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Sunday, 2 November, 2003

Senior General Than Shwe and wife attend 50th Kathina robes offering ceremony of Ministry of Defence

YANGON, 1 Nov —The 50th Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Defence was held at Anawrahta hall of the ministry this morning. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the ceremony and offered Kathina robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara of Mahawithutayama Kyaungtaik and members of

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of Alanpya Kyaungtaik and Sangyoung Kyaungtaik, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khin Than Nwe, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe,



Sayadaws attend 50th Communal Kathina Ceremony of families of Ministry of Defence. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present eight prerequisites to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa. — MNA

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein's wife Daw Khin Khin Win, wives of Members of the State Peace and Development Council, Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander and wife, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General and Chairman of Civil Services Selection and Training Board and their wives, senior military officers and wives and guests.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Dawei Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife offered Kathina robes and provisions to Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Dawei Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khin Than Nwe, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Sec-

retary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein's wife Daw Khin Khin Win and those present offered Kathina robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

After that, Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara of Mahawithutayama Kyaungtaik delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and wife and party offered *Soon* to members of the Sangha. MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and congregation receive the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 2 November, 2003

For economic development of Rakhine State

The Union of Myanmar with favourable weather conditions is rich in fertile soil. At a time when the Government is making all-out efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, it is necessary for the country to possess a strong economy.

Rakhine State is one of the states that assists the economic development of the State. In Rakhine State, people are enjoying surplus of rice and at present, efforts are being made to put over one million acres under crops. Therefore, farmers are to strive for extended cultivation of the main crops and boosting the per acre yield.

Only monsoon paddy is grown once a year in Taungup Township and its neighbouring areas and thus to earn more income farmers are to cultivate vegetables and other crops after the monsoon paddy cultivation season. A study of cultivating beans and pulses shows that cultivation of pigeon pea exceeds the target and therefore, efforts are to be made to grow other beans and pulses apart from the pigeon pea.

Pepper is thriving in Rakhine State where there has enough rain in addition to good soil and favourable weather conditions. As there is a market for pepper which can benefit the farmers, extended cultivation of pepper should be carried out in Rakhine State.

As regards the meat and fish sector, fresh and sea water fishery industry is being carried out on a wide scale in Rakhine State. In the past, there were only about 60,000 acres of fresh and sea water prawn breeding ponds but now, the number has risen to over 150,000.

The unique location and richness in marine resources contribute much towards economic development of Rakhine State. Therefore, the Government, on its part, is building roads and bridges in Rakhine State for the latter's development.

In building roads linking Rakhine State and other adjacent divisions there emerged 628 miles long Yangon-Sittway Union Highway, 323 miles long Thandwe-Taungup-Yangon road and 235 miles long Thandwe-Gwa Ngathaingchaung-Yangon road and these facilities provide better transport.

In building major roads in the state which is teeming with rivers and creeks, building of bridges is no exception. As a result, altogether 1174 bridges including 25 river-crossing bridges with the length of 180 feet and above have emerged. People living in Rakhine State who had to mainly rely on air and water transport in the past are now able to access other regions in the Union by land.

For economic development of the state, people living in Rakhine State are urged to make earnest efforts for ensuring the yield of 100 baskets of paddy per acre while extending agricultural and livestock breeding tasks.



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to members of the Sangha at the 50th Communal Kathina Robe Offering ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

More archery teams arrive

YANGON, 1 Nov — The 10-member Malaysian team, a Korean coach, a member of Hong Kong Jury, one from Laos, and an 11-member Indian team arrived here by air this evening to participate in the 13th Asian Archery Championship and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier to be held in Yangon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Myanmar Archery Federation.

MNA

F&R Ministry holds Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 1 Nov — The seventh communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the Dhammayon of the Internal Revenue Department this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for F&R Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, President of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and wife, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, staff families and guests.

The minister and wife

and departmental heads presented Kathina robes and offerings to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Thuwunna Pariyatti Sathintaik Bhaddanta Ashin

Nyanissara delivered a sermon and merits gained were shared.

Later, 'soon' was offered to the members of the Sangha.

MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife offer Kathina robes to members of the Sangha. — MNA

Than Myint Aung, winner of National Literary Award

Article by Htay Kyi, photos by Shwe-in-tha Khin Maung Win

National
Literary
Award for
Collected
Short
Stories
Winner
Than Myint
Aung.
PHOTO:
SHWE INTA
KHINTHA
KHIN
MAUNG
WIN.



Export Market Promotion Course concluded

YANGON, 1 Nov — The Export Market Promotion Course, jointly conducted by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), concluded at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel yesterday evening.

It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, President U Win Myint and officials of UMFCCL, instructors, guests and trainees. President U Win Myint, U Moe Kyaw of UMFCCL and U San Maung Myint of the course made speeches on the occasion. Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Adviser to UMFCCL U Khin Maung Yi presented gifts to the course instructors. Education work committee members presented completion certificates to the trainees. A trainee spoke words of thanks. Secretary-General U Sein Win Hlaing made a speech at the dinner.

MNA

lifestyles and characters in my surroundings, and the encouragement of some friends and colleagues.

Kyemon: When did you start to try out for a pen name?

TMA: It was in 1978. I contributed just a little at that time. I started to contribute much in the 1990s. I started to enter the literary world in 1987 with short stories in the *Taiyinmay Journal*. After 1987, I wrote short stories under the pen-name of Than Myint Aung. I have written five works of collected short stories, five medium-length stories and two novels.

I felt honoured to hear that novels depicting the human life and short stories reflecting real characters are popular among readers. With regard to social affairs, I am engaged in rehabilitation of orphans and conducting researches on new therapy for the psychiatric hospital. I have contributed a script regarding prevention of HIV. I am also working with the Mayangyaung Leprosy Control Centre. I am devoted to work for welfare of others in the committee for helping social affairs. My short stories are mostly based on social welfare work and real characters in human society.

(Translation: TS)



An education committee member presents course completion certificate to a trainee. — H

American soldier killed as US warns of new Iraq threat

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—Another US soldier was killed in Iraq shortly after US consular officials warned of fresh attacks and the American Congress passed a multi-billion-dollar aid package for the war-torn country. In Seoul, the foreign ministry revealed a South Korean diplomat had been kidnapped briefly by Iraqi gunmen to warn against its continued involvement in the US-led occupation, as foreign missions continued to draw down their personnel in the face of the bloodiest week since the invasion.

Security was tight across Baghdad as Iraqis flocked to the first Friday prayers of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, following the warning from the US consular office that new violence was pending.

"There are a number of rumours of a 'Day Resistance' throughout Baghdad on Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2," marking six months since Washington declared major combat over, the US statement said.

"US citizens are encouraged to continue to maintain a high level of vigilance and continue to take appropriate steps

to increase their security awareness."

Shortly after the warning, one American soldier was killed and four others from the 82nd Airborne Division wounded when a device exploded at 8.45 am (0545 GMT) in Khaldiya, 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of the capital.

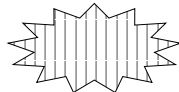
Washington has now lost 118 troops in action since major combat operations were declared over on May 1, more than it lost during the six-week spring invasion.

Internet

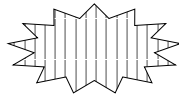
Beijing police destroy 300,000 pirated, pornographic VCDs

BEIJING, 1 Nov—Beijing police authorities on Thursday publicly destroyed 300,000 pirated or pornographic VCDs, a move signalling their determination to crack down on illegal activities related to pornography and piracy.

Police authorities said efforts to hunt down and seize pirated obscene VCDs had intensified at key areas, such as pedestrian tunnels and bridges. Statistics released by city authorities show that from July to the end of October, police uncovered 11 premises, arrested 218 illegal VCD sellers and confiscated more than 820,000 illegal publications, including 300,000 pornographic VCDs.—MNA/Xinhua



US Army troops pass a blazing Iraqi police car set alight at the governor's residence in the town of Falluja on 31 October, 2003. One US soldier and an Iraqi policeman were killed in attacks in Iraq as foreign governments warned of terror strikes in Baghdad at the weekend after suicide bombings this week killed at least 35 people.—INTERNET



China fair to be held in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Nov—The China Machinery and Electronics Products Fair will be held in the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, from November 7 to 11 in a bid to boost trade between China and South

Africa, Chinese Ambassador announced here recently.

The fair, which is held to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries,

will be the first of its kind held independently by China and South Africa.

More than 150 Chinese companies from 26 provinces and municipalities in China will exhibit their products, including automobiles and components, construction, engineering and agricultural machinery, hardware and tools, electronic appliances and communication equipment.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Guijin said that South

Africa is China's top trade partner in Africa, with a total bilateral trade of 2.6 billion US dollars in 2002.

Trade between the countries totalled 2.4 billion dollars, showing a dramatic increase of 49.7 per cent during the first eight months of 2003.

He predicted that the total trade volume is expected to exceed three billion dollars by the end of this year.

MNA/Xinhua

"The government is opening 74,000 child centres for the overall development of the children," state-run English daily *The Rising Nepal* on Friday quoted Hari Bahadur Basnet, Minister for Education and Sports, as saying. "Development of any country is impossible without human resources. If children are not well brought up and cared, the nation will lack adequate human resources," Basnet said.

In a bid to address the issue, the government has also been working with the basic primary education project to meet the goal of "education for all" by 2015, he added. According to a report released by the Nepali Education Department, there are 2.08 million children aged between 3 and 5 in the Himalayan kingdom.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to set up 74,000 child centres by 2015

KATHMANDU, 1 Nov—A total of 74,000 early childhood development centres, mainly for children aged 3 to 5, will be set up across Nepal by the year 2015, according to a high-ranking Nepali Government official.

