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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Shwekyathingan to Dhammacakka Mudra Buddha images of Varadahta Datuzediya Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon)

YANGON, 8 Nov— The eighth Buddha Pujaniya, consecration of the Buddha, Shwekyathingan (golden lotus robe) and provisions offering of Varadahta Datuzediya Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) were held at the Tooth Relic Pagoda on Dhammapala Hill in Mayangon Township early in the morning today, 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.

Present were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) Board of Trustees, Sayadaws of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Chief Patron Sayadaw of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), Chairmen Sayadaws of Sangha Nayaka Committees of All Ganas in Yangon Division, Chairman of Theravada Ovadacariya Sayadaw and invited members of the Sangha totalling 45, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Lt-Gen Tin Oo's wife Daw Khin Than Nwe, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general and the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Shwekyathingan to the Dhammacakka Mudra Buddha Image. — MNA

Board and their wives, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of Leading Committee, Work Committee and Sub-committees, members of the Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) Board of Trustees and guests. Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered "soon", water and flowers to Buddha images and the Tooth Relic Pagoda.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing,

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Lt-Gen Tin Oo's wife Daw Khin Than Nwe, General Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-1 and the Secretary-2, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon

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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and those present receiving the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñinda Bhivamsa. — MNA

Myanmar wushu team bags two more silver medals

YANGON, 8 Nov — Myanmar Wushu team bagged two more silver medals in Hsanzo competition after the final day match of 7th World Wushu Championship held in Macao today.

In the men's 48 kilo division of Hsanzo competition, Thein Htaik Oo (Defence) of Myanmar won silver medal, the Philippines gold and host Macao and Yemen bronze respectively. In the women's 40 kilo division,

Ma Thin Za Soe (YCDC) of Myanmar won silver medal, China gold and Vietnam and the Philippines bronze respectively.

After the final day match, Myanmar Wushu team fetched two gold, four silver and two grade-4 and one grade-5 certificates of honour. In the championship, Myanmar stood fifth place among the prize winning countries.

NLM

Devotees perform meritorious deeds at famous pagodas, monasteries in Yangon

YANGON, 8 Nov — The famous pagodas, monasteries and religious buildings in Yangon were crowded with devotees performing meritorious deeds today, Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon.

The 19th Matho Thingan Weaving Competition, organized by Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, was held at the Yahu Corner (north-west corner) of the platform of the pagoda this morning. Present on the occasion were members of the pagoda board of trustees, re-

ligious and social organizations, wellwishers and pilgrims.

After the prize-presentation ceremony, the newly-weaved Matho Thingans were offered to the Buddha images on the platform. As of yesterday evening until this evening, the pagoda drew a large number of the members of the Sangha and devout laity paying reverence, offering water, flowers, incense sticks and lights to the pagoda, practising meditation. Feast and drinking wa-

ter were given in charity to all visitors the whole day.

Wut associations recited *parittas* and religious verses at the Sule Pagoda this evening. Fruits and 5,000 lights were offered to the Lord Buddha and Kathina robes were offered to the Buddha images there.

The 21st Matho Thingan Weaving Contest was held at NanU Phayagyi Dazaung of Botahtaung Kyaikdayup HsandawU Pagoda at 5 am today. Members of the pagoda board of trustees,

wellwishers and members of religious organizations offered the Matho Thingans to the Buddha images of the pagoda before dawn.

Chairman of Seikkan Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita invested the congregation with the Five Precepts and delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Wellwishers donated K 810,000 for presenting cash prizes to the winning teams.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 9 November, 2003

For boosting agricultural production

Being an agro-based nation Myanmar must promote her agriculture sector radically. Only then will the national economic life make progress. With this concept the State is laying emphasis on boosting agricultural production as one of the national duties.

For the economic development of the State, special attention is to be paid to agriculture and meat and fish sectors. Rakhine State is one of the states and divisions that contribute much towards the State's economy.

On 1 November, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence inspected construction of Nayikan Bridge on Yangon-Sittway road and regional development tasks.

During his inspection tour of Rakhine State, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with officials, members of social organizations, townselders and local people and discussed matters relating to peace and tranquillity of the State, law enforcement and making efforts for extension of agriculture and livestock breeding sector in Rakhine State thereby contributing to the State's economy.

Now is the time when efforts are being made by laying down plans systematically for boosting agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. In Rakhine State, people are enjoying surplus rice and there are favourable condition to extend the sown acreage.

At present, it is targeted to put 1.2 million acres under monsoon paddy in Rakhine State. In line with the target, local organizations and farmers are to strive for reclaiming more land to extend paddy sown acreage. Moreover, they are to strive to meet the target that is to put under 30,000 acres of land under summer paddy.

Farmers are to embark on an ambitious programme of growing not only monsoon and summer paddy but also beans and pulses, edible oil crops and new items of crops on a manageable scale together with conducting livestock breeding tasks.

As regards growing beans and pulses, all sorts of the crops that are suitable to the region should be grown.

In Rakhine State, fresh water and sea prawn breeding tasks are being carried out on a wide scale. In the past, there were only about 60,000 acres of prawn breeding ponds but now, the number rises to over 150,000.

As Rakhine State has targeted to become one of the states that contribute much towards the national economy, farmers in Rakhine State are urged to strive for boosting livestock breeding and agricultural production.



Precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda packed with pilgrims on fullmoon day of Tazaungmon. — MNA



Lawka Chantha Abhaya Laba Muni Buddha Image crowded with pilgrims on fullmoon day of Tazaungmon. — MNA

Devotees perform meritorious deeds...

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The pagoda was bustling with devout laity the whole day. Among them, some practised meditation while some offered flowers, water, lights and cash to the pagoda. In the evening, Sunday Sanitation Team offered 9,000 lights to the pagoda.

The eighth Matho Thingan Weaving Contest took place at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda this morning. The pagoda board trustees and wellwishers offered the Matho Thingans to 29 Buddha images. They offered "soon" to Sayadaws. They also presented robes and offertories to members of the Sangha. Next, merits gained were shared.

The pagoda board of trustees also organized Thamanña Phala Sutta Day (Day of members of Buddhist Order) observing ceremony at the prayer hall of the pagoda at 7 am today.

Religious verses on Thamanña Phala Sutta were recited, followed by sharing of merits.

The 13th Matho Thingan offering ceremony was held at the Shwephonepint Pagoda in Pazuntaung Township this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees, wellwishers, Wut associations and lay persons.

The minister, Shwephonepint Pagoda Board of Trustees Chairman U Ko Ko Gyi and Secretary of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association offered Shwekya Thingans to the Buddha Image of the Dhammayon. Officials, wellwishers and members of Wut associations offered Matho Thingans to the Buddha images at the pagoda. Wellwishers and the pagoda

board trustees presented prizes to the winning teams.

The 24th Matho Thingan Weaving and Offering Ceremony was held at the Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangun Township, Yangon East District, this morning. A member of the pagoda board of trustees presented prizes to the winning teams. The Pagoda Ovacacariya Pahtama Shwekyin Monastery Sayadaw Ashin Sumana delivered a sermon on Sila (precepts). Those present shared merits gained. Matho Thingans were offered to the Buddha image at the pagoda.

Similarly, such pagodas in Yangon as Kohtatgyi, Chaukhtatgyi, Ngahtatgyi, Melamu, Mogaung, Yangon Aranda, Okkalapa MyoU, Dagon MyoU, Kyaikkalat

and Kyaikkale were crowded with people keeping precepts, offering flowers, water, lights and fruits to the pagodas, practising meditation, telling beads and serving the visitors with refreshments and cold drinks.

The townships and wards in Yangon held Kathina robe-offering ceremonies, Samanña Phala Day observing ceremonies and feast offering ceremonies as well as funfairs at respective places.

While pious people were doing meritorious deeds at religious buildings, Yangon Zoological Gardens, Hlawga Wildlife Park, Kandawgyi Gardens, Inya Lake, the People's Square and People's Park, amusement parks and playgrounds were bustling with holiday-makers. — MNA

Prize-winners in oral examination of Abhidhamma and Buddha Dhamma Teachings

YANGON, 8 Nov — A ceremony to present prizes and certificates of honour to the students who had won the oral examination of Abhidhamma and Buddha Dhamma Teachings for the year 2002, organized by Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at Tiger Parahita School for National Races Development yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife,

heads of departments and their families, faculty members and guests.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Bhaddanta Pandhita of Tiger Parahita School for National Races Development and offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Next, Minister Col Thein Nyunt made a speech on the occasion. The minister and heads of departments presented souvenirs to teachers. The directors-general of the departments presented prizes to other winners.

MNA

Shwemyaya Invitational Hockey Cup held

YANGON, 8 Nov — The prize presentation ceremony of Shwemyaya Invitational Hockey Cup (Men/Women) jointly organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation and Ngapali Enterprise was held at Theinbyu hockey pitch this evening. Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented prizes to winners.

It was attended by President of MHF Commander of No 2 Military Region Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and executives, Director-Gen-

eral U Thaug Htaik and officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department, guests and enthusiasts.

Before the ceremony, Defence Services Records Office Team-A and Team-B competed for the championship for the men's open event. The minister presented the championship for men's open event to Defence Services Records Office Team-B.

After the prize presentation, Brig-Gen Myo Myint presented a commemorative gift to Managing Director U Myint Naing of Ngapali Enterprise. — MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents a prize to a winning team. — MNA

Ted Turner says Iraq "mess" may strengthen UN

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Nov—US billionaire Ted Turner said he hoped the world would learn from the errors of the Iraq war and that the United Nations would be strengthened by it. "The unilateralism and our action on that war hasn't been that successful for the United States, and Britain," he told reporters.

