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Sunday, 26 October, 2003

Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends Kathina robes offering ceremony of YCDC

YANGON, 25 Oct —Under the patronage of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, families of the Yangon City Development Committee offered Kathina robes to monks for the eighth time at Thathana Zayya Mingala Pariyatti Sarthintak in Natchaung Ward in Tamway Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, wives of the

members of the State Peace and Development Council, wives of the ministers, YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the vice mayor and members of the YCDC and their wives, wellwishers and guests.

First, the ceremony to reordain Bawditahtaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Narada was held with the sponsorship of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at Thathana Zayya Mingala Theindawgyi. Daw Kyaing Kyaing and Daw Mya Mya San presented offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Next, the eighth Kathina robes offering ceremony was held at the three-storey building of the Sarthintak. Thathana Zayya Mingala Sarthintak Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panyinda invested the con-



Daw Kyaing Kyaing presents Kathina robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panyinda. — MNA

gregation with the Five Precepts and the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited parittas. Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Daw Mya Mya San, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Daw Khin Than Nwe and the

congregation presented Kathina robes and offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Osadha delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. And the ceremony came to a close with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam

Ciramtithatu.

Later, Daw Kyaing Kyaing performed the rituals of gold and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony, and offered 'soon' to the monks. — MNA

Development projects being implemented with emphasis on raising people's living standard Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets departmental officials in Kawthoung District

YANGON, 25 Oct — 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, together with Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and 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, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Of-

fice, left Bokpyin by helicopter and arrived at Kawthoung on 23 October afternoon.

The Secretary-1 and party met with chairmen of Kawthoung District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity And Development Association and social organizations and townselders at Myinzuthaka Hall.

At the meeting, District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Phyto reported on extended paddy cultivation for regional rice sufficiency, progress in planting of oil palms at the farms of entrepreneurs, progress in extended growing of rubber, and measures taken for promotion of the meat and fish sector.

(See page 8)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye makes a speech in meeting with officers and other ranks of the regiments and units of Kawthoung Station and their families at Bawint Naung Hall. — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 26 October, 2003

Make sustained efforts for realization of goals set by UN's Millennium Declaration

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe has sent a message to the ceremony to mark the Fifty-eighth Anniversary of United Nations Day on 24 October.

It is stated in the message that the leaders of the nations of the world greeted the arrival of the new millennium with the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This important document embodies a large number of specific commitments aimed at improving the lot of humanity in the new century. Among the areas on which commitments have been made, peace and security are priorities.

The United Nations was established with the aim of eradicating the scourge of war, of strengthening peace in conformity with justice and international law, and of respecting the equal rights of nations large and small, among others. Since its inception, the United Nations has exerted tireless efforts to achieve its goals for the benefit of humankind. Remarkable achievements have been attained in many areas, while success has proved to be elusive in others.

Strengthening respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs, taking concerted action against international terrorism, redoubling efforts to counter the world drug problem, intensifying efforts to fight transnational crime, resolving armed conflicts, and disarmament matters are goals set by the Millennium Declaration to be implemented by the States in this century. Other priority areas of commitment are development and poverty eradication.

This is the third year since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. Being a member of the World Organization, Myanmar like other member countries is making relentless efforts in realization of the goals set by Millennium Declaration.

In this regard, it is stated in the message that Myanmar, as a member of the World Organization, believes that it is important to realize the commitments made in Millennium Declaration in comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and balanced manner at the national, regional and international levels.

The United Nations was formed with 51 countries in 1945 and member countries have now increased to 191. The United Nations will continue to exist as the rays of hope for the entire humankind on which it mainly represents.

The role of the United Nations is greater than ever before in safeguarding peace and security, and boosting the international cooperation and development.

Therefore, it is believed that Myanmar, a member nation of the United Nations will make continued efforts in realization of the goals set by Millennium Declaration, respecting purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Ministry of Rail Transportation offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 25 Oct — Families of the Ministry of Rail Transportation today offered Kathina robes to monks for 12th time at the hall of the ministry at the corner of Merchant Street and Theinbyu Road.

Present on the occasion were Dhammi Kayon Pali Takkatho Dewa Thagara Theingon Monastery on Theinbyu Road Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita U Indaka and members of the Sangha, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife, Deputy Minister Thura U Thauing Lwin and wife, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and wife, advisers to the ministry, directors-general and managing directors, officials and staff families. — MNA

Kathina robes offering ceremony of Ministry of Energy held

YANGON, 25 Oct — The 10th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Energy was held today at the Dhammayon of the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. It was attended by Sangyoung Township Winthamaydani and Shwetaung Sarthintak Pre-siding Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vayama and members of the Sangha, Daw Khin Mar Aye, wife of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay and wife, guests, departmental heads and others.

After the ceremony, 'soon' was offered to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. The donations were K 330,8898.

MNA

BADMINTON TOURNEY OPENED: The opening of Yangon Division inter-school badminton tournament, sponsored by No 3 BED (Yangon) Myanmar Badminton Federation and Great Wall Traditional Medicines Enterprise, took place at Myoma Gymnasium on 25-10-2003 morning. Photo shows MBF President U Maung Maung Swe speaking at the opening ceremony. — NLM



Daw Kyauing Kyauing, wife of State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe, and party and wellwishers sharing merits at the Kathina robes offering ceremony. (News on page 1). — MNA

Commander addresses 9th Conference of Myanmar Veterinary Medical Association

YANGON, 25 Oct — The opening of the 9th Conference of Myanmar Veterinary Medical Association was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech on the occasion.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, departmental heads of the ministries concerned, patrons, the president and executives of MVMA, officials of Myanmar Veterinary Medicine Council, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation, and Myanmar Fisheries Federation, resident representatives of UNDP and FAO, guests.

In his speech, the commander highlighted the role of veterinary surgeons in food security, economic development and public health, and pointed out the concentrated efforts of the government for the development of the meat and fish sector, one of the most promising economic sectors of the country that earns foreign exchange by export of surplus products. The State had given guidance on taking measures for distribution of quality breed of livestock, extension of prawn breeding, and emphasizing the rural livestock breeding development, he said. Veterinary surgeons are required to contribute towards the efforts of the government for development of raising local fowls in rural areas for

consumption and systematic breeding of broilers for export.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein made a speech.

Next, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein and President of MVMA Dr Than Daing formally opened the commemorative exhibition of the conference. A total of 15 livestock breeding companies has opened over twenty booths at the exhibition.

Dr Mya Nyunt, Dr Ko Ko Gyi, and Dr Than Tint presided over the session of the conference held at 11.30 am. Dr Mya Nyunt, Dr Than Daing and Dr Saw Pale Saw spoke on the occasion. Afterwards, paper reading sessions were held. The conference and paper reading session continue tomorrow. — MNA

Yangon Division General Enterprise Cooperative Syndicate holds Annual General Meeting

YANGON, 25 Oct — The annual general meeting of the 2002-2003 fiscal year of Yangon Division General Enterprise Cooperative Syndicate took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this

morning, with an address by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

Chairman of the syndicate U Ye Aung made an opening speech.

The director-general of the Cooperative Department presented the award

for outstanding performance in cooperative activities to the cooperative syndicate of Thakayta Township.

The chairman presented profits to a representative of the syndicate members.

MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 25 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Labour U Tin Winn arrived back here by air this afternoon after attending the 58th Session of UN General Assembly.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-

Gen Htay Oo, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials and families of the delegation.

Delegation member Col Hla Min also arrived back here on the same flight. — MNA



Myanmar delegation led by Minister U Tin Winn being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

**DRIVE
SAFELY**

Spending on security, Iraq seen hurting cities

PHILADELPHIA, 25 Oct — The Bush administration's priorities for funding homeland security and the Iraq occupation could come at the expense of public safety in America's cash-strapped cities, mayors and police chiefs warned on Friday.

At an international police convention attended by senior administration officials, municipal leaders said they face potentially drastic cuts of nearly \$1 billion in annual federal funds for community policing as Congress tries to cope with budget constraints posed by looming federal deficits.

"We're already starting to see the impact of not having sufficient funds," said Richmond, California, Police Chief Joseph Samuels, who heads the International Association of Chiefs of Police, or IACP.

His organization and the US Conference of Mayors accused Congress, supported by the Bush administration, of contemplating cuts in police funding to pay for homeland security readiness programs for local police and firefighters.

The group was also quick

to point out that annual funds available to US cities through a Clinton-era community policing program and a Nixon-era block grant program nearly equal the \$950 million that President Bush (plans to spend on public safety development in Iraq.

"We do not believe that we could build domestic security within Iraq, or any other foreign country, at the expense of the essential domestic security needs of the cities of the United States," said Gary, Indiana, Mayor Scott King, who heads a national task force comprised of mayors and police chiefs.

Samuels and King spoke at a news conference during the IACP's annual convention here, which was attended by more than 14,000 law enforcement executives from around the world.

The week-long conven-

tion heard from a number of top administration officials including Attorney General John Ashcroft, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and FBI Director Robert Mueller, each of whom stressed the importance of local policing in the war on terrorism.

"The homeland will be secure only when each and every hometown is secure," Ridge said, while pledging \$4 billion over the next year in anti-terrorism training for police and firefighters.

On Friday, Ashcroft applauded police for helping to bring the U.S. crime rate to a 30-year low, which he attributed in part to a federal crackdown on gun-related crimes. "Stop for a moment to consider what these results say about your teamwork and about our tactics," he told law enforcement officials.

Federal officials also noted the role that state and local police played in capturing fugitive Eric Rudolph, a suspect in the 1996 Olympic Park bombing, and convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. But Samuels predicted that budget proposals in Congress to cut community policing funds by 50 percent and block grants by 60 percent would bring job cuts to state and local police forces that employ 700,000 officers.

The federal programmes provide police departments with money for hiring, redeployment, overtime, equipment, crime and drug prevention programs as well as communications initiatives.

Proposed cuts, which could be enacted between now and Thanksgiving, would mean problems for cities that spend up to two-thirds of their budgets on public safety and already face slackening tax revenues due to a soft economy, officials said. —Internet

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A man walks in front of a banner which reads 'Peace, You Can't Shut Us Up!' during a demonstration against the International Donors Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq taking place in Madrid, on 23 October, 2003. —INTERNET

BAN condemns US export of "ghost fleet" ships

GENEVA, 25 Oct — The US export of ships to Britain for scrap could set a precedent for exporting other polluted vessels to either Europe or cheaper salvage yards in Asia, environmentalists said on Wednesday.

In a report, the Basel Action Network (BAN), a non-governmental organization, condemned the US export of 13 ageing naval ships — part of the so-called "ghost fleet".

The group said the first four of the former US Navy supply ships had embarked for a demolition site in Teesside, northeast England, operated by Able UK, with the 58-year-old *Canistea* and *Caloosahatchee* due to arrive in early November.

A US court has blocked the export of the remaining nine vessels, said BAN, which monitors observance of the United Nations 1992 Basel Convention on cross-border movement of hazardous wastes.

The group said the sailing of the first four ships could set a precedent for the future export of US vessels to other yards in Asia, where, environmentalists said, health and safety requirements were lower and the risk to workers more acute.

"But whether it's the UK or China, we should not be throwing our toxic trash on our global neighbours," Michael Childs of the environmental group Friends of the

Earth said in a statement.