UNSG calls for joint efforts for breakthrough of trade talks

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Nov—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said here Thursday that for a breakthrough of the stalled trade talks, concrete efforts guided by the so-called "Monterrey Consensus" are urgently needed.

Addressing the UN General Assembly on its high-level dialogue on Financing for Development, Annan highlighted the need to recall some of the spirit of the Monterrey conference held last year, since it has been distracted by dramatic events in Iraq and Cancun to "a world away."

"The one most people remember concerned official development assistance: new commitments made in Monterrey reversed a troubling and devastating decade of decline or stagnation," he recalled.

"But let's not forget Monterrey's other messages," he said, "first, the way the process broke new ground in bringing together...

all relevant stakeholders... to improve policy coherence."

The conference also cemented a view of poor people and poor countries as partners in the development process, "not objects of pity," he added.

Annan said the third and most important achievement of Monterrey is "the way both developed and developing countries acknowledged their mutual responsibilities and mutual accountability, a welcome departure from the polarizing practice of pointing at what others were not doing."

"We face an uncertain economy, wide-ranging social distress and faltering trade negotiations that need a real jump-start at Decem-

ber's WTO (World Trade Organization) talks in Geneva," he said, calling on world leaders to "stay together, stay engaged, and make this process work."

The UN 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.

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



An unidentified Iraqi Civil Defence Corp (ICDC) member checks a driver's ID at a checkpoint in the village of Uja, outside of Tikrit, 193 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq on 30 October, 2003.—INTERNET

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Upsurge of violence predicted for Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—Security officials are preparing for a surge in violence against coalition forces in Iraq within the next few days, after receiving information that supporters of ousted president Saddam Hussein may be intending to co-ordinate a series of attacks in Baghdad.

Three days of violence are said by sources linked to the former president's Ba'ath party to be in the final planning stage, security officials in Iraq said on Thursday.

Foreign companies have tightened security measures, and are convinced that the information received on the impending attacks is reliable.

The United Nations announced on Thursday that it was temporarily withdrawing 30 expatriate staff from Baghdad, though it was not clear whether specific intelligence had been received

suggesting that the UN was a target. On August 19, a truck bomb killed 22 people at the UN headquarters in the city.

Information suggesting that a series of attacks may be mounted by supporters of the ousted regime emerged as a US official identified Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, Mr Hussein's former deputy, as the Saddam loyalist who is now co-ordinating violence against coalition forces and Iraqis working with the US-led operation in Iraq.

Internet

Iraq rumours prompt US warning

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—The US and Australian Governments have warned their nationals in Iraq to take extra care amid rumours of further violence in Baghdad this weekend.

The US consulate urged Americans to be alert following reports that a "day of resistance" was being planned.

Scores of people, mostly Iraqis, have been killed this week. Tension is high in Iraq where Saturday marks six months since President Bush declared an end to major hostilities.

"US citizens are encouraged to continue to maintain a high level of vigilance and continue to take appropriate steps to increase their security and awareness," the US consulate said in a statement.

Australian officials also warned their nationals to stay away from an area of central Baghdad where a hotel popular with foreigners, the al-Hamra, is located.

The Australian Government said it had received credible reports of what it called "imminent terrorist attacks" in the area. The BBC's Jonny Dymond says there have been such scares in the past which have come to nothing. But, he adds, if the aim of spreading such rumours is to cause fear and concern, then it is succeeding.

Ordinary Iraqis, who unlike most foreigners do not live in protected areas, are also nervous.

"People approach me all the time now and say they are afraid to walk anywhere," Mohammad Saleh al-Ubaidi, an imam at a mosque in Baghdad, told Reuters news agency.

Security was tight across Baghdad as Iraqis attended the first Friday prayers of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

But anti-American fury erupted in a suburb of the capital after US troops entered a market place searching for those behind a grenade attack that had injured two soldiers, witnesses said. Two Iraqis - one a policeman, the other a six-year-old boy - were killed in the unrest which erupted in the western district of Abu Ghraib. Several other Iraqis and two US soldiers were also reported injured.

"There was fighting and demonstrations in the area which lasted several hours," a US military spokeswoman said.

In other developments:

Protests erupt in the flashpoint town of Falluja, where the office of the US-backed mayor is attacked and one man is shot dead by police.

An explosive device near the town of Khaldiya west of Baghdad kills an American soldier, the US military says.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan promises action to improve security for UN staff in Iraq and worldwide in the wake of the deadly bombing of their offices in Baghdad last August.

This week has seen a surge in attacks, including a series of bombings in Baghdad on Monday that left 36 people dead, making it the bloodiest day since the start of the US-led occupation.

Faced with continuing attacks, US forces have stepped up their efforts to track down suspected former regime loyalists who they blame for much of the violence.

Some senior US officials even believe Saddam Hussein may be playing a major role in directing attacks on US troops from a base of operations near Tikrit, the New York Times reported on Friday. American troops have erected barbed wire around Saddam Hussein's home village near Tikrit.

Soldiers have set up checkpoints in and out of the village of Uja where residents have been ordered to register for identity cards.

"This is an effort to protect the majority of the population, the people who want to get on with their lives," Lieutenant Colonel Steve Russell said. "There are ties leading to this village to the funding and planning of attacks against US soldiers," he said. — Internet

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An Iraqi woman sits on empty gas canisters. Members of an all-female congressional delegation to Iraq said on 30 October, 2003, that improving conditions for Iraqi women is key to restoring normalcy and order in the war-torn country.—INTERNET

Wen Jiabao says China to make development more sustainable

BEIJING, 1 Nov—Premier Wen Jiabao Friday affirmed China's adherence to the principles of sustainable growth during its industrialization and modernization drive and said his government has set guidelines for China's endeavour to build a better-off society, which focuses on an overall, balanced and sustainable development.

"China will manage to fulfil a balance of urban and rural development, economic and social development, as well as harmonious coexistence of humans and the nature," Wen said in his meeting with major Chinese and foreign members of the China Council for International Cooperation on the Environment and Development (CCICED).

He said it was the lesson from the summary China has drawn from over 20 years of practical experience in its reform, opening-up and modernization.

China's industrialization would follow the principles of cost-effectiveness, low consumption of resources, low pollution and efficient use of human resources, said Premier Wen.

Launched in 1992 with support from the Chinese central government, the CCICED

has given scope to a senior advisory body that set forth proposals on crucial environmental and development issues with the government.

It has become a tradition that senior Chinese leaders have face-to-face communication with the council members during each annual session.

Mans Lonnroth, former state secretary of Sweden's Ministry of Environment and also vice-chairman of the council, told Wen that China's rapid economic growth could be as hazardous as "riding a tiger" if the pollution-first-treatment-later mode was not changed. He said China has special advantages in facing challenges because its government has strong power to control industrialization and it is still not too late for the change.

MNA/Xinhua



A trade visitor to the International Aquarium Fish & Accessories Exhibition in Singapore photographs this year's champion dragon fish, or Arowana, on 31 October, 2003. It was recently sold for S \$68,888 (\$39,700). Singapore is now the world's top exporter of ornamental fish, with its annual export sales for 2001 and 2002 at \$875 million (\$42.7 million), or 24 percent of the global export trade.—INTERNET

Survey shows HK SMEs more confident of business prospects

HONG KONG, 1 Nov—The latest Business Operating Environment Index for Hong Kong small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) released by the SME Centre of the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) on Thursday showed that local companies are more confident of their business prospects.

The survey on "Business Operating Environment Index for SMEs," introduced in 1998, was conducted quarterly to gauge the views of Hong Kong's small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the areas of market opportunity, financial and investment situation, operating costs, human resources and risk assessment.

In this survey, a total of 588 SMEs were interviewed, of which 333 came from the services sector and 255 from the manufacturing sector.

Commenting on the findings, Vincent Li, General Manager (Enterprise Enhancement Services) of

HKPC said, "The overall index of 10.36 per cent, an increase of 7 percentage points compared to the last survey, represents the highest index ever recorded."

The signing of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between the Mainland and Hong Kong (CEPA) and the commencement of the Mainland residents' 'individual visit' scheme have helped to boost the confidence of local SMEs on their business prospects for the fourth quarter (October to December), he said.

In terms of sectoral difference, the overall business operating indexes for both manufacturing and

services industries have increased by 4 and 9 percentage points, reporting 11.3 per cent and 9.6 per cent, respectively.

All major industries recorded significant increase in the indexes, with retail and wholesale, logistics and trade services having bounced back to positive territories, the survey showed.

The survey also gauged local SMEs' views on the impacts of CEPA. It found that 29 per cent of companies from the services sector and 28 per cent from the manufacturing industry agreed that they would benefit from CEPA.

MNA/Xinhua

Caring for grandkids can cause heart attack

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov—Taking care of grandchildren can give women more than a headache—it can raise their risk of heart attack, US researchers reported on Thursday.

The study of more than 54,000 nurses found that those who cared for grandchildren at least nine hours a week had a 55-per-cent increased risk of heart attack.

It is probably the stress,

said Sunmin Lee of Brigham and Women's Hospital, who led the study, published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

"Although our study did not look at underlying factors, it is likely that caregivers have so many demands placed on them that they lose time and energy to take care of themselves," Lee said in a statement.

"It is possible that their

role caring for these children makes it difficult for them to follow basic preventive health behaviors such as exercising, eating right and getting adequate sleep."

Lee's team at the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School said statistics show that about one in seven US women have raised a grandchild for six months or more.

