

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects new school building of the Basic Education Primary School in Shwegon Ward, Kyauktan Township on 16 November.—MNA

## Prime Minister attends opening of new school building, e-Library in Kyauktan Township

YANGON, 16 NOV — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the opening of new school building of the Basic Education Primary School in Shwegon Ward, Kyauktan Township, Yangon South District, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were wife of the Prime Minister Chairman of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, district/township PDC members, departmental officials, members of social organizations, wellwisher of new school building families of Luk Hing Too Foundation, acting Director-General of Basic Education Department No-3 and officials, members of school board of trustees, the Schoolhead, teachers and students.

At the auspicious time, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, acting Director-General U Aye Myint and wellwisher Mr Luk Hing Too of Luk Hing Too Foundation, Hong Kong, formally opened the new school building.

Myanmar Education Committee Chairman General Khin Nyunt then formally opened the stone inscriptions of the building. The General and the wellwishers sprinkled scented

water on them.

The opening of the new school building was held at the hall of the school. Wellwisher Mr Luk Hing

Toot explained the purposes of the donation. The acting Director-General accepted document related to the school building and US\$

55,000 presented by the wellwisher and his family. Schoolhead U Mya Lwin spoke words of thanks.

(See page 8)

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects construction of MMU

YANGON, 16 NOV — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at the construction site of Myanmar Maritime University Construction Project of the Ministry of Transport in Thanlyin-Kyauktan Region Develop-

ment Zone this afternoon.

At the briefing hall of the project, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung reported to the Prime Minister on salient points and construction tasks of the project. Next, Rector U Thein Tun of MMU reported to the Prime Minister on adminis-

trative and academic affairs, training conducted home and abroad for teachers of MMU and future tasks. Managing Director of Shwe Marlar Construction Co Ltd U Aung Htwe reported to the Prime Minister on construction of the main three-storey buildings, teaching hall, and three

two-storey teaching halls in the first phase of the project and tasks to be carried out in the second phase.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and inspected the construction of the main three-storey building and completion of two-storey buildings.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects completion of construction tasks for Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin on 16 November.—MNA

### 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

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 17 November, 2003

## Towards development of Myanmar women's sector

As Myanmar women constitute 52 per cent of the population, their number is more than that of men.

Throughout Myanmar history, Myanmar women have enjoyed equal rights like the men do and thus there emerged many outstanding Myanmar women.

Also at present, Myanmar women are treated with respect. Various organizations such as Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, etc, have emerged to further develop the women's sector.

As the Government, on its part, is giving encouragement to various associations relating to the women's sector for their success, it is obvious that there is no loss of women's rights in this country and their role is also in the forefront.

As they enjoy the rights and opportunities in all sectors, Myanmar women have been able to outdo men in some sectors including education, health, economy, culture and sports.

This vividly shows that Myanmar women have equal rights like men and development of Myanmar women's sector.

But, some Western powers, with the intention of imposing political pressure on Myanmar, have been manufacturing accusations as if Myanmar women were subjected to oppression, as if Myanmar women lost the rights, and as if Myanmar women were trafficked.

In addition, in an attempt to drive a wedge among the national races, they have been making fabrications to the effect that Shan women were sexually abused and trafficked.

The internal and external destructive elements have been attempting to cause disintegration of the Union in collusion with some Western powers that are opposed to the interests of Myanmar. They are doing so to tarnish the image of Myanmar and Myanmar women and harm national unity.

This being the case, the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs is required to make strenuous efforts for further improvement of Myanmar women's rights and development of Myanmar women's sector.

MNCWA is urged to strive, in collaboration with the international agencies which are cooperating with Myanmar out of goodwill and the NGOs which are providing assistance to Myanmar in the social sector, for development of Myanmar women's sector.

## Continuing Education Programme held

YANGON, 16 Nov — The Continuing Education Programme, organized by the Myanmar Dental Association was held at the Myanmar Medical Association today.

During the programme, Head of Department of Oral and Maxillo Facial

Surgery Prof Dr Ko Ko Maung gave a talk on 'Recurrent Aphthous Stomatitis' which was attended by executives of the MMA, dental surgeons in Yangon Division, dental students of Institute of Dental Medicine and enthusiasts.

MNA

## Second day session of ninth 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held

YANGON, 16 Nov — The second day session of ninth 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at the Vijaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Adviser at the State Peace and Development Council Office U Arnt Maung, Director-

General of Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, Pro-rector of International Buddhist Missionary University (Admin) Dr Hla Pe, Deputy Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Htin Myo, directors and officials.

First, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Maha Gantha Vacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Indasiri discussed Vinichaya matters; Agga

Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunasana, Sasana affairs and Dhamacariya Bhaddanta Janaya, academic affairs.

Next, the Sayadaws reviewed Vinichaya matters and the meeting came to a close. In the afternoon session, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee assessed the Vinichaya, Sasana and academic affairs.

Afterwards, Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dvipitakadhara

Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa presented the brief report on tasks carried out during the third term of the fifth SSMNC (Third Branch) and those present approved the reports and the meeting concluded successfully.

After that, wellwisher Captain Pyi Aung and Ma Nanda Aye offered meals and dessert to the Sayadaws who attended the second day meeting of ninth 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

MNA

## Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects regional development tasks in Mongyawng

YANGON, 16 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, together with Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of the Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and departmental officials, on 14 November inspected the construction of combined office in Mongyu.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Mongyu People's Hospital and met with departmental officials and townselders. At the meeting, an official reported on construction of Mongyawng-Mongyu road. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe urged the officials to strive for the timely completion of the road and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected round the hospital.

Later, they went to Mongyawng and met with departmental officials, social

organizations and townselders. At the meeting, responsible officials reported on cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy, and growing of seasonal crops in the township, land utilization, and arrangements for cultivation of paddy and seasonal

crops in the state.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe called on the officials to make efforts to produce 100 baskets per acre, and gave instructions on utilization of fertilizer and land reclamation. He also urged the officials to strive for the development of the region

and implementation of five rural development tasks in cooperation with the local people.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party also met with military officers, other ranks and their families at Mongyawng Station. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, acting Director-General U Aye Myint and wellwisher Mr Luk Hing Too formally open the new school building on 16 November. (News page 1) — MNA

## Htidaw hoisting ceremony of Kyaikdeyon (Yangon) Arnanda pagoda held

YANGON, 16 Nov — The Htidaw hoisting for 16 satellite pagodas of Kyaikdeyon (Yangon) Arnanda pagoda in Thingangyan Township was held at the stairway of the pagoda this morning, attended by Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee

Dhammatheingi Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala and members of the Sangha, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khin Than Nwe, Secretary of Township Peace and Development Council U Shwe Ei, wellwishers and guests.

First, the ceremony was

opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

Next, the congregation offered provisions to members of the Sangha and received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala and shared the merits gained.

MNA

## MDevS Course to be opened

YANGON, 16 Nov — Evening course No 1 on MDevS for 2003-2004 will be opened in December. Any graduates at the age of 30 years on 30 November 2003 and the gazetted officers with eight-year service may apply for the course.

Entrance applications may be submitted to the Economic Department of the Yangon Institute of Economics (Main) not later than 28 November. Entrance examination will be held on 30 November. For details contact 565923; 721412; 0950, 18581; 660822; 664684; 536433; 536434; 536436; 526613; 726451; 726452 for further information. — MNA

## Prize presentation ceremony of National Literary Award to be held

YANGON, 17 Nov — The prize presentation ceremony of life-long national literary award, national literary award and Sarpay Beikman manuscript award 2002 and the 14th national motto, literary and photo competition will be held at National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street at 2 pm on 23 November.

The rehearsal for prize presentation ceremony will be held at the same venue at 1 pm on 21 November. All the literary prize win-

ners are to report to the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman on Merchant Street (Ph 252560 or 240048 or 381449) for rehearsal not later than 20 November, 2003.

All the national motto prize winners are also to report in person to the Secretary of the committee for holding the 14th national motto, literary and photo competition for rehearsal not later than 20 November, 2003.

MNA



**Drive  
safely**



## Two US copters reported downed, 17 killed

**BAGHDAD, 16 Nov—** Two US Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters collided in midair Saturday and crashed into a residential neighbourhood in the northern city of Mosul, killing at least 17 soldiers and injuring five others, the US military said.

Military officials said one other soldier was unaccounted for. All of those on board were members of the 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, Ky.

The officials said the aircraft collided when one, attempting to dodge ground fire, climbed swiftly and hit the other.

### Possible ground fire

Several witnesses contacted in Mosul also said the helicopters had collided, but one witness said at least one of the Black Hawks was hit by ground fire.

The Reuters news agency quoted a US officer at the scene as saying that a rocket-propelled grenade hit one of the helicopters. The crashes took place at about 6.15 pm, when darkness had already fallen.

It was the deadliest single incident involving US forces since the March 20 invasion of Iraq, surpassing the toll of a helicopter crash on 2 Nov.

In that incident, a Chinook transport helicopter was shot down by a surface-to-air missile, killing 16 troops.

A US military statement said that one helicopter was carrying members of a quick-reaction force and the other was transporting soldiers on a mission to northern Iraq. The cause of the incident is under investigation, the statement said.

US troops and Iraqi police sealed off the crash scene in Mosul, 215 miles north of the capital. The helicopters reportedly went down near a major bridge crossing the Tigris River.

Three other US helicopters have been shot down in the past three weeks.

### Rise of violence

Anti-US violence has been on the rise in Mosul, a city that had been relatively peaceful in the months after the fall of Baghdad in April. At least four US troops have been killed either in ambushes or when their vehicles struck roadside bombs this month in the city.

### Iraqi supporters targeted

Iraqi civilians who support the occupation have also been targeted for assassination. On Saturday, gunmen shot and killed two people, an interpreter for the city government and his son.

By mid-evening in Mosul, there were no reports of casualties among Iraqi civilians where the US helicopters went down. Ambulances and municipal firetrucks rushed to the scene, witnesses said.

### Exchange of fire

"The Americans have closed off everything near the crash," said Bashar Darwish, a hotel employee in Mosul. Darwish said he saw one low-flying helicopter in flames before it hit the other.

He said that there had been exchanges of fire between the choppers and someone on the ground, and that the Black Hawk on fire had erupted in flames after being hit.

He said the crash took place in the Sheikh Fethi district on the city's west side. Another witness, Mohammed Badran, said one of the helicopters ascended abruptly and hit the second aircraft. Yezzen Juburi, a businessman in Mosul, said that the helicopters simply collided.

