

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 202

11th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1365 ME

Tuesday, 4 November, 2003

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

YANGON, 3 Nov — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe received visiting Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at diplomatic hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building this morning.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to the Republic of India U Kyi Thein, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet from Myanmar and Deputy Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Digvijay Singh, Member of Parliament (RS) Mr Anil Kumar, Member of Parliament (RS) Mr BJ Panda, Foreign Secretary Mr K Sibal, Secretary to the Vice-President Mr Anil Kumar and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia from India.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe greets Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw. — MNA

Development of performing arts to effect all-round interests secular and ecclesiastical in Myanmar also shows clearly an utmost development of economic and social progress Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers address at prize-presentation of 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 3 Nov — The following is a translation of the address delivered by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the prize-presentation of 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions today:

To all personages of State responsibilities, departmental heads, diplomats, special guests, artistes on the judges committees, and artistes in the competitions, attending this ceremony of prize distribution of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, I would like to extend my greetings with the best wishes: May you be ones capable of safeguarding and upgrading to still greater grandeur and splendour the traditional cultural performing arts that reflect ones' national pride and integrity of ones' nationality and nation.

Once again with all grandeur, the nation has witnessed conclusion of a national-level traditional cultural performing arts competitions of Myanmar with the participation of over 300 maestro's of artistes and about 2500 participating artistes the length and breadth of the country, under the

sponsorship of the State.

The competitions have taken only 18 days but the meaning of the national importance was so firm and serious that even within such a short duration all that had taken place had enabled every Myanmar national to take pride in the fact that things have vividly illustrated the real Myanmar way, Myanmar style, and Myanmar qualities that include the essence of Myanmar culture, the essence of Myanmar performing arts, Myanmar traditions based on sense of justice and fairness, high moral character, righteousness and consideration for others, and a high level of philosophical thoughts in executive, judicial and legislative affairs, all of which had developed in years countable by the thousand within Myanmar nation, nationality and society.

In fact, such a high level of national culture and prolif-

eration of its performing arts are signs that reflect positive development of social and economic bases of that society, free of social inequities and negative elements and amid peace and prosperity.

Especially the development of performing arts to effect all-round interests secular and ecclesiastical in Myanmar also shows clearly an utmost development of economic and social progress but also utmost prosperity of its religious life in the country. So, it has become very clear that it is necessary to strive for preservation and promotion of national culture in endeavouring for development of the Union of Myanmar as a modern developed State, as may be seen in a reciprocal point of view.

(See page 7)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 4 November, 2003

Goodwill visit of Indian Vice-President, a shot in the arm for Myanmar-India bilateral relations

The Union of Myanmar constantly practises an active and independent foreign policy based on equality, justice, peace and development and therefore has friendly relationships with all the members in the family of nations. And in dealing with her neighbours, she has always stuck to the five principles of peaceful coexistence — Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, Non-aggression, Non-interference in one another's affairs, Equality and mutual benefit and Peaceful coexistence.

The leaders of the Union of Myanmar and her neighbours often exchange visits with an object of strengthening friendship and economic cooperation and their reciprocal visits not only contribute to friendship and cooperation between their nations but also to the regional peace, stability and development.

At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a good-will delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat is currently on a State visit to the Union of Myanmar.

On 2 November, 2003, the Myanmar-India Agreement on Visa Exemption for Official and Diplomatic Passports and the MoU between the Ministry of Education of the Government of Myanmar and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India were signed and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat graced the signing ceremony.

At the 9th ASEAN Summit Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia in October, 2003, the ASEAN-India summit meeting was also held and the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed.

The Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India have enjoyed a traditionally good friendship because their historical and cultural backgrounds are akin to one another. Therefore, we strongly believe that the current visit of Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat will further strengthen the bilateral relations, friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and India.

Grandchildren of Indian Vice-President visit Yangon Zoological Gardens, National Museum

YANGON, 3 NOV — Ms Mumal Rajvi, Mstr Vikramaditya Singh Rajvi and Mstr Abhimanyu Singh Rajvi, grandchildren of Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat who was here at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, this morning visited Yangon Zoological Garden and National Museum here.

At the Zoological Gardens, Director-General of the Forest Department U Shwe Kyaw and officials welcomed them. At the briefing hall, an official explained about the Zoological Gardens to them.

Afterwards, the Indian guests visited the National Museum where they were welcomed by Director-General of the Department of the Cultural Institute U Myint Thein Swe and Director of the National Museum Daw Nu Mra Zan. The guests signed in the visitors' book and left there at 11 am. — MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 3 NOV — The goodwill delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who arrived here on a goodwill visit at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

The visiting Vice-President and party, accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India U Kyi Thein, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and officials, at Shwedagon Pagoda at 9 am.

They were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The visiting Vice-President and party viewed

bell donated by King Thawawady and original umbrella donated by King Mindon, and had a documentary photo taken there.

Next, the visiting Vice-President and party offered flowers, light and scented sticks to Kakusandha Buddha Image kept in the prayer hall at the eastern archway of the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book.

Afterwards, the visiting Vice-President presented cash for the pagoda and coloured glass to be installed at the northern prayer hall to members of PBT. Members of PBT presented picture of Shwedagon Pagoda and a book (in English) on Htidaw-hoisting ceremony of the pagoda the visiting Vice-President as gifts.

Next, the Vice-Presi-

dent and party paid homage to the Buddha Image kept at the South-East corner of the pagoda and the replica pagoda of Shwedagon.

After that, the visiting Vice-President and party paid homage to Jade Buddha Image kept at the prayer hall of Punñakusala Bahukara Association and Shwedagon Pagoda and left there at 9.45 am. — MNA



The visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat visits Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

MIBC holds a reception in honour of Indian Vice-President and party

YANGON, 3 NOV — Myanmar India Business Club held a reception in honour of the visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel here

at 6.30 pm today.

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Member of the Civil

Service Selection and Training Team U Aung Myint, Adviser of the State Peace and Development Council Office U Arnt Maung and departmental heads, U Kyi Thein, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India, In-

dian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, president and members of MIBC and invited guests.

First, on behalf of MIBC president, Mr Rajul Goenka extended greetings.

Next, Indian Ambassador introduced the Vice-President to the members of the club.

Afterwards, the Indian Vice-President made an address. Next, Executive of MIBC Mr C Murali gave words of thanks. Next, MIBC President U Shwe presented gifts to the Vice-President and Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Digvijay Singh. — MNA



Visiting Indian Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat makes a speech at the reception of MIBC. — MNA

Minister inspects information tasks

YANGON, 3 NOV — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Information and Public Relations Department in Sagaing on 31 October.

The minister met with township officers of IPRDs, responsible officials of TV

retransmission stations and officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise in Sagaing Division, and gave instructions on taking necessary measures for delivery of newspapers in villages, opening of mobile libraries, documentary film shows, and

uninterrupted transmission of TV retransmission stations.

In the afternoon, the minister arrived at the district office of IPRD in Monywa. Together with Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the min-

ister attended the work co-ordination meeting for organizing the respect paying ceremony to teachers and prize-presentation of outstanding students of Nos 1, 2, and 3 Basic Education High Schools in Monywa.

Subcommittees for holding the ceremony, teachers and old students discussed the arrangements for the ceremony and requirements. The commander and minister fulfilled the requirements.

The minister, next, arrived at the construction project of Upper Myanmar Press of the ministry in Mandalay this morning. Responsible officials reported to the minister on completion of buildings. The minister inspected round the construction site and gave instructions. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye addresses the coordination meeting for holding respect-paying to teachers and presenting of prizes to outstanding students. — MNA

Guerillas' attacks in Iraq intensifying

BAGHDAD, 3 Nov—“As we fight this low-intensity conflict,” the American general said, “there will be ... more tragedies in the future.” Hours later, in the flash of a guerilla missile, tragedy struck again and the intensity of this American conflict moved up a notch.

The big, lumbering Chinook helicopter that crashed in flames Sunday in the Euphrates River farm country west of here took with it not just the lives of 15 US soldiers, but also any hopes anyone may have harboured that the war in Iraq would end anytime soon.

After six months, the anti-US resistance is smarter, more active, more effective. The American command says it sees growing signs of coordinated planning. Signs of its growing boldness are unmistakable.

In little more than a week, in an arc stretching through the guerrilla belt from north of Baghdad to the west, the insurgents have stunned the US occupation army with one blow after another.

On 25 Oct, they brought down a helicopter for the first time in four months, a Black Hawk of the 4th Infantry Division felled by ground fire at Tikrit, hometown of the former president Saddam Hussein. At sunrise the next day, they battered the occupation's headquarters hotel in Bag-

dad with a volley of rockets — fired practically from its doorstep — forcing out hundreds of US staff members.

Two days later, last Tuesday, an Abrams tank, 68-ton symbol of US Army might, was destroyed for the first time during the six-month-old occupation, blown off the road by an insurgent land mine or makeshift bomb north of Baghdad.

Then, on Sunday, a guerilla gunner — apparently armed with a shoulder-fired, heat-seeking missile and positioned in a date-palm grove — shot the Chinook out the skies, the biggest US military target yet.

