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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye extends greetings at Laynya-Mandaing Bridge opening ceremony.

MNA

State making relentless efforts for fulfilling socio-economy of all national people residing in Union and strengthening national reconsolidation Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends opening of Laynya-Mandaing Bridge

YANGON, 23 Oct—The opening of Laynya-Mandaing Bridge in Pyigyí Mandaing in Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Division, constructed by the Bridge Construction Special Group-3 of Public Works, was held this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Taninthayi Division PDC Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials from the SPDC Office, departmental heads, divisional officials, district and township level officials, township PDC chairmen and departmental officials, Chief Engineer U Hla Min and engineers,

staff, local people, teachers and students, USDA members, social organization members and others.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein made an address on the occasion. He said the newly-opened 860-feet long bridge built on Laynya River is of reinforced concrete type. Taninthayi Division in the southernmost part of the country is a coastal region which relies on air and water transport. Although there are good foundations for enterprises such as fishery, agriculture and mining, the development of the region is slow because of difficulties in security and transportation.

To be able to overcome this situation, in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, officials went down to the grassroots level and attended to the needs. The party led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye himself had arrived to inspect the development tasks and to attend the opening ceremony of the bridge.

The projects being implemented by the State in the division include building of the strategic Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Highway and river- and

creek-crossing bridges. The 154-mile long Dawei-Myeik road section and the 55-mile long Myeik-Taninthayi road section became tarred ones and cars have regularly been plying on them. Altogether 14 miles of the remaining Taninthayi-Bokpyin road section has been tarred and over 70 miles of the road has been upgraded into a gravel one. Similarly, a total of 34 miles of the 142-mile long Bokpyin-Kawthoung road has been tarred and over 100 miles of the road has been upgraded into a gravel one. Although the Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Taninthayi road that was serviceable only in the open season in the past still needs to be upgraded in order that, it can be used in all seasons.

In constructing the Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway, all necessary river- and creek-crossing bridges along the highway have completely been constructed. Altogether six bridges which are over 500 feet and above in length —the Winwa Bridge, the Palauk Bridge, the Palaw Bridge, the Taninthayi Bridge, the Pathoung Bridge and the

(See page 8)



Newly-opened Laynya-Mandaing Bridge in Bokpyin Township. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 24 October, 2003

For development of gems market and increase of national income

The Union of Myanmar is rich in natural resources and the demand for Myanmar's precious stones such as jade and rubies in the world market has become stronger and stronger.

The Ministry of Mines, in coordination with national gem merchants, holds Myanmar Gems Emporiums in March and October every year for the development of gems trading enterprises and gems market at home and for increasing State revenues, private income and national income.

The Mid-year Gems Emporium 2003 was held from 17 to 22 October and gem, jade and pearl lots were sold to local and foreign gem merchants through tender and competitive bidding systems.

A total of 348 jade lots worth over 6 million euro were sold from 17 to 19 October, 44 gem lots worth more than 8 million euro from 20 to 21 October and 44 pearl lots worth nearly 150,000 euro on 22 October, fetching more than 15 million euro. Moreover, the sale of jewellery, jade and gems including jade figurines at fixed prices fetched more than 15 million euro.

A total of 838 gem merchants — 457 from 176 companies from nine countries and 381 from 146 local companies attended the emporium.

Myanmar Gems Enterprise has now opened the Gems Trading Centre so that national gem merchants, in coordination with Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Customs Department and other respective departments, can sell and export uncut gems and jades during the intervals between the emporiums. At present, measures are being taken by MGE to hold more gems emporiums and extend gems trading.

We would like to urge all the national gem merchants to cooperate with respective departments for the development of gems market and for raising the national income.

Maha Janaka marionette contest continues

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Maha Janaka marionette contest of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions continued for the third day at National Theatre on Myoma Kyauing Street in Dagon Township this evening.

Among the audience were member of panel of patrons of the committee for holding the competitions Chairman of the leading committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, member of panel of patrons of the committee for holding the competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chairman of the work committee Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, officials of the work committee and sub-

committees and artistes.

Tawwin marionette troupe of Yangon Division took part in the contest with the accompaniment of Pantra Sein Hla Myaing Saing troupe today.

Ponna Byan marionette troupe of Mon State will participate in the contest which will continue at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint pays reverence to remains of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandobhasa in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 23 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompa-

nied by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and

Development Affairs, left Kyaukse for Nyaungpin Aing Tawya Monastery in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning. They paid homage to the remains of Presiding Sayadaw of Nyaungpin Aing Tawya Monastery in PyinOoLwin and Nyaungpin Aing Tawya Monastery in Salingyi Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nandobhasa. The Sayadaw, aged 82, vasa 63, passed away at 4.35 am on 20 October.

Commander of PwinOoLwin Station Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing reported on arrangements being made for holding the final rites of the Sayadaw after forming the panel of patrons, the leading committee and subcommittees, and schedules for fixing day and time for holding the final rites. Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfilled the requirements.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfils requirements for the final rites of Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nandobhasa. — MNA

Programmes of performing arts competitions continue

YANGON, 23 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, which are being held to perpetuate the national character and traditional culture and keep them in high esteem, continued the

programmes for the tenth day here today at designated places.

The competitions were watched by Chairman of the Leading Committee for the Competitions, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and

Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for the Competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Brig-Gen Than Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads, members of work committees and subcommittees, enthusiasts, and visiting tourists.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road at 9 am.

Chairperson of the panel of judges Daw Tin Tin Mya, secretary Daw May Pyone Khine and members made assessment of the contests. In the religious song contest at higher education level (men), 13 contestants from states and divisions took part with the song "Aung-si-byaw-than".

Altogether 15 contestants took part in the girls' modern classical song contest at basic education level (aged 15-20) with the song "Phet-phu-hsin-khin-khin-kyaik-tai". The programmes for the song contest will continue tomorrow.

The music contest took place at the National Theatre

on Myoma Kyauing Street in Dagon Township this morning.

Among the members of the panel of judges were Sandaya U Chit Swe and members.

Altogether five contestants took part in the piano contest at professional level (male) with the song "Taungzam-byu-pine (Yodaya)"; and two contestants at professional level (female) with the song "Shwe-nyi-la-hnint-myin-khin".

Altogether 14 girls competed in the girls' piano contest at basic education level (aged 10-15) with the song "Kye-se-ta-man".

The harp contest took place at Padonma Theatre. Four contestants took part in the competition at higher education level (male), and seven at higher education level (female) with the same song.

Four contestants took part in boys' harp contest at basic education level (aged 15-20) and seven in girls' harp contest at basic education level (aged 10-15).

The song-composition contest at basic education level (aged 15-20) was held at the Kambawza Theatre of the Fine Arts Department. Seven contestants took part in it.

MNA



Maung Chit Oo Ko of Taninthayi Division competes at the Boy's Basic Education Level Religious Song Contest. (Aged 10-15) at 11th MTCPC. — MNA



Ma Lein Sein of Chin State competes at the Grils Basic Education Level Modern-classic Song Contest (Aged 15-20) at 11th MTCPC. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe enjoys the performance of Yangon Division marionette troupe at the Maha Janaka Drama Contest. — MNA

US soldiers fire in air to disperse Baghdad protest

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct—US soldiers fired above the heads of thousands of Iraqi government workers protesting on Tuesday after hearing that the Americans had detained a woman for refusing to be searched using a sniffer dog.

A Reuters correspondent said US soldiers fired a few shots in the air to disperse a furious crowd at a complex of government buildings in Baghdad that includes the oil, electricity, trade and irrigation ministries.

There were no reports of casualties.

"I have been coming here for 27 years and now they (Americans) are searching us with dogs. We are Muslims," Saadiya Ahmad, an oil ministry engineer said.

Dogs are considered unclean in Islamic culture.

A man who gave his name as Sabeeh said US troops had handcuffed a woman employee and forced her to stand in the

sun for an hour because she had refused to undergo a sniffer dog search.

Several people said the woman was carrying a Koran in her handbag, which had made her even more determined to resist the search.

There was no immediate comment from the US military.

Sniffer dogs are routinely used to search employees for explosives at government ministries as a precaution against bomb attacks.

Zainab Assim, an oil ministry employee, said she had tried to intervene when her colleague refused the search.

"I told them (the Americans) to stop it and a woman soldier slapped

me across the face," she said. "Every day the dogs put their noses inside our bags and slobber over our belongings."

Word of the incident spread like wildfire among ministry employees arriving for work.

"Down, down USA," the crowd shouted, as someone began waving an Iraqi flag. "Hold your head up high, you are an Iraqi," they chanted.

When Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum, the oil minister appointed by Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council, emerged on the steps of his ministry, he was greeted with cries of "Go back, go back, you agent."

MNA/Reuters

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Two US soldiers wounded near Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct—Two US soldiers were injured in a bomb attack on their convoy in western Iraq on Tuesday, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel said.

A military vehicle was seen catching fire and two soldiers were evacuated after the attack, which took place near Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, the pan-Arab channel quoted witnesses as saying.

The US troops then searched nearby villages for assailants, an action usually conducted by American forces after being attacked. The incident followed two days of intensified resistance in the same area, where a US ammunition convoy was bombed, killing one soldier and wounding five others. The restive days came after two voice messages purportedly from al-Qaeda's chief Osama bin Laden were aired by al-Jazeera last Saturday calling for more attacks against the United States. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi woman holds a baby as soldiers of US Army 4th Infantry Division search her yard for weapons in the village of Hamra, about 10 miles northeast of Tikrit, Iraq, on 22 Oct, 2003. During raids early Wednesday near Saddam Hussein's hometown, US soldiers detained several suspects believed to be involved in deadly attacks on American troops and uncovered a weapons cache buried in the farming community. —INTERNET

Protests against Bush's visit erupt in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 Oct—Protests against the visit of the US President George W Bush to Indonesia erupted in cities across the country.

The demonstrators burned down the pictures of Bush and the US flags, according to Detik online here Tuesday.

The protest sparked in Jakarta, the special autonomy province of Yogyakarta, Bali Province, Jember in East Java Province and Solo and Semarang in Central Java province.

In Jakarta, over 100 members of the Indonesian Muslim Student Action Union (KAMMI) burned down Bush picture and expressed their rejection over his arrival in front of the US Embassy office.

They also asked Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri to reject the visit. "Bush Is Liar, Reject Bush, Bush Terror-

ist Number One, Mega has to Reject Bush," said a banner.

In Yogyakarta, students took a long march, rejecting the US President's visit. "Say No to Bush, Bush Do Not Disturb My Country," a banner said.

In Denpasar, the capital of Bali Province, dozens of students from some universities and members of political parties, expressed their disagreement over Bush arrival. They staged a rally in front of the US consulate general office in Renon in the province.

In Jember and Solo, protesters burned down the US flags and called Bush a terrorist.

MNA/Xinhua

CPC demands improvements to China's rural reform

BEIJING, 23 Oct—Further improvements to the ongoing reform in China's rural area were demanded in a decision issued Tuesday by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

As the core of the fundamental system for management in the countryside, the household-based land contract system should be kept stable and the rights of farmers on land management should be safeguarded, according to the decision.

Within the term of the contract, rural households have the right to sell their farmland management rights in accordance with law and at their own will. The regulations on the circulation of farmland should be improved, while large-scale farming should be developed step by step in a proper manner.

The most strict system of protecting cultivated land must be adopted to ensure national grain security. Under the principles of protecting farmers' rights and interests and controlling the amount of land turned to other uses by the government, China will reform its land-use system and improve procedures on land use.

The rural product marketing system should be improved, through changing indirect subsidies for farmers to direct subsidies during the circulation, so as to protect farmers' interests. Investments in agriculture should be increased by the financial departments at all levels and the newly-added expenditure on education, sanitation and culture should be mainly used in rural areas.