"It's easy to start a war, it's very hard to end it," Turner spoke at UN headquarters where he went to report on the United Nations Foundation, which he founded with one billion dollars in 1997.

"There were no weapons of mass destruction, the security is very poor there," he said.

"And we are in a mess. And out of that we might learn a lesson and give this preemptive war and unilateralism another thought."

He called the Iraq war "a very divisive action, but this has happened to the UN before." "It happened numerous times during the Cold War and the UN survived that," he said.

"It's very possible that the UN will come out of it much stronger than it was before."

Turner also lauded the foundation's inclusion of the sixth woman on the 11-member

board of directors, former Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former director of the World Health Organization.

"Men should be barred from public office for 100 years," he said. "We would have a much better world."

Since its founding six years ago, Turner's group has donated 689 million dollars for children's medicine and to fight AIDS.

Turner founded CNN, but in 2003 lost his post as vice president of AOL Time Warner, which had purchased CNN. He remains the largest single shareholder.

He said of the Iraq war, "People are paying a price now, not only a price in gigantic amount of money, the United States spent billions of dollars bombing and damaging Iraq, now we have to spend 87 billion to fix it back up again. — Internet

World court condemns US in dispute with Iran

AMSTERDAM, 8 Nov—The International Court of Justice in The Hague said on Thursday that US attacks against three Iranian oil platforms in 1987 and 1988 were unjustified. The World Court however rejected claims for financial compensation filed by both Iran and the United States.

Iran filed its claim against the United States in late 1992, accusing US warships of destroying three of its oil platforms in the Gulf. In 1996 the US filed a counter claim for damages to maritime trade.

"The actions of the United States of America... cannot be justified as measures necessary to protect the essential security interests of the United States of America," the world court said in a statement.

"The United States was only entitled to have recourse to force... if it was acting in

self-defence," it said, referring to the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights between the US and Iran, regarding the freedom of commerce and navigation between the two territories.

The court said it rejected the Iranian claim for financial damage compensation as Iran's oil platforms had not been operational at the time of the attacks and the country was therefore not restricted in its freedom of trade.

MNA/Reuters

China, Serbia to expand cooperation

BEIJING, 8 Nov—China will continue to broaden cooperation with the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro, said Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), here Thursday.

In a meeting with visiting Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, Jia said that China, Serbia and Montenegro enjoy a profound traditional friendship and that bilateral cooperation is consistent with fundamental interests and common aspirations of the people of both countries.

Jia said he believed that the mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Serbia and Montenegro can bear still more fruitful results through joint efforts.

MNA/Xinhua



A model sits on a motorcycle during the 2003 Beijing International Motorcycle Exhibition in Beijing, on 6 November. China has a capacity of producing 12 million motorcycles a year, but faces an ever decreasing domestic demand as fewer people buy motorcycles in urban areas. — INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်သစ် တိုးမြှင့်



US military vehicles and a fire truck arrive at the scene where an US Army Black Hawk helicopter crashed Friday near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. —INTERNET

India, Iran agree to work together to fight terrorism

NEW DELHI, 8 Nov—India and Iran have agreed to pursue joint strategies for peace and international stability and work together to combat global terrorism.

The matter came up during a meeting between an Indian parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament) Speaker Manohar Joshi and his counterpart in Iran's Majlis, Mehdi Kharroubi, in Teheran, a Lok Sabha release said here Thursday.

Both speakers said the two democracies could co-operate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union to work out joint strategies for peace and international stability and eradicate terrorism, as it had no place in a civilized society.

Terming the Indian delegation's visit to Iran as a "milestone" in bilateral relations, Kharroubi said there were tremendous opportunities for the two nations, which had deep relations and civilizational similarities, to work together in a variety of areas, the potential for which needed to be explored further. The delegation also called on President Syed Mohammad Khatami, who said India had been a source of inspiration for Iran as a land of thought, wisdom and struggle for great causes.

MNA/PTI

195 kilos of drugs seized in Australia

CANBERRA, 8 Nov—Australia and Belgium's police have broken up a Belgium-based drug syndicate in a joint operation, seizing 195 kilos of ecstasy worth 42 million US dollars.

Two Belgian nationals and one Dutch national along with three Australian men have been arrested in connection with the alleged importation of ecstasy, Minister for Justice and Customs Chris Ellison said in a statement Thursday. The haul of 860,000 ecstasy tablets represents the second largest seizure of the kind in Australia. —MNA/Xinhua

India emphasizes free flow of N-power technology, equipment

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Nov—India has asked industrialized nations to "shed the baggage inherited" from the past and allow flow of equipment and technology related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the interest of the peoples of developing countries.

Whenever there are no genuine concerns, barriers to deployment of nuclear technologies need to be examined and brought down through pragmatic approach, India's representative B. Mahtab, told the General Assembly.

Participating in the debate on the report of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said growth of nuclear energy in the developing countries, particularly in fast growing economies with large populations, should be a matter of global interest in view of its potential to protect the Earth from irreversible climate changes.

"We must move towards a more peaceful and prosperous world on the basis of plenty of energy available within the reach of all. Mindless controls without addressing the core issue of meeting development aspirations of the needy do not help the situation: rather it makes matters worse," he told the 191-member Assembly.

Emphasizing India's commitment to work against proliferation of nuclear weapons, Mahtab said looking from the perspective of a large and growing economy like India, with its small hydrocarbon and depleting coals reserves, the development of nuclear

energy based on closed cycle approach enabling fuller use of uranium and thorium is the only way to meet the development aspiration of more than a billion people.

India, therefore, is pursuing a comprehensive R and D programme to explore newer technologies to widen the scope of nuclear energy use, he added.

"Today, we are on a fast-track growth, backed by strong research and development programme, industrial and safety infrastructure," he said.

Detailing India's plan to increase production of nuclear power, Mahtab said two billion people are projected to be added in next 30 years to six billion already inhabiting the earth and another one billion in subsequent 20 years.

Virtually all increase would be in the developing countries with bulk in urban areas. "The core challenge for development would thus be to ensure availability of productive work opportunities and access to basic services," he stressed. Referring to steep disparity of incomes between rich and the poor nations, he said availability of energy within the reach of everyone could significantly correct the situation. —MNA/PTI



Iraqi protesters hold up a nationalist banner during an anti-US demonstration outside the Baghdad headquarters of the US-led coalition. Some 500 protesters demonstrated following the Friday noon prayers to demand the release of their leaders arrested by the US army. — INTERNET

Malaysian PM urges local governments to cut red tape

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Nov—Malaysian new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday directed local governments at state level to set up task forces to reduce bureaucracy.

The directive was given at a meeting of chief ministers from various states chaired for the first time by Abdullah as Prime Minister at the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya, south of Kuala Lumpur.

"The instruction is based on the government's aspiration to raise the quality of the civil service so that it becomes smoother and more efficient," said a statement issued by the Prime Minister's office after the meeting. Abdullah also instructed the chief ministers and state secretaries to make proposals to Chief Secretary to the Government Samsudin Osman on the revamp of government front-line agencies, especially the land office, district office and the local council.

MNA/Xinhua

China boosts desertification control as an industry

BEIJING, 8 Nov—China will strive to boost the prevention and control of desertification as an industry to improve its ecosystem, officials from the State Forestry Administration (SFA) said here Thursday.

Addressing a forum on desert control, Zhu Lieke, deputy director of the SFA, said that desertification had become a serious problem in China, so it was imperative to confront the threat. Zhu said that the promotion of the "desert industry" should be taken as a top priority.

A desert industry, which was first proposed by Chinese scientist Qian Xuesen in 1984, refers to all desert-based agricultural and forestry economies targeted at the control of desertification and a sustainable development of resources.

According to statistics, China has a total of 1.74 million square kilometres of desertified land, covering 18.2 per cent of the country's territory. Also, 13 million hectares of farmland and 100 million hectares of grassland are exposed to the threat of desertification scourge.

Zhu noted that the country will make efforts to establish a stable and booming desert industry within 50 years to curb desertification. China's desert industries are mostly located in the country's northern and northwestern areas. After two decades' development, Zhu acknowledged, they have already become mainstays of local economy.

The forum on desertification control is part of China's first desert industry expo, which opened Thursday and will last three days.

The expo will attract more enterprises to desertification control, Liu Tuo, a sand control official with SFA, said. A total of 142 enterprises involving in forestry, environment, water conservancy, agriculture and the petroleum industry, from 22 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions will take part in the expo.

MNA/Xinhua

UN to seek \$9b to fight "AIDS" in third world

GENEVA, 8 Nov—A major anti-AIDS drive needs up to 9 billion US dollars to ensure that half of the six million people in developing countries needing treatment for HIV can get it by 2005, a senior UN health official said on Thursday.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is spearheading a campaign aimed at bringing treatment to three of the six million within two years. The drive, dubbed "Three by Five", or "3 million by 2005", is to be launched in Nairobi on December 1.

At present, only 5 per cent — or some 300,000 sufferers — had access to the anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs that prolong life and control the disease, Paulo Roberto Teixeira, head of the WHO's anti-AIDS programme, told a news conference.

"We are already late. We cannot go on waiting for social and economic change in developing countries to tackle this problem," said Teixeira, hailed as the mastermind of Brazil's campaign against HIV and AIDS.

"Our eventual aim is that some day there will be free and universal access to ARV for everyone suffering from HIV and AIDS," said Teixeira, who moved to the WHO to spearhead the global fight against the scourge.

Also taking part in the two-year programme

will be other international agencies and non-governmental organizations and probably major drug manufacturing companies, he said.

"We will need funding from all sources totalling from seven to nine billion dollars for the programme. The WHO alone will need an extra 200 million dollars in 2004 and 2005 to support its part of the programme."

