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State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov — On the occasion of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of congratulations to his Malaysian Counterpart

YANGON, 31 Oct — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has been appointed as Prime Minister of Malaysia. — MNA

Prime Minister addresses MEC Meeting

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Myanmar Education Committee held its Meeting 2/2003 at the hall of the Universities Central Council in Kamayut Township here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of MEC Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of MEC and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Develop-

ment Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, members of MEC, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said while implementing the seven-point

roadmap of the State, the Government is making efforts to turn the Union of Myanmar into a modern and developed democratic nation. Hailing the seven-point roadmap of the State, the entire mass of national races held mass rallies in support of it in all the states and divisions and pledged to do their bit in the implementation of the roadmap.

To be able to reach the

efficient human resources, universities and colleges are being opened with respect to the specialties concerned. In like manner, to ensure the development of human resources in every region, more universities and colleges are being built nationwide.

The institutions of higher learning are being opened not only in big cities, but also in secluded places.

For instance, one univer-

sity, one government technological college and one government computer college were constructed in Panglong region, Shan State. Moreover, colleges and government technological science schools are under construction in Monyin of Kachin State and Myingyan Township of Mandalay Division.

Steps are being taken with added momentum to raise the standard of human resources in the higher education sector. In the basic education sector also, arrangements are being made to accelerate the development pace in rural areas and raise the rural education standard, included in the five rural development tasks.

(See page 8)

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt speaks at the meeting No 2/2003 of the Myanmar Education Committee. — MNA

ment Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, members of MEC, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said while implementing the seven-point

goal of a modern and developed democratic nation after the successful realization of the seven-point roadmap of the State, the strong national economy and highly-qualified human resources are required.

Therefore, the Government is implementing the national economic plans already laid down for the promotion of national economic life and revitalization of the nation's wealth. At the same time, the national education promotion plans are also under way in order to develop the human resources.

For the development of

sity, one government technological college and one government computer college were constructed in Panglong region, Shan State. Moreover, colleges and government technological science schools are under construction in Monyin of Kachin State and Myingyan Township of Mandalay Division.

Steps are being taken with added momentum to raise the standard of human resources in the higher education sector.

In the basic education sector also, arrangements are being made to accelerate the development pace in rural areas and raise the rural edu-

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions conclude

YANGON, 31 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions starting 14 October concluded today.

The 18th and last day contests of the competitions were held at the designated places here.

The competitions were attended by Members of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Com-

petitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the

competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, officials of work committees and sub-committees, foreign tourists and enthusiasts.

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24,042

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 1 November, 2003

Myanmar will not be deviated from her path by threats and challenges

On 30 August 2003, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt clarified the seven-point policy and programme (roadmap). Starting from 20 September, mass rallies in support of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister were held in Yangon, Mandalay, Hpa-an, Myitkyina, Loikaw, Taunggyi, Bago, Patheingyi, Magway, Sittway, Mawlamyine, Pyaw, Kengtung, Monywa, Hakha, Myeik and Lashio.

At the mass rallies, people's representatives throughout the country unanimously approved the call for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap.

And again on 21 October, the representatives of the people pledged to strive for the success of the roadmap at the rally held at the sports ground at the foot of the Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan Archaeology Zone.

Myanmar is determined and committed to build a democratic society in keeping with the objective conditions of the nation as well as the aspirations of the people. Already systematic steps are being initiated for the convening of the National Convention that would eventually lead to a new constitution and a democratic society in the country. For Myanmar, the interests of the 52 million people take precedence over everything.

On 27 October 2003, the United States Department of State issued a biannual report on the situation in Myanmar.

There is a lack of objectivity in the report and it is nothing but a politically motivated attempt to exert pressure on Myanmar. The report fails to note the vast transformation taking place in the country, particularly the strides taken by the Government towards the emergence of a democratic state.

The Government, relying on its own resources and with the support of friends and neighbours, has been able to improve the quality of life of its citizens. Never before in its history has the country seen so much improvement in its basic infrastructure as well as health and education standards of the people in such a brief time.

With regard to the economic situation, any disinterested observer will find that the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States on Myanmar are not having the intended effect.

With might and main, Myanmar is implementing the 15-year Drug Eradication Plan as a national duty. She is also cooperating with regional and international partners as well as with international organizations.

Moreover, it appears that the report fails to take into account the statistics provided by its own Drug Enforcement Agency or by the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB). Myanmar has already conducted together with the United States Opium Yield Survey 9 times and the US agency concerned clearly acknowledged that opium production has fallen 77 per cent since the programme began in 1993. If one is to quote from INCB report, it is clearly stated that opium production fell by 50 per cent in the last six years.

It is an undeniable fact that the Government is taking systematic steps for the emergence of a democratic state. Democracy must be homegrown and cannot be imposed from outside. Myanmar will not be deviated from her path by threats and challenges.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov — On the occasion of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ahmed Ouyahia, Head of the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

Minister receives guests

YANGON, 31 Oct — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein received Chairman Mr Oh Sang Soo and party of Gold Fish Products Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea and a 14-member delegation led by Vice Secretary General Mr Duan Guanhan of Yunnan Provincial Government separately at his office at 10 am and 10.30 am today.

Also present were Deputy Minister U Aung Thein and departmental heads of the ministry.

MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein receives Vice Secretary General Mr Duan Guanhan of Yunnan Provincial Government and party. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung sends felicitations to Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov — On the occasion of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Abdelaziz Belkhadem, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA



Dr Tun Aung Kyaw, winner of National Literary Award in Knowledge (Applied Science) category

Article by Thaung Win Bo, Photo by Khin Maung Win

Dr Tun Aung Kyaw, who won the National Literary Award in Knowledge (Applied Science) category with the book entitled "A healthy eye means a prosperous life", has written articles on eye complaints since 1976. At that time, he wrote articles under the title "Prevent blindness through

knowledge" in which he stated the causes for blindness.

As an eye surgeon, Dr Tun Aung Kyaw knows much about that many people have only a limited knowledge of eye complaints and in his career as an eye surgeon, he came across many people who ought not

to be blind and thus this prompted him to write articles on the disease.

In the book "A healthy eye means a prosperous life", he writes salient points on eye complaints giving the people knowledge, education, warning and advice on eye. In writing the book, Dr Tun Aung Kyaw said, he in-

tended to eradicate blindness and a person who reads the book will gain much knowledge about the eye.

Dr Tun Aung Kyaw is an eye surgeon who takes charge of the Blindness Prevention Project of the Health Department under the Ministry of Health.

(Translation: BG)

Kanbawza Open Golf Championship continues

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Kanbawza Open Golf Championship jointly organized by



Yin Aung Latt leads amateur level event. —MGF

Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, continued for the third day at the Ayethaya Golf Course in Taunggyi today.

After the third day event, Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) leads the professional golfers event with 217 strokes, followed by Aung Win (YCDC) with 218 strokes and Nanda Kyaw with 221 strokes. At the third day event, Nyunt Win scored hole-in-one at the third hole.

Yin Aung Latt leads the amateur level event with 224 strokes, followed by Zaw Zin Win with 226 strokes and Aung Aung Kyaw with 228 strokes.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, KBZ Bank Ltd, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Musing Wear), Loi-Hein (Alpine), KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Wilson, Canon, UPG and Eden Group also sponsored the championship. — MNA



Dr Tun Aung Kyaw explains his literary point of view.

PRC Auditor-General concludes visit

YANGON, 31 Oct — Goodwill delegation led by Auditor-General Mr Li Jinhua of the People's Republic of China left here by air this morning.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Deputy Auditor-General U Khin Win, Director-General of the Audi-

tor-General's Office Daw Thin Thin and officials, and Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

The delegation members visited Mandalay and Bagan-Nyaung U and studied the traditional culture and ancient national heritage during their stay in Myanmar.

MNA

Guerillas attack; Int'l groups bolt Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct—Guerillas blasted a freight train west of Baghdad and exploded a bomb near a convoy in a northern city, injuring a US soldier, on Thursday as international organizations continued their exodus from Iraq.

In Saddam Hussein hometown of Tikrit, US soldiers also raided six houses after receiving "reliable intelligence" that the inhabitants were helping to establish a "new terrorist network there and planning terrorist attacks against coalition forces," a military spokesman said.

The freight train was carrying military supplies near Fallujah west of Baghdad, when an improvised bomb set four containers ablaze. No casualties were reported, but the attack sparked a frenzy of looting by Iraqis who carried off computers, tents, bottled water and other supplies.

A soldier from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was slightly

wounded early Thursday when a bomb exploded near a US convoy in the northern city of Mosul, the military said.

The United Nations said Wednesday it was temporarily pulling its remaining international staff out of Baghdad, joining other organizations in withdrawing after Monday's deadly suicide car bombing at the Baghdad headquarters of the Red Cross.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, said they too were pulling their workers out of Baghdad.

"We have asked our staff in Baghdad to come out temporarily for consultations with a team from headquarters

on the future of our operations, in particular security arrangements that we would need to take to operate in Iraq," UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe said.

She said it was not an "evacuation" and staff in the north would remain.

Okabe declined to give more details but about 60 UN staff members were believed to be in Iraq, including some 20 in Baghdad, after Secretary-General Kofi Annan ordered most others out in late September.

The Red Cross said it would remain in Iraq but would scale back the number of international staff — now numbering about 30 — and increase security for those who stay. The agency has 600 Iraqi employees. —*Internet*

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357 US service members killed since beginning of war in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 Oct—As of on Thursday, 30 Oct, 357 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, Spain and Ukraine reported one each. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 219 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defense Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,757 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 339. The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense and family members: —*Internet*

Annan says he ordered UN staff out of Baghdad to reassess operations after attacks

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct—Troubled by a recent spate of violent attacks in Iraq, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday he ordered UN international staff to leave Baghdad while the agency reassesses how to play the vital role envisioned by Washington and the Security Council.

Annan told The Associated Press he wants to discuss "a new phase" in postwar violence with the small international staff that stayed in Baghdad after two bombings at U.N. headquarters there, and then determine how to proceed.

At the moment, the United Nations has no plans to withdraw from Iraq but Annan left open that possibility if the situation dictates it.

"We want to reassess our position and our posture and also try and assess the new developments on the ground because we seem to be entering a new phase with the

attacks of the last 72 hours, and we need to analyze for ourselves what the future holds and how we should conduct our own operations," Annan said.

"I think this sort of reflection is better done in a calmer place and then we determine what our next moves should be."

In recent days, Baghdad has been hit by a series of explosions, most of them caused by suicide bombers driving vehicles into police stations or other targets, including the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

—*Internet*



A US soldier mans a gun on top of a Humvee to cordon off a street after a suspected booby-trapped car was found a few hundred yards from the US-led coalition headquarters in central Baghdad early on Friday, 31 Oct, 2003. The graffiti behind reads "Baghdad, be patient. We are determined to liberate you". —*INTERNET*

UN seeks answer to water problem

ROME, 31 Oct— Farms swallow up more than two thirds of global water consumption, and keeping the land topped up is just as important as quenching the thirst of a growing world population, the UN food agency said on Wednesday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization held a conference in Rome to stress the importance of global collaboration to maximize the potential of what many consider the Earth's single most precious commodity.

