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Wednesday, 5 November, 2003

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Kathina robes

YANGON, 4 Nov — The 14th Kathina robes offering ceremony of the families of the Military Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence was held at Tatmadaw Dhammayon on Arzani Road here this morning, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Vice-Chairmen of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Pañinda-bhivamsa of Maha Aungmyay Bonsan monastery in Bahan Township and Presiding Sayadaw

Bhaddanta Arcinabhivamsa of Gositayama monastery in Dawei, Secretary of the committee Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara of Maha Visudayama Taikthit in Magway and members of the Sangha, Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than

Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the SPDC and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, the Yangon Division PDC Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, senior military officers, deputy ministers, the directors-general and departmental heads of the SPDC Office, the Government's Office, the President's Office, officers and other ranks and families of the Military Intelligence and intelligence units.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

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Sayadaws attending the 14th Kathina robes offering ceremony of families of Military Intelligence of Defence Services. —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party receive the Five Precepts from Sayadaws at 14th Kathina robes offering ceremony of families of Military Intelligence of Defence Services. — MNA

Central Committee for Observance of 56th Anniversary Independence Day meets

YANGON, 4 NOV — The Central Committee for Observance of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day held its meeting at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Secretary-

2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the central committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and

Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said the meeting was held to observe the 56th Anniversary Independence Day on a grand scale with national essence like the previous years.

He said the independence day was to be held to enable the youths of today to understand the national essence of observance of the independence day, economically and culturally oppression under servitude, driving a wedge among the national people in order to undermine national solidarity and

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Joint Statement on the visit to Myanmar by HE Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India

1. At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) of the Union of Myanmar, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, HE Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India paid a four-day official visit to Myanmar from 2 to 5 November 2003. The Vice-President of India HE Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising HE Mr Digvijay Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, HE Mr Anil Kumar, Member of Parliament (RS), HE Mr B J Panda, Member of Parliament (RS), HE Mr K Sibal, Foreign Secretary, HE Mr Anil Kumar Secretary to Vice-President, HE Mr R K Bhatia, Ambassador of India to Myanmar and other senior officials.
2. The Vice-President of India and members of his entourage were accorded a warm welcome by the government and the people of Myanmar, reflecting the traditionally friendly ties between the two countries.
3. During his stay in Myanmar, Vice-President HE Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was received by the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Senior General Than Shwe and the two leaders had a friendly exchange of views on matters of mutual interest.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 5 November, 2003

Goodwill Visit of Indian Vice-President

Myanmar and India are two countries that not only share common borders but enjoy close and friendly relations. The ties that bind the two nations have been built over centuries based on a shared cultural and religious heritage. The friendship between these two neighbours has been raised to new heights with the current visit of the Indian Vice-President, His Excellency Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.

The Indian Vice-President's visit is the first state-level visit since the visit of the Indian Prime Minister in 1987. The Indian Vice-President's visit has made up for the long interval between visits. Myanmar and India not only concluded two bilateral agreements, one on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders and the other regarding education and human resource developments on the very first day of the visit, but also explored new areas of cooperation.

The discussions between the leaders of Myanmar and India have confirmed the demonstrated will of the two nations to live together in weal and woe and to foster closer ties in the years ahead. The agreed agenda for cooperation covers such important sectors as trade and investment, road linkages, tourism, science and technology, infrastructure, and human resource development. Increased cooperation between the two countries is expected to exploit the complementarities between them.

It is notable that in recognition of India's aspiration to become a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council, Myanmar expressed its willingness to support India when the issue comes up. The two countries agreed that the United Nations' reform process should be expedited.

It is also noteworthy that the Indian External Affairs Secretary Mr Kanwal Sibal in the press conference held in Yangon during the visit confirmed the Indian Vice-President's offer to increase the number of trainees from Myanmar to India by 25 percent and that India would provide 152 scholarships next year. It is also heartening to note that India has responded positively to Myanmar's request for financial assistance of US\$ 57 million for upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay rail line.

There is no doubt that the deep-rooted historical and cultural linkages and geographical proximity provide a case for vibrant and mutually beneficial Myanmar-India relations.

Minister for Energy inspects Nyaungdon gas and oil field in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 4 NOV — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi yesterday morning visited the oil field in Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division.

Officials of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise reported to the minister on production of oil at the Oil Well No 20. Next, the minister attended to the needs for exploration of new wells in Maubin and Pantanaw regions and increased production of oil and gas, and laid down the future plans.

Afterwards, the min-

ister proceeded to the Oil Well No 20 and viewed progress of the drilling of the well and production of oil and gas. The new well produces 5.7 million cubic feet of natural gas and 120 barrels of condensate per day.

MOGE found the Nyaungdon oil field in 1999. Now, it produces about 84 million cubic feet of natural gas and 1,320 barrels of condensate daily and distributes to the factories in Yangon through Nyaungdon-Yangon natural gas pipe lines.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers a speech at the 56th Anniversary Independence Day COC meeting. —MNA

Central Committee for Observance...

(from page 1)

regaining independence after three generations' struggle in hundred years. Thus, there will be the spirit to cherish independence and sovereignty and to safeguard the Union among the new generation youths after having realized the essence and value of independence and sovereignty.

He said the people are still suffering from evil legacy of the imperialists during the period of over 100 years. He said the State has been facing attempts to dominate sovereignty and drive a wedge among the Union to break up national solidarity

and is trying to ward off these situations. At such a time safeguarding independence and sovereignty has become more important for perpetuation of the Union, he added.

With the objective of perpetuation of independence and sovereignty the government is making arrangements for emergence of an enduring constitution which is the first step to become a modern developed nation in successful implementation of the seven-point future programme, he said.

The Secretary-1 urged those present to take part in the discussions on observance of the Independence

Day with full national essence. Next, Secretary of the committee Director-General of the Government's Office U Soe Tint reported on formation of subcommittees.

Next, Chairman of Subcommittee for holding of the State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on tasks to be undertaken. Chairman of Reception and Dinner Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Chairman of Information and Exhibition Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Chairman of Essay, Poem, TV Quiz and Computer Painting Con-

test Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of Independence Day Message Compilation Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Entertainment Subcommittee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Chairman of Health Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo reported on their tasks. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also reported on arrangements for sports in commemoration of the Independence Day. A general round of discussions then followed. The meeting came to a close with the remark by the Secretary-1. —MNA

Ayeyawady Division Development Affairs Department meets

YANGON, 4 NOV — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, accompanied by Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint and officials, attended at the coordination meeting for upgrading the development tasks of Ayeyawady Division Development Affairs Department held at the hall of Patheingyi Township Development Affairs Department on 2 November afternoon.

The minister gave instructions on greening tasks, implementation of rural and urban development tasks with added momentum, growing of shade trees and flowers in the gardens in the districts and townships. Afterwards, Col Myo Myint made a report on development affairs tasks, followed by the report of Direc-

tor U Ohn Thwin of Ayeyawady Division DAD on the tasks of the department.

After hearing the reports of the respective township DADs on road construction tasks, water supply tasks, and greening and beautifying tasks, the minister made concluding remarks.

Member of the Myanmar War Veterans Or-

ganization Col Thein Nyunt and Director-General Col Myo Myint met with members of the Ayeyawady Division and Patheingyi District War Veterans Organizing Committee members, chairmen and secretaries of township WVOCs in the district.

The minister explained the future tasks and urged them to carry out the

tasks dutifully. Chairman of Ayeyawady Division WVOC Secretary of Ayeyawady Division PDC Lt-Col Sein Maung explained the five procedures. Afterwards, township WVOCs made reports and the Chairman of District WVOC presented a supplementary report. The minister attended to the requirements.

MNA



Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt delivers a speech at the coordination meeting for upgrading tasks of development tasks. —MNA



Natural gas and condensate coming out from No 20 well seen at Nyaungdon oil and gas field. —NLM



Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gives instructions on future tasks of production department to officials of department at No 1 meeting hall of the City Hall on 4 November. —YCDC

Aziz says Saddam was sure he would survive invasion

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — Former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein did not order a counterattack when US troops began marching into Iraq because he thought the ground thrust was a ruse and was convinced he would survive an invasion, *The Washington Post* reported on Monday.

Former Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz, who surrendered in April, told interrogators that after meeting with Russian and French intermediaries, Saddam was convinced that he could avoid a war, the newspaper said, citing US officials.

The report said Aziz told interrogators that French and Russian intermediaries assured Saddam during late 2002 and early this year that they would block a US-led war through delays and vetoes at the UN Security Council.

On the eve of the war, Hussein emerged from meetings with French and Russian contacts convinced that the United States would not launch an immediate invasion of Iraq, according to Aziz's statements as described by US officials, the newspaper reported.

Aziz told interrogators that Saddam was so sure of

himself that he refused to order an immediate military response when he heard reports that American ground forces were pouring into Iraq he concluded that the crossing was some sort of feint, the newspaper said.

US officials involved in the interrogations were cited as saying that Aziz's account had not been corroborated by other sources.

According to the newspaper, US-led investigators also asked other former high-ranking Iraqi detainees why, if Saddam did not have weapons of mass destruction, was he willing to let the world believe that he did.

The report said that several detainees said they believe that Saddam was afraid to lose face with his Arab neighbours who he believed paid him deference because they feared he had weapons of mass destruction. —MNA/Reuters

Gibraltar allows ship of sick tourists to dock

GIBRALTAR, 4 Nov — Gibraltar said it would allow a cruise ship that has been stranded in the Mediterranean with hundreds of sick British tourists to dock on Monday but that infected people would not be allowed off the vessel.

The *Aurora* has been steaming toward Gibraltar, a tiny British colony on the southern coast of Spain, ever since leaving the Greek port of Piraeus on Friday when authorities there refused to allow passengers or crew to get off.

Doctors in Greece treated the passengers and loaded the cruise ship with medical supplies for patients suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting.

But Gibraltar said the outbreak of viral gastroenteritis was nearly over with only 11 people sick out of 559 who had been affected by the 24-hour virus. There were seven new cases on Sunday, Gibraltar said.

"The Gibraltar Government will allow the P&O Cruise Ship *Aurora* to enter Gibraltar and for her healthy passengers to disembark, as normal, as occurred in Venice and Dubrovnik," the government said in a statement released late on Sunday. "As a precaution passengers who have suffered or shown symptoms of the virus at any time after midnight last Thursday will not be allowed to come ashore," the statement said.

Some 1,900 tourists and 837 crew were on board the ship, which left Southampton on October 20 on a 17-day round trip.

"There is no need for the general public in Gibraltar to be concerned, and we should welcome these visitors to Gibraltar as usual," Tourism Minister Joe Holliday said in the statement. —MNA/Reuters



A US Army soldier from the 720th Military Police Battalion, right, waits as an elderly Iraqi man gets out of a car before searching the vehicle on Highway 1 outside of Tikrit, 193 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday, 3 November, 2003.

The battalion, assisted by Iraqi police was searching for contraband weapons that could be used by guerrillas, a routine operation that has taken on added urgency since guerrillas shot down a Chinook helicopter with a missile, killing 16 soldiers and wounding 21 others. —INTERNET

Boao Forum described as indispensable driving force

BOAO (Hainan), 4 Nov — World Economic Forum president Klaus Schwab Sunday described the ongoing Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) as the most vivid expression of the continent, and particularly China, and a strong indispensable driving force of the world economy.

Professor Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF), told the BFA's second annual conference that like the WEF, the BFA is "such a platform: providing a framework not just for dialogue but for a process of jointly defining the challenge, jointly determining objectives and, if possible, jointly creating solutions."

The international trading system is facing a dangerous impasse in negotiations as is evident in the failed talks in Cancun, said Schwab. He urged leaders attending the BFA annual conference not to give up on the most important round of talks, and continue to build and invest in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The proliferation of bilateral and regional trading arrangements should not come at the detriment, or as a replacement, of multilateralism, he said. "Let us be mindful that bilateral and regional arrangements very often exclude the smallest and

poorest members of the WTO — the very members that we must strive to integrate more fully and more equitably in the international trading system."