MNA/Reuters

Report says Iraq contracts reek of cronyism

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov—Many of the US firms doing billions of dollars of work in Iraq and Afghanistan have been big donors to President Bush and his Republican Party and fill their boards with political and military heavyweights, a report on Thursday said.

The report by the watchdog group, the Center for Public Integrity, said most of the 70 firms and individuals getting up to \$8 billion in contracts for post-war Iraq and Afghanistan donated more to Bush's presidential campaign—a little over \$500,000—than any other candidate in the past decade.

"There is a stench of political favoritism and cronyism surrounding the contracting process in both Iraq and Afghanistan," said Charles Lewis, executive director of the group, which investigates public service and ethics issues.

The report said 60 percent of the firms with contracts had employees or board members who served in previous administrations, for members of Congress and at the highest level of the military.

Winning companies were major political players overall and the group traced about \$49 million in donations since 1990 from these companies to political parties, committees and candidates. The Republican Party committee got \$12.7 million while Democrats got \$7.1 million.

Internet



Iraqi workers install concertina wire around the village of Uja, outside Tikrit, 193 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq on 30 October, 2003. American soldiers on 31 October sealed off the village where Saddam Hussein was born and ordered adults to register for identity cards that will let them move in and out of the community - a hotbed of anti-American sentiment.—INTERNET

Second solar storm arrives at Earth

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov—A second huge magnetic solar storm arrived at Earth on Thursday, just a day after an earlier one hit our planet in what one astronomer called an unprecedented one-two punch.

"It's like the Earth is looking right down the barrel of a giant gun pointed at us by the sun... and it's taken two big shots at us," said John Kohl of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Massachusetts.

Kohl, the principal investigator for an instrument aboard NASA's sun-watching *SOHO* spacecraft, said the probability of two huge flares aimed directly at Earth coming so close together, as they have this week, "unprecedented... so low that it is a statistical anomaly".

Kohl said the second solar storm, known as a coronal mass ejection, peeled off the sun around 4 pm EST (2100 GMT) on Wednesday. Charged particles from the ejection started arriving at Earth around 10 a.m. EST (1500 GMT) Thursday.

This was just a day after an earlier ejection was first detected on Earth, arriving around 1 a.m. EST (0600 GMT) on Wednesday.

The second blast from the sun was moving even faster than the first one did, and some particles from the first linger even as the second onslaught continues, Kohl said in a telephone interview.

While such solar storms do not directly endanger humans, the charged particles can play havoc with electric grids, satellites and other equipment. They can also create spectacular displays of the northern and southern lights. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which runs the US early warning centre for such solar events, said that Wednesday's storm prompted a report that northern lights had been seen as far south as El Paso, Texas.—MNA/Reuters

Four killed as parking garage collapses in US

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov—Four people were killed and some 20 others were injured on Thursday when the top five stories of a parking garage under construction collapsed in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Two persons died inside

the building and two others died at a hospital, while one remained missing, officials said.

Rescue teams were sent into the rubble of the 10-storey garage, trying to locate missing workers by search cameras and dogs, and

lumber-loaded trucks were brought in to shore up the building.

Over 300 construction workers were at the site when the garage floors collapsed.

The cause of the collapse was under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

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360 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—As of Friday, 31 Oct, 360 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, 222 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defense Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,770 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 340. The latest deaths reported by the US Military:

—One 82nd Airborne Division soldier was killed Friday morning in an attack in the Khaladiyah area, west of Baghdad.—Internet

Philippines urges foreign debt swap for anti-poverty programmes

MANILA, 1 Nov—Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has led poor nations in calling on developed countries to agree to a foreign debt swap for anti-poverty programmes, said the Department of Foreign Affairs in a statement Thursday.

In a recent United Nations General Assembly roundtable discussion in New York City, Ople asked for a consideration of his proposal as a means for poor countries to realize the United Nations Millennium goal of cutting the incidence of poverty by half by 2015.

Ople noted that all of the international financial institutions, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, have been committed to fighting poverty by using the debt for anti-poverty programme scheme.

Under the scheme, the developed countries would agree to grant debt relief in exchange for the implementation of anti-poverty programmes, including micro-finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those in the

countryside.

"The Philippines is taking a more jugular approach, namely, a debt swap against poverty," Ople said.

Ople chaired the roundtable discussion among 24 countries from Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America to review the regional dimensions of the implementation of the commitments made in the International Conference on Financing for Development also called the Monetary Consensus held last year in Mexico.

"Under the consensus, the developing countries agreed to take responsibility for domestic resources mobilization to be augmented by financial assistance from the rich countries and regional self-help schemes," Ople said.

The Philippines was recently voted into the UN Security Council as a non-perma-

nent member, with the term starting on January 1, 2004 and ending on December 31, 2005.

Ople Thursday attended the first High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the UN General Assembly on October 29-30, which will serve as the primary intergovernmental follow-up to Monetary Summit in Mexico last year.

During the dialogue, Ople is expected to call on the international community to exert efforts to reverse the declining levels of official development assistance, implement debt swap for poverty programmes for indebted developing countries and to develop a mechanism to provide micro-finance support for micro- small- and medium-scale enterprises.—MNA/Xinhua

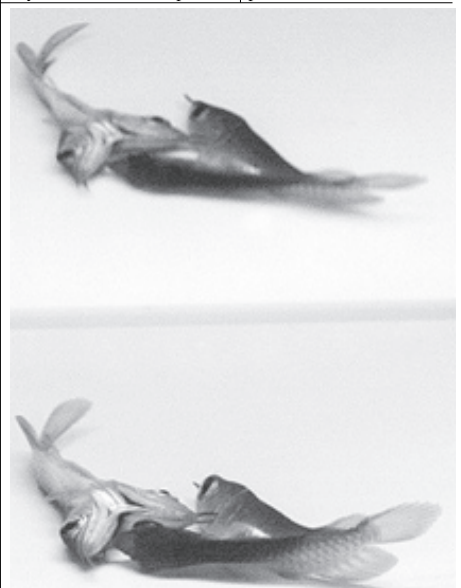
Life expectancy increases in France

PARIS, 1 Nov—The life expectancy in France increased by 2 years to 75.6 for men and 1 year to 82.8 for women from 1994 to 2002, said the country's state statistics bureau INSEE in a report published Thursday.

The life expectancy has been increasing more for men than for women in past years, said INSEE in its report "Social Portrait of France".

"But with a difference of 7.2 years, the gap of longevity between French men and French women is the largest in European countries," said the INSEE.

MNA/Xinhua



Fishy looking : Two pairs of baby arowana, one with two heads(L) and the other with the bodies attached together, are displayed in a fish tank at the Aquarama show in Singapore.—INTERNET

US Senate faults White House over Iraq documents

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov — The Republican chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee singled out the White House for failing to meet a noon (1700 GMT) deadline on Friday to turn over documents about intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction used to justify the US invasion.

But Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas said the CIA and State Department had provided a "good faith response" and the committee expected to receive "a quantity of documents" from both agencies by the end of the day.

"The White House has not met today's deadline. I am hopeful that the White House will recognize the importance of the committee's efforts and comply as soon as possible," Roberts said in a statement.

The Senate Intelligence Committee this week sent letters to top administration officials demanding documents be turned over and interviews with officials be scheduled by the deadline.

Congressional officials said that step

was intended to prod the administration to provide information the panel had requested as long as five months ago for its review of the quality of US intelligence on Iraq leading up to the war.

At this point more drastic steps such as subpoenas were not being considered, but Senator John Rockefeller said if the response was lacking he would be prepared to take such action.

"We're not kidding around on this," the West Virginia Democrat told *Reuters*. Setting the deadline was "meant to be a very strong signal to them that we're tired of waiting. This is the nation's business, there is a lot at stake," he said.—MNA/Reuters

US special force soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 Nov — A US special force soldier has died of wounds suffered in a clash in volatile southern Afghanistan, a US military statement said on Friday, the third death involving US servicemen in less than a week.

The clash between US-led special operation forces and their Afghan allies and "a 10 to 15-member anti coalition element" took place on Thursday in an area about 35 miles west of the district of Deh Rawood in the province of Uruzgan.

"The US special operations soldier died

from wounds received in combat," said the statement sent from Bagram, the hub of US-led forces in Afghanistan, to the north of Kabul.

About 11,500 US-led forces are hunting remnants of the deposed Taleban, their al-Qaeda allies and followers of faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who have declared a "jihad" or holy war against foreign troops in Afghanistan and US-backed President Hamid Karzai's government.

MNA/Reuters

Expert says chances of containing SARS much improved

PARIS, 1 Nov — The chances of containing a new outbreak of SARS early are now much greater than last year due to improved alert systems, the director of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday.

Julie Gerberding said it would be possible to contain outbreaks of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which infected some 8,500 people and killed more than 700 in the past year. Success depended on a quick response, she said.

"We have a lot better chance of containing the virus early this time than we did when it arose last fall," she told reporters during a health conference in Paris.

"But it requires all global health care systems to act in a collaborative, fast way if the problem should appear again."

She said better alert systems to report early any possible SARS cases were already emerging in places such as China, where the disease first emerged in November last year.

The World Health Organization declared the SARS outbreak over in July but said this month it was bracing for another outbreak this winter and was forming a rapid reaction centre at its Geneva headquarters.

The flu-like disease is caused by a virus from a family known as coronaviruses. They cause diseases in livestock and some cases of the common cold in people.