The state will exert greater efforts to deepen rural tax reform and reduce the financial burden on farmers substantially. Policies related to tax reform will be improved in nationwide experimental units. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese farmer invents new type of sowing machine

HARBIN, 23 Oct—A Chinese farmer in China's northernmost Heilongjiang Province has invented a new type of "injection" sowing machine, which was recently awarded a state patent certificate.

Gao Qingjun, 58, developed the machine by himself from his decades of experience of farming. The machine is designed like an "injection needle for medical use", and can "inject" seeds directly into the water-saturated layer deep under the surface soil, according to Gao, from Xinghua Town, Qinggang County in Heilongjiang.

In this way, it is different from conventional sowing machines which had to first break up the earth, then drop seeds and finally cover the seeds with soil again. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis celebrate next to a burning US Army vehicle in the western end of Fallujah, outside Baghdad, on 22 Oct, 2003. Witnesses said four Americans were carried away on stretchers in an attack on a three-vehicle convoy, but there was no comment from US officials. —INTERNET

Pipelines in northern Iraq still on fire

BALU (Iraq), 23 Oct—A pipeline fire in northern Iraq was still ablaze on Tuesday, a day after a sabotage attack on pipelines that feed a Baghdad refinery and power station.

Iraqi Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Mohammed Rashid, who works for a force protecting key installations, told reporters there had been an explosion on Monday afternoon a few miles south of the Baiji oil refinery, about 120 miles north of Baghdad.

"What happened was sabotage," he said. "There is a group of pipes, four of them, all going in one direction. They (saboteurs) blew up only one and the other three caught fire from the first one." Rashid said one of the pipelines takes gas to Baghdad's Daura refinery, while the two oil pipelines feed one of the capital's power plants. The fourth pipeline carries liquefied petroleum gas.

MNA/Reuters

General says Iraq attacks on US troops up

FALLUJAH, 23 Oct—Iraqi gunmen have stepped up attacks on US troops in recent weeks, the commander of American forces said Wednesday, as ambush bombers struck again in this tense Sunni Muslim area west of Baghdad, in the northern city of Mosul and in the heart of the capital.

The US commander, Lt Gen Ricardo Sanchez, said some of the attacks may be carried out by people with links to al-Qaida, but he added "we don't have any confirmed al-Qaida operatives in custody at this point."

Elsewhere, US troops of the 4th Infantry Division arrested more than a dozen suspects, including a former major general, in pre-dawn raids Wednesday north of Baghdad.

The Baghdad bombing, which occurred as a convoy passed through a tunnel in the center of the capital, slightly injured two US soldiers, who were returned to duty after treatment, a US officer at the scene reported.

In Fallujah, witnesses said four Americans were carried away on stretchers after a roadside bomb exploded beside a three-vehicle convoy. The US military in Baghdad had no report on the incident.

After the attack, residents cheered and swarmed over one disabled vehicle, looting its contents and setting it afire. It was the third attack against American troops in the

Fallujah area in as many days.

Elsewhere, one soldier from the 101st Airborne Division was slightly injured when a bomb exploded in front of his convoy in Mosul, 225 miles north of Baghdad, the military said.

Sanchez, the American commander, acknowledged that attacks against his troops have increased in the last three weeks, especially in Anbar province which includes Fallujah.

"The number of wounded and the number of engagements in last three weeks have been a little bit higher than we've seen before," Sanchez said. "We've had an average number of engagements from 20 to 25 (daily). We've seen a spike up to 35 in last three weeks."

Sanchez said he believed operators of the extremist Ansar al-Islam, a group linked to al-Qaida, as well as members of Osama bin Laden's organization are operating inside Iraq.

Internet

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Protesters greet Bush with placards outside Australian Parliament

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct—Hundreds of protesters gathered outside Australia's Parliament as US President George W Bush arrived to give a speech, holding up posters condemning the US leader for his war on Iraq.

Slogans such as "Bush is an evil guy" and "Lying war heads" were daubed on posters as police stood by.

The crowd applauded as protesters carried an effigy of Bush followed closely by a dog wearing a mask of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, who strongly supported the war.

Some MPs have threatened to turn their backs on Bush during his speech. Some 41 from the Labor opposition plan to give him a letter of protest, although opposition leader Simon Crean has told his party to be respectful to Bush.

Internet

France, Germany won't give more money for Iraq

MADRID, 23 Oct—France and Germany said Wednesday they won't give any more money toward Iraq even as American officials exhorted countries to open their pocket-books, trying to parlay a hard-won UN resolution into billions of dollars in aid pledges.

The United States is trying to drum up \$36 billion in donations from more than 70 countries gathering Thursday and Friday in Madrid, but that means winning over nations that thought the Iraq war was a bad idea to begin with. "We don't foresee any additional aid at this stage — either in terms of financial aid or in cooperation in the military domain," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said.

Germany's development minister cited her country's own budget woes and said it simply cannot afford to give more than the \$224 million it is already contributing.

Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul also said she was against forgiving Iraq's debt, saying such an oil-rich country could easily pay them off. Iraq owes Germany roughly \$4.6 billion.

She underlined Germany's position by staying away from the Madrid conference herself and sending a deputy.

US officials downplayed the continuing violence in Iraq and focused on securing economic aid. "What's important at the moment is that the economy be jump-started, because it's flat on its back," John Negroponte, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said in a TV interview.

He praised countries that have already promised money. Japan has pledged \$1.5 billion for 2004; South Korea has agreed to \$200 million, and Canada, \$150 million. The World Bank has said it will lend Iraq up to \$3.5 billion over the coming five years.

Internet



Soldiers of US Army 4th Infantry Division guard suspects with hands tied behind their backs during a weapon search operation in the village of Hamra, about 20 km (12 miles) northeast from Tikrit, Iraq, on 22 October, 2003. US soldiers detained several suspects believed to be involved in deadly attacks on American troops and uncovered a weapons cache buried in the farming community during raids early Wednesday near Saddam Hussein's hometown. —INTERNET

Brazil hails launching of Sino-Brazilian satellite

BRASILIA, 23 Oct—Brazilian Science and Technology Minister Roberto Amaral on Tuesday hailed the successful launching of the second Sino-Brazilian Earth resources satellite and expressed hope for expanding scientific research cooperation with China.

"Today is a historic day in the Brazil-China relations," the minister told a Press conference Tuesday afternoon in the auditorium of the ministry, accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Brazil, Jiang Yuande.

Amaral pointed out that the cooperation with China in space served as a model of South-South cooperation, which not only contributed to the progress in science and technology, but also benefited the economies of both countries.

The minister said Brazil was satisfied with the space cooperation with China and hoped to extend it to other areas of scientific research, such as the development of nuclear energy, new materials and animal vaccination, coloured-cotton production and agriculture.

The Chinese Ambassador said China and Brazil

would soon start working on the third and fourth Earth resources satellites, featuring superior technology and image quality as compared with the two previous ones.

The third satellite was scheduled to be launched in 2006, said the ambassador.

The second Sino-Brazilian Earth resources satellite and another China-made small satellite carried by the Long March IV B carrier rocket were launched into different pre-set orbits at 0316 GMT Tuesday from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre.

The satellite was designed to monitor land resources changes, survey arable lands, pastures and grasslands, discover natural and human disasters, offer information on aquatic farming and environmental pollution, and explore mineral resources.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines, Thailand ink pacts on agriculture, energy

MANILA, 23 Oct—The Philippines and Thailand signed on Tuesday two agreements aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation in agricultural and energy sectors, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

A Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation seeks to promote further collaboration in agricultural research and development through technology transfer, trade, training and scientific and technical cooperation between the two nations, the DFA said in a statement.

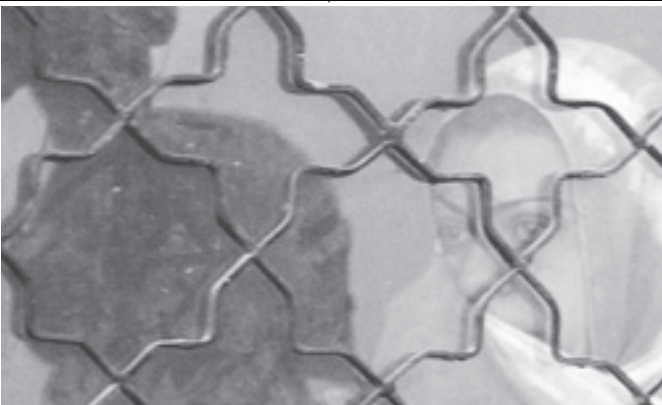
On the other hand, the Memorandum

of Understanding on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Activities will establish an ASEAN Petroleum Hub in the Philippines as a joint business venture between the two governments.

The joint undertaking will provide energy security in both normal and emergency situations and stabilize the pricing of oil. It also aims to minimize importation of oil, thus reducing foreign currency requirements.

The two pacts were signed during the 11th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Bangkok, Thailand.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi woman cries as she looks at her relative being detained by soldiers of US Army 4th Infantry Division during a weapons-search operation in the village of Hamra, about 10 miles northeast of Tikrit, Iraq, on 22 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Guangdong's foreign trade tops \$200b in first quarter

GUANGZHOU, 23 Oct—Guangdong Province, an economic powerhouse in south China, registered a foreign trade volume of 200.93 billion US dollars in the first three quarters this year, a year-on-year increase of 25.8 per cent, Customs statistics show.

The province's foreign trade volume accounted for 33.1 per cent of the national total for the first nine months.

Guangdong's exports for September alone grew 25.7 per cent year-on-year to hit 15.05 billion US dollars, according to statistics.

Guangdong exported electromechanical products worth 68.52 billion US dollars and high-tech products worth 32.07 billion US dollars, respectively, in the January-September period, up 33 per cent and 49.7 per cent respectively over the corresponding period of last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis get travel documents for first time since war

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct — Hundreds of Iraqis queued up on Tuesday for a new travel document which Iraq's US administration hopes will help sort out a tangle that keeps many people trapped inside Iraq's borders.

No passports have been issued since the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein on April 9.

The new document, carrying the authority of the US-administration, is described as an "Interim Travel Document" valid for six months allowing Iraqis to travel — assuming they can get a visa to the country they wish to visit.

"We are issuing from 800 to 1,000 documents per day only in Baghdad as a first stage," said Lieutenant Colonel Abdulsalam Jassim, head of the newly formed Passport Department, as more than 600 people queued outside his office.

Iraqis who already hold passports must get them validated, a potentially

difficult hurdle in a country where storage of personal data is in chaos. Those with validated passports do not need the new document.

All passports bearing a date after April 9, 2003 have been declared invalid because of forgery fears.

Jassim said the passport department's data base of CD's and floppy disks were "lost" during the war and efforts to retrieve them had failed, making validation of passports difficult or impossible.

"Passport officials under the old regime refused to give them (databases) to us unless we gave them their jobs back," Jassim told *Reuters*. "We could not do this because they were security officials banned from holding jobs."

Clutching her new travel document, Muna Farid, 30, said she would not try to go abroad without visas.

"I am going to make sure I have visas from embassies of countries I want to visit before I leave," she said. "I don't want to risk going to the border and then having to come back".

Hassan Ali, 42, a motor spare parts merchant, said he had heard from travellers who had already managed to go abroad that gaining entry to countries such as neighbouring Jordan, the favourite exit point for Iraqis, could be a hit and miss affair.

"Sometimes they let you in. Sometimes they don't."

MNA/Reuters

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341 US troops killed since the beginning of military operations in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct — As of Wednesday, 22 October, 341 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence.