"Each person needs two to four litres of water a day to drink. But some 4,000 litres of water are needed to produce the food you eat on your plate," Jean Marc Faures, FAO's senior water resources officer, told *Reuters*.

"If you want to address the problem of water you have to address agriculture."

Faures said irrigation systems had to be modernized and governments must work together to improve water management for the future.

An FAO report last year said spiralling farming, industrial and urban needs will boost water demand by 40 per cent by 2030 in arid developing countries.

"On an individual basis it is very hard to do anything, this is a problem that needs to be addressed at a governmental level," Faures said. —*MNA/Reuters*

UNGA starts high-level meeting on development financing

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct— The United Nations General Assembly started a two-day high-level dialogue Wednesday on implementing the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico.

Opening the event, General Assembly President Julian Hunte said the dialogue aims to comprehensively review progress made, both substantially and institutionally, in meeting the commitments made at the Monterrey gathering.

The Financing for Development agenda is a comprehensive one, Hunte said, which encompassed trade, official development

assistance, debt relief, domestic resource mobilization and partnerships.

The theme of the dialogue is "The Monterrey Consensus: Status of implementation and tasks ahead." Participants will discuss a series of reports by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on follow-up to the Monterrey Conference, and on implementing the Millennium Declaration. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Annan seeks 0.5% growth in UN budget

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct—After nearly a decade of no growth in the United Nations budget, Secretary-General Kofi Annan has recommended a 0.5-per-cent growth in the organization's budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, including small extra expenditures on programmes for Africa, crime prevention and human rights observance.

"The budget embodies both our great hopes for the organization and our carefully considered decisions of what to do in a world of finite and limited resources," he told the General Assembly's Administrative and Budgetary Committee while introducing the 3.058-billion-US-dollar budget on Wednesday.

Cautioning that the security of UN mission staff would require more funds than presently requested, Annan said the results-based budget reflects a major effort to align the activities of the organization with priorities agreed on at the Millennium Summit of 2000 and major world conferences.

—*MNA/PTI*



The UN are pulling out of Iraq following a wave of deadly attacks. —*INTERNET*

Dutch population to record lowest growth in 2003

BRUSSELS, 31 Oct— The population of the Netherlands is likely to increase by 65,000 only in 2003, recording the lowest increase in almost 20 years, Radio Netherlands reported Wednesday.

The number of people in the Netherlands increased by 20,000 in the third quarter of 2003, some 10,000 fewer than in the same period last year, Radio Netherlands quoted the report by the Statistics Netherlands as saying.

—*MNA/Xinhua*

Iraq hit by string of deadly explosions, one US soldier killed

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct— Iraq was hit by a string of explosions Thursday that set a freight train on fire, killed a US soldier in a military convoy and ripped through Baghdad's Old Quarter. Another blast injured two US soldiers on a military police patrol.

The attacks came as international organizations continued their exodus from Iraq and the UN secretary-general warned of "a new phase" in postwar violence.

A top US diplomat blamed al-Qaida for recent attacks, and in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, US soldiers raided six houses after receiving tips that the inhabitants were helping establish a "new terrorist network" there, a military spokesman said.

In Baghdad's Old Quarter, an explosion went off next to a printing shop, killing at least two people and triggering a large fire. The dead included a tea seller who owned a stall near the site, police and witnesses said. At least four other people were wounded.

An Iraqi police officer said the source of the blast was an explosive device, possibly a box packed with TNT. But the US military said it was investigating the

possibility that a propane tank had blown up inside the building.

Soon afterward, two bombs detonated in the north of the capital next to a US military police patrol, injuring two soldiers, Maj Scott Patten said.

Also in Baghdad, police said a motorist was arrested after trying to throw a hand grenade into a police station on the edge of the capital's "green zone," the heavily guarded headquarters of the US occupation.

Meanwhile, leaflets purportedly from Saddam's "Arab Baath Socialist Party — Regional Command" appeared in the capital calling for a three-day general strike starting Saturday. The contents were broadcast by Lebanon's LBC television station, but it was impossible to verify whether it came from remnants of the party.

The freight train was carrying military supplies near Fallujah west of Baghdad, when an improvised bomb set four shipping containers ablaze. No casualties were reported, but the attack sparked a looting frenzy by Iraqis who carried off computers, tents, bottled water and other supplies.

A soldier from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was slightly wounded early Thursday when a bomb exploded near a US convoy in the northern city of Mosul, the military said.

The United Nations (news - web sites) said Wednesday it was temporarily pulling its remaining international staff out of Baghdad, joining other organizations in withdrawing after Monday's deadly suicide car bombing at the Baghdad headquarters of the international Red Cross.

Internet

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France urges nations to unify behind Iraq

SAINT-SYMPHORIEN-LE-CHATEAU, 31 Oct—A US pullout from Iraq would be "catastrophic," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said Thursday, urging countries to take a strong united stance to stabilize Iraq.

De Villepin—whose impassioned speeches at the UN Security Council against US plans to attack Iraq won him international praise — spoke at the close of two days of informal talks among foreign ministers from Europe and North Africa.

He also said he and his fellow ministers favored a rapid transfer of power to the Iraqis: "We must ... define an approach that will truly allow the Iraqis to take their destiny in hand."

Car bombings in Iraq over the past week — one targeting the Red Cross headquarters in Baghdad — have dealt a further blow to reconstruction.—Internet

UN to pull international staff out of Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked UN international staff in Baghdad to pull out following a new wave of bombing attacks in the Iraqi capital, a UN spokesperson said Thursday.

"The Secretary-General has been keeping the situation in Iraq under constant and close review, particularly in light of the recent wave of violence in Baghdad, which included the attack on Monday on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)," spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters.

"In light of these developments, he has asked the small remaining team of international officials in Baghdad to come out temporarily for consultations with people from headquarters, so that we can thoroughly reconsider our operations in Iraq and the security arrangements that we will need if we are to continue working there,"

she said.

She said that the venue for the consultations had not been definitively decided but it probably would be Larnaca, Cyprus.

Currently, she added, there were close to 60 UN international staff in Iraq, some 20 in Baghdad and the remaining in northern Iraq, working with some 4,000 Iraqi nationals.

"I would also like to stress that this is a temporary relocation and is part of an ongoing process, of a constant review of the situation on the ground given the volatile conditions there. It does not represent a policy decision to disengage from Iraq," Okabe stressed. — MNA/Xinhua



The United Nations is temporarily withdrawing its international staff from Baghdad to consult on the security situation in the Iraqi capital, a spokeswoman said on 30 October, 2003. The decision follows Monday's car bomb attack on the International Committee of the Red Cross, in which 12 people, including two ICRC guards, were killed.

INTERNET

Thai cabinet approves money to assist flood-stricken provinces

BANGKOK, 31 Oct — The Thai Cabinet approved a contingent budget of 200 million baht (some five million US dollars) to assist flood stricken provinces and flood victims in the upper-southern provinces of Petchaburi and Prachuab Khiri Khan.

The Cabinet approved the budget at its weekly meeting on Tuesday, according to local TV news reports Wednesday.

The money would be used for the reconstruction and repair of roads and other infrastructures damaged by the prolonged flood, said the news reports.

The budget would also be used to assist flood victims who had lost their houses and farmlands due to the inundation, stated the news reports.

Over 30,000 households in Petchaburi and Prachuab Khiri Khan have suffered from the prolonged flood of two weeks.

People in the provinces have reportedly faced difficulties in travelling for their businesses although schools are now closed for vacations after the first semester, with those living in some areas having been cut off from the outside world.

However, the flood, as high as one metre in some areas, is receding, as the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) has resumed its services on southern routes passing through the provinces.

Damages of the prolonged flood have not yet been officially announced, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian foreign tourist arrivals decrease

JAKARTA, 31 Oct — Indonesian foreign tourist arrivals from January to August this year decreased to 2.3 million people, or 20 per cent lower than the same period of last year, Indonesian Minister for Tourism and Culture I Gde Ardika said here Wednesday.

According to the minister, it seemed difficult for the nation to attract some 4.5 million to 4.8 million foreign tourists as targeted this year.

Ardika said that the decline of the figure was mainly caused by the widely spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Asia region and the war in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua



Computer image shows satellites that form part of the Galileo navigation system. India has agreed to take a 300 million euro stake in the European Union's Galileo system.—INTERNET

UN reports rising opium production in Afghanistan

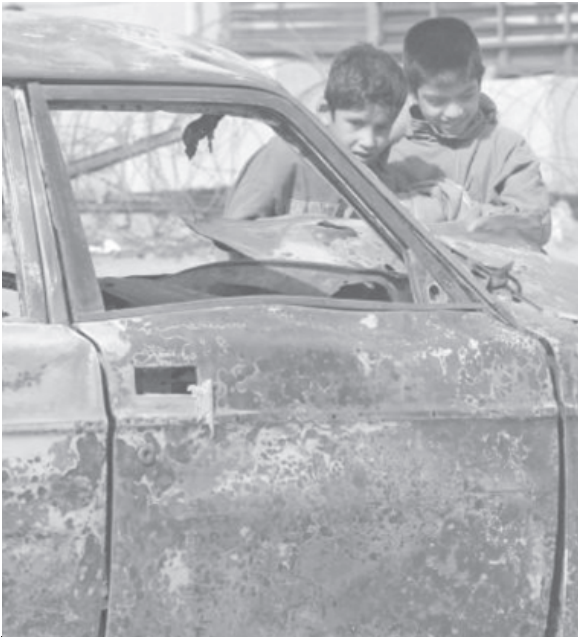
UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct — Opium production is on the rise this year in Afghanistan, which is by far the world's biggest producer of the drug, said a survey released by the United Nations on Wednesday.

The survey found the area under opium poppy cultivation has jumped by 8 per cent over last year, to 80,000 hectares from 74,000 hectares. Now there is opium cultivation in 28 of Afghanistan's 32 provinces, up from 18 in 1999.

Production has also increased, rising by 6 per cent to 3,600 tons from 3,400 tons, and about 1.7 million people, or 7 per cent of Afghanistan's population, are involved in the industry.