Schwab called on China, a relatively new WTO member, to play an important role in bridging the North-South divide which has been exacerbated by the recent round of talks within the WTO.

He said the world is witnessing a global economic recovery, which is under way but marked by precarious imbalances in the macro-economic, as well as in the financial, monetary and fiscal systems.

MNA/Xinhua



British soldiers remove stones from a street in the centre of Basra, southern Iraq, on Tuesday, 4 Nov, 2003 after Iraqi street cleaners demonstrated, demanding their salaries which were not paid over the past two months. INTERNET

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US postwar glow dimmed by growing Iraqi violence

CRAWFORD (Texas), 4 Nov — The triumphal postwar glow in which US President George W Bush once taunted Iraqi militants by saying "bring them on" has faded to a grim determination against a resistance growing more deadly.

"It's getting worse, in the sense that, as today... We've seen a much more sophisticated use of improvised explosive devices against coalition forces," the top US civil administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, said on CNN's "Late Edition" on Sunday.

But the Bush Administration vowed that it will not retreat, and Bush continues to cite his Iraq policy as an accomplishment despite accusations of a widening "credibility gap". Bush was at his ranch in Texas on Sunday and made no comment after a guerilla attack on a US helicopter in Iraq killed 15 soldiers. —MNA/Reuters

Rumsfeld calls attack "tragic day" for US

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Sunday marked the bloodiest attack yet on American troops in Iraq by reaffirming the administration's resolve to defeat terrorism and conceding "we are going to have tragic days as this".

Yet some congressional Democrats and Republicans questioned how the strike on a US helicopter was able to occur, and said US troop levels may need to be increased to bolster security.

With a new poll showing Americans split on whether the war with Iraq was worth fighting, Rumsfeld urged patience and argued it was better to battle "terrorists" overseas than at home. "Clearly it is a tragic day for Americans, and for these young men and women," Rumsfeld told ABC's "This Week" shortly after a US helicopter was shot down near Baghdad, killing at least 15 American personnel. —MNA/Reuters

Over half Chinese cities suffer underground water shortage

BEIJING, 4 Nov — A report from the Ministry of Land and Resources says over half of China's 668 cities are facing severe shortages of underground water, according to Monday's *China Daily*.

Illnesses related to unhygienic water still exist in many areas, leaving over 70 million people using sub-standard underground water, said the report, which is based on the country's second national survey on underground water resources started from 2001 and ended earlier this year.

The country's extraction of underground water has increased by an average annual rate of 2.5 billion cubic metres over the past two decades and reached a total of 119.1 billion cubic metres last year, said Jiang Jianjun, director of the Geological Environment Department in the ministry.

Only 63 per cent of China's urban areas enjoy underground water that is potable without treatment, according to the English-language newspaper.

MNA/Xinhua

Coalition in Iraq orders release of Iranian journalists

LONDON, 4 Nov — The Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq has ordered the release of two Iranian journalists who were arrested by US forces in July for filming at a military checkpoint, the British Foreign Office said in a Press release issued on Monday.

The US forces have now ended their investigation and have decided not to press charges on Soheil Karimi and Saeed Abutaleb, the Press release said.

Since the United States and Iran lack diplomatic relations, Britain has been asked to liaise with the Iranian authorities to arrange for the two men to be returned to Iran and reunited with their families, it said.

Britain has been in contact with the United States and Iranian governments throughout the detention of Karimi and Abutaleb, and has intervened at a senior level to

press for the investigation to be brought to an early conclusion, it added. On the news of the release of the two Iranians, a Foreign Office spokesman said it was unfortunate that these two journalists were caught up in the stringent security regime currently in place in Iraq.

"After several fatal attacks on Coalition forces at checkpoints, the Coalition authorities could not afford to take any chances. But we are pleased that the issue has now been resolved and the men are now on their way home," the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, China to strengthen auditing cooperation

HANOI, 4 Nov — Vietnam wants to establish a close relationship with China's national auditing sector, which will help further the comprehensive relation between the two countries.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai made the remark while meeting with the visiting Auditor-General of China's National Audit Office, Li Jinhua, in Hanoi on Monday.

Khai said Vietnam hopes China will help the country in training its auditors, and the two countries will exchange auditing experiences frequently, because China is much experienced in auditing.

"We can annually exchange experiences and hold seminars on how to boost the auditing activity. For example, how to audit infrastructure construction works well, how to audit state spending on state agencies or large state-owned enterprises," he said.

During the talks, Li briefed Khai on the state auditing sector in China, saying top government leaders have attached great importance to the sector which has two main tasks: preventing losses of state assets and coordinating with the state inspection sector to fight against corruption.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi firms inflate US contract bids to cover high cost

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — Many Iraqi companies bidding for US sub-contracts in Iraq are inflating prices to cover the high cost of borrowing from a dozen influential Iraqi families, said a US lawyer on Monday.

Timothy Mills, a senior partner for the law firm Patton Boggs who spends more than half his time in Iraq, told a Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing that small and medium-sized Iraqi companies were forced to borrow from family-dominated Iraqi entities who imposed onerous terms.

"This has the effect of substantially driving up the contract price paid for out of US funds," Mills told the hearing, called by Democrats to look at contracting abuses.

The US Government has awarded billions of dollars in contracts to US companies to rebuild Iraq, who have in turn sub-contracted chunks of work to Iraqi firms.

MNA/Reuters

Security situation in Iraq's "Sunni Triangle" a "mixed bag"

BAGHDAD, 4 Nov — US civil administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer said the security situation in the so-called "Sunni Triangle" was a "mixed bag", after a US helicopter was apparently shot down by guerillas on Sunday.

"I'd say it's a mixed bag," said Bremer in an interview with CNN.

He said the situation in central northern Iraq is getting better in a sense that more and more Iraqis north of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, were coming up to cooperate with the US-led coalition forces in maintaining the security.

"It's getting worse in a sense that as today it seems that the enemies of freedom there are using more sophisticated strategies techniques to attack our forces," he added.

He made the remarks after a US military transport helicopter was shot down by an unidentified weapon near Fallujah, a restive town located within the "Sunni Triangle" north and west of Baghdad.

Another US soldier was killed on patrol in his vehicle when it hit a roadside bomb in Baghdad before dawn Sunday.

Asked if the helicopter remained vulnerable to the anti-US fighters, Bremer confessed "that's correct".

He blamed the intensified attacks on Saddam's Fedayeen militia and foreign terrorists who were believed hiding around Fallujah, a restive area mainly inhabited by Sunni Muslims.

"One of the things we have to remember... thousands of shoulder-launched Russian surface-to-air missiles in his infantry," he said. "We have recovered hundreds of them ourselves... but there are still thousands of them left," he added. However, he again stressed that "We have no evidence that Saddam himself is behind this attacks".

The administrator said it was difficult to find Saddam because he had 35 years to arrange his hideouts and Iraq is a large country for him to hide in. — MNA/Xinhua

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Two US civilians killed in Iraq bomb attack

BAGHDAD, 4 Nov — Two US civilians were killed in a bomb attack in western Iraq on Sunday, bringing the US-led coalition's death toll in the single day to 18, the US military said.

The two American civilian contractors died in a roadside bomb attack on their convoy in Fallujah, a restive town 50 kilometre west of Baghdad, said the military.

Also in Fallujah, 15 coalition soldiers were killed and 21 wounded when the US military transport helicopter they were on board was shot down by an unidentified weapon in the morning.

In a third incident, a soldier from the US 1st Armored division was killed on patrol when his vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

The latest toll was the heaviest in a day witnessed since US President George W. Bush declared the major conflict in Iraq over on 1 May.

MNA/Xinhua

China issues guide to environmental education in schools

BEIJING, 4 Nov — China's Ministry of Education on Sunday issued a guide to introducing environmental education at primary and middle schools, making environmental education an indispensable part of the country's education for young people.

According to the guide, primary and middle schools should not only offer students knowledge on nature and ecology, but also foster students' skills, attitudes and values conducive to sustainable development.

The Guide to Environmental Education in Primary and Middle Schools includes suggestions on activities for different age groups and encourages teaching involving different subjects and discussion in environmental education. — MNA/Xinhua

China rises to third in research, development spending

BEIJING, 4 Nov — China rose to third in the world in the amount of money it spent on research and development, according to a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

China's expenditure in research and development reached 60 billion US dollars in 2001, only after the United States and Japan whose investment is respectively 282 billion dollars and 104 billion dollars, according to the Beijing-based *Economic Daily*.

China's spending accounted for 1.1 per cent of its gross domestic products that year, much higher than the 0.6 per cent in 1996.

MNA/Xinhua

Poll finds nation split between Bush, Democrats

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — One year before the next presidential election, Americans are evenly divided between US President George W. Bush and a Democratic challenger, a new *Washington Post*-ABC News poll showed on Sunday.

Support for Bush has fallen to the point where 48 per cent of those surveyed said they would vote for him if the election were held today, while 47 per cent said they would vote for the Democratic Party's nominee. Five per cent said they did not know. The findings demonstrate that three years after one of the closest and most bitterly contested elections in US history, in which Bush narrowly defeated former Vice-President Al Gore, the nation is once again polarized.

The poll also was released in advance of elections on Tuesday in which governor's races in two southern states could provide an early indication of Republican chances and the strength of the president's coattails before next year's general elections.

Bush's approval rating, which topped 90 per cent af-

ter the attacks of September 11, 2001, was at 56 per cent, with 42 per cent giving him a negative review, according to the poll. Bush received better marks for his handling of the war on terror than for Iraq or his stewardship of the economy.

Bush's approval ratings have been dragged down in recent polls by mounting public concern over the costs of the war in Iraq, where ongoing attacks continue to claim American lives and stymie the US effort to stabilize the country. The poll found opposition had risen to the amount America is spending on the war, with 64 per cent against the 87 billion US dollars Bush requested to fund military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Poll respondents also said they were concerned about job losses and the US mission in Iraq. Fifty-four per

cent of the 1,003 surveyed said they thought the war in Iraq was worth fighting, while 44 per cent said it was not.

Those polled rated the economy negatively by a 2-1

margin, though they were questioned before the government released figures showing strong growth in the third quarter.

MNA/Reuters



A US Army soldier from the 720th Military Police Battalion blocks Highway 1, Iraq's main north-south thoroughfare, outside of Tikrit, 193 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday, 3 November, 2003. The battalion, assisted by Iraqi police was searching for contraband weapons that could be used by guerillas, a routine operation that has taken on added urgency since insurgents shot down a Chinook helicopter with a missile, killing 16 soldiers and wounding 21 others. — INTERNET

Iraqi villagers celebrate US helicopter hit

BAISA (Iraq), 4 Nov— Iraqis in the village of Baisa say they could not have asked for a better present during Ramadan — a US helicopter shot down in their fields.

"We usually celebrate Ramadan at the end of the month. Now we are celebrating in the beginning after these infidel Americans were shot down," taxi driver Abdullah Hisein said.

As more US helicopters patrolled over this typical Iraqi farming village on Monday, he said: "Now we want to take them down as well."

Fifteen American soldiers were killed on Sunday when a missile struck their *Chinook* helicopter — the bloodiest single strike on US troops since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April.

Anger has been boiling up in Baisa, located in Iraq's Sunni Muslim heartland from where Saddam drew much of his support, in the weeks leading up to the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Iraqis said US troops, who often come under attack from roadside bombs or rocket-propelled grenades in the nearby town of Falluja, had swept through the village hunting guerrillas.

People who failed to provide information on fighters

were arrested after US troops conducted aggressive searches, several villagers said.