"It would be naive to believe that we will never see the coronavirus again affecting human beings," Gerberding said. Scientists needed to find a rapid diagnostic test to identify SARS, she said, adding that no convincing treatment regime had yet been found and it was still not clear where exactly the virus had come from.—MNA/Reuters



Coalition troops in Iraq, secure the perimeter of Camp Babylon, on Friday.

INTERNET

မြို့ခြံချွေတာ၊ ဆိပ်ပါးလေ့ရှိ ထုတ်တုန့်ပြင်း



A soldier of US Army's 4th Infantry Division (L) and a member of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) hold their weapons at a check point at the entrance of al Awja, a village outside Tikrit, on 31 October, 2003. The US House of Representatives has approved \$87.5 billion to pay for the occupation and reconstruction of Iraq.—INTERNET

Barshefsky says US economy still faces many difficulties

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov — Former US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said that the US economy is still facing many difficulties although it is increasing at a strong pace.

"I'm not sure how the US economy will end up this year and the prediction now is very, very widely," Barshefsky told *Xinhua* in an interview earlier this week. She is going to take part in the annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia to be held in Hainan Province, China, early next month.

She said that the consensus is that the US economic growth will continue and is generally strengthening. However, "it is less clear now what the job picture is going to look like."

About 80 per cent of job dislocation in the United States "is the result of technology, not trade, not any-

thing else", she said. "It is the result of productivity enhancing measures taken by businesses, largely in the wake of very high information technology expenditures made by business several years ago."

She also said that the pretty significant overcapacity in a number of commodity products was still a problem in the US economy. It kept prices of some products, including the steel, at too low and posed a challenge of deflation. Meanwhile, the twin huge deficits — the federal deficit and the trade deficit — are also difficulties facing the US economy, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

Contemporary Silk Road artworks shown in Beijing

BEIJING, 1 Nov — An exhibition of contemporary artworks focusing on China's Silk Road culture began here Thursday in Beijing.

A total of 86 pieces of art from 66 artists living and working in Kashgar, Urumqi, Dunhuang, Lanzhou and Xi'an along China's Silk Road are on show. The artworks include canvases, traditional Chinese paintings and engravings.

The artists include professional painters, artists from local cultural centres, researchers specializing in ancient grotto studies, professors from art institutions, local farmers and herdsmen.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Italian PMs vow to deepen cooperation

BEIJING, 1 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Friday pledged to expand the cooperation in diversified fields between China and Italy.

During the talks the two leaders held Friday morning, Wen made three proposals for this purpose. He said both sides should keep the frequent exchange of high-level visits and strengthen bilateral dialogue and consultation as well as the coordination within the United Nations and other international organizations.

Both sides should further tap the potential to expand trade and economic cooperation, promote cooperation between their small- and medium-sized enterprises, and strive to explore new fields, he said.

Wen said the two countries should strengthen the exchange and cooperation in the judicial field, culture and education, science and technology, environmental protection and tourism.

Berlusconi said Italy values the positive role China plays in the international arena, and is willing to deepen friendship

and expand cooperation.

He said Europe-China ties have entered a new stage and there are brilliant prospects for cooperation between Italy and China. According to Wen, Italy has become China's fourth trading partner among European Union nations, and China's trade with Italy is expected to surpass 10 billion US dollars this year.

After their talks, the two leaders attended a ceremony witnessing the signing of a memorandum between the two governments on the establishment of cultural centres in both countries.

Prior to the talks, Wen hosted a grand ceremony in honour of Berlusconi, who is here for an official visit.

Berlusconi attended the sixth China-EU leaders' meeting which was held Thursday in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua

Border area development (Shan region)

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

Upstream the Thanlwin

When I asked my fellow staff of the Border Area Special Administration group (Homein) to accompany me on my visit to the Homein graveyard, they all refused.

When, I was transferred from the military to the civilian duties, I had to hand over all my military gear to the Tatmadaw. But my conviction, belief and discipline still firmly attached to my mind. A soldier needs to do anything after studying it from four different angles. For example, I had heard that U Moe Hein of SURA passed away at the border and that Sai Lake (Kalah) too died there. Then, a thought came into my mind — when and where they were buried? I had heard that U Moe Hein died at Panmaikson and was entombed at Peinlon. There was a two-storey red house in Homein, where Sai Lake once lived. I rented a motorcycle, went to the graveyard, and looked around the cemetery and there I found the tomb of Sai Lake. It was rather large. I was able to see and study the graveyard as I wished. But one thing I didn't know then was that the owner of the motorcycle I had rented was the niece of Sai Lake.

I was thinking about my friends of SSA peace group who had returned to the legal fold — U Moe Hein who died in Peinlon, Sai Lake, who died in Homein and U Naw Mein, U San Mai and U Kauk Tai, who were in the MTA. There, I came to remember the question of whether to break away or remain united among the SSA, the SURA and the BCP. The multi-coloured insurgency broke out due to the evil instigation of the colonialists. And the number of insurgent bands under various names increased in Kachin, Kayah, Pa-O and Shan regions because of the penetration and domination of the BCP in the areas and the plan No 7510 of the BCP central committee laid down in October 1975.

Another person came into my mind later. He was former chairman of the SSPP Sai Hla Aung who came back to the legal fold at Monai region on 20 July 1983. I wrote in one of my articles about a play — The truth of the Maw land. The play was about Sai Hla Aung.

I found some of the periods before 1973 interesting. During the period, the SSA was under the BCP domination. Because of the BCP, Homein broke away from SSA in 1969, and SURA came into existence. Two Palaung battalions broke away from SSA in 1968, and were active in the surrounding areas of Kyaukse. In the early 1965, SSIA and SNURF merged into SSA. I do not want to go back to the past much.

Strange little town

As Tangyan was just a small town, I often called it a palm-size town. For me, it was also a strange little town. I could inquire about Bo Maung, who once seized

the little town for a very short period, as his children and grandchildren were living there. I could also study about U Khun Sa's biography and history of the MTA at the town. The town could tell me about the Kuomintang intrusion, citing Lwehse mountain range as the witness. It also had connections with the history of the BCP and that of the SSA.

Although it had only four or five wards, it had all the characteristics of a town. There were monasteries, pagodas, schools, a hospital, a market, a park and government offices in the town. But there were no trunk lines and television. Most walked from one place to another as the town was not wide enough to travel in a car. I had found only three cars in the town. They were two Mazda Jeeps of the Tactical Operations Commander and CO and one Willys Jeep of Township Peace and Development Council Chairman. A cinema hall in the town was just a showcase. However, it was so wonderful that many people including myself found it joyful to live in the little town which did not have anything to speak of.

Memorable 7th mile

Till I arrived at Tangyan, there was only one battalion stationed in it. The officers who were assigned duties at the battalion during the period from the end of 1987 to early 1988 were Maj Soe Lwin, Maj Kyaw Hsan, Maj Thein Soe, Maj Htin Aung Myint, Maj Soe Hlaing, Ko Chit Oo, myself, and Aung Naing Oo. The then commanding officer of the battalion was Lt-Col Tin Aye. He is now the chairman of the Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council. The area the battalion had to control was wide, and some areas were linking with the places where battalions and units of the No 77 Light Infantry Division were stationed. Mostly we were encountering with BCP, SSA, MTA. We had already been engaged in a fire fight with the SSA when our columns entered Mongkai, Panketu and Tonlaw. Under the arrangement of the Military Command, the company under the command of Maj Thein Soe was reinforced with men and weapons to penetrate the enemy lines. Thus, Tangyan region became noisy with the sound of guns and bombs. "Tangyan becomes noisy only after Maj Thein Soe has arrived," said the Command Commander and Tactical Operation Commander. Sometimes, the Tatmadaw members do want to live in a quiet place. But there are times that they can eat and sleep well only when they have to fight with the enemy. During the time, the No 1 SSA brigade led by U Pan Pha was active in the Tangyan region.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 31 October 2003.

MRTV and IPRD offer Kathina robes

YANGON, 1 Nov — Under the patronage of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and deputy ministers, the first Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Myanma Radio and Television and the Information and Public Relations Department was held at NanU National

Youth Development Monastery in Mayangon Township this morning.

Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Dhamma-

saytha and offered Kathina robes and provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

After delivering a sermon by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Wunnisara, merits gained were shared.

The ceremony was also attended by Director-General

of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, Director-General of the IPRD U Chit Naing, Deputy Director-General of MRTV U Thein Aung, Deputy Director-General of the IPRD U Aung San, directors and deputy directors of the departments, staff families and guests. — MNA

Rehabilitation Medicine Conference opens

YANGON, 1 Nov — The opening of First Rehabilitation Medicine Conference of Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Myanmar Medical Association was held at the hall of MMA on Theinbyu Road this morning. President of MMA (Central) Prof Dr Myo Myint made an opening speech, followed by welcoming speech by President of the RMS Dr Than Toe.

At the conference, Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing, Head of Orthopaedic Department, Lecturer Dr Chit Soe of Sanpya General Hospital (Thingangyun) and Consultant of Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of Yangon General Hospital gave talks on "Perspective on Osteoporosis".