Internet



US Army soldiers remove the wreckage of a US Army Black Hawk helicopter, Sunday, on 16 Nov, 2003 after it crashed into a school yard in a residential area in Mosul, northern Iraq, late Saturday. Some witnesses said the two aircraft collided in mid-air, while others claim that at least one was shot down. A military spokesman said the two helicopters belonged to the 101st Airborne Division, which controls northern Iraq. At least 17 US Army soldiers were killed. — INTERNET

## Cuba terms travel ban as US anti-democratic suppression

**HAVANA, 16 Nov—** Cuba on Friday accused the Republican leadership in the US Congress of resorting to anti-democratic methods to eliminate an amendment seeking to bring more tourists to the country.

"The US policy against Cuba, through this action, represents a new proof of failure, and of the need for a change," a Cuban Foreign Ministry statement said, referring to the decision of the US Congress to keep a 42-year ban on travel to Cuba in place.

The US Congress decided on Thursday night to maintain travel restrictions on

US citizens to Cuba even though the Senate and the House of Representatives passed it earlier.

The decision was made after US President George W Bush threatened on Thursday to veto the bill if Congress approved it.

MNA/Xinhua

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A map of Iraq locating the site of the US helicopter crash where 17 American troops were killed.

INTERNET

## US has no evidence Iraq hid banned arms in Syria

**WASHINGTON, 16 Nov —** The Bush Administration said on Friday it had no evidence that any of Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction had been hidden in neighbouring Syria.

In an interview with WTVT-TV in Tampa, Florida, White House National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice defended prewar intelligence on Iraq that Washington used to justify the invasion. Despite US assertions that Saddam Hussein had chemical and biological arms, none has been found. "The American people can be certain that we

went to war on solid information, on information that had been gathered over 12 years, on a history of use of weapons of mass destruction, and that we are finding confirmation that this was somebody who hid his activities from the United Nations and intended to continue those programmes," Rice said.

A US team hunting for weapons of mass destruc-

tion in Iraq was investigating multiple reports from Iraqis that banned weapons or weapons-related substances were moved across borders into Syria, Iran, and Jordan.

"I've seen reports, as everyone has," Rice said. But she added: "We don't have any evidence at this point that that's what happened."

MNA/Reuters

## UN agency calls for continued host of Iraqi refugees

**UNITED NATIONS, 16 Nov —** The UN High Commissioner for Refugees called on the neighbouring countries of Iraq to continue their host of Iraqi refugees, according to a Press release issued Friday at the UN Headquarters in New York.

"We are recommending states that have resumed or intend to resume the processing of asylum claims to take into consideration compelling reasons for non-return of rejected asylum seekers due to both atrocious forms of past persecution, as well as the possibility of persecution by non-state agents currently active in Iraq," the UN refugee

agency said in the Press release.

According to the agency, thousands of Iraqi refugees are still threatened with the volatile situation, the absence of law and order, the lack of basic services, as well as the high rate of unemployment and a severe housing shortage.

MNA/Xinhua

## US soldiers killed in Iraq more than first three-year lost in Vietnam

**ISTANBUL, 16 Nov—** The number of American soldiers killed in Iraq is more than the number of soldiers killed in the first three years of the Vietnam War. According to an analysis made by the Reuters news agency using US Department of Defence statistics, 392 American soldiers died in Vietnam War between December 11th, 1961 and end of 1964.

The US had 17,000 soldiers in the region called Indochina at the time.

Since the war in Iraq started on March 20th, the number of American soldiers killed has reached 397 and keeps climbing. 160 of these soldiers were killed after May 1st, when US President George W Bush officially declared the end of 'major combat operations'.

When one considers US

operations in Afghanistan, the Philippines, and South-eastern Asia in the 'war on terror', a total of 488 soldiers have been killed. There are currently 130,000 American soldiers in Iraq. By 1965, there were this many US soldiers in Vietnam.

The Bush Administration often states that they are not comfortable with comparisons of Iraq and Vietnam.

The Vietnam War is a painful subject in the national

collective memory. By the time the war ended, over 50,000 American soldiers were dead.

Officially, the Vietnam War began on December 11th 1961. However, some historians consider 1954 to be the real date.

This is when the French army was thoroughly defeated at Dien Bien Phu and America was drawn into the developments of the region.—Internet

# US probes Iraq helicopter crash

**BAGHDAD, 16 Nov —** The US army in Iraq is examining the wreckage of two Black Hawk helicopters which crashed in the northern city of Mosul, killing at least 17 soldiers.

It was the worst US helicopter crash in Iraq so far - but officials are not yet able to say precisely what caused it.

Some witnesses said one of the helicopters was hit by ground fire and then collided with the second aircraft.

Five troops were injured and one is still missing after the crash, which hit 101st Airborne Division forces.

Five US helicopters have crashed in the past three-and-a-half weeks in Iraq with the loss of 39 lives.

In Mosul, the Black Hawks crashed within 250 metres of each other. The US-led coalition has not yet confirmed the nationalities of those on board.

It said one helicopter was carrying a quick reaction force and the other was carrying soldiers on a transport mission. According to an unconfirmed report, the tail of one helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

A correspondent in Baghdad says that if this latest disaster proves to be the result of an attack, it will once more underline just how wide the resistance is spreading.

A man quoted by Reuters news agency said he had seen the two helicopters collide after an explosion.

"I looked outside the window and saw two helicopters," he said.

"One was flying low and was on fire. The other was higher up. The first one climbed and hit the higher one."

Mosul is located well to the north of the so-called "Sunni triangle" that has been at the heart of the insurgency.

However, the city is home to both Sunni Muslims and Kurds, and in recent weeks coalition forces in the region have been fighting an increasingly well-organised resistance. — *Internet*



US Army soldier secures a paramedics helicopter in Baghdad, on 15 Nov, 2003, as they evacuated at least four soldiers wounded when a roadside explosive device went off.

INTERNET

## French Government delivers services through Internet

**PARIS, 16 Nov —** Based on its government web sites, the French Government will start to deliver new services through the Internet on Thursday.

All users will be able to get consultations, forms, web sites, information they are interested in, and other services from the Internet. They can also pay taxes through the web sites. It will make complicated process more simple and convenient.

In the past, it took citizens much time to calculate allowances, value-added tax, or to deliver invoices, pay taxes and invite public bidding. But now they can save some time.

The pageview of the government web sites has been increasing since they were launched three years ago. Two million users visited the homepage in October.

In the web sites, the public can find all kinds of information, from elections, military, environmental, justice, tax, to enrollment in schools, job seeking, welfare for the disabled, etc.

The French Government will provide entirely electronic forms (e-forms) besides regular forms in the year of 2005, said French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin. The public can download and dispatch the forms directly.

Henri Plagnol, Secretary of State in charge of the Reform of the State and the Regional Planning, said more than 90 per cent of government forms had their e-forms. So it was easy to achieve the goal set by Raffarin.

More than 170 governments now use the Internet to communicate with citizens, a United Nations report said last week. The US Government tops the world ranking for delivering information and services through the Internet, but Britain runs the most participatory electronic government system. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## New Prime Minister appointed in Swaziland

**JOHANNESBURG, 16 Nov —** Swaziland's King Mswati III on Friday appointed an economist, Themba Dlamini, as the small Southern African kingdom's new Prime Minister, the *South African Press Association* reported.

Making the announcement at the traditional government headquarters some 22 kilo-

metres from the capital Mbababane, Mswati III said he expected Dlamini to form a new government within a week. Dlamini, a holder of a doctorate degree in economics was recently appointed as managing director of Tibiyo Takangwane, a royal investment company.

He formerly worked for

the Swaziland Investment Development Corporation. Although he is seen as a political novice, Dlamini comes with an impeccable record from the corporate world.

During recent years, the tiny land-locked African country has witnessed a series of severe food shortage and political chaos. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: ခေတ်တော်လွှာ

## Iranian leader rejects US calls for democracy in Mideast

**TEHRAN, 16 Nov —** Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei here Friday strongly rejected a recent US call for democracy in the Middle East region.

The United States is gravely mistaken if it installs itself as the sole guardian of democracy around the world, Khamenei denounced in his sermon before Friday's noon prayers.

Addressing the US National Endowment for Democracy on November 6, US President George W Bush urged Middle East leaders to pursue the path of democracy.

"As long as the Middle East remains a place where freedom does not flourish, it will remain a place of stagnation, resentment, and violence ready for export," he said.

Khamenei criticized the call, saying the US wanted to see those calling for justice worldwide forever silent.

Bush should feel embarrassed when he talks about democracy, while the successive US Administrations have been supporting dictatorships in many states, the Iranian leader added.

In recent days, Bush's speech has been swiftly criticized by many Arab experts, who said the speech ignored the root of instability in the Middle East — an Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

MNA/Xinhua

## China launches satellite, plans 10 more by end-2004

**BELJING, 16 Nov —** China put a communications satellite into orbit on Saturday, the first of nearly a dozen orbiters the country plans to launch by the end of next year, state media said on Saturday.

The Zhongxing 20, the fourth launch since China's first manned space flight last month, blasted off atop a Long March 3 A rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the Xinhua news agency said.

The fast pace of launches was due in part to an improved testing procedure that had more than halved the time needed between launches at a given centre to less than 30 days, the *China Daily* quoted Zhang Qingwei, deputy chief commander of the manned space programme, as saying.

"The active space programme reflects our experience and expertise, especially our confidence in the quality and reliability of Chinese launch vehicles and

spacecraft," Zhang was quoted as saying.

The next satellite, a "geospace exploration" device, would go up in December, he added.

China would launch an average of 10 satellites a year from 2006 to 2010, double the pace of the planned 2001 to 2006 launch schedule, Zhang said.

"To serve national economic growth, defence and scientific research purposes, the country will send up to nine satellites into space next year alone," he added.

Zhang also confirmed earlier reports that a second manned mission would take place in 2005, and said the number of astronauts for that flight would be decided after analysing data from the debut flight. — *MNA/Reuters*



A protester calls for peace in Iraq outside Parliament square in London a few days before George W Bush's state visit to Britain. Tens of thousands of protestors are expected to attend demonstrations in London during Bush's visit, called by opponents of the Iraq war. — *INTERNET*



# UNSG calls US moves on Iraq handover positive step

SANTA CRUZ (Bolivia), 16 Nov—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday called the Bush Administration's decision to speed up a handover of power to Iraq a positive step that reflected his own position. Annan had challenged the United States last month by outlining a rival blueprint that would transfer sovereignty to Iraq within three months, similar to one the world body helped institute in Afghanistan.

In his first comments on the apparent US change of position, Annan told a news conference, "I know that the US authorities are looking at the possibility of accelerating the transfer to the Iraqis."