The intensity is seen not just in the targets, but in the numbers.

The average number of attacks, around 12 a day in midsummer, reached 33 a day by late October. In seven weeks of war in March and April, 114 Americans were killed in combat. But even more — some 140 US military personnel — have been killed in action since President Bush declared “major combat” ended on 1 May. —Internet



US Army soldiers patrol with M1 Abrams tanks Baghdad's western end of Abu Ghraib, after US troops clashed with Iraqis for the second time in three days.

INTERNET

ElBaradei says too soon to say if Iran met UN demands

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Nov—Chief UN nuclear watchdog Mohamed ElBaradei said on Friday it would take him at least two weeks to determine whether Iran had complied with his demand to prove it had no nuclear weapons programme.

“Sometime towards the end of the second week of November, I will be issuing a report to the (International Atomic Energy Agency) Board of Governors with the results at that time of this verification process,” he said.

“I don't think we will be able to complete our work by that time, but I hope we'll have made substantial progress,” he told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, where he was attending meetings.

The IAEA board planned to take up the report at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20, IAEA officials said.

ElBaradei, Director-General of the Vienna-based IAEA, gave Teheran a Friday deadline to prove it had no nuclear arms programme or be reported to the UN Security Council for possible

sanctions.

Iran submitted a declaration to the IAEA on 23 October, detailing its nuclear activities, which Washington suspects are a smokescreen for building atomic weapons.

“We are still going through a lot of activities, we have inspection teams in Iran. It is too early, but I hope that we will be able to verify what the Iranians have assured us — that this is a comprehensive and accurate declaration,” ElBaradei told Reuters.

“They are cooperating, but again, we still have a lot of work to do, and I hope the cooperation will continue,” ElBaradei said. “This is a work in progress.”

In Washington, State Department Spokesman Ri-

chard Boucher said he expected everyone, including the US Government, to withhold judgement on whether Iran was in compliance until ElBaradei had submitted his report.

“We're not making any new judgments. As you know, we've all along held that Iran has been in non-compliance. But we look forward to seeing the report, to find out if Iran has brought itself into compliance by fulfilling all these requirements of the resolution,” he told reporters.

“We will find out from the director-general's report whether those promises have been fulfilled and fulfilled to the extent that they actually meet the requirements that were laid down by the board,” Boucher said.

MNA/Reuters

ထိုက်ထိုက်နှင်းနှင်း ဖိုမြေမြေ

Australia warns of imminent Baghdad threats

BAGHDAD, 3 Nov—Australia warned on Friday of an imminent threat of guerilla attacks in an area of the Iraqi capital where a hotel used by foreign media and aid workers is located.

“The Australian Government has received credible reports of imminent terrorist threats to the district of the al Hamra Hotel in central Baghdad,” said a statement posted on an Australian Government web site. “These reports indicate a particular threat over the next two weeks beginning on 1 November. Australians are strongly advised to avoid the vicinity of the al Hamra Hotel during this period, including all hotels in this area.”

The warning follows a similar notice from the US consular office in Baghdad, which told Americans in the city to be vigilant at the weekend.

The US warning cited “a number of rumours” that anti-US forces had declared Saturday or Sunday a special day of resistance. Australia's Government backed the US-led invasion of Iraq and up to 250 Australian

troops are in Iraq in non-combat roles.

This week has been Baghdad's bloodiest since US-led occupation forces ousted President Saddam Hussein in April. The worst bloodshed occurred when suicide bombers blew up vehicles at the International Committee of the Red Cross office and three police stations on Monday, killing at least 35 people.

US troops stepped up checks on cars in parts of Baghdad on Friday, a holiday in Muslim Iraq.

Guerillas have staged bomb attacks against several “soft targets” in the city over the last few months.

In the single bloodiest incident in Baghdad, a suicide truck bomb attack on the United Nations headquarters in August killed 22 people including head of mission Sergio Vieira de Mello.

MNA/Reuters

Network security system urgently needed in China

TIANNIN, 3 Nov—An efficient network security system is urgently needed to safeguard the information security of individuals and institutional network users, according to sources with a recent forum held in this north China port city.

He Dequan, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said at the forum that China lacks a system to handle network security issues, especially emergencies such as the spread of computer viruses. Meanwhile, the Chinese public has not been fully aware of the potential dangers posed by the lack of the system, according to He.

The latest statistics with the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Centre show that 83 per cent of China's personal computers were infected with viruses for more than three times in 2003, up 25 per cent compared to the previous year. —MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi woman walks past as British soldiers check a car at a checkpoint in Basra, in southern Iraq on Saturday, 25 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Official says blast rips through oil pipeline in northern Iraq

TIKRIT, 3 Nov—An explosion has torn apart an oil pipeline near Kirkuk, 260 kilometres (160 miles) north of Baghdad, a company official told AFP.

The blast ripped through the pipeline in the region of Mashruh al-Therhar, southwest of the city of Samarra, said pipeline director Majid Manun.

"The pipeline feeds the Dora refineries in Baghdad," he said.

"I heard a powerful explosion in the evening, and I saw huge flames coming out of the oil pipeline," said witness Hassan Messarhad, a 45-year-old farmer.

On Saturday, another "sabotage" explosion ripped through a gas pipeline near

Baiji, 225 kilometers north of Baghdad.

Oil and gas pipelines in the region, a stronghold of Saddam Hussein, have been targeted in acts of sabotage since the former president was ousted by a US-led coalition on April 9.—Internet

Iraq neighbours slam terror attacks on civilians

DAMASCUS, 3 Nov — Iraq's six neighbours on Sunday condemned terrorist attacks against civilians and said they would secure their borders, amid US charges foreign militants were behind a wave of violence in postwar Iraq.

"(The ministers) condemn the terrorist bombings that target civilians, humanitarian and religious institutions, embassies and international organizations working in Iraq," the closing statement after a two-day security meeting in Damascus said.

The foreign ministers of the six neighbours plus Egypt said they would cooperate with Iraqi authorities to prevent violation of borders, following US accusations that foreign militants were crossing their frontiers to stage the attacks in Iraq.

The statement made no mention of persistent attacks on US occupation forces, which have claimed the lives of more than 125 US soldiers in the past six months.

Guerillas on Sunday shot down a US helicopter in Iraq, killing at least 15 US personnel and wounding 20 others in the bloodiest single strike since US-led forces invaded Iraq and ousted former president Saddam Hussein.

But the attacks have also targeted civilians, including staff at the UN headquarters in Baghdad and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Iraq's neighbours, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran, represent some of the world's major oil exporting countries.

The Damascus meeting highlighted divisions among Middle East nations over Iraq, which shunned the talks, apparently insulted by only a last-minute decision to invite Baghdad.

The statement said Iraq's neighbours would meet again in Kuwait and an Iraqi representative was welcome at those talks.

Concern about the impact of Iraq's political future on their own security has driven Middle East nations to hold periodic meetings, despite decades of mutual mistrust and divisions over the US-led war that ousted Saddam.

MNA/Reuters

HK to conduct Chinese medicine practitioners licensing exam

HONG KONG, 3 Nov — The Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong announced Friday that the 2004 Chinese Medicine Practitioner Licensing Examination is open for application from November 11 to December 20, 2003.

The 2004 Licensing Examination consists of Part I Written Examination and Part II Clinical Examination, the council's Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board said. The written examination will be held in May or June 2004, and the clinical examination will be held in July to August 2004, it added.

According to the Chinese Medicine Ordinance of the Special Administrative Region (SAR), other than listed Chinese medicine practitioners who are required by the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board to undertake the Licensing Examination, any person who wishes to apply for registration as a

registered Chinese medicine practitioner must first undertake and pass the Licensing Examination.

In a related development, the Hong Kong Hospital Authority announced earlier this month that it is prepared to open Chinese medicine clinics in three public hospitals. — MNA/Xinhua



A general view of the meeting room where the foreign ministers of Iraq's neighbours were holding their final meeting in Damascus on Sunday, 2 Nov, 2003. The two-day meeting which started on Saturday aims to discuss the impacts on them of the US-led war on Iraq. — INTERNET

ဝက်စွဲမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



US troops tightened security in Baghdad area on Sunday amid heightened Iraqi resistance. —INTERNET

US consumer spending down 0.3% in September

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov — The consumer spending in the United States declined 0.3 per cent following strong increases in the previous two months, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The decline was the largest in a year after the spending was down 0.4 per cent in September 2002. It was also much larger than the 0.1 per cent drop many analysts had expected.

The report showed that spending on durable goods — items expected to last for more than three years — declined by 5.1 per cent comparing with a 3.8-per-cent gain in August.

But spending on nondurables such as food and clothes increased 0.3 per cent in September after a 1.4-per-cent increase in the previous month. Consumer spending on services also gained by 0.4 per cent in September after a 0.3 per cent rise in August.

MNA/Xinhua

The decline of US consumer spending came after the spending increased 1 per cent and 1.1 per cent in July and August respectively.

The consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the United States and is the main force in pushing the economy forward.

The US economy increased at an annual rate of 7.2 per cent in the third quarter of this year helped by a strong consumer spending, according to a report by the Commerce Department on Thursday. However, economists had said that the brisk pace of spending could not be sustained.