The annual survey, which took in fieldwork and analysis of satellite images, was conducted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).— MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Iraqi boys view a destroyed car at an Iraqi police station, the target of a suicide bomb attack on Monday, in the Baghdad suburb of Baya'a on 30 October, 2003.—INTERNET



An International Committee of the Red Cross worker leaves the agency's shattered Baghdad headquarters, on 30 October, 2003. Red Cross officials in Iraq are to hold talks outside the country with Swiss-based colleagues on how to reduce foreign staff in Baghdad after a devastating suicide bombing of its headquarters there, a spokeswoman said on Thursday.—INTERNET



The train that was carrying supplies was set ablaze by an improvised bomb outside Fallujah, west of Baghdad Thursday.—INTERNET



Across the street from the Al- Khadraa Police station an Iraqi surveys the damage to his car after a bombing on Monday, 27 October, 2003. The latest attacks illustrated the desperate nature of the resistance - from hit-run guerrillas, perhaps Saddam loyalists, who are staging an average of 26 low-profile attacks on US forces daily, to bombers, perhaps Islamic extremists, staging suicide terror strikes.—INTERNET



War combat death toll in Iraq climbed past the number of soldiers killed during the invasion when the US military said on Wednesday it had lost two more dead in a roadside bomb blast north of Baghdad.—INTERNET



Iraqi security men shout as a car bomb burns outside the Baghdad Hotel in the Iraqi capital earlier this month. Victims of the blast included members of an Iraqi force set up to guard buildings, the Facilities Protection Service.—INTERNET

WB says two-thirds of Iraq debt should be cut

WASHINGTON, 31 Oct — At least two-thirds of Iraq's estimated 120 billion US dollars foreign debt will need to be written off if the country is to be properly rebuilt, World Bank President James Wolfensohn said on Wednesday.

He said some 40 billion US dollars of the debt is owed to the Paris Club, a group of 19 government creditors from industrialized countries who negotiate debt restructuring, and at least 80 billion US dollars more due to other countries, including Gulf Arab and former Soviet states.

The Paris Club is a grouping of creditor governments who regularly meet in Paris to discuss bilateral official debt of nations around the world. It also helps them with restructuring that debt or lending money to them.

"It will need to be at least that to give the country a real chance of getting back to equilibrium, so I think a target of something north of two-thirds will be what people will be looking at," he told the National Press Club in Washington.

Last month the Group of Seven wealthy

nations said they wanted to reach a deal by the end of 2004 on Iraq's debt.

Wolfensohn said the 13 billion US dollars in aid pledged at an international donor meeting in Madrid last week for Iraq's reconstruction was a "good start" and another donors' meeting may follow.

The United States has proposed 20 billion US dollars for Iraq's reconstruction, part of a larger 87 billion US dollars that Washington wants approved by Congress for military spending in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The meeting from a financial point of view was quite successful, the interest was considerable but there remain the overriding questions of security and the future transference of power," Wolfensohn said of the Madrid meeting. —MNA/Reuters

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Red Cross plans how to cut Iraq staff after bomb

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct — Red Cross officials in Iraq are to hold talks outside the country with Swiss-based colleagues on how to reduce foreign staff in Baghdad after a devastating suicide bombing of its headquarters there, a spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Nada Doumani told Reuters Wednesday's decision by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to pull out some of about 30 international staff, but maintain activities in Iraq was the best solution to an agonizing dilemma.

She would not say where the talks, which will go on through the weekend, would be held.

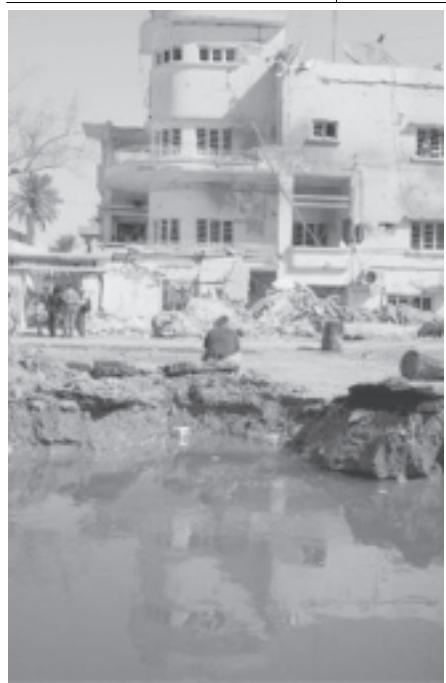
Monday's bombing, which killed 12 people, including two ICRC local employees, has forced the traditionally neutral ICRC to balance the need to protect its staff against the imperatives of its humanitarian mission in Iraq.

"We have seen plenty of signs of solidarity since the bombing," Doumani said. "Families of detainees, contractors and hospitals that we work with, have been coming to our headquarters to plead with us to stay in Iraq."

She said the ICRC had resumed some operations such as trucking clean water into Baghdad's teeming Shiite Muslim slum district now known as Sadr City.

Doumani said the Geneva-based ICRC would be considering extra security measures for its 600 local staff and those foreign staff remaining in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters



Red Cross employees sit outside their damaged headquarters in Baghdad, on 30 October, 2003. The International Red Cross said Thursday it will decide soon how many of its foreign staff will leave Iraq after the Geneva headquarters announced it was reducing the number of personnel due to this week's vehicle bombing against its local headquarters. —INTERNET

Baghdad gas explosion kills at least one Iraqi

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct — A blast in central Baghdad's old quarter on Thursday killed at least one Iraqi and set several buildings ablaze, but the US Army said it was a gas explosion rather than another bomb attack in the city.

"It was a propane gas tank that exploded," a US Army spokesman said.

The blast, which echoed across Baghdad on Thursday evening, followed suicide car bomb attacks on the International Committee of the Red Cross and three police stations that killed at least 35 people on Monday, the bloodiest day in Baghdad since Saddam

Hussein was toppled in April.

Witnesses said the dead man was a tea vendor who had been sitting outside a three-storey building which bore the brunt of the blast. A pool of blood was left on the pavement.

At least two wounded men were carried away by residents.

MNA/Reuters

Train looted after bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct — A cargo train was looted by local residents in western Iraq after being attacked by a bomb planted on track Thursday, witnesses said.

The train was carrying computers, medicines, beverages and other supplies from Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, to Haditha, some 200 kilometres further west, when it was attacked. Four carriages caught fire but there was no report of casualties. Residents thronged to the scene and tried to take whatever they could carry, said the witnesses. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor meets UN guests

BEIJING, 31 Oct — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan met here Wednesday with Klaus Topfer, Undersecretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Tang said he valued UNEP's role in protecting the global environment, and expressed appreciation for Topfer's efforts in strengthening cooperation with China.

He said the Chinese

Government attaches importance to environmental protection and regards sustainable development as of great significance, expressing the hope to further enhance cooperation with the UN.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian president plans to visit Arab countries in December

BRASILIA, 31 Oct — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will visit six Arab countries in December as part of its government's efforts to strengthen ties with developing nations, the presidential office said on Wednesday.

Lula will visit Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Libya between December 2 and December 10. On Saturday, he will start an eight-day Africa tour to Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

Most of the countries in both tours are members of the

so-called Group of 20 (G-20), a bloc of developing countries. During the two tours, Lula will be accompanied by businessmen interested in enhancing commercial exchanges with Brazil and the South American Common Market (Mercosur), diplomatic sources said.

MNA/Xinhua

Sixth China-EU leaders' meeting held in Beijing

BEIJING, 31 Oct — The sixth China-EU leaders' meeting was held here Thursday, and leaders from the two sides vowed to boost the cooperation between China and the European Union (EU).

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, in his capacity as President of the European Council, President of the European Commission Romano Prodi and High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana attended the summit.

Wen said developing the China-EU relations is in the fundamental interest of both sides and would bring about mutual benefit.

China-EU relations should be developed from the long-term strategic perspective, Wen said.

The Premier said that the EU has issued five strategic papers on its policy towards China and the Chinese side has re-

cently issued its first EU policy paper.

He said the bilateral trade volume has grown sharply and that during the first three quarters of this year hit 89.06 billion US dollars, up 41.5 per cent over the same period of last year and surpassing the figure of the whole year in 2002.

As for the EU itself, the Premier said it is a vital political force and economy across the world and it has played an important role in the international arena.

China has always supported the integration process of the EU and wished it to be strong and prosperous, he said, noting that China is willing to enhance cooperation in various fields.

MNA/Xinhua



Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (L) and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao toast a deal to allow China to join the European Union's (EU) Galileo satellite navigation system. —INTERNET

Border area development (Kayah region)

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

(Continued from yesterday)

While the Kayan Pyithit Party was active in Kadugyi, Kadule and Phekon and Leinli and Nanpan in the south of Pinlaung in cooperation with Ra-la-la-ta, I heard of its leader by the name Than Chah very often. Later, I came to know that U Than Soe Naing was Than Chah. He has started a new life with new conviction and name.

The KNPP and officials of the Military Intelligence and peace negotiators held the first meeting at Warihsu village near Loikaw in October 1993. There was only seven or eight MI officials and peace negotiators, but about 150 or 200 members of the KNPP were waiting for them at the village. After the meeting the KNPP returned to the legal fold on 21 March 1995. Secretary-1 (now Prime Minister) General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to mark the achieving of peace at the town hall in Loikaw.

Peace was achieved thanks to the efforts of the peace negotiators led by the Archbishop of Loikaw Catholic Church, and the officers, rankers and privates of the Tatmadaw battalions, who took part in the respective sectors.

A memorable region

For me, Kayah State is included in one of the memorable regions. I have been once to Latein, Laei, Pikin and Laginwe region during the Pinlaung region military operation. As I met with my old classmates, it was not like a military operation for me. I felt like home there.

In another operation, our columns entered Hsibu, Thikyeik, Pyinhsuang, Thaoauk, Maungbalaw, Kyekataw, Lobakhu and Khupara region via Loikaw. In the regions, there were only foot tracks on steep mountain slopes then. Often, our mules and horses fell into the gorges and died. The night march was worse.

When I was a captain, our No 1 column led by our new Commanding Officer Lt-Col Kyaw Lwin entered Shadaw region. The No 2 column under the command of Deputy CO Maj Saw Sae Wa Nyunt were operating in the region between Pon Creek and Thanlwin River. Lt Chit Swe and some of my soldiers died in the enemy attack on Tatmadaw camp at the end of 1987.

The CO and some officers and privates fell in the battle at Daw-khaw-aw in the south of Shadaw. The CO died without knowing that I would become his son-in-law one day. Many of our men including the CO sacrificed their lives for the national cause in Kayah region. Many national

brethren died too. Whatever had happened in the past, the development of Kayah State is the national duty for all at present.

The results of peace

Pasawng, Pekhon, Shadaw, Dimawhso, and Pruhsu in Kayah region have been covered by the border area development project. The border area development drive began in the region in 1994-95. Motor roads have emerged in the areas where there were not even bullock-cart tracks in the past.

A large number of new roads including Moebye-Laginew-Pikin road, Pruhsu-Muhso-Hoya road, Hsibu-Pyinhsuang-Thikyeik road, Hoya-Geko road, Lobakhu-Khupara road, Pikin-Laei-Latain-Hsaungpyaung road, Bawlake-Dawnyekhu-Dawtamagyi road, Lawpita-Parekhu-Bolya road, Dawrawkhu-Lwekahti road have been built. Leiktho-Yado-Hsibu-Loikaw road has been upgraded to a Union Highway.