"The transfer of power to the Iraqis has always been my position," he said. "This is a positive development."

Annan spoke shortly before the opening of the annual Ibero-American Summit of 21 nations at the end of his 10-day visit to Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Paul Bremer, the top US civilian administrator in Iraq, is returning to Baghdad from Washington with new proposals after urgent meetings with top US officials.

Annan said it was time for everyone to work together to stabilize Iraq but did not say when or if the United Nations, which withdrew its foreign staff from Baghdad, would

participate in the political process in Iraq.

"I think we need an international community that comes together working with the Iraqi people and the neighbours of Iraq in the region to stabilize Iraq. It is essential that we do that because a chaotic Iraq will not be in anyone's interest," Annan said.

Many UN Security Council members, led by France, want a stronger UN role in the Iraqi transition process. France had asked for a quicker transfer of power to the Iraqis, a position Annan later adopted.

"Every day, it is spiraling in Iraq with American, British, Polish, Spanish, Italian deaths," France's Foreign Minister, Dominique de Villepin, told French radio on Thursday. "How many deaths does it take to understand that it is essential to change the approach?"—MNA/Reuters

## Indonesia's fuel import to increase in 2004

JAKARTA, 16 Nov—Indonesia's fuel import will increase next year as national fuel consumption is estimated to increase to 60.14 million kilolitres from current 58.5 million kilolitres, an official has said.

In Arifin Takhyani, director-general of oil and gas under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said the increase in fuel consumption will drive up import but he declined to provide a figure.

He said the rise in fuel consumption has been agreed by the House of Representatives (DPR) and the government.

"There has been an agreement between DPR and the government that fuel consumption will rise.

But the figure remains below an estimate by Pertamina at 62 million kilolitres," In was quoted Friday by Detikcom online news portal as saying.

Indonesia's fuel import currently stands within the range of 150,000 to 250,000 tons annually as output in the state-run oil and gas company. Pertamina remains insufficient to meet domestic demand.

Pertamina's oil output is estimated at 250,000 barrels per day.

MNA/Xinhua



Italian soldiers set up a fence around the area of Italy's destroyed paramilitary base Thursday in Nasiriyah. A suicide bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives Wednesday, killing at least 27 people.—INTERNET

## HK to strengthen anti-piracy work

HONG KONG, 16 Nov—Timothy Tong, Commissioner of Customs and Excise of Hong Kong said here Friday that vigorous anti-piracy enforcement efforts must continue, or Hong Kong's streets could be flooded with counterfeit goods in no time.

He said "some people may think that nothing is easier to make a few quick dollars than to sell fake goods and it takes only a very small amount of money to start an outlet to do illicit business at," Tong said.

"But Hong Kong Customs will not make life easy for them," Tong pledged. "Because infringement of copyright impedes investment in innovation and is very bad for legitimate business."

Tong made the remarks while accompanying Executive Council Member Andrew Liao Cheung-sing

to visit the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and meet with Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation (Operations) Group Liu Cheung-shing for a better understanding of the Customs enforcement actions against piracy and counterfeiting activities.

Liu Cheung-shing said a persistent Customs crackdown over the years had led to a huge drop in the number of blackspots for selling pirated discs in Hong Kong, from over 1,000 blackspots in 1998 to the latest assessment of some 80 currently.

He said with joint efforts of the Intellectual Property Department, Travel Industry Council, Consumer Council, and other stakeholders, Customs would set up an "Alliance on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights" with copyright owners to enhance the effectiveness of Customs enforcement work.

MNA/Xinhua

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## Italians wounded in southern Iraq return home

ROME, 16 Nov—Wounded survivors of Italy's worst military slaughter since World War II arrived in Rome on Friday from Iraq as the country prepared to hold a state funeral next week for the 16 soldiers and two civilians who died.

Ambulances began taking the roughly 20 wounded from Ciampino Airport to the Celio military hospital in central Rome, where most were to be reunited with their families.

Most of the wounded were either Carabinieri military police or Army troops. One was an Italian civilian. The most seriously wounded were put in ambulances in stretchers as they were taken off a huge C-130 military transport plane.

The devastating suicide bomb attack in the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya on Wednesday killed 16 Italian soldiers, two Italian civilians and nine Iraqis. It was Italy's highest military death toll in a single incident since World War II.

"We'll be back, boys," one of the wounded soldiers, a big white bandage round

his head, said on Italian television as he and his wounded comrades boarded the plane in Iraq.

Earlier on Friday parliamentarians of all political stripes attended a Catholic mass in the chapel of the Lower House of Parliament to commemorate the dead and pray for the recovery of the wounded.

The bombing at the Carabinieri military police base has traumatized the nation, which is preparing for one of the biggest state funerals of modern times.

The coffins of the 18 dead were expected back in Italy on Saturday and will lie in state inside the Vittorio Emanuele monument, a huge white marble memorial that dominates central Rome and holds the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

MNA/Reuters

## China trains space-related professionals from APR countries

BEIJING, 16 Nov—China offered training courses on space technology and remote sensing applications for 29 professionals from the Asia-Pacific region from October 20 to November 14.

Luo Ge, director of the Foreign Affairs Department of the China National Space Administration, said the latest training programme involves the application of remote sense satellites in disaster reduction, environmental protection and land resources survey.

The training, held in cooperation with the Office of Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations, followed two similar ones held respectively in 2000 and 2002, focusing on environment and disaster monitoring in the region, according to the official, also secretary-general of the Asia-Pacific Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications.

The trainees included professionals from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and China.

A similar training programme has been scheduled for next year, noted the official.—MNA/Xinhua

## Thailand increases efforts in fight against drugs

BANGKOK, 16 Nov—Thai Government is determined to achieve the target that no more than five in every 1,000 members of the population will use drugs once the "victory over drugs" is announced on 3 December, Deputy Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh announced Friday.

Hailing the government's war on drugs as a success, the Deputy Prime Minister, who chairs the coordination centre for the anti-narcotics war, was quoted by Thai News Agency as saying that the government would continue to push for drugs-free communities in the final days before the victory is announced.

Chavalit said the emphasis would be on

enabling communities to engage in self-supervision, hoping the target of five drug users for every 1,000 would fall to only two in the near future.

"When you compare with the past, the situation has considerably improved. We will continue to work, and continue to expand our role for the benefit of humanity," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Country music singer Alan Jackson performs his song, 'Remember When,' during rehearsals on 15 November, 2003 in Los Angeles for the 31st annual American Music Awards. The awards will be presented in Los Angeles on 16 November, 2003. — INTERNET

## Vajpayee says US must discharge responsibility in Iraq

Moscow, 16 Nov — Voicing concern over Iraq "crisis", Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Thursday said the UN should play a "principal" role and the US must discharge its "responsibility" in bringing peace and stability in the war-ravaged country.

"The situation in Iraq has led to a crisis. There has been some difference with big countries over Iraq but we are with the majority of the countries," he said while addressing the Indian community here.

Regretting that innocent people were being killed and violence was continuing there, Vajpayee said "the UN should play the principal role. In particular, the US should discharge its responsibility" in Iraq.

On the domestic front, the Prime Minister said there were no differences within the Indian policy on Iraq. "Governments may change but there is no change in our foreign policy. During this major crisis, the only difference in our approach was with a major power," he said in an obvious reference to the US.

On the US request for stationing of Indian troops in Iraq, Vajpayee said it was conveyed to "our friends" that the security situation along India's borders and within the country did not permit taking such a step.

"We are a big country and something keeps happening. Our internal security is of paramount importance," he said, adding New Delhi thus turned down Washington's request. "They (the US) understood our point of view."

Vajpayee said there was a consensus in Parliament on not sending troops to Iraq. "We have a coalition government at the centre and all the decisions are taken collectively, not by one person," he added.

"On crucial issues, there are no differences between the opposition and the ruling coalition," he said.

A joint statement issued by India and Russia at the conclusion of Vajpayee's three-day visit here said the two sides supported efforts to safeguard unity and integrity of Iraq. They also emphasized the urgent need to restore peace, security and stability in that country.

MNA/PTI



US Army soldiers block the road in Baghdad on 15 Nov, 2003, after a roadside explosive device went off injuring at least four soldiers. — INTERNET

## China's Vice Premier meets Thai guests

BEIJING, 16 Nov — Vice Premier Wu Yi met here Friday with Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister of Public Health of Thailand. The two sides held friendly talks covering areas such as traditional medicine, AIDS and control of SARS.

Wu said China and Thailand have friendly relations and have carried out active and effective cooperation in public health, especially in traditional medicine and disease control.

The health ministries of the two countries have signed two cooperation MoUs and held successfully six meetings on cooperation in the field. Wu said she hoped the two ministries would make joint efforts to further develop friendly cooperation, in order to enhance the health level of the two peoples.

MNA/Xinhua

## Leakages fill food aid programmes in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 16 Nov — The food aid programmes in Bangladesh are suffering from leakages and inefficiencies due to malpractice and corruption, reported the *Financial Express* on Friday.

This was revealed by a recent study commissioned by the International Food Policy Research Institute.

The study found the implicit cost of food stock deterioration in fiscal 2001-2002 was estimated at 17.5 million US dollars, the storage losses in Public Food Distribution System were around 3.93 million dollars and the loss due to pilferage in the port harbours accounted for some 1.6 per cent of the food stock.

The beneficiaries of the Integrated Food Security programme received 18.64 per cent less than their entitlement, and the total leakage in the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) accounts for 13.47 per cent of the total. The VGD is a nationwide programme covering some 500,000 extremely

poor women. Participants of the VGD programme receive a monthly ration of 30 kilos of wheat, as well as involve in a package of development activities.

The average leakage in the VGD programme is around 2.25 kilos, or 7.53 per cent of the ration per month per beneficiary, said the study. Besides, an absence of standardized weighing techniques and equipment makes monitoring and verification of the programme's performance difficult. The study further suggested the national security stock level be revised downward from 800,000 to 600,000 tons, and said this level will not jeopardize the government's ability to manage any unanticipated food security threat.

MNA/Xinhua

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## South Korea freezes troop activity in Iraq

SEOUL, 16 Nov — South Korea has ordered a halt to all operations by its troops in southern Iraq until security is fully guaranteed in the area, the Japanese *Kyodo* news agency said on Friday.

*Kyodo*, monitored in London by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said in a dispatch from Seoul that the South Korean General Staff had ordered its troops to stand down on Thursday, a day after a suicide bombing that killed 18 Italians in the southern Iraqi town of Nassiriya.

It gave no details.

Since May, about 700 South Korean medical and engineering troops have been working out of a US base in Nassiriya without incident. Replacements for the initial contingent began flying out last month.