Symposium on "Neuropathic Pain" and "Symposium on Osteoarthritic Knee" will be read out at the conference which will continue tomorrow. — MNA



Joint Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyi Win attends the Environmental Conservation Meeting held in Weihai, Shangdong Province, the People's Republic of China on

15 October. — YCDC

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

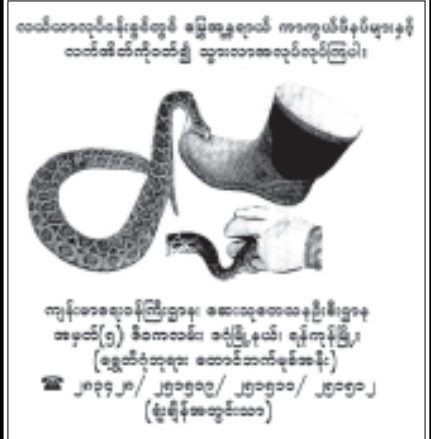
There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

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





Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the opening of Special Refresher Course No 20 for Basic Education Teachers at CICS (Upper Myanmar). — MNA

Only if today's entire human society constantly studies advancements and changes, can it brave future challenges Special Refresher Course No 20 for Basic Education Teachers opened

YANGON, 1 Nov — The opening of the Special Refresher Course No 20 for Basic Education Teachers of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) was held at Yadana Hall of the institute in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, this morning, with a speech by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the mayor of Mandalay, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, service personnel, the rector of the CICS (Upper Myanmar), the pro-rector, deans, faculty members and trainees.

In his speech, the Secretary-2 said that the purpose of constantly opening the refresher courses is for ensuring widely participation of the teachers with lofty spirit and a wide range of knowledge in the education promotion plans adopted by

the State.

At a time when there is a golden opportunity for teachers to attend the course conducted by the State with lofty aims, the trainees are to make a wide review on the prevailing situations and future of the State in order to realize the conditions of interrelation between the nation-building endeavours and education promotion plans, and to correctly value the role of the teachers.

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

Improvement in science and technology and electronic technology is now influencing the economic, education and health spheres of human society.

Today, conventional teaching methods are no longer effective in education sector, phase-by-phase measures have been successfully taken for promotion of the basic 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. At the same time, systematic measures are being

advancements and changes, can it brave the future challenges, he pointed out.

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 time, he added.

Besides, the government has been steadfastly realizing education promotion plans in order to emerge the education sector that is in harmony with present political, economic and social sectors of the State and to meet the international education level.

With regard to the progress made in the education sector, phase-by-phase measures have been successfully taken for promotion of the basic 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.

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 na-

tionalist 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.

Now, for the development of the nation, a great deal of buildings on economic, social and transport sectors have been constructed with own investments and technologies the length and breadth of the country. Indeed, it is the result of correct policies of the State and united cooperation of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Human resources play a key role in building up of a modern nation fully utilizing the already-constructed basic foundations. Only when there are a sufficient number of intellectuals and intelligentsia, will a modern nation be built, he remarked.

Now, all States and Divisions have indicated mass rallies to support the State's seven-point roadmap on building up a democracy flourishing nation as the en-

tire people's policies.

There is an interrelation among political, economic and social sectors. So, at a time when the State's future programmes are being implemented, peace and tranquillity are to have been restored and the nation must be economically strong. Moreover, in the process, it needs to produce more intellectuals and intelligentsia.

The education sector also plays an important role in implementing the State's future policies, and so the teachers will have to be involved in the affairs of the State.

In conclusion, the Secretary-2 called on the trainees to try hard in the lectures throughout the term of the course to be able to make a vast view on the aims and essence of the national education promotion plans and to participate in the tasks for building up a new nation.

Before the opening ceremony, Rector of the CICS (Upper Myanmar) Col Aung Hsan Win reported on matters related to conducting the courses at the institute, tasks for greening of the institute.

MNA

Nat Nwe, winner of National Literary Award

Article by Htay Kyi & Photo by Hline Moe (Shwe-in-tha)

The information crew of the *Kyemon* interviewed writer Nat Nwe, who won National Literary Award in the translation (fiction) category for his Myanmar translation category of "The Brothers Caramazov".

Kyemon: We would like you to tell us your feeling on winning the award and your opinion of today's literary world.

Nat Nwe: To put it simply, I am very happy to win the award. Novels are very scarce in today's world of literature. And so are translated novels. So, we must try. "The Brothers Caramazov", award-winning novel, is very long, and it is also a world classic. I wish our readers to lay their hands on the world classic novels. And it is the urge that made me to render it into Myanmar. I joined the literary world in 1950, and wrote

short stories and then novels. When it comes to literature, this is the first time that I was awarded. And I have written nearly 130 novels and translated some 30 novels.

Readers should read books worthwhile reading

and love the literature. Besides, publishers should also publish good and readable books as many as possible. To uplift the standard of literature is in fact a tripartite responsibility.

Translation: KTY
Kyemon: 30-10-2003



National
Literary
Award for
Translation
(fiction)

Winner Saya
Nat Nwe.

Photo:
Hlaing Moe
(Shwe Intha)



Kanbawza Open Golf Championship continues

YANGON, 1 Nov — The Kanbawza Open Golf Championship jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, continued for the fourth day at the Ayethaya Golf Course in Taunggyi today.

After the fourth day event, prize presentation was held in the evening. Commercial Director of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Mr Anthony Wong and U Myint Thuang of KM Golf Centre presented Yangon-Singapore return ticket and golf gears to Nyunt Win who scored hole-in-one in the championship.

Chairman of KBZ Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win presented prizes to daily best winners of the amateur golf-

ers division Yin Aung Latt of the first day event, Yin Aung Latt and Zaw Zin Win of the second day event, Myo Naing of the third day event and Aung Aung Kyaw of the fourth day event. Deputy Commander Col Win Myint of Eastern Command presented prizes to daily best winners of the professional golfers division Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) for the first day event, Aung Win (YCDC) for the second day event, Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) of the third day event and Ye Tun (Taunggyi) of the fourth day event.

President of MPGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presented prizes for amateur golfers division to first prize winner Yin Aung Latt with 299 strokes, second prize winner Aung Aung Kyaw with 301 and third prize winner Zaw Zin Win with 302.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint presented prizes for professional golfers division to Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West)(290), Aung Win (YCDC)(291), and Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West)(295) who stood first second and third in the division. KBZ Bank Ltd Chairman U Aung Ko Win presented the cash award to Zaw Zaw Latt who won the championship in the professional golfers division.

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 Co Ltd also sponsored the championship. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe offer eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends cash...

(from page 16)

Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, wives of members of the State Peace and Development Council, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the attorney-general, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, disciples and wellwishers.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Daw Mya Mya San, the prime minister and wellwishers presented offertories to Sayadaws.

On behalf of Ashin Subhana (Su Hsan Li), Layman Ko Han Lin presented K 10 million each for the fund of Nikaya Sarthinkyaung in Dagon Myothit (South) and the health of Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Myingyan Sayadaw, Sasanapala three-storey building of Koehsaungtaik Pakokkukyaungthit in Myingyan and for the fund of Koehsaungtaik and Ponnyathaha "soon" offering association to Com-

mander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Eight wellwishers presented K 10 million to Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko.

Ashin Subhana (Su Hsan Li) and Nun Su Che Rin presented K 5 million to Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa.

On behalf of Myingyan Sayadaw, the Prime Minister presented a reclining Buddha Image to Sayadaw Yang Wu Khone.

Ashin Subhana supplicated on donations. Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Silekhandabhivamsa delivered a sermon.

Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and wellwishers presented robes and medicines to members of the Sangha. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Prime Minister attends dinner ...

(from page 16)

Education, he said, is the sole and most important sector that can enhance the standard of the nation in the 21st century. The world is now facing with the rapid changes due to the development of technology. So efforts are being made to acquire highly-qualified human resources and to change Myanmar society into a learning society capable of facing and solving various kinds of changes and challenges.

He said education opportunities have been opened to enable Myanmar society to become an education-dominated society. The government reduced education limits and opened more schools, universities and colleges, and conducted under-graduate, post-graduate diploma, master degrees and doctorate degrees courses including MBA course. In the past, one could obtain such degree in a foreign country spending a

large amount of money. Now, one can get MBA degree in the country at ease and it is beneficial to both graduates and the state, he added.

The minister said the MBA course was first conducted in Yangon Institute of Economics in 1995. Everyone who is qualified can take the course. Beginning 2002-2003 academic year, evening MBA course was opened. Yangon Institute of Economics produced 323 MBA graduates including 57 from the present course.

In upper Myanmar, Monywa Institute of Economics opened MBA course in April 2000 and it produced 45 MBA graduates. The number of MBA graduates and economic management experts has increased day after day and it is seen that they work in government departments, local and foreign companies, banks and economic enterprises as

managers. Some run their own business, he said.

He said their efforts made at the various economic sectors contribute towards the stronger national economic life of the State. The government firmly believes that development of the nation relies on expertise of Myanmar citizens, efforts and efficiency in keeping with the international communities.

In conclusion, he urged the graduates to strive for national development making use of economic management for continued build-up of economic foundations and systematic development of national economic life.

Next, Rector of Yangon Institute of Economics U Kan Zaw spoke. On behalf of MBA graduates, Ma Su Nyan Lin spoke words of thanks. The guests enjoyed dinner together with the graduates.

MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo offers eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, offers eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presents robes and offertories to a Sayadaw at Five Nikaya Tri-pitika Sathintaik in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents reclining Buddha image to Sayadaw Yan Wu Khon at Five Nikaya Tri-pitika Sathintaik in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets with Tatmadawmen and local people in Rakhine State

YANGON, 1 NOV — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and party, inspected Lonethwe Shwewa paddy fields in Gandama Model Village set under the programme of Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, in Buthidaung Township, and met with local people in the basic education primary school on 29 October.