Separated Egyptian twins upgraded to good condition

DALLAS, 3 Nov — Formerly conjoined Egyptian twins took a big step toward recovery on Friday when their condition was upgraded to good from guarded.

Mohamed and Ahmed Ibrahim, aged 2, are making good progress with their therapy, said Dr James Thomas, chief of critical care services at Children's Medical Centre in Dallas.

The twins, who were joined at the head, were separated three weeks ago after nearly 34 hours of surgery.

"Mohamed's legs are getting stronger and he is now sucking occasionally on lollipops," Thomas said in a statement. "Ahmed's favourite activity is blowing kisses to anyone who comes to greet him."

MNA/Reuters

Upcoming SAARC Summit to enhance South Asian Cooperation

BOAO (Hainan), 3 Nov — President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf Sunday expressed hope that the upcoming 12th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in earlier 2004 will impart a fresh impetus to enhancing commercial and economic cooperation in South Asia.

"We are looking forward to the next SAARC summit meeting to be held in Islamabad," said Musharraf in his speech at the opening of the 2003 annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia in southernmost Hainan Province.

Tensions in Asia and the instability in Afghanistan have adversely impacted upon the two regional organizations dedicated to economic, technological and cultural cooperation; namely the SAARC and the Economic Cooperation Organization of Central and West Asian Countries (ECO), he said.

However, the potential of the two organizations is immense, he said, adding that they have developed structures for cooperation and have adopted promising proposals.

The SAARC has already adopted a programme for preferential tariffs and has its sights set on the establishment of a free trade arrangement in the future, he said.

The ECO has plans for promoting economic and commercial activities among countries of Central Asia and South-West Asia, and there are good prospects for developing access routes linking Central Asian states to the Arabian Sea.

Afghanistan and Turkmenistan have agreed on the construction of a gas pipeline, Musharraf said, adding that "we also support an Iranian initiative for a gas pipeline to India through Pakistani territory". Pakistan is well situated to becoming a commercial hub linking the important regions of South, Central and West Asia, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



US Army troops search a crash site where a Chinook helicopter crashed into a field near Falluja on 2 November, 2003. Guerillas shot down an American helicopter in Iraq on Sunday, killing at least 15 US personnel and wounding 21 in the bloodiest single strike on US-led forces since they invaded Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein.

INTERNET

15 soldiers killed, 21 injured as US chopper shot down in Iraq

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 2 Nov — Fifteen soldiers were killed and 21 wounded when a US military helicopter was downed outside the flashpoint town of Fallujah, in the deadliest attack on coalition forces since they ousted Saddam Hussein nearly seven months ago.

As insurgents made good on threats to turn the weekend into a bloody one for the Americans, the military reported the death of another US soldier in a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad.

The CH-47 Chinook helicopter, ferrying soldiers going on leave after months in war-torn Iraq, was hit at 9:00 am (0600 GMT), making a crash landing one mile (1.6 kilometres) southwest of Fallujah, said US army Colonel Bill Darley.

"As a result of the crash, 15 were killed in action and 21 wounded," Darley said, referring to US-led coalition troops.

US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld told NBC television at least 10 of the dead were US soldiers and speculated the chopper was downed by a surface-to-air missile.

"We've known about surface-to-air missiles since before we went in," he said. "They are dangerous and they exist in that country in large numbers, as they do in that part of the world. So it's always a risk."

Hundreds of the portable missiles are said to be scattered around the country, available to insurgents from poorly-guarded arms depots that are a legacy of Saddam Hussein's regime. Soldiers sealed off the site, as helicopters hovered over the disaster area, which was littered with smoldering wreckage.

Farmer Mohamad al-Issawi told AFP that "a projectile struck the tail of the helicopter around 9:00 am. I saw fire coming out of the front of the aircraft which then crashed."

"Human remains were found 500 yards (metres) away," he said.

It was at least the fourth time since the United States declared an end to major hostilities on May 1 that the coalition has reported helicopters being hit by anti-US forces. The previous strikes did not cause any fatalities.—*Internet*



An Iraqi policeman looks up for intruders of the Foreign Ministry in the capital Baghdad on 1 November, 2003. — INTERNET



A US Army Blackhawk helicopter lifts off as troops search a crash site where a Chinook helicopter crashed into a field near the restive town of Falluja on 2 November, 2003. At least 15 US personnel were killed and 21 wounded when an American Chinook helicopter crashed in Iraq on Sunday, a US military spokesman said. — INTERNET



A US Army soldier guards the remains of a burned out military ammunition truck after it was attacked in Fallujah, Iraq, late on October, 2003, 35 miles (60 kms) west of Baghdad. — INTERNET

Eighteen die in second deadliest day for US in Iraq

BAISA, 3 Nov—Eighteen Americans died in guerilla attacks in Iraq on Sunday, including 15 soldiers killed when a helicopter was downed in the deadliest single strike on US forces since they invaded to oust Saddam Hussein.

It was the second deadliest day overall for Americans in Iraq since the invasion on 20 March, after 28 soldiers were killed in various attacks on 23 March.

On Sunday, one US soldier was killed in a bomb attack in Baghdad and two American civilian contractors died in a roadside mine blast in the town of Fallujah, a fiercely anti-US centre 30 miles west of the capital.

The crippled Chinook helicopter carrying troops on their way for a rest break came down in farmland at 9 am (1 am EST) near the village of Baisa, south of Falluja. Another 21 soldiers aboard the Chinook were injured.

US military officials and witnesses said the large transport helicopter was shot down.

Other helicopters circled above the smoking wreckage and American troops rushed to secure the crash site.

Some Iraqis were jubilant. "The Americans are pigs. We will hold a celebration because this helicopter went down — a big celebration," said wheat farmer Saadoun Jaralla near the crash site. "The Americans are enemies of mankind."

It was the third time guerillas had brought down a US helicopter since President Bush declared major combat over in Iraq on 1 May. The Americans invaded in March.

"Clearly it is a tragic day for Americans," Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told ABC television. "In a long hard war we are going to have tragic days."

Internet

US soldiers observe the scene after a US Chinook helicopter believed carrying dozens of soldiers to leave abroad was struck by a missile and crashed west of Baghdad, near Fallujah, on 2 Nov, 2003, killing 13 soldiers and wounding more than 20 others, the US military said.—INTERNET



China to launch moon probing satellite in 3 to 5 years

HONG KONG, 3 Nov — China is to launch its first moon probing satellite in the next three to five years, said Zhang Qingwei, deputy head of the visiting delegation of China's first manned space mission, in an interview with *Xinhua* on Saturday.

Zhang, also general manager of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, said the comprehensive feasibility studies for the first-phase of the moon probing programme has been completed and the engineering operation plan has been drafted.

He said that after the successful development of satellites and launching of manned spacecraft, China is to prepare for moon probing and other outer space probing activities.

Zhang believed that the moon probing will become the third milestone of China's space technology development.

He said China is to use *Long March III* A carrier rocket for launching the moon

probing satellite.

China's moon probing programme will be divided into three phase. The first phase work will focus on obtaining three-dimensional graphs of the moon surface, making analysis on the elements of moon surface and probing space environment of the moon, he said.

The second phase of the programme will send moon probing devices to the surface of the moon and the final phase is targeting on survey of the moon surface and taking back samples.

In a related development, China has been engaged in development of intelligence robot for moon probing for years.

MNA/Xinhua

Moderately strong quake hits north Japan

TOKYO, 3 Nov — A moderately strong earthquake hit northern Japan on Friday, causing buildings to shake in Tokyo, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

Public broadcaster NHK said the quake, which struck at around 10.06 am (0106 GMT), measured 6.8 on the open-ended Richter Scale. It said the focus was 19 miles below the surface off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture in northeastern Japan.

NHK said the quake measured four on Japan's seismic intensity scale of seven in some areas of Miyagi Prefecture, just north of Fukushima. The Japan Meteorological Agency later issued a tsunami warning for Miyagi Prefecture, and said a tsunami 50 centimetres (20 inches) high was thought to have reached the coast.—MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာ့စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ထုတ်ကုန်မြှင့်

Venezuela would support OPEC output cuts in December

CARACAS, 3 Nov — Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Saturday it was too early to say what action OPEC would take on production quotas at its next meeting in December but said Venezuela would back price-supporting cuts if needed.

"We have to wait and see what the (OPEC market) monitors say, and the rest of the ministers," Rafael Ramirez told reporters at a Press conference.

"In any case, we would back production cuts to support the price of oil," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuban NGOs condemn US embargo

HAVANA, 3 Nov — The Cuban non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Friday condemned the economic blockade unilaterally imposed by the US Government against the Caribbean country more than 40 years ago, in a declaration published on Friday by local daily *Granma*.

A declaration, signed by 115 NGOs and handed over to Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez, reaffirms the full support for the government in actions to defeat or thwart the goals of the blockade, the daily reported. The "genocidal" policy of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba has its roots on the expansionism of the United States, the declaration said.

