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Friday, 24 November, 2006

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 Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received a goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of Thailand General Surayud Chulanont at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence, here, at 11.30 am today.

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

ment Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U

Thaung, Deputy Minister for Labour Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Thai Prime Minister and party were accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhira-kaosal.

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Senior General Than Shwe greets Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw.
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Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw.
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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 24 November, 2006

Diamond jubilee of National Kandawgyi Gardens

The Ministry of Forestry is making arrangements to hold the diamond jubilee of the National Kandawgyi Gardens, the opening of the National Landmarks Gardens and the horticulture show in the second week of December.

The National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin, a hill station in Mandalay Division, is famous for its beautiful natural scenes, various kinds of flowers and species of birds. There are various species of ducks, peacocks, pheasants, aquatic birds, high-flying birds and many others in the gardens. It is an ideal spot for relaxation.

The project for the National Landmarks Gardens is also being implemented. Well-known landmarks of various regions in the nation — replicas of famous pagodas, ancient royal palaces and tourist attractions — are being built on 50 acres of land near the National Kandawgyi Gardens. Moreover, young hardwood trees of local and foreign species and various kinds of flowers have also been planted there.

Travel agents and hoteliers and respective departments are required to work in concert to maintain the National Landmarks Gardens and the National Kandawgyi Gardens because they can attract local and foreign visitors and contribute a lot to the tourism industry of Myanmar.

Japan provides assistance for health care services

YANGON, 23, Nov – The Exchange of Notes of the Grant Aid of the Japanese Government for “Improvement of Maternal and Child Health Care Services (Phase VII)” was signed between Mr Nobutake Odano, Ambassador of Japan to the Union of Myanmar and Mr Ramesh Shrestha, Representative, UNICEF in Myanmar, at Sedona Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The Government of Japan will provide its Grant Aid of US\$ 2.65 million in this project for the purchase of rapid test kits and medicines for malaria, vaccines for measles, essential medicaments and equipment for reproductive health, test kits for the HIV/AIDS and others.

The Government of Japan has already provided a series of assistance for six consecutive phases for the same projects in total with US\$ 29.3 million from 1999 to 2005.

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 receives German guests

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin received a German delegation led by Mr W. Schoeltzke, President of Fritz Werner Industries of Germany at the ministry, here, on 21 November.

They discussed production of machines and transformer by Myanmar Fritz Werner Industries Co Ltd jointly established by Ministry of Industry-2 and Fritz Werner Industries, Germany.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials of the ministry.

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U Tin Latt presents Credentials to Malaysian King

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov— U Tin Latt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, on 6 November 2006, in Kuala Lumpur.

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U Nay Win presents Credentials to Swedish King

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov— U Nay Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Sweden, presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden, on 9 November 2006, in Stockholm.

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Indian ambassador calls on minister

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at the ministry, here, yesterday.

occasion were the directors-general of the ministry.

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Also present on the

Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min receives Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at his office.

ELECTRIC POWER NO 1



Ministry of Forestry strives to offer correct and efficient services to the public, welcomes complaints about malpractice

YANGON, 23 Nov — As the Government has been in a drive to serve the interests of the State and the people for giving genuine services in accord with the instructions of the State leaders, the Ministry of Forestry is also striving to offer correct and efficient services to the public through various ways and means.

The Ministry of Forestry issued a statement that the public if they face any of personnel misconduct such as malpractice of bribery and corruption, breaking of rules and regulations or abuse of power and position for self-interest and official harassment may file complaints about them

to the ministry on telephone or in person, that officials inquiry concerning the cases will be swift and effective.

For any complaint the public may dial 067-405005 (the Minister), 067-405004 (the Head of Office), (fax) 067-405071 (the Ministry of Forestry) at No 28, Nay Pyi Taw, or emails to mofofficepm@mptmail.net.mm.

Quick and punitive action will be taken against staff at all levels, and public cooperation through correct ways is required in combating misconduct.

MNA

China, India pledge to expand cooperation on regional, int'l stages

NEW DELHI, 22 Nov— China and India pledged to expand cooperation on both regional and international stages, said a joint declaration issued by the two countries on Tuesday.

The two sides should have regular exchanges of views on the emerging

security environment in the Asia-Pacific Region and the world, and proactively consult each other on issues of immediate and emerging concern, said the declaration released here during Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to India.

The two sides should also have regular consultations on issues pertaining to regional peace, security and stability, such as regional maritime security, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and their means of delivery, said

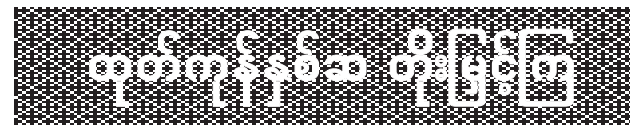
the declaration.

According to the document, the two sides should positively assess the trilateral dialogue mechanism between China, India and Russia and agree that exchanges and cooperation should be further substantiated.

Additionally, the two countries condemned all forms of terrorism and agreed to broaden and deepen the China-India Dialogue Mechanism on Counter Terrorism, as well as strengthen bilateral and international cooperation to fight terrorism, separatism and extremism.

In the declaration, the two sides recognize the central role of the United Nations in promoting international peace, security and development, and reiterate their determination to strengthen the UN system.

MNA/Xinhua



Sean Paul holds the award for favourite pop/rock male artist at the 2006 American Music Awards in Los Angeles on 21 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

145 die in deadliest coordinated attacks of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 23 Nov—In the deadliest attack since the beginning of the Iraq war, suspected Sunni-Arab militants used three suicide car bombs and two mortar rounds on the capital's

Shiite Sadr City slum to kill at least 145 people and wound 238 on Thursday, police said. The Shiites responded almost immediately, firing 10 mortar rounds at the Abu Hanifa Sunni mosque as Azamiya, killing one person and wounding seven people in their attack on the Sunni shrine in Baghdad.

Beginning at 3:10 pm, the three car bomb attackers blew up their vehicles one after another, at 15 minute intervals, hitting Jamila market, al-Hay market and al-Shahidein Square in Sadr City. At about the same time, mortar rounds struck al-Shahidein Square and Mudhaffar Square, police said.

Ambulances raced to the scenes and police Col Hassan Chaloub said at least 145 people were killed and 238 wounded in the blasts, which destroyed many outdoor food stalls and parked automobiles and buses.—Internet



The world's largest millimetric telescope is seen near the summit of the Sierra Negra Volcano over 4500m above sea level on 22 Nov, 2006. Mexican President Fox officially inaugurated the telescope today.—INTERNET

Skirmishes, suicide attack claim three lives in Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Nov— Skirmishes and a suicide attack left three people including a suicide bomber dead in Afghanistan, officials said Tuesday. "A suicide bomber tied explosive device on his body and detonated himself in front of a convoy of Afghanistan National Army (ANA) in Barmal District

of Paktika Province Monday, but caused no lose of life," Akram Khupalwak, governor of Paktika told Xinhua.

The only casualty of the incident is the suicide bomber. Close to the border with Pakistan, the mountainous Barmal was the scene of bloody clashes over the past one month as more than 60

militants had been killed since the operation Oqab (Eagle) was launched in late October.

Meantime, militants raided a police post in the southern Helmand Province Monday night, killing two policemen, local officials said.

"The enemies of peace attacked a police checkpoint in Marja District last night and took away two policemen. Their bodies were found today," Mohammad Nabi Mullahkhil, police chief of Helmand told Xinhua.