The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; and Ukraine, one. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 203 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,600 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 338. The latest identifications reported by the US Military: Army Pfc Paul J Bueche, 19; Daphne, Ala.; died Tuesday in Balad, Iraq when a helicopter tire he was changing exploded; assigned to the 131st Aviation Regiment, Army National Guard, Birmingham, Ala. —*Internet*

Russia not ready for donation to Iraq rebuilding

Moscow, 23 Oct — Russia is not planning any assistance to Iraq at this stage, but Russian companies are ready to invest in Iraq, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said on Tuesday.

"We see no conditions at the moment for Russia's involvement in the rebuilding of Iraq as a donor," said Fedotov, who will head Russia's delegation to the Madrid Conference on the Reconstruction of Iraq, scheduled for October 23-24.

"Many Russian companies are ready now to invest in the Iraqi economy and implement their projects in the country at their own expense," he noted, adding that the investments would total "several billion US dollars". "Such investment projects can prove quite useful and should be regarded as Russia's significant contributions to the restoration of Iraq," Fedotov was quoted by the *Interfax* as saying. At the Madrid conference, the Russian delegation would push for fulfilling the contracts signed by Russian companies under the United Nations' Oil for Food Programme, Fedotov said.

About 75 per cent of the contracts have already won preliminary approval, but other contracts, such as construction of power plants, water purification facilities and elevators, are also crucial to meeting the fundamental needs of the Iraqis, he said. Such contracts could be financed either by the existing Iraq Development Fund or a new Iraq rebuilding fund to be set up at the Madrid conference, Fedotov said. Russia opposed the US-led war in Iraq, but has made efforts to patch relations with the United States, which have been cooled over Iraq, after major combat operations ended in Iraq.

Last week, Russia backed a new UN-proposed resolution, which authorizes a multinational force in Iraq and paves the way for other countries to contribute troops and money to peace-keeping and reconstruction efforts in Iraq. —*MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqis stand near scores of destroyed Iraqi warplanes at a junk yard known as the "planes graveyard" in Baghdad. Britain is to cut aid to many east European and central Asian countries to pay for the reconstruction of Iraq, the government announced. —INTERNET

World Roads Congress opens in Durban

JOHANNESBURG, 23 Oct — The ministers' session at the World Roads Congress in the South African coastal city of Durban on Monday focused its attention on the importance of partnerships, good governance, and the harnessing of investment, to sustain roads and other economic development.

The 22nd Paris-based Independent Association of Road Congresses (PIARC) conference began on Sunday with the aim of adding the necessary boost to the drive for infrastructure development in the world. It is scheduled to end on October 25.

South Africa's Minister of Transport Dullah Omar called for a holistic approach to economic growth, noting that this often involved looking at more than just the larger picture of things.

"Roads perform an economic function at national, provincial and local levels, with rural transport infrastructure an issue which is very close to civil society, therefore community-based organizations will play an important role," he explained.

In this regard, training

and capacity building would become strategic ingredients to drive development at grassroots level.

Ministers from both developed and developing countries were invited to contribute comments on the three topics under discussion.

Steve Mahoney of Canada said transport caused disruption, environmental pollution and noise, and had to be properly managed.

All highways in Canada fell under the jurisdiction of provinces, while many airports and harbours were managed locally.

Road authorities in that country had created advisory boards to secure local input, while working closely with research agencies, mainly through industry and the university communities.

MNA/Xinhua

Rapid economic growth forecast for Venezuela in 2004

CARACAS, 23 Oct — The Executive President of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) Enrique Garcia Tuesday said that Venezuela can expect a rapid economic growth next year.

Garcia made the point to the Press before presenting his paper, "The Importance

of the Colombian-Venezuelan Integration in the Andean Region", on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Venezuelan-Colombian Economic Integration Chamber.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) gave favourable forecasts, 7.7 per

cent and 10 per cent, of gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Venezuela next year, said Garcia.

He said the expected growth was attributable to favourable economic circumstances in the country since last year.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi security guards arrest a man, centre, after accusing him of firing rounds out of his car at the Baghdad University, on 21 Oct, 2003. —INTERNET

Venezuela seizes one ton of marijuana

CARACAS, 23 Oct — Venezuelan authorities seized one ton of marijuana in a vehicle near the border with Colombia, Venezuela's police chief, David Zerpa, said Tuesday.

The drug was transported from the Colombian town of Cucuta and was confiscated in Venezuela's border state Tachira, 600 kilometres south of Caracas, Zerpa told reporters. The marijuana was to be carried to Venezuela's eastern city of Carupano, the Sucre State, then be shipped to the Caribbean Islands, he said, citing the Criminal Investigation Bureau. Zerpa said several people involved in the case had already been identified.

The vehicle, carrying the drug hidden in compartments, belonged to a private company and had been parked in a public parking lot for several days before being seized, said the police chief. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Iraq roadside bomb hits US military vehicle

FALLUJA (Iraq), 23 Oct — A roadside bomb wrecked a US military vehicle in the flashpoint town of Falluja on Wednesday, witnesses said, adding that there had been American casualties.

The US military had no immediate word on the report. Reuters television footage showed a Humvee lying in a ditch off a main road outside the Sunni Muslim town. Local people were throwing petrol onto the blazing vehicle and shouting "Allahu Akbar (God is great)".

Falluja, located west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, has been the scene of many attacks by guerillas who have killed 104 US

troops in Iraq since President George W Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

Witnesses said about 250 people staged a protest outside the mayor's office in Falluja on Wednesday to demand the release of the town's top cleric, Sheikh Jamal Shakir Nazzal, whom they said had been arrested by US troops, along with four of his students, about a week ago.

MNA/Reuters



Elderly Iraqi woman Najia Alawi, 76, awaits hospital treatment in the restive town of Falluja after she was hit by bullet fragments in a crossfire between US forces and unknown gunmen on Monday. —INTERNET

Foreign direct investment rises in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Oct — Vietnam is estimated to lure foreign investment capital of 2.06 billion US dollars in the first ten months of this year, up 13 per cent over the same period last year, the Ministry of Planning and Investment told Xinhua on Tuesday.

Of the total capital, 1.3 billion US dollars comes from 496 newly-licensed projects. The rest is the additional capital of 289 operational projects, mainly poured into industrial and constructional projects.

Despite increase of capital, the number of new projects in the period is estimated to represent a year-on-year decrease of 13.1 per cent.

In the reviewed period,

foreign-invested enterprises are expected to obtain total revenue of 10.2 billion US dollars, excluding crude oil turnover, year-on-year increase of 40 per cent. Meanwhile, they are estimated to record export turnovers of 5.2 billion US dollars, increasing 45 per cent and accounting for more than 31 per cent of the country's total export turnover.

MNA/Xinhua

Drugs gang sentenced for 146 years in Britain

LONDON, 22 Oct — A 12-member drugs gang was Tuesday sentenced for a total of 146 years in jail by a court in Liverpool, a port city in western England.

The gang was sent to prison after what Customs officers described as the biggest single seizure of drugs, with an estimated street value of 20 million pounds, in May 2002, according to a BBC report.

The drugs, including 119 kilos of heroin, 99 kilos of amphetamine, 14 kilos of cannabis and one kilogram of cocaine, were discovered among vans carrying hazardous chemicals into Britain through the port of Dover.

However, the seizure is just

a tip of the iceberg but this should serve as a severe warning, said Detective Superintendent David Brown, head of the Serious and Organized Crime Unit. "I feel that 146 years reflects the severity of the offenders' actions and their intentions to distribute Class A drugs throughout the country," he was quoted as saying at the court.

"We know that the drugs were destined for other organized criminal groups within the Northwest," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

France makes Iraq aid conditional on sovereignty

PARIS, 23 Oct — French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said on Wednesday France would not provide further aid to Iraq outside its EU commitments until the question of Iraqi sovereignty was resolved.

One day ahead of an Iraqi donors' conference in Madrid, Villepin said France was committed to carry its share of the 200 million euros (235 million US dollars) pledged in aid to Iraq from European Union coffers for 2003-2004 but would not go further.

In addition, it has promised bilateral humanitarian aid.

"At this stage, we don't plan any additional aid, whether it be financial or through cooperation in the military sphere," Villepin said at a news conference with his Danish

counterpart Per Stig Moeller.

"To us, the starting point is truly the full and complete recognition of Iraqi sovereignty," he said.

"We consider that we have to move towards this recognition of Iraqi sovereignty, which is the central condition if you really want to launch the reconstruction process in Iraq."

Paris, a strong opponent of the Iraq war, will be represented by Trade Minister Francois Loos. — MNA/Reuters

Germany rules out cancelling Iraq debt

BERLIN, 23 Oct — Germany's Minister for Cooperation and Development said on Tuesday that Germany is opposed to the cancellation of Iraq's huge debt burden.

Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul said that, given Iraq's oil riches, it would be better to have credit financing ahead of the huge oil revenues will bring to the country.

Iraq's debt is estimated at 110 billion euros (128 billion US dollars).

The minister called for a new UN resolution that will share out responsibility for reconstruction.

She added that steps should be taken to prevent the United States from taking control of Iraqi oil revenues, saying profits should be used for reconstruction and not to support US companies.

Donor countries and organizations will gather later this week in Madrid, Spain, to discuss ways of financing Iraq's total reconstruction. MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Navy ships visit island of Guam

APRA HARBOUR (Guam), 23 Oct — Two Chinese Navy ships began a four-day port call to Guam on Wednesday, the first visit to the American Pacific territory by sailors from the Communist country.

In a further sign of warming military ties between the two Pacific giants, the *Shenzhen*, a *Luhai*-class guided-missile destroyer, and the *Qinghai Hu*, an oil tanker, were to stop over until Saturday before going on to visit Singapore and Brunei.

"The US-China relationship is of great importance to the long-term political, military and economic interests of both nations," the US Navy said in a statement.

"These navies are the two largest in the Asia-Pacific Region. Interaction between them

increases mutual understanding and confidence." American and Chinese sailors would get a chance to mingle during reciprocal ship tours, it said. Rear Admiral Xue Tianpei, deputy commander of the South Sea Fleet, represented the People's Liberation Army at the welcoming ceremony.

On the American side, the most senior officials were Rear Admiral Frederic Ruehe, commander of US naval forces in Japan, and Rear Admiral Patrick Dunne, commander for the region around Guam.

The island, which hosts a large naval facility, shipyard and airfield, has been a key US forward base in the Pacific since the first B-29 aircraft began bombing Japan in 1944 during World War II. — MNA/Reuters

COMESA to set up common investment area

NAIROBI, 23 Oct — The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is to set up The COMESA Common Investment Area (CCIA) that will attract foreign investors and boost trade within the region.

"COMESA is carrying out country consultations on the CCIA to different member states," Trevor Simmumba, managing director of Africa Trade Advancement, a consultant firm in Zambia, was quoted by Rwanda News Agency as saying on Wednesday.

Simmumba said they had already travelled to 16 countries and the scheme they are proposing to Rwanda will benefit the country and other COMESA member states in a long term.

Williams Nkurunziza, director-general of the Rwanda Investment Promotion Agency, said, "The CCIA proposal is an excellent suggestion for our country as the world is becoming a one-market place."

However, Nkurunziza said the proposal was subject to difficulties since COMESA member countries have different economies and policies that govern them.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis celebrate as a US Army Humvee burns after it was destroyed by an improvised explosive device on Wednesday. —INTERNET

Myanmar's junta escapes US tongue-lashing at Apec

BANGKOK AFP—Myanmar's ruling junta escaped an expected tongue-lashing from the United States during an Asia Pacific summit here, getting away without even a mention in the two-day discussions which wrapped up Tuesday.