"This export to the UK could give the Bush Administration a terrible precedent...to begin the wholesale dumping of this fleet of toxic ships on poor Asian communities," he said.

The four rusting hulks contain over 620 tons of asbestos, the group said in a statement, in addition to over 470 tons of old fuel oil and 350 tons of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) — a carcinogenic substance banned in the 1970s.

Able UK has said that all the ships had been drained of the more hazardous liquid PCBs ahead of their journey. It denies the vessels pose a risk and says they will be scrapped in a controlled and professional way.

BAN said it was irresponsible to tow the ageing vessels across the open seas and risk them breaking up when they could be dismantled and made safe closer to home.

"Even if these floating time-bombs make it across the Atlantic and up the English Channel without mishap, there's a potential disaster waiting to happen in Teesside," organization official Jim Puckett said. —MNA/Reuters

China's oil sector opens slightly to private wholesalers

BELING, 25 Oct — The government's recent move to approve private firms as wholesalers of refined oil products will not particularly rock the dominance of the two largest state-owned oil companies in this sector, experts say.

However, the green light to open what until now has been a tightly controlled market indicates that PetroChina and Sinopec will face some stiffer competition, Thursday's *China Daily* reported.

The number of domestic players is expected to grow gradually before the market is completely exposed to foreign giant firms in 2006 as part of China's commitment to the World Trade Organization. Earlier this month, the domestically listed Hubei Tianfa Group, a refined oil products trader, announced it had obtained a wholesale licence for its refined oil products. It was the first wholesale licence granted by the government in four years.

In a market overhaul in 1999, the government recalled thousands of wholesale licences for refined oil products and consolidated the business into a duopoly featuring PetroChina and Sinopec.

The government hoped the move would help the two companies get a better grip of the market and control prices to sustain the revenues at their lumbering refineries that absorb millions of workers and contribute millions in tax revenues to the government. Tianfa, which operates more than 100 filling stations, said the licence-call-off has virtually paralyzed its oil storage facilities, which absorbed an investment of more than 10 billion yuan (1.2 billion US dollars), and sent its profits plummeting.

Now with a wholesale licence in hand, company spokesman said they plan to occupy half of the wholesale market for refined products in Hubei Province, which is now being dominated by Sinopec. According to its blueprint, Tianfa also plans to expand its retail network to 3,000 gasoline stations and become the third largest retailer in five years.

MNA/Xinhua

India to help others in protecting traditional knowledge

NEW DELHI, 25 Oct — Warning the world against "scientific and technological colonialism", India on Thursday offered to help all developing countries in protecting their wealth of traditional knowledge with patents so that it is not exploited by the West for making money.

"Our traditional knowledge is the result of hard work of our ancestors. It should be used for the benefit of humanity. But in this competitive world of patents, it needs to be protected," Science and Technology Minister Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said here at the launch of the CD of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

"The grant of patents on non-patentable knowledge

which is either a part of the traditional knowledge of the developing world or a minor variation thereof has been causing great concern to the developing world," he said.

Unless the traditional knowledge is protected, the country would have to fight patents claimed by others as in the case of haldi (turmeric), neem (a plant having many therapeutic properties) and basmati (a special type of

rice), which was a costly affair, he said.

Stating that India favours technology with a human face, he said knowledge should not be exploited to make money. "It should be accessible and affordable rather than being in the domain of few," he said. Talks were already on with African countries in the direction of safeguarding their traditional knowledge. —MNA/PTI



Chinese walk past an artist impression of the Shenzhou 5 space craft outside the Millennium monument in Beijing, China, on 24 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Three US troops killed in Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD, 25 Oct—A mortar attack killed two American soldiers and wounded four others on Friday at an outpost north of Baghdad, and a third American died in a gunbattle in the northern city of Mosul, the US military said.

The mortar attack occurred about noon at a 4th Infantry Division forward operating base near Samara, 70 miles north of Baghdad, the US Central Command said.

It was the second mortar attack against a 4th Infantry Division position in as many days. Late Thursday, 13 soldiers from the division were wounded when a mortar struck a hangar at the U.S. Camp War Horse near Baqouba, 40 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The 4th Infantry is responsible for security in a large swath of territory in northern Iraq and has suffered more attacks than any other US command in Iraq, according to American officials in Baghdad.

In Mosul, a soldier from the 101st Airborne Division was killed during a gunbattle before dawn Friday with armed men who attacked a grain storage facility, the military said.

Since President Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1, 108 US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire. In Fallujah, a center of Sunni Muslim resistance 40 miles west of Baghdad, US soldiers were seen beating and kicking a pair of suspects detained after what witnesses said was a roadside bombing. It was the sixth attack by insurgents in Fallujah in as many days.

Iraqi witnesses said the attack took place near a bridge at

the western end of Fallujah. The witnesses said three injured US soldiers were evacuated after American soldiers raked the area with gunfire.

After the attack, television footage showed US troops detaining several Iraqi civilians, with one soldier dragging a man from his vehicle and punching him repeatedly in the abdomen as he fell to the ground. Another soldier could be seen kicking a detainee in the leg before hauling him from the pavement and leading him away.

Elsewhere, police said two children aged 3 and 8 were killed and three adults wounded in a grenade attack on a police station in Mosul, a city that had been relatively quiet for weeks.

In another incident near Baqouba, an American patrol was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire Thursday night, US officials said. The Americans pursued the two Iraqi attackers into a house and killed them, the military said.

Also Thursday, 4th Infantry troops detained six men digging by a roadside near Beiji, 120 miles north of Baghdad, with the intention to place bombs there.

Associated Press writers Katarina Kratovac in Tikrit and Mariam Fam in Mosul contributed to this report.—Internet

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



Iraqi Shiite women and men, supporters of firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr attend the Friday noon prayers in Baghdad's Shiite neighbourhood Sadr City. US deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz will start a four-day tour of Iraq.—INTERNET

Vietnam's export turnovers up in first 10 months

HANOI, 25 Oct—Vietnam is estimated to gain export turnovers of 16.55 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, posting a year-on-year increase of 22.7 per cent.

In October alone, the country is forecast to earn 1.62 billion dollars from exports, up 2.2 per cent against the previous month, putting an end to the turnover decreases in the four consecutive months starting in June, local newspaper *Vietnam Investment Review* reported on Thursday.

Between January and October, the volumes of six among 20 Vietnam's key export items, namely rice, cashew nuts, garment and textile, wood products, coal and electrical wires and cables, have surpassed the targets set for the whole year.

In the period, the country is estimated to reap 1.85 billion dollars and 290 million US dollars from exporting seafood and rubber latex, year-on-year rises of 10.8 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively.—MNA/Xinhua

China welcomes India's new peace moves with Pakistan

BEIJING, 25 Oct—Ahead of Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf's visit here, China on Thursday lauded India for initiating new steps to ease the situation in south Asia, which is in accordance with the wishes of the international community.

"China welcomes all the efforts for the relaxation of relationship between Pakistan and India," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue told reporters when asked to comment on New Delhi's latest peace moves to ease ties with Islamabad.

"We sincerely hope that Pakistan and India can properly solve their disputes through dialogue and can calmly commit themselves to regional stability and development," she said.

"This is not only in the interest of the two countries and two peoples but is also a common expectation of the international community. So we welcome the decisions made by the Indian side," Zhang said.

India on Wednesday announced a set of proposals including a bus service across the Line of Control between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad and restoration of cricketing and other sporting links.

Earlier, Zhang announced that Musharraf would pay a state visit to China from November 3 to 5 to meet with the new Chinese leadership for the first time.

Commenting on Musharraf's visit, Zhang said that it would be of great importance to provide a further

momentum to the smooth development of Sino-Pakistani ties.

Musharraf would be visiting China at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, who is also the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China.

MNA/PTI

US puts blood ban on soldiers returning from Iraq

ATLANTA, 25 Oct—American soldiers returning from Iraq are being told not to give blood for up to one year to prevent the possible spread of a parasite into the US blood supply, federal health officials said on Thursday.

The precautionary ban was ordered by the Department of Defence and the nation's largest association of blood banks following an outbreak of cutaneous leishmaniasis among US soldiers serving in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

Leishmaniasis, which is endemic in the Middle East, tropics and some parts of southern Europe, is usually spread by the bite of sand flies. Those infected develop painless skin lesions that can, if left untreated, cause scars.

Visceral leishmaniasis, the more serious form of the disease, can damage internal organs and cause death.

MNA/Reuters

Africa expects millions of Chinese tourists

BEIJING, 25 Oct—African representatives attending the World Tourism Organization General Assembly session here took turns promoting their countries, in the hope of gaining Approved Destination Status (ADS) for Chinese tour groups as soon as possible.

China's tourism development could be seen from Beijing's construction, said Roger Mahazoasy, Minister of Tourism of Madagascar.

He said his nation would catch up with other pioneering African nations in image promotion in China. He hoped to open a tourism office here soon.

He said Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean, the world's fourth largest island, had many Chinese descendants. Chinese tourists who loved nature would be at home in Madagascar.

Francis Nhemba, Zimbabwe's Minister of Environment and Tourism led the biggest delegation to China.

He said Zimbabwe had the Victoria Falls and many ancient cultural relics. It was also home to elephants, lions, zebras and giraffes. Some couples went to Zimbabwe for special wedding ceremonies on elephant-back. He hoped Chinese couples could also experience such weddings.

He said, "Zimbabwe and China have a long history of friendship."

MNA/Xinhua



A villager stands near a missile in a field near Baghdad International Airport on 20 October, 2003. Six months after the end of the war in Iraq, the country is still afloat in ammunition, despite coalition efforts to dispose of it. Between 650,000 to 1 million tons of ammunition remain unaccounted for, scattered all over the country.—INTERNET

Hu Jintao meets Australian business leaders, NSW Governor, Premier

SYDNEY (Australia), 25 Oct—Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday met with Australian business leaders and New South Wales Governor Marie Bashir and Premier Robert Carr, and exchanged views with them on strengthening cooperation between China and Australia.

During talks with Australian business leaders, President Hu was first briefed on the cooperation between Chinese and Australian companies. Hu said China will open up further to the outside world.

The Chinese and Australian economies are complementary to each other. With the Chinese economy fast growing, China's demands for energy and resources will continue to rise, and the two sides can establish long-term, stable and cooperative relations through trade and investment as Australia is rich in natural resources, Hu said. China's economic and consumption structures are changing, and demands for services like telecom-

munication, tourism, education and culture are booming, which provides great opportunities of cooperation between the two countries, the Chinese President said. China's strategy to develop its western part and to revitalize its northeastern area offers increasing business opportunities, and China welcomes Australian companies to invest in China's western and northeastern regions, Hu said.

Australian business leaders said they were encouraged by the great potential of cooperation between Australia and China and would work for the establishment of all-round economic and trade ties between the two sides.

MNA/Xinhua

PROTESTS AGAINST WAR IN IRAQ



Martin Sagrera hands out his homemade placards during a demonstration against the International Donors

Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq taking place in Madrid, on 23 October, 2003. Sign on left reads 'Vultures of Bush and right is a 'Spain is being used by the US.'—INTERNET

South Korean protesters shout slogans while carrying an anti-war banner during a rally near the National Assembly in Seoul on 23 October, 2003. Dozens of activists rallied on Thursday criticising the possible additional dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq.—INTERNET



Anti-war protesters gather in DC, SF

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct—Protesters began converging on the nation's capital Friday for what they hope will be the largest anti-war demonstration since the fall of Baghdad.

