowing the gap between urban and rural regions and for promoting the education of national race youths.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected the honey orange farm in Maiswanmyauk Ward in Monghsat Township. The owner of the farm reported on sale and cultivation. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party observed sorting of oranges with the use of modern machines.—MNA

Members of local social organizations visit Loikaw Jail

YANGON, 21 Nov—Members of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and the Myanmar Red Cross Society visited Loikaw Jail on 10 November and presented cash and kind worth K 338,800 to the inmates and helped them to send letters to their families.—MNA



Members of local NGOs presenting the donations to the prisoners at Loikaw Jail.

MNA



Bangladeshi Military Attache Brig-Gen Shawkat Jamal welcomes Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife at the reception to mark the 35th Anniversary Armed Forces Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 21 November 2006. — MNA

Outstanding students, farmers and townships honoured in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence attended the awarding ceremony held at City Hall of Patheingyi in Ayeyawady Division on 19 November.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung reported on work progress of agriculture, livestock, education and health sectors for rural development.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the government taking necessary steps for the economic development of rural folks who constitute 70 per cent of the nation's population of more than 55 million, the majority of which are engaged in businesses on agriculture, fish and meat, and forestry.

The drive covers Ayeyawady Division, he said, calling for energetic contribution for the achievement of the work programmes adopted by the government.

He called on officials concerned to organize local farmers for ensuring systematic application of advanced agricultural methods to meet the targeted per acre yields of the ten major crops.

Thanks to the government's encouragement and efforts of local farmers, Ayeyawady Division's monsoon paddy acreage has increased to about 3.7 million, up from 3.1 million acres in 1988.

Up to 20 October 2006, 190 dam or sluice gate projects and 298 river water pumping station projects have been completed under the guidance of the Head of State. So, irrigation sown acreage has reached more than 7.1 million.

He called for efficient use of irrigation water, effective multiple cropping patterns, completion of ongoing irrigation facility projects on schedule, systematic supply of water, and maintenance work.

He said that Ayeyawady Division is to make necessary arrangements to achieve

the target of 500,000 acres of jatropha curcas (physic nut) by 2008-2009.

He stressed the importance of extensive growing of pepper and rubber, development of fish and prawn breeding, coastal and deep-sea fisheries, and breeding of poultry and cattle on a commercial scale.

The government has constructed bridges and roads in Ayeyawady Division most in the nation. So, the region has enjoyed the taste of swift commodity flow and economic development.

It is also raising the division's education, health, industrial, and information and public relations sectors. So, local people are to make sustained efforts for sustainable development in those sectors.

In conclusion, he said Ayeyawady Division is the reliable region, and urged local administrative bodies, departments, social organizations, national entrepreneurs, farmers and students and local people to exert increased efforts and effectively tap natural



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presents cash awards and trophies to the districts and townships for their outstanding performance in economic progress through an official. — MNA

resources and infrastructures for greater development of economic and social services.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented prizes for outstanding performances in economic development to Thabaung, Nyaungdon and Kyaunggon Townships, gifts to those who passed 2005-2006 academic year matriculation examinations with positions ranging from fourth to tenth in the whole nation.

The commander presented prizes for outstanding performance in implementing projects to Myaungmya, Nyaungdon and Ngapudaw Townships, and gifts to outstanding students at the division level.

Minister for Livestock

and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented the prize for outstanding performance in production of vaccines for new castle disease to Patheingyi Township, the prize for outstanding performance in breeding poultry of domestic species to Mawlamyinegyun Township, the prize for outstanding performance in production of fish to Phyaw Ayeya Co, prize for breeding fish most to U Nyein Myaing of Pantanaw Township, the prize for breeding sea prawn to Ayeyawady Fishery Development Co Ltd, the prize for breeding fresh water prawn to Asia Thar Co, and the prizes for implementation of the targets for production of fish and prawn

to Nyaungdon, Maubin and Pantanaw townships.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe presented prizes for reclamation of lands for monsoon paddy cultivation to Patheingyi, Myaungmya and Pyapon Districts, and the prize for cent per cent use of vacant land to Laymyethna Township.

Director-General of No 1 Basic Education Department U Kyaw Thu presented gifts to outstanding matriculation students for 2006.

Officials presented prizes for outstanding performances in production of crops to the winner townships, and gifts to outstanding students and schools.

MNA

Prizes presented to winners of National Championship Karatedo Tournament

YANGON, 20 Nov—The final match of the National Championship Karatedo Tournament for 2006 was held at the Aung San gymnasium here yesterday.