Teixeira said initial reaction from donor countries to the programme — which will run parallel to AIDS prevention efforts — had been positive and there were signs that essential financial support would come through.

Over 20 million people have died of AIDS over the past two decades and at least 42 million more are infected with the HIV virus that causes it, according to WHO figures.

The agency says that the disease, particularly devastating in sub-Saharan Africa where one in 10 adults are living with it, is draining poor countries of the people they need to put their economies on to a path of sustainable growth. — MNA/Reuters

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Hundreds demonstrate in Baghdad, demand US leave Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 Nov — About 500 people demonstrated outside the Baghdad headquarters of the US-led coalition, demanding that American troops leave Iraq and free Sunni Muslims they say have been arrested.

The demonstrators chanted "USA, go away!" before praying Friday outside the coalition compound.

"We want them to release personnel from our mosques and to leave our country," said Sheikh Abdul Sattar al-Janabi, who wanted to be received by a coalition official.

Religious leaders wanted to present a text demanding "the release of Sunni religious people, the arrest of those who kill

Sunnis and the end of the harassment of Sunnis by occupation forces."

Opposition to the US-led occupation comes predominantly from Iraq's Sunni population, which was in power under deposed president Saddam Hussein, and is concentrated in areas north and west of Baghdad where most anti-coalition attacks have taken place.

The demonstration was called by the Superior Islamic Institute which operates from the Um al-Tubul mosque in west Baghdad and is headed by Sheikh Mahdi al-Sumaidy.

Internet

Massive project launched for better protection of ancient tombs

ZHENGZHOU, 8 Nov—China has launched a mammoth project designed to protect hundreds of ancient tombs in the Mount Mangshan area of Luoyang City in central China's Henan Province.

Chinese archaeologists will make thorough surveys and exploration of the number and distribution of ancient tombs in the area, using high-tech means, said Zhu Liang, head of the No. 2 Archaeological Work Team of Luoyang City, which is responsible for the current investigation and exploration.

Archaeologists will also search for unknown tombs in the area, said Zhu. All data and materials obtained from the current investigation programme will be used for future protection, study and excavations of ancient tombs in the area. Beginning last month,

the project will be carried out in three phases, from 2003 to 2005, from 2006 to 2009 and from 2010 to 2012. A renowned city with a longstanding history, Luoyang was made the capital city of 13 dynasties in Chinese history during a historical period of more than 1,000 years.

Covering more than 750 square kilometres, the Mount Mangshan area spans seven districts and counties of Xigong, Laocheng, Jianxi, Hequ, Luolong, Yanshi and Mengjin in the northern part of Luoyang. The area is crowded with hundreds of

thousands of mausoleums of ancient kings and emperors as well as tombs of nobles and ordinary people, the largest group of ancient tombs that has ever been found in China.

The date of the tombs ranges from the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770 BC-256 BC) to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Owing to wind and rainwater erosion and damage caused by bustling human activities, the number of tombs that have surface signs has declined to less than 400 from the former 600 in the early years following the founding of New China in 1949. — MNA/Xinhua

Putin vows to crack down on all illegal activity

ROME, 8 Nov—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday vowed on Thursday to stage a "consistent and tough" crackdown on all illegal activities in Russia regardless of who the perpetrators might be.

"Our aim is not to go after specific individuals but to establish order in our country," Putin said at a news conference in Rome following the twice-yearly European Union-Russia summit.

"And we will do so in a consistent and tough fashion without regard to whatever attempts these people may make to defend themselves or even resort to blackmail. Attempts to blackmail the state authorities will fail," he added.

Putin spoke after EU officials said they wanted reassurances after the arrest of YUKOS <YUKO.RTS> head Mikhail Khodorkovsky two weeks ago and the freezing by prosecutors of a large stake in the oil giant. — MNA/Reuters



Hong Kong actor Jackie Chan displays his T-shirt at a gala to promote his fashion collection, in Guangzhou, the capital of China's southern province of Guangdong, on 6 Nov, 2003. The 'JC Collection' will make its debut in China in 2004.

INTERNET

US FACES INTENSIFIED RESISTANCE IN IRAQ

Blackhawk down in Iraq, six US soldiers killed

BAGHDAD, 8 Nov—Six US soldiers were killed when a Blackhawk helicopter was “forced down” in northern Iraq and another died in a separate attack as Turkey announced it was abandoning plans to send troops to help its beleaguered US ally.

The bloodshed that has become the daily norm here also claimed the life of another US soldier in Mosul and an Iraqi woman northeast of the capital as Washington readied plans to trim its troop strength in the strife-torn country.

The six soldiers, all from the 101st Airborne Division, were killed when the Blackhawk came down outside an American base near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, a hotbed of anti-US sentiment.

The downing came less than a week after a Chinook transport helicopter was shot down by a ground-fired missile near the flashpoint western town of Fallujah, killing 16 soldiers and wounding 26.

“The total number of people on board was six. All six have died,” said Major Josselyn Aberle, a spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division in Tikrit, 180 kilometers (110 miles) north of Baghdad.

“They were all from the 101st Airborne Division. They were in a Blackhawk helicopter transporting personnel from Mosul to Tikrit on a routine flight. The cause is still being investigated.”

Aberle said that officials were looking into reports that loud booms were heard just before the Blackhawk went down.

Witnesses were adamant the aircraft had been knocked out of the sky.

“I saw one of the helicopters shot from the side and I saw smoke and a ball of fire. I felt happy,” said Saqr Ghani, who like many here celebrated the setback for the US-led occupation.

“I then ran to the car and immediately headed to the river bank where I saw the helicopter cut in two pieces.”

A farmer, Abu Ahmad, said he had heard a loud blast and saw smoking rising from where the helicopter crashed.

US army Specialist Bryan Speckler suggested the attack was similar to the downing of a Blackhawk by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) on October 25 just outside Tikrit.

Internet



A US Army soldier secures the “Green Zone” in central Baghdad, after mortars were fired into the area late November 4, 2003. The mortars hit the highly guarded headquarters area of the US-led occupation, wounding four people and shaking downtown Baghdad with explosions.

INTERNET



US Army troops move in to secure the crash site of a Black Hawk helicopter in the northern Iraqi town of Tikrit, November 7, 2003. — *INTERNET*



A US Army Apache helicopter flies over an Abrams tank guarding the entrance to the crash site of a Black Hawk helicopter, in the northern Iraq town of Tikrit, November 7, 2003. The helicopter crashed near Saddam Hussein's hometown in Iraq on Friday, killing six people on board, and US soldiers said it had been probably been shot down with a rocket-propelled grenade. — *INTERNET*



Detained Iraqis are surrounded after attacking soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse) during an early morning raid in the village of Maidan, 40 kms northeast of Baquba, Iraq, November 7, 2003. As deadly guerilla attacks against US forces have been increasing in parts of Iraq, US troops detained dozens of Iraqis after raiding the village looking for members of a suspected cell planning attacks on coalition forces. — *INTERNET*

Bush uses Saddam to justify Iraq occupation

BEIJING, 8 Nov — Dead or alive, the former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein remains useful to US President George W Bush as a good excuse for continuing the occupation of Iraq by the US-led coalition forces, said an article published by the English-language *China Daily* on Friday.

With his fate still unknown six months after the war, the former Iraqi president "has proven to be the United States' largest excuse for military operations against Iraq", said the article written by Wu Yixue. The Bush Administration is under tremendous pressure both at home and abroad "for its lack of an obvious intention to immediately end its military presence in Iraq and return the sovereignty of Iraq to the Iraqi people." On Monday, Bush said that Saddam is still alive and is trying to make troubles for the coalition forces.

By accusing Saddam of being behind the recent series of bomb attacks that inflicted heavy loss of lives on the US side, the article said, Bush was trying to justify the foreign occupation of Iraq, said the article.

"Bush once said the US-led war in Iraq

was to emancipate the Iraqi people from the rule of a despot and give them a democratic and stable Iraq. But half a year after the 'liberation,' an ideal society promised by the United States is still out of sight of the Iraqi people," it added.

Just as the Bush Administration has failed so far to present any hard evidence on Iraq's alleged programme of weapons of mass destruction, the US President once again provided no exact evidence for Saddam's direct connection with the recent serious bomb attacks in Iraq.

"Bush's words are nothing but an excuse aimed at exculpating himself from responsibilities for the mounting casualties of US soldiers in Iraq and continuously keeping a US military presence in the country," said the article.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal's garment export to US drops in October

KATHMANDU, 8 Nov — Nepal's ready-made garment export to the United States dropped by 60 per cent in October over the same period last year, according to figures released by the Garment Association of Nepal on Friday.

Garment export volume stood at 3.81 million US dollars in October, while it was 9.56 million dollars in October 2002, said the industry association.

This is the third straight month that Nepal's garment exports to the United States experienced a downfall. The export dipped by one per cent and 18 per cent in August and September, respectively, prior to which it had been growing for 12 consecutive months. The United States is the largest market of Nepal's garment items exported abroad, consuming some 85 per cent of its total.

MNA/Xinhua

Virus-hit ship arrives back in Britain

LONDON, 8 Nov — The virus-hit British cruise ship, *Aurora*, which has prompted a diplomatic row when Spain closed its border with British colony Gibraltar, arrived back in Southampton, England Thursday.

The *Aurora*, with about 1,900 passengers and more than 800 crew on board, left on October 20 for a 17-day European voyage. More than 500 of its passengers suffered from a highly infectious stomach bug, which causes diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

Ahead of the ship's arrival, the P&O Cruises, which run the vessel, said just one passenger was still displaying symptoms of the bug.

Spain sealed its border with Gibraltar Monday for fear of infection from the *Aurora*, which docked at Gibraltar after the Greek Government denied the ship entry to the Greek port of Piraeus outside Athens last Friday.