Organizers predicted tens of thousands of people would turn out Saturday in Washington for a march and speeches calling for the removal of US forces from Iraq. Thousands of demonstrators also were expected to flock to San Francisco at the same time for the largest protests there since April, when more than 10,000 people filled the streets.

"The U.S. government has no right to try and recolonize Iraq," said Peta Lindsay, national youth and student coordinator for International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), which organized the protests with another group, United for Peace and Justice.

To counter the anti-war demonstrations, the Washington chapter of Free Republic, an independent grassroots conservative group, also planned a rally for Saturday at the US Capitol, where organizers expect about 1,000 people.

"We support our troops and the commander in chief and their mission," said Kristinn Taylor, co-leader of the group.

Organizers of the anti-war protest in Washington said they expected most of the protesters to be high school and college students from 140 cities in the United States and Canada. They planned to gather at the Washington Monument before marching to the White House and Justice Department. Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Martin Luther King III were among those expected to speak.

ANSWER coordinator Brian Becker said Muslim groups, veterans, and families who have loved ones in Iraq or in the military also plan to attend.

"We feel compelled to take part in this because we think this war is wrong," said Charley Richardson, one of the co-founders of the group Military Families Speak Out. "It never should have been fought in the first place."

Richardson's 25-year-old son, Joe, returned from Iraq over the summer. Richardson said his son supports "very strongly" his parents' right to speak out.

Vietnam veteran David Cline said he will attend the protest because he sees a lot of "eerie parallels to what we went through 30 years ago." Cline is the national president of the 3,500-member Veterans for Peace.

For the San Francisco protest, ANSWER and several other groups _ Bay Area United Against War, Not in Our Name, United for Peace and Justice, and the Vanguard Foundation _ arranged transportation so that protesters from Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and 27 California cities could attend.—INTERNET



People march behind a banner which reads 'Donors' 'Conference, Pillage of the Country, Out Invaders of Iraq' during a protest against the International Donors Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq taking place in Madrid on 23 October, 2003.—INTERNET



Islamic women protest against the Turkish governments decision to send troops to Iraq in Istanbul. Banner reads 'American media go home'.—INTERNET

Protesters gather in front of the Parliament as US President George W Bush arrives to meet Australia's Prime Minister John Howard and make a speech in Canberra, Australia, on 23 October, 2003. Bush is making the final stop of his six-nation Asia-Australia tour where he has sought support for the reconstruction of Iraq and the ongoing war against terror. —INTERNET



345 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BUGHDAD, 25 Oct—As of Friday, Oct. 24, 345 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defense.

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, 207 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defense Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,620 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile

action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 338.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command:

Two 4th Infantry Division soldiers were killed Friday during a mortar attack at an outpost near Samara, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the US Military:

Army Capt. John R.

Teal, 31; Mechanicsville, Va.; killed Thursday by an explosive in Baqubah, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Army Sgt. Michael S. Hancock, 29; Yreka, Calif.; shot and killed Friday while on guard duty in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Internet

Nigeria intensifies efforts to crack down on smuggling activities

LAGOS, 25 Oct—In a renewed effort to stem smuggling activities, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has intensified its air patrol operations to track down culprits in the border areas, an NCS official said Thursday.

Speaking at the end of a communication systems course held in Kaduna, a leading commercial city in northern Nigeria, NCS Zonal Coordinator Felix Azorbo said that the NCS has trained 31 officers on air-to-ground communication skills to enable it to gather information on the location of smugglers along the country's borders.

"The service is committed to fighting smugglers fire-for-fire," he said, adding that officers were trained on communication skills and other operational techniques to enable them effectively police the border areas. a

"We are presently training our ground patrol officers to give teeth to the air wing to make it difficult for smugglers to operate," Azorbo said.—MNA/Xinhua

Int'l board set up to monitor expenditures in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Oct—An international panel monitoring the expenditures in Iraq was formally established with the agreement of all parties on the terms of its operation, according to a joint statement released Thursday at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

The statement, issued by the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the UN, said their agreement meant that the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB) had been established.

Resolution 1483 of the Security Council passed last May calls for the creation of a monitoring board to appoint accountants to audit the Development Fund for Iraq that has been established

by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

"The purpose of the board is to promote the objective" of resolution 1483, the statement said. It also said that the board would ensure "that export sales of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas from Iraq are made consistent with prevailing international market best practices". The directors of the four groups would each appoint a representative to the board, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Canada, China vow to double trade volume by 2010

BEIJING, 25 Oct—Canada and China have agreed to double bilateral trade by the year 2010, said Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien here Wednesday.

At a Press briefing, Chretien said he and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao agreed on this during their talks this morning. Prime Minister Chretien said they had "a lot of good discussions and the relations between China and Canada are very good."

"Basically we concluded that we have tripled our trade in the last ten years and agreed that we have a goal of doubling our trade before the year 2010." He said they had discussed many bilateral problems and decided to work to solve problems such as opening the Chinese market more quickly, which is "a very important market".

Chretien said they also discussed other fields of collaboration such as in fighting against SARS, which struck China as well as Canada this spring. He said they had talked for about an hour and it was "very rare" since they were very busy and they agreed to resume discussions this evening when they met with members of the Canada-China Business Council. As to the deficit with China, Chretien said they agreed to work on this and close the gap but Canada also had deficits with other countries and this is not unique for China.

MNA/Xinhua



Two Iraqi police officers head into a street after hearing gunshots fired in Baghdad on 24 October, 2003. Nudged by the United States, donors at a conference in Madrid came through Friday with pledges big and small for Iraq but were falling short of the estimated US \$55 billion needed to rebuild the country. —INTERNET

UNSG stresses key factors to ensure success in Iraq reconstruction

MADRID, 25 Oct — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said here Thursday that success in rebuilding Iraq depends not only on the availability of resources, but also on a number of other factors.

"First and foremost is security. This will be the primary constraint both now and into the foreseeable future," Annan said at the opening of the two-day conference on the reconstruction of Iraq, which brings together about 1,200 representatives from 71 countries, 20 international organizations and 225 private companies.

"Second is Iraqi ownership and leadership. That means Iraqis defining their own priorities, deciding on strategies, and managing the activities that ensue," Annan told the conference aimed at getting more cash and troops from other countries to rebuild Iraq and ease the burden on the United States.

"Third, any long-term institutional changes in Iraq's legal norms and economic and fiscal framework must have legitimacy, especially since such changes will affect future generations," Annan added.

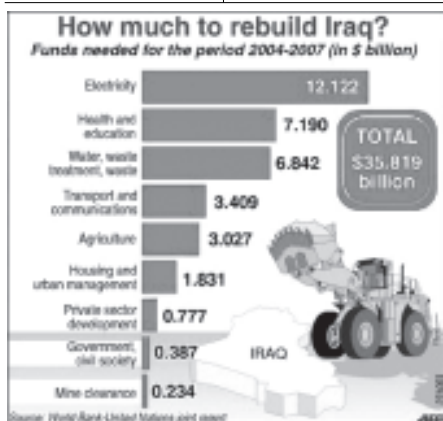
"Reconstruction is thus linked closely to the wider political process. I know we all look forward to the earliest possible establishment of a sovereign Iraqi Government but the start of the reconstruction cannot be delayed until that day," said the UN chief,

who came here on Wednesday and would not attend the conference proper as the day's events progress at ministerial level.

According to the host Spain, the conference would seek to "set long-term reconstruction priorities, perhaps stretching over 10 years or longer, draw the participation of various countries and create a multilateral fund" for getting Iraq back on its feet.

The first day of the conference would feature largely technical discussions on Iraq's needs in areas such as education, health and its electrical grid. Separate from the conference, representatives from 225 companies and several business associations from around the world will meet with Iraqi officials to discuss investment opportunities.

The United States is trying to drum up about 36 billion US dollars in donations from other countries. But with World Bank and UN analysts estimating the country's needs at 55 billion dollars, almost three times as much as the pledges proffered to date whether in donations or loans, the conference is likely to be only a first step along a rocky and winding road towards even a semblance of prosperity, analysts said. —MNA/Reuters



Graphic summarising the estimated budget for the reconstruction of Iraq according to the World Bank and the United Nations.—INTERNET

BFA falls at best time for Asian cooperation

BEIJING, 25 Oct—The second annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) will be held during a time when Asian cooperation has presented an unprecedented momentum for development, said BFA Secretary-General Long Yongtu on Thursday.

He called the meeting "very timely", indicating that it will be held after two key international meetings, namely, the Association of the South-East Asian Nations meetings in early October and just-concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting. Long said at a Press conference that the second annual BFA meeting, to be held from November 2 to 3, will echo the above two meetings, and contribute to pushing forward the Asian regional cooperation.

So far, over 1,000 participants from the government, business and academic circles and media have confirmed they will attend, and five heads of states, four vice-prime ministers and nine former heads of states are included. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will be present at the meeting.

Long said that taking "Development through Cooperation" as the theme, the participants will discuss Asian financial cooperation, regional free trade, information and tourism industry cooperation.—MNA/Xinhua

The duty defined by the national cause-2

Ketu Nila

(Continued from yesterday)

Because of the armed and political opposition and conflicts of the factional prejudices, extreme racism, extreme leftists and colonialist minions, the Revolutionary Council Government could not realize the aims of the national re-consolidation task as expected. However, the Revolutionary Council Government was able to transform the Burma Socialist Programme Party from the cadre party to the people's party, hold the referendum to approve the 1974 Constitution, hold the election in accord with the Constitution and transfer the State power to the people on 2 March 1974, and enable the BSPP to lead the country.

The Constitution was drawn and approved to ensure harmony between the infrastructure (the economic system) and the superstructure (the management system). But it can be said that the BSPP could not implement the task in accord with the Constitution. The section 11 of the Constitution stated that the BSPP was the sole party that should lead the country. The single party law was enacted after taking lessons from the past disagreements between the political parties that destroyed the national consolidation and denied the nation-building task. But the aims of the single party system could not be realized, instead, there surfaced the method of vote canvassing among the groups that was against the Constitution and bad organizational network in the Party Unit Committees.

The executive committees of the Party units were able to take the leading role in the functions of the State organs of power. Thus, their organization power rose. But some executives abused their power and got involved in the discharge of duties of the State service personnel. The consequence was that the executives themselves had violated the rules of the political, economic, social and administrative machinery; they failed to follow the rule of making criticism in accord with the centralized democratic system and self-criticism, and also the democracy practices. The penetration of the leftist and rightist destructionists and opportunists into the Party had led to destroying the organizational programme. Thus, the targets of the long-term and short-term socialist economic plans of the State could not be fully realized. The production fell, and the people were suffering from food, clothing and shelter problems. The black-market and contraband trade flourished. Demonetization of the local currency had destroyed the economic lives of the rich as well as the poor. Hence, the people lost faith in the government and the Party. They were longing for something new. Some socialist countries big and small were facing instability. Those were the basic factors heading for the end of the socialist system in Myanmar.

The BSPP tried to make amendments in the political and economic sectors and even in the Constitution in accord with the internal and external changes. But it was too late. Taking advantage of the people's discontent, the internal

and external, the underground and above-ground and the leftist and rightist political groups tried to create an unrest and anarchy in the nation. They, in collusion with the neo-colonialists, tried to put the nation under subjugation. Five American naval ships including an aircraft carrier intruded into Myanmar territorial waters during the time. An American congressman tried to get involved in the unrest, and asked the incumbent president to form an interim government. He also gave suggestion to the three big leaders of the unrest to demand formation of an interim government.