MNA/Xinhua



Wall Street Journal released its "Top 10 Remarkable Women In Asian Business Circles" on Tuesday. Most are Chinese, including actress Zhang Ziyi.—XINHUA

Rome's Ciampino Airport alerted by false bomb

ROME, 22 Nov— Italian capital Rome's second biggest airport Ciampino briefly closed on Tuesday due to a false bomb alert.

An anonymous caller phoned the airport on Tuesday morning claiming a bomb had been planted aboard a cargo plane headed for Malta, according to Italian news agency ANSA reports.

Police and explosive experts were subsequently called in to examine the aircraft but found no trace of a bomb.

In the meantime, six flights which had been due to land at Ciampino were re-routed to Pescara on the Adriatic coastline. Ciampino, which is mainly used for charter and low-cost flights, remained closed for some 90 minutes in all.— MNA/Xinhua

US war on terror increasingly expensive

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov— Whether troop levels increase, decrease, or stay the same in the coming months, US war efforts in Iraq will become more and more expensive, The Christian Science Monitor reported on Tuesday.

The cost of the war in

Iraq has now surpassed 300 billion US dollars, according to government estimates, said the report.

Add in activities in Afghanistan, and the total price of the global war on terror is 507 billion dollars, making it one of the most monetarily costly

conflicts in which the country has ever engaged.

Now the Pentagon is in the process of drawing up its follow-on request for the remainder of fiscal year 2007.

Reports indicate that the Pentagon could ask for 120 billion to 160 billion dol-

lars, which would be its largest funding request yet for the global war on terror. The drain of continued fighting in Iraq has meant that the global war on terror has steadily moved up the list of the most costly conflicts in US history.

MNA/Xinhua

Merkel warns NATO against divisive Afghan debate

BERLIN, 22 Nov— Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed on Wednesday to keep German peacekeepers in northern Afghanistan and resist attempts to transfer them to the more violent south.

With roughly 2,900 troops in Afghanistan, Germany is one of the largest contributors to a peacekeeping force in place since shortly after the 2001 US- and British-led invasion to oust the radical Taliban regime.

Merkel has come under

increasing pressure from the United States and NATO to move German soldiers from the north to the south where Taliban fighters are staging a violent insurgency.

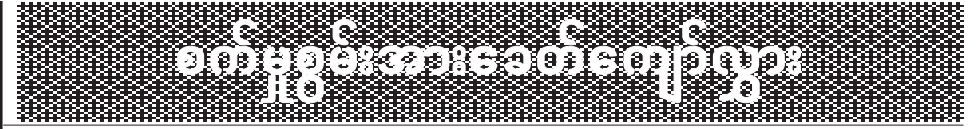
The German mandate as agreed by parliament stipulates that its troops be stationed in the north and help out in the south only on an ad-hoc emergency basis.

“The German army will continue to assume its responsibilities under its current mandate, but I can

envision no additional military responsibilities that go beyond the current mandate and I'd like to make that clear right here,” Merkel said in a speech to parliament.

German resistance to shifting troops to the south has upset the Americans, British and Canadians, who are concerned their soldiers are doing most of the fighting.

NATO has said it does not have enough forces to secure victory and is seeking 1,500 additional soldiers.—Internet



Pilgrims participate in the enshrining ceremony of Wan Fo Pagoda, the first all copper Buddhist pagoda in China, on the Jiuhua Mountain in Anhui Province, on 20 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Lebanese PM determined to set up int'l court for assassinations

BEIRUT, 22 Nov— Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora condemned here Tuesday the earlier assassination of Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, saying it makes the country more determined to set up international court for

assassinations.

Siniora made the remarks at a Press conference in a reaction to the assassination of Gemayel who was shot dead late Tuesday by a gunshot on his head when his convoy was attacked in Jedeide, about 15

kilometres northeast from Beirut.

The murder of the anti-Syrian minister “will not terrorize us” and “we will not let the criminal killers control our fate”, Siniora said, urging for unity in the deeply divided country. He said that “it is time for all Lebanese to unite”, pledging that his government will take up all its responsibilities in order to protect the interests of the people.

The Gemayel assas-

sination “increases our determination to see the creation of the international tribunal” to try suspects in the 2005 murder of five-time premier Rafiq Hariri.

Former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, also a prominent anti-Syria political figure, was killed in a suicide bombing in February last year, which led to rising anti-Syrian waves and the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

MNA/Xinhua

Dengue suspected cases rise to 5,235 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 Nov— A total of 5,235 patients with signs and symptoms similar to dengue fever have been admitted to different hospitals across Pakistan till Tuesday evening, the Ministry of

Health said.

According to the ministry, the patients declared positive for dengue virus now number 1,994. So far a total of 48 deaths have occurred from dengue fever across the country, with 46 from Sindh Province, one from North West Frontier Province and one from Islamabad.

MNA/Xinhua



Dutch actress Maryam Hassouni poses during the 2006 International Emmy Awards Gala in New York, the USA, on 20 Nov, 2006. Maryam Hassouni won the best actress on Monday. British television won the most of the top honours at the International Emmy Awards.—INTERNET

UN says Iraqi civilian death toll reaches new monthly high

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov— Armed group attacks in Iraq killed 3,709 civilians last month, making October the deadliest month since the war began in 2003, according to UN figures.

The UN Assistance Mission in Iraq, which issues bimonthly human rights reports on the war-torn country, came out with its findings for September and October on Wednesday.

September had 3,345

civilian deaths — which, along with October, would bring to 7,054 the number of violent deaths during the two-month period, according to the UN tally.

Baghdad alone had no less than 4,985 deaths, “most of them as a result of gunshot wounds,” said the UN Assistance Mission, using figures provided by the Iraqi Health Ministry.

The figures were slightly higher than in July

and August, when 6,599 civilians were killed.

The number of civilian deaths has been rising all year since the February bombing of a Shiite shrine in Samarra, north of Baghdad, with sectarian violence escalating greatly after that attack.

Sunni-Shiite hostilities, with revenge killings, mosque attacks, and militias and death squads prominent, were central to Iraq’s problems, the report found.—Internet

Damaged houses are seen near an explosion site in Danvers, Massachusetts, on 22 Nov, 2006. Huge explosions at a chemical plant rocked a suburb north of Boston early on Wednesday, sparking a massive fire that injured 10 people and damaged nearly 100 homes and buildings, authorities said.

INTERNET



Peking University receives largest donation in history

BEIJING, 22 Nov — China's prestigious Peking University has received a record 173.3 million yuan (21.9 million US dollars) from the inheritance fund of a late Singaporean billionaire.

The president of Peking University Xu Zhihong and Mavis Oei, daughter of late Singaporean banker Khoo Teck Puat, signed a donation contract on Monday.

A better part of the donation — 150 million yuan (19 million US dollars) — will be spent on the construction of a new gymnasium and a table

tennis arena to be used for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"The new gymnasium and the major conference hall of a school of governmental administration under the university will be named after Khoo Teck Puat," said Xu. The new gymnasium is expected to be completed next August.

"The government spends eight million yuan on developing the university infrastructure each year, only 10 per cent of its total cost," said Chen Wenshen, vice-president

of the university.

"Most of the money we need we have to raise ourselves," said Chen.