Thirteen basic education primary schools, four basic education middle schools and two basic education high schools have been opened in the state for development of the education sector. Station Hospitals emerged in Hsibu-Dawtamagyi, Hoya and Lweyin. Four dispensaries and nine rural health centres have been opened. Post offices have been opened in Pasawng, Dimawhso, Pruhsu, Hsibu and Hoya; telegraph offices in Mese, Pikin, Dawtamagyi and Shadaw; and radio telephone lines were installed in Loikaw, Hoya and Mese.

TV retransmission stations have been built in Bawlake, Pasawng, Mese, Pruhsu and Shadaw. Five agricultural camps, one tractor station, and four veterinary centres, have been also set up. Electricity supply to towns and villages in the region has been extended. Moreover a large number of religious buildings have been renovated.

The Dwe-me-naw Lake, lies in Kayah State. It is home to ethnic races including Kayah, Gekho, Geba, Kayan, Paye, Manu Manaw, Yinbaw and Yintale who are living in unity and amity. The land is also rich in natural resources. I have memorable days in Kayah State, and I am glad to see peace prevailing in the region and it will be a pride for me to see the region developing.

(Concluded)

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 28 October 2003

China's first business park to debut in Beijing

BEIJING, 31 Oct — By the end of this year, the first business park in China for company headquarters will make its debut in Fengtai District of Beijing, and the headquarters of 80 large enterprises will move into the park by then.

Dauphin Xu, executive director and Asia Pacific president of DAUPHIN International Group, released the news when addressing the International Forum on Urban Development which opened in Beijing Wednesday. Xu is also chairman and general manager of the park, which is called ABP (Advanced Business Park), specially designed as office quarters for large enterprises.

With a cost of 4.5 billion yuan (about 543.6 million US dollars), the ABP will offer office towers for 500 large enterprises and nearly 2,000 medium and small companies when it is completely finished, said Xu.

Among the first 80 large enterprises to enter the ABP at the end of this year, Xu said, 95 per cent are high-tech companies, including some world famous names.

Xu said that today the regional economy is devel-

oped across China from the south to the north. For instance, a huge special economic zone came into being around the Pearl River Delta and a regional economy formed in the Yangtze River Delta with Shanghai Pudong New District at its core.

"The centre of China's next regional economy may quite likely be Beijing, and that is why the ABP will be set up here," he said. Statistics show that in the first eight months this year, Beijing reported its GDP (gross domestic product) as 212.37 billion yuan (about 25.66 billion US dollars), up 9.9 per cent year-on-year, using foreign capital of 1.5 billion US dollars, a surge of 10.7 per cent. By now, 293 of the world's top 500 companies have set up branch offices or research centres in Beijing, with 24 of them choosing Beijing as their regional headquarters. — MNA/Xinhua

China signs protocols on sports exchange with France, Netherlands

BEIJING, 31 Oct — China signed a protocol with France on the sports exchange for 2003-2004 here on Thursday.

The protocol, signed by Yuan Weimin, director of the Chinese Sport General Administration and French Sports Minister Jean-Francois Lamour, would allow the two countries to exchange visits and share information on nearly 20 sports, including cycling, equestrian, fencing, taekwondo and skiing.

"Some events in China, including equestrian and track and field, are not fully developed. We hope they will be reinforced through the sports exchanges," said Yuan.

Lamour, a fencing winner at the Seoul Olympics, said France was likely to learn from China in bidding the Olympic Games. — MNA/Xinhua

Security ready for upcoming Boao Asian Forum

HAIKOU, 31 Oct — Security operations are ready for the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2003, from November 2-3, with more than 1,300 policemen residing in the town.

The Hainan Provincial Public Security Department said the police officers have conducted exercises and made preparations to ensure the security of the conference.

The Frontier Defence Army has conducted maritime security exercises involving suspicious vessels and floating objects. The Armed Police practised dealing with flammable and explosive substances.

Fire fighters have inspected the fire equipment at the BFA site, the International Conference Centre.

MNA/Xinhua

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

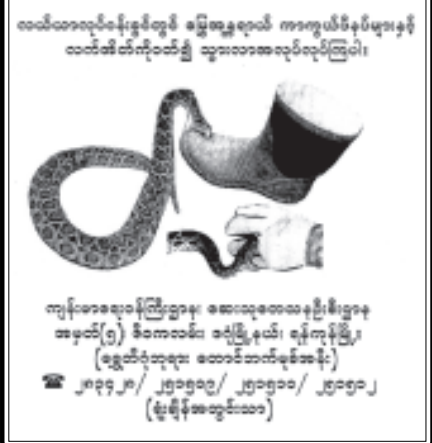
There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

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





Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003 while Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone makes an opening speech on the occasion.—MNA

Prime Minister addresses...

(from page 1)

At a time when the Government is hammering away at the drive to promote the national education standard across the country from the basic education sector to the higher education sector, all the officials of the education sector should make field trips down to such grass-roots level as rural areas.

The education plans are meeting with success as schoolheads and technicians take part in education seminars that are held every year to draw educational plans and review the plans being implemented.

The five-year short-term plan, included in the 30-year long-term plan for the national education promotion programme laid down in line with the guidance of Head of State Senior-General Than Shwe, and annual plans are discussed and reviewed at educational seminars held every year. And arrange-

ments are therefore to be made systematically for the realization of the goals of the long-term education plan to be in conformity with present situation.

At such a time when efforts are being made to shape a modern and developed democracy by solely relying on own national strength, it is necessary to turn out human resources capable of building their own nation by themselves.

Thus, to achieve that goal, it is incumbent upon not only ministries responsible for universities and colleges but also related ministries to work together for the emergence of highly-qualified human resources.

Afterwards, those present approved the minutes of Myanmar Education Committee Meeting 1/2003.

Next, Minister for Education U Than Aung reported on the extension of human resources development pro-

grammes. He said a total of 78 work plans and 637 projects were being implemented under the 30 years education promotion programme for the higher education sector. New universities and colleges had been opened, and new courses were introduced at universities, colleges and human resources development centres in order to enable the higher education institutions to conduct courses the communities take interest in, nurture highly qualified human resources needed for the nation, enhance regional human resource development, enable higher education institutions to fulfil the educational requirements in different situations and different fields.

In the 1988-89 academic year, universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Ministry of Education were able to conduct only 59 courses including undergraduate and post-graduate diplomas and master's degree courses. In 2003-04 academic year, they were able to conduct a total of 157 courses including undergraduate and post-graduate diplomas, master's degree, master of research and doctorate de-

gree courses, showing an increase of 98 degree-courses. Similarly, human resources development centres were also conducting 159 training courses, making the number of the courses conducted by the higher education institutions total at 316, he said.

As regards the basic education sector, the minister said the ministry was creating learning opportunities by opening and upgrading of basic education schools. In 2003-04 academic year, there were a total of 41,121 schools including 1,806 of high school level, 3,067 of middle school level, 3,820 of post-primary school level and 31,428 of primary school level. A total of 649,632 students were learning at the high school level, 1,992,862 at the middle school level and 4,997,536 at the primary school level, totalling the number of students at 7,640,030. Under the project for enrollment of all the school-aged children, enrollment activities were carried out in respective townships during the school enrollment week from 9 to 15 June, 2003. Thanks to these efforts, 95.05 per cent of children above the age of 5 were enrolled at schools.

Number of the townships covered by the project increased to 144 and 98.93 per cent of children in the township were registered at kindergarten. Tasks for permanent schooling for children were also being carried out.

Under the programme to increase the rate of students pursuing the middle school education after the primary school level, appropriate primary schools had been upgraded into post-primary school starting 2001-02 academic year. Therefore, a total of 224,044 post-primary students were learning at the 3820 post-primary schools in 2003-04.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Science and Technology U Thang, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, and Director-General U Saw Lwin of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) reported on tasks being carried out in Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University of the Department for Civil Aviation, curriculum of diploma courses in Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, arrangements to attach the Institute of Lacquerware to Meiktila Institute of Economics, and conferring honorary doctorate degrees respectively.

Afterwards, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister Gen-

eral Khin Nyunt made a concluding speech. In his speech, he said it was encouraging to hear the arrangements for nurturing highly qualified human resources being carried out by the ministries related to education. It was a significant progress that a total of 257 degree courses could be extended at the universities and colleges under the Ministry of Education at the time of the present government. Thanks to the opening of such advanced courses, students were able to choose the subjects of their interest and the citizen were able to continue their constant pursuit of learning.

Only when there are educated persons and intellectuals in the country, there emerge citizens who can contribute towards the development of the nation. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to carry out tasks with the aim of enabling those who play leading role in rural areas of the country to obtain degrees.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged those present to strive for the successful implementation of education promotion programmes and national education promotion programmes with a view to nurturing highly qualified human resources and intellectuals in the country in accord with the guidance of the head of State. — MNA

First ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations opened

YANGON, 31 Oct — The opening ceremony of the First ASEAN-India Tourism Consultation was held at the Bagan Hotel in Bagan this morning. It was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, representatives of tourism industries from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thai, Vietnam, and the ASEAN Secretariat, Joint-Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism of India Mr Amitabh Kant and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw made a speech. He said tourism industry is an important and new economic sector that can fetch foreign

exchange. Myanmar being a country abundant in resources for tourism industry, the government is exerting efforts for the development of the industry. It is also cooperating with Visit ASEAN Campaign and BIMST-EC. He also expressed his belief that promotion of cooperation in tourism between ASEAN and India will meet with success. Afterwards, Chairman of ASEAN Tourism Industry Chairman of Tourism of Laos Ambassador Vang Rattanavong and Joint-Secretary Mr Amitabh Kant also spoke on the occasion. After the ceremony, the First ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations were held. — MNA

Earthquake report

YANGON, 31 Oct — An earthquake of slight intensity (4.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (172) miles north of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (12) hours (52) minutes (01) second Myanmar Standard Time on 30 October 2003.

Similarly, an earthquake of strong intensity (6.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (3160) miles northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (07) hours (44) minutes (34) second Myanmar Standard Time on 31 October 2003. — MNA

Observers visit central training school in North Dagon Myothit

YANGON, 31 Oct — With Director-General of the DAD Col Myo Myint and officials, executive officers from development affairs committees and engineers in-charge attending the work coordination meeting for upgrading task organized by the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry

of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, visited the nursery gardening course conducted at the central training school in Dagon Myothit (North) on 28 October.

They studied nursery gardens and the training being given at the gardening courses. — MNA

Drug traffickers sentenced

YANGON, 31 Oct — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Hpa-an Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, inspected two suspects, Pho Cho and Maung Hsan, near a Chinese Temple on Okhotan Street in Thaton, on 20 September 2002. The authorities found 653.20 grams of marijuana on Maung Hsan.

Thaton Police Station filed lawsuits against Pho

Cho, son of U Tun Shein of Theinseik village, Thaton Township; and Maung Hsan, son of U Tun Kyi of the same village, under Sections 15/19(A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On 23 September 2003, Thaton District Court handed down 20 years' imprisonment each on the two drug pushers under the Section 19(a).