While there were demands to give democracy over-night, there also surfaced brutal crimes including the beheading, the burning of people alive, the looting and destruction. The acts of the gang attack on the security personnel at the Trade Ministry and shouts of foul language against the Tatmadaw members in front of the Defence Ministry were against the democracy. Those were the anarchic acts.

Because of the anarchic situation, the then Government could not rule the country anymore. The administrative machinery came to a stop, and the anarchy reigned in the country. The duty to save the nation from disintegration and loss of independence and sovereignty fell on the Tatmadaw, the national institution and national force. In this regard, the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties on 18 September 1988 due to unavoidable situation.

Soon after taking over the State duties, the Tatmadaw stated the holding of multi-party democracy general election in its four main tasks to build a democratic nation in accord with the people's wish. But some people demanded the rule of the country as they thought that establishment of democracy involved farming of political parties, standing for election, and formation of the government by a party that won in the election. If it is what they feel, they do not understand and believe in democracy. I dare say that the democracy nation built by those persons or organizations will be in name only. It will be only a country under dictatorial rule and the rule of sword or a minion country of the colonialists.

The Tatmadaw has been dutifully serving the country throughout history. Thus, the Tatmadaw has seen the parliamentary democracy of the AFPFL, the democracy system of the Pa-ha-sa, and the socialist democracy of the BSPP. It will choose the system of democracy that will flourish in the nation after weighing on the pros and cons of the previous democracies.

Hence, building of the genuine discipline-flourishing democracy based on traditions and culture, objective conditions of the social life amounts to discharging the duty defined by the national cause — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin+ Kyemon: 10 October 2003.

Inter-basic education schools Wushu competition opens

YANGON, 25 Oct — The opening of the third Yangon Division inter-basic education schools Wushu competition was held at Aung San Gymnasium this morning. Among the spectators were Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, officials of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sports, members of the panel of leading patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, officials of Myanmar Wushu Federation, basic education schools and students. The deputy minister made an opening speech and formally opened the competition. The athletes of the MWF presented the skill demonstration, followed by first day competitions. The competition continues tomorrow. — MNA

Myanmar delegation back from the Philippines

YANGON, 25 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Auditor General Maj-Gen Lun Maung arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 9th Conference of Federation of Auditor General Offices on Asia held in Manila, the

Philippines.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Auditor-General U Khin Win, Deputy Director-General of

Auditor-General's Office Daw Tin Kyi Oo, officials and families of the delegation.

Director-General of Auditor-General's Office Daw Thin Thin also arrived back here on the same flight. MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung formally opens Inter-basic education schools Wushu competition. —NLM

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

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Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 25 Oct — The 2003 Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Street here from 26 to 30 November.

Various kinds of cosmetics, personal goods, textiles, foodstuff, plastic items, electric and electronic apparatus and stationery from Korea and Singapore, automo-

biles, air fresher for apartments and toilets, farming equipment, generators and engines will be on display.

Those wishing to take part in the contests and those wishing to put their items on display are to register at the Star Entertainment Co Ltd Tel 573148, 722374 not later than 15 November.

MNA

Development projects being...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address, saying that the purpose of the Kawthoung tour of the group led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye is to fulfil requirements for development of Taninthayi Division. He spoke of the need for extended planting of oil palms for local edible oil sufficiency and growing rubber. He called on officials at all levels to make collective efforts and coordinate for economic development of Kawthoung region in line with the guid-

abundant in the Taninthayi Coastal waters. Systematic measures are to be taken under long-term plans to avert extinction of fish and prawn. It is important to run coastal and deep sea fishery in accord with the existing rules and regulations, he pointed out.

There are marine resources in abundance in the nation. However, there needs extended breeding of fish and prawn, he remarked. He called for breeding of local species chicken, pigs and goats on a commercial scale.

endowed with water and land resources and there are also a lot of virgin and fallow land in the division. Thus, planting of perennial crops such as oil palms and rubber must be extended as scheduled, he said.

For ensuring regional rice sufficiency, it is effectively extending the cultivation of paddy. With the effective utilization of water and land resources of Taninthayi Division, income and the living standard of the people will rise. Only then will the region be economically strong, he added.

The staff and the peo-

Kawthoung District, adding that border areas development plan, rural areas development plan and 24 special development regions plan are being implemented in harmony for all-round development of the nation and Taninthayi Division.

Although the State does not gain much benefits economically by implementing the plans, the government has been systematically implementing such plans for raising the living standard of the entire people, he added. Similarly, the government has spent a huge sum of money on construction of Kawthoung-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye makes a speech in meeting with the chairmen of Kawthoung District and Township PDCs, members, service personnel and townselders at Myintzuthaka hall in Kawthoung. — MNA



ance of the Head of State.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin said that Kawthoung region cultivates only paddy out of the ten major crops of the nation, and it is needed to try to cultivate the remaining crops in the region. Emphasis is to be set on extension

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that the meat and fish sector is the most thriving and most reliable one for Taninthayi Division. So efforts will have to be made for further development of the sector.

If reliance is placed only on coastal and deep sea fish-

ple are to make collective endeavours under the correct leadership of the State and to make efforts with might and main for improvement of the living standard and education standard.

At a time when a democratic nation is being built up after laying down the

Bokpyin-Myeik Road for the development of the division.

With own technologies and investments, the government has been constructing roads, bridges and irrigation facilities. States and Divisions have developed, resulting from implementation of the development projects with the nationalistic spirit, he said.

Strenuous endeavours are to be made for ensuring rice sufficiency in the division. In the past, Shan State (East) was insufficient in rice, but now it has enjoyed fruitful result of rice sufficiency thanks to the extended paddy cultivation project.

Employing water and land resources, Taninthayi Division is to strive for ensuring rice sufficiency, he noted.

The government is encouraging the division in putting 500,000 acres under oil palms in the hope that Taninthayi Division will become the oil bowl of the nation. Therefore, endeavours are to be made for edible oil sufficiency of the State and then for exporting the surplus.

At a time when the government, on its part, has been rendering necessary assistance, Taninthayi Division, on its part, is also to make relentless endeavours to accomplish respective projects. He called on officials concerned to make ef-

orts with added momentum for achieving greater success.

After the meeting, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected tasks for greening and beautifying of Bayintnaung Cape and Bayintnaung Statue Hill, and progress of Kawthoung.

The Secretary-2 also met with officers and other ranks of regiments and units of Kawthoung Station and their families and gave necessary instructions at local regiment in Kawthoung.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the hall and cordially greeted those present.

Yesterday morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party visited the Pyidawaye Pagoda in the town.

They also visited members of the Sangha from the monasteries in Kawthoung, and received the Five Precepts from Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Aungchantha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panña Sami. They presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Myeik, where they were welcomed by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Education U Than Aung,

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command Col Hone Ngaing, Col Tin Maung Tun of Myeik Station, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental heads and officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with Tatmadaw members and their families of regiments and units of Myeik Station at Coastal Regional Command.

Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, who accompanied Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, together with Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Vice-Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Member of the committee Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and senior military officers, met with members of Chairman of Township WVO Organizing Committee Capt (Retd) Kyaw Thet Maw and members, and WVO members on 23 October.

On 24 October, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein met with chairmen of Division and Myeik District WVO Supervisory Committees and

(See page 9)



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets the chairman of Kawthoung Township War Veterans Organizing Committee and members. — MNA

of sown acreage and boosting per acre yield for regional rice sufficiency, he added.

Systematic measures are to be taken for planting cash crop pepper in addition to oil palms and rubber that thrive in the region. He pledged that the ministry will attend to the needs for development of the agricultural sector.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein said that fish and prawn are

ery to consume fish and prawn, there will be insufficiency of fish and prawn in the long run.

Therefore, it is needed to extend fish and prawn breeding industry, he said. All are to emulate Ayeyawady Division regarding the meat and fish sector as it can extend the livestock breeding significantly and is making greater success in the sector than any other States and Divisions.

Taninthayi Division is

State's seven-point roadmap, the economic and education sectors should develop simultaneously, he said. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called on local administrative bodies, staff and the people to cooperate in unison for individual and national progress.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the venue and delivered a speech, saying that the government puts emphasis on development of Taninthayi Division including

Development projects being implemented...

(from page 8)

members, the chairman of Township WVO Organizing Committee and members.

Yesterday afternoon, Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, accompanied by officials, inspected the site chosen for construction of a dam in Myeik. An official reported on arrangements for construction of Kyaukphyutaung Dam. The minister gave instructions and inspected the chosen site.

The minister also inspected mixed plantation of rubber and pineapple at Shwedu rubber farm.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected distribution of fuel at Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise in Myeik yesterday afternoon. The minister met with the staff and gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage of fuel and fire preventive measures.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets officers and other ranks of regiments and units of Myeik Station and their families at the meeting hall of the Coastal Region Command. — MNA



Coordination meeting of the Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens held

YANGON, 25 Oct.—Work coordination meeting of the Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens was held at the temporary briefing hall of Water Plaza in Central Symbol Zone of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

and future tasks with the use of charts and designs.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on arrangements for location of restaurants, and construction tasks to be carried in Myanmar traditional style.

Afterwards, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on upgrading tasks of the relaxation zone such as putting modern design

and timely completion, and Managing Director U Win Aung of Woodland Co Ltd on construction of the swimming pool, shops, the modern aquarium, and car parking with modern designs in the education zone and landscaping works in the recreation zone.

Next, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and coordinated the works

out, he said. In conclusion, he urged officials of the departments concerned to systematically cooperate in upgrading the garden with a view to conserving natural environment and modernizing the city.

After the meeting the Prime Minister and party viewed round the upgrading tasks in the recreation zone of the garden. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects renovation tasks of Kandawgyi Garden Recreation Zone. — MNA

Also present were Chairman of the Work Committee for Upgrading Yangon Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, and members of the work committee.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on undertaking the upgrading of Kandawgyi Garden by designating four zones, sectorwise tasks being carried out in the respective zones, completion of works,

fences, landscaping, completion of the wooden bridge and the timber trellis.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on co-operation of the ministry and Yangon City Development Committee for cleaning the lake, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge on formation of the quality control team for construction tasks, and quality assessment on designs, Director-General of the Fisheries Department U Than Tun on construction of a modern aquarium in the education zone of the garden, Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association Dr Khin Shwe on arrangements for construction of car parking, cable cars, landscaping with the use of modern designs,

of departments concerned. The Prime Minister said the Kandawgyi Garden is a natural garden and significant place that beautifies Yangon City. As the garden has already been covered with rare and age-old trees, upgrading tasks are being carried out with a view to beautifying Yangon City without spoiling the natural environment of the garden. As the garden serves as a recreation garden for city dwellers and another ecotourism recreation site like Hlawga Wildlife Park near the city for foreign tourists, it would contribute to the development of Myanmar ecotourism industry. Only the tasks that would not affect the natural conditions and beauties of the garden should be carried

Press conference on meetings of 9th ATM, 2nd ASEAN+China TM, and 1st ASEAN+Japan TM held

YANGON, 25 Oct.—A press conference was held at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon, regarding the Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, the Second ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting, and the First ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting, all of which were hosted in the Union of Myanmar.