Khoo Teck Puat was formerly listed as the richest man in Singapore by *Forbes*. He died in February 2004, leaving a legacy of 700 million Singaporean dollars (448.3 million US dollars).

Khoo's children distribute the fund to medical treatment, health care and education, according to his wishes.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists make their way up and down the Great Wall in Badaling, 70km northwest of Beijing recently. Spending by domestic and foreign tourists in China is expected to nearly double by the year 2010 to 156.5 billion dollars, state media reported.—INTERNET

Big robbery in Malaysian airport warehouse

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Nov— Twenty robbers broke into an airport warehouse in Malaysia and looted chips and computer parts worth some 47 million ringgit (12.7 million US dollars), local media reported Tuesday.

In the unusual case which took place early Monday morning in Penang, robbers hauled away microchips and computer parts in two lorries, leaving Malaysian Airlines (MAS) security

staff dazed.

Local newspapers described the headline story as "the biggest ever robbery" in Malaysia and expressed surprise at the easy manner in which robbery was conducted.

Those robbers arrived in two container lorries, four of them wearing volunteer security staff uniform, rousing little suspicion from security staff in the Batu Maung Free Commercial Zone, which is managed by the MAS.

When they broke into the warehouse, they knocked out 17 workers at the site and forced them to drink chloroform.

On the way out, the robbers attacked two Customs officer and a lorry driver at the checkpoint before ripping apart the alarm and snatching their cell phones.

Police have set up a task force and two suspects have already been detained.

As the heist was carried out "too smoothly", local police are reportedly believed to be working on an inside job theory.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl takes a glance at turbot, a popular type of flatfish, on a street in Beijing on 21 Nov, 2006.—XINHUA

Philippine Taal Volcano spews muddy water

MANILA, 22 Nov— Taal Volcano's main crater has been spewing three to five-metre-high geysers of muddy water since Friday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported on Tuesday.

"Mud geysering has continued since Friday but the volcano stays at Alert Level 1," said Allan Lusa, Phivolcs science research specialist at the Taal Volcano Observatory.

In its Saturday advisory, Phivolcs said the muddy water flowed from the north northeastern portion of the main crater.

A similar event, which was recorded in November 1999, lasted until February 2000, according to the Phivolcs.

No other advisories were issued since Saturday, said Lusa.

Phivolcs, meanwhile, advised the public to be vigilant and observe precautions when visiting the volcanic island.

Taal Volcano, known as the smallest active volcano in the world, is located about 70 kilometres south of Manila on an island inside a lake called Taal Lake.

MNA/Xinhua

Barge carrying oil-spill debris sinks in central Philippines

MANILA, 22 Nov— A barge carrying polluted soil from the oil-spill site in Guimaras Province, the central Philippine, sank on Monday night, arousing fears that new contamination might occur, local reports said on Tuesday.

The barge was being towed by a tugboat when huge waves sank the vessel, an on-line report by Inquirer news network quoted Philippine Maritime Industry Authority enforcement chief Arnie Santiago as saying.

The barge sank 6.4 kilometres off the coast of Plaridel, Misamis Oriental Province at around 11:10 pm (1510 GMT) Monday, with no casualty among the

crew, the report said.

The vessel was carrying 630 tons of sand with bunker oil that was cleaned up from Guimaras, where a tanker spilled nearly half a million litres of bunker oil in August.

Sludge cleaned up from Guimaras' coast has been shipped for use as fuel and raw material by local cement manufacturer in Misamis Oriental, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

A Coke's hartebeest stands in front of its herd in Nairobi's National Park on 22 Nov, 2006.

INTERNET



Opportunists out to seek political gains at expense of religion

Boe Boe Aung

It was the period between 9 am and 10 pm on 29 October 2006.

And it was at the auspicious ground on the platform at the north-west corner of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

For me, it was an unforgettable day, on which I was agitated, while taking a religious place for real peace.

I am 90 and am a farmer of a hamlet near Yaytaik Village, Thayawady District. I have passed different periods, but politics is beyond my reach. Since I was ten years old, I had been engaged in farming, my family business. I was not sent to school as my parents considered that just ability to read and write was enough for me and sent me to the abbot of the village monastery to study under the monk. Many of my relatives and friends of my age have passed away. Doing good deeds and waiting for my last days, I live under the care of my children. Under the arrangements of my children, I paid a visit to Yangon for pilgrimage and to see my grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. Some of my children live in a ward near the Shwedagon Pagoda in Bahan Township. So, during my stay, I visited the pagoda occasionally.

My day of birth is Sunday. My parents called me "Maung Aung" affectionately. My full name is U Aung Zeya. The day on which the incident occurred coincided with my day of birth as well as my 90th birthday. So, I went to the auspicious ground on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda with the intention of saying prayers on oath to

renovate the two old pagodas in the rural area where I live. Soon after I arrived at the auspicious ground, I noticed a movement of a crowd. However, I concentrated on my work and kept on contemplating.

Then, I heard a loud prayer said in lead and in chorus, and at that time the whole surrounding was covered by the prayer, disturbing my meditation. Being half-deaf with a poor eyesight, I observed the environment to know what was going on. I perceived that a group of people was acting strangely. Just after the group started to say prayer, many of the other devotees doing meditation and paying reverence to the pagoda, young and old and women and men, left the auspicious ground in a hasty manner one after another.

So, I concentrated more on my meditation to overcome the disturbances of the voices, but in vain. I blamed myself because I was not able to concentrate well on my meditation at that time, but I did not want to put any blame on other devotees who kept staying there. I left the group and rushed to the north-east corner of the pagoda and continued to do meditation. Soon after that, I heard my eldest daughter, and I saw that she and her family members were beside me. And it was lunch time.

My daughter said to me, "Daddy, have you finished your doing meditation. If you have done, shall we go home?"

After her words, her son helped me stand up.

I said, "Don't you have to go to work today, daughter? What is the time now? Why haven't you gone to work, grandson?"

"Today is off-day. So, we've come here to see

you", she said to me. She and her son are doing private businesses and they have no off-days. So, I was surprised by their seeing me. However, unusual, they did not bring lunch box for me and it was lunch time. So, I decided to come along with them home.

My daughter said, "I can breathe a sigh of relief only now, Daddy. We're worried about you".

I was surprised by her words, so I said, "What happened to you, daughter? Nothing has happened to me".

"I know that nothing happened to you. Some people in the ward were saying that a group of people like "88" generation students had gone to the pagoda and they said they wonder what the group would do unpleasant. Then, I rushed to you".

"Oh, I see, I see", I said to her. I made a comment in my mind that they became too daring to disturb the people who performed good deeds on the platform of the pagoda. I also had sympathy for them.

In reality, the auspicious ground of the pagoda is just a place for those who are doing good deeds to attain Nirvana. In other words, it is a place where meritorious deeds are performed to help the doers attain Nirvana.

Even the Buddha had to fulfil His perfections for four aeons and one hundred thousand worlds of times to attain Nirvana.

Such nominal criers to exhort people to do good deeds do not deserve a place like the auspicious ground at all. There is no shortcut to attain Nirvana. Such nominal criers who are claiming to create a paradise, anarchists and the elements are exploiting the prevailing situations of the nation for political gains at the expense of religious affairs.

I made a decisive vow that I never let a situation occur in my mind that destroys the faith, one of the seven properties of a virtuous person, due to such interferences.