The chairman of Buthidaung Township Peace and Development Council reported on population and agricultural produce of the village and assistance rendered to the village by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged local people to make efforts in carrying out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented clothes for the villagers to a townseller. The commander presented exercise books and stationery for the school of the village to the headmistress. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected round the village and gave necessary instructions. He also inspected the development of Buthidaung and thriving paddy fields near the towns and along Buthidaung-Kyauktaw road by car.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin

Maung Than arrived at Ingyinmya Model Village set up under the programme of the Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and met with local people at the briefing hall. First, the chairman of Buthidaung Township Peace and Development Council reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on population and development tasks of the village and assistance rendered to the village by the Ministry for Progress of Bor-

der Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. Maungtaung District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Soe Htway and Col Aung Naing Tun of Buthidaung Station made supplementary reports.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions on raising of domestic fowls, growing of perennial crops, and sanitation tasks. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented

clothes for the village to a responsible official. The commander presented exercise books and stationery for the school of the village to a responsible official. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed round the village and gave instructions on undertaking sanitation tasks and growing shady trees. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Warkhoketaung Station and inspected thriving paddy fields of families of the local

battalions, livestock breeding farms, fish breeding ponds, and shady trees and wind-breaking trees. He met with Tatmadawmen and families of local battalions and units in the station and gave instructions on undertaking manageable livestock breeding and agriculture tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Buthidaung Station

and inspected thriving paddy fields, livestock breeding farms, fish breeding ponds, and shady trees and wind-breaking trees of the local battalions by car. At 2 pm, he met with Tatmadawmen and families of local battalions and units at the hall of the station and gave instructions on undertaking manageable livestock breeding and agriculture tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets Tatmadawmen and their families of Buthidaung Station. — MNA

Contract on rubber nursery project signed

YANGON, 1 NOV — The signing ceremony of the contract on project for establishment of rubber nursery, to be jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, was held at the meeting hall of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise (Head Office) yesterday morning.

Director-General U Tin Htut Oo of the Agricultural Planning Department and

Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Department of the PRC

Mr Qu Sixi signed the contract and exchanged the documents. — MNA

Thai delegation leaves for home

YANGON, 1 NOV — Thai delegation which attended the Myanmar Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2003 led by Minister of Commerce of Thailand Dr Adisai Bod Haramik left here by air this morning.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Com-

merce Brig-Gen Pyi Son, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of the Border Trade Department U Nay Win, and officials of the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading and the Embassy of Thailand.

MNA

Dinner to mark Myanma Fishery and Livestock Fair-2003

YANGON, 1 NOV — A dinner to mark the holding of Myanma Fishery and livestock Fair-2003 was held at Karaweik Palace in Kandawgyi Lake here yesterday evening.

It was attended by Patrons of the central committee for holding the fair Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries

Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, central committee members, work committee members, presidents of the federations and officials of the local and foreign companies which participated in the fair. — MNA

Myanmar Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2003 continues

YANGON, 1 NOV — Myanmar Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2003 continued for the second day at Yangon Trade Centre here today.

In the fair, 133 local and foreign companies, including 20 companies from Thailand, six companies from PRC, eight companies from Singapore, two companies from the Republic of Korea and one company from Malaysia, are participating with 229 booths of fisheries and livestock related products

such as feedstuff, veterinary medicines, live fish and shrimp, frozen fish, prawn and crab, locally produced machinery for fishing, cold storage facilities, motors, pumps and fishing nets.

Those who are interested in livestock and fisheries can

take part in the seminar to be held on the third floor of the building. Sale contracts were also signed between 14 booths and foreign importers. The trade fair will be kept open from 9 am to 5 pm till 4 November.

MNA

Earthquake Report

YANGON, 1 NOV — An earthquake of slight intensity (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicentre about (172) miles south of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (17) hours (37) minutes (12) seconds Myanmar Standard Time on 31st October 2003. — MNA



Visitors at Myanmar Fisheries and Livestock Fair-2003. — MNA

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



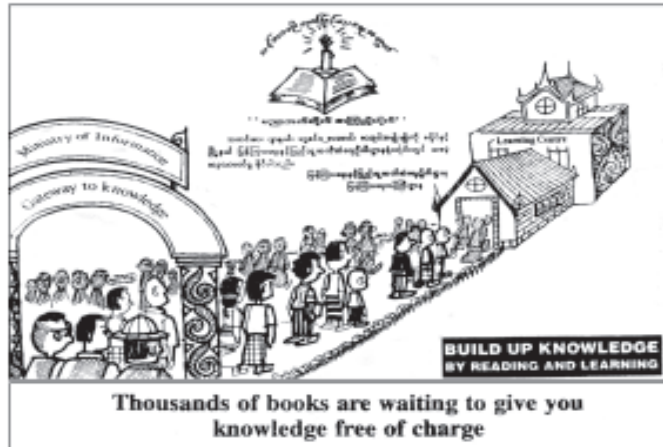
To enable the students of Maubin region in Ayeyawady Division to pursue the higher education with peace of mind, the Maubin University was established. The photo shows the main building of Maubin University which was opened on 18 July 2003.— PHOTO: MNA



Thanks to the strenuous efforts of the government, new universities and colleges have emerged throughout the country. The photo shows the magnificent main building of Mandalay Yadanabon University which was opened on 7 July 2003 in Mandalay. — PHOTO: MNA



Panglong University which was opened on 11 February 2003 is a symbol of endeavours made by the State Peace and Development Council for equitable development of all regions in the nation and for national unity.— PHOTO: MNA



NEWS OF THE WORLD

China has no plans to change the current retirement age

BEIJING, 1 Nov— Although some representatives have raised bills to change the different retirement ages for men and women, China's top legislature has no plans to make legislation regarding this issue, say sources with China's National People's Congress (NPC).

The Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee of the tenth NPC decided not to address the legislation regarding this issue, said its chairman He Chunlin, who was at the fifth meeting of the tenth NPC Standing Committee to elaborate the proposal to top legislators.

In the first session of the tenth NPC this March, more than 100 representatives raised four proposals calling for the same retirement ages for men and women.

According to current government rules, professional women working for government institutions and companies are required to retire at 55 while men retire at 60, and female blue-collar workers quit work at 50 while men retire at 55.

The difference in retirement age some-

times stops women from enjoying equal rights, especially for women with high education working in government institutions. With the development of Chinese society, more women have developed their own careers and do not want to retire earlier than men.

But there are still many women earning low wages in backward areas who are reluctant to retire at the same age as men, because they can earn almost as much after retirement.

Because all walks of society in different areas have different ideas on retirement ages, the Committee thought it was not time to make legislation to change the current policy, said He.

MNA/Xinhua

China vows to improve governmental role in macro economy

BEIJING, 1 Nov— A senior Chinese official vowed Thursday that China would speed up improving the government's role in the country's macro economy.

Liu He, deputy director of the financial administrative office of the Communist Party of China, made the remark when addressing an international financial forum here. Liu said that the improvement would focus on breaking the industrial monopoly, reducing administrative intervention and continuing to improve the social management and public service system.

Liu said the move is an important and urgent task for China to deepen the current economic structure reform, stressing that the continuous

optimization of governmental management would be conducive to improving the quality and efficiency of the country's market-oriented economy.

Safeguarding a good market order is one of the most important roles for a government to play, Liu said, revealing that the sectors of telecommunication, electricity, and civil air service would be the key sectors within which China was to break the industrial monopoly.

Liu also stressed that China would make efforts

to improve the country's social management and public service system, creating job opportunities for the abundant labourers in the country's vast rural area and urban families who struggle with financial difficulties.

As a very important mission to achieve sustainable development, the Chinese Government would work hard to further the reform of the country's educational system, aiming to transfer the country's advantage of population into human resources, Liu added.

MNA/Xinhua

China signs tourism MoU with 12 nations

BEIJING, 1 Nov— China and 12 nations signed the preliminary draft of a memorandum of understanding on tourism here Thursday.

The signing countries were Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Italy, Sweden and Finland.

Officials with the China National Tourism Administration pointed out that the MoU will pave the way for Chinese tour groups to visit Europe. So far, China has signed formal agreements on tourism with 27 nations. — MNA/Xinhua

HK jet makes emergency landing in Japan

HONG KONG, 1 Nov— A Cathay Pacific airliner made an emergency landing at a Japanese airport Thursday morning after pilots had a burning smell near the engine room, a spokeswoman of Cathay Pacific told Xinhua.

All of the 208 passengers and crew members on board were safe and sound after the plane landed safely, said Maria Yu, communication manager of Cathay Pacific, in a telephone interview with Xinhua.

She said that the CX501 flight bound for Hong Kong made the emergency landing at Nagoya Airport, after it took off from Tokyo's International Airport at 10:47 a.m. Thursday. Yu said the passengers will continue their trip to Hong Kong Thursday night by another airliner of the Cathay Pacific. Nagoya Airport is about 270 kilometres west of Tokyo. — MNA/Xinhua

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MARRIAGE

Parents of both families
are pleased to announce the marriage of

Kyi Mon Khaing

BS (Computer Science), C.L.U (USA)

Business Development Manager

United Business & Computing Co., Ltd.

elder daughter of

U Win Khaing (United Engineering Co., Ltd.) & Daw Hla Hla Mu

to

Yee Latt Aye

BA Business Economics (Hons), U.C.L.A (USA)

CPA Candidate (USA)

Business Development Manager

United Engineering Co., Ltd.

youngest son of

U Than Tun Aye (TKK Agency (Yangon) Co., Ltd.) & Daw Nang Pinn

on 1st November 2003 (Saturday)

at SEDONA HOTEL, Yangon

China, EU establish trade policy dialogue mechanism

BEIJING, 1 Nov— China and the European Union agreed to establish a trade policy dialogue mechanism here Thursday.