Spain reopened its border with Gibraltar two hours after the *Aurora* sailed for Southampton Monday.

Britain regretted the Spanish closure of its border with Gibraltar, saying the action of the Spanish Government was "unnecessary and disproportionate".

Gibraltar ceased being Spanish in 1704 when a British-led naval force conquered the "Rock", which Spain formally ceded in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht.

Britain and Spain agreed last year to share sovereignty over Gibraltar, whose 30,000 inhabitants want to remain linked to Britain and would next year celebrate the 300th anniversary of Gibraltar as a British territory.

Talks between Britain and Spain over the enclave were stalled after Gibraltarians voted overwhelmingly in a referendum last year that they should stay British.

MNA/Xinhua

မြို့ခြံခွံတာ၊ သိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



US helicopters have been searching the area of the helicopter crash near Tikrit on 7 November. — INTERNET

S Korean, Pakistani presidents meet

SEOUL, 8 Nov — Visiting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, at a meeting with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun Thursday and expressed his hope for enhanced bilateral relations between the two countries.

The two leaders noted the steady expansion of economic cooperation and personnel exchanges between the two countries since the normalization of diplomatic ties in 1983 and agreed to nurture the ties to maximize future potential growth.

President Roh asked Musharraf to foster an improved atmosphere for South Korean firms to invest in Pakistan and also to participate more actively in the information-technology (IT) and construction markets.

President Musharraf asked South Korea to assist Pakistan's IT, science-technol-

ogy, and energy-mineral industries, the Presidential Office said.

The two leaders agreed to widen personnel exchanges to include the cultural, arts and sports fields in a bid to promote civilian cooperation.

They signed two cooperation agreements after the meeting, one relating to the IT industry and the other on energy and mineral development.

Musharraf arrived here on Wednesday for a three-day visit to South Korea after winding up his trip to China. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia celebrates Water Festival

PHNOM PENH, 8 Nov — Cambodia on Friday started the celebrations of the annual Water Festival, the biggest festival in the capital city, in front of the Royal Palace here, which is expected to attract over one million people.

King Norodom Sihanouk reportedly plans to watch the boat racing on the first day of the festival celebrations which will last through Sunday. The boat racing this year is attended by 376 racing boats, 30 less than last year, because a number of boats are too old to attend the competition, the *Kampuchea Thmei* newspaper quoted Chea Kean, vice-secretary of the permanent committee preparing na-

tional and international festival, as saying. Among the racers this year, some 650 are female.

Besides the boat racing, the three-day celebrations include fireworks, moonprayers and illuminated boats with ministry and royal emblems. Last year, the festival drew up to two million visitors to Phnom Penh from around the country. — MNA/Xinhua

China presents donation for Indonesian flood victims

JAKARTA, 8 Nov — The Chinese Red Cross Society on Friday presented a donation of 20,000 US dollars to help the flood-afflicted areas in Indonesia's North Sumatra Province, where at least 113 people have been confirmed dead so far.

"Although the donation is not huge in amount, it expresses the sincerity of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people to help the Indonesian Government and people overcome difficulties," Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia Lu Shumin said when handing the donation to Mari'e Muhammad, director of the Indonesian Red Cross Society.

"I'm confident that with the guidance and leadership of the Indonesian Government and the joint

efforts of the Indonesian people, and also with the care and help from the international community, the people in the afflicted areas will win the fight against the catastrophe and then rebuild their hope," the ambassador said.

Besides human casualties, the flash flood that occurred at the Langkat tourist resort on Sunday destroyed more than 400 homes, cottages and other buildings, while more than one hundred people are still missing.

MNA/Xinhua

China has 293 sister cities with Japan, S Korea

WUXI (Jiangsu), 8 Nov — Besides actively promoting state-to-state friendship, China also is also establishing friendly ties at the local level. "Promoting friendly relations with foreign cities is an important policy of China's diplomacy," Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries said here Thursday at the meeting held to promote communication among local governments of China, Japan and South Korea. Chen said China has established friendly ties with 220 Japanese cities and 73 South Korean cities.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Army tank rushes to the scene where an US Army Black Hawk helicopter crashed Friday, on 6 Nov, 2003 into a riverbank near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, killing six US soldiers, the military said. It probably was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, an officer said. — INTERNET

Border area development

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

Childhood friends

I think that my father was among in the persons who hardly shed tears. Throughout my life, I had almost never heard father grumbling, and never seen him felt sad and depressed. I had seen him shedding tears only once when the abbot monk of YwaU Monastery of my village passed away. I was a third-grader then. The whole village revered the monk so much, and relied on him to solve their many problems.

As the late abbot monk was the patron of Maha Dwara order of Laymyethna Township, a large number of his disciples, lay persons and monks, from far and near attended the funeral rites. While the adults were grieving much for the death of the monk, we, the children, were very happy at the final rites ceremony. We were running in the crowd, enjoying the food that was served at the ceremony, and watching plays in the late evenings.

The ethnic races including the Shan, the Pa-O, and the Kayah, who came to the rites together with the Sayadaw of the Laymyethna Parahita School, also entertained the public with traditional dances. The children of the ethnic races of my aged were neatly dressed with their traditional costumes. But I did not understand the words of their songs.

When I passed the eighth standard at the village monastic education school, father asked me whether I would like to continue my studies in Yangon or Letpadan or Laymyethna. I chose Laymyethna as it was the nearest to my village. So, I continued to attend classes at the Laymyethna Parahita School, and met with the ethnic children, who performed dances and songs at the final rites in my village, again at the school. I never forget my childhood days at Laymyethna Parahita School together with my ethnic friends. I was very happy at the school then. And when I arrived at their native regions on military operation duties, we were still friends, and we all had our respective responsibilities.

Military operations started in Hsihseng

Three of us, the childhood friends, were discharging duties together at the same battalion. Later, I was assigned duties at the commando company. My friend, Kaung San Oo, was sent to join the battalion launching military operations in Monai region as a reinforcement. But another friend of mine, Tin Oo, was left for the Defence Services volleyball team. He was a selected player of the Defence Services Academy while attending it. So, he had to stay behind at the headquarters. He tried to ask

the operation captain to send him to the forward areas, but failed. When two of us left for forward areas, Tin Oo was left behind at the battalion, downhearted.

First, the headquarters of our Light Infantry Division was stationed at Leikha, and six months later, it moved its HQ to Hsihseng. Our LID was launching military operations in all the directions. The insurgents of the Burma Communist Party and the Ya-la-la-pha (Red Pa-O) were mostly active in the areas lying in the east and south of Hsihseng. They rarely entered the areas west of Hsihseng frequented by the White Pa-O insurgents. Our battalion was sent to Hsihseng area to launch operations at Mene mountain range and along the banks of Ponchaung Creek. While discharging my duties to transport supplies and carry wounded persons, I met with my old friends again. We were talking about many things during our reunion.

One of my friends tried to learn Pa-O language as he fell in love with a young Pa-O woman. He tried to learn Pa-O as he found it difficult in communicating with her. Later, he became very fluent in Pa-O, but failed to win the love of the young woman.

Pinlaung, second; Kyauktan, third

As in the case of Hsihseng, I had been to Pinlaung and Kyauktan for two or three times. Our columns had to enter Kayah region via Pinlaung. In the past, we had to launch military operations in the areas east and west of Inlay Lake. But now, the Inlay is the pride of Shan State where visitors are taking a peaceful vacation, while staying at the floating hotels. The Lake region is also the showcase of the traditions and cultures of the ethnic races, and it is an area where handicrafts are produced.

I had been to Kyauktan and Mongpyin/Letthet regions north of Hopong. The regions are home to the ethnic Pa-O people. These regions were free from Red Pa-Os and White Pa-Os. We encountered only the insurgents of the central bureau of the BCP in the regions.

It was so strange to launch military operations in the Pa-O region where gentle and religious ethnic races lived, as the insurgents in the area were following the armed struggle line. But now the situation of the whole Pa-O region is totally different from that of the past.

(To be continued)
(Translation: TMT)

Minister inspects bridges being constructed in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 8 NOV — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun attended the corner stone laying ceremony for construction of City Hall in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division, on 7 November morning.

The minister then inspected the completion of construction of the two-storey building of Kyaukse Basic Education High School No 2 donated by Moe Hein Co. Officials conducted the minister round the school building.

Next, the minister arrived at Myitnge Bridge construction project. At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer U Soe Min reported on completion of construction work and future plans. The minister gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

The 840 feet long and 72 feet wide Myitnge Bridge is being constructed at the bridge No 1/422 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. It is a four-

lane reinforce concreted bridge with 4-foot wide walkways on both sides and can withstand 75 tons of load.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the work done of Panlaung Bridge being constructed on Palake-TadaU Road.

At the briefing hall on Mandalay Bank of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project site, officials reported on completion of approach structures and future plans. The minister

gave instructions on systematic use of construction materials.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is being constructed at 2,000 feet upstream of present Innwa Bridge. The bridge is 5,614 feet long and 49 feet wide with 5-foot-wide walkways on both sides. The approach structures of the bridge will be constructed with reinforced iron concrete beams and the main bridge with steel beams. It can withstand 60 tons of load.

MNA

Kamayut BEPS No 2 holds Kathina robe-offering ceremony

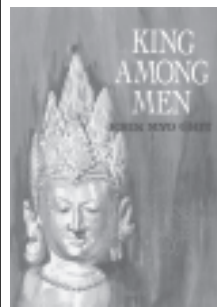
YANGON, 8 NOV—Under the patronage of Minister for Education U Than Aung and wife, Kamayut Township Basic Education Primary School No 2 held its third Kathina robe-offering ceremony at the school yesterday.