Translation: MS

Such nominal criers to exhort people to do good deeds do not deserve a place like the auspicious ground at all. There is no shortcut to attain Nirvana. Such nominal criers who are claiming to create a paradise, anarchists and the elements are exploiting the prevailing situations of the nation for political gains at the expense of religious affairs.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends special sales of Ministry of Industry-1

YANGON, 23 Nov — Ministry of Industry-1 opened the special sales of the Ministry in the compound of its staff quarters in Bahan Township, here, yesterday. It was attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Commander of No 77 LID Brig-Gen Win Myint, No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint San, Chairman of Yangon West District PDC U Aung Myint, Managing Director U Nyunt Aung of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries,

departmental officials, Chairmen of Township PDCs of Yangon West District and guests.

First, the Managing Director and the Chairman of Yangon West District PDC cut the ribbon to open the special sales.

Next, the Commander unveiled the signboard, and Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the Commander and party observed the shops.

The special sales will last up to 1 December, and clothes, foodstuff, medicines, household goods and construction materials are being sold at fair prices.—MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects the shops at special sales of Ministry of Industry-1. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win formally opens the signboard of special sales of Ministry of Industry-1.

INDUSTRY-1



Workshop on Promotion of Bamboo Utilization Project held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — The 2nd Workshop on Promotion of Bamboo Utilization Project jointly being carried out by Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry and ITTO for four years took place at the Forest Research Department, here, on 21 November with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

A total of nine papers including the ones of International Bamboo Researchers— Dr KK Seethala Kshmi of India and Mr Chudchawan Sutthisrisilapa of Thailand were read at the two-day workshop.

Present at the workshop were the directors-general, rectors and pro-rectors, the experts from Agricultural Research Department and Forest Department and others. After the opening of the workshop, those present observed the items made of bamboo by local people. — MNA

Inmates undergo blood tests in Insein Jail

YANGON, 23 Nov — A medical team led by Dr Thant Zin Oo and party of HIV (AIDS)/STD Combating Project of Yangon General Hospital carried out the blood tests for 79 woman inmates of Insein Jail on 21 November.

The medical team also gave health educative talks to 90 woman inmates and comforted the inmates who were HIV positive.

MNA



Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung makes a speech at 2nd Workshop on Promotion of Bamboo Utilization Project.

MNA



A 36-member Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of Myanmar Disabled Persons Sports Federation Col Myo Myint left Yangon for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by air on 23 November to participate in the 9th East Asia and South Pacific Countries' Sports for Persons in Disability to be held from 25 November to 1 December. President Col Htay Naing and two members left for Malaysia in advance on 21 November. — SPED

Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association to hold AGM

YANGON, 23 Nov — The second Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association under Myanmar Fisheries Federation will be held in conjunction with the Workshop on Genetic Resources Development of Freshwater Cultured Fishes at Thiri Annawa Hall of MFF at 8 am on 26 November (Sunday).

Experts and entrepreneurs will read five papers on genetic researches of fish at the workshop.

Members of MFF, experts of Fisheries Department, those in-charge of fish farms, faculty members of the universities, departments and companies related to fish breeding are invited.

MNA

**Prime Minister
General Soe Win
welcomes Thai
Prime Minister and
goodwill delegation**

*Prime Minister General Soe Win and
Thai Prime Minister General Surayud
Chulanont inspect the Guard of Honour at
Nay Pyi Taw Airport. —MNA*



*Prime Minister General Soe Win and Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont take the salute of the Guard of Honour from the dais at
Nay Pyi Taw Airport. —MNA*

Prime Minister General Soe Win hosts luncheon to Thai Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win hosted a

luncheon in honour of Thai goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

General Surayud Chulanont at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence here this

afternoon.

Present also were the ministers, the deputy ministers, Thai

Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, directors-general of the offices of

State Peace and Development Council and the Prime Minister and departmental heads.

Before and during the luncheon, artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture performed the entertainment. After the luncheon, Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont presented a bouquet to artistes and cordially greeted them.

MNA



*Prime Minister
General Soe Win
hosts luncheon in
honour of Thai Prime
Minister General
Surayud Chulanont
and party at
Bayintnaung Yeiktha
of Ministry of
Defence in
Nay Pyi Taw.*

MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win bids farewell to Thai counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — The Thai goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand General Surayud Chulanont left here by air for Thailand at 3:30 pm today.

They were seen off at the airport by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar and officials.

MNA

*Prime Minister
General Soe Win
bids farewell to
visiting Thai Prime
Minister General
Surayud Chulanont
at Nay Pyi Taw
Airport.*

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of development tasks in Tanai, Mogaung Townships



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects rubber plantations of Bugar Company.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Deputy Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen San Tun, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Tanai Station and Brig-Gen Myint Hein of Mogaung Station, inspected flow of water in Tawam Creek crossing Tanai-Shinbweyan Road on 20 November.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on arrangements for growing of sugarcane and tapioca near Pannet Village of Hukaung region in Tanai Township presented by Chairman of Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd U Yup Zaw Khong.

Under the five-year plan, Jade Land Co Ltd is making preparations to cultivate sugarcane, tapioca, physic nut and other crops on 66,399 acres of land at Sheinlonga Village, 112,086 acres at Shwebweyan Tayon Village and 21,515 acres at Khalon Village.

At Tanai Bridge on Ledo Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the retaining walls and maintenance of beams. Tanai Bridge was opened in February 2002. The bridge is 942 feet long and it can withstand 30-ton loads.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed thriving physic nut

plantations of Tanai Station and monsoon paddy plantations. At the 1,000-acre rubber plantation of Tanai Station, officials reported on growing of rubber, land reclamation and nurturing of rubber saplings. After looking at thriving rubber plantations, Lt-Gen Ye Myint left necessary instructions.

At the local station, Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed Tatmadawmen and family members to cultivate vegetables and perennial crops and participate in regional development tasks.

On arrival at Dunban Bridge on Tanai-Myitkyina Road, they were welcomed by Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and officials. They inspected thriving rubber plantations of Bugar Co Ltd and private entrepreneurs in the region.

At the briefing hall of the maintenance for Myitkyina-Pansaung-Ledo Road, Brig-Gen Myint Hein of Mogaung Station reported on maintenance of Myitkyina-Ledo Road and future tasks. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander inspected maintenance of the road.

In Myataung Village, they viewed thriving monsoon plantations of the local farmer and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Junior WAO members on tour of dynamism of patriotic spirit

YANGON, 23 Nov — Fifty junior members of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization led by Head of Organizing Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and Leader of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group Daw Tin Tin Nwe and party went on a study tour of dynamism of patriotic spirit to the National Museum on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Deputy Director U Than Win of the museum explained matters related to Thihathana Throne. The study group visited booths at the museum.

They also visited the Orient 2006 Myanmar-Japan Rainbow Bridge Art Show, jointly organized by Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon (Central) and International Association for Asian Artists Network of Japan, the Buddhology Museum, and the Aquarium.

Head of Organizing Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo explained that cultural heritage is honourable one of all national people. The junior members of MWAF are to study Myanma cultural heritage and to uplift prestige and integrity of the State and Myanmar culture.

MNA



Junior members of Yangon Division WAO go on a study tour of National Museum under the leadership of MWAF. — MNA

Teachers exhorted to strive harmoniously for accomplishment of national education promotion plans

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing had a meeting with servicemen of regiments and units of Tachilek Station in Tachilek on 21 November.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called for joining hands with the people in the drive for building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline, harmonious participation in regional development tasks.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander inspected the plantations of *jatropha curcas* (physic nut), industrial raw materials crops, and rubber of the regiments and units.