At the 19th meeting of the China-Europe Joint Committee of Economy and Trade, Wei Jianguo, Vice-Minister of Commerce, said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to trade cooperation with the European Union and the policy documents that the two sides issued recently have shown the direction of development. Wei said China is willing to work with the EU to realize at an early day the goal "to become each other's largest trade and investment partner".

To realize the goal, Wei said China has set specific aims, for bilateral trade volume to reach 150 billion US dollars by 2007, 200 billion US dollars by 2013 and 280 billion US dollars by 2020.

Trade Commissioner of the EU Commission, Pascal Lamy, said he hopes the two sides maintain frequent dialogue and

strengthen coordination by the trade policy dialogue mechanism.

As to whether to grant China "complete market economy status", Lamy said the EU is working on it and will decide no later than the first half of 2004.

After the meeting, the two sides signed a document which starts a dialogue mechanism on intellectual property.

According to statistics from the Chinese General Administration of Customs, bilateral trade volume in 2002 was 86.76 billion US dollars and that of the first nine months was 89.06 billion US dollars, up 41.5 per cent year-on-year.

China and the EU became each other's third largest trade partners. The EU is also the fourth largest foreign direct investment source and the largest technology import source for China. — MNA/Xinhua

East Asia Mayors' Forum to be held in December

BEIJING, 1 Nov— With the purpose of seeking common development and prosperity in east Asia through better friendship and cooperation, the first East Asia Mayors' Forum will be held from December 1 to 5 in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

With the theme of "East Asia cities — cooperation and development", the forum will offer a platform for participants to discuss how East Asian cities will lead

the way in promoting cooperation and development in East Asia, and how the governments of East Asian cities help enterprises and residents conduct direct ex-

changes.

It will also facilitate cooperation between East Asian cities in the fields of economy, trade, tourism, information technology, culture and public health.

Participants in the forum will also discuss how East Asian cities conduct exchanges and cooperation in urban management and construction, development of human resources and sustainable development, Lei Xiaoming, deputy director of the preparatory committee of the forum, said at a Press conference here Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

မဟာမင်းကြီး ခေတ်စီးပွားပြီးတိုးတက်လာသော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

Mahathir hands over power to Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Nov—Outgoing Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Friday afternoon officially handed over the leadership of the Federal Government to new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The historic transfer of power ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's Office on the fifth floor of the green-domed Prime Minister's Department building in Putrajaya which is the seat of the Federal Government.

Abdullah, who will be 64 next month, was earlier sworn-in as the fifth Prime Minister of Malaysia before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Supreme Head of State) Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail at the State Palace in Kuala Lumpur.

At the ceremony, Mahathir handed over the desk file to signify the transfer of responsibilities of the high office to Abdullah in the presence of Chief Secretary to the Government Samsudin Osman.

After the ceremony, Abdullah had a closed-door meet-

ing with Mahathir.

Outside, Cabinet ministers, senior government officials and scores of ministry staff and hundreds of Putrajaya residents waited to bid farewell to Mahathir.

Abdullah, who was born on November 26, 1939, in Kepala Betas, northern state of Penang, was appointed Deputy Prime Minister by Mahathir on January 8, 1999, which was a Friday, like yesterday, also in the month of Ramadan.

Mahathir then walked over to the lobby where he clocked out, witnessed by staff of the Prime Minister's Department.

The Prime Minister then walked with Mahathir and his wife Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali to their car. Mahathir spent about 20 minutes shaking hands with the officers and staff as he walked towards his car.—MNA/Xinhua



Mahathir Mohamad, left, hands over the Prime Minister's personal files to his successor, new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 31 October, 2003. Abdullah on Friday succeeded Mahathir as Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister.

INTERNET

Overseas investors eye China's urban construction

BEIJING, 1 Nov — The 2003 China Mayors and Worldwide CEOs Summit was held in Beijing Friday, which reveals renewed enthusiasm for investing in China's urban construction.

More than 10 Chinese mayors exchanged ideas on urban development with chief executives of transnational companies, including Pricewaterhouse Coopers, FedEx, Walt Disney, ITT Industries, Swatch AG, Nestle, Allianz, OBI, Veolia Environment, and Alcatel.

Albert Ng, managing partner of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, China, said the problem was not whether foreign companies should enter the Chinese market, but how they should win market share through competition.

China has been the world's most attractive country for investors from overseas, and its rapid urban de-

velopment offered more business opportunities, said Albert Ng. He was aware that some cities in western China were also developing the logistics, which would help promote urban development.

Many Chinese cities in the mid-west region offered good opportunities, drawing more overseas companies to increase investment and participate in urban construction, he acknowledged.

Outside the summit site, the exhibition stand of the Wuhan China 21 Century Bridge Plan Foundation attracted a large number of representatives.

Tan Gangcun, chairwoman of the foundation,

said it planned to build a new bridge in Wuhan across the Yangtze River. Though the project plan was still under consideration, a number of international financial agencies had voiced a desire to participate.

"It's really a surprise that so many people have a keen interest in the bridge," Tan said.

Facing a new round of investment, Chinese cities are focusing on improving the investment environment. Zhao Gongqing, vice-mayor of Chongqing, said the city had launched a series of environmental protection projects to further improve the urban environment for sustained development.—MNA/Xinhua

Int'l Piano Competition opens in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 1 Nov— The Second Shanghai International Piano Competition opened Friday night in the Shanghai Grand Theatre. The 11-day event has attracted 40 piano players from 19 countries. The final to be held on November 10 and 11 will decide the champion, who will be awarded with a prize of 20,000 US dollars.

The 10 judges are from France, Germany, Italy, the United States, South Korea, Spain, Finland and China. Yang Liqing, director of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, was elected chairman of the judge committee.

The competition was first held in December of 2001 and Grynyuk Alexe from Ukraine won the championship.

MNA/Xinhua

New Yorker drops mobile in train toilet, jams arm

NEW YORK, 1 Nov— Cell phone users have been known to complain about poor service, but one New York man's mobile literary went down the toilet.

The man was on a suburban train from Grand Central Station on Wednesday night when he went to the bathroom to make a phone call, dropped the phone into the toilet bowl and then his hand and arm became stuck trying to retrieve it, officials said.

Metro-North Railroad staff could not help the man, so they stopped the train and called police officers and firefighters to extricate him, a process that took 90 minutes using "jaws of life" rescue equipment.

"The toilets are made of aluminum so I imagine he was down on hands and knees with his shirt rolled up and hand and arm down inside, trying to flush out his cell phone," said Jim Cameron of the Connecticut Metro-North commuter council.

He said that because of the design of the train toilet, the mobile probably ended up in a chemical holding tank.

A spokesman for the railroad that serves the northern suburbs of New York and Connecticut identified the man as Edwin Gallard, 41, of New York, who suffered a minor injury to his arm as firefighters cut the toilet apart.

The track was closed and thousands of commuters were delayed during the evening rush hour.

The phone has not yet been recovered.

MNA/Reuters

EU president visits "Xinhua" news agency

BEIJING, 1 Nov— It is very important for the European Union (EU) and China to "stick together" for the development of world economy and world peace, said the visiting president of the EU Commission, Romano Prodi, here Friday.

Prodi spoke during the visit to China's state news agency, Xinhua news agency.

China was one of the EU's key strategic partners, Prodi said, adding that China had attracted world attention with the successful launch of its manned Shenzhou-5

spacecraft and the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Prodi said Xinhua, as China's state news agency, played a "more and more important" role in reporting domestic and international affairs.

Prodi was well-in-

formed about the operation of Xinhua internal and overseas branches after visiting major departments.

Deeply impressed by the high working efficiency at Xinhua, Prodi said "Xinhua is not only a Chinese agency, but a world news agency."

MNA/Xinhua

Thai-Laotian provincial governors meet on border security

BANGKOK, 1 Nov— Provincial governors from provinces straddling the Thai and Laotian border met in the Laotian capital Vientiane on Friday to hold talks on maintenance of security in their border, the Thai News Agency reported.

Thai Interior Minister Wan Muhammad Noor Matha

was quoted as saying that the talks would be focused on border security, matter of holding dual nationality, narcotics and the facilitation of transportation between the two countries.

He said that officials from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand had discussed drugs suppression measures with their Laotian counterparts and that the talks resulted in enhanced

cooperation in drugs control between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Thai minister warned of a growing problem of some people from countries, including North Korea and Bangladesh, illegally entering Thailand via Laos using fake passports. Thailand and Laos will work to draw up effective measures to prevent the illegal inflow.

MNA/Xinhua

World's oldest person dies at 116 in Japan

Tokyo, 1 Nov— The world's oldest person, Kamato Hongo, died in Japan Friday at the age of 116.

Hongo died in a hospital in the southern Kagoshima City of the Kagoshima Prefecture. She was born in 1887 and just celebrated her 116 birthday in September.

Hongo was known for her routine of sleeping for two consecutive days and then staying awake for the next two days.

Shochu, a Japanese distilled for which Kagoshima Prefecture is famous, and brown sugar were Hongo's favourites. She attributed her longevity to working in sugar cane fields.

With Hongo's death, Mitoyo Kawate, 114, of the city of Hiroshima, became the oldest person in Japan, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The Japanese Government statistics showed, by the end of last year, the average lifespan for Japanese female was 85.23 years old, and for male, 78.32 years old. The number of Japanese aged 65 or older has reached a record-high 24.31 million in September, or roughly one out of every five citizens.—MNA/Xinhua

Donate blood

SPORTS

Marseille appeal against FIFA ruling on Barthez

MARSEILLE (France), 1 Nov — Olympique Marseille have appealed against FIFA's refusal to allow the loan of French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez from Manchester United, the club said on its website on Friday. FIFA disallowed the much-publicized move after deciding they could not make an exception by allowing a player to move outside the transfer window which reopens in January.