Among the spectators were General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, officials, President of the Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and Patrons, the guests and fans.

Director General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik presented championship trophies to women's team of Forestry and men's team of

Defence.

The President of the Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation presented the first prize to Forestry Team, second to Industry-2 Team, joint third to Padetha Training Camp Team and Industry-

1 Team at Women's team Kumite event. President of Myanmar Karatedo Federation also presented prizes and cash to winners of women's events, men's events and Asia junior karatedo contest held in Singapore.

MNA



President of Myanmar Karatedo Federation awards the best player Maung Min Aye of the team of the Ministry of Forestry. — SPED

Man arrested within 24 hours after shooting girl he loves

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Nov — Within 24 hours police arrested a man who shot a girl with an unlicensed gun in downtown Mandalay on 16 November.

The man, San Pya (a) Sai San shot Ma Cho Cho (a) Ma Kyu Shin Yi with a .32 pistol at the corner of 54th Street and 40th and 41st streets for refusing his love. Ma Cho Cho (a) Ma Kyu Shin Yi was hit in the temple and was immediately sent to the Mandalay General Hospital where she died at 9:15 am two days later.

Thanks to the information given by the duty conscious persons, the police were able to arrest San Pya (a) Sai San after a hard wrestling with him on a road linking Lundaung and Taungbyone villages at 8:20 am on 17 November. He was arrested together with the .32 pistol and four rounds of ammunition.

San Pya (a) Sai San fled Mandalay and went towards Taungbyone village through Kanbaing village in Madaya Township. He was on his

way to Taungbyone village when he was arrested.

According to San Pya (a) Sai San, he bought the gun and bullets from a taxi driver for bath 12,000 in the other country he visited via Tachilek in November 2002.

Mandalay No 9 police station opened a case against San Pya (a) Sai San. Severe action will be taken against him for challenging the rule of law with a gun in day time in downtown Mandalay and causing public alarm.

MNA

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ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် နိုဝင်ဘာလ ၂၀ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

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Silver Jubilee

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Venezuela exits from economic pact with Mexico, Colombia

CARACAS, 20 Nov—Venezuela has taken a formal decision to exit from the Group of Three (G3), an economic bloc that also includes Mexico and Colombia, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

“Venezuela assumes with full freedom the challenge of establishing policies which can target productive development and protect the development of its national industry,” the ministry said in a statement.

Venezuela decided to leave the G3 on 22 May. Under the G3 pact, Sunday is the last day of a 180-day cooling-off period for a member nation to reconsider its exit. In May, Venezuela said that a 1994 agreement between Mexico and Colombia had created a neo-liberal scheme which had destroyed economies in the region.

The exit from the G3 will allow Venezuela to move forward on its way to join the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), which now includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.—MNA/Xinhua

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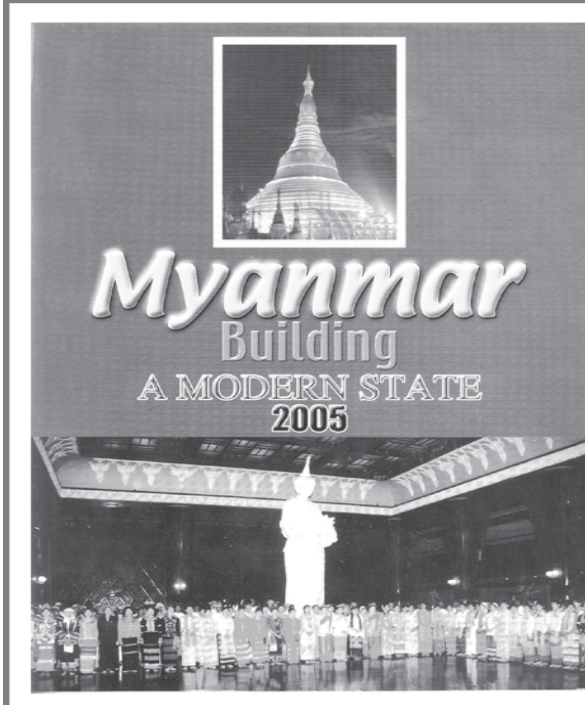
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(For. Allen and Gledhill, Advocates and Solicitors, Singapore)

Dated. 22 November 2006

Crowds gather to buy Nintendo's Wii game console

NEW YORK, 20 Nov—More than 1,500 die-hard Nintendo fans, some of whom camped out overnight, eagerly awaited the Sunday release of the

company's Wii video game console, the latest entrant in the 30-billion-US-dollar global game market.