They visited Tachilek District People's Hospital. They were conducted round the medical facility by Head of District Health Department Dr Maung Maung Yu. They presented foodstuff and gifts to the patients.

There, they inspected the ambulance worth 1,888,000 baht donated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions, calling for better health care with advanced technologies and medical equipment.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence presents snacks and personal goods to a local who is undergoing treatment at Tachilek District People's Hospital. — MNA

In his inspection tour of Tachilek Basic Education High School, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called for

collaborative efforts to ensure all-round development of the youth of national races, and production of reliable human resources capable of carrying out regional development tasks. He urged the teachers to strive harmoniously for accomplishment of national education promotion plans.

They also inspected Hsanhsai BEHS in Tachilek and provided assistance for the school, calling for efforts to increase the pass rate.

MNA

Fund-raising entertainment programmes on 24-26 November



YANGON, 23 Nov — Organized by Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, a press show of fund-raising entertainment to honour the Myanma Motion Picture Day took place at the National Theater on Myoma Kyaung Road this evening.

Extinguished guests, Chairman of MMPOUKyi Soe Tun and executives, artistes and invited persons enjoyed the entertainment programmes presented by film stars and vocalists. The variety show will be staged daily at the National Theater from 24 to 26 November at 7 pm. Admission fees are

K10,000, K7,000, K5,000 and K3,000 per head. MNA

A fund-raising entertainment to mark Myanma Motion Picture Day in progress at National Theatre. — MNA

Ceremony to pay respects to aged literati held

YANGON, 23 Nov — Organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, a ceremony to pay respects to the aged literati to mark Sarsodaw Day was held at the City Hall of Yangon City Development Committee on 19 November.

The MWJA invited a total of 111 aged literati to be paid respects in the entire nation at the City Hall of YCDC. Out of them, the MWJA paid respects to 71 aged literati across the country at the City Hall of YCDC.

Acting Chairman of MWJA U Than Maung (Than Maung), Joint Secretary-3 U Soe Shein (Maung Soe Htaik-Thonse), Secretary Dr Tin Tun

Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo), CEC members U Aung Thein Win (Maung Khine Khant), U Maung Maung Myint Aye (Maung Maung Myint Aye), Joint-Secretary-1 U Than Hlaing (Tekkatho Thinkha), Joint-Secretary-2 U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu) and CEC member U Khin Swe (Shwe Sun Nyo) went and paid respects to the aged literati who could not attend the respects paying ceremony at their houses in Kyauktada, Kyimyindine, Lanmadaw, Kamayut, Yankin, Bahan, Tamway and South Okkalapa townships.

Similarly, respects will be paid to the remaining aged literati in the states and divisions. — MNA

Myanmar, China discuss mutual cooperation

YANGON, 23 Nov — At the invitation of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Chinese delegation led by Mr Chen Jian, Assistant Minister for Commerce of the People's Republic of China arrived here by air on 19 November to attend the 2nd Consultation on Trade, Forestry and Mining Cooperation between Myanmar and China.

The 2nd Consultation on Trade, Forestry and Mining Cooperation between Myanmar and China was held at Hotel Nikko Royal on 20 November and both sides held discussion on the matters of mutual interests in economic cooperation. On 22 November, the 2nd Consultation between Myanmar and China was held in Ngwe Hsaung.

The signing ceremony of protocol on partial debt relief, agreement on provision of an interest-free loan, framework agreement on provision of concessional loan and exchange of letters on Myanmar scholars to China between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China was held at Hotel Nikko Royal on 23 November.

Next, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thuyein Zaw and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu signed the agreements. Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and Assistant Minister for Commerce of PRC Mr Chen Jian signed the minutes of the meeting.

Later, the visiting Assistant Minister Mr Chen Jian and party left for China by air. — MNA

Three delegate groups hold meetings to compile proposals

YANGON, 23 Nov — Delegate groups of national races, peasants and other invited persons held group meetings at the designated halls of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Delegate Group of National Races

Alternate Chairman U Mahn Ohn Maung of Kayin State presided over the group meeting together with members of the Panel of Chairmen U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yei of Kayah State, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division, Duya Zoak Doung of Shan State (North) and U Aung Zan Wai of Rakhine State.

A total of 471 delegates out of 645 attended the meeting, accounting for 73.02 per cent.

Alternate Chairman U Mahn Ohn Maung delivered an opening address. Leader of the proposal compilation team U Soe Myint of Taninthayi Division explained the clarification made by the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee on laying down for detailed basic principles of the chapter on Amendment of the



Alternate Chairman U Mahn Ohn Maung of Kayin State makes a speech at the group meeting of Delegate Group of National Races at Pyidaungsu Hall in Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby Township. — MNA

Constitution, State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, and the Capital, the chapter on Transitory Provisions, and the chapter on General Provisions to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

The meeting ended with the concluding

remarks by the alternate chairman. The alternate chairman gave the concluding remarks.

Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons

At No 8 hall, the group meeting was held. Alternate Chairman Dr Manan Tu Jar of Kachin State Special Region-2 presided over the meeting together with members of the Panel of Chairmen Vice-Chairman of Myanmar History Commission U Sai Aung Tun and U Aung Kham Hti of Shan State (South) Special Region-6. Altogether 58 delegates out of 89, accounting for 65.17 per cent, attended the meeting.

Alternate Chairman Dr Manan Tu Jar gave a speech. U Saw Hla Tun of ChaungU Township and Rakhine State malaria specialist Dr Chan Tha (a) U Nyi Nyi of Sittway Township read the proposal concerning chapters on Election, Political Parties and Provisions on State of Emergency.

Member of the Panel of Chairmen Vice-Chairman of Myanmar History Commission U Sai Aung Tun explained matters concerning the detailed basic principles of the chapter on Amendment of the Constitution, State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, and the Capital, the chapter on Transitory Provisions, and the chapter on General Provisions to be included in drafting the State Constitution. Later, the alternate chairman gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

remarks by the alternate chairman.

Delegate Group of Peasants

The group meeting was presided over by U Sai Tint Aung of Shan State together with members of the Panel of Chairmen U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division and U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division. A total of 82 delegates out of 93 attended the meeting, accounting for 88.17 per cent.

Alternate Chairman U Sai Tint Aung made a speech. The proposal compilation team comprising one delegate each from States and Divisions was



Alternate Chairman Dr Manan Tu Jar of Kachin State makes a speech at the group meeting of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons at the meeting hall-8 in Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby Township. — MNA

Rural development tasks under supervision

YANGON, 23 Nov — The Government is carrying out five rural development tasks for narrowing the development gap between rural and urban areas of the nation.

On 21 November morning, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe inspected progress in the smooth and better transport and the adequate supply of drinking clean water — two points of five rural development tasks — in Minhla and Letpadan Townships.

Minhla Township Development Affairs Committee is constructing Ottwin-Sitone rural laterite road and maintaining the wells in rural areas.

In Letpadan Township, Yayngan Bridge linking Okposu Village and Yayngan Village is being renovated.