"It is clear that the purpose of the blockade policy is destroying the Cuban nation by imposing the will of

the United States on this small country through coercion and force, despising the International Law and going against the will and the decision of the Cuban people to defend its sovereignty and right to self-determination," it stressed.

"This economic war lacks of every legal foundation," and according to the Geneva Convention on the Prevention and Sanction of the Crime of Genocide, the blockade is considered to be a crime against mankind, the declaration said.

MNA/Xinhua

Screaming woman rams car into arena at Bush rally

SOUTHAVEN, 3 Nov — A woman rammed a car carrying children into a building where US President George W Bush was campaigning on Saturday, drawing a swarm of police in her wake before being dragged away at gunpoint.

Bush was in his limousine ready to leave the arena when the screaming woman hit the same side of the building, near the exit the President's motorcade was to use. Bush was one level below, down a ramp about 75 yards away.

"We don't think there was any malice against the President. ... It was a matter of very bad timing," a DeSoto County Sheriff's Department official, who wished to remain anonymous, said.

Employees of the DeSoto Civic Centre said they ran away from the crash, scared that it was an attempted car bombing.

But the Sheriff's Department official said the woman had been awake all night arguing with her husband, was late for the event and grew

increasingly frustrated as she was turned away from the building at checkpoint after checkpoint.

"She then took the matter into her own hands," he said.

The sheriff's department charged the woman, Betina Mixon, 29, with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer. While Bush was apparently in no direct danger during the security scare, the incident raised questions about how well the President is protected at a time when he is leading a war on terrorism.

"The President was never in any danger whatsoever," White House spokesman Trent Duffy told reporters.

The Secret Service, which is responsible for protecting the President, said they had not filed any federal charges

but were still investigating the incident. After interviewing Mixon, they did not think she intended to harm the President.

"She had no direction of interest toward the President," Secret Service spokeswoman Ann Roman said.

Several minutes after the incident, the President's motorcade left the scene from the exit near the crash.

Bush kept to his schedule, travelling to Paducah, Kentucky, for the second of four speeches to rally support for Republican gubernatorial candidates.

Mixon, who lives a few miles from the 10,000-seat convention centre in a poor area of the county, had two young children in the car with her.—MNA/Reuters



A youth is led away (C) from the scene where a car crashed into the Desoto County Civic Centre, where President George W Bush was attending a political rally, in Southaven, Mississippi on 1 November, 2003. Police swarmed the car and dragged a woman away, along with a young girl and a boy. 'The president was never in any danger whatsoever,' White House spokesman Trent Duffy told reporters. Bush was in his limousine at the time but was not close to the car when it crashed into a loading dock area of the building. Security officials had chased the car as it headed toward the building, witnesses said, but no shots were fired.—INTERNET

Development of performing arts...

(from page 1)

In endeavouring for development of life of the people, it is necessary to strive not only for fulfilment of the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people, uplift of education and health standards but also for development of national culture.

It is a reality that Myanmar people have throughout their history viewed their forms of cultural fine arts not just as pure entertainment but as national heritage that could directly assist social development of the people.

In the process of preservation and development of national character and national culture, examples of success are evident at times endeavours are made by the State and the people in the periods in Myanmar history from Bagan period to Yadanabon period.

Especially at such a time as today when there are for-

cible inductions of alien customs and social values of big nations politically and culturally into small nations as are being perpetrated by some big nations taking advantage globalization exploiting the development of science and technology; vitalisation of our own cultures, our own national character, social values and humanist norms is becoming all the more important.

Accordingly, I would like to say, that is why the State has been reviving, preserving and upgrading Myanmar cultures through these Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions with national determination to keep national integrity, nationality, national pride, national characteristics, social values and humanist norms along with our national culture.

Myanmar cultural performing arts are of a high standard, so extensive and

profound, and so full of national essence; it is but a repository of our ancestors invaluable to every Myanmar national in the world.

It may be seen that, just as Myanmar performing arts and Myanmar literature are inseparably entwined, Myanmar performing arts and Myanmar classics are so linked with ethics, civics and philosophical thoughts based on Theravada Buddhism that is the faith of Myanmar.

That is why the marionette drama presentations and drama presentations that are combinations of Myanmar literature and Myanmar performing arts contained guidance to the right way of Magga Dhamma that is the way of escape from the Samsara from Loka, Dhamma and Raza ways and prior to that guidance for justice and fairness among people, consideration, tolerance and forgiveness, and loving-kindness for one another among people have a great influence on Myanmar people who love equality and fairness among all in accord with the ways of humanism.

At the recently concluded competitions in the marionette drama and the drama presentations, too, it is most satisfying to see presentations of the essence and values of the traditional marionette theatre and the theatre presentations.

In the presentations of the marionette theatre, that is Maha Janaka Jataka, viewers have been able to clearly see the lesson that it is natural to reach the genuine objective of justice and fairness after overcoming various kinds of difficulties, thanks to correct vigilance and perseverance structured on purity and high level of personal morals of noble men.

Likewise, in the presentations of the drama, the king of Saddan elephants, every viewer sees the truth that vengeful counter-actions of hatred, grudge and pride of the elephant queen, Sula Thubadda, who had made a gravely erroneous wish as she was overwhelmed by her delusion and malefaction based on her own one-sided views finally brought about the regretful result of her own fiery destruction.

Every viewer would get good lessons. So they can compare immense greed, cruelty and craftiness of the hunter Thawnottara with noble loving-kindness, strong karuna, and unwavering tolerance of King Saddan the embryo-Buddha.

This state of affairs, whereby Myanmar maesters were able to let viewers feel such profound philosophical thoughts and cultural mores, and extraordinary high morals and norms, and at the same time impress them with artistic essence, extensiveness and intensity, in the marionette

theatre and the dramatic presentations, is one that vividly illustrates the success of these competitions from year to year.

Moreover, because of the success of these competitions, we can now see a wondrous improvement in the quality of young artistes of the new generation who could show their mastery in the various arts like the most renowned maestros of the singing, dancing, composing and instrument playing sectors of the competitions.

Especially the sight and sounds of new generation youths playing those sung by maestros of ancient times with zeal and ardour are those that raise the national vigour to new heights of power.

In the songs composing field, it is seen with a great pride that the young children and the young composers were able to make use of a high class of rhymes and tunes and at the same time they have also shown their loyalty to their nation and nationality, their firm spirit, their proud stand, their positive attitude, and their goodwill towards their country.

Moreover, the fact that women who have taken part in the competitions in the four fields of singing, dancing, composing and instrument playing side by side with the men, many of them showing their fine talents, must be taken to show that they have succeeded due to greater efforts for brilliance in their own time to the best traditions of women maestros in these fields in the history of Myanmar countable by the thousand beginning from Pyu Period and Bagan Period.

Especially it is extraordinary achievement of the competitions that have permitted participation of women in the marionette theatre competition alongside the men, as this has brought forth many marionette artistes of excellence among the women even now.

In a general review, it is prominently clear that the entire nationality is imbibing Myanmar ways, pride, and culture all the more as the value of Myanmar arts and cultures so extensive and profound has been upheld most sacred in the hearts of all Myanmar including the new generations as the State has systematically managed and encouraged these competitions more grandly from year to year successively without interruption.

However, as there still exists the danger of penetration and dominations of alien ways that come through political, economic and cultural doors through abuse of advances in science and technology, I would like to urge all maesters and new generation young artistes to keep up efforts for further growth of Myanmar ways, Myanmar styles and



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — NLM



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — NLM



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — NLM

Myanmar culture and arts, to overthrow all that, using their artistic talents to keep own nation, own nationality, and their future steadfastly on the road of progress in national interests.

Only when the entire national people become strong in national spirit, patriotism and national pride with full ability to keep up national integrity will they be able to effectively promote national interests.

So, I would like to exhort all artistes to join hands and endeavour unitedly with national consciousness to keep always alive and flourishing Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts that can most effectively serve the interests of preserving and promoting national pride and integrity.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all artistes

— to strive with their talents in the performing arts for further flourishing of Myanmar people's own culture, own arts and national characteristics to last long till the end of the

world grandly and staunchly as the Union of Myanmar;

— to strive with their talents in the performing arts to keep always alive and flourishing Myanmar pride and integrity while cherishing and preserving true Myanmar culture and arts that have stood on its own for years countable by the thousand;

— to strive with their talents in the performing arts for permeation among the new generation youths the grandeur of Myanmar history, grandeur of Myanmar nationality, high level of culture and subtlety and profound Myanmar qualities so as to prevent the danger of alien cultural infiltration and domination.

— and for the culture and fine arts to play an active role in the implementation of the future policy programmes (roadmap) for the emergence of a modern, developed and democratic nation. — MNA

Prize distribution of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held

YANGON, 3 NOV— The prize distribution of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyang Street this afternoon, with an address by Patron of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Prime Minister

General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the Panel of Patrons of

perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance, and traditional fine arts, to preserve Myanmar traditional character, to nurture spiritual development of the youths and to prevent of alien culture.

Also present on the occasion were Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the Panel of Patrons of the competitions, Work Committee and Sub-committees, ambassadors, charges d' affaires of the embassies and military attaches, resident representatives of the UN Agencies, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, local and foreign newsmen, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, officials of social organizations, members of the Panel of Judges, and scholars from states and divisions, managers and contestants, students of the University of Culture (Yangon) and guests.