US President George W Bush did not manage to get the topic squeezed onto the agenda of talks among Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders; according to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

"We did not discuss Myanmar at all," Mahathir told reporters at the conclusion of the summit.

The leaders instead exclusively focused on trade and security issues affecting the region's economies more directly, Thai foreign affairs ministry spokesman Sihask Phuangketkeow told AFP.

"This is an economic cooperation forum and we discussed security issues in so far as they affect the economic stability of the region. As far as security issues are concerned, the main focus was terrorism and issues like the situation on the Korea peninsula, he said.

Myanmar's junta, released a statement defending itself before the summit concluded.

The regime said it "was disappointed to hear that during the Apec summit, the United States opposed Myanmar's progress toward democracy and continued to advocate policies which undermine Myanmar's social, political and economic stability."

Myanmar's generals urged the United States to listen to the views of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which at their summit earlier this month irked Washington by noting "positive developments" in Myanmar.

Asean also lent its support to Yangon's new "roadmap" to democracy, which envisages free and fair elections and a new constitution.

Bush did raise the issue with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, telling him on Sunday that the United States has a "deep desire" to see democracy take hold in the military-run country.

Meanwhile China, in bilateral talks with Thailand, said it was willing to take part in a proposed multilateral forum aimed at prodding Myanmar to embark on democratic reforms, as long as the junta agreed to be involved.

Source: Borneo Bulletins of 22-10-2003 reported by Samantha Brown

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



Rail Transportation Deputy Minister and Indian Ambassador lit a oil lamp to mark a new year and Dapavili Day.—MNA

Dipavali Day reception held

YANGON, 23 Oct —The observance of Dipavali Day in conjunction with the New Year reception was held by the Myanmar-Indian Merchants Club at the Sedona Hotel here yesterday evening.

Deputy Minister of Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin, Indian Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia

and officials lit candles on the occasion. U Kyi Min of the club, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint and the Indian Ambassador extended greetings respectively.

Secretary of the club U Maung Maung spoke words of thanks and hosted a dinner.

MNA

The duty defined by the national cause

Ketu Nila

(Continued from yesterday)

The Tatmadaw Government had to remove all the strike camps that were disturbing and threatening the rule of law and community peace; stop the attacks on the police stations; take action against the lawless acts and unrest according to the existing laws. At the same time the Tatmadaw Government enacted the law to form the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission, and the law permitting the registration of the political parties. In this way the Government made plans to hold the multi-party democracy general election. It abolished the laws prohibiting the internal and external trade activities of the previous governments. It enacted the Union of Myanmar Investment Law with Law No 10/88. The law has protected foreign investment and helped develop the market-oriented economy.

Geographically, Myanmar has a large number of creeks and rivers flowing with strong current, and high mountain ranges that are posing as natural barriers for transport between one place and another, thereby weakening the relations among the national races living in the Union of Myanmar. As the national races were not able to build total trust, understanding and sympathy among themselves, there occurred suspicions in the Union. There were armed conflicts and disagreements between the national races due to the perpetration of the colonialists to drive a wedge among them. Till now there still exists the armed opposition of some ethnic races who have been instigated by the colonialists. Because of the instability, the remote border areas where the ethnic races live had left behind in development in all sectors.

The instability and lack of development had weakened the national unity, and destroyed the internal peace and stability. Thus, efforts could not be made to build a modern and developed nation. The armed conflicts and oppositions, and factional, political and ideological prejudices of the political sector during the period of over 50 years after regaining independence, had inflicted the nation to suffer from severe wounds and left the nation-building task untended for years. The ideology to build a democratic nation overnight without healing the old wounds is just daydreaming based only on extreme passion.

Actually, restoration of the political stability is the basic requirement in building a democratic nation. Thus, the national solidarity is needed, and in practice, the establishment of relations among the national races is also important to build mutual understanding, trust and sympathy. Thus, the duty to ensure a secure and smooth transport, and to develop the food, clothing and shelter conditions of the people is included in the Tatmadaw Government's Four Main Tasks. In implementing the tasks, the Government has built 161 major bridges on rivers and large creeks and 55 new roads, with a total length of nearly 2,000 miles, helping enhance relations, amity and unity between the people of the

states and divisions. Because of the close relations between one national race and another, mutual trust, understanding and love have flourished among the national races.

Similarly, the Government has been systematically implementing the task to develop the border areas and national races. Moreover, it has formed a new ministry to accelerate the momentum in carrying out the task. The border areas and national races development programme covers 18 regions, with an area of over 83,415 square miles, comprising 68 townships in seven states and seven divisions. The programme is directly benefiting over 5.3 million people in the area. Thus, the programme can be said to be a large-scale humanitarian activity.

The results of the programme is the development in the growing trust and understanding between the national people. Thus, members of the 17 armed groups and their families have returned to the legal fold. They made peace as they have confidence in the Government's sincere efforts to consolidate the national unity. They are now taking part in the national and regional development undertakings together with the Government, the Tatmadaw and the national races.

Head of State Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance at the 50th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day, saying, "I would like to explain the role of the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw at present is not acting haphazardly without having any firm belief and conviction. Comrades, you will have to understand that the Tatmadaw is not doing its job with unclear visions or aimlessly." The guidance explained the Tatmadaw Government's endeavours to build the nation stage by stage.

Similarly, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt explained the future policy and programme of the nation on 30 August 2003. In his address, the Prime Minister said, "Political reforms were carried out step by step for the transformation to a genuine multi-party democracy system. Our endeavours were not done in a haphazard way but to ensure the best possible future after studying the weaknesses and weight of the democracy system that had been practiced in the past as well as to treat the historical wounds that have not been healed yet."

Now the nation is achieving unprecedented development in all sectors including border areas and all towns and wards of the Union. These are the undeniable objective conditions of the nation.

Here, I would like to boldly say that the unprecedented development in all sectors are the results of the Tatmadaw Government's leadership role in discharging the duty defined by the national cause with the energetic forces of the entire nation.

(Translation: TMT)
Kyemon: 9 October 2003.

State making...

(from page 1)

Laynya-Mandanig Bridge — have been constructed, leaving the minor ones out. Of the six bridges, a unit of the Directorate of Military Engineers lent a helping hand in constructing the 810-feet long Pathoung Bridge. The Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge near Myeik will be opened soon, he said.

In constructing the Union Highway which is important for development of the division, there are some limits such as labour and time as it is a region of much rain. In addition, transportation of necessary machinery to the construction site is difficult. The engineers, staff and local people have witnessed and experienced the difficulties and hardships to be overcome in constructing the bridge. Division, district and township level officials, Tatmadawmen and local people had to cooperate with the officials from the Public Works. So, it is to be recorded that the Union Highway that is the life-blood of the State is the proof of the cooperative strength of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw, he elaborated.

In addition, the highway proved that whichever difficulties and limits can be overcome with the cooperation of the public, efficiency of the technicians and the supervision of the officials concerned at different levels, he added.

The State has been implementing the rural areas development tasks, the border areas development tasks and the 24 development regions for narrowing down the development gap and the equitable and harmonious development all over the country. Priority has been given to tasks for road transportation as well as the tasks for economic, education and health care sectors that are fundamental ones.

In Taninthayi Division, roads have been built to link Dawei, Myeik, Taninthayi, Bokpyin and Kawthoung which were separated by water. It can be seen that tasks for extension of Myeik and Kawthoung airports are under way. Furthermore, new quays for the ships to berth have been constructed where possible.



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the opening ceremony of Laynya-Mandaing bridge. — MNA

Infrastructures for land, water and air routes have been extended and promising local entrepreneurs are being encouraged. As growing of perennial oil-palm that is suitable to the weather and soil is being encouraged practically, along the both sides of the Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road have emerged oil-palm plantations of over 1,000 acres as far as the eye can see. The region becomes prosperous with blue-collar workers, machinery, shops, schools and dispensaries. In a few years, the division will be an oil bowl that will provide the State with edible oil. Altogether over 80,000 acres of land is put under oil-palm plantations of private entrepreneurs. There are over 55,000 acres of oil-palm plantations in the Kawthoung District where the bridge lies.

The area of the division is over 10.7 million acres and the present sown acreage is about 630,000 acres. When compared with the amount in 1987-88, the sown acreage increased about 90,000. But there remains many acres of vacant and virgin land. The sown acreage can be doubled if used to the utmost. So, it is needed to make systematic plans for utilizing the land resources to the full by growing of rubber and other perennial crops as well as pepper and seasonal crops such as paddy and beans and pulses. Unlike in the past, the division is on the development path thanks to growing of rubber, as well as extended growing of paddy, fish and meat, industrial and social sectors.

The State has been making relentless efforts for fulfilling the socio-economy of all national people residing in

the Union and strengthening the national unity. As it also tries to end armed insurgencies that can affect the security and peaceful living of national people, in the Union is almost no arm insurgency. With right outlook and goodwill, all are to strive for elimination of remnant arm groups in the division that serve no interests for the State and hinder the region from developing, he pointed out.

The present time is the transitional period for emergence of a new constitution that can secure stability and development of future country that is long for. As the procedures for emergence of the new constitution and building of a democratic nation are practicable political steps for the State, all national people are to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

In participating the tasks for political or economic sectors, all are to rely on the internal strength. At a time when the State is under economic, financial and diplomatic pressures, the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to unitedly build and maintain the new Union with diligence and perseverance. The bridges, roads and other infrastructures including nation-building tasks, which are built with our sweat, blood, own investment and skills are to be valued and maintained in the interests of the new generations to come.

In conclusion, on behalf of the State, he thanked all staff, engineers, Tatmadawmen and local people that took part in building the

Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road and the Laynya-Mandaing Bridge.

Afterwards, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made an address. In building a modern and developed nation, it is incumbent upon the State to build major infrastructures. In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Construction is building roads and bridges. There have been opened 162 major bridges each of which is over 180 feet and above including the Laynya-Mandaing Bridge. The construction of the bridge started on 1-6-2001 and the construction completed in a period of two years and four months, spending K 1,075 million plus US\$ 0.0325 million. The State spent K 2,723 million plus US\$ 1.74 million for six bridges in the division. A total of K over 85,467 million plus US\$ 148.64 million has been spent on constructing the 165 bridges — the already-opened 162 bridges and the three bridges constructed by the Tatmadaw all over the country.

Next, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint made a speech. He said today is the significant day for Taninthayi Division and a historic day for the State because Laynya-Mandaing Bridge which links directly the northernmost part and Kawthoung in the southernmost part of the country has been opened today.

Taninthayi Division is rich in natural resources and located in the southernmost part of the country. Transport of the division had to rely mainly on waterway in the past. Transportation with other states and division also relied on water and air ways. Roads and bridges have been constructed in the division under the guidance of the Head of State as tranquillity has prevailed in the region. Now, a total of six bridges of above 180 feet have been constructed in the division. Construction project of today's newly inaugurated Laynya-Mandaing bridge started on 1 June 2001 and completed on 31 August 2003. Thanks to the completion of the bridge, Yaybyu Township of the northernmost of the division is accessible to the Kawthoung in the southernmost part of the division without natural barriers any time any season. The division was difficult of access in the past and had to rely mainly on the

water and air ways in the past. Now, Myeik-Taninthayi-Kawthoung trip has been shortened to one day by express boats that ply along the coast of the division. Besides, Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung motor road will soon be available. Thanks to the better transport, more regional development tasks can be carried out.

In conclusion, I would like to thank, on behalf of the local people, Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye who, with farsightedness, gave guidance to construct the bridge, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, who paid close supervision to the regional development, and the minister for construction and staff of the ministry, and pledged to maintain it for the perpetuity.