It was attended by Minister U Than Aung,

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, and U Myo Nyunt, officials, guests, principals, teachers and students.

The minister and the deputy ministers offered Kathina robes to the Sayadaw. It was followed by sharing of merits gained.

MNA



“King Among Men” in circulation

YANGON, 8 NOV — The novel on King Anawrahta-centred story of Kyansittha and other historic persons titled King Among Men, written in English version by Sayamagyi Daw Khin Myo Chit, has been published from Parami Book House, Ph: 253246.—MNA

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ဝင်
ရွာစဉ်မှာကောကနံး
တစ်ကောင်တစ်ကောင်ဆက်
မြို့တက်မယ်လမ်း။

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရစေရန်

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နေကုန်းနှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တန်နေကုန်းတို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရစေရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ အတွက်

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Senior General Than Shwe offers provisions to members of the Sangha at the consecration and Shwekyathingan and rice offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present offertories to a Sayadaw at the consecration and Shwekyathingan and rice offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offer soon to members of the Sangha at the consecration and Shwekyathingan and rice offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Shwekyathingan to ...

(from page 1)

Command and the ministers presented "soon" to the members of the Sangha.

Next, the consecration ceremony was held at 6.00 am. Members of the Sangha consecrated Buddha images and the Tooth Relic Pagoda. Next, merits-sharing and Shwekyathingan offering ceremonies were held.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja

Maha Rattha Guru Aungmye-bonzan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañindabhi-vamsa.

Members of the Sangha recited *Metta Suttas*.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Lt-Gen Tin Oo's wife Daw Khin Than Nwe, General Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-

1 and the Secretary-2, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and the ministers presented offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Next, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru

Abhidhaja Agga Mahajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing presented Shwekyathingan to Dhammacakka Mudra Buddha image.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented Shwekyathingan to Varadha Mudra Buddha image.

The prime minister and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented Shwekyathingan to Ottara Bodhi Mudra Buddha image.

Lt-Gen Tin Oo's wife Daw Khin Than Nwe presented Shwekyathingan to Labha Mudra Buddha image. Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet presented Shwekyathingan to Maha Karuna Mudra Buddha image.

The Secretary-1 and wife Daw Than Than Nwe presented Shwekyathingan to Jana Mudra Buddha image. Next, the Secretary-2 and wife Dr Daw Khin Khin Win presented Shwekyathingan to Bumiphatha Mudra Buddha image.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and wife Daw Khin Hnin Wai presented Shwekyathingan to Sandhita Mudra Buddha image.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and wife Daw Malar Tint presented Shwekyathingan to Palihariya Mudra Buddha image. After the ceremony, rice offering was held.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya

San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Lt-Gen Tin Oo's wife Daw Khin Than Nwe, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general and the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board and their wives, the deputy ministers, heads of departments, members of District and Township Peace and Development Councils, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and wellwishers offered provisions to members of the Sangha at the respective designated places.

Today's donations were worth K 16.8 million.

MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, offers provisions to members of the Sangha at the consecration and Shwekyathingan and rice offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer provisions to members of the Sangha at the consecration and Shwekyathingan and rice offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer Shwekyathingan to a Buddha Image at the consecration and Shwekyathingan and rice offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer Shwekyathingan to a Buddha Image at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer Shwekyathingan to a Buddha Image at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung sends felicitations to Kingdom of Cambodia

YANGON, 8 Nov — On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which falls on 9 November 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr HOR Namhong, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. — MNA

Samanña Phala Day observed

YANGON, 8 Nov — A total of over 500 trainees of basic Buddhist culture course No 21 of the Ministry of Culture led by course instructor Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Panña Sami (Magadi-Thazi) observed Samanña Phala Day at Maha Theindawgyi on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

They offered water, flow-

ers and lights to the Lord Buddha and recited religious verses. Next, they prayed for the well-being of all creatures, and shared the merits gained. — MNA



Head of the Panel of Leading Patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe watches the performance of a contestant at 13th Asian Archery Championship and Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier for 2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe offer Shwekyathingan to a Buddha Image at the consecration and Shwekyathingan and rice offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA

Prime Minister...

(from page 16)

Theravada Buddhism flourishes, and propagates. Thus, it is sure that the fourth World Buddhist Summit would be successfully held in the nation without any hindrance and difficulty.

To be able to successfully hold the Summit, preparatory work is being carried out in respective sectors after forming the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and the Sub-Committees.

In addition, to hold the Summit in accord with the tradition of Theravada Buddhism and to be of international level, Thitagu Sayadaw himself is providing close supervision in preparatory work under the Ovada of member Sayadaws of

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Ovdacariya Sayadaws. Thus, it is believed that the Summit would be held on a grand scale. Therefore, the work committee and the respective sub-committees are to present their reports on work being carried out for successful holding of the Summit.

Afterwards, Secretary of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Summit Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung reported on work being carried out for the successful holding of the Summit and future tasks.

Next, Secretary of the Work Committee for Organizing the Summit Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung

Ko reported on measures being taken after holding the work committee meeting.

Next, the chairmen and officials of the sub-committees reported on work being carried out for holding the ceremony, greening, invitation, accommodation, transport, information and documentation, finance and health.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions. The meeting ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the Kaba Aye Hill and inspected greening tasks in the environs of Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall. —MNA

13th Asian Archery Championships and Athens Olympic Qualifier for 2004 continue

YANGON, 7 Nov — The events of Women's Recurve and Men's Recurve and Compound Team for the 13th Asian Archery Championships and Athens Olympic Qualifier for the 2004 being hosted in the Union of Myanmar continued at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) on Waizayanta Street, Thingangyun Township starting from this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Leading Committee for Holding the Competition Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Leader of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Member of panel of patrons Daw Khin

President of Asian Archery Federation Mr Hong-Jong Yu, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation Mr San Guan Kosavinta and President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe, General Secretary of AAF Mr Sung-Ho-Um, General Secretary of the MAF U Kyaw Oo and executives, departmental heads, managers, leaders of archery teams of the respective nations, athletes, teachers and students, trainees of the Sports and Physical Education Institute and Sports Plus Education Training School and enthusiasts.

The archers from host Myanmar, Korea, Kazakhstan, Japan, China (Taipei), Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Bhutan and China took part in the event of Women's Recurve.

The archers from host Myanmar, Korea, Bhutan, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China (Taipei), Iran, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, India, Thailand and Singapore took part in the event of Men's Recurve and Compound Team.

In the event of Women's Recurve, Leader of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented a gold medal and trophy to Korean team, a silver medal to Chinese team and a bronze

medal to Chinese (Taipei).

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Leader of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Member of panel of patron Daw Khin Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw May May Yi, President of Asian Archery Federation Mr Hong-Jong Yu, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation Mr San Guan Kosavinta and President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe together with the athletes posed for a documentary photo.

In the event of Men's Compound, Member of panel of patrons Daw Khin Than Nwe presented a gold medal to Korean team, a silver medal to Malaysian team and a bronze medal to China (Taipei) and she together with the athletes posed for a documentary photo.

In the event of the Men's Recurve, after President of the AAF Mr Hong-Jong Yu had presented a gold medal to Korean team, a silver medal to Indian team and a bronze medal to Chinese team, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented a trophy to gold medallist Korean team. The events of Women's Recurve and Men's Recurve continue at 8 am tomorrow. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint offers Kathina robes to members of the Sangha in Indrayama Monastery

YANGON, 8 Nov — Kathina robes offering ceremony of Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, wife Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and family was held at Indrayama Kyaungtaik in Amarapura Township on 6 November morning.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw of the monastery Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Ottara, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt, Deputy Attorney-General U Han Shein, officers of the Central Command, local authorities, members of social organizations and guests. First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung offered *soon* to 79 members of the Sangha.

The congregation re-

ceived the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw of the monastery. Later, members of the Sangha recited paritta.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and family offered Kathina robes to the Sayadaws. The commander, the minister and officials presented Kathina robes and offertories to members of the Sangha. The Sayadaw of the monastery delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Central Command held at Paypin Masoeiein Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay. First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Ottama.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and Tactical Operations Commander Col Win Swe offered robes to the Sayadaws of Paypin Masoeiein Pariyatti Sarthintaik, Sittathukha Kyaungtaik and Thayet-pingwa Kyaungtaik.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ottama delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of the merits gained. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander and wife offered *soon* to members of the Sangha. —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present offertories to members of the Sangha at the consecration and Shwekyarthingan offering ceremony at the 8th Buddha Puja Festival of Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). —MNA



Anti-AIDS/HIV Exhibition extended

YANGON, 8 Nov — The first Anti-AIDS Exhibition being displayed from 9 am to 6 pm daily at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road is extended from 9 to 12 November.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and family offer Kathina robes to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win offers Kathina robes to a Sayadaw at the Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Office of Chief of Armed Forces Training. — MNA

Kathina robes offering ceremony of families of Office of Chief of Armed Forces Training held

YANGON, 8 Nov—Under the patronage of Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife Daw San San Yi, the Kathina robes offering ceremony of families of the Office of Chief of Armed Forces Training was held at Pathadikayon Kyaungtaik in Hline Township this morning.

The ceremony was at-

tended by Sasana Dhajasi-raparava Dhamacariya Pali Pahtamakyaw Setpyarai Sayadaw Ashin Sirinda and members of the Sangha, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, senior military officers and their wives, families of other ranks and guests.

First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Ashin Sirinda.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife and officials offered Kathina robes and provisions to members of the Sangha and shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife and officials offered *Soon* to members of the Sangha.

MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt...

(from page 16)

Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Naga Hlainggu Kalewatawya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jarayabhivamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and wellwishers offered *Soon* to members of the Sangha.