At the Times Square Toys “R” Us in New York,

where a midnight (0500 GMT) launch party was planned, a line of approximately 1,000 gamers snaked around the block on Saturday.

More than 500 enthusiasts gathered for the West Coast release at the GameStop store at Hollywood's Universal CityWalk.—MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး စည်ဆောင်အံ့

Sri Lanka starts constructing second international airport

COLOMBO, 20 Nov — Sri Lanka launched the construction work of its second international airport Sunday in the deep southern district of Hambantota.

President Mahinda Rajapakse who is marking the first anniversary of presidency on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the airport at Weerawila, about 255 kilometres southeast of Colombo. Minister of Ports and Aviation Mangala

Samaraweera, who is also the Foreign Minister, said that the project costing 125 million US dollars was expected to be completed in the year of 2009.

Under the first phase the Weerawila International Airport would be

able to accommodate eight large aircraft at a time.

The 1,150-hectare airport will comprise of a 4,000-metre runway, parking space for 14 aircraft at a time and other modern facilities when completed.

MNA/Xinhua



An 8-year-old girl is suited up for a Peking Opera performance during the 2006 Shanghai Youth Peking Opera Competition in Shanghai, recently.

INTERNET

Pakistan, Britain sign development partnership agreement

ISLAMABAD, 20 Nov — Pakistan and Britain Sunday signed an agreement to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Pakistan through active partnership between the two countries.

The Long-term Development Partnership Arrangement was signed by Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and visiting British Prime Minister Tony Blair here at the Prime Minister House following the talks between them. Under the agreement, the

British Government will provide 480 million pounds (one British pound is about 1.9 US dollars) in next three years through the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.

The agreement will

provide a long-term development partnership between Pakistan and Great Britain through a transparent framework for mutual accountability for implementation of the development partnership between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

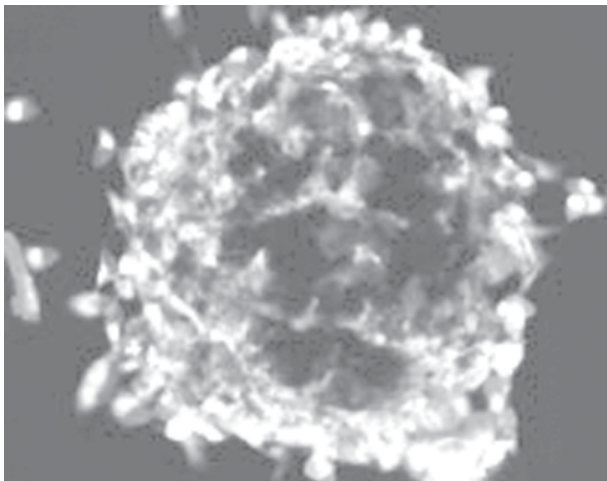


Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, actors Judd Hirsch, left, and Robert Forster are seen at an event celebrating the gift of the Gregory Peck Collection to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on 21 Nov, 2006 in Beverly Hills, California.

INTERNET

Study finds colon cancer comes from stem cells

OTTAWA, 20 Nov — Canadian scientists say they have evidence that shows colon cancer arises from stem cells specific to the tumor, a finding that could lead to more targeted treatments to prevent recurrence of the disease.



Canadian scientists say they have evidence that shows colon cancer arises from stem cells specific to the tumor, a finding that could lead to more targeted treatments to prevent recurrence of the disease.—INTERNET

The discovery was made after cells from human colorectal tumors were implanted in specially bred mice, said principal investigator Dr John Dick, a senior scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto.

Dick's research was published Sunday in an advance online edition of the journal Nature.

"We found that not every tumor cell is equally capable of sustaining tumors in the colon," said Dick, who holds a Canada research chair in stem cell biology. "Colon cancer stem cells are the driving force initiating and sustaining these tumors."

Stem cells are the building blocks of the body from conception, giving rise to every type of organ and tissue. Although it is not known when or from where they originate, cancer stem cells act in a similar fashion to their benign cousins, providing the foundation for at least some malignancies.

To see if stem cells were at the root of colorectal cancer, Dick's team began by taking samples of tumors surgically removed from patients' large intestines or other areas of the body where the cancer had spread.

They broke the tumors down into individual cells, then implanted "millions and millions" of them into the capsule surrounding the kidney of each laboratory mouse.