Afterwards, on behalf of the local people, U Toe Win spoke words of thanks to the government for construction of the bridge to contribute much towards the regional development.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye extended greetings to the local people. He wished local people pleasantness in body and mind. He said the government is striving for the progress with the conviction that in building the nation into a modern and developed

one, only when simultaneous progress of the fourteen states and divisions can be made, will the entire Union develop.

Transportation plays a vital role in building the country into a modern and developed one. Only when transportation between the states and divisions is easy and smooth, will Union Spirit flourish, national races better understand each other, and trade prosper.

At present, Taninthayi Division is accessible by water, air and road routes and has achieved development infrastructures. Next, he urged the local people to make efforts to boost local production for the development of the region.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party took designated places. At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge. Next, Vice Senior-General Maung Aye and party together with officials of the bridge construction had a documentary photo taken. Next, Vice Senior General Maung Aye unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge and cordially greeted the local people. The 860-foot-long reinforced concrete bridge is 24 feet wide and can withstand 60 tons of load. It is flanked by three-foot-wide pedestrian lanes. — MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint makes a speech at the opening ceremony of Laynya-Mandaing bridge. — MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Laynya-Mandaing bridge. — MNA

Indian Ambassador calls on Information Minister

YANGON, 23 Oct — Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia this afternoon at the ministry here.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads and officials of the ministry. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Ambassador of India Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia. — MNA

Role of transportation...

(from page 16)

project in Bagan, the number of international airports will increase to three to meet the growing demand.

With regard to maritime transport, we have successfully completed Thilawa, Thakayta, Alon and other industrial terminals including new container terminals equipped with modern equipment. In order to strengthen the transport sector, we have established for the first time in Myanmar, the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University and the Myanmar Maritime University, where technicians and engineers will be trained to international standards. The development of human resources will contribute to orderly development of the aviation and maritime transport system in Myanmar.

As the infrastructure develops in the country, we believe that Myanmar could become a transportation hub for the region. Because of its strategic geographical location, Myanmar is a natural land bridge connecting South-east Asia and South Asia as

well as with China. Plans are already underway to link India to Thailand through Myanmar. Similarly, a survey will soon be initiated with a view to establishing road connections between Myanmar and Bangladesh. There already exists various road transportation links between Myanmar and Thailand as well as with China. It is now possible to travel from China to Thailand through Myanmar in six hours. The growing network means that the dream of a East West Corridor connecting Mawlamyine in Myanmar with Danang in Vietnam is fast becoming a reality.

Allow me also to add that Myanmar fully supports the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link project. In this regard, it is also our hope that the spur line project to Myanmar will also receive due attention and support for such a development would link all the countries on the Singapore - Kunming rail route.

The Agenda of your Meeting is wide-ranging. You have challenging tasks before you but I am confident that



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and representatives of ASEAN countries pose for a documentary photo after the opening ceremony of ATM. — MNA

ASEAN Transport Ministers and their Senior Officials will be able to have fruitful exchange of views and achieve progress forwards the realization of our goals.

I sincerely believe that the hard work, co-operation and understanding among the ASEAN countries will bring success.

Although your stay in Myanmar is short, I hope that

you will have time to enjoy Myanmar's unique beauty and rich culture. Allow me to conclude by wishing you every success in your deliberations and a most pleasant stay in our country.

It was attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, chief-justice, attorney-general, chairman of the

Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Yangon mayor, the transport ministers and deputy ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, senior transport officials of ASEAN,

China and Japan, ASEAN Secretary-General, ambassadors, and guests.

After the opening ceremony, the prime minister, ASEAN transport ministers and deputy ministers, and ASEAN Secretary-General had a documentary photo taken. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe discuss women's affairs with Shan State (South) WCWA members in Taunggyi. — MNA

MNWCWA members carry out women's affairs in Taunggyi

YANGON, 23 Oct — Members of the Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs led by member of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and the MNWCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe left here by air on 21 October morning and arrived at Heho Airport in Shan State (South) at 7.45 am. At Panglong Yeiktha of Eastern Command in Taunggyi, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and

party met with members of Shan State (South) WCWA and coordinated matters relating to women's affairs.

On the occasion, President of Shan State (South) WCWA Shan State Commissioner U Sein Thin extended greetings. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made a speech. She said members of the MNCWA and MNWCWA are making field tours of states and divisions practically to carry out the women's affairs.

Their aim is not only to develop the women sector and further strengthening of national solidarity but also to carry out the tasks in the interest of the State and the people. Those officials are urged to frankly present the report on their needs which are required to be fulfilled by our side after coordinating the weak points and strong points of the tasks realized from practical field tour and discussion, she added. Afterwards, the presi-

dent of Shan State (South) WCWA reported on organizational setup of WCWA in the state and tasks being carried out. Shan State (South) WCWA member Daw Win Nu and officials gave supplementary reports.

Later, MNCWA and MNWCWA members asked Shan State (South) WCWA members about what they would like to know and Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave necessary instructions. MNA

and Divisions, and the MNCWA is contributing towards the tasks. In an endeavour to further cement national solidarity regardless of hilly region or plain region, she said they have come to be well aware of difficulties and problems of national race women and fulfilled their requirements. Being convinced that priority is to be given especially to the affairs of young women in townships, wards and villages, they hold discussions and talks on trafficking in young women and on a wide scale wherever they make field tours.

Today, alien culture is penetrating into the nation, and so effective measures are therefore to be taken to guard against the possible dangers. She called on all parents, family members, teachers and responsible persons to get young Myanmar women to observe Myanmar's traditions, rules and regulations, culture and customs.

She urged those present to frankly and cordially

present their difficulties and requirements at the group-wise discussions.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented exercise books and pencils, and Professor Daw May May Yee, cash assistance donated by MNCWA to the WCWAs of Taunggyi, Kalaw, Hopong, Nyaungshwe and Yaksaw townships through respective officials.

Afterwards, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members held focus group discussions with local women and gave advice and made suggestions to solve their difficulties and problems, attended to the needs.

The meeting was attended by members of township WCWAs, MCWAs, the Union Solidarity and Development Associations and social organizations and local residents totalling over 350.

After the meeting, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party cordially greeted those present and viewed documentary photos of activities on women's affairs.

MNA

MYANMAR



Kanbawza Open 29 Oct

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Kanbawza Open Golf Championship will be held as the third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA at Ayethaya Golf Course in Taunggyi from 29 October to 1 November.

Only amateur golfers who scored handicap (0-12) are allowed to play together with professional golfers in the third leg. Those aged under 18 are not allowed to take part in the championship.

The championship is offi-

cially sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar, KBZ Bank Ltd, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Loi-Hein (Alpine), K M Golf Centre, Maruman, Wilson, Canon, UPG and Eden Group Co Ltd. Sun Far Travels and Tours will present handsome prizes to golfers who scored hole-in-one in the championship. Professional golfers and amateur golfers (men) who would like to participate in the third leg are to enlist at Ayethaya Golf Course, Taunggyi, Ph: (081-24167) or (081-24356), not later than 4 pm on 27 October. The third leg is organized by Han Event Management. — MNA

Raw opium seized in Kengtung Township

YANGON, 23 Oct — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Kengtung Special anti-drug squad and Kengtung Police Force, acting on a tip-off, on 10 September searched a house in Kinzin Village, Kengtung Township, and seized 8.5 gram of raw opium and arrested Baw Phi, a house owner.

After follow-up investigation, the authorities on 14 September also seized 2.3 kilos of raw opium and 0.0243 kilo of low grade opium hidden in the house of Mawlo (a) Arlo of

Nampawot Village in Mongzin Village-tract in the same township.

In connection with the case, actions are being taken

against them under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law by Kengtung Police Station.

MNA



Culprit Mawlo seen together with seized drug and related equipment. — MNA



Baw Phi seen together with raw opium packets. — MNA

Linking the southern and eastern Shan State

Tin Maung Than

Shan State, with a surface area of more than 60,000 square miles, is the largest among all the states and divisions of the Union of Myanmar, and travelling from one place to another within the state was difficult in the past because of the poor condition of the roads, the few number of bridges, and the existence of the high mountain ranges and the fast-flowing rivers and streams in the region.

Shan State is also an interesting region where various ethnic races live preserving and up holding their own traditions and cultures, wearing their own traditional colourful costumes, and where a large number of gorges, rivers, bluish mountains, highland plains and waterfalls can be found.

The Government, since its assumption of the State duties, has made a firm determination to upgrade the transport sector, which serves as the main pillar of national economic development and strengthening the bonds of love and unity among the ethnic races living elsewhere in the Union.

Moreover, the Government's sincere efforts to restore national unity and peace and stability and to develop the Union have won the trust and understanding of the ethnic armed groups that have returned to the legal fold and are working together with the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people for regional and national development.

Because of the prevalence of peace and stability and flourishing of national unity, the development undertakings

covering the transport and other sectors can be carried out with greater momentum in the entire Union.

As in other states of Union, the Government has been endeavouring to develop the transport infrastructure in the whole Shan State including its northern, southern and eastern parts. And thanks to the endeavours, the national races

can now travel conveniently and safely to any place in the state.

On 11 September, a major bridge linking southern and eastern Shan State was commissioned into service on Namhsan-Mognai-Tahsan Road in Langkho Township.

The bridge near Dahseik village in the township is the 159th major bridge built by the Government to serve the interest of the local people.

The 300-foot concrete bridge, which is called Langkho Bridge, has a 24-foot wide motorway and the maximum load-bearing capacity of 60 tons. Its clearance is 78 feet wide and 6.5 feet high.

As Langkho Bridge links the southern and eastern Shan State, it helps develop the trade and transport between the two regions and enhance the amity and unity of the national races living in the Union.



The Langkho Bridge.

Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting commences

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting hosted by Myanmar was held at the Sedona Hotel at 10.30 am today.

It was attended by Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria Sulaiman, Director General Mr Chhin Kong Hean of Public Works of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia, Minister Agum Gumelar of the Ministry of Communications of Indonesia, Minister Mr Bouathong Vonglokham of the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Minister Dato' Chan Kong Choy of the Ministry of Transport of Malaysia, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Minister Mr Arturo T Valdez of the Ministry of Transport of the Philippines, Minister Yeo Cheow Tong of the Ministry of Transport of Singapore, Deputy Minister Mr Nikorn Chamnong of the Ministry of Transport of Thai-



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe extends greetings at 9th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting. — MNA

land, Deputy Minister Mr Pham The Minh of the Ministry of Transport of Vietnam, ASEAN Secretary General Mr Ong Keng Yong of the ASEAN Secretariat, senior officials of the ASEAN member countries, officials of the ASEAN Secretariat, and departmental heads.

Before the meeting, Chairman of the 8th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting held in 2002 in Jakarta, Indonesia, Minister of Transport of Indonesia Mr Agum Gumelar made a speech.

Next, the meeting elected Minister for Transport of the Union of Myanmar Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe chairman of the meeting and Director General Mr Chhin Kong Hean of Cambodia vice-chairman.

Afterwards, Chairman Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe made a speech. He said: We all shared the views that the transportation plays a vital role in economic growth and also that the integration of Air, Maritime and Land Transport in ASEAN will facilitate not only the greater

flow of goods and people in the region, but also open up link to the rest of Asia. Thanks to cooperation among ASEAN countries in transport sector, ASEAN Trade Performance and Intra-ASEAN Trade Performance for 2002 showed sign of growth. These indications are stated in the 35th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting which was held on 2 September 2003 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

I would also like to highlight that the developments in transport cooperation with ASEAN dialogue partners such as People's Republic of China, Japan, South Korea and India at present will play a vital role in the implementation of infrastructure development projects, institutionalization of capacity building measures and human resources development needs of ASEAN transport sector leading to sustainable economic development of the region. For the transport cooperation with the dialogue partners, the 1st ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM+Japan) will be held on 25th

October 2003 in Myanmar.