U Hla Win, Daw Tin Tin Mya, Daw Thida Swe and Daw Kay Khaing Swe acted as masters of ceremonies. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. (reported separately.)

At the Maha Gita song contest, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the respective first, second and third prizes to U Kyaw Kyaw Han (a) Thar Htwe Stin of Yangon

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives a speech at the prize distribution ceremony of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

MNA



General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to U Poe Lay (a) Myo Min Win (Yangon Division) who stood first in amateur level Maha Gita song contest (men). — MNA

ter General Khin Nyunt.

The competitions were held with six objectives—to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens, to preserve and safeguard Myanmar culture heritage, to

retary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the Panel of Patrons of

Division, Yangon Than Swe of Yangon Division and U Soe Tint of Mandalay Division at men's professional level; U Po Lay (a) Myo Min Win of Yangon Division, U Tin Oo Hlaing of Mon State and U Ye Thwe (a) Maung Bo Htoo of Mandalay Division and U San Lwin of Rakhine State at men's amateur level; Maung Nyi Nyi Aung of Rakhine State, Maung Aung Ko Thet of Mon State and Maung Kyaw Swa Thwin of Mandalay Division and Sai Nyo Min of Shan State at men's higher education level; Maung Win Hut of Ayeyawady Division and Maung Han Soe of Taninthayi Division, Maung Hein Htoo Zaw of Yangon Division, Maung Aung Kyi Soe of Kachin State at boys' basic education level (aged 15-20); Maung Thiha Kyaw of Kachin State, Maung Htet Aung Lin (a) Zin Maung Maung of Yangon Division, Maung Yan Min Aung of Mon State and consolation prize to Maung Naing Lin Aung (a) Pho La Pye of Rakhine State, at boy's basic education level (aged 10-15); Maung Aung Kyaw Phyoo of Yangon Division, Saw Aung Kyaw Zin of Kayin State and Maung Zaw Naing Moe of Rakhine State at boys' basic education level (age 5-10).

Next, at the marionette contests (Mahajanaka Drama), the Prime Minister presented the respective first, second and third prizes to

Tawwin marionette troupe of Yangon Division, Shweyadanamyiaing marionette troupe of Yangon Division and Eyahline marionette troupe of Ayeyawady Division and consolation prizes to Ponnabyan marionette troupe of Mon State, Shweyadanamyiaing marionette troupe, Myanmarpyi Hlaing Min troupe, Taungzun Aung Toe troupe of Yangon Division at the professional level (group), at the drama contest (Hsaddan Hsinmin Drama), U Nyaun Win troupe of Yangon Division, Pantaya

Tin Moe Win troupe of Yangon Division and Mann Myo Thein Than Win troupe of Mandalay Division and outstanding prizes for the respective roles in the drama to U Nyan Win of Yangon Division, Daw Thabye of Yangon Division, Daw Myint Myint Kyi of Yangon Division, U Shwe Kyi of Yangon Division, Myanmar-pyi Kyaukseine troupe of Yangon Division and U Ko Ko Gyi (Hinthada) of Ayeyawady Division.

MNA

(to be continued on 4 Nov)



General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to Maung Aung Kyaw Phyoo (Yangon Division) who stood first in basic education level Maha Gita song contest (aged 5-10, boys). — MNA



Ms Mumal Rajvi, Mstr Vikramafitya Singh Rajvi and Mstr Abhimanyu Singh Rajvi, grandchildren of the Indian Vice-President, visit National Museum. (News on Page-2) — MNA





UMFCCI hosts a luncheon in honour of the Vice-President of the Republic of India and party. — MNA

Indian Vice-President pays tributes to King Zafar Shah's Tomb, donates books to Yangon University

YANGON, 3 NOV—A delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who arrived here on a goodwill visit at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, arrived at King Zafar Shah's Tomb on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township at 4 pm today. They were welcomed there by Chairman of King Zafar Shah's Tomb Supervisory Committee Deputy Commissioner of Yangon West District U Soe Min, Secretary Township Officer of Dagon Township General Administration Department U Min Soe and committee members.

The Vice-President and party paid tributes to the tomb. Next, they viewed round the tomb.

Afterwards, the visiting Vice-President and party arrived at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road where they were welcomed by Deputy Ministers for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and U Myo Nyunt, heads of departments under the Ministry of Education, students from Institute of Education Practising School and No 2 Basic Education High School, Latha.

After arriving at the second floor of Diamond Jubilee

Hall, the visiting Vice-President signed in the visitors' book. Next, Rector of Yangon University presented the visiting Vice-President a silver bowl as a gift. Next, at the guest room of Diamond Jubilee Hall, ceremony to donate publications for Yangon University by the Vice-President was held. Minister for Education U Than Aung accepted the donations and spoke words of thanks. Next, the visiting Vice-President and Minister U Than Aung exchanged gifts. The visiting Vice-President and party left there in the evening. — MNA

UMFCCI hosts lunch in honour of Indian Vice-President and party

YANGON, 3 NOV—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry hosted lunch in honour of the visiting Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and party at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at noon today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Industry-I U Aung Thauang, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, heads of department, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India U Kyi Thein, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Presi-

dent of UMFCCI U Win Myint and advisers, the Vice-Presidents, CEC members and entrepreneurs. Before the lunch, UMFCCI President U Win Myint extended greetings.

Visiting Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat expressed thanks. Next, together with those present, Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and members enjoyed the lunch. After the lunch, UMFCCI President U Win Myint presented gifts to Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. Next, the Indian Vice-President had a group photo taken together with those present. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt ...

(from page 16)

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation, to the International Archery Federation (FITA) and Asian Archery Federation (AAF), for offering Myanmar to host this Asian level competition.

The art of archery is well known to Myanmar since ancient times, but Myanmar archers started to take part in modern international competitions, just in 1995. From there on, Myanmar Archery Federation takes its bold steps, to promote and uplift archery in Myanmar. We feel that, this competition will be a launchpad, for the aspiring archers to gain and acquire invaluable experience and skill to bring the nation's archery, to become a promising sport, especially in the 2004 Olympic Games at Athens.

As you may all aware that, in Archery, there is not such a big gap between Asian and International level, because most of the championships are Asians. We believe that through this competition, not only the athletic abilities of the com-

petitors is developed, but even more important the spirit of friendliness and even create a sense of fellowship and goodwill in the true Olympic Spirit.

I would also like to extend my warm hospitality and gratitude, to all the members of International Archery Federation and Asian Archery Federation, who in conjunction with the Myanmar Archery Federation has given all the support, in organizing this event.

Sincere thanks are also extended to sponsors, donors and to every individual, for all the assistance afforded, to make this championship a successful one.

Last but not least, my best wishes to all the archers, who in this one week of competition will display the best of their performance and sportsmanship to add luster to the Asian Archery.

With our warm Myanmar hospitality and culture embracing you, I wish you all the best of luck, and hope that you can make the best of your time with full enjoyment, during your short stay in Yangon,

Myanmar.

Next, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation Mr San Guan Kosavinta and Vice-Chairman of International Archery Federation Dr Ugor Edener extended greetings on the occasion.

Afterwards, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint opened the competition by shooting at special target with an archery. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Vice-Chairman of International Archery Federation Dr Ugor Edener, Vice-Chairman of Asian Archery Federation Mr San Guan Kosavinta and Chairman of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe cordially greeted the athletes. To mark the opening the competition, athletes of Myanmar Thaing Federation demonstrated Myanmar Thaing skills and Myanmar national dances presented traditional cultural dances to those present. The competition will be held from 4 to 9 November.

MNA



Minister for Education U Than Aung accepts books donated by the Indian Vice-President. — MNA

Chinese delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 3 NOV — A 14-member Chinese delegation led by Yunnan Provincial Government Vice

Secretary General Mr Duan Guarhan arriving here to attend the Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Breeding

Fair-2003 this morning visited the Shwedagon Pagoda.

MNA



Dignitaries and guests seen attending the ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Border area development (Kengtung East Region)

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

Kengtung East Region, Hsilu, Mongla, Mongyan, Monglwe
Burma Communist Party, Kaw 815, Brigade 768
Lee Minshell, Tiangzi Myint, Shan/Akha national races people

In the past, above-mentioned regions, armed groups and persons gave a prominent part to Kengtung East Region where Burma Communist Party predominated over the local people.

Suffering defeat in all the battles in Bago Yoma, the BCP had to move to the north-east region. Starting from 1968, it infiltrated into Kokang region in Shan State (North) and then into Wa region. In 1973, it completely controlled northern and southern parts of Wa region. Later, it occupied Kengtung east region and organized Shan and Akha nationals into BCP Kaw 815 and Brigade 768. The BCP built their military bases in Hsilu, Mongla, Mongyan and Monglwe regions.

At that time, Mongyan and Monglwe regions suffered from absolute nightmares in some days. Mongkoe in Kokang region, Panghsan, Weinkaung and Manmanhseng in Wa region and Hsilu in Kengtung east region were well-known in the time of the BCP. The names of Kaw 815, Brigade 768, Lee Minshell and Tiangzi Myint cannot be excluded from the talks on the BCP. I am sure that I had never heard of Mongla region at that time.