"I know of several people who were arrested, including the local cleric and his family," farmer Kareem Mansour said. "They put sacks over people's heads and took them away."

US officials have repeatedly blamed fighters loyal to Saddam and Muslim militants who cross the border from neighbouring countries for attacks that have killed at least 136 American troops since President George W Bush declared major combat over on 1 May.

A few Baisa residents said they knew of a Syrian man who trained guerrillas. Others said Saddam's supporters were behind the violence.

They said US troops made even more enemies on Sunday night.

"They just shoot at anything. They heard a noise and then they shot at one of our cows. When we stood on the roof and shone a light, they shot the lamp," said Hussein Issawi, a Customs official. — *MNA/Reuters*

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US soldier killed near Saddam's hometown

BAGHDAD, 4 Nov— A US soldier was killed and another wounded near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit on Monday, the US military said.

"A 4th Infantry Division soldier was killed and one wounded in an improvised explosive device near Tikrit," said a US spokesman. The bomb attack occurred at 2:40 pm (1140 GMT) Monday, he added.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a helicopter crashlanding after it was shot by an unidentified weapon on Sunday rose to 16 while 20 others wounded.

A US military spokesman could not confirm if all the casualties were American soldiers but US officials said they most likely were. The latest deaths brought to 138 the number of US soldiers killed by hostile fire in Iraq since US President George W Bush declared the major combat over on 1 May. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A US soldier searches for explosives under a car during clashes in Baghdad's suburb of Abu Gharib Sunday. — *INTERNET*

Most EU citizens see US as greatest threat to world peace

BRUSSELS, 4 Nov— A total of 68 per cent of the European Union's (EU) citizens believe that the military intervention in Iraq this year was not justified, a poll result showed.

The final result of the poll, conducted by EOS Gallup Europe upon the request of the European Commission, the EU's executive, was released here Monday.

With 7,515 citizens interviewed in October, the poll showed that 41 per cent of the EU respondents confirmed their belief that the war was "not justified at all".

Greece is on the top of the list of 15 EU countries, with 96 per cent citizens against the war, followed by Austria with 86 per cent.

On the question of who should manage the rebuilding of Iraq, 58 per cent EU citizens prefer the United Nations. Only 18 per cent of respondents choose the United States.

Based on this result, 65 per cent of the EU citizens say that the United States should pay for the costs it incurred as a result of the war and provide the bulk of the funding needed for Iraq reconstruction.

Even 53 per cent of the people in the EU view the United States as a threat to the world peace. In the four EU member states of Greece, Spain, Finland and Sweden, the United States is deemed as the greatest threat to world peace.

Although EU officials explained at the midday news briefing Monday that the poll result does not represent the bloc's viewpoint, some media reports take this as a true picture of the public opinion on the issue.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam anticipates increased cooperation with China

BOAO (Hainan), 4 Nov— Vietnam hopes that its cooperation with China will continue to develop, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan said here Monday.

He told the 2003 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Conference in China's southernmost Hainan Province, "We are encouraged to witness the rapid growth of bilateral ties in trade, production and investment."

Vietnam wished to expand the cooperation between Hainan Province and Vietnamese provinces on Baibu Gulf, he said, noting that Vietnam also expected to further strengthen its cooperation with all Asian countries and regions.

Nearly 50 per cent of Vietnam's export income and 70 per cent of its foreign investment came from Asia, he said.

"Vietnam has been actively involved in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the 10+3 cooperation mechanism between ASEAN and China, Japan, and South Korea, the Mekong sub-region cooperation framework, the ASEAN-China and ASEAN-India free-trade-area negotiations, and other cooperation mechanisms," he said.

The rapid development in Asia had helped assert the continent's vital role in the world economy and global cooperation, he said, adding that the world's prosperity and the expansion of international economic and trade cooperation was, to a notable extent, dependent on Asia's economic development. However, he acknowledged, Asian countries were at different levels of development and many were still backward agriculture-based economies in a disadvantaged position in international competition.

Intra-Asia cooperation remained limited and Asian economies hinge heavily on ties with other continents, where they faced with a lot of uncertainty and barriers.

Moreover, he expressed the hope that the BFA conference would produce useful ideas on ways to promote Asia's economic growth and advance sustained cooperation among Asian nations. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia export, import up in September

JAKARTA, 4 Nov— Indonesia's export in September this year reached 5.05 billion US dollars or 1.52 per cent higher over the previous month, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) here Monday. But, the figure in September was still lower than the same month last year which saw an export of 5.14 billion US dollars, the Deputy of Economic Statistics of the BPS Slamet Mukeno said.

Mukeno said that the cumulative export by September this year was 45.7 billion US dollars or 7.49 per cent higher as against the same period last year.

The deputy said that the slight increase of export in September was mainly for the increase of non-oil-and-gas exports which totalled 3.88 billion US dollars or 4.54 per cent higher than the previous month.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Mexico protests new US law against bio-terrorism

MEXICO CITY, 4 Nov— Mexico has protested a US law against bio-terrorism to be implemented next month, a senior official said Monday.

The new law, which will take effect on December 12, requires foreign exporters and producers to provide the US Food and Drug Administration with records including the description of the product, information on the exporters and producers and the planned date for the entry of shipment into the United States.

Mexican food producers and exporters will be affected by this measure which, according to some businessmen of the sector, will turn into a "lock" that leaves half of Mexican companies outside the US market.

However, Mexican Agriculture Minister Javier Usabiaga said on Monday that Mexico is forced to abide by the new law, as it is part of the internal legislation of the United States.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



US Air Force medical personnel assist wounded US soldiers walking out of a C-17 transport aircraft at Ramstein air base in southwestern Germany, on 3 November, 2003. The soldiers were injured when a US Chinook helicopter was shot down near Falluja in central Iraq on Sunday, killing 16 and wounding 21 troops. — *INTERNET*

US military upholds TV cover ban on Iraq coffins

BERLIN, 4 Nov— The US military said on Monday it was sticking to a policy forbidding television camera crews and photographers from filming coffins of soldiers killed in Iraq at a US air base in southwestern Germany.

Officials at Ramstein, a major US air base which serves as a transfer point, had allowed media access in the past to honour guard ceremonies and transfers of American-flag covered coffins onto US-bound military transport planes, but rules banning coverage were strictly enforced just before the Iraq war began.

While US officials say the policy was created out of respect for relatives, others criticize the lack of media access, arguing its aim is to prevent the public from seeing large numbers of coffins that could turn opinion against the war. "You can argue both sides," said one US official who asked not to be identified. "Some say Americans need to see this, this is factual and the public needs to see (the coffins). Yet you also think of the mom of a killed soldier and the trauma of seeing television pictures of her son being repatriated."

Journalists seeking access to Ramstein to film coffins of 15 Americans killed on Sunday in Iraq when their helicopter was shot down were told that Department of Defence policy was still "No". Only coverage of arriving injured soldiers was permitted.

"The DOD policy is that there is no media coverage of deceased military personnel returning to or departing from Ramstein Air Force base or Dover Air Force base," said Major Bill Bigelow, US European command spokesman in Stuttgart.

A Defence Department official denied there was any censorship and said the purpose of the policy was to protect the privacy of families "during their times of greatest loss and grief." The rule has been in effect since 1991 and was reaffirmed in March, he said.

However in recent years the rule was relaxed and television journalists in Germany were able to cover honour guard ceremonies, including the transfer of coffins of sailors killed in an attack on the *USS Cole* and the war in Afghanistan.

"During 'Enduring Freedom' the DOD did make some exceptions in the policy," said Major Mike Young, public affairs chief for the 86th airlift wing in Ramstein.

"Since 'Iraqi Freedom' started the DOD said we are going to enforce the policy. For the past year we haven't done any (media coverage) on remains." — MNA/Reuters



An injured soldier is brought out of a plane on a stretcher at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Monday 3 November, 2003 in this image from television. About 20 US soldiers wounded in Sunday's Chinook helicopter attack in Iraq arrived at Ramstein where they will be taken to the nearby Landstuhl Medical Centre for treatment. — INTERNET

Air India to fly to Shanghai from next month

NEW DELHI, 4 Nov— Recovering slowly from several adverse factors afflicting the civil aviation sector worldwide, Air India is all set to spread its wings and cross the Great Wall of China to fly to Shanghai from next month.

Air India has decided to fly twice weekly to the China's commercial capital from December 11.

AI's maiden flight to Shanghai from Mumbai would fly via Delhi and Bangkok. The airline has also decided to increase frequency of flights to Frankfurt and Chicago from December, which would form part of its winter schedule.

Celebrating commencement of the airline's new operations at a function here Sunday night, Civil Aviation

Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy said that Air India had almost doubled the capacity to the United States in the last one year.

Observing that he was happy to share the pride of "Maharaja", Rudy said that the Government was keen on creating world-class airports at Mumbai and Delhi and committed to see that Air India became a world-class airline. Civil Aviation Secretary K Roy Paul said that though there was apprehension this year because of

factors like Iraq War, the first half yearly results showed it was a "healthy company. We are certain to make significant profit this year".

Air India had registered an impressive profit of 1.33 billion rupees in the financial year ending March 31, 2003. AI Managing Director Sunil Arora said that the company was making constant effort to expand its activities by 10 per cent every year.

MNA/PTI

India, China to hold first naval exercise this month

BEIJING, 4 Nov— Indian and Chinese navies would hold their first-ever joint naval exercise in mid-November, opening a new chapter in the growing bilateral ties, including military-to-military exchanges.

Indian naval ships would make a port call at Shanghai from November 10-14, an official source told PTI here.

The ships, along with their Chinese counterparts are scheduled to undertake "search and rescue" exercises off the coast of Shanghai in east China. — MNA/PTI

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UN almost finished with pullout of Baghdad staff

UNITED NATIONS, 4 Nov— The United Nations has almost completed its pullout of international staff from Baghdad and the handful still there will leave shortly, UN officials said on Monday.

The staffers are being taken to Cyprus pending a UN assessment of security in Baghdad, where the US-led occupation force is under almost daily attack.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced the withdrawal last week after a car bombing at the International Committee of the Red Cross offices in which 12 people died.

That was a further shock to the foreign aid community in the country after the car bombing of the UN offices there on 19 August

which killed 20 people.

Annan said on Monday that the evacuation of some 20 UN remaining staffers in Baghdad was almost complete. "In principle, they should all be out or on their way out," he said. Other UN officials said the last of the remaining foreign staff would leave shortly.

Security officials are joining the UN crew from Baghdad in Larnaca, Cyprus, for about two weeks before deciding whether the staff will leave entirely or return.

MNA/Reuters

Mortar attack in central Baghdad, casualties unknown

BAGHDAD, 4 Nov— Guerrillas launched a mortar attack in central Baghdad on Monday evening near the headquarters of the US-led administration in Iraq.

Reuters witnesses heard four loud explosions echoing across the city from the western bank of the Tigris River, where the US-led administration occupies a large palace complex previously used by Saddam Hussein.

"Three to four mortars impacted in central Baghdad, but we don't yet know the point of impact," a US military spokesman said. In Washington, an official said the palace complex had not been affected by the attack.

No information was available on casualties.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesian airlines prepare for busy holiday season

JAKARTA, 4 Nov— With the Idul Fitri holiday and year-end festivities approaching, Indonesian airlines are preparing extra flights and promising better services.

"We see an increasing trend in the number of air passengers this year. More people prefer to take airplanes than any other mode of transportation," Nurwulan Handayani, spokeswoman for Star Air, was quoted Monday by the daily *Jakarta Post* as saying.

Meanwhile Pujobroto, spokesman for flag carrier Garuda Indonesia, said the airline has prepared 65,028 seats for 13 domestic and international routes to anticipate a jump in a number of passengers during the upcoming Idul Fitri, Christmas and New Year holidays.