In the both townships, the deputy minister heard reports on accomplishments of the respective township DACs and future tasks presented by officials. — MNA

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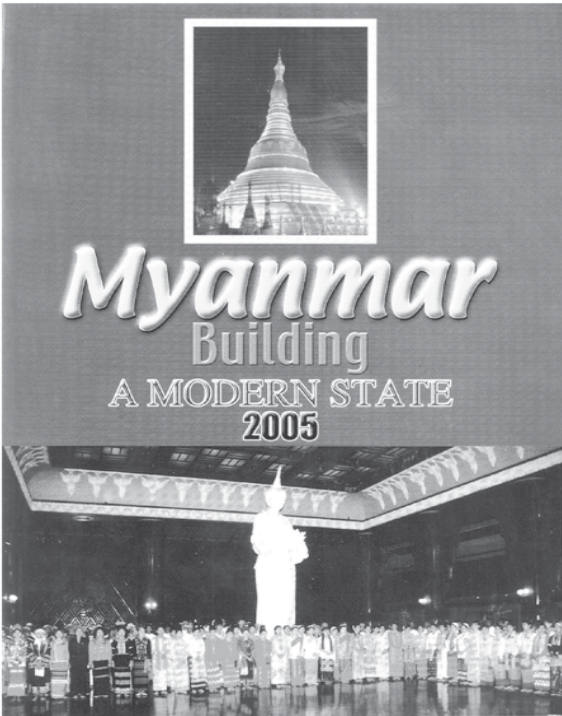
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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Bus turnover kills 11, injures six in S-W China

CHONGQING, 23 Nov—Eleven people died and six others were injured after a bus overturned on a mountain road Tuesday afternoon in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, local traffic police said.

The accident occurred at 1:15 pm in Yongchuan City when a 19-seat bus with 17 people on board turned over near a toll-gate and plunged off 23 metres onto a lower section of the winding mountain road that connects Dajiankou and Baofeng.

Ten people were killed on the spot. One of the seven injured died in hospital, according to traffic police.

Local officials rushed to the site for rescue effort and the accident is under investigation, police said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Cos to help assemble 'A320' jumbo jets

TIANJIN, 22 Nov—Three Chinese companies have agreed to set up an alliance to team up with Airbus to assemble A320 jumbo jets in north China's Tianjin Binhai New Area.

The alliance, Zhongtian Aviation Industry Investment Company, will set up a joint venture with the European aviation

giant. Tianjin, the largest port city in north China, was chosen in August to house Airbus' first aircraft assembly plant outside Europe.

Currently, Airbus has two A320 assembly lines: one in Toulouse, France, the other in Hamburg, Germany. The Chinese assembly line project will consist of four parts: assembly workshops, paint shops, testing areas and a flight test facility. No figures were available about the cost of the project.

The three partners in the newly forged alliance are Tianjin Bonded Zone Investment Company, China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I) and China Aviation Industry Corp II (AVIC II), said a spokesman for Tianjin Bonded Zone.

In early June, the central Chinese

Government announced its plan to create a new economic zone at Binhai, 50 kilometres from downtown Tianjin, that will aim to compete with the Pearl River Delta in the south and the Yangtze River Delta in the east.

The 2,300-Square-Kilometre Binhai New Area of Tianjin is located about 120 kilometres southeast of Beijing. Preparatory work for the assembly line project including infrastructure planning, recruitment and equipment procurement is underway.

It is expected that construction of the assembly line project will begin before the end of the year. The first aircraft from the Tianjin assembly line will be delivered in 2008 and the plant will be able to produce four jets a month by 2011.

MNA/Xinhua

Scores of Italian oil workers kidnapped on vessel in Nigeria

LAGOS, 23 Nov—Gunmen have kidnapped several people from an Italian oil vessel off the Nigerian coast, according to industry and security officials on Wednesday.

The exact number and the nationalities of the hostages were not immediately known. One security source asked for anonymity said the incident occurred overnight on a vessel belonging to a subsidiary of Italian oil giant Eni.

Other sources said about 25 foreign workers and 60 Nigerian employees were taken overnight on the vessel, which has not been confirmed officially.

MNA/Xinhua

Eurocopter opens maintenance centre in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Nov—World leading helicopter manufacturer Eurocopter Tuesday opened its regional maintenance centre in Malaysia.

The Eurocopter Malaysia Regional Maintenance Centre is located at Terminal Two, Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Subang near the federal capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia has identified the aerospace industry,

particularly aerospace maintenance repair and overhaul services, as a new growth area, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the opening ceremony.

With proper strategic planning and implementation, the aerospace industry could be developed not only to contribute significantly to the economy but also to generate spin-offs for other

technology industries in Malaysia, said Badawi.

"Malaysia believes that it has all the basic ingredients in terms of geographical location, infrastructure, political stability, high-skilled human capital and business friendly environment to become a successful regional aerospace centre," Badawi said.

Eurocopter Malaysia

has invested 40 million ringgit (10.81 million US dollars) to set up its regional maintenance centre in this country and also allocates another 40 million ringgit (10.81 US dollars) for the expansion in the next three years, said Badawi. Eurocopter is the first and only helicopter manufacturer to set up a complete maintenance and support facility in Malaysia.—MNA/Xinhua

ဝဏ္ဏာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A 100-carat yellow diamond (L) is displayed at British jeweller Graff's collection in Tokyo on 22 Nov, 2006. The diamond worth 3.2 billion yen (\$27.5 million) is part of a jewellery collection worth a total of 50 billion yen (\$423 million), according to Graff Japan. —XINHUA

Shanghai tower to offer world's highest observation deck

SHANGHAI, 22 Nov— The World Financial Tower which is under construction in Shanghai will have the world's highest observation deck at 472 metres.

It will be 25 metres higher than the current world's tallest observation deck, the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada, sources with Japan Mori Building Co, Ltd and Shanghai World Financial Tower Co, Ltd, developers of the project said on Tuesday.

The 101-storey building will be called Shanghai Hills World Financial Tower. Located in

Lujiazui Financial and Trade Zone of Shanghai, the office tower, with 381,600 square metres of floor space, is to be completed in the spring of 2008. The skyscraper will be 492 metres tall.

The bottom floors will contain 13,600 square metres of shopping mall, which can accommodate up to 60 franchised stores and restaurants. A Grand

Hyatt hotel will be built between the 79th and the 93rd floor.

The Shanghai Hills World Financial Tower is one of the three landmark structures designed for the centre of Lujiazui Financial and Trade Zone. The other two are Jinmao Tower and another skyscraper whose height has yet to be decided.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore launches 2007 Year of Boar coins

SINGAPORE, 22 Nov— The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) on Tuesday launched the 2007 Year of the Boar Almanac coins, which will be issued on 5 January next year.

The coins are part of the third series of Chinese Almanac Coins designed by China's Shanghai Mint, said the MAS, Singapore's central bank.

The previous two issues were the 2006 Year of the Dog coins and 2005 Year of the Rooster coins.

As with these issues, the Year of the Boar coins will use a mix of traditional minting technology

and unique colour application.

Some of the coins will also feature the peony

flower on the boar's belly.

The peony is a traditional Chinese symbol of blessings and

festive cheer. The coins will be sold by the Singapore Mint.

MNA/Xinhua



Journalists work in the news area inside Al-Jazeera's office in Kuala Lumpur, on 21 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Environmentalists criticize nuclear report in Australia

CANBERRA, 22 Nov— Environmentalists and conservationists have attacked a report on Australia's nuclear power and uranium mining, which says 25 nuclear power stations could provide a third of the country's power by 2050.