South Korea said on Thursday it was drafting plans for the deployment of

no more than 3,000 troops to help with peacekeeping and reconstruction in Iraq — well short of the 10,000 requested by Washington. A presidential spokesman would not be drawn on whether combat troops would be included.

In a meeting with security and foreign affairs ministers several days before a visit to Seoul by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun told them to work out a plan "that can win national agreement".

South Korea has said it would likely focus on reconstruction and leave security to local forces.

Roh aides have offered

different dates and various numbers for when a final decision on dispatch of troops would be made — ranging from December to as late as next April, after parliamentary elections. But South Korean Defence Minister Cho Young-kil told reporters on Tuesday that a final decision would probably be revealed during Rumsfeld's visit.

Roh's deployment decision forces him to weigh strong public opposition to the Iraq war against Seoul's desire to shore up its military alliance with Washington in the face of Communist North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

MNA/Reuters

## US civilian contractor killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Nov — A US civilian contractor was killed in an attack in northern Iraq on Thursday, a US military spokeswoman said on Friday.

Another American was wounded, she added. The incident took place on a main road near Balad, 80 kilometres north of Baghdad, when unknown gunmen approached the US convoy from behind and opened fire with machine guns. A quick response team arrived at the scene immediately after the attack and evacuated the wounded for treatment. It was not clear whether the American civilians were the target of resistant fighters or another victims of rampant highway robberies.

Several American contractors have lost their lives in the volatile northern area since US companies began to take an active role in the reconstruction of the war-torn country months ago. — MNA/Xinhua

## US soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Nov — A special operations force soldier was killed in Afghanistan on Friday when the vehicle he was driving was hit by a roadside bomb, the US military said.

Earlier, an Afghan military official said Afghan forces killed four suspected Islamic militants on Thursday.

More than 350 people, including civilians, Afghan troops, rebels, aid workers and at least 11 US-led soldiers or CIA operatives, have been killed in attacks in Afghanistan since early August.

The violence is the worst since US-led forces overthrew the radical Islamic Taleban regime two years ago on Thursday.

US Central Command said in a statement the special operations soldier died on Friday near Asadabad, in eastern Afghanistan.

It gave no more details. Afghan and US forces are scouring mountains and villages in that part of the country as part of a new operation against militants called "Mountain Resolve", villagers reported.

MNA/Reuters



A schoolgirl takes part in the SOLUNAR Bi-annual International Children's Art Monumental, on 15 November 2003 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The 11 day-long project has children from 35 countries, producing public works of art around the capital.

INTERNET





Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects all-round renovation tasks of Kyaikkamo Pagoda in Kyauktan Township on 16 November.—MNA

## Prime Minister inspects all-round renovation tasks of Kyaik Pyathat Tanon Pagoda, Kyaikkamo Pagoda in Kyauktan Township

YANGON, 16 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Min Kyaung Pariyatti Sathintaik in Kyauktan and paid obeisance to State Ovadacariya Min Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Jagara and members of the Sangha this morning.

After presenting of fertories to the Sayadaws, the Prime Minister and party went round the Kyaik Pyathat Tanon Pagoda clockwise and paid homage to the Buddha images in the prayer hall. Officials reported to the Prime Minister on all-round renovation tasks of the pagoda.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepted the donations for all-round

renovation of the pagoda: K 3 million by ACE Co, K 500,000 each by Daw Aye Myat Nwe of Bagan Hotel, Fortune International Co Ltd, and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, K 100,000 by the Ministry of Information, K 500,000 each by U Maung Maung Naing, Tawwin Family Co, and Dagon International Co and K 300,000 by the Defence Services (Navy) families of Thanlyin Station.

The Prime Minister and party then proceeded to ancient Hsandaushin Kyaikkamo Taungpaw Pagoda where they were welcomed by district/township Peace and Development Council chairmen and members, departmental officials, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and offi-

cials.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to the pagoda and inspected all-round renovation tasks including construction of prayer hall.

The ministers accepted the cash donations for all-round renovation of the pagoda: K 50 million by Dr Khin Shwe-Daw San San, son Maung Zay Thiha and Lieutenant Toe Naing Mann-Ma Zay Zin Latt of Zay Kabar Co, K 10 million by ACE Co, K 5 million by Olympic Co, K 500,000 each by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Labour, and Daw Aye Myat Nwe of Bagan Hotel, K 100,000 by the Defence Services (Navy) families of Thanlyin Station, K 300,000 each by

YCDC, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, K 100,000 each by the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mann Myo Thu Construction and Daw Khin Moe Swe of Doh Yoe Ya Khaungyay.

The Prime Minister was then reported on field research works and findings in Kyauktan and Thanlyin townships by Research Officer Daw Ngwe Ngwe Soe of Archaeological Department. Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Director-General U Nyunt Han of the Archaeological Department presented supplementary reports. The Prime Minister and party left there in the afternoon. — MNA



The commander, the ministers and those present pay respects to retired teachers at respect-paying ceremony of BEHS-2 in Monywa on 16 November.—MNA

## Respects paid to retired teachers at No 2, No 3 BEHS, Monywa

YANGON, 16 Nov — Basic Education High Schools No 2 and No 3 in Monywa in Sagaing Division held respect paying ceremonies on 15 November morning.

Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremonies. At the ceremony at No 2 BEHS, those present first paid respects to the retired old teachers. Next, the commander and the ministers, and former students, presented gifts to retired teachers.

Afterwards, the information minister handed over the presents for the teachers through the headmistress and a teacher of the school.

Next, the commander

and minister awarded the outstanding students and winner students of the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions-2003.

A total of K 11.48 million were donated by the wellwishers at the ceremony to construct the new school building. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye then presented K 500,000 to the fund for the respect paying ceremony for 2004.

Later, the com-

mander and the ministers proceeded to Monywa No 3 BEHS to attend the respect paying ceremony held at the school. At the ceremony, those present paid respects to the retired teachers. Next, the commander and the ministers presented gifts to the retired teachers, current teachers of the school and outstanding students and winners in the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. (See page 10)

### People's Desire

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

## 83rd Anniversary National Day

10th Waning of Tazaungmon

1365 ME

18-11-2003

## 83rd Anniversary National Day Objectives

- \* Keep national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
- \* Uplift of national education
- \* Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
- \* Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State

## Efficient use of electricity

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

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

## Efficient use of fuel

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

## All this needs to be known

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

## Prime Minister attends opening...

(from page 1)

Minister for Education U Than Aung made a speech. He said while implementing the national education promotion programmes, the State gives priority to emergence of grand schools and teaching rooms. In addition, the State in cooperation with wellwishers or wellwishers alone have renovated and constructed new school buildings. The Ministry of Education as well as students, teachers and parents thanked the family of Luk Hing Too Foundation for presenting a new grand school building to the ministry. In conclusion, he wished wellwishers achieving success and making more donations in future.

After the ceremony, General Khin Nyunt and party and wellwishers posed for documentary photos.

The Prime Minister and party viewed the altar room, reading room and lecture room of the new school building.

Then he attended the opening of e-library in Kyauktan held at the new library at 9 am. Also present



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opens the signboard of the e-library in Kyauktan Township on 16 November.—MNA

on the occasion were wife of the Prime Minister President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, ministers, deputy ministers, the Yangon vice-mayor, officials from SPDC office, district/township PDC members, departmental officials, members of social organizations, Mr Luk Hing Too and family of Luk Hing Too Foundation, Hong Kong, wellwisher of the library building Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and

Industry President U Win Myint and wife Daw Myint Myint Than, wellwishers and invited guests.

Wellwisher the UMFCFI President explained the purposes of the donation and presented documents related to the e-library to Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department.

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepted the donations. U Win Myint-Daw Myint Myint Than family

(Shwe Naga Min Trading Co Ltd) presented K 43 million for the library building, Chairman U Zaw Zaw Naing-Daw Yee Yee Myint of May Khala International Trading Co Ltd K 3 million for computers and related things, Managing Director U Mya Han of Fortune International Co Ltd K 3 million for furniture and stuff, Chairman U Maung Weik of Maung Weik Co Ltd K 780,000 for air-conditioner, U Saw Hlaing-Daw Khin Nyo Thin (Hla Kabar Co Ltd) K 500,000 for five cup-

boards, the Ministry of Commerce 508 books, the Ministry of Religious Affairs 46 books and Shwe Naga Min Trading Co Ltd 388 books.

The deputy minister also accepted cash donations totalling K 6.9 million for the e-library by Olympic Co Ltd, farmer Phoyarzar Co Ltd, Dynamic Construction and General Trading Co Ltd, Maung Weik Co Ltd, Aung Aung Enterprise, Tawwin Co Ltd, Dagon International Co, Daw Aye Myat Nwe of Bagan Hotel, the UMFCFI,

U Kyu wheat-mill and wellwishers.

Wellwisher U Win Myint presented a souvenir to General Khin Nyunt. The deputy minister and the wellwisher formally opened the e-library. General Khin Nyunt formally opened the billboard of the e-library and sprinkled scented water on the stone inscriptions.

The Prime Minister and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party looked around the place and the ceremony came to a close.

MNA

## Secretary-1 inspects import...

(from page 16)

he praised the staff for being able to manufacture CNC lathes and urged them to continue efforts for manufacturing essential tasks for the development needs of the nation such as road rollers, machinery and parts.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the parts of Junior Lathe Machine Model-235/1500 and the rear axle shafts and flanges produced with the use of the lathe machine at the fitter workshop of the factory. The Secretary-1 and party viewed Junior CNC Lathe Machine Model 235/1500 and application of the lathe machines.

Afterwards, responsible officials reported to the Sec-

retary-1 and party on benefits of manufacturing the CNC lathe machine.

The Secretary-1 and party also inspected the spot welding machine, digital read out milling machine and lathe, silk screen printer, briquette machine, iron plate cutter and iron sawmill manufactured on a trial basis by the factory. The Secretary-1 viewed round the factory and other products there.

Later, the Secretary-1 inspected the PVC Coated Electric Cable Plant and production process.

On 15 November morning, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) in Minhla Township,

Magway Division, and heard reports on establishment of the factory in 1966, work force, investment and objectives of the factory, workshops and installation of machinery in the factory and researches and invention conducted at the factory.

Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported to the Secretary-1 on the manufacturing and trial application of road rollers, arrangements for manufacturing of road rollers.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions on taking innovative measures in production of road rollers and making coordination with the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry for Progress of Border



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win gives instructions at the hall of No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) on 16 November.—MNA

Areas and National Races and Development Affairs for meeting the worksite requirements. The Secretary-1 praised the staff of the factory

for being able to manufacture road rollers within a short period and urged them to make continued efforts for production of other import substitute items.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected road rollers and parts, assembling road

rollers and production of parts in the factory and viewed the trial driving of road rollers.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party viewed round the factory and other products manufactured by the factory such as engines, axles, tillers, and trailers. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects road rollers produced by No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) on 16 November.—MNA

## 37th prize presentation of Thanyoke examination held

YANGON, 16 Nov — The 37th prize presentation ceremony of Thanyoke examination organized by All Myanmar Buddhists Federation was held in conjunction with a cash donation ceremony at the Dhammayon of the federation in Dagon Township this afternoon.

Chairman of the federation U Bo Maung explained matters related to establishment of the federation and prize scrutinizing.

The chairman, executives, President of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federa-

tion Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Mi Mi Khin and officials presented prizes to first, second and third prize winners and 132 successful candidates.

Next, the chairman accepted the cash donations of wellwishers including K 200,000 by President Daw Mi Mi Khin, K 50,000 by U Sein Ti and Dr Than Than Swe of Kamayut Township, and K 50,000 by Prof U Lin Tun Tun and Dr Myint Myint Kyi of Dagon Township.

MNA



## If the State, the people and ...

(from page 16)

water is scarce, to be in line with the requirement.

The government has been implementing the projects for availability of water, applying various ways and means. It did so with the aim of serving the long-term interest of local people, of ensuring water availability for agriculture purpose, of enhancing the living standard of rural people, and of greening the regions.

The projects for availability of water being implemented are the good foundations that will continue contributing to the posterity.

At the same time, the government in cooperation with the people has been able to implement the tasks for conservation of forest and trees, extended cultivation of trees, establishment of forest plantations in the villages and wider use of briquettes.

Therefore, the nine-district greening project has been extended into the 13-district greening project which is meeting with success. As a result, favourable weather condition has been achieved in Anyar region and significant progress has been made in agricultural sector of the region year by year.

The ten major crops of the State as well as kitchen crops are thriving in Mandalay Division. Therefore, the State has to rely on the division economically. The ratio of the division constitutes in the national economy in 2002-2003 fiscal year was about 12 per cent. Thus, it can be said that the economy of Mandalay Division plays a key role in the national economy.

Strenuous efforts are to be made for improvement of socio-economic life of the local people and for enabling the division to become a region that contributes much to the national economy with the effective use of the favourable conditions created by the State. At the same time, the local people are to strive for extended establishment of forest plantations, shade trees and fruit trees and wider use of briquettes.

The government has been implementing projects for development of border areas, the 24-development zones

and the five rural development tasks to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

This being the case, if the State, the people and the Tatmadaw make concerted efforts progress will be made in the entire nation in a short time, and the nation will be able to stand tall among the global nations.

The seven-point political roadmap has been laid down for the emergence of a new modern developed democratic nation and for enabling the nation to perpetually stand tall among the nations of the world.

The seven-point political roadmap is the future work programme laid down with the aim of serving the interests of the State and the people. The step-by-step work programmes are in conformity with the four political objectives of the State. Thus, the entire national people have already unanimously supported the work programme.

In conclusion, the Secretary-2 called on the local authorities, departmental officials and local people to safeguard the dam for its durability, to make sustained efforts in agricultural sector with the effective use of the irrigation water, to strive for self-sufficiency in food, environmental greening and improvement of the living standard, and to collectively engage in the development tasks of rural regions.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made a speech. He said water tapping projects are being implemented throughout the country for the success of the agriculture sector.

The aim of these projects are not only for development of the agriculture sector but also for raising the socio-economic life of the rural people thereby realizing the development of the State.

With favourable conditions of the country, arrangements have been made to ensure water for agricultural purpose, household use and greening the environs. As a result, 19 per cent out of over 26 million acres of cultivable land have become irrigated



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looks around the e-library in Kyauktan Township on 16 November (News Page-1).—MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party together with local people, students and staff of Construction Group-4 pose for a documentary photo at the opening of Chaungmagyi (Pinyin) Dam on 16 November.—MNA

land and the percentage of crops cultivation has increased to 150.

Mandalay Division, including this region, possesses good foundations for growing paddy, maize, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and various items of crops.

The minister urged local farmers and the people to make earnest efforts to meet the goal of the State—ensuring rice surplus, edible oil sufficiency and extended cultivation of beans and pulses and industrial crops that are export items.

He continued to say that Chaungmagyi Dam being

opened today was built at a cost of over K 767 million and it will support Ngalaik Dam to irrigate 3,000 acres of land in the region. With 43 square miles of catchment areas, the dam can store 40,000 acre feet of water.

He also urged the responsible personnel and people to maintain the dam for its durability.

The minister also said that the dam was built with the aim of removing the difficulties faced in cultivation and thus it is sure that farmers can grow various crops successfully with peace of mind.

The dam will contribute

not only to the agriculture sector but also to ensuring water for household use as well as greening the environs, he stressed.

Next, on behalf of Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Col Win Myint of Pinyinman Station spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, a local resident spoke words of thanks followed by opening ceremony of the dam.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein pressed the button to open the stone inscriptions of

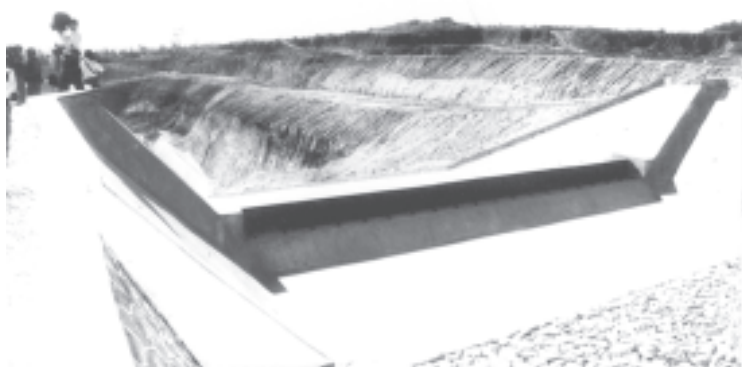
Chaungmagyi (Pinyin) Dam. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and Col Win Myint formally opened the dam by cutting the ribbon.

The Secretary-2 and party, next, had a documentary photo taken together with local people, students and service personnel of Irrigation Department.

After greeting local people, The Secretary-2 inspected the main embankment, spillway and water control tower.

At the briefing hall, Director U Maung Maung Tin of Construction-4 of Irrigation Department reported to the Secretary-2 on facts about the dam, inflow of water, benefitted acres and future tasks to be carried out. Director-General U Kyaw San Win and Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made supplementary reports. The Secretary-2 gave necessary instructions.

Chaungmagyi (Pinyin) Dam is the earthen one built on Chaungmagyi Creek near Kyethsuang Village, Pinyinman Township, Mandalay Division. The 88 feet high and 6,000 feet long dam will benefit 3,000 acres of land. —MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the Chaungmagyi (Pinyin) Dam after the opening ceremony on 16 November.—MNA





Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, the wellwishers, the school head and teachers pose for a documentary photo at the opening of new school building in Shwegon Ward, Kyauktan Township on 16 November. (News page 1)—MNA



The Myanmar Maritime University under construction. (News Page 1) — MNA

## Respects paid to retired teachers at No 2, No 3...

(from page 7)

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented K 500,000 donated to the fund for the respect paying ceremony for

2004 by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council.

Afterwards, the opening ceremony of the new

building of the school was followed. At the ceremony, the ministers and officials formally opened the building and the commander unveiled the signboard.

An official concerned handed over the documents

relating to the building to Director-General of the No 2 Basic Education Department Lt-Gen Win Htein. Next, wellwishers made cash donation totalling K 14,445,200 for the new building. — MNA

## Greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport coordinated

YANGON, 16 Nov—Coordination meeting for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport was held this afternoon at Ma Soe Farm of Yangon City Development Committee in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon East District, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present were Chairman of YCDC Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo and officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke on the occasion saying that efforts are being made for greening along the runway of Yangon International Airport by dividing 5 Zones. Under the supervision of the Vice-Mayor cultivation of monsoon paddy has exceeded the target, he noted. He spoke of the need to grow crops on commercial scale. He also gave instructions to make arrangements for implementing paddy plus fish projects in wetland areas. He urged the officials concerned and people to conserve the perennial plants being grown on the roadside.

Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thien Lin discussed matters relating to arrangements being made for greening Ma Soe Farm and assistance to be rendered by YCDC for the success of the 5 Zones. Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa reported on tasks being carried out for growing crops all year round in the 5 Zones, digging of canals to supply water to summer paddy fields and measures being taken for growing summer paddy and other crops.

Afterwards, Director U Kyaw Thein of Yaggon Division Irrigation Department reported on digging the canal, supplying water from Ngamoeyek Dam; Division Manager of Agriculture Service U Aung Hsan on arrangements being made for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport; Director Lt-Col Htin Aung Kyaw of Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development on building of roads in the special zones and civil engineering tasks; and Secretary of Yangon Division PDCLT-Col Kyaw Tint on work to be carried out for growing summer paddy and winter crops in the 5 Zones and progress of work. Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on timely completion of building canals and roads.

The commander and the mayor, next, proceeded to U Myint Aung's Brokerage House in Fishpaste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Brokerage House Project in Thayetpinchaung Village in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. Member of YCDC U Aung Soe reported to the commander on progress in building of brokerage houses in the project, laying of gravel, installing power lines and water supply. The commander said efforts are being made for the convenience of the business of the brokerage houses and he explained about arrangements to fulfil the needs of the brokerage business. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thien Lin also discussed matters relating to assistance to be rendered for the success of the business.

After hearing reports presented by brokers, the commander and the mayor fulfilled their needs. — MNA

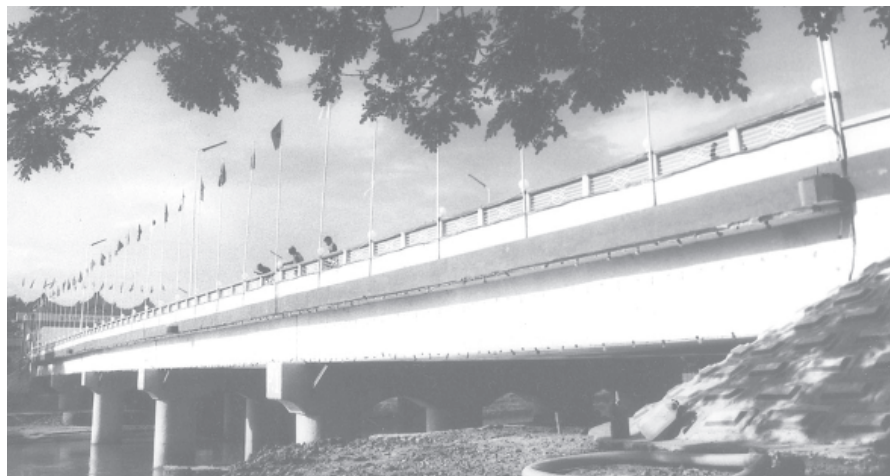
# The Kwinchaung Bridge

## Myint Wai Hlaing

The states and divisions have developed with new roads and bridges mushrooming across the nation.