Next, those present reported to the meeting on matters related to the undertakings and policies of the country concerned. The meeting discussed and approved the reports on results of the 9th ASEAN Summit on deliberations of 15th and 16th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials' Meeting held in Myanmar, amendments of transport agreements, transport cooperation with ASEAN dialogue partners, transport infrastructure such as Singapore-Kunming railroad, and ASEAN highway networks projects presented by Chairman of the 15th and 16th ASEAN Senior Transport

Officials' Meeting Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung. Next, those present discussed matters related to the transport ministers meeting between ASEAN and dialogue partners People's Republic of China and Japan and results of the informal meeting of ASEAN Transport Ministers held this morning. The informal meeting was held at the Sedona Hotel at 8 am.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the meeting, the ASEAN secretary general, senior officials of PRC and Japan, and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat in the evening. — MNA



Delegates to the 9th ATM pose for a documentary photo. — MNA

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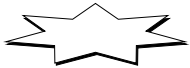
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Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

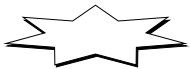


The National Poison Control Centre has emerged in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe who called for establishment of a poison control and research centre of international level in Myanmar to prevent the poisoning due to chemical and biological elements and radiation.— PHOTO: MNA

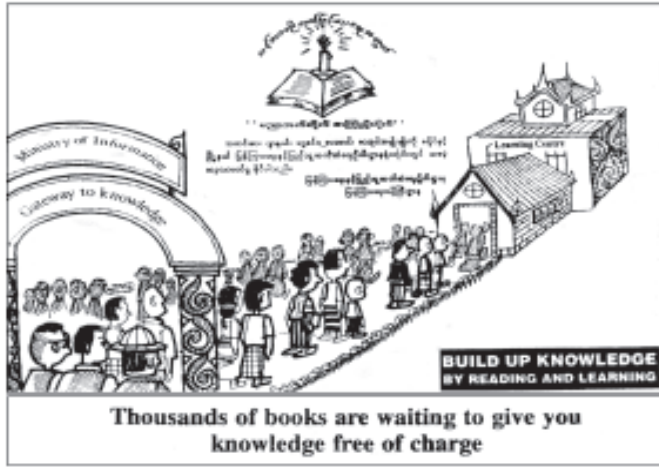


The government, in consideration of the difficulties of the students, upgraded the college into “Kalay Degree College” and then “Kalay University”. The college was upgraded into a degree college on 7th July 1999 and the degree college into a university on 14th May 2003.

PHOTO: KALAY WIN THU



The government is trying its best for human resource development. Thanks to the relentless efforts of the government new universities and colleges have emerged throughout the country. The photo shows the Maubin University in Ayeyawady Division. — PHOTO: MNA



NEWS OF THE WORLD

Jennifer Lopez signs deal to produce TV talk

LOS ANGELES, 23 Oct — Hollywood actress-singer Jennifer Lopez has signed a deal with Universal Domestic Television to produce an hour-long daytime talk show, it was announced Monday.

The talk show, similar to ABC's "The View," was hosted by Lopez's sister, New York television and radio personality Lydia Lopez. The talk show will discuss pop culture, celebrities and fashion.

Lopez said she plans to make occasional appear-

ances on the show, which will be produced by her Nuyorican production company for launch next fall.

"At Nuyorican, our goal from the onset was to produce good, quality material that would appeal to a broad audience," she said. "A talk show hosted by a group of smart women with diverse opinions and varied interests is tremendously exciting. We are going to have a lot of fun!"

Lisa Hackner, executive vice-president of program-

ming and development at Universal Domestic Television, said the show will "reflect the opinions, experiences and attitudes of younger women — something that is missing from the marketplace today — and be a destination for a new generation." Casting is under way to round out the panel of four women, who will be "likeable, intriguing, opinionated and representative of a diverse group of viewers", Hackner said.

MNA/Xinhua



Jennifer Lopez and Andy Hilfiger, brother of designer Tommy Hilfiger, pose at a press conference announcing their new partnership in a company called Sweetface Fashions which will market a new line of clothes designed by Lopez called 'J.Lo by Jennifer Lopez' in the Century City area of Los Angeles, in 2001. — INTERNET

Record number of films submitted for Foreign Language Film Oscar

LOS ANGELES, 23 Oct — A record-breaking 55 countries and regions have submitted films for consideration of the Oscar award in the Foreign Language Film category, said Frank Pierson, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Monday.

It is the largest number of films ever entered in the Foreign Language Film Award category of Oscar, besting last year's record by one film.

The academy in July invited 87 countries to submit their top picks for consideration. Over the years, 95 different countries have submitted films to the competition at least once.

Afghanistan's "Osama", directed by Siddiqi Barmak,

is among this year's submissions. "Warriors of Heaven and Earth," from China, directed by He Ping; "Infernal Affairs", from Hong Kong, directed by Andrew Lau and Alan Mak; and "Goodbye, Dragon Inn", from Taiwan, directed by Tsai Ming-Liang, are also among the contenders.

To qualify for the award, a film must have had its first public showing in a commercial theatre in its home country for at least seven consecutive days between last November 1 and September 30, and must have been produced with a predominantly non-English dialogue track in the language of the submitting country.

MNA/Xinhua

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EU pushes for better protection of workers' health

BRUSSELS, 23 Oct — European Union ministers on Monday backed proposals to protect workers from potentially harmful electromagnetic fields emanating from items as common as mobile phone masts or anti-theft devices.

EU employment, social affairs, and health ministers agreed on measures that would set maximum levels of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) and waves in the third in a series of four packages of health and safety directives.

"The scientific data available shows that over-exposure to electromagnetic fields can have serious consequences for workers' health," European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs Anna Diamantopoulou said in a statement.

"The directive foresees preventive actions to protect the health and safety of workers, in particular against induced electric currents in the body, shocks and burns, and absorption of thermal

energy produced by electromagnetic fields."

European business group UNICE said strict limits were not the best way to tackle the issue and plans to lobby the European Parliament which will also have to back the rules before they have to be passed in national parliaments. "For us, the issue is that many of the limits cannot be put into practice and what we want to see is work on guidance for business rather than strict targets," Natascha Waltke, adviser at UNICE, told Reuters.

"There would be cost consequences for each company affected by this directive — and electromagnetic fields are widely used in a number of sectors."

EU states have already agreed on rules designed to protect workers from the risks arising from exposure to noise and vibrations.

The Commission has also tabled a proposal for further rules on protection from optical radiation which will be discussed by EU states next year. —MNA/Reuters

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Corner of Anawrahta &
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Int'l community scales up response to children orphaned by "AIDS"

GENEVA, 23 Oct — An agreement on how to significantly scale up global response to millions of children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS marks critical progress in the undertaking, said UN agencies on Tuesday.

At a high-level meeting involving key international partners working to address the complex on Tuesday, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) welcomed the result that major partners have agreed to a strategic framework for the protection, care and support of orphans and other children

made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

Donors, UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations participated in the two-day talks, in which they were expected to make new costing estimates.

According to UNAIDS, about one billion US dollars are required annually to strengthen community-based care of orphans and ensure that they stay in school.

UNAid agencies held that the HIV/AIDS has far-reaching impacts on millions of children and adolescents orphaned by the disease.

According to UNICEF,

by 2001, 14 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS, and many millions more were affected by factors such as missed opportunities for education, poor health, abuses and exploitation, which threatened their most fundamental rights and kept them enmeshed in poverty.

"The number of children orphaned by AIDS is expected to rise to at least 25 million by 2010," said UNAIDS chief Dr. Peter Piot.

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy warned that "the crisis of orphans and other children made vul-

nerable by HIV/AIDS is massive, growing and long-term. But two-thirds of countries hard-hit by the disease do not have measures to ensure the children affected grow up with even the bare minimum of protection and care."

The strategic framework agreed to by all partners focuses on providing direct support to families and communities, ensuring that children orphaned or affected by AIDS have equal access to essential services, particularly schooling, and that they live and grow up in protective environments.

MNA/Xinhua

Study finds hypnosis offers long-term benefits for IBS

LONDON, 23 Oct — Hypnototherapy can offer long-term benefits for patients suffering from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), researchers said on Wednesday.

In a study of more than 200 patients with the disorder, hypnototherapy helped to relieve the cramping, bloating and diarrhoea or constipation caused by the syndrome for five years or more.

"This is the first long-term study of this nature," Dr. Wendy Gonsalkorale, of the Withington Hospital in Manchester, England, told

Reuters.

Patients who had undergone hypnosis reported an improvement in symptoms, a decrease in anxiety and depression, a better quality of life and said they took fewer drugs and saw their doctor less frequently after the treatment.

"It is a viable therapeutic option for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome," she said in a report in the journal Gut.

IBS is not a disease but a functional disorder in which the nerves and the muscles of the bowel are extra sensitive. It affects an estimated

10-20 per cent of the population. Symptoms range from very mild to severe.

Gonsalkorale and her team questioned the patients about their symptoms and quality of life before and immediately after the 12 one-hour hypnototherapy sessions and for up to six years afterwards.

They found that 71 per cent of patients responded well to the treatment and for most IBS sufferers the positive effects did not diminish after time.

The precise causes of IBS are not known but doctors believe a variety of things

including food, exercise, hormones and stress may trigger the symptoms.

"There seem to be alterations in the muscle activity of the gut and its sensitivity," said Gonsalkorale.

She said hypnototherapy affects how the brain talks to the body through impulses in the nerves, hormones and chemicals called neuropeptides.

"Using hypnosis you can very specifically influence physiological mechanisms in the body. It can be very specific and targeted," Gonsalkorale added.

MNA/Reuters

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Hometown honours China's first astronaut with statue

SHENYANG, 23 Oct—China's first astronaut Yang Liwei will have his own statue along with a replica *Shenzhou V* spacecraft in his hometown.

The government of Huludao City, northeast China's Liaoning Province, has announced plans to solicit statue designs from all over the country to be built in the city's Longwan New District.

"Yang" would wear his astronaut suit, said Liu Ming, mayor of Huludao.

Yang, 38, became a hero in China when he returned to Earth in a home-made space capsule after his 21-hour spaceflight, which began on October 15.

MNA/Xinhua

APEC leaders issue statement on health security

BANGKOK, 23 Oct—Leaders from members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum issued a statement on health security here Tuesday, calling for more efforts to strengthen the public health infrastructure to detect, respond to, and prevent bioterrorism and naturally occurring disease outbreaks.

The statement passed at the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting said that a regional public health surveillance network and an early warning system will be set up to monitor and respond to critical disease outbreaks in the region, and critical threats such as bioterrorism.

The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003, which had grave economic consequences for the region, demonstrated the importance of prevention, surveillance, detection, and coordinated responses to disease outbreaks, whether naturally occurring, like SARS, or intentionally caused, like the 2001 anthrax incidents in the United States, said the statement.

Actions will be taken to monitor diseases, contain outbreaks, especially those that could have international consequences, and coordinate responses via mechanisms such as the APEC Emerging Infections Net-

work and, in the event of a disease outbreak, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations.

The leaders promised in the statement to ensure a high level of physical security, accountability, and safety with respect to storage, use, and transfer of dangerous biological pathogens, consistent with current national and international efforts.

Laws, regulations and enforcement mechanisms will be strengthened to require strict export and import controls on dual-use biological materials and equipment, and criminalize offensive weapons activity, said the statement.