MNA

Deputy Minister inspects upgrading of Hotels, Motels and Inns

YANGON, 31 Oct — Chairman of Sub-Committee for Upgrading of Hotels, Motels and Inns Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, accompanied by officials, on 30 October evening inspected Pansea Hotel running with cent per cent foreign investment on Tawwin Road where General Manager Mr Geoffrey de Geyer D'Orth and officials reported on arrangements being made for enabling tourists to stay there with peace of mind and conducted them round the hotel.

On 31 October morning, deputy minister and party proceeded to Inya Lake Ho-

tel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where MIH Managing Director Mr Sukhdeep Singh and General Manager Mr Ingo Gero Ra Uber reported on upgrading of bedrooms for tourists. Next, the deputy minister inspected arrangements being made for visitors' recreation.

Next, the deputy minister and party went on to Micasa Hotel running with cent per cent foreign investment on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. General Manager Mr Mazhar Ali Khal Pe Khin and officials reported on upgrading work to deputy minister who gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Government has been making ...

(from page 16)

of peace and tranquillity in the nation. Infrastructures needed for national development have been established. With the effective use of those infrastructures, human resources play a key role in national development. Therefore, priority is being given to the education promotion programme for constant emergence of the intellectuals and intelligentsia who are going to build and safeguard the new nation and for human resources development.

At a time when the respective nations are making relentless efforts for producing human resources of international levels, the present era has become the knowledge age.

Therefore, the government has laid down systematic plans for producing highly qualified human resources and improvement of education standard of the entire nation and is implementing them.

Improvement in science and technology and electronic technology is now influencing the economic, education and health spheres of the human society. Teaching and learning based on electronic computer science that is keeping pace with changes has become the prerequisite for development of highly qualified human resources and improvement of the national education standard.

Efforts will have to be made to improve the skills of teachers who are engaged in teaching with the use of modern teaching aids. In brief, only

a constant learning society will be able to face the challenges of the future.

Therefore, the government has been making all-out efforts for creating a situation complete with teaching and learning aids based on information and communication technology to be able to produce human resources capable of handling various situations to be faced in future and to ensure the emergence of constant learning Myanmar society in keeping with the times.

With regard to the progress made in the education sector, phase-by-phase measures have been successfully taken for promotion of the higher education sector. And cumulative success has been achieved in implementing the aims phase by phase for all-round development of student youths and bridging the development gap between urban and rural areas.

In the third stage of the education promotion programme, the special national education promotion plan is being realized simultaneously after combining the basic education sector with the higher education sector. As a result, syllabuses of the former have been upgraded, and e-Education learning centres have been established in various townships to broadcast respective lectures for the students through data broadcasting system. Under a special programme, professors from the higher education sector are giving lectures to the outstanding students of matriculation in the townships where there are uni-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win having a cordial conversation with teacher trainees at the opening of the Special Refresher Course (54) for Basic Education Teachers. — MNA

versities and colleges.

At the same time, systematic measures are being taken with added momentum for raising the education standard of rural people, mounting literary campaigns, and enhancing the reading power of literate persons in rural areas.

If constant producing of highly-qualified human resources can be combined harmoniously with promotion of the education standard of the entire people, the national goal — building a peaceful, modern and developed nation — can be accomplished in a short time.

Being convinced that strong economy and literacy for all is of paramount importance for building up a modern developed democratic nation,

the government has been realizing short-term economic projects and at the same time establishing good foundations in education sector, he noted.

He called on the teachers to make endeavours with a wide view of national outlook for speeding up the development momentum in the education sector both quantitatively and qualitatively.

He again urged the teachers to properly guide and nurture the students to become ones, possessing nationalist spirit and patriotism, fully equipped with the conviction that they will strive for enabling the nation and the people to stand tall and to keep abreast with the world nations, and the concept that they will defend and safeguard the Union for its

perpetuation through national solidarity.

The government in cooperation with the entire people has been constantly and steadfastly making endeavours in accord with the correct policies, and consequently the nation has been on the correct path leading to development.

Thus, there have emerged good foundations for national solidarity, and economic, social and technological infrastructures. At such a time, the government has adopted the State's seven-point roadmap for the emergence of a democratic nation. These policies have been laid down in accordance with the political objectives of the State.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in his guidance, as saying that peace and stability must be restored, and the country and the people must be economically strong for building up a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Similarly, the

education standard of the entire people must be high for perpetual flourishing of democracy in the nation. Upholding the guidance, all are to make collective efforts by doing their bit for ensuring community peace, strong economy of the State and high education standard of the people.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 said that the teachers are the ones who are to nurture the students for brighter future of the State and thus he called on the teachers with the national outlook to make efforts in pursuing the studies in order to translate the national education promotion plans into action as well as to exchange views and set understanding among the trainees.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainees.

A total of 1,504 trainees from States and Divisions are attending the five-week course.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung watches the performance of a competitor at the basic education level girls' religious song competition (aged 5-10). — MNA

11th Myanmar Traditional...

(from page 1)

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road at 9 am. Chairperson of the Panel of Judges for Song Competitions Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and member made judgments on the performance at the song contest.

A total of 13 contestants participated in the basic education level Dhammapaza song contest for girl (aged 5-10), and 14 contestants in the basic education level oldies/modern song contest for boys

(aged 5-10). The song contest of the competitions successfully concluded at 3 pm.

The oboe contests of the competitions were held at Padonma theatre in Sangyoung Township at 9 am. A total of 9 contestants participated in the professional level oboe contest, 7 contestants in the basic education level oboe contest (aged 10-15), and three contestants in the basic education level oboe contest (aged 5-10). Members of the panel of judges led by U Mya Gyi acted as judges at the contests.

MNA



Little boy in action at basic education level boys' oldies/modern song competition (aged 5-10). — MNA

Meeting on ASEAN Tourism Investment held

YANGON, 31 Oct — The 8th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment was held at the Bagan Hotel in Nyaung U Township yesterday afternoon. It was attended by delegates of tourism industries from ASEAN countries, the ASEAN tour-

ism industry and the ASEAN Secretariat. At the meeting, matters related to the long-term development of tourism investment, promotion of cooperation, enhancement of economic sectors of ASEAN countries were discussed. — MNA

Obstetrics and Gynaecology Conference on 26, 27 Nov

YANGON, 31 Oct — The 6th Conference in Obstetrics and Gynaecology sponsored by Obstetrics and Gynaecology Team of Myanmar Medical Association will be held

on 26 and 27 November at Summit Parkview Hotel. Those interested and surgeons are invited to attend the conference.

MNA

Archery teams arrive

YANGON, 31 Oct — To participate in the 13th Asian Archery Championship and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier, a manager, a coach and two archers from Qatar arrived here this morning. Similarly, a Malaysian Archery team comprising a manager and five athletes and a Singaporean team consisting

of a manager and three archers arrived here today. The 12-member Kazakhstan team led by Miss Belosludseva Victoria also arrived here this afternoon. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Archery Federation. — MNA

To reach the world level

Nyi Nyi Soe Nyunt

Myanmar Archers are undergoing tough training to win medals in the coming three great events — a south-east Asia level competition, an Asia level competition and a world level competition — that will be held next month in their own country and in December in Vietnam.

From 4 to 8 November, the Myanmar archers will compete with their rivals in the Asian Archery Championships on their own soil, and after the Asian Championships, on 9 November, they will take part in the qualifier events for the Athens World Archery Championships. In December, they will go to Vietnam for the 22nd South-East Asia Games.

Although the Myanmar archers have won 12 gold, 11 silver and 12 bronze in other international events, since the founding of the Myanmar Archery Federation eight years ago in 1995, they haven't bagged any gold in the SEA Games yet. They only won silver and bronze in the SEA Games.

MAF Secretary U Kyaw Oo told NLM that the

Federation was making its best to win victories in all the three international games. He said, "Our archers will face a tough competition with their counterparts from top Asian countries. The Federation is providing every support and assistance to the archers to do their best in the Asian Archery Championships and the qualifier events. I believe that we are going to win medals as our boys and girls are doing good in their training, and in addition, we are the host. We are also doing our best to win the qualifier and to take part in the World Archery Championships in Athens next year."

When asked about the SEA Games in Vietnam, he said, "Our main rivals will be Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. But we cannot underestimate the host. I believe that our boys and girls will take part in the Games with firm determination to bring honour to the nation."

"Myanmar archers are in good shape in undergoing training together with their Korean coach, Mr An Seung Bum. Federation President Dr Khin Shwe is looking into



Aiming at the target. A Myanmar archer undergoing training.



Ready to show their best performance. Myanmar archers at their training camp.

all the requirements of the archers to win medals. He has used over US \$ 17,000 for the archers to go training with advanced methods and gear. I hope his contribution will help much towards further development of the sport. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials are also rendering assistance to the Federation and the archers", he also told NLM.

Concerning the Federation's future plans, he said, "we are conducting courses in states and divisions to nurture a core force of new generation archers for the MAF. The MAF President is also providing all the expenses for hiring the Korean coach, Mr Yun Jea Tong, and courses for the new generation."

Because of the guidelines given by the State, the support provided by the Sports Minister and the collective and energetic efforts of the Federation members, Myanmar archers will continue to win victories and reach the world level in the future.

(Translation: TMT)

Ministers to meet in Geneva to increase health investment

GENEVA, 31 Oct — Ministers of health, finance and planning from 40 developing countries are meeting at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters here Wednesday to address the need to significantly increase investments in health. "This meeting signifies real political commitment from the highest levels of government and donor representatives. We must choose to make equitable and efficient health investments a reality," WHO Director-General Dr Lee Jong Wook told reporters.

The official said that it is the first time WHO hosts a meeting so widely attended by non-health officials.

The meeting, slated to close on Thursday, comes nearly two years after the launch of the 2001 Report of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMH). The report recommends that donors should increase assistance for health to 27 billion US dollars by 2007.

However, a recent WHO study has shown that the total development assistance for health from selected sources increased from around 6.1 billion US dollars in 1999 to only 7.7 billion US dollars in 2001. — MNA/Xinhua

National Literary Award (Child Literature)

Article by Thaung Win Bo & photo by Khin Maung Win

The National Literary Award (Child Literature) for 2002 went to Writer Min Shwe Min (Insein) for his beautiful work "Maung Lu Hmway and Ma Pan Hmoun", a collection of poems for children. Starting from 1974 when he was an eighth standard student at Basic Education High School in Insein, he tried out for a pen name. He was born in Rakhin State.

He writes not only poems but short stories. His other pen names are Nyi Thit Sin and Maung Ko Oo.

He wrote the book titled "Samyein-set-htok-sar-oak", a collection of poems, in 2000.

In 2002, the book of his poems appeared in various journals and magazines was published with illustrations.

The purpose of his work is to make children more polite and cleverer at their studies. The work also features culture and customs of national races.