MNA

award in administrative field. The director-general and officials presented prizes to outstanding staff and students. *Soon* was offered to members of the Sangha to mark the ceremony. —MNA

Home Affairs Ministry offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 8 Nov—The tenth communal Kathina robe offering of the Ministry of Home Affairs was held at the ministry this morning.

Present were Sayadaws led by Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and members of the Sangha.

It was also attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and wife, wife of Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, the director-general of Myanmar Police Force, officials and families.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha

Pandita Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa.

The minister and wife and officials presented Kathina robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha, followed by sharing of merits.

"Soon" was offered to the members of the Sangha.

MNA

Earthquake Report

YANGON, 8 Nov—An earthquake of moderate intensity (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicentre about (179) miles Northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 12 hours 29 minutes 34 seconds Myanmar Standard Time on 8th November 2003.

MNA

GAD holds family day

YANGON, 8 Nov — The Family Day ceremony of the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs was held at the assembly hall of the ministry yesterday morning, attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing.

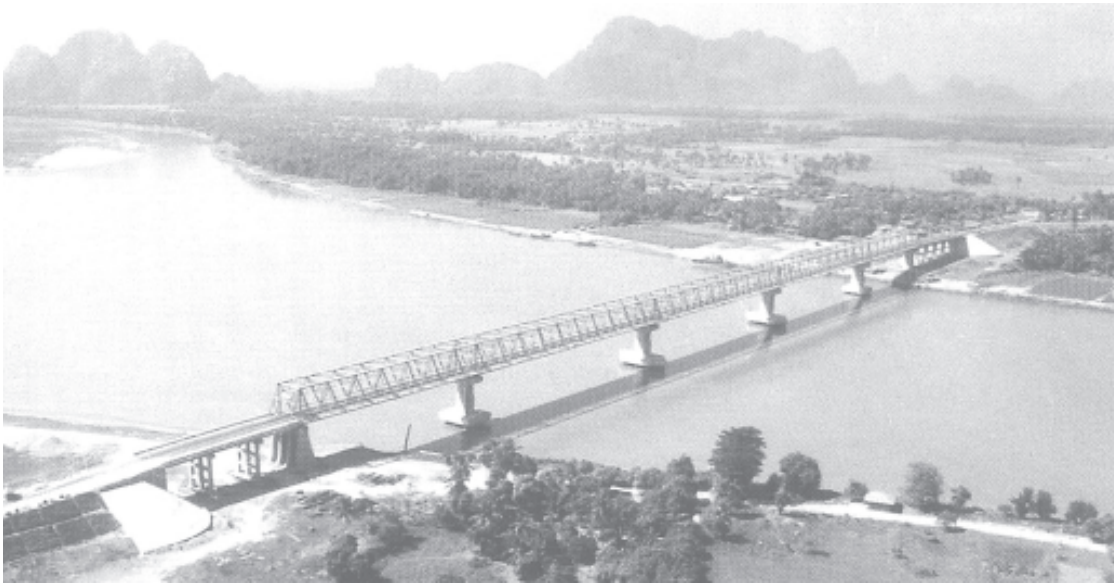
Also present were the director-general and officials of the MPF and departments under the ministry, advisers, and staff families of GAD.

The minister spoke on the occasion and presented prizes to 8 winners of outstanding performance



Minister Col Tin Hlaing presents prize to an outstanding staff. — MNA

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



Thanlwin river crossing bridge (Hpa-an) was opened on 5 August 1997. The bridge is linking Myainggalay with Hpa-an in Kayin State.

PHOTO: MYANMA ALIN

Development of a region depends much on easy access to it. With this end in view, the State has been building a network of roads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation.

As a result, new roads and bridges have emerged one after another throughout the country. The Government is continuing its efforts to build new roads and bridges.

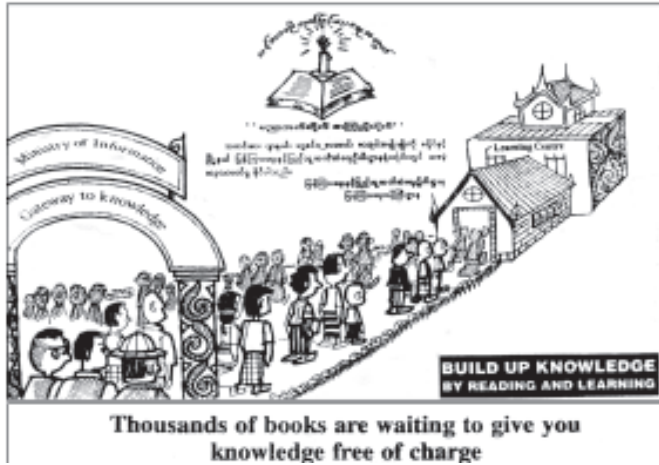
The photo shows Gyaing Bridge (Zathabyin) that links Kayin and Mon States across the Gyaing River.

PHOTO: MNA



Transportation plays a vital role in regional development. The photo shows the Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge that serves the interests of the people in Kayin State.

PHOTO: MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "ORIENT ENTERPRISE" VOY NO (104)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "ORIENT ENTERPRISE" Voy No (104) which will be arriving on 9-11-2003 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINES

Phone : 378316, 256908, 376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "DAWEI" VOY NO (22)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI Voy No (22) are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 8-11-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295659

3,900-metre Chinese calligraphic work applies for "Guinness" record

NANCHANG, 8 Nov — The families of a late Chinese calligrapher, who wrote a 3,900-metre-long Chinese calligraphic work, are applying to list the work in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Dai Tianpei, the calligrapher, who was born in 1930 and died in October 2003, spent five years finishing the lengthy piece of collected works of poems of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when ancient Chinese classic poetry reached its culmination. Using the traditional Chinese brush pen, the work, with seven million Chinese characters in total, was completed in mini-characters, or in the traditional term of "fly-sized" characters, according to experts.

Many renowned Chinese calligraphers have commented that the huge work is valuable in terms of its artistic accomplishment. Yang Xin, a calligraphic expert with the Palace Museum, or the Forbidden City, contributed the title — Quan Tang Shi — for the work, meaning the full collection of Tang Dynasty poems.

According to Dai's family, the calligrapher worked more than 12 hours a day to finish the work, and he fell sick a few times during his five-year marathon.

The 3,900-metre piece and others of Dai's works were expected to be exhibited to the public next year, according to his family. — MNA/Xinhua

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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Ph : 371 990 9.11.2003

China, Japan destroy wartime chemical weapons in N-E China

HARBIN, 8 Nov — A special group of Chinese and Japanese experts arrived Thursday morning in Qiqihar City in China's northernmost Heilongjiang Province to destroy chemical weapons stored in the city.

When they surrendered and returned home at the end of World War II, Japanese intruding troops left countless chemical weapons they had developed during the war in northeast China.

Some of the abandoned chemical weapons were found recently in the city and other places in northeast China and caused injuries, or even death.

A fatal toxic gas leakage from abandoned Japanese chemical weapons killed one person and injured 42 others after barrels of mustard gas were dug up at a construction site in Qiqihar in early August.

Nearly 100 Chinese and Japanese experts will participate, and Japanese chemical weapons and medical experts will arrive in several groups, according to Guo Haizhou, an official of the Qiqihar municipal government. — MNA/Xinhua

Don't smoke

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China likely among world's top ten insurance markets by 2010

BEIJING, 8 Nov — China's insurance market is likely to become one of the world's top ten by 2010, according to a veteran insurance dealer of China.

"The country's insurance industry has witnessed a rapid 30 per cent growth rate during recent years, from which we can draw such a conclusion," said Dai Fengju, chairman of the board of the China Reinsurance Group Thursday at a forum on the international insurance in China.

China's insurance market has been experiencing a flourishing period and the whole industry, including China's reinsurance companies, is undertaking a profound shareholding-oriented reorganization to shape sound modern finance enterprises, he said. Statistics from the industry indicate that China had collected 296.8 billion yuan (35.9 billion US dollars) of premiums in the first nine months of 2003, equal to the total of 2002.

By last September, the country's insurance industry boasted 383.2 billion yuan (46.4 billion US dollars) of bank deposits, of which 354.7 billion yuan (43 billion US dollars) was taken for investment, up 42.8 per cent and 53.6 per cent respectively from 2002.

"With this amazing speed, China will become one of the world's 10 biggest insurance markets no later than 2010," said Dai.

In China, only 3 per cent of the population have health or medical insurance, a sign that there remains a huge space for commercial health insurance to develop.

The Chinese Government has been pushing social medical insurance as a basic medical safeguard for years. As a result, commercial medical insurers across the country covered 136 million people and earned 32.1 billion yuan (3.8 billion US dollars) in 2002.

A decision published by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee said that all commercial banks and securities, insurance and trust investment companies in the country must undergo further reforms to become modern financial enterprises with ample capital, tight internal management, safe operation, excellent service and good economic returns.

"We shall promote the shareholding reforms in some qualified state-owned commercial banks, which will step up efforts in handling bad assets and increasing capital funds to create conditions for being listed on the stock market," it said, encouraging investors to participate in the restructuring of small and medium-sized financial institutions. — MNA/Xinhua

Delegation of China's Manned Space Mission ends Macao visit

MACAO, 8 Nov — The Delegation of China's First Manned Space Mission, including China's first astronaut Yang Liwei, ended its visit to Hong Kong and Macao Thursday afternoon, and left here for Beijing.

Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government Edmund Ho Hau Wah held a farewell ceremony for the delegation, during which the delegation presented a map of Macao taken by China's self-launched satellite in space to the SAR government as a gift.

On behalf of the delegation, Hu Shixiang, vice director-general of China's manned space flight programme and head of the delegation, said that although they had a short visit in Macao, they were greatly moved by Macao compatriots' ardour and affection.