Present on the occasion were Mr Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria Sulaiman, Minister of Communications from Brunei Darussalam; Mr Chhin Kong Hean, Director-General of Public Works and Transport from Cambodia; Mr Kalalo Nugroho, Director of the Legal Affairs and International Cooperations Bureau from Indonesia; Mr Bouathong Vonglokhom, Minister of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction from Lao PDR; Dato Zahara Shaari, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Transport from Malaysia; Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Transport from Myanmar; Mr Arnel R. Manresa, Head of the Road

Transport Planning Division under the Ministry of Transport and Communications from the Philippines; Mr Wong Kok Onn, Director of the Ministry of Transport from Singapore; Mr Nikorn Chamnong, Deputy Minister of Transport from Thailand; Mr Pham The Minh, Deputy Minister of Transport from Vietnam; Mr Zhang Chunxian, Minister of Transport from China; Mr Yousuke Tsuruho, Parliamentary Secretary for Land, Infrastructure and Transport from Japan; Mr Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary-General; Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, high-ranking officials from ASEAN member countries, U Hla Tun, Director (News) of the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information; U Maung Maung Aye, Chief Editor of the New Light of Myanmar; U Tin Hlaing, Chief Editor of the Myanmar News Agency (Internal); U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Myanmar Foreign Correspondent Club's Patron U Hla Htwe, President (See page 15)

Agricultural and livestock breeding works inspected

YANGON, 25 Oct.—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, together with division level departmental officials, inspected agricultural, livestock breeding and regional development works in Yangon North District this

afternoon. At the Lathagon saplings nursery of the Forest Department in Taikkyi, officials reported on sowing of saplings to be grown for the greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon. The commander inspected the nursery. Next, the commander and party viewed the harvesting of 100-acre monsoon paddy in

Yintaikkwin Village in the township and met local farmers. The commander fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and party inspected the works being carried out for proper drainage of the left channel of Tabuhla Dam near Lauklaychaung Village in the township. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects harvesting of monsoon paddy. — YGN COMM.

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting
23-24 October 2003, Yangon, Myanmar**

1. The Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held in Yangon, Myanmar on 23-24 October 2003, preceded by the 16 Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) held on 20-21 October 2003. HE Maj Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister of Transport for Myanmar chaired the Ninth ATM, with HE Mr Chhin Kong Hean, Director General for Public Works and Transport for Cambodia as Vice-Chairman.
2. The Ministers had a retreat where they had candid exchange of views on the broadening and deepening of policy and programme directions for ASEAN transport cooperation, particularly in the light of the new challenges and opportunities set by the ASEAN leaders in the Ninth ASEAN Summit Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 7-8 October 2003.

Opening Ceremony

3. HE General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, officially opened the Ninth ATM. In his Opening Address, the Prime Minister expressed that the Ninth ATM assumed special significance as it had taken place a fortnight after the Ninth ASEAN Summit. He stated that the role of transportation networks connecting all ASEAN states cannot be overemphasized in the march towards the ASEAN Community's goal of a single market and regional integration. With the progressive development of infrastructure, he believed that Myanmar could become a transportation hub connecting Southeast Asia and South Asia as well as with China. The Prime Minister affirmed Myanmar's full support to the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) Project. He expressed confidence that the SKRL spur line to Myanmar will also receive due attention and support for such a development would link all countries on the Singapore-Kunming rail route.

Transport in the ASEAN Economic Community

4. The Ministers welcomed the 9th ASEAN Summit's decision to formalize the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) as the end-goal of economic integration in the ASEAN region by the year 2020. The Ministers reaffirmed that an efficient and integrated transport system is key for ASEAN to integrate with the global economy, improve competitiveness and enhance the inflow of foreign direct investment.
5. In moving forward the AEC, the Ministers agreed to intensify regional activities to enhance multimodal transport linkages and interconnectivity, promote the seamless movement of peoples and goods, promote further liberalization in the air and maritime transport services, and further improve integration and efficiency of transport services and the supporting logistics systems. The Ministers tasked their senior officials to prepare an updated transport cooperation plan for 2005-2010, for adoption at the Tenth ATM.
6. The Ministers, in line with the ASEAN leaders' directive to accelerate the integration of the air travel and tourism sectors, tasked their officials to develop a regional action plan for staged and progressive implementation of Open Sky arrangement in ASEAN. The Ministers endorsed the Roadmap for ASEAN Competitive Air Services Policy, as the guiding principle for the liberalization of regional air cargo and passenger services in the ASEAN region.

Enhancing Transport Facilitation Initiatives

7. The Ministers discussed options to expedite the conclusion of the ASEAN transport facilitation agreements. The Ministers looked forward to the early operationalization of the ASEAN goods in transit agreement. The Ministers also looked forward to the prompt conclusion and signing of the ASEAN interstate and multimodal transport agreements by the Tenth ATM.

Steady Progress of Transport Projects and Activities

8. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress of implementation of the various strategic programs for the ASEAN highway and railway infrastructure projects and in ASEAN cooperation in air, land and maritime transport sectors and transport facilitation. The Ministers welcomed the great strides in ASEAN cooperative partnerships with China and Japan, as well as on the foreign-assisted projects and activities with technical assistance from ASEAN dialogue partners (Australia, China, Japan and Korea), Germany, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). These initiatives would form integral parts of the updated ASEAN transport cooperation plan for 2005-2010.

Tenth ATM

9. The Tenth ATM and the associated meetings will be held in Cambodia in October 2004.

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**Second ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting****25 October 2003, Yangon, Myanmar**

1. The Second ASEAN and China Transport Ministers (ATM+China) Meeting was held on 25 October 2003 in Yangon, Myanmar. HE Maj Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister of Transport for Myanmar and HE Mr Zhang Chunxian, Minister of Communications of the People's Republic of China, co-chaired the Second ATM+China.
2. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in the Ninth ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia. This Declaration would serve as a blueprint for fostering the partnership between the ASEAN states and China for peace and prosperity. The Ministers also welcomed the signing of the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China by the ASEAN and China economic ministers in Bali, accelerating the early harvest programme of the ASEAN-China free trade area initiative.
3. The Ministers reviewed developments and were satisfied with the substantive progress on the ASEAN-China transport cooperation since the First ATM+China meeting.
4. The Ministers reaffirmed that building an integrated transport network for smooth and speedy movement of goods and people is a vital supporting infrastructure to an ASEAN-China free trade area. To effectively expand, enrich and improve the mechanism of ASEAN-China transport cooperation to support the ASEAN-China free trade area initiative, the Ministers agreed to upgrade and formalize transport relations in a more holistic and integrated manner, as well as lay the solid foundation for medium-to-long term transport cooperation.
5. To achieve this, the Ministers agreed to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation. The Ministers tasked their senior officials to deliberate on the draft of the MOU and to submit the final draft for signing in the Third ATM+China Meeting or at the ASEAN-China Summit Meeting in 2004. The MOU will formalize policy dialogues and cooperative programmes between ASEAN and China in transport infrastructure development and construction, transport facilitation, maritime safety, human resource development in maritime, land and inland waterways transport and civil aviation, railways cooperation, and information exchange.
6. The Ministers endorsed the implementation of the initial joint projects and activities covering port management and marketing, inland waterways regulation and joint table-top search and rescue exercise. These joint projects will be implemented in 2004-2005, with funding support from China.
7. The Third ATM+China Meeting will be held in Cambodia in October 2004.

Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Transport from ASEAN nations pose for souvenir photo after the press conference —MNA

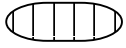
**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT****First ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting
25 October 2003, Yangon, Myanmar**

1. The First ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers (ATM+Japan) Meeting was held on 25 October 2003 in Yangon, Myanmar. HE Maj Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister of Transport for Myanmar and HE Mr Yousuke Tsuruho, Parliamentary Secretary for Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan, co-chaired the First ATM+Japan.
2. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership between ASEAN and Japan at the recently concluded ASEAN-Japan Summit in Bali, Indonesia. The Ministers were gratified that the ASEAN and Japan leaders provided impetus in the area of Transportation and Logistics through mutual cooperation for efficient cargo transport system, safe and sustainable shipping and safe and efficient air transport. Intensified collaboration in the transport and logistics sector will greatly assist ASEAN member countries in preparing for the ASEAN Economic Community.
3. The Ministers endorsed the Terms of Reference for ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, as well as the 16 joint projects for implementation and their workplans for 2003-2004. ASEAN-Japan partnership covers policy dialogue, enhancing human resource development and cooperation in the facilitation of cargo transport, physical distribution and logistics, enhancing safety in maritime transport, enhancing safety and efficiency of international air transport services, and promotion of advanced transport technologies to ensure security and protect the environment. The list of the 16 ASEAN-Japan transport partnership projects is presented in the Annex.
4. Japan will organize a Seminar on Maritime Security and Combating Piracy in Tokyo in December 2003. The ASEAN-Japan logistics experts group will also have its first meeting in Tokyo in November 2003. The Seminar on Air Navigation System will be held in Tokyo in January 2004. The Second ASEAN-Japan Transport Policy Workshop will also be convened in Tokyo, Japan in the second quarter of 2004, to assess the implementation progress of the 16 projects, as well as consider new project proposals.
5. The Second ATM+Japan will be held in Cambodia in October 2004.

ANNEX: ASEAN —Japan Transport Partnership Projects

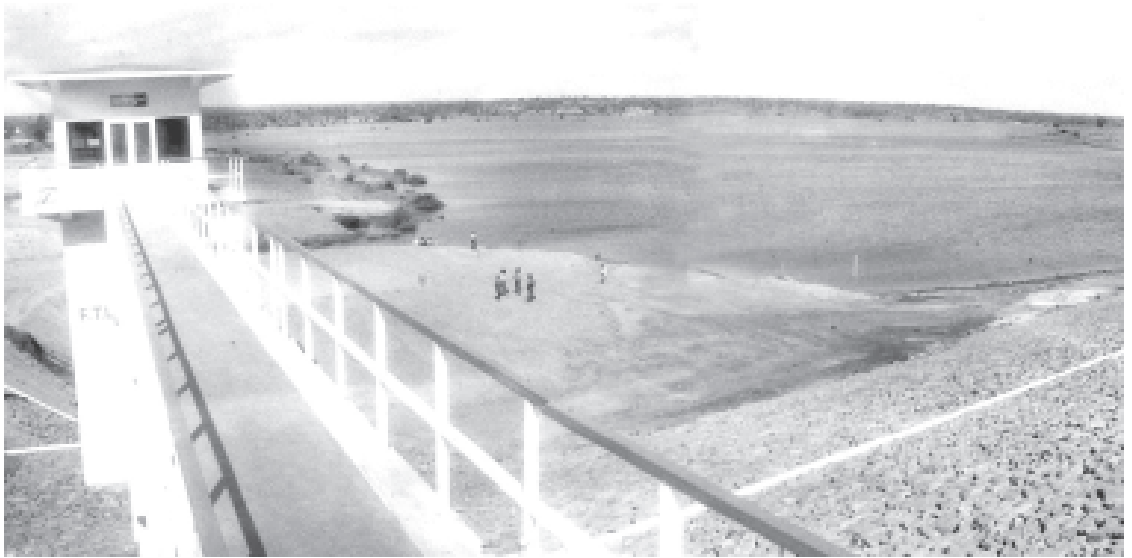
- (1) Maritime Transport Security Programme
- (2) Transport Logistics Project
- (3) Transport Policy Officials Training in Japan
- (4) Seafarers Policy Cooperation
- (5) New Air Navigation System
- (6) Automobile Technical Cooperation Project on Safety and Environment
- (7) ASEAN Railways Revival Plan
- (8) Cruise Promotion Project
- (9) Port Technology Research Project
- (10) Urban Transport Policy Framework
- (11) Cooperation on Coast Guard Development
- (12) Public Transport Smart Card Initiative
- (13) High Speed Maritime Network Project
- (14) "Mega-Float" Promotion Project
- (15) Intelligent Transport System Development
- (16) Road Signage Harmonization in ASEAN

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



To promote the agricultural sector, new dams are being built by the State Peace and Development Council. This is the newly built Thinpon Dam in Mahlaing Township Mandalay Division.