"Olympique Marseille have decided to appeal to FIFA's executive committee after the decision to reject the qualification of Fabien Barthez by the players committee revealed by the media on Friday", Marseille said in a statement. The appeal has been handed to the French Soccer Federation (FFF) who will in turn pass it over to FIFA.

Marseille said that as a result, Barthez, who has not played a match for United this season, would remain in Marseille and train with the squad pending a decision on the appeal.

"After considering returning to England, Fabien Barthez, in full agreement with Manchester United and Olympique Marseille, will continue to train with the Marseille squad until a decision is made on the appeal," Marseille said. Marseille had asked permission to sign Barthez because their second-choice goalkeeper Cedric Carasso injured his knee in a charity match earlier this month and will be out for the rest of the season. — MNA/Reuters



Galatasaray's Hasan Sas, left, is fouled by Emre Asik of Besiktas during their soccer Turkish Super League derby match in Istanbul, Turkey, on 31 October, 2003. The teams tied 0-0.—INTERNET



Russian skaters Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin perform during the Pairs Long programme at Skate Canada in Mississauga, Ontario, on 31 October, 2003. The team won the competition ahead of Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao of China, and Dorota Zagorska and Mariusz Siudek of Poland.—INTERNET

Shotputters may tread same ground as ancient Olympians

ATHENS, 1 Nov—Athens Olympics organizers said on Friday they not only hoped to hold the shotput event in the birthplace of the Olympics but also in the same stadium where athletes first competed in 776 BC.

"We are looking into the added value of these Games," Culture Minister Evangelos Venizelos, the government's top Olympics official said. "The proposal is for the shotput event to be staged inside the ancient stadium of Olympia."

Officials have been thrashing out the fine details of moving the event out of the capital and into the sleepy southwestern town for some time now before presenting the plan to the International Olympic Committee for rubber-stamping.

"There will be no addition to this stadium, its archaeological value will be respected," he told reporters. He said the nearby grounds of the International Olympic Academy will be the athletes' base during the competition at a site where the games were first held.

"The conditions of the event will be almost the same with those of the ancient sport," Venizelos said.

Athens Games organizers will consult the International Amateur Athletics Federation in Monte Carlo next week before submitting their plan to the IOC.

If the move is sanctioned, it will be the only event — apart from soccer which is spread throughout the country — to take place outside of Athens.

When the Greek capital was awarded the Games, a main condition was that all events take place within the capital city.

Nestled among lush olive groves and Cypress trees, Olympia, about a three hours' drive from Athens, nowadays is a far cry from the bustling ancient Greek sports capital which was the site of the first Games.

The sleepy town, with its spectacular ancient Olympic stadium, track and temples, might have expected a starring role in the proceedings.

But no such role had been offered until now, angering Olympians.

"There is nothing happening in Olympia ahead of or during the 2004 Olympics," Olympia mayor Yannis Skoularikis told Reuters earlier this year. — MNA/Reuters

Wenger says Critics want to hang Arsenal

LONDON, 1 Nov— Even if Arsenal's players were hanged in London's Hyde Park it would not be enough for some of the club's critics, manager Arsene Wenger said on Friday.

Arsenal were fined 175,000 pounds and had four players banned for a total of

nine games on Thursday following the ugly scenes in their 0-0 draw at Manchester United on September 21.

Wenger feels the punishment was severe but told reporters: "I am sure that there are also many people who are not happy because they feel we should have been punished more, but I don't think it could have been much worse."

"But even if they hang us, some people will want us hanged twice and at Hyde Park in front of the whole country."

Arsenal's Lauren was suspended for four games and fellow defender Martin Keown for three. Midfielders Patrick Vieira and Ray Parlour were banned for one game. The four, together with defender Ashley Cole, were also fined a combined total of 100,000 pounds.

"I accept that we did not behave in the way we would like for five seconds at Old Trafford, but it really was only for five seconds and I am proud to be the manager of these players," Wenger told reporters.

"We have been punished and now we want to try and leave it behind us and concentrate on winning games."

Arsenal are now considering whether to appeal, although Wenger hinted that such a move was unlikely. "I have a problem with both the fines and the suspensions and we are considering our right of appeal," Wenger said.

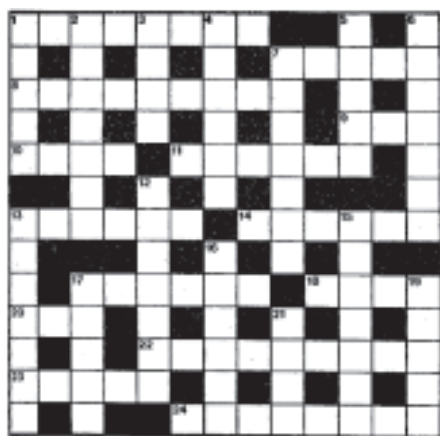
"However, we have to think about the negatives because if we appeal then people will still be talking about this and we want to try and put it behind us."

"Also, we don't know if the punishment will be decreased or increased on appeal. This has been a distraction and if players are not concentrated on the game then it can be a big handicap."

None of the suspensions come into force until November 17, although Vieira and Keown are injured and will miss Saturday's trip to Leeds.— MNA/Reuters



Amelie Mauresmo of France returns to Lisa Raymond of the United States during the quarterfinals at the Advanta Championships, on 31 October, 2003, in Villanova, Pa. Mauresmo won, 6-3, 6-3.—INTERNET



ACROSS

- 1 Thin dagger
- 7 Cures
- 8 Sweet-brier
- 9 Age
- 10 Unrestricted
- 11 Afraid
- 13 Pamper
- 14 Gaming-house
- 17 Shell-money
- 18 Second-hand
- 20 Untruth
- 22 Homesickness
- 23 Nanny
- 24 Derange

DOWN

- 1 Ledge
- 2 Disease
- 3 Sea-eagle
- 4 Move spasmodically
- 5 Doomed
- 6 Spanish grass
- 7 Gossip
- 12 Relevant
- 13 Vocation
- 15 Mental penetration
- 16 City in Arizona
- 17 Very tired
- 19 Male duck
- 21 Healthy

Beckham appoints Watford man his new personal manager

LONDON, 1 Nov— David Beckham has hired Watford's director of football as his new personal manager, the English First Division club's website said on Friday.

Terry Byrne will leave his current post at Vicarage Road in December and join the Real Madrid and England midfielder in Spain.

"I am excited about the new project that

has come about and I believe it is an offer that was impossible to refuse," Byrne told Watford's official website.

Byrne became a close friend of the England captain while he was working as a physiotherapist for the national team under Glenn Hoddle during the 1998 World Cup.

MNA/Reuters

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



Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. — MNA

Curriculum Vitae of Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of Republic of India

YANGON, 1 Nov _ At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-President of the Republic of India is going to pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar soon. The following is the curriculum vitae of Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India.

Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India is a farmer and agriculturist by profession. He was born on 23 October 1923 in Khachariawas village, Sikar District, Rajasthan State.

He became a member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 1952, and was elected as Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 1977. After serving three terms as Chief Minister of Rajasthan, he served as Leader of the Opposition in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from January 1999 to August 2002. On 19 August 2002, he became the Vice-President of India and the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

While serving as Chief Minister of the State of Rajasthan in 1977, Mr Shekhawat launched several landmark programmes that were focused on poverty alleviation. The successful implementation of his poverty alleviation programmes were recognized in India and abroad. The *Antyodaya* scheme, poverty alleviation programmes aimed at alleviating the standards of the poorest of the poor was redesignated as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRPD) in the entire country.

Mr Shekhawat wholeheartedly supported all agrarian reform movements and pressed for early and effective land reforms.

Mr Shekhawat steered successfully the three coalition governments headed by him in the State of Rajasthan. As the Vice-President of the Republic and Chairman of the Council of States, Mr Shekhawat is keen to evolve political consensus to address the core concerns facing the nation.

He is married to Mrs Suraj Kanwar and has one daughter. — MNA



Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, presents robes and offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends donation ceremony of Theravada Chinese monk Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Ashin Subhana (Su Hsan Li) of North Minsi Missionary Monastery in Maesai

YANGON, 1 Nov — Theravada Chinese monk Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Ashin Subhana (Su Hsan Li) of North Minsi Missionary Monastery in Maesai in Thailand and disciples donated over K 45 million and "soon" and robes to 500 members of

the Sangha at Pylonchantha Maha Theindawgyi of Five Nikayas Pitakathonpon Sarhintaik in Dagon Myothit (South) this afternoon.

It was attended by Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha

Saddhamajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (See page 9)

Prime Minister attends dinner to mark conclusion of Master of Business Administration (MBA) Course No 7

YANGON, 1 Nov — A dinner to mark the conclusion of Master of Business Administration (MBA) Course No 7 of Yangon Institute of Economics was held at Dusit Inya Lake Resort this evening, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Min-

ister General Khin Nyunt, Vice-Chairmen of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint

Swe, the ministers, the auditor-general, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, rectors, professors, MBA degree holders and guests.

Minister for Education U

Than Aung delivered a speech. He said scholars have accepted that the 21st century is knowledge age. Education that inspire intelligence is the most important aspect, meaning the whole future social relations centred on education, he said.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed by MBA graduates at the dinner to mark the conclusion of Master of Business Administration (MBA) Course No 7. — MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives
For economic
development of
Rakhine State
Page 2

Foreign News Pages

3,4,5,6,12,13,14

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24,047