"We welcome the establishment by Singapore and the United States of a new Regional Emerging Disease Intervention Centre based in Singapore to serve as a regional resource for training and research," it added. —MNA/Xinhua



A Dell Axim personal digital assistant, based on Microsoft's Pocket PC operating system, is shown in New York, on 21 October, 2003. The unit packs plenty of power: a 400-megahertz processor, 64 megabytes of hard-disk space, 64 megabytes of flash memory, and a WiFi sniffer that glows a pleasant blue when active.—INTERNET



China's first astronaut Yang Liwei, centre, meets his wife Zhang Yumei, right, and 8-year old son, Yang Ningkan, left, upon his arrival in Beijing on 16 Oct, 2003. Fresh from a history-making trip into orbit, China's newly minted space hero proclaimed his amazement at 'the greatest day of my life' as his leaders announced they would push forward in their exploration of the cosmos. —INTERNET

China vows to further cooperation with UN

BELING, 23 Oct—China regards the United Nations as the "best venue for promoting democracy in international relations and implementing multilateralism" and will further cooperation with it to combat the common challenges of the world, a Chinese official said Tuesday.

Li Jinzhang, assistant to the Chinese Foreign Minister, made the remarks at a celebration held by UN agencies' local branches in China to mark United Nations Day on October 24.

The traditional issues of peace and development are still in need of solutions but issues such as extreme poverty, cross-border crime, terrorism and environmental pollution posed new challenges, Li said.

Only by strengthening international cooperation,

maintaining close mutual coordination, taking common action and establishing comprehensive global partnership, can mankind overcome those obstacles, Li noted.

The United Nations should take the lead in international cooperation and China resolutely supports and maintains the authority and core status of the United Nations and strengthens the role of it, Li said.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette said on the occasion that China

supported the United Nations in every possible way and is a wonderful partner of the UN local branches. All countries and people of the world should realize that the United Nations is their own organization, strengthen their commitments to the United Nations and work together to overcome the tremendous common challenges, she said.

About 300 diplomats, Chinese officials, scholars and staff from 15 UN agencies' local branches attended the celebration.—MNA/Xinhua

WHO suggests China strengthen surveillance for SARS

BELING, 23 Oct—A World Health Organization (WHO) representative on Tuesday suggested China strengthen surveillance and carry on basic control work such as early isolation to prevent another outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Dr Henk Bekedam, the resident WHO representative in China, told *Xinhua* that China made a strong commitment to reinforce its surveillance system and has been working hard with "quite good" results achieved.

In the first half of this year, SARS epidemic struck China and some other nations. The mysterious disease affected a total of 8,437 people worldwide, killing 348 on the Chinese Mainland and 813 worldwide by July 11, according to the WHO.

The Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Canada and Singapore were the main victimized areas.

"We don't know whether SARS will return this winter," Dr Bekedam said, noting that good surveillance, early isolation of SARS patients and early contact tracing could stem the contagious disease from another major breakout.

Dr Bekedam suggested China intensify monitoring in south China, where the first SARS case had been reported, on the laboratories which contained the SARS virus and on those having close contact with wildlife.—MNA/Xinhua

Scientists find methane bubbles could sink ships

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct—Methane bubbles from the sea floor could, in theory, sink ships and may explain the odd disappearances of some vessels, Australian researchers reported on Tuesday.

The huge bubbles can erupt from undersea deposits of solid methane, known as gas hydrates. An odourless gas found in swamps and mines, methane becomes solid under the enormous pressures found on deep sea floors.

The ice-like methane deposits can break off and become gaseous as they rise,

creating bubbles at the surface.

David May and Joseph Monaghan of Monaco University in Australia said they had demonstrated how a giant bubble from one of these deposits could swamp a ship.

"Sonar surveys of the ocean floor in the North Sea (between Britain and continental Europe) have revealed

large quantities methane hydrates and eruption sites," May and Monaghan wrote in their report, published in the *American Journal of Physics*. "A recent survey revealed the presence of a sunken vessel within the centre of one particularly large eruption site, now known as the Witches Hole."

"One proposed sinking

mechanism attributes the vessel's loss of buoyancy to bubbles of methane gas released from an erupting underwater hydrate," they wrote. "The known abundance gas hydrates in the North Sea, coupled with the vessel's final resting position and its location in the Witches Hole, all support a gas bubble theory."

MNA/Reuters

Ecuadoreans sue US oil firm over Amazon pollution

LAGO AGRIO (Ecuador), 23 Oct—Ecuadorean Indians wearing feathered headdresses and red face-paint marched outside a jungle courthouse on Tuesday at the start of a case accusing US oil giant ChevronTexaco of polluting the Amazon.

"Before Texaco, we were free. We drank from the river, bathed in the river and everything was peaceful because it wasn't polluted," 67-year-old Secoya Indian Esteban Lusitande said in broken Spanish.

"Now there's nothing. We

The case opened in Lago Agrio, a rundown town 100 miles north of Quito, after nine years of legal battles in the United States ended with a US Appeals Court ruling the dispute should be heard in Ecuador.

Environmentalists hope the case will set a precedent forcing companies in the developing world to observe the same anti-pollution standards demanded in rich nations.

Lawyers for 30,000 Ecuadorean plaintiffs — many of them poor Indians

— have said a subsidiary of Texaco, which merged with Chevron in 2001, dumped 18.5 billion gallons of oil-laden water into rivers while it was producing crude in Ecuador's lush Amazon jungle from 1972 to 1992.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Ibrahimovic strike hands Ajax 1-0 win over Celta

AMSTERDAM, 23 Oct—Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic's second-half goal gave Ajax Amsterdam a 1-0 win over Celta Vigo in the Champions League on Wednesday and sent the Dutch side to the top of Group H.

Ajax have six points halfway through the group stage, two more than Club Brugge who stunned European champions AC Milan 1-0 in the San Siro. Milan also have four points while Celta have two.

Both sides squandered first-half chances. Ibrahimovic headed a Wesley Sneijder cross just wide before Celta took control.

Ajax keeper Bogdan Lobont kept out a Fernando Caceres header and the Romanian international then stretched to save from Sylvinho, who had combined well with Savo Milosevic.

In the last phase of the first half both sides came close to the opening goal, but Juanfran saw his close-range attempt saved by Lobont, while Wesley Sonck headed a Maxwell cross just wide.

An injury to Ajax skipper Rafael van der Vaart forced the Dutch side into a reshuffle just before the break.

MNA/Reuters



AC Milan's Marcos Cafu of Brazil, right, challenges for the ball with Brugge's Andres Mendoza, of Peru, during their Group H Champions League soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 22 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Delight for Ferguson as United win British duel

GLASGOW, 23 Oct—Manchester United beat Rangers 1-0 in an absorbing all-British Champions League encounter at Ibrox on Wednesday with United's England defender Phil Neville the unlikely match-winner.

He scored the only goal of a lively match when he fired home at the end of a solo run in the fifth minute to silence a 48,730 crowd.

But he brought delight to one Scot—former Rangers player and current United boss Alex Ferguson who came out on top in the battle against Rangers boss Alex McLeish, a close friend and a former player under Ferguson at Aberdeen in the 1980s.

Neville's goal lifted United on to six points, level with VfB Stuttgart, who beat Panathinaikos 2-0. They lead the group ahead of Rangers (4) and Panathinaikos (1).

United also became the first English club to beat Rangers at Ibrox in Europe since Tottenham Hotspur won 3-2 there in the old European Cup Winners Cup in December 1962.

But the Scottish champions will be disappointed to have suffered their first defeat of the tournament after matching a United side content to hit on the counter attack.

The home side created the best of the first-half chances and Dane Peter Lovenkrands should have found a merited equalizer when he lashed wide with only nine minutes left.

Rangers travel to Old Trafford on November 4 and will need to find more of a cutting edge on that occasion.

The match opened at a frenetic pace with visiting Irish defender John O'Shea booked

in the opening minute for a cynical late tackle on Lovenkrands.

But despite the home crowd's best attempts to unsettle them, United appeared at ease and struck with their first attack after just five minutes.

Ruud van Nistelrooy shielded the ball into Neville's path and he waltzed forward to slip a low shot into the net.

With United comfortable to adopt a classic counter attacking style, the onus was on Rangers to cut through a United defence manned by the towering Rio Ferdinand and Mikael Silvestre.

Lovenkrands looked eager to find the net after scoring the winner in Rangers' 2-1 opening Champions League win against VfB Stuttgart last month and was unlucky with two headers while United keeper Tim Howard also saved a powerful drive from the edge of the box. Italian Paolo Vanoli also whacked two efforts wide and Shota Arveladze saw a blistering effort deflect a metre above the United goal.

But United almost found the killer second on 41 minutes when Ryan Giggs' corner was met by a powerful Silvestre header but Mikel Arteta was on the line to clear.

Van Nistelrooy managed to screw a shot wide on 52 minutes while keeper Stefan Klos prevented Roy Keane from scoring at the start of the second period. — MNA/Reuters

Bruges stun champions Milan with win at San Siro

MILAN, 23 Oct—Champions League holders AC Milan suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at home by Belgium's Club Brugge in Group H on Wednesday.

The Italians dominated but a superb strike from Peruvian Andres Mendoza in the 33rd minute was enough to give Brugge a famous victory and throw the group wide open.

The result means Milan are second in the group alongside Brugge on four points with Ajax Amsterdam leading on six.

Six-times European champions Milan were unable to make the most of their possession, failing to create enough chances and when they did break through a well organized Belgian defence their strikers were unable to find the target.

Bruges had not won in their seven previous away games in European competition and were without a victory in Italy since they beat AS Roma 1-0 in the UEFA Cup during the 1975-76 season.

Milan took charge from the outset and Filippo Inzaghi had an effort ruled offside in the ninth minute and then fired over the bar from a good position shortly after.

Bruges issued a warning in the 18th minute when full back Olivier De Cock forced Dida into action with a powerful

drive from the edge of the area.

Too often Milan's moves broke down in the final third with Clarence Seedorf and Brazilian Kaka both guilty of failing to provide strikers Inzaghi and Andriy Shevchenko with the service they thrive upon. Brugge took the lead in the 33rd minute after a swift attack from deep caught Milan exposed at the back.

Ivan Gvozdenovic fed Mendoza and the tall Peruvian striker cut inside before firing a superb shot with the outside of his left foot low into Dida's bottom left corner.

It was a magnificent finish and prompted Milan into some greater urgency before the break with Seedorf firing just wide and then Cafu pushing a low ball across the face of the goal.

Milan increased the pressure after the break with Andrea Pirlo forcing a great diving save out of Dany Verlinden with a free kick and then Inzaghi missing a clear chance, firing over from point blank range as a scramble followed a corner.

MNA/Reuters

Brave Chelsea come from behind to beat Lazio

LONDON, 23 Oct—Chelsea scored twice in eight second-half minutes as they came from behind to beat Lazio 2-1 thanks to goals from Frank Lampard and Adrian Mutu in their Champions League match at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

The result takes the big-spending west London club above their Italian visitors to the top of Group G as they try to justify the 110 million pounds (185.7 million US dollars) spending spree of Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich.

Mutu's winner came straight after Chelsea brought on their first substitute when Jesper Gronkjaer replaced Juan Sebastian Veron in the 64th minute. The Dane was at once found far out on the right, crossing low with his first touch in the next minute.

Romania striker Mutu had two attempts at goal. His first was blocked by defender Jaap Stam but he turned his Dutch marker to shoot low into the far corner from close range with the second.

Chelsea, who went behind to a 38th-minute goal by Simone Inzaghi, equalized in the 57th when midfielder Frank Lampard's shot, after he was fed outside the area by Eidur Gudjohnsen, curled away from the diving Angelo Peruzzi inside the far post.