The first time I had been to Kengtung was in 1984. I was transferred there to discharge defence duties at Point 5993, Point 4664, Monggaung Camp, Htinshutaung Camp and Mongkai region. Ko Kyaw Zin Thet had to serve duties as IO and I, as AQ at the office of No 1 military column. We got into trouble because of a soldier carrying an 84mm rifle.

There were a lot of directives regarding that arm which has been issued recently. Later, the soldier with the gun and the other with rounds of ammunition were separated. The commanding officer was in great anger. On arrival at Wante Camp near Nanlwe Creek, we were scolded.

Our military column left Wante and passed through the Namlwe Creek. The companies of our column took turn for defence duties at Point 5993 and nearby military camps, Htinshutaung and Monggaung camps. We deployed some platoons in Htinshutaung and Monggaung camps for military actions. On arrival at Point 5993, we were greeted by the

trees, bunkers and underground tranches riddled with bullet holes. We reoccupied that camp from the BCP recently. There were no villages nearby but abandoned villages. From the camp, we could see the villages much frequented by the BCP. At least a Tatmadaw member was mined whenever we combed and cleared an abandoned village. The BCP secretly came and planted mines near our camps. Whenever they heard a mine explosion, they planted another mines on the down route between Point 4664 and Wante. There was no other passage but the down route. If the group carried the wounded slowly making a clearance of the areas of mines, it would not serve the purpose. Time was very limited to rush the wounded to the nearest hospital. The group could not clear every mine-planted area. So, one or two of the group were mined.

Throughout the military operation, we did not experience as many engagements as No 88 LID. But, there was still the danger of mines.

Our battalion commander was a sort of person who got angry easily, but in fact, he was a kind-hearted one. He shared his knowledge with his subordinates. If one of his subordinates made a mistake due to lack of knowledge, he forgave him. But, he never accepted similar mistakes.

In 1988, we had to go to Kengtung region for military operation. It might be the last time for Tatmadaw members to arrive there for military purpose because like Kokang and Wa national races in Shan State (North), Shan and Akha national races in Kengtung east region fought against and repelled the BCP, and then returned to the legal fold on 30 June 1989.

Then, the names of the BCP, Kaw 815 and Brigade 768 were no more in Kengtung east region, and there was formed Shan State (East) Military and Regional Administration Committee (Shan/Akha). The government designated the region as Shan State (East) Special Region 4. Leader of the Special Region 4 U Saing Lin who discarded his name Lee Minshell, and U Kyi Myint who also discarded his name Tiangzi Myint, have been carrying out the regional development projects.

(To be continued)

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 1-11-2003.

Press conference on visit of Indian Vice-President to Myanmar held

YANGON, 3 Nov.—A press conference regarding the goodwill visit of the Indian Vice-President and his entourage to Myanmar took place at the Bagan Hall of the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this afternoon. At the press conference, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India Mr Kanwal Sibal, who accompanied Visiting Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, made clarification on their visit.

Present on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India Mrs Neelam Deo, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Indian First Secretary Ms Mainka Jain, officials of the Indian Embassy, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha, Director (News) U Hla Tun, chief editors of newspapers, journalists and officials of Indian news agencies.

In his clarification, Mr Kanwal Sibal said that the visit of the Indian Vice-President to Myanmar would give further impetus to the bilateral relationship. The lead-

ers of both sides discussed on economic development projects, in which India was involved. These projects covered the Kalatan project, the Htanmanthi hydel power project, and the project for construction of Kale-Tamu motor road and the trilateral-highway project involving Myanmar, India and Thailand. The ministers concerned of the three countries would meet at the coming ministerial level meeting to be held in New Delhi in December. The foreign minister of Myanmar would also attend the meeting.

Matters relating to the human resource development is also included in

the economic development projects. The Indian Vice-President offered to increase the number of trainees to be sent to India by 25 per cent next year and would accept up to 152 trainees. And the Myanmar side also appreciated the offer. For upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay railway, the Myanmar side requested US\$ 57 million to which, the Indian side replied with a positive response.

The leadership of Myanmar briefed on the political and economic situation of their country. India, as a friend of Myanmar, is homing in on measures being taken for national reconciliation and restoration of

democracy in Myanmar.

As for economic cooperation, the leadership of both countries had a desire to work hard to reach the target of up to US\$ 1 billion bilateral trade by 2006. As part of widening the scope of India-Myanmar trade, arrangements are under way to launch a "Made-in-India Exhibition", under the sponsorship of CII, in Yangon next year in February.

Both sides also discussed matters related to stability and tranquillity to be maintained in the border shared by India and Myanmar.

Later, he replied queries raised by those present.

MNA



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

Mr Kanwal Sibal, Foreign Secretary of India, explains the purpose of the goodwill visit of the Indian delegation led by Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road.—MNA

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



The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate built with the aim of letting rain water flow out rapidly during the rainy season and supply water in summer lies beside the Zaikkaye canal near Aungkantha Village in Thaton Township in Mon State. It is of reinforced concrete type and has 21 gates each of which is 6 feet by 12 feet wide. The benefited acres of the sluice gate is 20,000 acres.

PHOTO: MNA



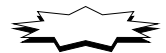
Irrigation facilities benefit the agriculture sector of the nation. Therefore, the government is building these facilities across the country. The photo taken on 3-7-2003 shows the Zaungtu Diversion Weir in Bago Township.

PHOTO: A&I



Zwebat Sluice Gate in Waw Township, Bago Division, is built with the aim of preventing floods and flow of brine. The sluice gate is also providing greater assistance to reclaiming wetlands and enough water for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops and plants.

PHOTO: MNA



MNA/Xinhua

ဝဠာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Chinese, Tongan Premiers exchange congratulations on anniversary

BEIJING, 3 Nov— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Tongan counterpart, Prince Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, on Sunday exchanged congratulations on the 5th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In his message to the Tongan Prime Minister, Wen said: "Over the past five years... mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples have deepened, and sound coordination and cooperation have been conducted between the two sides on international and regional affairs."

Wen said the assistance that the Chinese Government had provided to Tonga within its capacity had yielded good social and economic benefits.

He said he was confident that with the concerted efforts of both sides, the friendly relations and cooperation between the two

countries would bear "bumper fruits to the benefit of the two peoples".

Ulukalala said in his message to the Chinese Premier that the bilateral relations have grown "in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and friendship" since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries five years ago.

He said mutual economic and social benefits had been obtained as a result thereof.

Ulukalala expressed his belief that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Tonga would develop even further in the years to come.—MNA/Xinhua



China issues stamps to mark the successful manned space mission.

INTERNET

HK businessman to establish space development fund

HONG KONG, 3 Nov— Tsang Hin Chi, chairman of Hong Kong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, has announced that he has decided to donate 100 million Hong Kong dollars (12.88 million US dollars) for establishing "Tsang Hin-Chi Space Development Fund".

He made the remarks at a banquet held Saturday night in honour of China's first astronaut Yang Liwei and the visiting delegation of China's first manned space mission.

He said the fund is to be established for rewarding outstanding space experts and astronauts, and helping advance the development of China's space industry.

Tsang handed over first five-million-Hong-Kong-

dollar (644,329-US- dollar) cheque to Yang Liwei at the banquet.

Tsang said, of the five million Hong Kong dollars, one million Hong Kong dollars (128,865 US dollars) will be offered to reward Yang Liwei and the other four million Hong Kong dollars (515,463 US dollars) will be given to all scientists participating in the development of China's first manned spacecraft *Shenzhou V*.

Yang Liwei said he will submit the donated money to the state for further development of China's space industry.

Tsang said he is eager to do something for the Motherland's fostering. The establishment of the fund is his and his family's expression of esteem for the space heroes and confidence that China will be more powerful and prosperous.

MNA/Xinhua

Snow, rain help control California wildfires

LOS ANGELES, 3 Nov— Weary firefighters braved welcome rain, snow, and near freezing temperatures in the mountains of Southern California on Saturday, as Mother Nature drenched wildfires that had raged for more than a week and gave hope the blazes could be contained more quickly.

Temperatures have plummeted by some 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 Centigrade) in the last two days, from around 90 degrees F (32 C) to around 30 degrees (-1 C), and heavy rains and snow that arrived Friday night and carried through into Saturday morning proved a boon to fire crews.

Mike McGroarty, deputy chief of fire operation for California's Office of Emergency Services, said, "The weather has been very very good to us over the last 24 hours."

"It looks like (Southern California) is going to have some really good humidity over the next several days," he added at a media briefing.

MNA/Reuters



A nun sells products featuring Mother Teresa at a sale counter of the "Mother Teresa International Film Festival" in Calcutta. Ten movies about Mother Teresa will be screened during the nine day-long festival.—INTERNET

Safety of vulnerable groups becomes chemical forum's focus

BANGKOK, 3 Nov— Hundreds of officials and experts on Saturday converged in Bangkok to discuss ways to guarantee chemical safety, especially for vulnerable groups including women and children.