Of the total, 38,548 are for Idul Fitri, while the remaining 26, 480 are for Christmas and New Year.

"We had fewer seats last year compared to this year," Pujobroto said, adding that Garuda allocated around

30,000 seats for last year's Idul Fitri.

Nurwulan said that this year, Star Air would operate six aircraft with around 750 seats to serve passengers during Idul Fitri and year-end festivities. Last year, Star Air only operated four aircraft.

Indonesia's airline industry has seen an increasing number of air passengers in the past two years as more airlines enter the market offering cheaper flights. Many people who in the past could only afford to travel by train, ship or bus now choose to go by plane.

The Indonesian National Air Carriers Association (INACA) estimates that this year some 9.7 million people will travel by air.

Nurwulan said the growing number of air travellers is indeed a boon for airlines, particularly new ones.

MNA/Xinhua

21st Havana International Exposition opens

HAVANA, 4 Nov— The 21st Havana International Exposition opened here on Sunday, attracting about 1,300 enterprises from over 50 countries and regions throughout the world.

At the opening ceremony at the Cuban exposition centre, the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Cuban Council of Ministers, Carlos Lage Davila, said the participation of so many foreign companies in the exposition showed that the economic and trade blockade the United States has imposed on Cuba for the past 40 years is "unreasonable".

About 71 companies from 17 US states participated in the exposition, bringing forth agricultural and livestock products such as rice, fruit juices and meat. A businessman from California said that all US merchants hope to take the opportunity to have a good display of their products so that more US products could be exported to Cuba.

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand scientists develop new DNA test method

WELLINGTON, 4 Nov— New Zealand researchers expect soon to start producing commercial quantities of a faster DNA-testing technique that promises to reduce crime-solving delays. The *New Zealand Press Association* reported Monday that Auckland University microbiologist Dr David Saul said in an interview the new and more sensitive technique, the result of 20 years work, would be marketed internationally in about six months. He expected it would take

over much criminal DNA testing worldwide because of its simplicity.

Based on an enzyme in a micro-organism found at a volcanic vent on Antarctica's Mt. Erebus, the automated method involves only one step to extract DNA from a crime-scene sample of hair or other material, according to Dr. Saul.

The existing manual method involves 20 steps and takes far longer.

"For instance, getting the DNA out of hair shafts is cut

down from one to two days' work to four hours," said the microbiologist.

The elimination of so much processing preserved more of the DNA, since each step destroyed 10 per cent of it, he said. This meant the new method could surpass traditional fingerprint analysis. Samples could even be taken from beanie hats lost by offenders and from window panes against which criminals had pressed their heads while lining up a burglary. — MNA/Xinhua

Border area development (Kengtung East Region)

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

(Continued from yesterday)

There was a quiet hamlet by Namma Creek immediately after peace was restored in the region on 30 June 1989, and nothing more. Development pace of the region was high though it rose up from nothing. In 1995, Dwenagara Shwe Zeti, Nyeinchanaye Zeti and Nagaphyu Zeti had been built in Mongla. The Hlyaugdawmu (Reclining Buddha Image) Park with a museum featuring the life of Buddha had been opened. The region, complete with the Mongla Hotel, resort hotels and gems showrooms, had become a destination of hundreds of thousands of travellers. The basic education middle school opened in 1989 had been upgraded into a high school. The hospital, TV retransmission station, Mongla Hydel Power Plant, People's Sports Grounds, the Mongla newspaper house, and the Kyelinyang newspaper house had been constructed. Nampan hydel power plant and Wanton Dam were under construction. Shwepyith Highway and Shwepyith Bridge were opened on 15 November 1995. The names were given by the Secretary-1 himself (Now Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt). The Mongla Hotel was also opened the same day.

No word can sufficiently describe the development of Mongla region today. Mongla is now magnificent with advanced hotels, markets, and departmental stores. With emerging urban development, water supply system of the town has improved. Old Mongla hamlet is still kept intact for remembrance of things in the past. It is the symbol of development of Mongla which rose up from a quiet hamlet. Primary school had to be opened without proper sign-board but now new buildings of the high school emerged there. Mongla hospital has been upgraded into a 50-bed one.

As peace had been restored in Shan State (East), regional development tasks were carried out in Kengtung, Mongyawng, Mongkhat, Mongyan, Mongphyat, Tachilek, Mongton, and Monghsat Townships. As construction of roads and bridges plays a major role in regional development, many new roads have been built in the eastern region of Kengtung including Monggaung-Mongwa road, Mongyawng-Mongyu road, Kyetootaung-Mongpauk road, Mongyan-Hsilu road, Mongyu-Monghe-Wanphyat-240th mile-post road, Kengtung-Tarpin-Mongma-Mongla road, Hsilu-Mongla road, Mongyan-Mongphyat-Hotaung road,

Wunyan-Wunan road, Mongpauk-Panhsan road, Mongyawng-Wanphai-Kenggon road, Mongkai-Mongtin-Lanhsat road, Kengtung-Mongkhun road, Mongyawng-Pahsow road, Mongyawng-Mongkai-Lwemoi road, Mongkhat-Wakhote road, Naungkhio-Mongkhat-Monyin road and Mongpugyi-Lwekha road.

A total of ten bridges including Wantapin, Wantaut, Mongkyet, Wakhote, Hotaung, Hokho, Namma, Sotlwe, Namlan, and Namlan creek bridges have been constructed in the region. Besides Mongla hospital, eleven clinics have been opened in Mongkai-Kyainglat (Wanlon), Wanpon, Mongkhun (Wanphan), Mongyu and Mongpauk. Even a place like Wankin/Hsamtat has a clinic.

Nine basic education high schools, two middle schools, 46 primary schools, four agricultural offices, 18 agricultural camps, one tractor station, five livestock breeding farms and 12 veterinary clinics have been opened in the region. Hydel power plants have been built in Mongla, Namlan, Hsilu, and Namwot. Electricity is being supplied to nineteen towns and villages with the use of generators ranging from 2 to 500 KVA. There are now nine post-offices, seven telegraph offices, and ten telephone services in the region. TV retransmission stations are in operation in Monghsat, Mongyan, Mongkhat, Hsilu, Mongma, Mongyu, Mongpyin, Mongyawng, Mongphyat, Mongphyan, Mongkai, Mongla, Pahsow, and Mongpauk.

Special Region-4 of Eastern Shan State was once infamous as the Golden Triangle Region. A six-year plan to eradicate cultivation of poppy was laid down and implemented in the region in 1992. On 22 April 1997, the region was declared opium-free zone to the world. Opium-substitute crops cultivation and livestock breeding tasks are meeting with success in Hsilu, Mongma, Mongphyan and Hotaung regions. According to the figures collected in earlier 2003, there were 93,234 mango trees, 16,467 longan fruit trees, 4,849 lychees, 186 oranges and 24,572 rubber trees in Mongma. Homain Pig breeding farm of Mongma Village-tract produces 12,000 pigs weighing 840,000 kilos every year. The farm earns K 800 million from pig breeding every year.

(Concluded)

Translation: MWT

Myanma Alin, Kyemom. (1-11-2003)

It is national duty for...

(from page 16)

national heritage preserved by the ancestors for thousands of years. They are national prestige reflecting the national dignity of the nation and the people. In other words, they are particular national character, he added.

Only when the national character and national heritage can be handed down from one generation to another, will noble lineage and national prestige perpetuate in the course of history, he said.

It is an unavoidable national duty for those who love and cherish lineage to preserve and safeguard own national character in efforts for perpetuation of the nation and its people as long as the world exists, standing tall among the nations of the world with dignity, he said.

He said new generation youths have constructive and positive attitude and they wish to learn something and imitate it by nature.

So, it needs to create a more appropriate environment for new generation

youths. In general, the youths would rather do wholesome actions than unwholesome ones if they are given a chance to choose them. And they will practise only optimism if they are convinced of the difference between positive attitude and negative attitude. It is natural that based on those who convince the youths of possible results of good or bad deeds, constructions and teachings are an influence on the youths, he noted.

If the youths are persuaded and instructed in a proper way, they will become skilled and qualified ones and will serve the interests of their mother land, he pointed out.

The Prime Minister said that it can be witnessed that today, thanks to the results of organizing the Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions, the majority of the youths come to cherish and value as well as safeguard and preserve traditional culture and arts more and more.

It is obvious that Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts com-

petitions indicate that today's youths follow correct instructions and leadership of the experienced and matured artists, he remarked.

In handing down the tasks to new generation youths for flourishing of Myanmar traditional cultural heritage, the experienced, skillful artists play the key role. As the doyen artists, using their artistic skills, are striving for not losing the links among the three generations — the artists of the past whose works are classic, the artists preserving these classic works and the new generation youths who will preserve these works in future — traditional culture has taken roots in the minds of the youths.

As the State knows the artistic merits and value of the old hands, it has given encouragement and taken care of them to be hale and healthy and to be able to relay the cultural heritage to new generation youths.

It is heartening and pride-worthy to see that senior artists are making earnest efforts with mind and soul for the successful implementation of the national objectives, without

taking their health into consideration. This is why the State has been holding ceremonies annually to honour them.

Using their valuable artistic merits, experienced artists are to take an advantage of the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions sponsored by the State as fertile soil to nurture new generation youths who can inherit their skills.

In conclusion, at a time when doyen artists are handing down the valued skills to the new generation youths and when there are firm favourable conditions for tasks, may they be live a hundred years and hand down the artistic inheritance.

Next, General Khin Nyunt presented certificates of honour to maestros, members of the leading committee and judges.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave certificates of honour to members of Panel of Judges for drama and marionette competitions from states and divisions.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presented certificates of

(See page 10)

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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



Prime Minister attends prize-presentation ceremony of 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 4 Nov.—The prize-presentation ceremony for the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Road in Dagon Township at 1 pm on 3 November, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Patron for Organizing the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 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 Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of Panel of patrons, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, senior military officers, deputy ministers, members of the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and the Sub-Committees, the diplomats, chargé d'affaires, military attachés of foreign missions in Yangon, the representatives of UN agencies and officials, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local and foreign journalists, members of Union Solidarity and Development Associations and social organizations, members of Central Board of Judges and State/Division Board of Judges, supervisors and managers from States and Divisions, the participants, students of the University of Culture (Yangon), guests and others.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented the first prize for professional level (women) Maha Gita song competition to Daw Wa Wa Shwe of Mandalay Division, the second to Daw Thuza Aung of Yangon Division, the third to Daw Than Than Nyein of Yangon Division and the consolation prize to Daw Khin Than Myint of Shan State; the first prize for amateur level (women) Maha Gita song competition to



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. —MNA

Ma Sein Le Le of Chin State, the second to Daw May Thet Shin of Mandalay Division, the third to Daw Kyi Kyi Mar of Yangon Division; the first prize for higher education level (women) Maha Gita song competition to Ma Kyu Kyu Khine of Sagaing Division, the second to Ma The Myat Soe of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Htet Htet Maw of Yangon Division; the first prize for basic education (aged 15-20) level (women) Maha Gita song competition to Ma Aye Myat Noe Khin of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Chery Win of Bago Division, the third to Ma Chaw Su San of Ayeyawady Division and the consolation prizes to Ma