On 21 September, 2003, a new bridge namely Kwinchaung was opened in Kanyutkwin in Pyu Township, Toungoo District, Bago Division.

The 300-foot-long Kwinchaung bridge situated on Yangon-Mandalay Highway was constructed across Kwin River. It can withstand 60 tons of load. As the number of vehicles that pass the highway daily increases up to over 5,000 vehicles, it was required to repair and upgrade the old bridges. The old bridges on the highway could withstand only 13 tons of load. That is why, bridges



Kwinchaung bridge in Pyu Township, Toungoo District, Bago Division.

on the highway were upgraded into new modern ones.

Not only Kwinchaung bridge but also Baingda, bridge Katoke

bridge, Kawliya bridge, Yenwe bridge, Phyu bridge, Kabaung bridge, Bago river crossing bridge and Zawgyi (Kyaukse) bridges were also upgraded. Yangon-Manda-

lay highway is crucial for commodity flow and public transport. The government is building the major bridges on the highway whereas the private companies are reno-

vating the medium ones.

At present, a total of 163 over 180-foot-long bridges including Kwinchaung Bridge have been constructed.

Over 180-foot-long bridges have been inaugurated in Bago Division and Kwinchaung Bridge is the 16th one among them. The old one was constructed in 1945 and it was a reinforced bridge. Previously, the vehicles had to pass the old bridge one after another. Since there were many difficulties in passing the old bridge, the State constructed the new 60-ton-load bridge.

The new bridge is 300 feet long flanked by six-foot-wide walkways. It has a clearance which is eight feet high and 46 feet wide.

The construction the bridge started on 15 October, 2000, and completed on 22 August, 2003. New roads and bridges have solved the problem of poor transportation.

(Translation: AMS)  
(Myanma Alin: 3-11-2003)



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

Human resource development plays a pivotal role in national development. The Institute of Medicine in Mandalay shows the government's endeavours for human resource development.

PHOTO: MNA

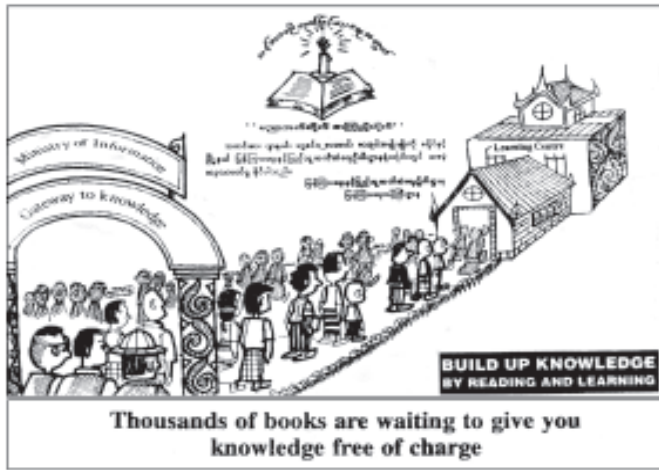


City modernization drive has been carried out in Mandalay. The photo shows newly-built modern railway station in Mandalay.

PHOTO: MNA

Transport infrastructures are being constructed with added momentum to bridge the gap between one region and another in all parts of the nation. The photo shows the Mandalay International Airport equipped with modern facilities in TadaU Township in Mandalay Division.— PHOTO: MNA





## ADVERTISEMENTS

### West Europe car sales down in October

**BRUSSELS, 16 Nov** — Sales of new vehicles in West Europe in October were down 0.3 per cent on the month before, with the year-to-date total down 1.3 per cent on 2002, according to data issued on Friday by the Brussels-based ACEA.

Europe's consumers are losing their enthusiasm for new cars. When they do buy, they are increasingly turning to Asian firms instead of vendors closer to home, said the Association of Constructor of European carmakers (ACEA).

West Europe new passenger car registrations for October this year amounted to 1.179 million units, representing a decrease of 0.3 per cent compared to October of last year.

The sluggish showing in Europe demonstrated by the survey, which covers the 15-nation European Union (EU) together with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, matches the continent's overall economic performance.

While economic growth in the United States was 7.2 per cent on an annual basis in the third quarter, Europe's expansion is unlikely to reach even 1 per cent this year.

MNA/Xinhua

### Italian Government takes hard line on drugs

**ROME, 16 Nov**— The Italian Government Thursday approved a controversial soft drug clampdown, giving the green light to new legislation enshrining a "zero tolerance" approach to all types of drugs.

The bill, which makes possession of hard and soft drugs a criminal offence, won the unanimous approval of the Cabinet. After meeting on Thursday morning, the Cabinet issued a statement saying that "the state is not indifferent to the spread of drugs and takes a negative view of their use".

The bill, drawn up by Italian Deputy Prime Minister Gianfranco Fini, reverses Italy's current drug policies by targeting soft drug users, ending the distinctions between soft and hard drugs, and possession and trafficking.

It abolishes the so-called "minimum daily dose" which Fini maintains has defanged Italy's drug laws and prevented police from distinguishing between drug-pushing and personal use. People found with any drugs, whether soft or hard, face prosecution, with automatic jail terms of up to six years above a certain quantity.

Below that quantity, offenders can be fined or have their driving licence and passport taken away. The crackdown has sparked controversy, particularly as it would override a 1993 referendum in which Italians voted to decriminalize the use of drugs, allowing only pushers and traffickers to be prosecuted.

Critics argue that prohibition would force users underground, benefit the Mafia and do nothing to help addicts.

But Fini, who heads the rightist National Alliance, on Thursday defended his bill, arguing that "anti-prohibition aggravates the drug crisis, encouraging the spread of drugs."

Finisaid he expects the bill to become law by Christmas, stressing recently that its aim was to "liberate the drug slaves. Italian Health Minister Girolamo Sirchia backed Fini's hard line, saying it was "wrong" to distinguish between soft and hard drugs or "to think that soft drugs are not dangerous."

MNA/Xinhua

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### Vietnam flood toll hits 50

**HANOI, 16 Nov** — Life began to return to normal in parts of central and southern Vietnam on Saturday after days of flooding killed at least 50 people, crippled transport and stopped the coffee harvest in a key region.

While floods were receding, weather officials said they feared that a tropical storm in the South China Sea could make landfall in days and cause more misery in the impoverished country.

At least seven people were missing and 38 injured by the latest floods after torrential rains on Wednesday and Thursday drenched a wide area of central Vietnam and parts of the south, submerging 6,840 houses and destroying roads.

About 2,500 soldiers have been sent to affected areas to reinforce river banks, while naval vessels and five helicopters were helping evacuate people.

The death toll rose from 33 on Friday. Among the dead were 15 gold miners killed by landslides.

MNA/Reuters

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### China, Japan, S Korea hold policy dialogue on intellectual property

**BEIJING, 16 Nov**— Top intellectual property watchdogs from China, Japan and South Korea held the third trilateral policy dialogue meeting here Friday, discussing new cooperation and the possibility of arranging talks with Southeast Asian countries.

Wang Jingchuan, commissioner of China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), said that the trilateral cooperation in trade, economic and other fields was greatly promoted in recent years.

During the "10+3" meeting in October in Indonesia, which was attended by 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan and South Korea, leaders from the three sides agreed to strengthen intellectual property protection and coordination, Wang said.

Yasuo Imai, commissioner of the Japan Patent Office (JPO), said that the three countries are playing key roles in many fields in Asia, including intellectual property. The three sides have conducted many concerted projects and cooperated widely, he said.

In the 21st Century, said Dong-Man Ha, commissioner of the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), high-profile dialogues among the three countries on intellectual property are particularly important. He hoped the three sides would discuss more substantial issues.

The three commissioners agreed to set up an information-exchange platform, to experiment on electronic document exchange in 2004, to explore the possibilities of sharing a patent search and examination database among the three sides, and to compile a technical dictionary.

The trilateral policy dialogues was initiated in 2001. JPO hosted the first meeting in Tokyo, where the three sides agreed to host the meeting in turn since then. —MNA/Xinhua

### Microsoft rivals say no reason for inferior windows

**BRUSSELS, 16 Nov** — A Microsoft Corp rival used show-and-tell to make its point on Friday that the software giant need not cripple its popular Windows operating system to comply with EU regulators' demands, a source familiar with the case said.

The demonstration came on the last day of a three-day hearing to help the European Commission decide on charges that Microsoft abused its dominance over personal computer operating systems through Windows, found on over 90 per cent of computers.

There will be no immediate results from the highly publicized but confidential hearing which followed a predictable pattern with Microsoft defending itself against competitors' complaints about its business practices.

Eventually, European Union hearing officer Karen Williams will send her evaluation to Competition Commissioner Mario Monti who will use it to help him rule after a five-year probe.

The European Union executive is

expected to decide by the end of June 2004, but if Microsoft objects it could start a lengthy appeal to the EU's top court in Luxembourg.

The Commission has proposed that Microsoft offer a version of Windows without Media Player audio-visual software built in, so that rivals would be on a level playing field. In particular, it focused on rivals RealNetworks RealPlayer and Apple QuickTime. The EU may also impose a hefty fine on Microsoft.

Microsoft argues that if it were ordered to cut out Media Player it would be forced to offer a substandard version of Windows which would be unable to run many popular programmes. Both the manner and substance of Microsoft's warning made an out-of-court settlement seem more distant, a Microsoft critic following the case said. —MNA/Reuters

### Zambia suffers blow in breeding white rhinos

**LUSAKA, 16 Nov**— Zambia's efforts to reintroduce and breed endangered white rhino suffered a blow this week as one of the only five rhinos imported from South Africa was found dead floating on the Zambezi River Monday.

Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) Director General Hapenga Kabeta said the white rhino, fondly known as Gunboat, was found floating on the Zambezi River in the Mosi-u-tunya National Park in Livingstone, Southern Province, where the world famous Victoria Falls are located.

He said it is suspected that the animal died after a fight with another surviving rhino which sustained wounds on the head and back.

ZAWA has since reviewed the protection and monitoring of the remaining four white rhinos in the park to avoid the recurrence of such a tragedy, he said.