With great pleasure and happiness he said to the New Light of Myanmar daily "I did not expect to win the National Literary Award at all, but I did". He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the State for honouring the highest literary award to him.

(Translation: MS)



Writer Min Shwe Min (Insein), winner of the National Literary Award (Child Literature).



Visitors seen at the booth of Europe Continents Myanmar Co LTD at Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003. — H

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

As the Government is carrying out tasks for equitable development of all States and Divisions, Magway Division has been achieving progress in economic, health and social sectors. The new Magway Airfield and runway inaugurated on 6 June 2003 is ready to receive jumbo jets like Airbus.

PHOTO: MNA



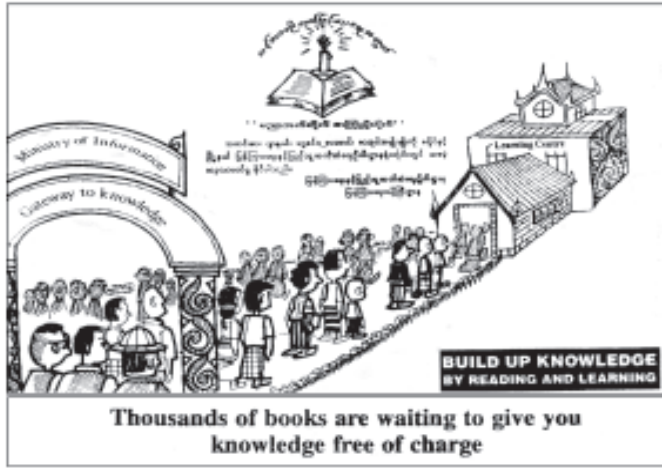
Homalin airport was opened on 3 August 2003 in Homalin, Khamti District, Sagaing Division. The photo shows the runway of Homalin Airport.

PHOTO: MNA

Heho Airport is the entrance to Shan State (South), its capital Taunggyi, and the Inlay lake. The upgrading tasks of the airport completed on 1 October 2003, allowing Forke F-28 aeroplanes to land at the airport. The new Heho Airport of Shan State (South) was opened on 12 October 2003.

PHOTO: MNA





ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "SEA MERCHANT" VOY NO (479)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (479) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-11-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE**
Phone : 256908,378316,376797

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "BAGO" VOY NO BG754/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG754/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 3-11-2003 and will berth on about 4-11-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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US, China to establish textile consultation mechanism

BEIJING, 31 Oct — The United States and China have agreed to establish a bilateral textile consultation mechanism on a regular basis, said US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans here Wednesday.

Seeing his China tour as successful, Evans told a Press conference that the consultation mechanism is aimed at exchanging information and resolving problems in bilateral textile and apparel trade.

Evans said the United States and China also agreed to organize an industry-to-industry exchange to seek opportunities for bilateral

cooperation, addressing such problems as the protection of intellectual property, avoiding trade disputes.

The two sides would hold an exhibition in China to promote US textile products to China, said Evans, adding that a seminar would be hosted to introduce investment opportunities in the United States to the Chinese textile trade.

The two sides would also explore other measures to encourage bilateral textile trade, particularly expanding US exports of textile products to China.

The United States welcomed China's statement

that China would continue its reform and opening-up policy and welcome foreign investment enterprises to participate in the restructuring of the Chinese textile and apparel industry, said Evans.

The two sides agreed to increase dialogue in economy and commerce within the framework of the Sino-US Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), and to enhance cooperation in the protection of intellectual property rights.

They will also deepen cooperation between small- and medium-sized enterprises.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese govt delegation to explore ways to increase imports

BEIJING, 31 Oct — The Chinese Government will send a delegation to the United States to explore ways for China to increase imports.

This was revealed by Wan Jifei, president of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), at a Press conference co-hosted here Wednesday by the CCPIT and the US-China Business Council (USCBC).

Wan said cool-headed and objective analysis of the US deficit in bilateral trade is needed, adding the main reason for the deficit was that many US companies invest in China and export their prod-

ucts to the United States.

China will expand imports from the United States and it hopes the US side will ease restrictions on exports to China, said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao when he met with US Commerce Secretary Donald Evans Tuesday.

"We hold that a basically balanced trade relationship between China and the United States should be pursued in the course of development," Wen said.

Wen said one way to reduce the deficit is to buy more US products, but what China needs are electronic, aviation

and chemical industrial products. He said the price and added value of such products are relatively high so importing them can also reduce the deficit more quickly.

However, the US Government has restricted exports of such products. Wen urged the US Government to change its policies.

Christopher Calvin, chairman of the USCBC, said he believes China will complete WTO compliance and change the trade imbalance. He said China has made progress in WTO compliance "thoughtfully and progressively" in various areas, "but

there is still room for improvement."

Founded in May 1973, the USCBC is a private, non-profit organization. It is the principal organization of US corporations engaged in business relations with China. It served early efforts of US business in China in the absence of formal diplomatic relations between the two nations.

The USCBC delegation visits China to celebrate its 30th anniversary and 30-year cooperation with the CCPIT, China's largest trade promotion organization.

MNA/Xinhua

Military industries encouraged to produce more products in China

BEIJING, 31 Oct — Military industries, with their advanced science and technologies, should play an increasingly crucial role in bolstering the development of the national economy as well as in upgrading and updating traditional industries, said a senior official.

The government has shifted its emphasis in military industries to manufacturing more products for civilian use since late 1970s

and they have developed their own processes for research and development of civilian products after 20 years of growth, said Zhang Yunchuan, Minister of the State Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence.

Statistics from the commission indicated that, from January to September, sales

revenues of civilian products made by military industrial enterprises topped 85.9 billion yuan (10.35 billion US dollars), up 37.5 per cent compared with the figures for the same period last year.

To date, 34 military industry enterprises have been listed on the market, according to Zhang.

MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai to hold annual forum on Expo before 2010

SHANGHAI, 31 Oct — China's economic hub Shanghai plans to hold a forum on the World Expo every year ahead of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, in a bid to draw new concepts from around the world.

The announcement was jointly released by the Shanghai Municipal Government and Bureau of International Exhibition (BIE) here Wednesday.

BIE Secretary-General Vicente Gonzalez Loscertales said it was the first such move in the 150-

year history of the World Expo. Shanghai Vice-Mayor Zhou Yupeng said the Shanghai Municipal Government promised to host the most successful World Expo in history, when the city bid for the event.

The first forum was to be held on October 30, with the theme "Facing the future World Expo". More than 230 experts from home and abroad attended the forum and offer strategies in technological innovation and sustainable development.

MNA/Xinhua

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Int'l researchers meet in Kenya on agricultural development

NAIROBI, 31 Oct — A five-day international meeting on agriculture involving top researchers from Africa and Europe opened in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Wednesday.

The gathering, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) annual general meeting, is being held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi.

In his opening remarks, Kenyan Vice-President Moody Awori called on developing countries to adopt agricultural science and technology to transform agriculture and become competitive.

The Vice-President challenged the CGIAR to play a leading role in influencing the World Trade Organization to establish a fair market-oriented trading system for the developing

world, so that its agro-based products can find favourable markets.

He commended the CGIAR for genetic variety improvement in cassava production in the humid and semi humid parts of Africa, development of higher yielding varieties of rice with better resistance to pests and diseases and control of pests and disease afflicting crops and cattle.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian cultural festival begins in Beijing

BEIJING, 31 Oct — A Russian cultural festival opened here Wednesday evening to bring typical Russian folk dance and music to Chinese audiences.

The festival, to run until November 5 in such cities as Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan and Ningbo, is sponsored by China's Ministry of Culture with the participation of nearly 160 Russian artists from a group of musicians and three well-known artistic troupes — Moiseyev dance ensemble, Kuban Kazak dance ensemble and Carian jazz troupe.

The Moiseyev dance ensemble, the Carian jazz troupe and the prize-winning musician from the Tchaikovsky International Music Competition performed for the audience at the opening performance of the festival.

During the festival, the Moiseyev dance ensemble and the Kuban Kazak dance ensemble will stage more performances separately.

The Tchaikovsky International Music Competition winners will also hold a concert to mark the 110th anniversary of the death of the great Russian composer Tchaikovsky.—MNA/Xinhua

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Singapore drafts bill to regulate human stem cell research

SINGAPORE, 31 Oct— The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Singapore said Thursday that it has drafted a new bill which would further enhance the regulation of human stem cell research and human tissue research and banking.

The proposed new Regulation of Biomedical Research Act will "strictly prohibit reproductive cloning, the creation of a human being through the application of cloning technology", said the ministry in a Press release.

It will also stipulate the requirements for informed consent before researchers can obtain tissues from patients or subjects for research, and safeguards to protect patients' interests, said the MOH release.

Any person who carries out reproductive cloning research or unauthorized

stem cell research shall be liable upon conviction to a fine, imprisonment or both, it said. "Clear and stringent regulations are critical as more research using human stem cells and tissues is carried out in Singapore because they will ensure that all the work being done here is ethically sound," said Tan Chorh Chuan, MOH's director of medical services.

The draft Regulation of Biomedical Research Bill will be put up on MOH's web site for public consultation and comment from November 10 to 30.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers clean the spoked dome of Singapore's peculiarly shaped Esplanade Arts Centre on 30 October, 2003 in Singapore. Singapore has been pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into becoming a regional center for the arts.— INTERNET

Shock wave from Sun hits Earth's magnetic field

LONDON, 31 Oct— A massive bubble of gas that could cause havoc with power grids and satellite systems hit the Earth's magnetic field on Wednesday morning and is likely to have the biggest impact in Alaska and the Far East.

Scientists said the cloud of charged particles unleashed at high speeds by a hyperactive Sun and known as a coronal mass ejection (CME) travelled at about five million miles an hour.

"It arrived at six this morning (0600 GMT) and was going much faster than

people thought," Dr. Mike Hapgood, a space expert at the Appleton Laboratory in England, told Reuters.

The gaseous cloud that dumps energy into the magnetic field that surrounds the Earth, creating a geomagnetic storm, is unlikely to have much of an impact in Europe.

But Hapgood and other scientists suspect the CME produced an amazing aurora, or light show, over Alaska and the Far East, as well as some radio communication problems. Fortunately there are not many large power

grids in the far north so energy disruptions would be minimized, scientists said, although out in space it could cause interference with satellites and spacecraft.

CMEs come around every few years but the one that arrived on Wednesday is one of the strongest. Described as more of a nuisance than a danger to human life, they disrupt mobile phone signals and can cause major headaches for power, satellite communications and navigational companies.

Wednesday's massive

CME was propelled towards Earth by a huge solar flare that erupted on Tuesday. It was classified as a G-5, the strongest category, and was travelling much faster than other CMEs.

The scale of it and the fact that it was heading towards the Earth is what makes this one so special.

"There is a whole period of activity on the Sun that is driving this. It may continue for a week or two so we may get more of these events coming from the Sun," said Hapgood.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore to ease visa requirements for visitors

SINGAPORE, 31 Oct— Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said here on Thursday that Singapore is to ease visa requirements for visitors to the country.