In all, 17 mice were implanted — and all 17 developed tumors, said Dick, explaining that the immune-deficient mice lack disease-fighting cells, so cancer can grow unchecked.

Through painstaking work transplanting various numbers of tumor cells into mice, the scientists initially determined that colon cancer stem cells are rare — occurring at a rate of about one in 60,000 cells.

Internet



A visitor gets her nail painted with nail art during the International Nail Expo 2006 at Tokyo Big Sight in Tokyo, 19 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Five airlines grounded in Nigeria

LAGOS, 20 Nov — The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has suspended airline operating certificates of five domestic carriers to sanitize the ailing aviation industry, local media reported on Sunday.

The affected airlines are Sosoliso, IRS, Space World, Fresh Air and Dasab. The NCAA revoked ADC's certificate on 30 October after its B737-200 aircraft crashed in Abuja one day earlier, killing 98 people.

The NCAA at the weekend withdrew the certificates for what it described as their "flouting safety rules, (and) operation of one airplane."

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Panathinaikos honour Puskas with 4-goal victory

ATHENS, 21 Nov— Panathinaikos said farewell to Ferenc Puskas, the most successful coach in their history who died on Friday, with a 4-0 win over Atromitos in the Greek Super League on Sunday.

Wearing black armbands in honour of the Hungarian who led them to the 1971 European Cup final, Panathinaikos shredded Atromitos with a goal in each half from Alexandros Tziolis and two late in the game from Dimitris Salpigdis and Vangelis Mantzios.

The win takes Panathinaikos into second place on 25 points, two behind leaders Olympiakos Piraeus, who had to come from 2-0 down to beat Aris 3-2 away on Saturday. AEK Athens, who beat Kerkyra 4-1 on Saturday, are third with 24 points. PAOK remain in touch in fourth place with 21 points after Marcin Miecziel scored twice in a 3-0 win over Ionikos.

MNA/Reuters

Boca close on title after another troubled weekend

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Nov— Boca Juniors won 2-1 at Gimnasia-Jujuy to move closer to the title on another troubled weekend for the Argentine championship, which has been plagued by violence and intimidation off the field.

Boca stayed four points clear of Diego Simeone's Estudiantes, who scored twice in stoppage-time to come from behind for a 2-1 win at Newell's Old Boys, their ninth successive victory.

But the weekend's action on the pitch was overshadowed when the fans of Racing Club and San Lorenzo blocked their respective team buses and forced the match to be called off.

The fans, who jumped up and down in celebration on hearing that the match had been postponed, were angry at a decision to order the Buenos Aires derby

to be played behind closed doors in La Plata, 60 kilometres away.

There were rumours that the rest of Sunday's games would be called off as well but they went ahead after Argentina Football Association (AFA) president Julio Grondona warned that teams who did not turn up would have points docked.

It was the latest twist in the tournament in which two other games were postponed at short notice and three suspended during the course of the match because of crowd violence.

MNA/Reuters



Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand chips the ball onto the ninth green during the last round of the Hong Kong Open golf tournament on 19 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET



West Indies' Daren Ganga plays a delivery off the bowling of Pakistan's Danish Kaneria on the second day of the second test cricket match in Multan on 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Kaka not fully fit in French game at World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Nov— Brazil midfielder Kaka said on Sunday he was not fully fit in the 1-0 quarterfinal defeat to France at the World Cup and that he should not have played.

Kaka said he had told coach Carlos Alberto Parreira that he was fit to play, even though he was still feeling the effects of a bruised knee which he suffered in the previous game against Ghana in Germany.

"I told Professor Parreira that I could play," he said in an interview with Brazilian television. "It was my mistake...I was wrong to have played because when you play with an injury, it limits you.

"In the World Cup, you're amid all that euphoria and you don't know what might happen." Kaka also criti-

cized Brazil's World Cup preparations in Switzerland, where paying crowds

of around 5,000 people watched their training sessions.—MNA/Reuters

River reject Real Madrid offer for Higuain

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Nov— River Plate have turned down a 10 million euro offer from Real Madrid for 18-year-old striker

Gonzalo Higuain.

"We're not satisfied with the price nor the idea of handing over the player at the end of the year," River Plate secretary Mario Israel told Reuters on Sunday.

Higuain, who this month turned down a call-up from France where he was born, made his debut for River last year.

He shot to prominence by scoring twice as River Plate beat Brazilian champions Corinthians 3-1 to knock them out of the Libertadores Cup in May and twice more in the 3-1 win over arch-rivals Boca Juniors last month.