Under the theme of "Chemical Safety in a Vulnerable World", the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety opened Saturday afternoon with a rap for the meeting signing "though chemical use may have its benefits/chemical use also creates risk."

Affirming the benefits of the use of man-made chemicals, the forum noted the severe fact that people are faced with mounting health risks caused by chemical exposure due to the increasing production and consumption of chemical.

"Output of chemicals has increased from 171 billion US dollars in 1970 to 1,503 billion dollars in 1998, and will continue to grow over the next 20 years," said the news release issued by the forum.

Children have become the focus of prevention of diseases and deaths related to chemical exposure.

Unintentional poisonings account for 50,000 deaths of children under 14 years, according to estimates by the World Health Organization.

"We urgently need to focus on the special vulnerability of children exposed to serious health threats from chemicals," said Hungary's Chief Medical Officer of State Gyorgy Ungvary, "We must put children

and their mothers at the centre of our efforts."

"Children and chemical safety" is one of the new issues that will be discussed at the forum and a working group is reportedly working on a related report to be submitted to the forum.

Besides, some 600 participants of the forum are expected to touch on new topics including occupational safety and health, the widening gap among countries in following the chemical safety policies and the strategic approach to international chemicals management.

This session would call for new efforts by industry and governments to generate and make available practical information on hazardous chemicals, which is believed to be "one of the most powerful tools available for the protection of public health and the environment".

Governments and stakeholders would also be asked to prepare national assessments on children's health and chemical safety as a basic information tool to identify priority concerns.

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety was created in 1994 and holds a session every three years.

MNA/Xinhua

US researchers create lethal vaccine-evading virus

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov— Researchers in the United States have created a genetically altered mousepox virus so potent that it kills vaccinated mice, raising new concerns that biotech advances may be misused by terrorists, *The Washington Post* reported Saturday.

The research, led by Mark Buller of Saint Louis University, involved inserting an extra gene that can suppress the immune system of the mouse into the mousepox virus, thus making it easier for the virus to overcome the animal's defences.

This was not the first time such work had been done. In 2001, Australian researchers accidentally achieved a similar feat, but what Buller has created was more deadly.

In his experiments, all the mice infected with the engineered mousepox virus died.

US health officials emphasized that the federally financed work posed no threat to people, saying that although the mousepox virus is highly contagious and lethal in mice, it does not cause illness in humans.

But given the similarities between the mousepox and smallpox viruses, some scientists argued, the same technique might be useful for

making a beefed-up strain of smallpox virus that could kill people despite the fact they have been vaccinated.

Acknowledging that someone could, in theory, apply similar techniques to smallpox, Buller said he had no qualms about presenting his findings because his team had found two different ways of countering the enhanced virulence with drugs and vaccines, and is close to perfecting a third way.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Steaua Bucharest go top in Romania after 1-0 away win

BUCHAREST, 3 NOV— An injury time goal from substitute striker Adrian Neaga helped Steaua Bucharest to win 1-0 at National Bucharest and take the Romanian League lead from arch-rivals Dinamo Bucharest on Saturday.

Dinamo could only draw 1-1 against Gloria Bistrita on Friday.

Undefeated Steaua, who have a match in hand, have 22 points, two clear Dinamo Bucharest and three ahead of Rapid Bucharest who will host Petrolul Ploiesti on Sunday. It was Steaua's first away win in the season.

Neaga, a 66th minute substitute, converted a penalty after striker Claudiu Raducanu was fouled in the third minute of time added on.

Elsewhere, Universitatea Cluj beat Ceahlautu Piatra Neamt 2-0 with goals from striker Zeno Bunea and Australian defender Brian McBreen. The day before, Universitatea's president Adrian Mititelu was forced to quit because of financial troubles.

Poli AEK Timisoara beat 10-man Brasov 3-0 after home defender Marius Constantin was sent off in the 37th minute after a second yellow card. FCM Bacau came from behind to beat Arges Pitesti 2-1 with two goals from striker Cristian Ciocoiu and striker Daniel Orac's 40th minute free kick gave Otelul Galati a 1-0 win against bottom club Oradea.—MNA/Reuters



Ventus Marco di Vaio (R) celebrates with his teammate David Trezeguet after scoring against AC Milan during their Serie A soccer match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, on 1 November, 2003. The match ended in a 1-1 tie.—INTERNET

Lippi, Ancelotti agree draw was fair result

MILAN, 3 NOV — AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti and his Juventus counterpart Marcello Lippi agreed the 1-1 draw between the Serie A table-toppers on Saturday was a fair reflection of a fiercely contested game.

A superb 25-metre volley from Juve striker Marco Di Vaio six minutes from the end cancelled out Jon Dahl Tomasson's opener for Milan and left the pair, European and Italian champions, still neck and neck at the top of the table.

"There is something of a bitter taste when you draw a game that was almost won," said Ancelotti. "But with Juventus you can never feel calm".

"Based on how the game spun out I think a draw was a fair result, even though it seemed we had the game under control after the goal," he added.

Milan's Brazilian keeper Dida had produced two outstanding saves to keep out a David Trezeguet shot and a Di Vaio header but there was nothing he could do to about the equalizer.

"Di Vaio is clearly in great form and his goal was amazing," said Ancelotti, "as for Dida, he made some important saves tonight, some excellent stops and he gives our defence a real feeling of security."

Lippi said a point was the least his side deserved.

"It would have been un-

fair to lose that game. We looked very down after their goal but then we recovered and were able to get a point that I think we merited," said the Juve coach.

"Di Vaio did well not to lose his confidence after he hit the post and then had Dida pull off those saves. He carried on trying and he was rewarded for that," he added.

The Juventus coach was

critical though of the surface at the San Siro which has been below standard throughout this season and was particularly tricky after Saturday's rain in Milan.

"The players use up more energy on that pitch than on a normal surface. It was hard work for them to keep their feet and to change direction," he said.

MNA/Reuters

FA to investigate drug-taking claims

LONDON, 3 NOV— The English Football Association (FA) said on Saturday that they would investigate allegations made in a national newspaper that four England players and a fifth Premier League player had used cocaine.

The Sun newspaper has passed on details of the allegations, made by a former league player, to UK Sport, the government's anti-doping agency, who are now liaising with the FA. FA spokesman Adrian Bevington said no England players had tested positive for any drugs.

"Yes we have that (details of the allegations) now, conversations have since taken place between our head of medicine and UK Sport and we will give consideration to that over the next few days and decide what action, if any, is necessary," said Bevington.

"I don't want to start pre-judging cases here. It's simply a case that one individual has made allegations.

"No current England player has tested positive for any drugs, everyone should realize that at this stage. Yes, we have received certain evidence now. Whether that evidence is accurate or not has to be adjudged over the next few days.

MNA/Reuters

Roma close in on leaders Juve and Milan

MILAN, 3 NOV— AS Roma moved within two points of leaders AC Milan and Juventus as goals from Vincenzo Montella and John Carew gave them a 2-0 victory over Reggina in Serie A on Sunday.

European champions Milan and Italian title holders Juventus drew 1-1 in their top-of-the-table clash on Saturday and have 20 points to Roma's 18.

Parma moved into fourth place after they came back from 2-1 down at Brescia to win 3-2 but their Brazilian striker Adriano was carried off on a stretcher with what appeared to be a serious hamstring injury.

Inter Milan look to end their run of five straight league games without a win when they travel to Chievo Verona later on Sunday.

With the top two dropping points at the San Siro, Roma took advantage to close the gap but they had to work hard for the three points against a determined Reggina.

Fabio Capello's side got off to a good start when Montella raced on to a through ball from Olivier Dacourt and opened the scoring in the 18th minute.

But Roma were unable to take a firm grip on the game and survived a scare when Reggina striker David di Michele had a strike disallowed for offside.

Capello sought to inject some fresh ideas into his side bringing on midfielder Daniele De Rossi and striker John Carew for Montella and Antonio Cassano — both of whom looked less than pleased with being substituted.

The switch paid off though as in the 81st minute De Rossi played a long ball from Francisco Lima into the path of Carew, who had only been on the pitch three minutes, and the Norwegian fired home.

"To go all the way you need to be able to cope with suffering at home to the little sides as well as being able to take on the big boys," said Montella.

The prospect of losing the services of their prolific striker Adriano spoilt what was another excellent display from Parma at Brescia.

The home side went ahead in the third minute when Brazilian Matuzalem's low shot beat Parma keeper Sebastien Frey but Domenico Morfeo slid in at the back post to pull Parma level eight minutes later.

Former Inter Milan midfielder Luigi Di Biagio restored Brescia's lead in the 36th minute but just before the break Marco Marchionni levelled for Parma with a header from a Morfeo cross.

Adriano's replacement, Italy Under-21 striker Alberto Gilardino, grabbed the winner in the 70th minute with a fine header.

Brescia had their former Parma midfielder Matuzalem sent off in the 79th minute.

Bologna's poor season continued as they fell to a 1-0 defeat at home to Sampdoria. Cristiano Doni was on target for the visitors.

MNA/Reuters

Henman stops Roddick express in Paris semis

PARIS, 3 NOV — Unseeded Tim Henman stunned Andy Roddick 7-6, 7-6 in the Paris Masters semifinals on Saturday, just two days after the American became world number one.