The delegation began the visit to Hong

Kong on October 31, and continued the trip to Macao on Wednesday. It had a tight schedule, meeting people of all walks of life in Macao and giving speeches on China's first manned space mission. Yang was admired and treated as a star hero wherever he went.

The Exhibition of China's First Manned Space Mission, where the re-entry *Shenzhou-5* capsule, the astronaut's space suit and food and the parachute was put on show, began here Wednesday afternoon and will continue till Friday noon. On the opening day of the exhibition, over 20,000 people visited the show, which was unprecedented for such events in Macao. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing will build 15 sewage treatment facilities before 2008

BEIJING, 8 Nov — Beijing will invest 3.2 billion yuan (390 million US dollars) to update its sewage treatment facilities before 2008.

The investment will be used to construct three sewage burying fields, seven sewage treatment factories, three sewage burning fields and two garbage transferring stations, said Liang Guangsheng, vice director of the Beijing Municipal Administrative Committee.

The Municipality will be capable of handling 12,500 tons of non-industrial sewage every day by 2008, when a total of 12,000 tons of non-industrial sewage is expected to be created every day.

Beijing also plans to reduce the amount of non-industrial sewage produced every day and better recycle garbage. At present, 88 per cent of local non-industrial sewage was buried after going through detoxification treatment.

It is expected that 98 per cent of the sewage in the city proper will be treated by 2008, up 7 per cent compared to the present. Half of the sewage in Beijing's suburbs will undergo the same treatment.

According to Liang, 30 per cent of sewage will be recycled by 2008, up 20 per cent compared to the current level.

MNA/Xinhua

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India plans to expand Air Force strength to 60 squadrons

NEW DELHI, 8 Nov — The Indian Air Force (IAF) is planning to expand its strength from the present 39 squadrons to 60 squadrons over the next 10 years, Indian Air Chief S Krishnaswamy said here Friday, according to the *Press Trust of India (PTI)*.

Disclosing that IAF was in the process of phasing out aging MIG-21, MIG-23 and MIG-27 fleet, Krishnaswamy was quoted as saying that he visualized IAF attaining a strength of 60 squadrons by the next 10 years to keep pace with India's move to become a super economic power.

Briefing reporters on the deliberations of the Western Air Command Commanders Conference held in New Delhi, the Air Chief said even as the MIG fleet was being phased out, the IAF's efforts were to ensure timely replenishments so as not to affect the battle preparedness of the force.

Asserting that the first series of Israeli PHALCON Air early warning and control system would be inducted by 2006, Krishnaswamy said that the complete in-

duction of up to five AWACS mounted on the Russian IL-76 platform would be completed by 2008.

"This would be for the first time that airborne radars would be mounted on the IL-76 frame and we are confident that the system would be a success," Krishnaswamy said. He disclosed that the IAF would hold its first joint fighter exercises with the US Air Force at Gwalior with the Americans sending a batch of F-15 fighters.

This, he said, would be followed up by a batch of six to eight IAF *Jaguars* holding joint exercises with US Pacific Command at Alaska. "Such exercises give our pilots the much needed exposure to flying systems and patterns prevalent outside," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to work with int'l community for peaceful use of outer space

BEIJING, 8 Nov — China will work with the international community for the peaceful use of outer space, said Chinese President Hu Jintao here Friday when addressing a rally celebrating the country's first manned spaceflight, which made it the third spacefaring country after Russia and the United States.

The achievements made in China's manned space project marks the increasing consolidation of China's comprehensive strength as well as the continued promotion of China's science and technology level over 20 years of reform and opening-up, said Hu, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

"This again proves that as long as we stick to the CPC's basic theories, guidelines, creed, experience, the road of centering economic

construction and adhering to reform and opening-up, and the balanced economic and social development, we can constantly make greater achievements in socialist modernization construction," he said.

Hu praised Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut, and others who contributed to the country's manned space programme. China's first manned space flight solemnly declared to the world that China has become the world's third country independently grasping the

manned space technology, he said.

The Chinese people are of remarkable wisdom and great creativity, and are industrious, brave and persistent, he said, noting they have the courage, confidence and capability to make China a strong member of the world community and contribute to peace and development of humankind.

China will better implement the strategy of revitalizing the nation through science, education and talented people, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese enterprises urged to establish new concepts of competition

BEIJING, 8 Nov — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju has urged enterprises at home and abroad to establish new concepts of competition and development, so as to seize the opportunity, meet the challenges and contribute more for the development of human society.

Huang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remark at an international financial forum here Friday afternoon.

He said enterprises should shoulder broader and more concrete responsibility

for the society and be more committed to systematic, technological and management innovations so as to give full play to the comparative advantage and boost the enterprise's core competitiveness.

The enterprises should also strictly comply with the principle of honesty, regard

it as important to obtain the trust of consumers and society to achieve the development of enterprise and market, Huang said.

He said enterprises should establish wide-ranging cooperation in competition and learn from each other to achieve the win-win result. —MNA/Xinhua

S Africa alarmed by outbreak of malaria

JOHANNESBURG, 8 Nov — South African travellers to Egypt and India were warned Tuesday to take precautions against malaria, after an outbreak of the disease in those countries.

Andrew Jamieson, a spokesman for the medical information service Medinfo, said on Thursday that two members of the Egyptian soccer squad died and 11 others were hospitalized after contracting the disease while attending the recent 8th African Games in Abuja, Nigeria. "Egypt's Health Ministry has ordered all 600 members of the squad — comprising athletes, administrators and journalists

— to undergo medical tests. About 94 cases of malaria were reported in central Kolkata, the seaport city of India, and adjoining areas in the past week, including two deaths, Jamieson said. "South African Health authorities are alarmed by the sudden increase in malaria incidence, especially as the geographic spread of the disease has been particularly rapid in the heart of the city," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

S-E Asia's first solar cell plant to be set up in Philippines

MANILA, 8 Nov — Southeast Asia (SEA)'s first wafer fabrication plant for solar cells will be set up in the Philippines by American technology firm Cypress, the *Philippine Star* daily on-line news reported Friday.

Cypress Semiconductor's majority-owned subsidiary Sunpower Corp. will begin setting up the plant next month for production of solar cells from wafers that are to be fabricated in the Philippines, said Theresa Go, director of the subsidiary's local operations.

"This will be the first time for large-scale production of photo-voltaic cells to be carried out in Southeast

Asia," she said.

Photo-voltaic cells are the key components of solar energy systems, converting sunlight into electricity. They are vital in providing power in remote areas isolated from larger power grids as well as in reducing dependence on non-renewable energy sources like oil, officials said.

Go said that most of the output would be exported with about 20 per cent sold

locally, adding that their photo-voltaic cells were among the most efficient in the world.

Sunpower decided to begin wafer fabrication in this country after the government and local utilities gave an assurance of a steady, stable supply of electricity and water, key ingredients for production of silicon wafers, Go said.

MNA/Xinhua

China's first astronaut crowned Space Hero

BEIJING, 8 Nov — China's first astronaut Yang Liwei was conferred the title of "Space Hero" on Friday at a high-profile rally celebrating the country's first manned space flight.

Yang, 38, was also awarded a badge of honour for his space faring merits at the rally organized by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the State Council and the Central Military Commission. At the rally attended by top leaders of the country and several thousand others, including space experts, government officials and servicemen, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced the decision by the party, the central government and the military commission to honour Yang Liwei.

MNA/Xinhua

Half of Chinese drivers admit falling asleep at the wheel

BEIJING, 8 Nov — Half of Chinese drivers have once catnapped behind the wheel, according to China's first ever survey on drivers' vigilance.

Among the 516 drivers surveyed, nearly a quarter reported fatigue driving, half said they have sleeping problems, and 10 per cent admitted they had dozed off before being stopped for the survey on the same day, the survey says.

The test results of a special "psycho vigilance task (PVT)" apparatus used in this survey on drivers' vigilance found 20 per cent of them showed slow reaction.

The survey also showed that 82 per cent of drivers have less than eight sleep hours a day and 47.7 per cent have less than seven hours, while 90 per cent take no measures to treat their sleep-

ing problems and the rest just rely on alcohol, tonic or even sleeping pills.

This survey, an important event jointly launched by the Beijing Municipal Traffic Bureau, China National Radio, Chinese Medical Association and Sanofi-Synthelabo Minsheng Pharmaceutical Co Ltd for World Sleep Day on March 21 this year, is the first of its kind in China. It aims to study the relationship between drivers' vigilance and sleep and was conducted simultaneously on the expressways of Beijing-Shijiazhuang and Shanghai-Hangzhou on March 20 and 21 this year.

MNA/Xinhua

China's space exhibition closes in Macao

MACAO, 8 Nov — The Exhibition of China's First Manned Space Mission, which came to the Macao leg on Wednesday, closed here Friday afternoon after drawing 120,000 visitors.

The exhibition brought along with the visit of the delegation of China's First

Manned Space Mission to the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions started first in Hong Kong on October 31. In both cities, the exhibition was opened round-the-clock and completely for free in order to satisfy the maximum number of eager visitors. — MNA/Xinhua



Two contestants who advanced to the Miss Shanghai Competition finals greet the audience on Friday. Thirteen girls will compete in the finals and the winners will be crowned on November 21. — XINHUA

SPORTS

UEFA announce big increase in Euro 2004 prize money

Nyon (Switzerland), 8 Nov— The winners of next year's European Championship in Portugal could bank as much as 20 million Swiss francs (14.63 million US dollars) after UEFA announced an increase in the tournament's prize fund on Thursday.

In all, a record amount of prize money is on offer, up 66 per cent on Euro 2000 from 120 million to 200 million Swiss francs.