MNA/Reuters

Fans force suspension of game in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Nov— Racing Club's Argentine championship match against San Lorenzo was suspended on Sunday after fans kept team buses from reaching the stadium in protest against a crowd ban aimed at avoiding violence.

"The game was called off," said referee Daniel Gimenez as he entered the stadium in La Plata, some 60 km south of Buenos Aires, where the game was going to be played.

"The AFA (Argentine Football Association) has just informed me that there's no game for the reasons we're all aware of."

The AFA recently prohibited fans of away teams from attending matches due to a surge in stadium violence, a rule that has enraged "barras bravas", fanatic and violent hard-core supporters.

San Lorenzo fans put chains on the gates of their team's stadium so the

players' bus could not leave in protest at the ban on away fans and because they are unhappy with coach Oscar Ruggeri.

Racing fans blocked the door of their team's

hotel to prevent their bus from taking them to La Plata and jumped up and down in celebration on learning the game had been called off.

MNA/Reuters

New York Knicks guard Nate Robinson (L) tries to block Houston Rockets centre Yao Ming (11) as forward David Lee fouls him in the fourth period of their NBA basketball game in New York, on 20 Nov, 2006. INTERNET



Lille soccer team train during a practice session prior their Champions League Group H soccer match against Anderlecht on Tuesday, in Lens, northern France, on 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

CSKA president admits paying incentives to other clubs

Moscow, 21 Nov— CSKA Moscow president Yevgeny Giner has admitted regularly paying incentives to other clubs so that they would play harder against his team's main rivals.

"I don't see anything bad in it," Giner was quoted as saying by the *Sport-Express* newspaper.

"Many people say that such thing is incorrect. I don't think so. More than that, I could openly say how much would pay and also tell tax authorities where I get the money from."

Although is not officially outlawed, the practice of paying out bonuses to other clubs has been deemed unethical and against the rules of fair play by both the world governing body FIFA and the ruling European organization UEFA. CSKA clinched their second consecutive league title over the weekend but their victory overshadowed by widespread allegations of match-fixing in Russian soccer this season.— MNA/Reuters

“Jakarta Post” tells Bush to prepare for unfriendly welcome

JAKARTA, 21 Nov — US President George W Bush was told on Monday to get prepared for a hostile welcome from the Indonesian people during his second visit to the world’s most populous Muslim nation.

“Many people in this country are opposed to your visit here today because of some of your policies, most notably on Iraq and on the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and they have made their feelings known by taking to the streets in recent weeks,” leading English news-paper *The Jakarta Post* said in its editorial.

The editorial, titled “Letter to Bush”, also said “you must be used to these kinds of protests and criticisms. You probably know too that you’re not exactly the most-loved American leader today”.

Bush, who first visited

the country in 2003, is slated to land at the military airport in Jakarta later in the day before meeting with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Bogor State Palace just south of the capital.

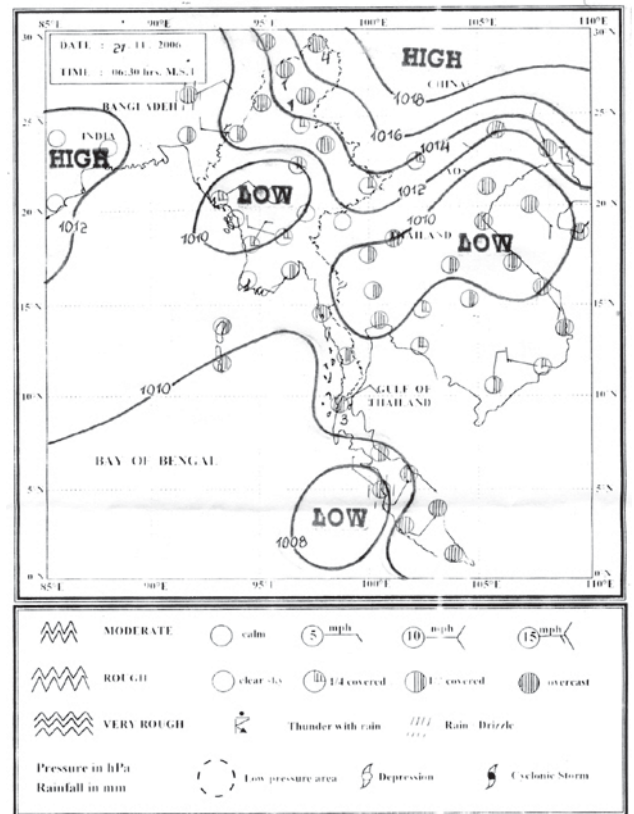
The rising anti-American sentiments in many countries around the world, not just Indonesia, are “partly due to some of your policies, rather than simply an outright loathing of anything American,” said the newspaper. “Remove these policies and the world will love America and all it represents once more.” — *MNA/Xinhua*



A model displays a work by fashion designer Qi Gang at Beijing Hotel in Beijing, 20 Nov, 2006.

INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 21 November, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kachin State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below normal in Magway Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, (5°C) above normal in Mon State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (3°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.28) inch, Putao (0.15) inch and Kawthoung (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-11-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 21-11-2006 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 21-11-2006 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 20-11-2006 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 21-11-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (98.46) inches at Mingaladon and (111.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (116.69) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from West at 11:30 hours MST on 20-11-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-11-2006: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperature in Chin State.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 22-11-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 22-11-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 22-11-2006: Generally fair weather.



Wednesday, 22 November

Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Let's live for today
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Yellow river
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Casablanca
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:00 am Music: -Knife
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunchtime music -Dream about you -Oh baby -One sweet day -Kiss from a rose
- 9:00 pm Variations on a tune -Feeling
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Music at your request -Honey come back -Honey -I love how you love me
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Wednesday, 22 November View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

6. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

8:15 am

7. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's Go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

4. တေးသရုပ်ဖော် အစီအစဉ်

4:50 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမိုင်းအထူးပြု) (သမိုင်း)

5:05 pm

6. Song of national races

5:20 pm

7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:25 pm

8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:35 pm

9. Classical song

5:45 pm

10. “ချစ်သောမြေ ချစ်သောရေ” (ရာဇာဓိပတိ၊ ခိုင်နှင်းစေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့)

5:50 pm

11. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

12. Evening news

6:30 pm

13. Weather report

6:35 pm

14. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညောင်ရင်

7:05 pm

15. “ကောင်းခြင်းစေခြာ” (ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ရန်ပိုင်စိုး၊ ပိုင်စေရဲထွန်း၊ မင်းသူ၊ မြင့်မြင့်စိုင်း၊ ခင်မိုးမိုးအေး၊ ချစ်စန်းဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ - အောင်မိုး-ပဲရစ်)

7:20 pm

16. The mirror images of the musical oldies

7:35 pm

17. ကြားမြင်သုတ ပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ

7:45 pm

18. သတ္တမအကြိမ် မြန်မာ့ တိုင်းရင်းဆေး သမားတော်များ ညီလာခံအကြောင်း သိကောင်းစရာ

8:00 pm

19. News
20. International news
21. Weather report
22. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် (၁၄) ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီး ပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုချီးမြှင့်ပွဲအခမ်းအနား ဖျော်ဖြေ တင်ဆက်မှု အစီအစဉ်၊ အကဖြတ် အဖွဲ့ဝင်များနှင့် မျိုးဆက်သစ်အနုပညာရှင်များ ဖျော်ဖြေ တင်ဆက်မှု အဖွဲ့ ဖျော်ဖြေတင်ဆက်မှု အစီအစဉ်
23. The next day's programme

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Indian Air Chief Marshal and wife arrive

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—At the invitation of Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, a goodwill delegation led by Indian Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff and wife arrived here by air this afternoon.

The goodwill delegation was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw airport by Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and the Indian Air Chief Marshal proceeded to the dais where they took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

After that, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and the visiting Indian Air Chief Marshal inspected the Guard of Honour.

Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein together with the visiting Indian Air Chief Marshal greeted members of the delegation.

Likewise, the visiting Indian Air Chief Marshal together with Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein greeted members of the welcoming party.
(See page 8)



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein welcomes Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

Weather Forecast for (22-11-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather.

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Generally fair weather.

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein meets Indian Air Chief Marshal

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — The Indian delegation led by Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff called on Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein at Paunglaung Yeiktha

here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Brig-Gen Zaw Tun and senior military officers and Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra. — MNA



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein meets Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff at Paunglaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

INSIDE

Now the eight delegate groups have put forward to the Work Committee proposals for chapters on elections, political parties and state of emergency provisions. In the same way, when the delegate groups have compiled proposals for chapters on amendment of the constitution, the national flag, the state seal, the national anthem, the capital, transitory provisions and general provisions, they will be submitted to the National Convention plenary sessions.

PAGE 2 PERSPECTIVES