Lee made the remarks in his speech at the Global Chinese Entrepreneurs' Forum Grand Banquet Dinner on Thursday evening.

A Press release published by Singapore's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) later said that from November 1, 2003, citizens of the People's Republic of China and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) holding Diplomatic, Official, Service or Public Affairs passports will be exempted from visa requirements if they stay in Singapore for a period not exceeding 30 days.

From December 2003, it will be easier for business travellers to apply for long-term Multiple Journey Visas (MJVs), said the ICA release. So long as the applicant is able to furnish a Letter of Introduction from a government agency or a business associate in Singapore, the ICA will consider granting him a long-term MJV with a validity period of up to five years, said the release.

MNA/Xinhua

Week-long Russian culture festival in India from November 1

MOSCOW, 31 Oct— A week-long Russian culture festival will be organized in the Indian metropolis of New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai from November 1. The event, "Days

of Russian Culture" is being organized under the inter-governmental agreement on cultural cooperation between the two countries, ITAR-TASS reported Wednesday. — MNA/PTI



Winners at the 1999 Miss Thailand pageant. A disgraced Thai beauty queen has tearfully confessed to a secret marriage after she was stripped of her title when a photograph of her wedding seven years ago ran in the local press.

INTERNET

Vietnam imports more auto parts in first 10 months

HANOI, 31 Oct— Vietnam imported 432 million US dollars worth of automobile parts and component kits in the first 10 months of the year, posting a year-on-year increase of 52 per cent, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Thursday.

The rise is attributed to strong sales of the country's automobile makers which sold more than 25,000 vehicles in the first nine months of this year.—MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia celebrates King's 81st birthday

PHNOM PENH, 31 Oct— Cambodia on Thursday kicks off grand celebrations in honour of King Norodom Sihanouk on the occasion of his 81st birthday on Friday with well-wishings from the whole country.

Phnom Penh's main streets and public parks have been decked out with lights for the birthday celebration. About 40 portraits of the King have been erected around the city, featuring images of the King and Queen Norodom Monineath

Sihanouk in various periods of their life.

Newspapers carried front page photos of the revered monarch and full page blessings and admirings to wish him a long life, though the King requested earlier this month that admirers not send him birthday greetings.

Moreover, television channels have been airing the King's films twice a week since early October. And from Thursday to Saturday, state-run television station TVK will air five of

the King's films, alongside blessings and documentaries about the King.

The King's birthday coincides with elaborate preparations for the 50th anniversary of Cambodia's Independence on November 9. It also serves as an informal lead-in to the Water Festival, which runs from November 7 to November 9. Sihanouk, who was reinstated as the constitutional monarch in 1993, remains "a unifying symbol" for Cambodia.—MNA/Xinhua

UN signs MoU with NACEN to check ozone depleting substances

NEW DELHI, 31 Oct— United Nations Environment Programme on Thursday signed an agreement with India's National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) to train Customs officials in the Asia-Pacific Region for controlling and monitoring Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).

The MoU is part of the obligations for ratification of the Montreal Protocol to which India is a signatory.

"India being a signatory is committed to following the Montreal Protocol provisions related to ODS phase out," an official release said.

ODS, comprising of chlorofluorocarbons, are used in refrigeration and air-

conditioners. Production and consumption of ODS affect the ozone layer of the Earth.

India decided to phase out use of ODS in 1993 and introduced a regulatory mechanism in 2000. But the taxation system has not changed, hence making the illegally produced ODS cheaper than the legally produced CFCs. — MNA/PTI

SPORTS

Boca lose unbeaten run in Argentine but stay top

BUENOS AIRES, 31 Oct—Boca Juniors stayed top of the Argentine championship despite losing their unbeaten run in a 1-0 defeat at Newell's Old Boys. A 29th-minute strike by Walter Silvani sank the reigning South American champions as their 19-year-old inspiration Carlos Tevez was marked out of the match by Colombian defender Jorge Bermudez, a former Boca player.

Boca, who had not lost in their first 11 matches of the Apertura championship, saw their lead cut to three points after second-placed Quilmes beat struggling Gimnasia-La Plata 1-0 in another match on Wednesday night. Newell's coach Hector Veira, whose long, nomadic career includes a stint at Boca, was euphoric after the win which lifted his own team into fourth place and left them five points behind Boca with seven matches each to play.

"Everyone had been waiting for this game," he said. "Now, a new championship begins. 'If Boca had won, it would have all been over.'"

Defender Daniel Gerlo scored the only goal as newly-promoted Quilmes won 1-0 for the second match running to stay in contention.

San Lorenzo stayed one point behind them in third place after winning 2-0 at Arsenal. The 37-year-old striker Alberto Acosta set them on the way with a 12th minute goal and Gonzalo Rodriguez added the second midway through the second half. — MNA/Reuters



Real Sociedad's Kovasevic (L) vies with Atletico Madrid's Alvaro Novo (R) during Spanish soccer League match at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid.—INTERNET

US sports tighten controls

NEW YORK, 31 Oct—American sport has begun tightening its doping controls as the fight against the designer steroid THG intensifies.

Major League Baseball (MLB) and Major League Soccer (MLS) have added THG — tetrahydrogestrinone — to their list of banned substances, while the National Football League (NFL) insist they will come down hard on players testing positive for the newly-discovered steroid.

"My position is that it is a steroid and we treat it like we treat steroids," Harold Henderson, executive vice-president and chairman of the NFL management council, was quoted as saying on Thursday.

"They're banned... we test for them and whenever we have a test for them, we take action when we find positives."

Tetrahydrogestrinone is a banned steroid which had been tweaked by chemists to make it previously undetectable under normal test conditions.

With officials having announced recently that four US athletes have tested positive for the drug, USA Track and Field, the governing body of American athletics, have since adopted a "zero tolerance" policy towards those found guilty. Professional athletes from a cross-section of sports in North America have been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury probing the finances of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative (BALCO).

BALCO, a Californian company which makes nutritional supplements, has been identified by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) as what they believe was the source of THG.

The NFL said last week that THG would now be included in current testing as a banned substance.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue confirmed on Wednesday, after a meeting of league owners in Chicago, that they are also discussing the possibility of testing previous samples for THG. The NFL conducts random testing, and issued a stern message to its players after the meeting.

"It's a strict liability policy," Henderson told Thursday's edition of the *New York Times*. "You're responsible for what's in your body — the players are taught that from the minute they come into the league." — MNA/Reuters

Barthez cannot move to Marseille

PARIS, 31 Oct—FIFA has refused to allow Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez to move to Olympique Marseille on loan, a FIFA spokesman said on Thursday.

The decision by the players' committee of world soccer's ruling body was made "on the basis of the transfer regulations which say transfers can only be registered during the transfer window" which opens again in January.

"The committee looked at the case and rejected the request," the spokesman said.

Marseille had said they wanted the nine-month loan of the France keeper to be completed by October 31.

The French club has several important league games before January and Barthez can play only league games, and not in the Champions League, because he is still registered with United for European matches.

The spokesman said the French football federation had been informed of the decision and it would be formally announced on Friday.

Marseille had asked for special dispensation to sign Barthez, number three at United, because their number two goalkeeper would be out for several months due to injury.

Barthez needs to play first team soccer to guarantee his place in Jacques Santini's French squad for Euro 2004.

Marseille presented Barthez to the media last week and he was expected to replace Croatian Vedran Runje as number one.

He won the European Cup with Marseille in 1993 before moving to Monaco. He joined United in 2000.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal land heavy fine, four players banned

LONDON, 31 Oct—Arsenal were fined 175,000 pounds (298,100 US dollars) on Thursday for failing to control their players in the 0-0 English Premier League draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford on September 21.

The English Football Association also fined and banned four Arsenal players — defenders Lauren and Martin Keown, captain Patrick Vieira and fellow midfielder Ray Parlour — for their behaviour at the match.

Arsenal were also reprimanded and warned about their future conduct after a lengthy disciplinary hearing at FA headquarters in central London attended by the club's lawyers and manager Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal's fine was the second largest handed out to a club in English soccer history. Arsenal's north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur were fined 1.5 million for financial irregularities in 1994.

Cameroon defender Lauren was banned for four matches and fined 40,000 pounds for violent behaviour and improper conduct.

Keown received a three-match ban and a 20,000-pound fine for violent behaviour. Parlour was banned for one match and fined 10,000 pounds for improper conduct and Vieira was banned for one-game and fined 20,000 pounds, also for improper conduct.

The bans take effect from Monday, November 17, the FA said.

All five Arsenal players had admitted

the misconduct charges and Arsenal Football Club admitted failing to control their players during the game.

The game at Old Trafford exploded into life when Vieira was sent off in the 81st minute of the game for kicking out at United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Van Nistelrooy then missed a last-minute penalty and, after the final whistle a furious melee ensued, with Lauren, Keown and Parlour all confronting the Dutch striker.

Vieira's improper conduct charge related to him failing to leave the field of play immediately following his red card.

A fifth Arsenal player, England defender Ashley Cole, escaped a ban but was warned about his future conduct and fined 10,000 pounds for a confrontation with United winger Cristiano Ronaldo after the final whistle.

Wenger was driven away from the hearing without speaking to reporters.

Arsenal said in a statement on their official website they were considering whether to appeal against the punishments. Ronaldo and United teammate Ryan Giggs, who plan to contest charges of misconduct relating to the same game, are yet to have their hearings. — MNA/Reuters

South Africa narrows gap on China

HYDERABAD (India), 31 Oct—While Asian sports powerhouse China kept its steady pace by taking four more gold medals on Wednesday, South Africa got a golden harvest at Afro-Asian Games on Wednesday to narrow the gap between the two countries.

South Africa took five titles from athletics and swimming to rank second in the medal table with 12 gold, 11 silver and 13 bronze medals. China took four golds from weightlifting, shooting and athletics to top the table at 17-6-3.

Africa finally displayed its supremacy in athletics competitions. Its athletes won nine out of 15 gold medals on Wednesday with veteran sprinter Frankie Fredericks of Namibia winning two titles, one in the men's 200 metres and the other in the 4X100 metres relay. Eigegayehu D. Dibaba of Ethiopia, who won the women's 5,000-metre title at the Paris world championships earlier this year, eased to victory in the 10,000 metres with a time of 33 minutes 1.12 seconds.

The men's 1,500 metres race was also dominated by African runners with Abdallam Mohammed from Sudan taking the gold at 3:40.17 and his compatriot Peter Ashak Abaihy winning the silver in 3:40.21. The bronze medal went to Benjamin Chediinyot of Kenya at 3:40.56.

The 3,000-metre steeplechase gold went to John Kemboi of Kenya who clocked 8:56.43; the women's 200-metre title was taken by Delphine Bartillo Atangana of Cameroon in a time of 23.37 seconds.