White rhino became an extinct animal in Zambia in early 1990s, mainly due to rampant poaching. The country then reintroduced five white rhinos from South Africa in 1995 and put them in the Mosi-u-tunya national park.

MNA/Xinhua

### Egyptian twins in US to start plastic surgery

**DALLAS, 16 Nov**— The formerly conjoined Egyptian twin boys will soon begin years of reconstructive surgery to repair damage from the operation that separated them at the crown of the heads, a doctor who is overseeing care of the boys said on Friday.

Dr David Genecov, craniofacial surgeon at Medical City Dallas, said two-year-old Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim will probably have synthetic materials used in reconstructing their misshapen heads, and the reconstruction process, that is set to start soon, will be long.

"It involves, ultimately, the creation of a new skull," Genecov told a Press conference.

On Thursday, the boys left Children's Medical Centre in Dallas, where they were separated in a 34-hour operation a month ago, and moved to Medical City Dallas — the hospital that had overseen their care for about a year prior to the separation surgery.

"Ultimately, their final reconstruction may not really be apparent until they are 18 years of age," Genecov said.

The hospital will offer more details of the reconstruction process on Monday at a news conference, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



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## Talks fail to agree on ozone damaging fumigant

NAIROBI, 16 Nov—Environmental negotiations seen by US fruit growers as critical to future profitability failed to break a deadlock on Friday on a US request to increase use of a fumigant known to destroy the ozone layer, delegates said.

Use of controversial fumigant methyl bromide will instead be tackled at an extraordinary meeting next year, a UN-sponsored negotiating conference in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, decided.

The United States, the European Union and Japan have cut the use of methyl bromide to 30 per cent of previous levels, but now the United States wants to be allowed to increase its use to 38.2 per cent in 2005.

Conference spokesman Nick Nuttall said an extraordinary meeting of parties to the Montreal Protocol would take place in Montreal in March next year.

"It would be designed to resolve the difficulties we had at this meeting. We are disappointed that there was no consensus," US delegation head Claudia McMurray told Reuters.

Methyl bromide, which kills soil pests before crops are planted, is due to be phased out

by all developed nations by January 1, 2005, under a global pact to protect the atmosphere.

A US Government delegation and farm groups say although they have made significant cutbacks in its use, they need more time to find effective substitute fumigants for crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, strawberries and sweet potatoes.

Around 180 signatory countries to the Montreal Protocol had been due to vote on the US request on Friday at the close of a meeting on the ozone layer at the UN Environmental Programme headquarters in Nairobi. That vote did not take place.

The protocol — seen by experts as the most successful of various global environmental treaties — requires signatory states to phase out the use of some 95 chemicals that damage the ozone layer, a stratum of the atmosphere that protects the Earth from ultraviolet radiation.—MNA/Reuters

## China works out long term plans for energy conservation

BEIJING, 16 Nov—China's energy development policies will give priority to energy conservation and environmental protection in the next 20 years, according to Liu Shijin, an official from the Development Research Centre of the State Council.

Speaking Saturday at the pre-session of the China Development Forum's special session on China's Energy Strategy and Reform, Liu said it was estimated that in the year 2020, China would need 2.8 billion tons of coal and 600 million tons of crude oil, two-and-a-half times more than in 2000.

At that time, China would import about 250 million tons of petroleum, which would mean 70 per cent of China's petroleum would be dependent on foreign supply. Meanwhile, carbon emissions would reach 1.94 billion tons, and China was likely to take the United States' leading place

as the nation with the emission of the most greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

To deal with the crisis, Liu said the Chinese Government could use the country's great potential for energy conservation. At present, China's energy utilization efficiency is only 33.4 per cent, some 10 per cent lower than the advanced international level, and the unit energy consumption of major products of China's main industries is much higher than the international level. "The government will make policies to boost energy conservation, especially in the transportation, architecture and industry fields,"

Liu said. Liu also acknowledged that environmental protection should be given adequate attention while doing the work of energy conservation. China should work out and enact more policies, laws and rules to advocate utilization of cleaner energies like solar energy. The two-day forum will officially open on Sunday, with the participation of more than 100 energy-related experts, officials and entrepreneurs from both home and abroad. They are expected to discuss and research China's energy issues such as energy efficiency, energy and environment and new energy forms at the forum.—MNA/Xinhua

## Strong quake jolts eastern Japan

TOKYO, 16 Nov—A fairly strong earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale jolted Tokyo and at least seven prefectures in eastern Japan in the early hours of Saturday. According to the Japanese Meteorological Agency, the quake, which occurred at around 03:48 pm (1848 GMT), was strongly felt in Tokyo and its surrounding areas. The meteorological agency said the epicentre of the major earthquake was in Ibalaki Prefecture. The focus of the earthquake was estimated at about 40 kilometres under the earth surface.

MNA/Xinhua



Firefighters and ambulances are seen at the bow of the Queen Mary 2 in Saint-Nazaire, western France, on 15 November, 2003. Twelve visitors died and 32 were injured when a dockside gangway collapsed. The Queen Mary 2 is scheduled to embark on its maiden voyage in January 2004.

INTERNET

## Putin says Russia not to return to old path

MOSCOW, 16 Nov—Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia will not return to its old path and called for cooperation between the government and the business circle in his country.

Addressing a conference of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Putin said the business sector and the government "have for some time been cooperating" and such efforts should continue to yield "visible and tangible results", an Interfax news agency report said.

The President stressed that it is impossible for Russia to go back to the past, but admitted at the same time

that under the current situation, any criminal case involving business could spark concern and uneasiness over Russia's economic development policies.

The speech was made amid the intensifying investigation by Russian prosecutors against Mikhail Khodorkovsky, former head of the oil giant YUKOS.

Putin tried to appease businessmen by promising that there will be no back-track to the authoritarianism in the Soviet era.

The authorities and the business "should not only continue dialogue but also work together for Russia's development and prosperity," Putin said in the speech.

But he also made it clear that the government should react to all violations of law by anybody regardless of his social status. "It is the state's function to defend everybody because it implies defending the national economy," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

## S Africa launches "AIDS" donation drive

JOHANNESBURG, 16 Nov—South African Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang donated cash and a trolley full of food in Pretoria on Friday to mark the start of a government-initiated drive to help children impoverished by AIDS.

The initiative relied on members of the public to donate food, clothing and cash, which would be distributed to community-based organizations caring for children, the Health Department said in a statement.

The drive, being held in the run-up to World "AIDS" Day on December 1, focuses on children who lost their caregivers to the disease or whose parents were too sick to look after them.

"While there are many organizations doing all they can to assist with this situation, they struggle to raise funds and resources necessary to keep them going," Tshabalala-Msimang said. "This is especially so in infor-

mal settlements, peri-urban and rural areas."

All donations, including cash, could be made at any of 230 Pick 'n Pay, a chain store of the country, or 130 Score supermarkets countrywide, the statement read.

Cash contributions would be administered by the Red Cross of South Africa.

Last year, a similar drive yielded 2,200 boxes of goods, which were distributed by Pick 'n Pay to 90 organizations within a month.

"The minister urged businesses, clubs and other organizations to take part by raising money and goods internationally," the statement read.

MNA/Xinhua

## Artworks from 40 foreign embassies on exhibit in Beijing

BEIJING, 16 Nov—Exotic artworks including sculptures of Ramses II from Egypt, faience plates from Poland, Alpaca weaving from Peru, lacquerware and wooden toys from Japan, and paintings from Russia are on exhibit in Beijing.

At the joint sponsorship of the China International Exhibition Agency and nearly 40 foreign embassies in Beijing, the Second Exhibition of Artworks from Foreign Embassies in China opened Friday.

Over 500 exquisite works from approximately 40 embassies are included in the week-long exhibition, covering paintings, sculptures and folk handicrafts.

Meng Xiaosi, Chinese Vice-Minister of Culture, told the opening ceremony that arts and culture are the common assets shared by the people of the whole world, and cultural exchanges can help people from different countries communicate and understand each other better.—MNA/Xinhua

## India to help rebuild Tajik military airport

DUSHANBE, 16 Nov—Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said on Friday his country would help the Central Asian state of Tajikistan rebuild a military airport near the capital Dushanbe as part of a 40-million-US-dollar aid packet. The move comes as the countries surrounding Central Asia and the United States have jostled to increase their military influence inside a volatile region that borders Afghanistan and is a route for heroin smuggling to Russia and Europe.

Vajpayee, on his first trip to the small and impoverished ex-Soviet state north of the Subcontinent, would not be drawn on the purpose of funding the airport at Ayni, west of the capital, while Tajik officials played down its military function.

"This is an emergency airport," said Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov at a joint news conference. "Almost every capital city has at least two airports in case of emergencies."

He added that Russian warplanes based at the main

airport would be able to move to Ayni once it was renovated.

Vajpayee said India would write off Tajikistan's 10 million US dollars of bilateral debt and provide it with a grant of five million dollars and a loan of 25 mil-

lion US dollars. He did not say how much the airport rebuilding project was worth.

Much of Tajikistan's infrastructure was wrecked in a 1992-97 civil war that is estimated to have claimed up to 100,000 lives.

MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS

## Brazil beats Japan 3-0 to keep pressure on China

OSAKA (Japan), 16 Nov—Brazil beat Japan in straight sets here on Thursday to keep pressure on title favourite China at the 2003 Women's Volleyball World Cup.

The Brazilians, who suffered their only loss at the World Cup in the opener against China, extended their winning streak to eight with the 25-21, 25-21 and 25-23 victory.

With two matches remaining in the round-robin tournament, Brazil now stands second behind the unbeaten Chinese, 3-2 winners over the United States on Thursday.

After some nervous opening minutes, the Brazilians quickly found their rhythm and took a handy 20-16 lead. The hosts played with spirit and heart but they were up against tough opponents, who secured the first set 25-21.

Down by two sets, the Japanese opened the third set with a commanding 16-8 lead, but Brazil whittled the lead away and at 18-all were back in the match.

The Japanese struggled to go up again at 23-21, but that is the farthest they could go.

MNA/Xinhua

## England to play Sweden in Euro 2004 warm-up

LONDON, 16 Nov5 — England will play Sweden in a Euro 2004 warm-up in Gothenburg on March 31 next year, the English Football Association (FA) confirmed on Friday.