PHOTO MNA



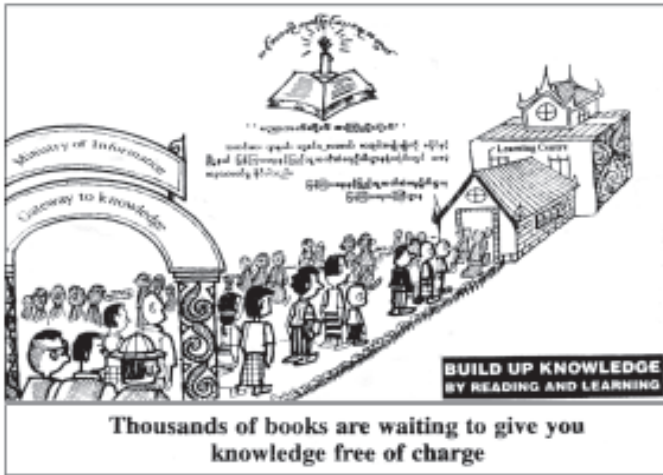
The Photo shows the Institute of Medicine in Magway. It is the symbol of endeavours made by the State Peace and Development Council for development of various sectors of the country.

PHOTO MNA



The government is building a network of roads and bridges, with the conviction that transportation plays a vital role in regional development. This photo shows the Kwinchaung Bridge in Pyu, Toungoo District, Bago Division.





ADVERTISEMENTS

INVITATION

MYANMAR BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF MARINE PRODUCTS, FROZEN FOODS, SEAFOOD AND LIVESTOCK FARMING ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PAY A VISIT TO

THAILAND PAVILION

AT
MYANMAR FISHERY & LIVESTOCK FAIR '2003
YANGON TRADE CENTRE
31 OCT - 04 NOV 2003
10:00 AM - 06:00 PM

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Two draft laws to be deliberated by NPC

BEIJING, 25 Oct— Draft laws on securities investment fund and transportation safety will be submitted for deliberation at the fifth meeting of the 10th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), which opened here Thursday.

Chairman Wu Bangguo of the NPC Standing Committee presided over Thursday's meeting.

The two draft laws have been deliberated by the NPC Standing Committee for several times previously.

According to Hu Guangbao, vice-chairman of the NPC Law Committee, the current version of the draft law on transportation safety provided specific management over vehicles for agricultural uses while insisting transportation departments exercise unified management over all vehicles.

Besides, it limited the precondition in conducting safety checks over vehicles to the necessity of only car licence and the

compulsory insurance policy on the third party responsibility and in the meantime included a special item to offer reasonable awards to law-biding drivers.

According to Wang Yiming, another vice-chairman of the NPC Law Committee, the current draft law on securities investment fund aims to improve both the quality and stability of the securities management companies and their executives.

"The law bears great significance in standardizing the investment of securities and funds, safeguarding the investors' legitimate rights and interests and ensuring the healthy growth of the securities market," said Wang.—MNA/Xinhua

HANGZHOU, 25 Oct—Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien Thursday hailed the completion of the third phase of the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant, the biggest cooperation project between China and Canada.

Zeng described the project as an "important milestone" in the history of economic cooperation between China and Canada.

At a ceremony marking the completion of the project, he said it was a great "success" and technology breakthroughs had been made in the project.

Extending the hope that the two countries would continue to enhance cooperation, Zeng said Canadian business people were warmly welcomed to seek opportunities and development in China.

Chretien said the completion of the project stemmed from the concerted efforts of technological staff from both countries.

He said the Canadian Government valued ties with China, and was willing to promote exchanges and cooperation in fields like politics and economy.

Before the ceremony, the two leaders met and discussed investment and economic cooperation.

After the meeting, they attended a ceremony unveiling a monument marking the completion of the project.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Canadian leaders hail N-power project

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကုန်အားလေးပါး

Singapore, SKorea to begin free trade negotiations in early 2004

SINGAPORE, 25 Oct— Singapore and South Korea have agreed to start Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations early next year, a Singapore-South Korea joint statement said here on Thursday.

The two countries also hope to conclude a comprehensive and WTO-consistent FTA within a year, said the joint statement published by the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore.

The statement said that during the summit meeting held on October 23 between Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and visiting South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the "remarkable development" of Singapore-South Korea bilateral ties in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

They agreed that further trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, along with bilateral cooperation in various areas, would be to the mutual benefit of the two countries by "providing greater opportunities and larger economies of scale" for the South Korea and Singapore businesses, said the statement.

Furthermore, the two leaders shared the view that the Korea-Singapore FTA would strengthen the basis for South Korea's en-

gagement in Southeast Asia and Singapore's engagement in Northeast Asia, thereby also contributing to further trade liberalization and economic integration in East Asia, it said.

The statement added that Prime Minister Goh and President Roh also shared the view that the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula through dialogue is essential for the maintenance of peace and stability not only in Northeast Asia but in the world.

Roh Moo-hyun is here on a three-day state visit to Singapore on October 22-24, 2003 at the invitation of Singapore President SR Nathan.

Total trade between Singapore and South Korea amounted to some 7.7 billion US dollars in 2002.

The proposed Korea-Singapore FTA, when effective, could result in tariff savings for Singapore businesses of close to 100 million Singapore dollars (about 58 million US dollars) a year.

MNA/Xinhua

China sets up reserve to protect wild rice species

CHANGSHA, 25 Oct— China's central-south province of Hunan, a major rice production base, has set up a wild rice species protection reserve in its Chaling County, according to the provincial agriculture department.

The province is also planning to open a similar zone for wild soybean species, to protect the genes of wild plant species, the department said.

Hunan boasts rich diversity of wild plants for farming, and is also one of the centres for the origin of a number of crops in the country, like rice and citrus.

The preservation of wild species will provide hereditary sources, or genes, for the improvement of crops' quality.

The province planned to make a thorough search of its resources of wild crop species and establish state-level protection zones correspondingly, according to the provincial authority.—MNA/Xinhua

World's largest Kwan-yin sculpture to be positioned in Hainan

HAIKOU, 25 Oct— A 108-metre-high sculpture of Kwan-yin, or Bodhisattva of infinite compassion and mercy, is being positioned in Sanya city of south China's Hainan island province, bringing another tourist attraction to the scenic city famed for its tropical beach landscape.

The installation, which was formerly started in mid October, will be completed in the latter half of next year.

The sculpture, the world's largest maritime Buddhist Kwan-yin, consists of a steel framework and coat. The sculpture coat, made of two-millimetre alloy plate, weighs some 200 tons and has a total area of over 10,000 square metres. Upon completion of installation, the giant sculpture will stand on a cliff of the Nanshan Mountain, located 38.5 metres above sea level.—MNA/Xinhua

China to strengthen ties with GCC

MUSCAT, 25 Oct— China is willing to further strengthen its ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council and its members, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said Thursday.

Wu Guanzheng, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, made the remarks while meeting with Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Fahad Bin Mahmoud al-Said.

China and Oman are politically friendly and economically complementary, and have extensive cooperation scope, said Wu, who arrived here Tuesday night for an official good-will visit.

Mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries has progressed into a new phase, Wu said. China and Oman have swiftly enlarged cooperation in the oil sector and some Chinese companies have participated in a number of infrastructure projects in Oman.

He appreciated the GCC's efforts in maintaining regional stability and active participation in regional and international affairs,

saying China thanks Oman for enhancing ties between China and the GCC.

The Chinese new leadership will work to further relations with the GCC and its members, Wu noted.

Fahad said that China has advanced in a very stable and healthy way over recent years and is playing an increasing role in regional and international affairs.

As developing countries, he said, Oman and China have a very solid basis for their relationship and face many identical problems and challenges.

Earlier Thursday, Wu met with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, and Minister of Commerce and Industry Maqbool Bin Ali Bin Sultan.

The two sides exchanged views and reached consensus on how to strengthen coordination in international affairs and to expand trade and investment between the two countries.—MNA/Xinhua

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Second ATM+China and...

(from page 16)

- (b) Implementation of the commercial navigation agreement on the upper Lancang- Mekong River,
- (c) Facilitation of Cross-Border Road Transport in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), and
- (d) Construction of the Pan-Asia Railway.

We learned that our officials in the Second STOM+China have taken note the substantive devel-

ate your consideration and co-operation to expand transport networks with ASEAN and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and to all the delegates participating in this meeting. I wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Myanmar.

Co-chairman Minister of Communications of PRC Zhang Chunxian spoke on the occasion.

He said nowadays, under the circumstances where almost all of the countries in

improvement project on the upper Mekong River jointly executed by the governments of China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, Pan-Asia Railway, linking Kunming-Bangkok Highway inside China, and the Joint Declaration recently signed by the leaders of China and ASEAN countries reiterate key sectors and objectives for economic cooperation between China and ASEAN. He suggested that the two sides work more closely for stronger and deeper mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas such

join hands with the ASEAN countries to advance more vigorously the cooperation and exchange and make due contribution to economic prosperity and social development of the region. One-thousand mile journey is started by taking the first step. He said they have every reason to believe that with the concerted efforts of both sides, the road for China-ASEAN transport cooperation would gradually expand and the region for tomorrow would be much better, he concluded.

Myanmar, took place at the same venue at 10.45 am.

Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presided over the meeting together with Mr Yousuke Tsuruho, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, as co-chairman.

Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe extended greetings on the occasion. He said as is known to all, the relationship between ASEAN and Japan has now undergone accelerating progress. The lack of reliable and secured transport system would have not sped

and ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership have as well, already been started and intensified.

We are now living in a world where the globalization of economies is progressing, while, on the other hand, regional economic integration have claimed to have been successful in America and Europe. I firmly believe that, in this world, the future of Japan and ASEAN lies in and ever closer economic relationships between all of us.

In these torrents of



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe extends greeting at the Second ASEAN+China Transport Ministers Meeting.—MNA

opments in our transport co-operation activities since our first meeting in Jakarta.

We are also pleased with the China's continual co-operation on the development of the Mekong Basin within the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Co-operation (AMBDC) framework.

On this occasion, we will discuss and deliberate on the recommendations and follow-up steps of our officials on the proposed ASEAN-

the region are committed to economic recovery and development as the priority, all are gathering together to discuss the major issues of how to expand transport cooperation which is of much significance for promoting economic development in ASEAN and China. The Joint Statement on establishing the partnership of good neighbourliness and mutual trust was signed by the leaders of ASEAN countries and China

as speeding up the implementation of the infrastructure construction projects, pushing forward cooperation for transport facilitation, expanding cooperation in the sector of maritime administration, continuing to cooperate on human resources development, strengthening cooperation on information sharing, and negotiating on and signing a Memorandum of Understanding on long-term cooperation.