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

Nwe Nwe Htaik of Rakhine State and Ma Hla Yi of Mon State; the first prize for basic education (aged 10-15) level (women) Maha Gita song competition to Ma Phyu Sin Thu (a) Ma Sabai Phyu Thein of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Zin Pyi Pyi Phyo of Ayeyawady Division, the third to Ma Myat Hsu Kyi of Yangon Division and the consolation prize to Ma Zin Thu Moe of Rakhine State; the first prize for basic education (aged 5-10) level (women) Maha Gita song competition to Ma Kyi Kyi of Kachin State, the second to Ma Phyo Zar Myo Myint of Mon State and the third to Ma Pwint Phu Wai of Sagaing Division.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented the first prize for profession level (men) religious song competition to U San Lwin of Rakhine State, the second to U Min Han of Mon State, the third to U Min Ye Tun of Yangon Division and the consolation prize to U Myo Myint of Shan State; the first prize for amateur level (men) religious song competition to Maung Ye Hteik of Mon State, the second to U Ye Thwe of Mandalay Division and U Htein Lin of Ayeyawady Division and the third to U Zaw Min Tun of Yangon Division; the first prize for higher education level (men) religious song competition to Maung Sai Nyo Min of Shan State, the second to Maung Htein Lin Aung of Mon State and the third to Maung Oo Mya Tun of Rakhine State; the first prize for basic education level (aged 15-20) (men) religious song competition to Maung Zeya Pyi Phyo of Yangon Division, the second to Maung Yan Min Aung of Mon State, the third to Maung Win Htut of Ayeyawady Division and the consolation prize to Maung Mayit Naw Myo Hsant of Kachin State; the first prize for basic education level (aged 10-15) (men) religious song competition to Maung Thiha Kyaw of Kachin State, the second to Maung Hein Htoo Zaw of Yangon Division, the third to Maung Htet Wai Phyo of Chin State and the consolation prize to Maung Kyi Phyu of Rakhine State; the first prize for basic education level (aged 5-10) (men) religious song competition to Maung Aung Kyaw Phyo of Yangon Division, the second to Maung Lin Htet Kyaw of Bago Division, the third to Maung Chan Phyo of Sagaing Division and the consolation prize to Maung Sithu Tun of Taninthayi Division.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented the first prizes for professional level (women) religious song competition to Daw Khine Zin Shwe of Rakhine State and Daw Kyu Kyu Khine of Sagaing Division, the second to Daw Thabye of Mandalay Division and the third to Daw Ohma of Bago Division; the first prize for amateur level (women) religious song competition to Daw Swe Swe Myint of Yangon Division, the second to Daw Thuza Aung of Yangon Division and the third to Daw Khin Myo Aye of Kachin State; the first prizes for higher education level (women) religious song competition to Ma Nwe Nwe Thiri Aung of Shan State and Ma Mu Mu Swe of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Khin Thu Thu Win of Bago Division and Ma Thida Moe of Rakhine State and the third to Ma The Myat Soe of Yangon Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 15-20) (women) religious song competition to Ma Chery Win of Bago Division, the second to Ma Khin Mya Thet Hnin of Yangon Division, the third to Ma Htet Htet Aung of Yangon Division and the consolation prize to Ma Khin Thet Su of Rakhine State; the first



Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. —MNA



Minister for Education U Than Aung presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. —MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. —MNA



Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha presents a prize to a winner at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. —MNA

(See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe and...

(from page 1)

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa.

Afterwards, the Sayadaws recited Parittas.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered the Kathina robes and offertories to the Secretary Sayadaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Than Nwe, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and the congregation offered robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

The Secretary Sayadaw

delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Afterwards, the ceremony came to a close with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and the congregation offered 'Soon' to the members of the Sangha. —MNA

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



Prime Minister attends prize-presentation...

(from page 8)

prize for basic education level (aged 10-15) (women) religious song competition to Ma Aye Myat Noe Khin of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Phyu Sin Thu (a) Ma Sabai Phyu Thein of Yangon Division, the third to Ma Zin Pyi Pyi Phyo of Ayeyawady Division and the consolation prizes to Ma Naw Rose Mary Lin of Kayah State and Ma Rose Sali Banhta Chin Htwe of Chin State; the first prize for basic education level (aged 5-10) (women) religious song competition to Ma Nhin Aye Way of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Nan Khin Hmwe of Mandalay Division and the third to Ma Nan Thet Hmu Kywe of Yangon Division and Ma Kyi Kyi Wa of Kachin State.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presented the first prize for professional level (men) oldies/ modern song competition to U Kan of Yangon Division, the second to U Min Han of Mon State, the third to U Thet Naing of Mandalay Division and the consolation prize to U Oo Maung Thein of Rakhine State; the first prizes for amateur level (men) oldies/ modern song competition to Maung Ye Hteik of Mon State and Sai Nyo Min of Shan State, the second to U Po Lay (a) Myo Min Win of Yangon Division, the third to U Zaw Tun of Yangon Division and the consolation prize to Maung Kyon Hlyan Htau of Chin State; the first prize for higher education level (men) oldies/ modern song competition to Maung Aung Naing Tun of Yangon Division, the second to Maung Oo Myat Tun of Rakhine State and the third to Maung Myo Zaw Tun of Sagaing Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 15-20) (men) oldies/ modern song competition to Maung Ye Myo Thu of Ayeyawady Division, the second to Maung Hein Htu Zaw of Yangon Division and Maung Han Soe of Taninthayi Division and the third to Maung Zeya Pyi Phyo of Yangon Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 10-15) (men) oldies/ modern song competition to Maung Yan Min Aung of Mon State, the second to Maung Aung Kyi Phyo of Kachin State and the third to Maung Chan Nyein of Ayeyawady Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 5-10) (men) oldies/ modern song competition to Maung Aung Kyaw Phyo of Yangon Division, the second to Maung Way Thant of Ayeyawady Division, the third to Maung Ye Lin Kyaw of Rakhine State and the consolation prize to Maung Ahkar Nyein Chan of Shan State.

Afterwards, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint SWE presented the first prize for professional level (women) oldies/ modern song competition to Daw Kyu Kyu Khine of Sagaing Division, the second to Daw Khine Shwe Zin of Rakhine State, the third to Daw Swe Swe Aung (a) Daw Htay Htay Kyi of Mandalay Division; the first prize for amateur level (women) oldies/ modern song competition to Ma Thuza Aung of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Swe Swe Myint of Yangon Division, the third to Ma Aye Aye Oo (a) Zar Zar Win Htet of Chin State and consolation prizes to Ma Aye Hnin Khine of Rakhine State and Ma Khin Thuza of Taninthayi Division; the first prize for higher education level (women) oldies/ modern song competition to Ma Thida Moe of Rakhine State, the second to Ma Khin Thu Thu Win of Bago Division and the third to Ma Sein Shwe Mya of Sagaing Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 15-20) (women) oldies/ modern song competition to Ma Than Than Win of Rakhine State, the second to Ma Khine Ni Lin of Taninthayi Division, and the third to Ma Phyu Phyu Kyaw of Kayin State and Ma Htet Htet Aung of Yangon Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 10-15) (women) oldies/ modern song competition to Ma Myat Poe Khit of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Aye Myat Noe Khin of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Hay Man Soe Moe of Bago Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 5-10) (women) oldies/ modern song competition Ma



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offer 'Soon' to members of the Sangha at the 14th Kathina robes offering ceremony of families of Military Intelligence of Defence Services. —MNA

Cho Zar Hein of Mon State, the second to Ma Hsu Yi Ko Ko of Yangon Division and Ma Le Yi Ko of Rakhine State and the third to Ma Hnin Aye Way of Yangon Division.

Next, Minister for Social Welfare, Relife and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presented the first prize for professional level (men) dance competition to Tai Chit Tin Ngwe of Magway Division, the second to U Kyaw Zeya Aung of Yangon Division and the third to Man Myo Thein Than Win of Mandalay Division; the first prize for supporting orchestra in professional level (men) dance competition to Tai Chit Tin Ngwe's supporting orchestra of Magway Division, the second to U Kyaw Zeya Aung's supporting orchestra of Yangon Division and the third to Thein Than Win's supporting orchestra of Mandalay Division; the first prize for amateur level (men) dance competition to Maung Aung Aung of Yangon Division, the second to U Ko Naing (a) Shine Thura of Magway Division, the third to Maung Lwin Ko Oo of Yangon Division and the consolation prize to Maung Myo Chit of Shan State; the first prize for higher education level (men) dance competition to Maung Soe Lin Kyaw of Ayeyawady Division, the second to Maung Kyaw Zwa Myo of Yangon Division and the third to Maung Aung Ko Latt (a) San Lin Tun of Yangon Division; the first prize for basic education level (aged 15-20) (men) dance competition to Myainggyingyu Saw Kyaw Lin Soe of Kayin State, the second to Maung Aung Chan Win of Mandalay Division, the third to Maung Hein Htet (a) Maung Than Hlaing of Yangon Division and the consolation prize to Maung Zin Min Oo of Mon State; the first prize for basic education level (aged 10-15) (men) dance competition to Myainggyingyu Saw Htet Shine of Kayin State, the second to Maung Phone Myint Zaw of Yangon Division and the third to Maung Pyi Phyo Aung of Kachin State; the first prize for basic education level (aged 5-10) (men) dance competition to Myainggyingyu Saw Tun Lin of Kayin State, the second to Maung Min Paing Zin (a) Bon Aung Myo of Mandalay Division and the third to Maung Nay Htet Lin of Mandalay Division.

Member of the Panel of Patrons for Holding the Competitions Minister for Education U Than Aung presented the first prize for professional level women's dance com-

petition to Daw Thanda Lin of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Bo Ma of Yangon Division and the third to Daw San San Htwe (a) San Hteik Tin Lin; the first prize for supporting traditional orchestra group in the professional level women's dance competition to Daw Thanda Lin group of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Bo Ma group of Yangon Division and the third to Daw San San Htwe (a) Daw Hteik Tin Lin group of Mandalay Division; the first prize for amateur level women's dance competition to Ma Phyo Phyo Hlaing of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Hnin Wai of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Zar Zar Yamin of Shan State; the first prize for higher education level girls' dance competition to Ma Htet Htet Lin (a) Shwun Le Le Yi of Mandalay Division, the second prizes to Ma Thuzar Tin and Ma Mi Chan Lan of Yangon Division, and third prizes to Ma Waing Chit Chit Aung of Ayeyawady Division and Nan Nay Chi Nway Nway (a) Hlyan Hset Naing of Kayin State; the first prize for basic education level dance competition (aged 15-20) to Ma May Thu Kyaw of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Aye Chan Myat Phyo of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Ni Ni Aung of Mandalay Division, the consolation prize to Ma Nan Wah Wah Win of Kayin State; and the first prize for basic education level girls' dance competition (aged 10-15) to Ma Aye Nanda Htet of Yangon Division, second prizes to Ma Chit Myat Noe Wai of Ayeyawady Division and Ma Thet Hnin Hsu of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Nwe Ni Win of Mandalay Division and the consolation prize to Ma Ngu Wah Wah of Shan State.

Member of the Panel of Patrons for Holding the Competitions Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented first prizes for basic education level girls' dance competition (aged 5-10) to Ma Eindre Kyaw of Yangon Division, Ma Htet Htet Moe Lwin (a) Nai Ei Lwin of Kachin State and Ma Thu Zar Kyaw of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Su Po Po Aung of Mandalay Division, the third to Ma Zu Thein Mwe Khin of Shan State and consolation prizes to Ma Aye Theint Theint Kyaw of Kayah State and Ma Arbikil Zeinhthar of Chin State; the first prizes for amateur level marionette competition (modern duet dance) to Maung Tun Lin Zaw and Ma Yin Yin Aye of Kachin State, the second

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Prime Minister presents a certificate of honour to a doyen artist at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. —MNA

It is national duty for...

(from page 7)

honour to members of panel of judges for song composing contest and music contest (harp) and judges from states and divisions.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presented certificates of honour to members of panel of judges for piano contest and xylophone contest.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presented certificates of honour to members of panel of judges for oboe contest and violin contest.

Minister for Education U Than Aung presented certificates of honour to members of panel of judges for violin contest and mandolin contest. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented certificates of honour to members of panel of judges for Donmin contests, orchestra contest and Ozi and Dobat contest.

Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein presented certificates of honour to secretaries of panel of judges for music competitions, maestros who gave lectures on performing arts in the states and divisions, singers, leaders of the respective teams from states and divisions and those who acted as masters of ceremonies at the competitions.

On behalf of the maestros and judges, U Ye Htut, member of panel of judges for drama contest spoke words of thanks followed by entertainment programme.

Daw Kyu Kyu Khaing of Sagaing Division, winner of gold medal in song contest (professional level) sang the song *Myanmar Beauty and Myanmar Life* composed by U Kyaw San Lay of Sagaing Division, winner of gold medal in song composing contest (professional level).

Taingchit Tin Ngwe of Magway Division and Daw Thanda Lin of Yangon Division, winners of gold medal in dance contest (professional level) presented a dance with the accompaniment of piano played by Maung Kyaw Thu Win of Mon State, winner of gold medal in piano contest (professional level).

Myainggyingyu Saw Htet Shine of Kayin State and Ma Aye Nanda Htet of Yangon Division, gold medal winners in dance contest (basic

education level age-10-15) entertained the audience with dance. Artist Myint Myint Kyi presented the song *Kyesayaman* with the accompaniment of piano played by Sandaya Chit Swe.

Maung Phyto Thet Aung and group of Sagaing Division, gold medal winner in orchestra contest for the age 5 to 10 level showed their artistic skills.

Panel of judges and singers sang the song composed by Gitalulin U Ko Ko in honour of the 11th MTCAPAC and female artists presented dances to the audience.

At the dinner, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented cash awards to maestros and artistes.

After the certificate presentation ceremony, a dinner was hosted in honour of maestros and members of panel of judges.

MNA

13th Asian Archery Championship, Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier for 2004 begin

YANGON, 4 NOV — The 13th Asian Archery Championship and the Athens Olympic Qualifier for 2004, hosted by the Union of Myanmar, began at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) on Wayzayanda Road in Thingangyun Township here this morning.

Altogether 53 archers from host Myanmar, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chinese, Japan, Kirgystan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Chinese (Taipei), Singapore, Korea, Vietnam, Mongolia and India took part in the Women's Recurve Event (70 metre) and (60 metre).

A total of 68 archers from host Myanmar, Bangladesh,

India, Mongolia, Bhutan, Japan, Qatar, Chinese, Kirgystan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand, Chinese (Taipei), Laos, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Iran participated in the Men's Recurve Event (90 meter) (70 meter). Five archers from Hong Kong, Chinese (Taipei) and Korea took part in the Women's Compound Event (70 meter) (60 meter).

A total of 22 archers from China, China (Taipei), Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Iran took part in the Men's Compound Event (90 meter) (70 meter). The events continue at the same venue tomorrow. —MNA

Joint Statement on...

(from page 1)

- The Vice-Chairman of SPDC, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President HE Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat held discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues.
- The Vice-Chairman of SPDC and the Vice-President of India apprised each other of recent developments in their countries. The Myanmar side informed the Indian side of the seven-step road map for transition to democracy. The Vice-Chairman of SPDC expressed Myanmar's desire to work with India for closer economic relations and to maintain peace and stability on their common border. The Vice-President of India expressed support for the national reconciliation process and progress in the transition to democracy in Myanmar.
- While reviewing the development of friendly relations between the two countries, both leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress in various sectors in recent years. They expressed their determination to enhance these relations by exploring further possibilities in economic, trade, education, culture and technical cooperation. The Myanmar side conveyed deep appreciation for the training fellowships provided by India to more than 300 Myanmar nationals. The two sides reviewed progress on several developmental projects considered important for building long-term linkages between the two countries. They reaffirmed the target of US \$ 1 billion of bilateral trade by the year 2006.
- The Vice-Chairman of SPDC Vice-Senior General Maung Aye expressed the deep gratitude of the Government of Myanmar to the Government of India for the extension of a Credit Line of 25 million dollars to Myanmar. During the visit, the two sides signed the Agreement on visa exemption for official and diplomatic passport holders and Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.
- The Vice-President and the Vice-Chairman of SPDC shared the view that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was unacceptable. They agreed that no cause justifies terrorism. The two leaders informed each other of measures enacted and implemented in their countries to fight terrorism. They committed themselves to strengthening bilateral mechanisms and to considering additional ways to intensify efforts to prevent, counter and suppress the activities of terrorist groups and to cooperate in this regard. The two sides reiterated their firm commitment to ensure that their common border remains one of peace, stability and tranquility.
- The two sides expressed their support for the Non-Aligned Movement which had a vital role to play for promoting peace, development and a more equitable world economic order.
- Recent progress in strengthening defence cooperation was reviewed and satisfaction was expressed at the regular exchange of visits involving the three Services, including sports teams, as well as the first ever goodwill visit to Myanmar of the Indian Naval vessels in December 2002. The two sides agreed that such exchanges as well as training programmes of Myanmar personnel in Indian institutions should be stepped up in future.
- The two sides shared the view that the United Nations reform process should be expedited. Myanmar informed the Indian side of its willingness to support the aspiration of India to become a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council when the issue comes up.
- The two sides agreed to work jointly to strengthen regional cooperation, including in ASEAN, the BIMST-EC and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, where both countries are actively involved. The two sides also agreed to ensure timely progress in implementation of the Trilateral Highway Project.
- The Vice-President addressed a luncheon meeting hosted by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He also paid a visit to the University of Yangon where he unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi. The Vice-President also visited the ancient capitals of Bagan and Mandalay and other places of interest. He addressed and interacted with the persons of Indian origin and the non-resident Indians in Yangon and Mandalay.
- A special booklet entitled "Focus on India-Myanmar Relations", specially produced by the Embassy of India, Yangon to mark the visit of the Vice-President, was released during the visit.
- HE Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat renewed the invitation of the President of India to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to pay an official visit to India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.
- Vice-Senior General Maung Aye conveyed to the Vice-President of India the cordial invitation of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council extended to the President of India Dr A P J Kalam to pay an official visit to Myanmar. Vice-President agreed with pleasure to convey the invitation.
- The delegation of India thanked the Government and people of Myanmar for the warm and friendly reception and gracious hospitality accorded to the delegation.

Yangon, 4 November 2003.



Dignitaries attending the prize presentation ceremony of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. —MNA

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

Human resource development plays a vital role in national development. Therefore, efforts are being made to promote the basic education sector.

The photo taken on 9

August shows the newly-constructed building of No 8 BEPS in Shwepyitha

Township.

PHOTO: MNA



Under the education promotion programme, measures are being taken to develop the basic education sector.

The photo shows the new school building for No 2 Basic Education Middle School in Nyaungywa Village, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, which was opened on 23 August 2003.

PHOTO: MNA

Opening of two-storey school building of BEPS No 6 in progress in Ward 168, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township on 20 July 2003.

As over 400 are attending the school, it is necessary to build more schools because the buildings of the school will not be enough for the students in the long term.

PHOTO: MNA



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Malaysia's new PM to take finance portfolio

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Nov— Malaysia's new Prime Minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will take over the post of finance minister on Monday, an aide said. His predecessor, Mahathir Mohamad, who retired as prime minister on Friday after running the country for 22 years, had also held the finance portfolio.

"He is taking over the duties of the Finance Ministry from today," one of the Prime Minister's aides told Reuters.

The new Prime Minister is also expected to make his maiden speech to Parliament as leader on Monday.

Abdullah, who is also Interior Minister, is expected to appoint a new finance minister after elections expected early next year, when other Cabinet changes will be made, ac-

cording to political sources close to the leadership.

But he could announce his choice of deputy premier in December, after the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, and though he has given no hint, sources say Defence Minister Najib Razak is favourite for the job. Najib's late father, Abdul Razak, was Malaysia's second prime minister from 1970 to 1976.

By convention, the deputy prime minister is one of the three vice-presidents of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), which has led all of Malaysia's multi-ethnic coalitions since independence from Britain in 1957.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Muhyiddin Yassin is believed to be Najib's main

rival for the number two job.

Abdullah has retained Mahathir's economic adviser, Nor Mohamed Yakcop, who has helped map out banking reform and corporate debt restructuring and advised on the establishment of the ringgit currency peg in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s.

MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka to sign free trade pact

DHAKA, 4 Nov— Bangladesh and Sri Lanka agreed in principle to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) during their two-day meeting on FTA which concluded here Sunday.

Ilyas Ahmed, who led the Bangladeshi delegation to the talks, told reporters after the meeting that both sides "agreed to go for a comprehensive agreement".

The Commerce Ministry official said the talks basically dealt with the framework of the forth coming FTA and fixed issues to be discussed during the next round of talks, which will be held in Colombo in January next year.

"It will be mutually beneficial," he said, expressing hope for closer trade and economic relations between the two countries. Sri Lanka's three-member team was led by Director-General of the Department of Commerce Manel de Silva.—MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai Expo offers business opportunities for private enterprises

SHANGHAI, 4 Nov— The 2010 Shanghai World Expo will not only offer golden business opportunities for state-owned enterprises and foreign companies, but also for the country's growing private sector.

Jing Shuping, former chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, made the remark Sunday at the International Business Leader's Advisory Council for the Mayor of Shanghai. He said that after more than 20 years of development, China's private enterprises have made great progress in assets accumulation, marketing, talent training, technology innovation and enterprise management, and have grown to be one of the country's major economic driving forces.

Private enterprises not only play a leading role in labour-intensive industries and service industries, but also are developing well in some capital-intensive industries and technology-intensive industries, he said.

Jing suggested the Shanghai municipal government offer an open and fair competition environment for the private sector to participate in the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua



Two Iraqi Shi'ite tribesmen pass a British soldier from the 1st Battalion of the King's Regiment, on patrol in Basra southern Iraq, on 2 November, 2003. Shi'ites, like all Muslims, are observing the holy fasting month of Ramadan.—INTERNET

Export zones earn Bangladesh billions of US dollars

DHAKA, 4 Nov— Bangladesh's Export Processing Zones (EPZs) earned 1.20 billion US dollars from exports during the 2002/2003 fiscal year, accounting for 19 per cent of the total exports, the official Bangladesh News Agency reported Sunday. The earnings during the fiscal years 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 were 1.06 billion dollars and 1.07 billion dollar respectively, accounting for 16 per cent and 18 per cent of the country's total national exports.

The average investment in the EPZs over the past 20 years was 31.70 million dollars. The total investment rose to 637.28 million dollars in July this year.

As many as 17,341 new jobs were created in the EPZs, up by 15.35 per cent over the last two years.

MNA/Xinhua

Business volume of China Int'l Tea Expo reaches \$7.2m

HANGZHOU, 4 Nov— The four-day China International Tea Expo concluded here on Sunday with volume of business more than 60 million yuan (about 7.2 million US dollars). The volume of deals clinched on the spot exceeded about 482,000 US dollars.

More than 1,500 business people from home and abroad, and about 130 domestic and overseas enterprises, as well as representatives of 30 leading tea markets around China flocked to the Expo at the Zhejiang World Trade Centre. The exhibition hall for the tea expo occupies an area of 5,500 square metres with 180 booths. A variety of China's brand-name teas, tea sets and tea packages were displayed.

MNA/Xinhua

China to train certified national trade logistics specialists

BEIJING, 4 Nov — China launched training courses on Saturday for certified national trade logistics specialists. China plans to train more than 10,000 certified national logistics specialists in 2004, according to the Logistics Specialists National Qualification Certification Office.

More than 100 logistics experts and scholars from more than 50 universities and colleges around the country will be invited to give lectures for the training courses.

In accordance with "the national qualification standards for logistics specialists" promulgated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the country's logistics professionals will be divided in three categories, namely logistics assistant, logistics

specialist and advanced logistics specialist.