They reacted with horror to the report, saying its views would consign Australia to a toxic legacy. They said using nuclear power in Australia would damage the environment and the economy.

The report, by a government-commissioned task force, urges Australia to seriously consider nuclear energy as a future power source. The head of the inquiry Ziggy Switkowski said it is a practical option and

could feed into the electricity grid within a decade. He said Australia could also massively increase its profits from uranium by developing an enrichment industry.

But Prime Minister John Howard said he is not committing to any time-line. "It's too early for me, as the leader of the government, to start speculating," Howard was quoted by Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Merapi Volcano calms down after spewing hot clouds

JAKARTA, 22 Nov— Mt Merapi in Indonesia's Java Island calmed down Tuesday morning after spewing hot clouds up to three kilometres down from its peak on Monday night.

The local government in Sleman District had called on people living on the volcano's slope to increase their awareness for possible more hot clouds and floods of cold lava.

"Merapi is still in the status of alert, and we are still monitoring its development," Sleman District head Ibnu Subiyanto was quoted by the national Antara news agency as saying.

In April, thousands of people living in the slopes of the mountain, located in the border area between Yogyakarta and Central Java provinces, were evacuated as it spewed volcanic materials and hot clouds up to six kilometres away from its peak. Two were killed in the last eruption.

MNA/Xinhua

LAPD to install cameras in patrol cars

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov— The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) would begin installing digital video cameras in some patrol cars next week to better track how arrests are conducted, authorities confirmed on Tuesday.

The LAPD made the move after bystanders videotaped two of its officers using excessive force during arrests.

A pilot programme to test cameras would begin next Monday in the patrol district known as South Bureau, according to LAPD officials.

The City council has approved 5 million dollars for the first cameras, with the idea of installing more in the city's other patrol bureaus over the next three years.

LAPD Inspector General Andre Birotte Jr. said the cameras would help hold the department accountable as well as clear officers of unfounded allegations. "For that small percentage of officers that want to go on a wayward path, we would hope that those videos would help put them back on track," Birotte said.

MNA/Xinhua



Japan's independent automaker Mitsuoka Motor Co's employee sits behind the wheel of his company's new product Microcar K-4, open-top single-seater powered by a 50cc motorcycle engine, in Saitama, on 22 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Munich's player Martin Demichelis from Argentina, right, and Moscow's player Maxym Kalynychenko, left, challenge for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group B match between Spartak Moscow and Bayern Munich at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow, on 22 Nov, 2006. —INTERNET

Brazil retain top spot in FIFA rankings

LONDON, 23 Nov— Brazil have extended their lead over world champions Italy at the top of the latest FIFA rankings while Nigeria have broken into the top 10 at the expense of Spain.

Italy's 1-1 draw in a friendly with Turkey last week would have taken the World Cup winners level with Brazil, had the South Americans not beaten Switzerland 2-1 in another friendly on the same day.

Argentina moved up to third from fourth, trading places with France, thanks to the devaluation of defeats registered before mid-November a year ago.

Nigeria rose to ninth, up two places, while Spain fell to 12th after they lost 1-0 to Romania in a friendly in Cadiz last week for their third defeat in the last four games under coach Luis Aragones.

Russia climbed 10 places to 23rd, their highest position since early 2003, while Uzbekistan (45) and Cuba (46) both entered the top 50 with their highest positions since the FIFA rankings were introduced.

FIFA said the number of teams featuring in the rankings was now at a record high, with East Timor now among 206 sides included. Only the Comoros Islands, who joined FIFA in 2005, have yet to be listed.

Top 20 rankings (previous month in brackets, points total):

1.	(1) Brazil	1,588
2.	(2) Italy	1,560
3.	(4) Argentina	1,551
4.	(3) France	1,523
5.	(5) England	1,359
6.	(6) Germany	1,348
7.	(7) Netherlands	1,305
8.	(9) Portugal	1,258
9.	(11) Nigeria	1,242
10.	(8) Czech Republic	1,190
11.	(12) Cameroon	1,160
12.	(10) Spain	1,154
13.	(13) Ukraine	1,054
14.	(16) Sweden	958
15.	(19=) Croatia	948
16.	(14) Greece	945
17.	(15) Switzerland	937
18.	(18) Ivory Coast	919
19.	(23) Romania	912
20.	(19=) Mexico	887

MNA/Reuters

Southgate permitted to continue as Middlesbrough manager

LONDON, 23 Nov — Former England defender Gareth Southgate has been allowed to stay as Middlesbrough manager until the end of the season, the Premier League said on Wednesday.

Rules stipulate that Premier League managers must have started or hold the UEFA Pro Licence to work in the top flight but Middlesbrough argued that Southgate's 57 international caps had made it difficult for him to complete the badges.

He was given special dispensation at the start of the season until mid-November and that has now been extended.

"Given the specific circumstances in relation to Gareth Southgate's situation and his subsequent undertakings, the Board has consented to Middlesbrough FC's request (for him to continue as manager)," a Premier League statement said. Former captain Southgate retired as a Middlesbrough player and took over as manager in the close season from Steve McClaren, who left to coach England following Sven-Goran Eriksson's departure after the World Cup in Germany.

The 36-year-old's first steps in management have not proved easy, with the club 14th in the Premier League with four wins from 13 games, albeit one against champions Chelsea in August. — MNA/Reuters



Spanish giants Barcelona conquered Levski Sofia 2-0 in a Group A match of the European Champions League in Sofia, on 22 Nov, 2006. —XINHUA

Mancini aims for top spot after Inter go through

MILAN, 23 Nov — Inter Milan coach Roberto Mancini set his sights on top spot in Group B after securing qualification for the last 16 with a 1-0 win over Sporting Lisbon on Wednesday.

Inter go through to the next stage along with

group leaders Bayern Munich, who drew 2-2 at Spartak Moscow, and meet the German side in their final group game in Munich on 5 December.

"The lads did really well and played as a team," said Mancini. "The important thing is that we qualified,

given the kind of group we are in, but now we have done it we want to aim for top spot.

"You never know what you are going to get out of the draw for the knockout stage but we have the chance to win in Munich and we will try to do just that." Inter booked their place in the next stage of the competition thanks to a 36th-minute strike from Argentine forward Hernan Crespo. "The team showed they are in good form. It wasn't a straightforward game for us and we couldn't put our chances away but we got the right result," added Mancini.

"They knocked it about very well but hardly

created any dangerous chances. It is always a bit nervy, unfortunately, when you are just 1-0 up but we could have even got a second goal."

Sporting head coach Paulo Bento conceded that his side had not done enough to win the game.

"We weren't as strong as we should have been. We struggled at the start and then couldn't create chances. We only started playing after they scored," he said. "We had the better of the game after the break but we lacked the quality and couldn't produce the right finish. Inter deserved the win. I'm sorry we couldn't reach our goal in this competition." —MNA/Reuters



Inter Milan beats Sporting Lisbon 1-0. —XINHUA

AEK goalkeeper Sorrentino steps into limelight

ATHENS, 23 Nov — AEK Athens coach Lorenzo Serra Ferrer was the master of understatement when asked about goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino's contribution to a dramatic 1-0 win over AC Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The Spaniard simply smiled through his moustache and told reporters: "Sorrentino solved a lot of problems."