It was at last a Chelsea attack in which they did not find themselves outnumbered

by defenders, having struggled to get through a solid rearguard in the first half.

Lazio, unbeaten in their first two matches, almost stole a point when right back Massimo Oddo attempted to chip goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini with the last shot of the match in a quick counter-attack only to see the ball sail just over the bar.

Earlier, Cudicini had made a fine point blank stop from Dejan Stankovic's low shot and dived superbly to tip striker Bernardo Corradi's header over the bar following a corner.

Lazio opened the scoring with their first real chance when Oddo crossed from the right beyond the far post and midfielder Stankovic headed the ball back into the six-metre box.

Inzaghi pounced and got in front of defender William Gallas before stooping to head past Cudicini from close range.

In a first half of few chances, Chelsea had more of the ball and dominated territorially but the final pass was generally poor.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy (C) collides with Rangers' Michael Ball (L) and goalkeeper Stefan Klos (R) of Germany in the Champions League first stage Group E match at Ibrox, Glasgow, on 22 October, 2003. Manchester United won the match 1-0.—INTERNET

MRTV-3



**24-10-2003 (Friday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
- "Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Sittway with Magnifi-
cent Sight
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Short-headed
Fish with Roasted
Rice Soup)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
- 9:25 Lon-Yuu Festival
Dance
- 9:28 New, Modernized
Myanmar Food
- 9:30 National news**
- 9:35 The Fifth International
ICT Exhibition 2003
(Part-I)
- 9:40 Song "Moonlight"
- 9:45 National News**

- 9:50 Ramayana in Myanmar
(Part-IV) (INDRA, the
King of Deva's Bow)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

**24-10-2003*(Friday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Mingalabar"
(K Ja Nu)
- 15:36 Sittway with Magnifi-
cent Sight
- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Short-headed
Fish with Roasted
Rice Soup)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
- 15:55 Lon-Yuu Festival
Dance
- 15:58 New, Modernized
Myanmar Food
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 The Fifth International
ICT Exhibition 2003

- (Part-1)
- 16:10 Song "Moonlight"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Ramayana in Myanmar
(Part-IV) (INDRA, the
King of Deva's Bow)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 The Interesting
Places of Kachin State
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Prawn Curry"
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 16:55 Sweet-lilting Music
Dance
- 16:58 A Trip to Inlay Lake
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Myanmar Profile
"Fast Food"
- 17:10 Song "Love Slave"
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-
III)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune

- Greetings
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 19:36 Making Myanmar
Marionette
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Saute prawn
with Asparagus"
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Myanmar Performing
Arts Competition
(Short Drum) (Dhobot)
- 19:52 Cultural Museum
(Kengtong)
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Travelogue (Taunggyi)
- 20:10 Song "Cherry Present"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Pa-na-ma Aae Khan
Gita Than (Welcoming
music a curtain raiser)
- 20:25 Song "A Way for Lov-
ers"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Electronic Library
(Myin Mu)
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional Moun-
bine daunt"
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-
II)
- 20:55 Kachin Dance

- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture
- 21:10 Song "Love Boat"
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Myanmar Traditional
Snacks
- 21:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Mingalabar"
(K Ja Nu)
- 21:35 Sittway with Magnifi-
cent Sight
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Short-headed
Fish with Roasted
Rice Soup)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
- 21:55 Lon-Yuu Festival
Dance
- 21:58 New Modernized
Myanmar Food
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 The Fifth International
ICT Exhibition 2003
(Part-I)
- 22:10 Song "Moonlight"

- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Ramayana in Myanmar
(Part-IV) (INDRA, the
King of Deva's Bow)
- 22:25 Song "Come visit
Myanmar"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 The Interesting
Places of Kachin State
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Prawn Curry"
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- 22:50 The Art of Stone
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Dance
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- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Myanmar Profile
"Fast Food"
- 23:10 Songs on Screen "Love
Slave"
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-
III)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

ကောသလအကြိမ် (၁၁ ကြိမ်) ဖြန့်ဖြူးရန် ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆင့်၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ
မြှင့်ပွဲကျင်းပရေး ဆက်ကော်မတီ၏ ဖြင့်ပွဲ အစီအစဉ်လား။

နေရာ	(အမျိုးသားပြတိုက်)	(အမျိုးသားဇာတ်ရုံ)	(ကမ္ဘာဇာတ်ရုံ)	(ပုဗ္ဗဇာတ်ရုံ)	
စဉ်	ရက်စွဲ	အဆို	အတီး/ဇာတ်သဘင်	အရေး	အတီး
၁၁။	၂၄-၁၀-၂၀၀၃ သောကြာနေ့	မဟာဂီတ (နံနက်) (၁) အဆင့်မြင့် (ကျား) မဟာဂီတ (နေ့လည်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (မ)	စန္ဒရာ: (၁) အခြေခံ (၅-၁၀) (ကျား) (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၅-၁၀) (မ) (နေ့လည်) ရုပ်သေးဇာတ်တော်ကြီး: (ညပိုင်း) မွန်ပြည်နယ်ကိုယ်စားပြု ပုဏ္ဏားပျံရုပ်စုံစင်တော်ကြီးအဖွဲ့	အရေးသီးချင်းဖြိုင်ပွဲ (ကမ္ဘာဇာတ်ရုံ) (၁) ဝါသနာရှင်	နဲ (၁) ဝါသနာရှင် (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၅-၂၀) (နေ့လည်) (၃) အဆင့်မြင့် (နေ့လည်)



**View today:
Friday, October 24**

- 7:00 am**
- 1. ကျေးဇူးတင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်အထိ
မဟာရာဇာ အဖွဲ့
အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချမ်း
အတိအကျမဟာရဇာ၊ အတိအကျ
မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတ်ကတိပိဋကဓမ္မ
ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဝါရီက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒ
ဝိမ္မိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏
ပရိတ်တရား တော်
- 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. ရိုးရာဇာတ်ကဏ္ဍအနုပညာ
- 8:00 am**
- 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
- 7. The mirror images of the
musical oldies
- 8:20 am**
- 8. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am**
- 9. International news

- 8:45 am**
- 10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. Demonstration exercise
for correct pronunciation
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. အဝေးသံကဏ္ဍသို့လည်းကောင်း
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသံစန့်စာ
- ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုပ်သေးအတွဲပြု)
(ရုပ်သေး)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Songs of national races
- 5:30 pm**
- 7. လတ်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေါက်တေး
- 5:45 pm**
- 8. "သစ်သစ်နီနီစာ"
အညွန့်၊ နီနီ၊ ဖြစ်မြင်နီနီ၊ နီနီနှင့်ဝေဝ
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်နီအဖွဲ့)
- 6:00 pm**
- 9. ရုန်းကန်မှုနီနီအားကစားအခြေခံ
- 6:10 pm**
- 10. Musical programme
- 6:20 pm**
- 11. Discovery
- 6:30 pm**
- 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
- 13. Weather report

- 7:05 pm**
- 14. Milo success in soccer
- 7:10 pm**
- 15. ကမ္ဘာ့ကလောင်စာရေးဆရာများ
- 7:15 pm**
- 16. Song of yesteryears
- 7:25 pm**
- 17. ဝင်ရောက်ပေးရန် စည်းစိမ်လေးနီနီ
နီနီကြီး
- 7:35 pm**
- 18. Musical programme
- 7:45 pm**
- 19. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တေးစုနှင့်
စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်
- 8:00 pm**
- 20. News
- 21. International news
- 22. Weather report
- 23. ၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ကောသလအကြိမ်
(၁၁ ကြိမ်) ဖြန့်ဖြူးရန် ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
အဆင့်၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ
- 24. Myanmar video
feature:
"မေမေနှင့်နီနီ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
ဇော်လင်းနီနီ၊ ထွန်းမိုးမြင့်စိုး
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်လင်းနီနီ)
- 25. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး
နီနီဝိမ္မိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏
အရံဆယ်ဖျက်ရာ ဓမ္မဏ္ဍာဘာဝရာ
ဌားဗျားခြင်း တရားတော်
- 26. The next day's
programme



**Friday, October 24
Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music
-Lost in love (Air
Supply)
-Evergreen (Westlife)
- 9.00 pm** World of music
Song from
"Thailand"
- 9.15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your request
-We've got tonight
(Lu Lu & Ronan
Keating)
25 minutes
(M.L.T.R)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



WEATHER

Thursday, 23 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Kayin, Mon States and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Bago (1.88) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-10-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 23-10-2003 was 20.9°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-10-2003 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 22-10-2003 was (6.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2202 mm (86.68 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2381 mm (93.74 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from northerly at (21:50) hours MST on 21-10-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay, West Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Special features:** According to the observation at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Gulf of Thailand still persists and move westward.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-10-2003: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Taninthayi Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Mon, Taninthayi Coast and Gulf of Mottama. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-40) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of thundery condition in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-10-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-10-2003: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Role of transportation networks connecting all ASEAN states cannot be overemphasized in march towards single ASEAN market and regional integration

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses 9th ATM



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting launched at the Sedona Hotel here this morning, with an opening

address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. He said: "It is a great pleasure for me to deliver the opening address at this Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting. On behalf of the Government and people of Myanmar and my own behalf, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all the Ministers, the ASEAN Secretary General and all delegates to Myanmar. I would like to express our appreciation to the ASEAN Secretary General and the secretariat for their cooperation and support for the successful convening of this Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting in Myanmar. The Meeting assumes special significance as it is taking place barely a fortnight after the Ninth ASEAN Summit held in Bali. It may be recalled that at the Summit, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) in which they pledged to build an ASEAN Community based on the three pillars of 'ASEAN Security Commu-

roads, rails, bridges, airports and seaports with our own resources. Since 1988, we have constructed new roads measuring 2000 road miles, a total of 161 new bridges of more than 180 feet span including 7 large bridges spanning the Ayeyawady River, 2 across the Chindwin River and 3 across the Thanlwin River. Moreover, as rail transportation constitutes an important sector in land transportation, over 1000 miles of new rail lines have been constructed. Previously, the transportation network was mainly intended to link the north and south of the country. Today there are road and rail networks that connect all corners of the nation and our nation with all neighbouring countries. With regard to the avia-

tion sector, 7 new airports have been constructed and 21 existing airports upgraded to accommodate larger aircraft. Before the time of our Government, the Yangon International Airport was the only international airport. Today with the opening of the international airport in Mandalay, a second international aviation entry point to Myanmar has been added. In the near future, with the completion of airport extension (See page 9)

With regard to the avia-

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



Dignitaries attend the opening ceremony of Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting. — MNA

address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. He said:

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nity", "ASEAN Economic Community" and "ASEAN Socio-cultural Community". The ASEAN Economic Community would include, contribute towards the realization of our common goal. Notwithstanding the fact that funding remains an issue, we should explore all avenues

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Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs team tours Shan State (South)

YANGON, 23 Oct — The team led by Member of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe met with members of ward and village WCWAs at City Hall in Taunggyi yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu, Deputy Commander Col Win Myint and wife, officials, members of Shan State WCWA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, social organizations, and township and village WCWAs, townsenders and local women of national races.

Secretary of Taunggyi Township WCWA Daw Nan Kham Aye extended greetings.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe briefed those present on the purpose of their field tour, saying that women make up more than 50 per cent of the population in Myanmar. The government has been effectively enlisting the strength and might of women in the tasks for development of the nation.

Plans are being implemented in respective States and Divisions for promotion of the women's sector. The government places emphasis on development of States (See page 9)

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MNCWA and MNWCWA Member Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe holds group discussions with local women in Taunggyi. — MNA