Each country that qualifies for Euro 2004 will be paid 7.5 million Swiss francs, with one million Swiss francs awarded for a first round victory. That money is halved for a draw.

The eight quarterfinalists will each receive a further three million Swiss francs, with another four million being paid for reaching the last four.

The winners get a further 10 million, while the runners-up will be awarded six million.

The maximum prize money a team could pocket from the tournament is 27.5 million Swiss francs — 7.5 million for getting to the tournament and a further 20 million for winning it having won all three group matches.

The decisions were taken by UEFA's Executive Committee and announced after their two-day meeting in Kiev. — MNA/Reuters



Martin Stankov, left, of Bulgarian team Levski Sofia fights for the ball with David Kalivoda, right, of Czech SK Slavia Prague during their second round first leg UEFA Cup soccer match in Prague, Czech Republic, on Thursday Nov. 6, 2003. Levski Sofia drew with Slavia Prague 2-2.

INTERNET

France celebrates Champions League "night of madness"

PARIS, 8 Nov— France celebrated a night of soccer madness on Thursday after Monaco thrashed Deportivo Coruna 8-3 and Olympique Lyon returned from Bayern Munich with a 2-1 win in the Champions League.

Striker Dado Prso scored four goals — a feat achieved

previously only by Marco van Basten and Simone Inzaghi — as Monaco shredded a Deportivo defence which committed every defensive sin in the book.

Already 5-2 down at halftime, the Spanish side changed their goalkeeper but shipped another two goals within four minutes of the restart. In Munich, Lyon striker Giovane Elber returned to his former hunting ground at the Olympic Stadium and scored the decisive goal against Bayern, the 2001 champions.

French clubs often have an inferiority complex when playing big foreign clubs and these victories by the two best teams in the country were hailed as landmarks.

Le Parisien, a daily newspaper devoted to Paris St. Germain, was so moved that it led its front page with the story, under the headline "Two Incredible Achievements". "An Evening of Madness" read the front page headline in *L'Equipe* sports newspaper.

Didier Deschamps, coach of league leaders Monaco, had repeatedly said Deportivo were clear favourites in Group C although he and his players had been disappointed to lose 1-0 in Spain last month.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal live to fight another day

LONDON, 8 Nov — Arsenal have won themselves a stay of execution in the Champions League by beating Dynamo Kiev 1-0, but the prospects remain bleak for Arsene Wenger's side.

Fireworks exploded over north London on Wednesday as Arsenal secured their first win in Europe for a year, and their first at Highbury since last season's opener against Borussia Dortmund.

However, the revellers were celebrating the annual Bonfire Night festival rather than a laboured success of the Premier League leaders, who are still battling for survival.

Inter Milan, who trounced the hosts 3-0 at Highbury in September, are top of a tight group on seven points, followed by Dynamo (six), Lokomotiv Moscow (five) and Arsenal (four).

The arithmetic shows that even a creditable draw at Inter's San Siro on November 25 would spell doom for Wenger's side if Dynamo win in Moscow. Teams who finish their group level on points are separated by head-to-head results.

Along with the rivalry between the two former Soviet republics, Dynamo will also be spurred on by a desire to avoid needing victory in their last game in Milan to be sure of reaching the last 16.

Yet beating Inter away is precisely the challenge now facing Arsenal and, on current form, it is hard to see them rising to it.

In Europe, Arsenal clearly struggle to find the fluid, attacking football and precise finishing which has brought them two domestic league and FA Cup doubles since 1998.

The fact that Ashley Cole's winner came

in the very last minutes on Wednesday underlined just how difficult Arsenal had found it to break down a well-organized Ukrainian side.

They are clearly missing the authority in midfield of injured skipper Patrick Vieira, while main striker Thierry Henry struggles to deliver when denied the room to run at defences — as he was on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Notts County hope to survive with Chelsea help

LONDON, 8 Nov— Notts County, the world's oldest league club, have been given just over a month to sort out their financial crisis or else be expelled from the English League. But the Second Division club, formed in 1862 and founder members of the English League in 1888, believe they will meet the December 9 deadline to resolve their financial problems and exit administration. The optimism is prompted by a helping hand from mega-rich Premier League club Chelsea who themselves were millions of pounds in debt until Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich bought them in July.

Notts County have collected 300,000 pounds (502,500 US dollars) in gate receipts from their League Cup tie at Stamford Bridge last week. In addition, Chelsea shirts signed by the London club's players are to be auctioned to raise more much-needed funds.

MNA/Reuters

Early Seve Trophy advantage for Britain, Ireland

VALENCIA (Spain), 8 Nov— Holders Britain and Ireland, inspired by Lee Westwood and David Howell, led Continental Europe by 3-1/2 points to 1-1/2 after the opening day fourballs in the Seve Trophy on Thursday.

Britain and Ireland won three of the five fourball matches played at Campo de Golf Parador in El Saler to take the early initiative in the Ryder Cup-style team competition.

"We would definitely have taken that if you had offered us a two-point lead at the start of play, so it has been a pretty good first day for us," said Britain and Ireland captain Colin Montgomerie.

"The competition is intense, as you would expect, but the standard of play has been excellent."

Englishmen Westwood and Howell set the tone, picking up eight birdies between them on their way to a two-hole victory against Ryder Cup veterans Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal in the first match.

Fellow Britons Brian Davis and Paul Casey maintained the momentum, beating Spaniards Ignacio Garrido and Miguel Angel Jimenez 2 and 1, before Germany's Alex Cejka and Frenchman Raphael Jacquelin earned Continental Europe's first points.

Cejka and Jacquelin, seven clear after just nine holes, held off a brave fightback by good friends Justin Rose and Ian Poulter before triumphing 4 and 3.

Swedish duo Fredrik Jacobson and Niclas Fasth squared their contest with the Scottish combination of

Montgomerie and Paul Lawrie but Irishman Padraig Harrington and Briton Phillip Price completed a successful day for the visitors in the final match.

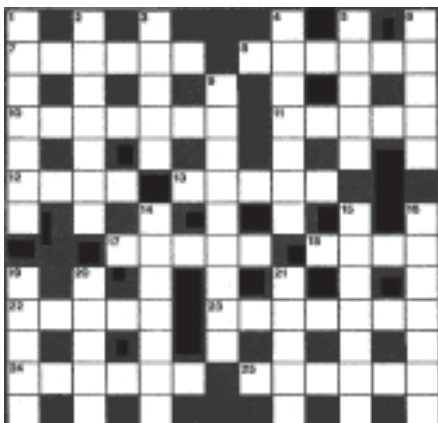
In-form Harrington and fellow Ryder Cup player Price beat Denmark's Thomas Bjorn and Spaniard Sergio Garcia by two holes to give Britain and Ireland a two-point lead going into Friday's fourball matches.

"Padraig played unbelievably well," said Garcia, after the Irishman had covered the four holes between the fourth and the seventh in five under par.

"We did well turning for home, but he had left us just too much to do."

Four greensomes are scheduled for Saturday morning with four foursome matches to follow in the afternoon. — MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Glorify
- 8 Mob
- 10 Black and white horse
- 11 Unit of length
- 12 Give out
- 13 Paris river
- 17 Female
- 18 Hint
- 22 Discovered
- 23 Team's batting period
- 24 Breathe out
- 25 Emphasis

DOWN

- 1 Helicopter (sl)
- 2 Receive under a will
- 3 Wall painting
- 4 Concord
- 5 Lessen
- 6 Precious stone
- 9 An end rail (anag.)
- 14 Venetian boat
- 15 Bed covering
- 16 Keep at it
- 19 Bid
- 20 Duke's territory
- 21 Join



Russian tennis player Anna Kournikova practices in Pattaya, 150 km (90 miles) east of Bangkok, November 7, 2003. Kournikova is here on a three-day visit to promote Thailand tourism. — INTERNET

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Kingdom of Cambodia

YANGON, 9 Nov — On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which falls on 9 November 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Kingdom of Cambodia

YANGON, 9 Nov — On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which falls on 9 November 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe present offertories to a Sayadaw at the Second Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon. — MNA

Prime Minister attends work coordination meeting for Holding of Fourth World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 8 Oct—The work coordination meeting for Holding of the Fourth World Buddhist Summit was held at the meeting hall of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township here at noon today, with

an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe,

the ministers, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the Pro-Rector of the ITBMU and officials and members of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Summit, the Work Committee and Sub-Committees.

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

Next, Prime Minister made a speech. He said that Myanmar has decided to hold the Fourth World Buddhist Summit as a host nation, adding that measures are being taken for successful holding

of the Summit.

It is incumbent upon the officials concerned to hold the Summit successfully and systematically as Buddhist organizations and those from 15 member nations are to attend the Summit.

Pure Theravada Buddhism flourishes in Myanmar. Therefore, holding of the Summit in Myanmar as a host nation amounts to bringing honour to the nation.

Myanmar is a land where the international meetings and conferences have been held as a host. It is also a place where pure

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

PM General Khin Nyunt attends Kathina robes offering ceremony of MMPA

YANGON, 8 Nov—The second Kathina robes offering ceremony of families of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon was held at Aungmyay Bodi Dhamma Yeiktha Alodawpyi Kyaung-taikon Pinshwenyung Street, Tamwaylay Ward, Tamway Township this morning. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dawei Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa, Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Naga Hlainggu Kalewatawya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagayabhivamsa and Sayadaws, Alodawpyi Kyaungtaik Presiding Nayaka Maha Gantha Vacakapandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa and members of the Sangha, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt's wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, families of the MMPA and guests.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Dawei Sayadaw. Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas. Chairman of the MMPA U Sein Tin offered Kathina robes to Dawei Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives instructions at the work coordination meeting on holding of the Fourth World Buddhist Summit. —MNA