Next, approvals were sought for the reports presented by Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, who presided over the ASEAN Transport Senior Officials Meeting, concerning the facts stated in the report of the 2nd ATM+China Meeting held on 22 October. Discussions were also made on the signing of an MOU for the transport cooperation plan between the ASEAN and

up trade between ASEAN and Japan. The sound transport network is of the essence in promoting trade and economy. Japanese cooperation is therefore of great importance for the success and progress of the ASEAN transport network. He said a total of 22 ASEAN-Japan cooperation projects for transport facilitation, air transport, water transport, and road transport emerged from the transport policy workshop held on 7 and 8 May 2003 in Tokyo, Japan. Discussions for implementation of the programme for 2003-2004 were to be based on the discussions of the two ASEAN-Japan Transport Senior Officials' Meeting, one of which was held on 18 September 2002 in Indonesia and another on 22 October 2003 in Yangon, Myanmar.

In conclusion he expressed thanks, on behalf of the delegates of ASEAN countries, to the delegation for the contribution towards the emergence of the standard transportation network in ASEAN countries and wished the delegates peace of mind during their stay in Myanmar.

Next, Mr Yousuke Tsuruho extended greetings, saying that looking back on the past year or two, we can see some remarkable developments in the relationship between Japan and ASEAN. Our leaders have repeatedly expressed their intentions to strengthen economic ties between Japan and ASEAN. Efforts towards the Japan

change, the transport sector has a vital role to play. We have many reasons to strengthen our partnership in the field of transport. First of all, transport provides the infrastructure for other economic and social activities. Without an efficient transport network, active trade and investment cannot be realized. Efforts to establish and improve transport networks should precede any real economic integration.

In this First Ministers Meeting, I sincerely hope that we could successfully put the good cycle into dynamic motion and lay down a sound basis for creating greater opportunities to work together toward the future.

In this regard, in future meetings, I am sure, we will enjoy the fruits of our partnership in a form that everybody can recognise.

Later, Col Nyan Tun Aung explained the reports of the 1st ASEAN+Japan TSO meeting held in Indonesia on 18 September 2002 and that of the 2nd ATM+Japan held here on 22 October 2003. Approvals were then sought for the reports.

Those present at the meeting discussed matters related to the 16 ASEAN+Japan Projects and the joint statement of the 1st ATM+Japan meeting. After which, the meeting came to an end at 12.30 pm.

In the evening, Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe hosted a dinner to those present at the three meetings at the Sedona Hotel. — MNA



Minister Mr Zhang Chunxian, Transport Minister of the People's Republic of China speaking at the Second ASEAN+China Transport Ministers Meeting.—MNA

China Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Transport Cooperation and the initial joint projects and activities for implementation in 2004.

In conclusion, on behalf of the ASEAN Transport Ministers, I deeply appreci-

in 1997. China submitted a proposal of 26,000 km long route to be connected to the Asian Highway network. It would create favourable conditions for speeding up the establishment of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area.

The navigation channel

To strengthen China-ASEAN transport cooperation is an undertaking that benefits both the present and the future generations. China would, as always, in following the traditional friendship and proceeding from the achieved accomplishments,

China. Those present at the meeting approved the joint statement of the 2nd ATM+China and then the meeting came to an end at 10.15 am.

The 1st ASEAN+Japan Transport Ministers Meeting (1st ATM+Japan), hosted by

SPORTS

Song Hongjuan sets Asian record in women's 20,000m walk

CHANGSHA, 25 Oct— Song Hongjuan from Nanjing City clocked one-hour 29 minutes and 32 seconds to set a new Asian record in the women's 20,000m walk at the 5th Chinese City Games on Friday.

The previous mark of 1:36:28 was set by Xue Ailing in the last city games four years ago.

Song Hongjuan, 19, outwalked her teammate Jiang Jin and Busan Asian Games bronze medallist Gao Kelian from Xi'an City for the title in the event.

Jiang Jin was timed at 1:31:08 and Gao Kelian third at 1:34:58. Gu Junjie set a new Asian junior record in the men's triple jump at 16.92 metres, winning the gold with ease.

He Jun, from Chongqing, became the fastest runner in the games, winning the men's 100m sprint in 10.46 seconds while Zou Yingting, from host Changsha, won the women's 100m at 11.53 seconds.

MNA/Reuters

Ferguson says Man United still seeking top form

MANCHESTER (England), 25 Oct— Premier League champions Manchester United will not be at their best until after Christmas, according to their manager Alex Ferguson.

United have made their best start to a season for 10 years after winning seven of their opening nine games and losing just one to lie second in the table behind Arsenal. But Ferguson insists they will not peak until the last few months of the season as they seek a ninth Premier League title in 12 years.

"We don't usually (hit top form yet) anyway. What we have done is we have been consistent," said Ferguson.

"What we hope to do is to maintain that consistency up to New Year and we always feel we improve in the second half.

"There's no doubt Chelsea and Arsenal have achieved a great consistency themselves.

"We want a consistency up to New Year and I think after New Year we will be in a good position."

Ferguson's words were echoed by winger Ryan Giggs, who returns to league action against Fulham on Saturday after recovering from illness to help United win at Rangers in the Champions League on Wednesday.

"I don't think there's a lot missing and I think the form, generally, has been good," said Giggs.

"But I think we realize it's a long season and I think we can definitely go up a gear. I think when the big games come that's when you see the lads respond.

"I think the team, generally, is not firing on all cylinders, but we are playing quite well and we realize if we show this form and if we're there or whereabouts at the turn of the year then we've got a great chance."

Sixth-placed Fulham have made a decent start to the season under Chris Coleman, who at 32 is the youngest manager in the top flight.

"That was the age I was when I started but I was at a lowly (Scottish) Second Division club," said Ferguson.

"He (Coleman) is right into the Premier Division in England and that's not easy. But he has galvanized them. They are playing in a very determined way and are difficult to beat.

"It won't be easy, but I think the form of the team has been good. There has been a good atmosphere and spirit about the players."

Ferguson will not be able to sit near Coleman in the dug-out as he starts a two-match touchline ban.

"I don't think it's a tremendous handicap," he said. "It's not the best situation but we will have a communication system that will help me get in contact with (coach) Mike Phelan."

MNA/Reuters

French midfielder extends contract with Fulham

LONDON, 25 Oct— French midfielder Steed Malbranque has signed a contract extension with Fulham and will stay at the English Premier League club until the summer of 2007.

Malbranque, who joined Fulham two years ago, has been one of the key players for his club, scoring 13 goals last season. He has had one goal along with three assists this season.

He is also encouraged to extend his stay by Fulham's performance this season under the tutelage of new manager Chris Coleman. Fulham, rated as likely to be relegated at the end of this season, continued to prove their doubters wrong by standing sixth in the current league standings.

"I think the future here looks very good, and I would say that I think we will be able to bring some success here," said Malbranque.

"I hope that this will put a positive message out to the fans. I know they are behind me, and I think it was important to reassure them about the future by signing," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Casey leads by four strokes in Madrid

MADRID, 25 Oct— Paul Casey led the Madrid Open by four strokes on Friday but the 26-year-old Briton will have to finish off his second round on Saturday, following a two-hour morning frost-delay at Club de Campo.

First round leader Casey stood 13-under-par after 15 holes, currently four shots better than the target set by clubhouse leaders Paul Lawrie and Stephen Gallacher of Scotland and Australian 44-year-old Peter Fowler.

Rounds of seven-under-par 64 by 1999 British Open champion Lawrie and Gallacher, who incurred a one-shot penalty for accidentally hitting his ball on a practice putt at the 13th, and a 66 by Fowler, hauled them up the leader board.

Swede Marten Olander and another Australian, Nick O'Hern, the only one high on the leaderboard to complete his second round in the afternoon, are a stroke off the clubhouse lead.

Because of bad light, only O'Hern's

three ball of the afternoon half of the 126-strong field completed their second rounds and the remainder will restart at 0730 GMT on Saturday.

One player from the second half of the draw who will not be restarting, however, is 45-year-old Sandy Lyle.

The double-major champion and three-times European number one ended his 25 years holding a European Tour card when he retired at the fourth hole, suffering from a bad cold and aching muscles that debilitated his swing.

Having lost his chance of rejoining the top 40 players on the career money-list who automatically keep their cards, Lyle will have to rely on past wins and invitations for the 2004 season.

MNA/Reuters

Traditional Asian archery exhibition opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 25 Oct— An archery-culture exhibition was held Friday in Hong Kong. The exhibition, titled "Archery Traditions of Asia", features 200 pieces relating to the traditional archery of China and other Asian regions as well as the history, folklore, rituals and the construction of traditional bows and arrows.

Ancient Asian bows, including a 2,000-year-old Chinese single-wood self-bow, one of the earliest examples of Chinese bows, arrows, archery equipment and bow-making tools were on display.

The invaluable artifacts were on loan from a private collector Stephen Selby, the governor of Asian Traditional Archery Research Network.

From the Paleolithic period 25,000 years ago, China's ancestors had already commanded bow-making skills. Archery has long held an important place in Chinese literature as well as the folk-culture of Chinese minorities.

From the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.), bows and arrows were favoured on the battlefield because of their long range.

Bow-makers were continually challenged to improve the design of the bow to meet new military needs — smaller size, greater

strength, weather-resistance and durability. Chinese military technicians invented the crossbow around 600 BC.

As archery skills were considered essential in hunting and warfare, the art was absorbed into the court by the ruling classes of the Shang and Zhou (1046-256 B.C.) periods.

It became one of the six basic skills along with ritual, music, chariot-driving, writing and arithmetic, and evolved from a military skill into a religious ritual, an entertainment for guests, and finally the imperial military examination system in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Members of the Qing (1644-1911) Imperial Court,

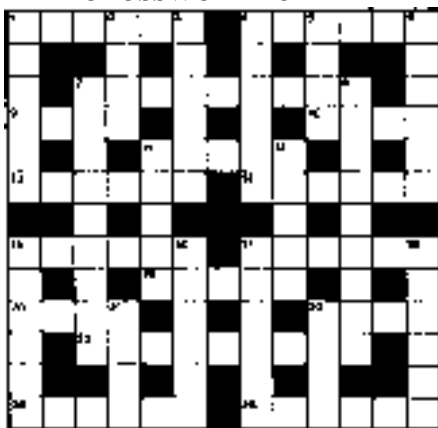
originally residing in north-east China, brought their own distinctive style of bows to Chinese culture. They appreciated fine bows as works of art, and preferred heavy bows with long ears, capable of shooting arrows more than a metre long with steel tips that could pierce armour.

Following cultural exchange and interaction across China's borders, China's archery techniques and bow-making skills greatly influenced neighbouring regions.

With the abolition of the imperial military examination system and the import of firearms, traditional bows and arrows became useless and archery a declining tradition.

MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 He sells from barrow
- 4 A benefice
- 7 Pink flower
- 9 Hunting whip
- 10 Learning
- 11 Make merry
- 13 Short poem
- 14 Steal cattle
- 15 Chirpy insect
- 17 Silly smile
- 19 Give out
- 20 Holm-oak
- 22 Long cut
- 23 Air nipped (anag.) (5-4)
- 24 Killer
- 25 Decide

DOWN

- 1 Domestic pottery
- 2 Snare
- 3 Milk curdler
- 4 Brood
- 5 Stringed instrument
- 6 Mourn
- 7 Linked
- 8 One end of earth's axis (5,4)
- 11 Prepared
- 12 Ghostly in colour
- 15 Bulb herbs
- 16 Better ventilated
- 17 Hillsides
- 18 Irritate
- 21 See-through photo (1-3)
- 22 Blemish



Switzerland's Roger Federer serves against his opponent Ivan Ljubicic from Croatia during their second round match at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament in Basel, Switzerland, on 23 October, 2003.—INTERNET



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan watches Ozi-contest at amateur level.—MNA

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 25 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the twelfth day at the designated places here today.

The competitions were attended by members of the panel of patrons of holding the competitions Minister for Cooperatives

Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the leading committee for holding the competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of the SPDC office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads, officials of the work committee and subcommittees, tourists, students and enthusiasts. The song contest continued at the National Museum on Payay Road at 9 am today. Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members made judgements on the performance at the contest.

A total of 16 contestants participated in the basic education level religious song contest (aged 15-20, boys) and 16 contestants in the amateur level (women) old/modern song contest.

The contest of songs composed by the basic education level song composing contestants (aged 10-15) continued at the Kanbawza Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. Chairman of the

Panel of Judges for the contest Bogale U Tint Aung and members made judgements on the performance of the contest. A total of 11 contestants participated in the contest. A total of three saing troupes participated in the amateur level (women) saing contest (group) held at the Padonma Theatre on Bagaya Road today. A total of five troupes participated in the higher education level (women) saing contest (group) and five troupes in the basic education level saing contest (aged 10-15, girls, group). Member of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and members made judgements on the contest.

The Ozi contest was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street this morning. Leader of the panel of judges for Ozi contest U Sein Ba Maw and members made judgements on the performance of the contest.

A total of seven troupes took part in the amateur level (group) Ozi contest and six troupes in the basic education level Ozi contest (aged 5-10, group).

The competitions continue at the designated places tomorrow. — MNA

ကောသလအကြိမ် (၁၁ ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို အက၊ အရေး၊ အဝတ်၊ ဖြိုင်ညွှဲ					
ဖြိုင်ညွှဲကျင်းပရေး ဆက်ကော်မတီ၏ ဖြိုင်ညွှဲ အစီအစဉ်စာတမ်း					
နေရာ	(အမျိုးသားပြိုင်ကိုင်)	(အမျိုးသားဇာတ်ရုံ)	(ကဗျာဇာတ်ရုံ)	(ပုဒ်မာဇာတ်ရုံ)	
စဉ်	ရက်စွဲ	အဆို	အတီး/ဇာတ်သဘင်	အရေး	အတီး
၁၃။	၂၆-၁၀-၂၀၀၃	ဓမ္မပူဇာတေး (နံနက်) (၁) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (မ) ဓမ္မတော်တော် / ကာလပေါ် (နေ့လယ်) (၂) ပညာရှင် (ကျား)	အိုးစည် (၁) အဆင့်မြင့် (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (နေ့လယ်) ရုပ်သေးဇာတ်တော်ကြီး (ညပိုင်း) ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း ရွှေရတနာမြိုင် ရုပ်ရံအဖွဲ့	အရေးသီချင်းဖြိုင်ညွှဲ (၁) ပညာရှင်	ဆိုင်းတစ်ဦးချင်း (၁) ပညာရှင် (မ) (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၅-၂၀) (မ) (နေ့လယ်) (၃) အခြေခံ (၅-၁၀) (မ) (နေ့လယ်)



Press conference on meetings of the 9th ATM, 2nd ASEAN+China TM and 1st ASEAN+Japan TM in progress.—MNA

Press conference on meetings...

(from page 9)

U Sao Kai Hpa, and foreign and local correspondents.

At the press conference, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe clarified on matters relating to the three meetings.

In response to questions raised by local and foreign correspondents, Mr Ong Keng Yong replied that the ASEAN leaders met in Bali on 7 and 8 October this year and discussed issues pertaining to the three challenges, which were terrorism, the possible resurgence of communicable diseases like SARS and the increased competition for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by our neighbouring countries. The ASEAN must as a whole address itself to these challenges. Otherwise, there would be a decline in the number of businessmen and tourists coming to the Southeast Asia. Moreover, the amount of FDI might also fall.

He continued that they also discussed opportunities springing from the rapid expansion of economy in countries like China, India, Korea and Japan. Plans were laid down by the ASEAN to respond these challenges and to grab the growing opportunities in places like China, Japan and Korea. Therefore, they had put out the Bali Concord II, which was also the declaration of ASEAN Concord II.

He added that the Bali Concord was called the Concord II as the declaration of ASEAN had been released in 1976. They also laid down various strategies: how to speed up the economic integration of the ASEAN. The desire of ASEAN leaders was if the economic integration of the ASEAN could be sped up, the ASEAN would become a single market place and a production base.

Further steps were to be taken to attract more attention, more investment and more businesses to the ASEAN.

He also said that easier regulations and more open markets would be needed for transportation, whether land, sea or air, to enhance various sectors in economy and to enable everybody to participate in it. In particular, terrorism, SARS and economic competitions were viewed as evils. If quick measures were not taken to tackle these problems, it would be very difficult for the ASEAN to maintain the high growth in the economic arena.

The Open Sky Arrangement was for all members of the ASEAN. And the ASEAN leaders declared that they wanted to develop and achieve an open sky arrangement for aviation in ASEAN region. Different countries had embarked on different bilateral agreements with other countries to develop the open sky policy. The ASEAN had its own framework to develop an open sky arrangement encouraging ASEAN airlines and other airlines to operate in a very open market. Therefore, Thailand, Singapore and other countries launched specific activities. That Open Sky Arrangement would also benefit Myanmar. With increasing airlines operating flights to Southeast Asia, it could be assumed that more tourists would visit Southeast Asia as well as Myanmar.

There had been flight connections among Yangon, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, and there would also be direct links between other cities of Myanmar and capital cities of Southeast Asia. One immediate benefit was the massive arrival of tourists as there would be more businessmen finding flight arrangements under the OSA convenient for their travel around the region, he concluded.

The press conference ended at 2.45 pm. — MNA



View today:

Sunday, October 26

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. ယဉ်ကျေးမှုမြှင့်တင်ရေးမြှင့်တင်ရေး
- 8:05 am
6. အရေးကြီးသော
- 8:15 am
7. ရွတ်ဆိုတော်
- 8:30 am
8. International news
- 8:45 am
9. Say it in English
- 11:00 pm
1. Martial Song
- 11:10 pm
2. Musical programme
- 11:25 pm
3. Round-up of the week's International News
- 11:45 pm
4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းဆွဲအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 12:15 pm
5. Milo success in soccer
- 8:15 pm
6. Myanmar Movie:
"ပျော်ရွှင်သောအိပ်ရာ"
ရန်ကုန်၊ မင်းဦး၊ မေသန်းနု
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြတ်တင်အောင်)
- 2:35 pm
7. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများအားလုံးအတွက်
ဝင်ငံခြားခြား ကျွန်းတစ်လွှား
- 2:45 pm
8. International News

- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:25 pm
3. English for uphold Everyday Use
- 4:40 pm
4. သာသနာ့အေးချမ်းရေးမြှင့်တင်ရေး
- 4:50 pm
5. အရေးကြီးသောအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 5:05 pm
6. Songs of national races
- 5:20 pm
7. Musical programme
- 5:35 pm
8. Sing and enjoy
- 6:30 pm
9. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
10. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
11. နိုင်ငံအနှံ့သစ်တောရပ်မြင့်
နိုင်ငံအနှံ့သစ်ရပ်
- 7:15 pm
12. Agricultural Source Country's Development
- 7:25 pm
13. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm
14. Industrial Achievement
- 8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. ၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ကောသလအကြိမ် (၁၁ ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးဖြိုင်ညွှဲ
19. Calcio Series A
20. The next day's programme



Prime Minister receives ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officers of the ASEAN countries, China and Japan. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives delegates to ATM, ATM+China & ATM+Japan meetings

YANGON, 25 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Minister for Communications of Brunei Darussalam Mr Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria Sulaiman, Minister of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction of Lao PDR Mr Bouathong Vong Lokham, Minister of Communications of China Mr Zhang Chun Xian, Deputy Minister of Transport of Thailand Mr Nikorn Chamnong, Deputy Minister of Communications of Vietnam Mr Pham The Minh, Parliamentary Secretary of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan Mr Yousuke Tsuruho, Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport of Malaysia Mr Dato Zahara Shaari, Director-General of Public Works of the Ministry of Public Work and Transport of Cambodia Mr Chhin Kong Hean,

Director of Legal Affairs International Cooperation Bureau of Indonesia Mr Kalolo Nugroho, Director of the Ministry of Transport of Singapore Mr Wong Kok Onn, James, Chief of Road Transport Planning Division of the Ministry of Transport of the Philippines Mr Arnel R Manresa and ASEAN Secretary General Mr Ong Keng Yong at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha here this afternoon.

They discussed matters relating to cooperation among ASEAN countries, ASEAN+China and ASEAN+Japan.

Also present at the call were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-

Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

Second ATM+China and First ATM+Japan meetings commence

YANGON, 25 Oct — The Second ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting, hosted in Myanmar, took place at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present at the meeting were Mr Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria Sulaiman, Minister of Communications from Brunei Darussalam; Mr Chhin Kong Hean, Director-General of Public Works and Transport from Cambodia; Mr Kalolo Nugroho, Director of the Legal Affairs and International Co-operation Bureau from Indonesia; Mr Bouathong Vonglokham, Minister of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction from Lao PDR; Dato Zahara Shaari, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Transport from Malaysia; Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for

Transport from Myanmar; Mr Arnel R. Manresa, Head of the Road Transport Planning Division under the Ministry of Transport and Communications from the Philippines; Mr Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister of Transport from Singapore; Mr Nikorn Chamnong, Deputy Minister of Transport from Thailand; Mr Pham The Minh, Deputy Minister of Transport from Vietnam; Mr Zhang Chunxian, Minister of Communications from China; Mr Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary-General; high-ranking officials from ASEAN member countries, officials from the ASEAN

Secretariat, and departmental heads.

Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presided over the meeting together with the Chinese Minister as co-chairman.

In extending greetings on the occasion, Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe said:

May I recall that at the 5th ASEAN-China summit (November 2001) in Brunei, ASEAN leaders and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji decided to convene a meeting of ASEAN and Chinese Transport Ministers.

The 1st ASEAN-China policy dialogue meeting was held on 20th September 2002 in Jakarta, Indonesia. At that

meeting, the Terms of Reference for ASEAN-China Transport Co-operation was established.

We agreed that our co-operation shall cover Land Transportation Infrastructure and Facilitation, Facilitation of Maritime and River Transport and expansion of Air Transport services. We also noted that the Chinese intends to focus Transport Co-operation Projects at the initial stage in the following areas;

(a) Construction of Kunming-Bangkok Highway through Lao PDR,

(See page 13)

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

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Perspectives

Make sustained efforts for realization of goals set by UN's Millennium Declaration

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