Since China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the country's logistics business is expected to follow international practice as soon as possible.

Logistics professionals have become popular in the country. It is estimated that in 2010, China will need 300,000 to 400,000 logistics professionals who are of junior college level or above.—MNA/Xinhua

Holbrooke slams Bush Administration on Turkey

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov— Richard Holbrooke, a veteran US diplomat widely seen as a likely secretary of state candidate if Democrats win the 2004 election, on Monday slammed the Bush Administration's handling of NATO ally Turkey and urged Ankara to withdraw its offer of troops for Iraq.

He said inept US diplomacy was to blame for the current snafu over Ankara's offer to deploy upwards of 10,000 troops to Iraq and for the prewar failure of Turkey's Parliament to allow Iraqi-bound American troops to base on its territory.

Holbrooke's speech to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy was part of an intensifying attack by out-of-power Democrats — those seeking the party's presidential nomination and former officials — on Republican President George W. Bush's foreign policy in the run-up to the 2004 election.

US ties with Turkey were strained when Parliament last March rejected Washington's request to allow the US Fourth Ar-

moured Division to enter Iraq via Turkish land and sea routes.

Holbrooke said US officials and commentators were wrong to react furiously as though the vote, by an ally, was a betrayal of the United States.

While the vote was a setback, he said the request failed because of a small number of abstentions, not because Turkish lawmakers were overwhelmingly opposed.

US diplomacy before the vote "was less than brilliant. Had more senior US officials been engaged on this issue, I believe the margin of failure of only about four abstaining parliamentarians could have been overturned," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam's agricultural, aquacultural exports to China to surge

HANOI, 4 Nov— Vietnam's agricultural and aquacultural exports to China are expected to grow by 400 million US dollars when China lowers import tariffs next year, according to a report of Vietnam Investment Review on Monday.

Of the sum, aquacultural products, and fruit and vegetable will benefit most from the tariff reduction with an estimated increase of 200 million dollars, and 130 million dollars, respectively.

The new tariffs are part of the Early Harvest Programme agreed last year between China and the Association of the South-East Asian Nations.

Under the programme, import tariffs in China and Vietnam on eight agricultural and aquacultural products will be reduced gradually to 20 per cent by 2004 and zero per cent by 2008 from the current rate of 40 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

India to export 100,000 cars to Britain

LONDON, 4 Nov— India is poised to export 100,000 cars to Britain in the next four years, with the first consignment of them slated to reach Birmingham any day.

"One in six of the cars rolling off the Tata manufacturing line in Pune is destined for Britain, with 100,000 scheduled to arrive over the next four years," The Sunday Times reported Sunday.

The City Rovers, produced in the Tata factory in Pune are the sub-continent's first genuine indigenous car, designed and built by Indian engineers and workers with minimal foreign help. The

City Rover/Indica will help plug a market gap for Rover, which has no small car of its own to sell. But for Tata and for Indian manufacturing it is a giant leap forward.

A car industry that was once the butt of jokes for still assembling the Ambassador, a copy of a 50-year-old Austin, is now making modern cars without outside aid and — delicious irony — exporting them to Britain, the report said. — MNA/PTI

SPORTS

Valencia grab top spot with 5-0 win in Mallorca

MADRID, 4 Nov— Valencia dislodged Real Madrid from the top of the Primera Liga on Sunday thanks to a 5-0 destruction of 10-man Real Mallorca in a game that featured a hat-trick from Ricardo Oliveira.

The Brazilian striker helped get Rafa Benitez's side off to a flying start when he won a penalty in the opening minute, an incident which resulted in a goal from Jorge Lopez and the dismissal of Mallorca defender Fernando Nino.

Oliveira then opened his account five minutes later when he guided in after latching on to a superb defence-splitting pass from Pablo Aimar and made it 3-0 with another sharp finish just before halftime.

The former Santos striker completed his hat-trick with a powerful far-post header midway through the first half and substitute forward Xisco got in on the act when he slotted home his side's fifth two minutes from time.

Real and Valencia now both have 23 points from 10 games, but Rafa Benitez's side lead thanks to their better goal difference.

MNA/Reuters

Red Star stay top with 3-1 win over Obilic

BELGRADE, 4 Nov — Serbia and Montenegro league leaders Red Star Belgrade enjoyed a comfortable 3-1 win at Obilic on Sunday to stay three points clear of champions and bitter rivals Partizan Belgrade.

Belgrade's big two teams clash in a potentially explosive derby on Saturday with Red Star in pole position on 25 points from 10 matches, ahead of Partizan and Sartil Smederevo who have 22 each.

Striker Nikola Zicig gave Red Star a 25th minute lead at Obilic with a spectacular goal after an excellent cross by midfielder Radovan Krivokapic.

Skipper Nemanja made it 2-0 with a 53rd minute penalty and Dragan Mrdja sealed Red Star's win in the 75th minute before Dejan Ilic grabbed a late consolation goal for the home team.

Struggling Vojvodina Novi Sad salvaged a point in a 2-2 home draw with cup holders Sartil Smederevo thanks to an 85th minute effort from veteran striker Zdravko Drincic.

All four goals were scored in an enter-

taining second half, Sartil's Miroslav Spasic and Nenad Miroslavjevic cancelling a 47th minute opener by Vojvodina's Branko Jelic.

Zoran Djuraskovic grabbed a brace in Zeleznik Belgrade's 4-2 win over city rivals Zemun to keep his team in the top five while OFK Belgrade stayed fourth with a hard-fought 1-0 home win over Hajduk Kula.

Champions Partizan strolled to a 3-0 home win over Zeta Golubovci on Friday but looked far from impressive ahead of a vital Champions league clash with Real Madrid on Tuesday.

First division newcomers Buducnost Banatski Dvor continued their fine run of form with a 4-1 away win over bottom team Kom Podgorica to stay in sixth position, well placed to challenge for a UEFA Cup spot.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil's female referee in Criciuma red card storm

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Nov— Female referee Silvia Regina de Oliveira had to be escorted off the pitch after she sent off three Criciuma players in their 1-1 draw at Atletico Mineiro in the Brazilian championship at the weekend.

Oliveira, who has regularly taken charge of first division matches since making her debut earlier this season, infuriated the visitors even more by awarding an injury time penalty against them.

She also upset Atletico, who claimed she did not add on enough injury time.

The 39-year-old, who last month also became the first woman to take charge of a match in a South American club competi-

tion, and her two female assistants were given a police escort off the field at the end as players from both teams protested.

Criciuma took a 29th minute lead through Dejair but had midfielder Alexandre sent off for violent play six minutes later. Midfielder Alonso and goalkeeper Fabiano were also dismissed for repeated time-wasting in the second half.

MNA/Reuters



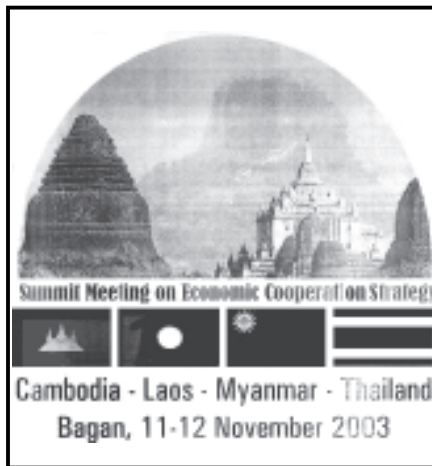
Barcelona's Argentine player Javier Saviola, center, tries to dribble the ball between Real Sociedad's Argentine player Gabriel Schurrer, right, and another unidentified player during the Spanish league soccer match in San Sebastian, Spain, on Sunday, 2 November, 2003. The match ended a 3-3 draw.—INTERNET

Inter Milan beat Chievo Verona 2-0

MILAN, 4 Nov— Inter Milan ended a run of five League games without a win with second half goals from Christian Vieri and Alvaro Recoba giving them a 2-0 win at Chievo Verona.

Inter coach Alberto Zaccheroni picked up his first victory since taking over from Hector Cuper with his team moving up to seventh place. Recoba struck the bar with a free-kick early on before Chievo's former Lazio keeper Luca Marchegiani was harshly dismissed for a foul on Christian Vieri in the 35th

MNA/Reuters



Acosta's double strike opens up Argentina title race

BUENOS AIRES, 4 Nov— Thirty-seven-year-old striker Alberto Acosta scored two late goals as San Lorenzo beat Olimpo 2-0 at the weekend to throw the Argentine championship race wide open.

Acosta's double sent San Lorenzo into second place in the Apertura championship, only two points behind leaders Boca Juniors who were held to a goalless draw at home by Independiente.

Acosta ended 83 minutes of frustration for San Lorenzo when he headed home from a free kick to finally break Olimpo's defiant resistance. Five minutes later, he blasted home a penalty after a foul on substitute Pablo Zabaleta.

Boca, who lost their unbeaten record in a 1-0 defeat at Newell's Old Boys on Wednesday, had another unhappy day as they drew with the Red Devils, who had lost their last five matches.

Boca's frustration was compounded when

19-year-old inspiration Carlos Tevez went off with a knee injury five minutes before halftime.

He now appears likely to miss next week's match against arch-rivals River Plate.

Independiente were helped by an excellent performance from 19-year-old goalkeeper Lucas Molina.

Newly-promoted Quilmes dropped from second to fifth after being sunk by an Ezequiel Gonzalez goal in the third minute of injury time away to Rosario Central, who moved into third place.

Colon coach Edgardo Bauza announced his resignation after watching his side lose 2-0 at home to Banfield, a result which sent them down to ninth place.— MNA/Reuters

Grand finale brings curtains down on Afro-Asian Games

HYDERABAD, 4 Nov— The inaugural Afro-Asian Games was consigned to history at a glittering ceremony here Saturday night but not before marking the celebration of unity between the two continents and boosting India's chances for hosting the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

The success of the Games also underlined the capability of India to host a mega event just as the inaugural Asian Games did in 1951.

The nine-day sporting extravaganza, which saw about 2,000 athletes from 95 countries competing for honours in eight disciplines, came to an end at the majestic GMC Balayogi Stadium with President A P J Abdul Kalam declaring the Games closed.

"I congratulate all the athletes and officials who were part of the Games. When I see thousands of sportspersons I am sure the combined power of youth through sport will be the most powerful resource on earth," Kalam said.

"I also congratulate the contingents particularly India and China, (who took the first two positions in the medal tally)," he said adding the experience gained from this event will enable the country to host much bigger events in future. The theme of "two continents — one spirit" was evident as the athletes joined hands to bid au revoir to this hi-tech city which brought them together from far and near.

The inter-continental meet might have lost some sheen with many of the competing nations failing to field their top athletes, yet the successful conduct of the games sent a strong message to the world on India's capabilities to host major international sporting events.

MNA/PTI

Porto widen lead, Benfica lose at new home

LISBON, 4 Nov— Benfica missed a chance to go second in the Portuguese Premier League after losing 2-1 at home to Beira Mar on Sunday, while champions Porto extended their lead at the top of the table.

In the first Premier League game at Benfica's new Luz Stadium — which will stage next year's European championship final — winger Simao Sabrosa put the home side ahead in the 40th minute when his shot from outside the area was deflected into Beira Mar's net.

Beira Mar midfielder Sandro Silva levelled the score in the 53rd minute after a goalmouth scramble.

The visitors then surprised Benfica's defence in the 64th minute with a counter-attack that led to Dutch striker Wijnard going unmarked inside the box and score to seal his team's first win in 22 matches at Benfica.

Benfica, who slipped to fifth in the standings, left the pitch to boos and whistles from disgruntled fans. Beira moved up to third, equal on 19 points with second-placed Sporting.

Sporting, who tied 1-1 with Rio Ave at home on Saturday, have the advantage in the head-to-head result.