Asia won only one track

event through Su Yiping of China who beat her teammate Feng Yun in the 100-metre hurdles with a time of 13.18 seconds. In the field events, Asia was in dominant position with Africa winning only one gold medal in the men's javelin through South African Piennar Hardaus who threw to a winning distance of 84.50 metres.

Zhang Na of China won the women's pole vault with a height of 4.10 metres. The women's long jump was won by India's world championships bronze medallist Anju George who surged away to 6.53 metres. Indian Anil Kumar took the men's discus title with a result of 60.68 metres.

African swimmers took an upper hand for the first time since the beginning of the competitions. They took four out of six golds. The other two gold medals went

to Japanese Nozomi Nobe and Mizuki Wakabayashi.

The three shooting gold medals on offer were split by China and India. Tan Zongliang, who won the men's 50-metre free pistol title earlier in the games, dominated the qualifying and final stages to collect a total of 693.8 points in the 10-metre air pistol event.

The other two shooting golds were taken by Indian shooters with Rajyavardhan Rathore winning the men's double trap title at 174 hits and Anjali Bhagwat taking the gold of women's sport rifle 3-position event at 675.5 points. After Wednesday's competitions, Asia has got 47 gold medals while Africa taken 34 titles. The competitions of the eight-day games end on October 31 while the closing ceremony will be held on November 1.

MNA/Xinhua



Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic returns a shot to Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain during their Paris ATP Masters Series third round match at the Bercy indoor tournament in Paris. Novak won 7-5, 7-5.—INTERNET

e-Education Learning Centre

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၂-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)

- ◆ အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ဒုတိယနှစ်
- စီးပွားရေး ကျောင်းသူ/သားများအတွက် စီးပွားရေးသင်ခန်းစာများ

၃-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (တနင်္လာနေ့)

- ◆ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ
- သင်္ချာဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၄-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (အင်္ဂါနေ့)

- ◆ သင်္ချာဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ
- သင်္ချာဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၅-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့)

- ◆ ဓာတုဗေဒဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ
- ဓာတုဗေဒဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၆-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့)

- ◆ ဓာတုဗေဒဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ
- စီမံဗေဒဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၇-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (သောကြာနေ့)

- ◆ စီမံဗေဒဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ
- စီမံဗေဒဘာသာ ဟောပြောမှု
- တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

MRTV-3



1-11-2003 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greetings
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Myanmar Mat
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Scenic Myanmar "Golden Rock Pagoda (1)"
- 9:25 Lon Yuu Festival Dance
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 100 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Saying with the Eyes"
- 9:42 Tour in Myanmar "Sagaing, Mingun"
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Hninzigone, Home for the Aged
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

1-11-2003 (Saturday)

Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greetings
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 15:36 Myanma Mat
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Scenic Myanmar "Golden Rock Pagoda (1)"
- 15:55 Lon Yuu Festival Dance
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 100 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Saying with the Eyes"
- 16:12 Tour in Myanmar "Sagaing, Mingun"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 A trip to Naga land
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Squid Salad"

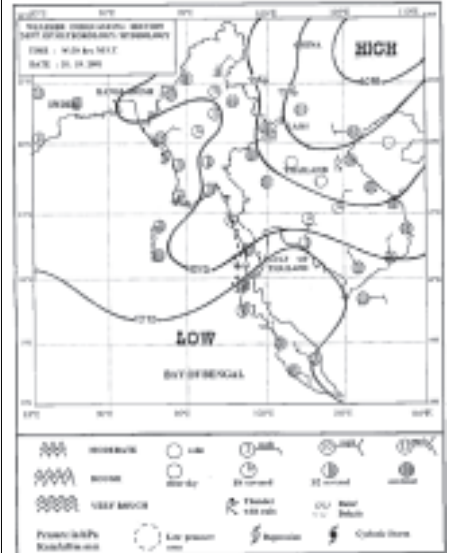
16:45 National News

- 16:50 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 17:00 Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:05 A Day in the life of the Pao Family
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Aristocratic Beauty"

17:12 Wall-Hung Giant Lobsters

- 17:15 Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:20 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 31 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Eastern Shan State, lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Yangon Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 30-10-2003 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 31-10-2003 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-10-2003 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 30-10-2003 was (7.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 31-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and 13 mm (0.51 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2206 mm (86.84 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northwest at (18:30) hours MST on 30-10-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-11-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-11-2003: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-11-2003: Partly cloudy.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 23:30 hours MST on Today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.7) Richter Scale with its epicentre about (172) miles north of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (21) hrs (52) min (01) sec MST on 30th October 2003.



View today:

Saturday, November 1

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. Delicacies

8:05 am

6. အကဇွိင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. ဂြိုဟ်များ၏တံတား

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar Made Easy

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical Programme

11:30 am

3. News

11:40 am

4. Games for children

12:05 pm

5. Roundup of the week's TV Local News

1:30 pm

6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းဆွဲ

2:05 pm

7. ကြုံကြုံမိမြောက် နိုင်ငံတကာ ICT

2:20 pm

8. "တစ်သံတော"

2:35 pm

9. Dance of national races

2:45 pm

10. International News

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold national spirit

4:30 pm

3. English For Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

5:15 pm

6. မြေမြှုပ်ကြွမှုနှင့်အသက်ဆိုင်ရာ

5:30 pm

7. Musical programme

5:45 pm

8. Games for children

6:15 pm

9. Delicacies

6:30 pm

10. Evening news

7:00 pm

11. Weather report

7:05 pm

12. Discovery

7:20 pm

13. အဝိသုဒ္ဓိဗျူဟာတစ်ရာ

7:30 pm

14. Musical programme

7:45 pm

15. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တောရွှံ့မြင့်

8:00 pm

16. News

8:15 pm

17. International news

8:30 pm

18. Weather report

8:45 pm

19. Myanmar movie:

9:00 pm

20. "ဝန်းတံစွဲစံနုဆင်းမြင်း"

9:15 pm

21. The next day's programme



Saturday, November 1
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.05 am** Music
- 9.10 am** International news
- 9.15 am** Music (Spotlight on the star)
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Music at your request
- Dream lover (Tanya Tucker)
- The end of the world (The lettermen)
- Hello I love you (Crystal, Gayle)
- 9.00 pm** ASEAN review
- News
- 9.10 pm** Article/Music
- 9.20 pm** Myanma Culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- Shwe nat taung Pagoda and Bells
- 9.30 pm** Souvenirs
- Music music (Helen Reddy)
- My love, sweet love (Patti Labelle)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

Prime Minister attends opening of "Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003"

YANGON, 31 Oct — "Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003" was opened this morning at the Yangon Trade Centre on Lower Pazundaung Street, attended by Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, Thai Commerce Minister Dr Adisai Bodharamik, Chinese deputy general secretary of Yunnan Province Mr Duan Guan Han and party, deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, foreign diplomats in Myanmar, departmental heads, and guests.

First, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win formally opened the fair. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone said:

We are conducting "Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair" with the following objectives:

- to develop awareness of Myanmar's developing fishery and livestock products internationally;
- to gain market access for the fishery and livestock;
- to attract foreign investment in fishery and livestock sector;
- to obtain technical know-how of fishery and livestock production and other related manufacturing; and
- to produce and share wholesome consumer goods, including high quality value



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and guests visit the booths of the Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003. — MNA

added products.

With the motto "Myanmar's Fish and Meat for All", we aim to expand market share of Myanmar's surplus fishery and livestock products within the region and to visualize the investment potentials of this sector.

During a span of ten years, we were able to increase per capita consumption of fish one and a half times and, of meat by nearly three times. To achieve this, we were able to increase the acreage of fish and shrimp ponds from forty thousand acres to three hundred and twenty four thousand acres.

Although export of livestock products is not very much, fishery products are exported to over forty coun-

tries annually. Due to lack of "further processing" facilities, only live, chilled and frozen raw products could be exported. During the same span of ten years, value of export of fish products increase six-fold making a significant growth in the industry.

Being the largest country in South-east Asia Peninsular with only fifty two million inhabitants, large areas of land in different climatic regions are available in Myanmar. Aquaculture can be materialised in the unpolluted waters along the inland and coastal regions. Farm animals can be raised in the pasturelands and grasslands, and related infrastructure and industries can be built

accordingly.

As the whole production component in the livestock and fishery sector has been privatized, investors are welcomed by the Government and citizens alike as it is our desire to make this sector grow in a sustained manner. It is our vision to increase the profitability and competitiveness, and enhance the natural resource base to achieve greater national wealth and stronger rural communities.

In this Trade Fair, 133 foreign and local companies are participating with 229 booths at the indoor and outdoor spaces. They are displaying wide range of fisheries and livestock related products, such as, feedstuff and veterinary medicines,

live fish and shrimp, frozen fish, prawn and crab, locally produced machinery for fishery, cold storage facilities, motors, pumps, fishing nets, etc.

For your information, there are six countries participating in this fair. They are 20 companies from Thailand, 6 companies from China, 8 from Singapore, 2 from South Korea, one company each from Malaysia and Hong Kong. Apart from the foreign companies, 95 local companies are also participating with the various livestock and fisheries related products.

In conclusion, allow me to express once again that, I feel deeply honoured for your presence here and also thanks for both foreign and local

companies participating in this "Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair-2003". I am confident that this fair will give you very good opportunities for mutual benefit. And I also would like to thank to the Organizing Committee for giving every effort to make this fair a successful one. Next, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented gifts to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and distinguished guests. Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greeted those present on the occasion and inspected the trade fair.

The trade fair will be kept open from 9 am to 5 pm till 4 November as of today.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers address at the opening of Special Refresher Course No 54 for teachers. — MNA

Government has been making all-out efforts for developing human resources capable of handling various situations to be faced in future and to ensure emergence of constant learning Myanmar society in keeping with the times

Special Refresher Course No 54 for basic education teachers opened

YANGON, 31 Oct—The Special Refresher Course No 54 for basic education teachers was opened at the Nawarat Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division at noon today with an address by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board and members, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development

Council Office and heads of department, Rector of CICS Col Win Maung and officials, course instructors and trainee teachers.

In his address, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win said that with the aim of enabling the basic education teachers, who are nurturing the student youths to become intellectuals and

intelligentsia on whom the State can rely, to gain experiences and knowledge after realizing the prevailing situation and future of the State, of enabling them to serve the interest of the State conscientiously and constantly based on the knowledge they gained, and of enabling them to effectively contribute their shares in national and regional development through the education sector with strong nationalism, the spe-

cial refresher courses for basic education teachers have been opened and the present course is No 54.

The State Peace and Development Council has been making strenuous efforts for the education sector to keep pace with changes in political, economic and social sectors and to be on a par with that of the global nations while striving for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation.

The education promotion programme is a significant turning point in the education history of Myanmar as well as an education milestone. That is why the role of teachers is of paramount importance in the programme.

Nowadays, concerted efforts are being made on self-reliant basis to ensure development of economic and social sectors with prevalence

(See page 9)