The Briton, who played sublime tennis for the first five games, hesitated on the brink of victory, allowing the 21-year-old American to come back from 5-1 down in the tiebreak before winning on his sixth match point.

Henman, with one title this year, will play either 14th seed Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic or unseeded Romanian Andrei Pavel in Sunday's final.

After beating Wimbledon champion Roger Federer in the quarter-finals, Henman is playing at the peak of his form.

"To play matches as consistently and consecutively, it's the best I've played," he said. "But the job's not done, I've got a big day tomorrow."

Roddick, top of the rankings since Thursday, was well below his best and hit only nine aces with his rocket serve.

But Henman's brand of serve-volley tennis consistently foxed the US Open champion who became increasingly bad tempered as the match slipped away. He earned a code of conduct warning at the end of the first set for banging his racket into the court.

"He played great tennis today and looking at the players he's beaten here it's pretty impressive — he came up with the goods," Roddick said.

Henman also beat Roddick in the semifinals of the Washington Classic in August, which the Briton won, and leads 2-1 in career matches.

Roddick, winner of six tournaments this year, now travels to Houston for the eight-man, season-ending Masters Cup where he will defend his ranking against Spain's Juan-Carlos Ferrero — the previous number one — and Federer.

From the first point Henman, whose season has been disrupted since shoulder surgery, hit with precision and superb length to have Roddick scampering along the baseline trying to plug the gaps in his defence.

Roddick had conceded just two break points in the tournament but his service was broken to 15 in the opening game.

MNA/Reuters



Between the legs: Andy Roddick of the US returns a shot to Tim Henman of Great Britain during their Paris ATP Masters Series semi-finals match at Bercy indoor tournament in Paris.—INTERNET



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gives instructions on regional development to departmental officials at the meeting hall of Taungpyoletwe in Maungdaw. — MNA

Regional development activities inspected in Maungdaw

YANGON, 3 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Buthidaung township on 30 October morning and arrived at 100 acres of pepper planted at the special teak plantation of the Mayyu reserved forest at 8 am the same day.

At the pepper plantation, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on cultivation of 90,000 pepper

plants on 100 acres of land, and completed cultivation of pepper plants on 511.60 acres against the targeted 300 acres in the township. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo made additional reports. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to officials.

In line with the motto that reads "Rakhine must be the land of pepper plants", a total of 11,637.60 acres of

land have been put under cultivation of pepper in 18 townships of Rakhine State.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected round the special teak plantations along the Buthidaung-Maungdaw motor road. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the basic primary school at Waithali model village in Maungdaw township. At the meeting hall of the school, he met with villagers and gave instructions on development of the village.

He also heard reports on assistance rendered by the Government and arrangements for education, health and supply of electricity. Later, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Col Aung Naing Tun of Buthidaung Station gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended to the requirements and gave instructions. He said that assistance necessary for agriculture will be offered to the reclamation of farmland in Waithali village. He also called on the locals to carry out agricultural and livestock breeding work with added momentum.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than provided villagers with clothes and then the commander donated exercise books and stationery for the school. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party later inspected development activities being carried out in the village and met with

teachers and encouraged them. On arrival at Taungpyoletwe in Maungdaw township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party looked into the *Thitseint* and *Theho* trees grown by the Zone-3 and local battalion, and thriving plantations of *Lonthwai Shwewa* paddy species. They also inspected the police station in Taungpyoletwe township.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also visited the basic education high school and the People's Hospital in the township. At the meeting hall of the township in the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, local authorities and the public and gave instructions on tasks for regional development.

At the get together, officials reported on matters related to the township, agricultural undertakings, and livestock breeding work.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions. He said departmental officials and local people should cooperate actively in the drive for regional peace and the enforcement of law and order. New farmlands should also be reclaimed to ensure rice sufficiency in the region. He also called upon the officials and local people to strive for the progress of agriculture and livestock breeding work. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected measures being taken for regional development. They also inspected the bridge at Myanmar-India border and the border post. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to the paddy cultivation and prawn breeding camp at Kunthipin village-tract in Maungdaw. At the briefing hall of the worksite, officials reported on matters related to agricultural and livestock breeding work.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected thriving and ripe monsoon paddy plantations of local farmers on both sides of Maungdaw-Buthidaung motor road and regional development conditions. Afterwards, they stopped over Maungdaw.

Will be forever honouring you

* The 11th Myanmar Traditional

Performing Arts Competitions

With an influx of competitors

Joyously taking part

Has now concluded successfully.

* At these, Myanmar movements

Those who cherish Myanmar tones

Myanmar traditions, Myanmar character

Ever carries fore, and take joy in these

Strong tenacity, prepared zealously

Have surely taken part.

* Having taken part in these

All competitors involved

Enjoyed it, with basic traits

With Myanmar movements, Myanmarish

That they have cherished these

And taken part, are lovable

Maintaining national pride openly

We have thus held it at all competitions

And this we will forever honour.

Po Wa (Trs)

(In honour of all competitions at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions.)



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a prize to award-winning girl in the girls's dance contest. (News page 8) — NLM

Medals won by the states and divisions at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

Sr.	Division/State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Consolation Prize	Total	Remark
1	Yangon	101	69	44	-	214	
2	Mandalay	24	34	39	-	97	
3	Ayeyawady	13	14	19	-	46	
4	Bago	11	16	8	-	35	
5	Mon	10	13	7	3	33	
6	Sagaing	7	6	18	-	31	
7	Kachin	7	2	9	2	20	
8	Rakhine	6	6	7	13	32	
9	Shan	5	-	6	9	20	
10	Magway	4	7	4	-	15	
11	Taninthayi	3	3	1	8	15	
12	Kayin	3	1	4	2	10	
13	Chin	1	-	4	3	8	
14	Kayah	-	2	1	8	11	
	Total	195	173	171	48	587	

N.B. Medals for Outstanding performance in Acting and Saing are counted as golds.



WEATHER

Monday, 3 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated rain or thunder-showers in Yangon and Bago Divisions, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 8°C above normal in Rakhine State, 6°C above normal in lower Sagaing Division, 3°C above normal in Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 2-11-2003 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 3-11-2003 was 22.0°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-11-2003 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 2-11-2003 was (6.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 3-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 2 mph from North at (12:50) hours MST on 2-11-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and Andaman Sea and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 4-11-2003:** Except for the likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-11-2003:** Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the afternoon/evening. Degree of certainty is (40%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-11-2003:** Generally fair.

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt enjoys drama of Yama's bending a bow presented by Ministry of Culture at the opening ceremony of 13th Asian Archery Championships and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athens Olympic held in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna). — NLM

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening ceremony of 13th Asian Archery Championships and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athens Olympic

YANGON, 3 NOV — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended opening ceremony of the 13th Asian Ar-

chery Championships and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athens Olympic held in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on Waizayanta Street this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman

of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon, leading patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation, committee members of holding the tournament, Vice-

Chairman of Asian Archery Federation Mr San Guan Kosavinta, Vice-Chairman of International Archery Federation Dr Ugor Edener, Chairman of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe and executives, managers, leaders and athletes and guests.

First, team leaders and athletes from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong,

China (Taipei), India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Myanmar took their positions at the designated places in the stadium.

Next, Chairman of committee for holding the tournament Minister for Sports

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made an opening speech on the occasion. He said it gives me a great pleasure, and deem it a privilege to be given the opportunity, to deliver an opening speech at this auspicious Opening Ceremony of the 13th Asian Archery Championships, and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athen Olympics.

(See page 9)

INSIDE**Perspectives**

Goodwill visit of Indian Vice-President, a shot in the arm for Myanmar-India bilateral relations
Page 2

MIBC holds a reception in honour of India Vice-President and party
Page 2

Article
Border area development (Kengtung East Region)
Page 2

Foreign news pages
3,4,5,6,12,13,14

Circulation

24,061

First Anti-AIDS Exhibition opens

YANGON, 3 NOV — The opening ceremony of the first Anti-AIDS Exhibition was held at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road here this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Vice-Chairmen of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development

Council 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 Yangon mayors, members of National Health Committee, members of Central Committee for Prevention and Combating AIDS, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, ambassadors, Charge d' Affairs

ai of the embassies, resident representatives of UN Agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the directors-general and deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, officials of local non-governmental organizations and international NGOs, guests, nurses, teachers and students.

Minister for Health Dr

Kyaw Myint formally opened the exhibition.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Secretary-1 and the Secretary-2 and guests observed booths at the exhibition.

Eight booths from the Ministry of Health, 17 from state and division health departments, six from the UN Agencies, six from departments related to the Ministry of Health, seven from Myanmar

National Working Committee for Women's Affairs and local social organizations, eight from international NGOs and six from traditional and western medicines are on display.

Educative programmes on HIV/AIDS are shown. Arrangements are made for those who wishing to take part in computer quiz on HIV/AIDS.

The exhibition is kept open from 9 to 6 pm daily till 9 November. — MNA



Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening ceremony of the First Anti-AIDS Exhibition. — MNA