Porto, who host Olympique Marseille in the Champions League on Tuesday, beat Nacional Madeira 1-0 at home on Friday and lead the standings with 28 points from 10 matches.

Evandro Carlos gave Rio Ave the lead over Sporting on the brink of halftime, before Brazilian striker Elpidio Silva equalized with a glancing header for his first goal of the season in the 84th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Prime Minister attends...

(from page 9)

to Maung Kyaw Tun and Maung Aung Than Win of Yangon Division and third prizes to Ma San San Pyone and U Zaw Naing Win of Mandalay Division.

Next, Ma Htet Htet Moe Lwin (a) Nai Ei Lwin, who won the prize for best dance performance (aged 5-10) presented a dance entertainment to those present.

Member of the Panel of Patrons for Holding the Competitions Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented the first prize for professional level song composing competition to U Kyaw San Lay of Sagaing Division, second prizes to U Aye Than of Bago Division and U Soe Htut Khaing of Yangon Division and the third to U Thuang Tin Htay of Mon State; the first prize for amateur level song composing competition to U Win Hlaing of Shan State, the second to Daw Me Me Aung of Kachin State, the third to Maung Than Hlaing (a) Zaw Lwin Than of Sagaing Division and consolation prizes to Myainggying U Saw San Aye of Kayin State and U Tin Nyunt of Taninthayi Division; the first prize for higher education level song composing contest to Maung Aung Naing Tun of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Khin Chit Su Mar of Sagaing Division, the third to Ma Mu Mu Swe of Yangon Division and consolation prizes to Ma Khin Mi Mi Moe of Rakhine State and Maung Zaw Tun Thuang of Taninthayi Division; the first prize for basic education level song composing contest (aged 15-20) to Ma Shwe Thinza Lwin of Ayeyawady Division, the second to Ma Phu Phu Thant of Yangon Division and the third to Maung Nway Htet Soe of Mon State; the first prize for basic education level song composing contest (aged 10-15) to Ma Phy Thinza Khin of Ayeyawady Division, the second to Maung Thein Bo Bo of Sagaing Division and third prizes to Ma Han Ni Ni Naing of Bago Division and Ma Aye Myat Myat Myo of Taninthayi Division; and the first prize for basic education level song composing contest (aged 5-10) to Maung Tun Yaza Oo of Mandalay Division, the second to Ma Hsu Thet Thazin of Ayeyawady Division, the third to Maung Kyaw Soe Han of Yangon Division and consolation prize to Ma Htet Htet Soe of Kayah State.

After that, the song titled "Pay due respects to parents and teachers" composed by the best performance prize (song composing) winner (aged 5-10) Tun Yaza Oo was entertained to the audience.

Member of the Panel of Patrons for Holding the Competitions Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented the first prize for professional level men's harp contest to U Aung Pyi Sone of Mon State, the second to U Bo Bo Kyaw of Mandalay Division and the third to Maung Wai Phyto Naing of Yangon Division; the first prize for amateur level men's harp contest to Maung Sein Lwin of Yangon Division, the second to U Nyi Nyi Aung of Ayeyawady Division and third prizes to U Ye Myo Naung of Mandalay Division and Maung The Aung Chit of Mon State; the first prize for higher education level men's harp contest to Maung Aung Ko Thet of Mon State, the second to Maung Min Min Thein of Yangon Division and the third to Maung Aung Myo Htet of Yangon Division; the first prize for basic education level boys' harp contest (aged 15-20) to Maung Yu Paing Thaw of Yangon Division, the second to Maung Thet Oo Zin of Rakhine State and the third to Maung Pyi Phyto Zaw of Yangon Division; the first prize for boys' basic education level harp contest (aged 10-15) to Maung Kan Oo Aung of Bago Division, the second to Maung Myo Tun Kyaw of Yangon Division and the third to Maung Nyan Lin Tun of Mandalay Division; the first prize for basic education level boys' harp contest (aged 5-10) to Maung Thaung Htet of Mandalay Division, the second to Maung Aung Naing Soe of Ayeyawady Division and the third to Maung Htet Naing Lin of Yangon Division.

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin presented the first prize for professional level women's harp contest to Daw Pyone Mya Mya Kyi of Mon State and the second to Daw Zar Zar Aye of Mandalay Division; the first prize for amateur level women's harp contest to Ma Lwin Mar Thein of Taninthayi Division, the second to Daw Win Theingi Kyaw of Mandalay Division and the third to Daw Khin Swe Mya Nyunt of Mandalay Division; the first prize for higher education level women's harp contest to Ma Khin Swe Mya Kyi of Mandalay Division, the second to Ma Aye Thida Win of Bago Division and third prizes to Ma Tin Tin Yu of Yangon Division and Ma Nanda Aye (a) Khin Nanda Nwe of Mandalay Division; the first prize for basic education level girls' harp contest (aged 15-20) to Ma Cho Zin Tun of Bago Division; the first prize for basic edu-

cation level girls' harp contest (aged 10-15) to Ma Shwe Yamin Oo of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Hsu Hsu Win Maung of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Hsu Yi Pyone of Mon State; the first prize for basic education level girls' harp contest (aged 5-10) to Ma Hsu Yi Ko Ko of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Hnin Hnin Hlaing of Rakhine State and the third to Ma Hein Htet of Mandalay Division.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha presented the first prize for professional level men's xylophone contest to U Kaung Thant (a) Kyaw Zin Tun of Mandalay Division, the second to U Sein Bo Thin of Mandalay Division and the third to Myodaw Aye Min of Yangon Division; the first prize for amateur level men's xylophone contest to Maung Soe Aung of Mon State, the second to Myanpyithalay Po Zaw of Yangon Division and the third to U Min Ko of Kayin State; the first prize for higher education level men's xylophone contest to Maung Zeya Tun Wai of Yangon Division, the second to Maung Aung Aung of Mandalay Division, the third to Maung Kyaw Zin Aung of Yangon Division and consolation prizes to Maung Nay Myo Aung of Rakhine State and Maung Min Min Soe of Shan State; the first prize for basic education level boys' xylophone contest (aged 15-20) to Maung Thura Kyi Moe (a) Po Thingyan of Yangon Division, the second to Maung Soe Thein of Bago Division and the third to Maung Han Htet Aung of Mandalay Division; the first prize for basic education level boys' xylophone contest (aged 10-15) to Maung Pyi Phyto Maw of Mandalay Division, the second to Maung Myo Min Paing of Ayeyawady Division, third prizes to Maung Bo Shine of Yangon Division and Maung Kaung Kyi Lin of Chin State and consolation prizes to Maung Aye Naing of Rakhine State and Maung Myat Lin Han of Taninthayi Division; the first prize for basic education level boys' xylophone



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present Kathina robes and offertories to a Sayadaw. (News on page 1) — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a gift to Bogalay U Tint Aung who contributed to the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. (News on page 16) — MNA

contest (aged 5-10) to Maung Yan Paing of Mandalay Division, the second to Maung Aung Ko Ko of Magway Division, the third to Maung Win Ko Ko of Sagaing Division and consolation prize to Khun Thet Naing Oo of Shan State.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented the first prize for professional level women's xylophone contest to Daw Khin Thein Aye of Mandalay Division, the second to Ma Bo Ma of Yangon Division and the third to Daw Win Thanda Aung of Mon State; the first prize for amateur level women's xylophone contest to Ma Thinza Myo of Mandalay Division, the second to Myanmarpyisein of Ayeyawady Division and the third to Daw Kyi Kyi San of Mandalay Division; and the first prize for higher education level women's xylophone contest to Ma Ei Ei Mon of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Nay Chi Waing of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Ei Ei Htwe of Magway Division.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun presented the first prize for basic education level girls' xylophone contest (aged 15-20) to Ma Wint Thinza Stin of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Yadana Lin of Yangon Division and the third to Ma Ei Su Su Kyi of Kachin State; the first prize

for basic education level girls' xylophone contest (aged 10-15) to Ma Zar Zar Lin (a) Pauk Kyaw Ma of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Khin Swe Mon of Mon State and the third to Ma Su Mu Mu Htwe of Rakhine State; the first prize for basic education level xylophone contest (aged 5-10) to Ma Chit Su Wai Sting of Yangon Division, the second to Ma Zar Ni Nan Lwin of Yangon Division, the third to Ma Aye Chan Moe of Sagaing Division and consolation prizes to Ma Aye Mon Thi of Kayah State and Ma Shwe Yi Hsaung of Taninthayi Division.

(To be continued)

145 tourists arrive by chartered flight

YANGON, 4 NOV — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels & Tourism, with the assistance of Ministry of Transport and under the programme of EPG Travel & Tours Co Ltd and Taipan Touristik and Austrian Airline, 145 tourists arrived at Yangon International Airport by a chartered flight this morning. They were welcomed by officials

of the Ministry of H&T and EPG Travel & Tours Co Ltd and members of cultural dance troupe of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services. During the open season of 2002-2003, there is a chartered flight every Wednesday. Starting today, there is a similar flight Vienna-Yangon-Phuket-Vienna flight on Tuesdays.

MNA

Respect paying ceremony at Monywa BEHS-1

YANGON, 4 NOV — The 17th respect paying ceremony and prize presentation ceremony of No 1 Basic Education High school, Monywa, will be held on 16 November at the school.

Those wishing to contribute cash may contact Ph 01-245615, 01-245619, 071-21157, 071-21156, 071-21039, 071-21244 or 071-21209.

MNA

MAEU interview

YANGON, 4 NOV — Students who have passed the Matriculation Examination with an average of 56 marks and above and applied for Myanmar Aerospace En-

gineering University/ Undergraduate Diploma are to report to the office of the registrar of the University for their personal interview not later than 10 November. — MNA

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye bids farewell to Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

YANGON, 4 NOV — At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, the visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat left for Bagan-NyaungU by Special Aircraft this morning.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and his delegations at Inya Kantha State House this morning.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented souvenirs, documentary album and video CD to visiting Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.

Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat presented souvenirs to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

The visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye left Inya Kantha State House for Yangon International Airport in a motorcade.

Afterwards, the visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was cordially greeted by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, 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 of Yangon Com-

mand Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian embassy staff at Yangon International Airport.

Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat cordially greeted Vice-Senior General Maung Aye again.

After that, when the visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to the Republic of India U Kyi Thein and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia began to leave for Bagan-NyaungU at 9.10 am by Special Aircraft, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party bade von voyage to the Indian delegation from VIP lounge at Yangon International Airport.

MNA



Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets visiting Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat prior to his departure for Bagan-NyaungU by Special Aircraft at Yangon International Airport. —MNA



State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye bids farewell to visiting Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat on the latter's departure for Bagan-NyaungU by Special Aircraft at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

It is national duty for those who love and cherish lineage to preserve and safeguard own national characters

Prime Minister attends dinner hosted in honour of maestros and judges of 11th MTCPAC

YANGON, 4 NOV — A dinner was hosted in honour of the maestros and judges who assisted the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at the National Theater on Myoma Kyaung Street this evening attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of

the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of Panel of Patrons of the Committee for holding the 11th MTCPAC Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the 11th MTCPAC Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the

Yangon mayor, the vice-chairman of the leading committee and members, members of working committee and sub-committees, the director-general of SPDC office, departmental heads, maestros, judges, managers from states and divisions and guests.

U Hla Win and Daw Thida Swe of Myanma Radio and Television acted as masters of ceremonies.

First, Patron of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a

speech.

The Prime Minister said the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions successfully concluded in accord with fine traditions. He said the government thanked doyen artistes for their contribution to bring about invaluable results and their active leadership and participation in the competitions and honoured them.

He said national cultural traditions and customs, national way of thinking, national norms and social values and national cultural arts



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt makes a speech at the ceremony to honour doyen artistes and judges. —MNA

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