The friendly international, first announced last May as part of the Swedish federation's centenary celebrations, is dependent on the teams not being drawn in the same group for the European Championship finals in Portugal in June and July.—MNA/Reuters



Brazilian and Real Madrid soccer star Ronaldo (C) fights for the ball with Kaka (R) during practice at the Monumental Stadium in Lima, on 15 November, 2003. Brazil will face Peru in a World Cup 2006 qualifier game on 16 November in Lima.—INTERNET

## Ronaldo lends support to troubled agents

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Nov—Brazil striker Ronaldo said on Friday that his two agents, who have been charged with taking part in a corruption scheme in Rio de Janeiro, were innocent and complained that footballers were portrayed in his homeland as being ignorant.

The Real Madrid player, in an interview with the Esporte Total programme on the Bandeirantes television network, also complained that "a lot of nonsense" had been written about the 1998 World Cup final against France, when he played only hours after being taken ill.

Ronaldo, 27, has been reluctant to talk about his agents Alexandre Martins and Reinaldo Pitta, who have

been involved with him since he was 13-years-old.

They have been charged with taking part in a widely-publicized scheme also involving former tax officials from the Rio de Janeiro state government.

The pair spent nearly three months in jail on charges of fiscal fraud and illegally transferring money abroad before winning bail last month. They face up to

11 years' imprisonment if found guilty.

Ronaldo remembered how Martins and Pitta signed him up as an adolescent, shortly after he had failed a trial with Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo, and later helped transfer him to Dutch club PSV Eindhoven for millions of dollars. "Alexandre and Reinaldo were the people who helped me when I was 13," said Ronaldo. "They believed in my talent."

He added: "It's a special case because a lot of people are involved. I have no doubt they will prove their innocence." Ronaldo, who confirmed this week that he is separating from his wife Milene Domingues after less than four years of marriage, said he had always tried to keep his private life out of the public glare.

"I don't want to expose my privacy to anyone," he said. "I'm famous because I'm a footballer, not because I married Milene."

He also criticized the way footballers were portrayed in Brazil.—MNA/Reuters

## Club boss says Man United do not need sugar daddy

MANCHESTER (England), 16 Nov—Manchester United are not seeking and do not need a billionaire backer like Roman Abramovich, chief executive David Gill said on Friday.

"We don't need a sugar daddy," Gill told Reuters at the Premier League champions' annual meeting of shareholders.

"We have a well thought out strategic system in place producing results."

Russian billionaire Abramovich bought Chelsea in July and has spent more than 110 million pounds (185.8 million US dollars) on new players as well as hiring Manchester United's former chief executive Peter Kenyon.

"Our turnover is 173 million pounds (292.3 million US dollars), and we have 29 million cash currently in the bank," said Gill. "We also have a strategy in place to increase our revenue and the future is positive."

"The investment resources are now there for players because spending on assets such as the ground and training ground is now finished."

Gill told the meeting that the club had tried to sign Damien Duff, who moved to Chelsea in the summer, and intended to sell goalkeeper Fabien Barthez at the end of the season.

"We were interested in Damien Duff and assessed the value of the player," he said.

"We knew his personal terms and were in discussions with his agent and discussed that with the manager (Alex Ferguson)."

"The assessment of the manager and the executives was that Damien wasn't worth

that money. We had sufficient cover and other possibilities to chase at the time."

He defended Ferguson's decision to buy Barthez for 7.8 million pounds (13.18 million US dollars) in June 2000.

"We have a manager who has proved over 16 years he has an eye for talented players," he said.

"But we have discussed with Marseille putting Fabien on loan until the end of the season at which point we would hope to conclude a transfer."

Gill said United have so far failed in their attempts to arrange a meeting with Malcolm Glazier, who has bought 8.94 per cent of the club, but intend to sit down with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers owner soon.

Rumours have swept the financial world that Glazier or Irish racehorse owners JP McManus and John Magnier, who through their company Cubic Expression control 23.15 per cent of the club, are on the verge of mounting a takeover bid.

Gill said United's summer transfer dealings, which saw the exit of England captain David Beckham and Juan Sebastian Veron, has left the club in a healthier position.

"We replaced David Beckham and Juan Sebastian Veron with five players and the addition of two players from the youth team. And we are not spending more money on wages now than we did before," he said.

MNA/Reuters

## China rally past US for 9th straight win at World Cup

OSAKA (Japan), 16 Nov—World Grand Prix champions China rallied past the United States in a five-set thriller here on Thursday for their ninth straight win at the 2003 Women's Volleyball World Cup.

The Chinese women moved closer to their first World Cup title in 18 years with the 25-20, 20-25, 24-26, 25-20 and 15-11 victory in one hour and 51 minutes.

China started strongly, establishing a comfortable 19-12 lead in the first set on back of their famed blitz attack and went on to take the opener.

The Americans, who lost all three encounters with China earlier this year, fought back in the second set. They successfully destroyed China's receiving

with high quality services, which greatly affected the speed of Chinese attack, and took one set back.

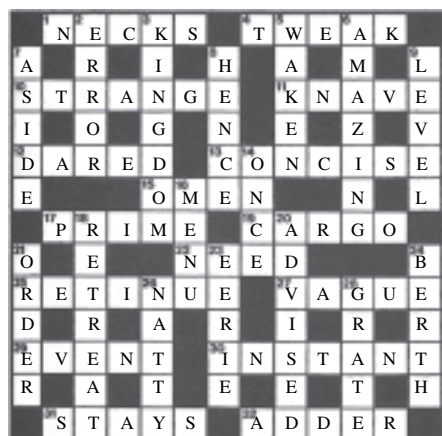
The third set was even more hotly contested while China squandered a 19-17 lead before drawing with the Americans at 24-24. After Logan Tom gave the United States a 25-24 advantage with a smash, Chinese Yang Hao drove a ball long to concede the set.

China improved their receiving and defence in the fourth set. They raced to a 7-1 lead and coasted to the victory in the set, forcing a tiebreaker.

The Americans were 6-4 in the tiebreaker, but China staged a 5-0 run from then on to grab the lead and never looked back.

MNA/Xinhua

## Answer for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



Chinese volleyball team head coach Chen Zhonghe (C) is tossed in the air by players following a match of the World Cup women's volleyball tournament against Japan at the Nanihaya Dome in Kadoma, Osaka Prefecture, on 15 November 2003. China took gold, Brazil the silver and the US bronze in the tournament.—INTERNET





## Secretary-1 inspects import substitute items of the Ministry of Industry-2

YANGON, 16 Nov — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected the import substitute items produced on a trial basis by the factories of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Padaung Township, Bago Division (West), and in Minhla Township, Magway Division, on 14 and 15 November.

The Secretary-1, accompanied by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Padaung Township on 13 November evening. Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Hla Min and officials welcomed the Secretary-1 and party.

On 14 November morning, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported, at the briefing hall of No 1 Machine Tools Factory (Nyaungchehtauk), to the Secretary-1 and party on establishment and area of the factory, installation of machines and extension projects of the fac-



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects No 1 Machine Tools Factory (Nyaungchehtauk) of the Ministry of Industry-2 on 14 and 15 November. MNA

tory, and import substitute items and Junior CNC Lathe Machines produced by the factory.

Next, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw reported to the Secretary-1 and party on manufacturing of machine tools including conventional lathes. He said, on his inspection tours of the factory on 31-3-2003, the Secretary-1 gave instructions on production of modern CNC (Computerized Numerically Controlled) lathes instead of conventional lathe produced then by the factory. So, arrangements had been made to produce CNC

lathes on trial basis, and, thanks to the encouragement of the minister and efforts of the staff, Junior CNC Lathe Model 235/1500 could be manufactured by the factory at the end of October this year, he said.

Afterwards, Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanmar Machine Tools and Electrical Industries reported to the Secretary-1 and party on products of the factory, import substitute items produced by the factory, production of enamelled copper wire and copper rod and cable wire and future tasks.

After hearing the reports,

the Secretary-1 gave instructions. He said it is encouraging to witness the increased production of the factories of the Ministry of Industry-2. Progress and success achieved must be attributed to the innovation and manufacturing of consumer-oriented products by respective factories. Products manufactured must meet the requirements of the market. Continued efforts must be made not only for the higher quality of products but also for lower prices. The government is striving to raise the living standards of the people and increase their per capita in-

come in all sectors. The government did not spare its efforts in nurturing human resources essential for an industrialized nation and striving for the development of industrial zones of private entrepreneurs. It is the Ministry of Industry-2 that is mainly responsible for the enhancement of capacity and quality of private industries. The government and the private entrepreneurs are required to make concerted efforts for enabling the country to become an industrialized one. The government must be capable of enhancing the capacity of private entrepre-

neurs and paving the way for their prosperity. Only when the small and medium enterprises of the private sector develop, will the industrial sector of the State achieve progress. So, the ministry, while striving for the development of its heavy industries and manufacturing of machine tools, is also responsible for the development of various private industries.

He said the staff of the ministry are required to discharge duties not only for their respective factories but also for the development of private industries. In conclusion,

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**If the State, the people and the Tatmadaw make concerted efforts progress will be made in the entire nation in a short time, and the nation will be able to stand tall among global nations**

## Secretary-2 attends opening ceremony of Chaungmagyi (Pyinmana) Dam in Pyinmana Township

YANGON, 16 Nov — A ceremony to open Chaungmagyi (Pyinmana) Dam built by Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Pyinmana Township, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division was held at the pandal near the dam this

morning, with an address by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of

department, members of division, district and township Peace and Development Councils, the director-general of Irrigation Department and staff, social organizations, teachers and students, departmental officials and local people numbering over 8,000.

In his address, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said Chaungmagyi Dam that was opened today is the one built near Kyethsuaing Village in Pyinmana Township. It is a medium dam covered by the Sittaung Valley Development Project. It is also a supporting dam of Ngaliwe Dam, and

could benefit about 3,000 acres of farmland.

Townships in Mandalay Division are in the arid zone where there is a scanty rainfall and water is scarce. Thus, available water resources were tapped and dams, reservoirs and diversion weirs constructed and river water pump-

ing projects implemented in Mandalay Division for agricultural purpose and availability of drinking water and improvement of the living standard of local people. Altogether 39 dams and diversion weirs including Chaungmagyi Dam were constructed in the division and the irrigation facilities have been able to benefit over 330,000 acres of farmland. The government has spent over K 8,800 million on construction of 39 dams and diversion weirs. In addition, altogether 70 river water pumping stations were built, benefiting over 40,000 acres of farmland. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, saying that, the environment of the nation, the population, land and water of the nation, and natural resources are to be correctly calculated and used effectively.

In accord with the guidance, dams and reservoirs, and diversion weirs were constructed and river water pumping projects implemented in Anya (upper Myanmar) region, where

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Chaungmagyi (Pyinmana) Dam in Pyinmana Township, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division. —MNA