No waxing eulogy then in praise of an outstanding performance which, together with Julio Cesar's 33rd minute strike, has put AEK on the brink of reaching the last 16.

Perhaps it was fitting for while Sorrentino drove Milan's strikeforce of Filippo Inzaghi, Kaka and Ricardo Oliveira to dis-

traction, his performance was a lesson in understatement in its own right.

There is little flamboyance about Sorrentino's goalkeeping but plenty of workmanlike efficiency. Maybe that is one of the reasons the 27-year-old Italian never quite cracked it at home in Serie A.

Sorrentino started his career with Lazio before moving to Juventus in 1997 but had to wait until the 1998/99 season to make his competitive debut with Torino Calcio in Serie B. After loan spells at Juve, Stabia and Serie C1 Varese Calcio, he returned to Torino and played 12 Serie A games in two seasons before becoming a regular after then relegation in 2003.

MNA/Reuters



Bremen's Torsten Frings, right, and Chelsea's Michael Ballack challenge for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group A match between Werder Bremen and Chelsea in the Weser stadium in Bremen, northern Germany, on 22 Nov, 2006. —INTERNET

New telescope helps scientists track down threats to Planet Earth

BEIJING, 23 Nov—China has built a new *Schmidt* telescope, the largest of its kind in China, to keep

track of near-earth objects (NEO) that could threaten Planet Earth. The telescope,

measuring one metre in diameter, has been tested in a branch observatory belonging to Mount Zijin Observatory under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in east China's Jiangsu Province.

Near-earth objects are comets and asteroids that have been nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits that allow them to enter the earth's neighbourhood.

Equipped with sensitive CCD (Charge-Coupled Device) detectors, the telescope will help scientists document all NEOs, including unknown ones, for further study, and enable scientists to know in advance whether an NEO poses a threat to the earth, said Yang Jiexing, a researcher with the observatory.

"It is quite likely that some asteroids and comets hit the earth in the past, and it might happen again in the future," said Yang.

"We built this detector to know in advance of any approaching danger, and

be able to figure out how to deal with it," he said.

Scientists will take pictures of the NEOs and establish an archive.

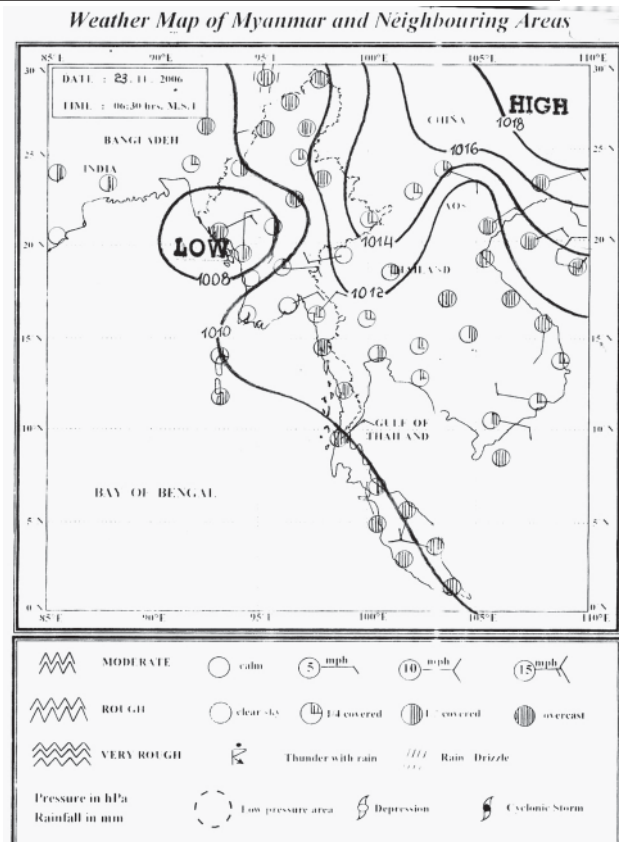
Uncertain evidence suggests that a meteoroid 45-90 metres in diameter caused an aerial explosion that flattened about 2,000 square kilometres of pine forest near the Stony Tunguska River in central Siberia in 1908, with the energy estimated to be equivalent to that of about 15 megatons of TNT.

So far, more than 800 near-earth asteroids have been discovered by scientists, including nearly 100 with a diameter over over 1,000 metres.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo provided by the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, Akin Ali snuggles up to his mom, Ayana, on Tuesday, 21 Nov, 2006, at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, in San Diego. —INTERNET



WEATHER

Thursday, 23 November, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, (8°C) below normal in Magway and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 22-11-2006 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 23-11-2006 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-11-2006 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 22-11-2006 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 23-11-2006 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 (7) mph from Northwest at 13:05 hours MST on 22-11-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Benegal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 24-11-2006: Light rain are possible to be isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Central and Eastern Myanmar and Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 24-11-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-11-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-11-2006: Generally fair weather.



Friday, 24 November

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

-I may be too young

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

-Time, love & tenderness

8:50 am National news / Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-The old heart of mine

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:

-Super trouper

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music

-Sunshine on my shoulder

-Precious love

9:00pm - W.O.M

-Germany, Japan, Spain, China

9:15 pm Article

9:25 pm Music at your request

-Don't cry

-Never say goodbye

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL



Friday, 24 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

7:50 am

5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:05 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:20 am

8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Demonstration Exercises for Correct Pronunciation

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အပေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)

5:15 pm

6. Song of national races

5:30 pm

7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:45 pm

8. "စည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာ ဘေးကင်းမှာ"

(ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ ဇော်ဝင်းမောင်၊ မေ့စစ်၊ လင်းစာနည်စော်၊ ပွင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်စော်၊ မြင့်စိုး၊ ဝ/သ ရန်ကုန် တက္ကသိုလ်)

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညွှတ်ရှင်

7:05 pm

12. Song of yesteryears

7:20 pm

13. "လောကရဲ့အလှရတနာ"

(ရဲအောင်၊ သူထူးစံ၊ မေသာဉာဉ်း၊ ပွင့်နီနီမောင်၊ ချစ်စန်းဦး၊ ချောရတနာ၊ မေကဗျာ)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. "နိုင်းငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ"

"ရေသူမလေး ပထမ ချစ်ပုံပြင်"

(အပိုင်း-၂၀)

18. The next day's programme

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Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Thai Prime Minister and goodwill delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win, a Thai goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand General Surayud Chulanont arrived here by special flight this morning.

The guests were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar and officials. Prime Minister General Soe Win and Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont took the salute of the Guard of Honour from the dais at the airport and inspected it.

Next, Prime Minister General Soe Win cordially greeted the Thai counterpart and goodwill delegation members. Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont also cordially greeted Prime Minister General Soe Win and party at the airport.

Later, the Thai goodwill delegation left for Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win, Thai counterpart exchange views

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win cordially met with visiting Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont at the meeting hall of Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence, here, at 12.40 pm today, and discussed bilateral cooperation between two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and

Technology and for Labour U Thaung, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Prime Minister's Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Nyan Lin of the Political Affairs Department and Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department.

The Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Nitya Pibulsonggram, Minister of Energy Mr Piyasvasti Amranand, Minister of Labour Mr Apai Chandanachulaka, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Secretary-General to the Prime Minister Gen Pongthep Tesprateep and high ranking officials.

Prime Minister General Soe Win and Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and cementing relation between the two countries.

MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win holds discussions with Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont at the meeting hall of Bayintnaung Yeiktha of Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA