

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 218

12th Waning of Tazaungmon 1365 ME

Thursday, 20 November, 2003

Union of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Order No 15/2003

11th Waning of Tazaungmon, 1365 ME
(19th November 2003)

Reassignment of duty of Deputy Minister

The State Peace and Development Council has re-assigned Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung as Deputy Minister for Culture with effect from today.

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant General
Secretary-1

State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Order No 16/2003

11th Waning of Tazaungmon, 1365 ME
(19th November 2003)

Appointment of Deputy Minister

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duty to Col Aung Myo Min as Deputy Minister for Education with effect from today.

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant General
Secretary-1

State Peace and Development Council

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

Road and bridge construction projects inspected in Rakhine State

YANGON, 19 NOV — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials, arrived at Londawpauk Bridge Construction Project in Rakhine State on 17 November morning.

There, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Tin Htut reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on progress in building the bridge and needs for the project. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

The 1,154 feet and six inches long and 30 feet wide reinforced concrete bridge is located on Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu road section.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected

construction of the approach road of the bridge and gave instructions on building of the 10-mile road section with the use of geotextile system in the open season.

They proceeded to Deedokpauk Bridge Construction Project. Deputy Superintending Engineer U Soe Myint reported on progress of work. The rein-

forced concrete bridge is 592 feet long with a 24-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide walkways.

They headed for Thanthamagyi Bridge Construction Project site. Officials reported on work progress. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and fulfilled requirements. On completion, the

bridge will be 552.4 feet long and have a 24-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide walkways.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the upgrading of Taungup-Maei Road near Kamar Village. Deputy Superintending Engineer U Tin Htut reported on the project.

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction of the Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu road in Rakhine State. —MNA



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23,879

Lt-Gen Tin Aye inspects coal mines and farms in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 19 NOV — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and departmental officials, arrived at Hsintaung coal exploration site and inspected the coal mining and construction of Namhau diversion canal in Lashio Township on 16 November.

The commander reported to Lt-Gen Tin Aye on coal mining and construction of the diversion canal.

Next, in-charge of the coal mine Lt-Col Nay Win reported to Lt-Gen Tin Aye on completion of 5,700-foot long section of 30-foot wide and 4-foot deep diversion canal and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions on timely completion of the canal, application of machinery, taking measures for durability of the canal and work site safety, and systematic tapping of natural resources.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tin

Aye and party inspected round the site and construction of the canal.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party viewed round the mining of coal and coal mining on the bed of Namhau creek. Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave necessary instructions to the officials.

On 17 November morning, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party arrived at the coffee nursery of the command. The commander reported to Lt-Gen Tin Aye on distribution of coffee saplings in the regions under the command and arrangements for extensive cultivation of coffee.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions on systematic cultivation of coffees and dissemination of cultivation methods among the battalions and units, and fulfilled the requirements. Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye inspected coffee and mecadamia saplings in the nursery.

Later, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party inspected Shweli Yadana oil mill of the command and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party also inspected the model farm of the command and inspected the raising of 2,200 local fowls and breeding of

1,045 pigs. Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions on taking measures for enabling the local people to engage in livestock breeding.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party proceeded to Hsin Shweli Bio-fertilizer plant. The deputy commander reported to Lt-Gen Tin Aye on production of fertilizer. Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions on extensive use of bio-fertilizer, taking measures for economic scale production, to set up pilot farms using bio-fertilizer and distribution of fertilizer to the farmers.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 20 November, 2003

Let's strive for exceeding targets for agricultural production

The State Peace and Development Council has been implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24-region development project and the five rural development tasks simultaneously for the parallel development of the Union.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, said that it is necessary to make the most of land and water resources in accord with the geographical position of the nation and its environmental conditions and for the sake of the long-term interest of the people.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, water resources are being tapped through various ways and means. Dams, embankments, river water pumping stations and tube wells are being systematically built in arid zones as well as in the regions where there is a lot of rain but soil erosion is common.

The opening ceremony of the Chaungmagyi (Pinyinmana) dam was held in Pinyinmana Township, Mandalay Division, on 16 November and it was attended by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. It was a project covered by the Sittaung basin development plan and the Government spent over K 767 million on it. Since 1988, in Mandalay Division alone, a total of 39 large and small dams has been constructed at a cost of K 8,853.90 million. These dams are now benefiting 332,353 acres of farmland.

In his address at the opening ceremony of the Chaungmagyi (Pinyinmana) dam, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that, due to the cooperation between the Government and the people, considerable success has been achieved in tapping water resources, in carrying out reforestation and firewood plantation work and in producing firewood-substitute briquettes. Moreover, the greening project for nine districts is being carried out in the arid zones and, as it is meeting with success, it has been extended to 13 districts. Mandalay Division included in the arid zones has favourable conditions for the successful cultivation of 10 major crops and therefore it is a region the State can rely on economically.

We would like to call upon all those concerned and the farmers in the up-country regions to try to exceed the targets for agricultural production by making the most beneficial use of water resources tapped by the Government.

Forestry Minister inspects forestry development education and training centre

YANGON, 19 Nov — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung yesterday inspected the nursery at the Forest Department (Head Office) and also inspected construction of rafting jetty.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the forestry development education and training centre in Hmawby, and inspected the centre. — MNA

Chinese delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 19 Nov — China visited the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning. The Chinese guests were accompanied by Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Maung Nyunt. — MNA



Chief Justice U Aung Toe presents offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Therinda. — MNA

"Soon" offered to members of the Sangha

YANGON, 19 Nov — Under the patronage of the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court, the 10th soon offering ceremony to 100 members of the Sangha by families of the Supreme Court was held at Mogok

Refectory of the State Pariyatti Sasana University on Kaba Aye Hill yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Chief Justice U Aung Toe and wife, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe and wife, Justices of the Supreme Court and their

wives and others.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Therinda. The Chief Justice and wife presented offertories to the Sayadaw. Next, the Chief

Justice donated K 180,000 for Soon to Director U Khine Aung of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon followed by sharing of merits gained.

MNA

Military marching song competitions to be held

YANGON, 19 Nov — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2004, the Subcommittee for Military Marching Song Competition of the Work Committee for Arts Competition announced today that it will organize military song competitions.

There is only one professional level in the military marching song competition while there are two categories, level-1 and level-2, in the military song competition. Besides first, second and third prizes, consolation prizes will be presented to winners at all

levels.

For both competitions, songs should be composed in honour of any of the ancient Tatmadaw, the Tatmadaw of revolutionary era and the Tatmadaw of post-independence era in addition to the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

The military marching song competition is open to all. For the military song competition, musicians and vocalists as well as those who had stood first, second and third in previous level-2 com-

petitions are to join the level-1.

Only a single song will be allowed for the competitions whether it is written individually or in group, and all the entry songs should meet the standard of military song composition methods and should also be in own tune consistent with Myanmar melody. Be sure to have similar rhymes at the end of each stanza. The time taken for the song should be between 4 and 6 minutes. Every entry song is required to take a preliminary test with high vocal and suitable music. Only a single song should be recorded on a

cassette tape, a reel or a digital auto tape. It is up to the entrants to choose the title.

When sent, the entry should be enclosed with ten copies of its words and one original music notes sheet together with the brief bio-data of the entrant and three passport size colour photos. Contact will be made to tentatively selected persons, and they are to compete again for final selection. The entry songs should be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary, Myanmar Radio and Television, Pyay Road, Yangon, not later than 31 December.

MNA

MWJA executive committee meets

Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), joint-secretaries, and executive committee members of MWJA. Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) chaired the meeting. Joint-Secretary U Khin Swe (Shwe Sun Nyo) acted as mas-

ter of ceremonies. The chairman made a speech, Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) and leaders of respective work groups reported on work done. The chairman made concluding remarks on holding the respect-paying ceremony for doyen literati of 80 years of age and above, the

book fairs and the seminar on publication of books to mark the 1365 ME Sarsodaw Day and an exhibition to mark the centenary festival of Myanmar Novels such as Maung Yin Maung and Ma Mai Ma, and Chinpaungyewthe Maung Hmaung published in 1904.

MNA

MA spreads wings

YANGON, 19 Nov — The Myanmar Airways under the Ministry of Transport has been extending its wings in 2003.

Starting from 27 November, with Fokker 27, it will launch Yangon-Mandalay-Kalay-Monywa-Kalay-Mandalay flight on Thursdays and Yangon-Mandalay-Monywa-Kalay-Monywa-Mandalay flight on Sundays.

MNA



Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) delivers a speech at the meeting No 11/2003 of MWJA. — MNA

Annan cautious about returning UN staff to Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Nov—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan promised to name a chief envoy for Iraq shortly but left open a return to Baghdad of UN political staff soon, suggesting they might operate outside the country.

Under pressure from the United States, Iraqis and others to send international staff back into Baghdad, UN officials said on Monday Annan was looking for a representative of stature. The chief envoy might not play an important role initially but could have major responsibilities after an Iraqi interim government takes over in June, they said.

Annan withdrew foreign political staff from Baghdad after the August 19 bombing that killed 22 people, including his special representative, Sergio Vieira de Mello. He said he would name a replacement "in the not too distant future".

"So, if the situation improves, we will be ready to go back," Annan told reporters on Monday. "But we don't need to be in Iraq 100 per cent to do what we can do or offer assistance. So we are looking at what we can do outside and cross-border and eventually what we can do inside."

Since the United States and the Iraqi Governing Council announced last week they wanted an interim Iraqi Government in place by June, Annan has come under pressure to play a political role.

Calls for the United Nations to return to Iraq have come in the last few days from US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin.

"I think it's time now with this new plan for the United Nations to determine whether or not circumstances will permit it to play a more active role inside the country," Powell said in Washington.

"We want the UN to play a role and it is part of our plan in moving forward," Powell added.

Annan said he also spoke to Jalal Talabani, the Kurdish leader who is this month's president of Iraq's interim Governing Council. Talabani told him the Governing Council would "need UN assistance and advice in implementing the new decisions which have been taken," Annan reported.

On Monday, the deputy US national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, came to New York to brief Annan on the new American timetable for ending the occupation. —MNA/Reuters

UN launches appeal for aid to 21 global hot spots

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Nov—The United Nations launched an appeal on Tuesday for governments to donate some three billion US dollars to help ease humanitarian crises in 21 hot spots around the world in 2004.

The annual appeal, launched every November, is intended to lessen the impact of humanitarian emergencies in countries particularly ill-equipped to deal with them and that never make it to the world's front pages.

"Seventeen of the 21 crises that we have in this year's appeal are in Africa, which shows that we really hope that the donors do not now forget Africa in these days of crisis in the Middle East and Iraq," said UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland.

"Those who are living in affluence should give according to need and not according to what is politically most in focus," Egeland told Reuters on the eve of the 2004 appeal.

The three billion US dollars figure excludes the rebuilding of Afghanistan and

Iraq, whose 2004 needs will be covered in separate appeals. Iraq alone accounted for about two billion US dollars of last year's UN consolidated appeal.

This year, the single biggest component of the combined appeal is for Sudan in northeastern Africa, whose numerous conflicts have left it with the world's largest population of homeless people, Egeland said.

On instructions from the 191-nation UN General Assembly, the United Nations has issued an annual consolidated appeal for the past decade in search of funding to help feed the world's hungry, heal the sick and shelter those driven from their homes by war and other crises.

MNA/Reuters

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A look at US daily deaths in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Nov—As of Tuesday, 18 Nov, 422 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defence.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy, 17; Denmark, Spain, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 284 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,031 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 345.

The latest identifications reported by family members: —Army Pfc Damian L. Heidelberg, 21, Shubuta, Miss.; killed Saturday when two Black Hawk helicopters crashed in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.—Internet



Soldiers of the new Iraqi army guard a checkpoint in the southern city of Nasiriyah Tuesday. — INTERNET

Ji'nan University to open first foreign branch school in Bangkok

GUANGZHOU, 19 Nov— Sources with Guangzhou-based Ji'nan University said the university would open China's first foreign branch school in Bangkok in two years to enroll new students from Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

"It is the first step for Chinese universities' strategy of going global," said Liu Renhui, president of Ji'nan University, targeting about 20 million Thai Chinese in the country.

Liu said the university would spend 16 million US dollars on the first stage of construction for the International School in downtown areas of Bangkok, capital of Thailand.

The new branch school is expected to welcome its first students in September 2005 when only 600 to 800 undergraduates will be recruited and later expand its education to graduate students.

Liu said the branch school would open five to six business management courses such as international finance and trade taught, in Chinese and required courses for students include Thai language, English, morality and ethics.

A board of directors will take charge of management while the dean will be selected by the university headquarters in Guangzhou. All the teaching staff and curricula will be controlled by the university headquarters.

Sources said the university would work with Thai partners to build the international school into another Ji'nan University (Bangkok) within 12 years with schools of tourism and medicines.

Ji'nan University is one of China's two universities providing major Chinese-style education to overseas Chinese students from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and other foreign countries and regions. The other is the Overseas Chinese University in Quanzhou City of southeast China's Fujian Province. — MNA/Xinhua

China, Israel expect more cooperation in telecom sectors

BELING, 19 Nov— The cooperation between telecommunication sectors of China and Israel enjoys huge potential and great prospects, said an official from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) here Monday.

Li Baosheng, deputy chairman of CCPIT's sub-council of telecommunication, made this remark on the Israel Telecommunication and IT Seminar held Monday.

Over 20 Israeli companies and 50 Chinese companies in the information industry attended the seminar. Representatives from Israeli companies introduced to their Chinese counterparts the state-of-the-art products and technologies in digital network and mobile telecommunication. —MNA/Xinhua



An Italian soldier searches an Iraqi outside the Italian base in Nasiriyah Monday.

INTERNET

Cambodia tries to stop flow of counterfeit drugs

PHNOM PENH, 19 Nov— In an effort to stop the flow of counterfeit drugs, the Cambodian Government has adopted a "2004 Action Plan" against fake drugs.

The plan was presented at a World Health Organization (WHO) meeting held in Hanoi last week, according to the Cambodia Daily on Tuesday. "The percentage of counterfeit and substandard drugs sold on the market is increasing, and anyone can basically sell or buy counterfeit drugs in this country today," Chroeng Sokhan, vice director of the Department of Drugs and Food of the Ministry of Health, was quoted as saying Monday.

"It's a great problem for the population," he said.

A Health Ministry survey conducted in 2002 revealed that 13 per cent of drugs available on the Cambodian market was counterfeit or substandard, especially the anti-malaria drugs and antibiotics. —MNA/Xinhua

Court martial hearing in Iraq for US officer charged with beating detainee

TIKRIT, (Iraq), 19 Nov— US forces began a court-martial hearing of charges against a lieutenant colonel accused of beating an Iraqi detainee, in the first legal proceedings to be reported against such a high-ranking US officer in Iraq.

Lieutenant-Colonel Allen West is charged on three counts — beating Yahya Jhodri Hamoodi, threatening to kill him and firing his gun near the detainee's head during interrogation on August 20.

West's driver, appearing as a government witness, said the officer waved his gun in the air and later fired it after Hamoodi refused to talk.

The driver, Private Michael Johnson, 20, also said the Iraqi was beaten during the interrogation at a detention center in Taji, outside Baghdad.

"When he was not giving information that was pleasing to the interrogator or translator, we'd use abusing tactics, mainly striking him," Johnson said.

Asked how hard the detainee was hit, he said: "We weren't hitting him as hard as we possibly could."

The soldiers later pushed the detainee's head into a sandbox used by soldiers to clear their weapons, where West fired shots near Hamoodi's head, said Johnson.

He said West wanted the names of people who allegedly wanted to assassinate him.

Johnson said Hamoodi was an Iraqi policeman who prior to his detention had taken part in raids with US troops.

An officer who had questioned West after the incident said the defendant had admitted to firing near Hamoodi's head and that soldiers beat the detainee, who was yelling and screaming.

West "doesn't deny doing what is alleged in the charges, but we as a defence team deny the criminality of what's in the charges," the defendant's civilian lawyer, retired lieutenant-colonel Neal Puckett told journalists.

"Given the circumstances, he hasn't committed any crimes.

"One thing we are saying is this is a specific case of self-defence called defence of others," the lawyer said.

He said his client was defending his men against an "already planned ambush we believe Mr Hamoodi was involved in. Intelligence indicated an ambush was planned the next day," said Puckett.

Internet

Chinese Premier holds talks with Singaporean PM

BEIJING, 19 Nov — China is satisfied with its current relations with Singapore, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Tuesday in talks with visiting Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Wen said that since the two countries established diplomatic relations 13 years ago, China and Singapore have strengthened their political, economic and trade ties.

Meanwhile, he suggested that the two sides should keep up a good momentum of exchanging high-profile visits.

A Chinese high technology incubator, established October in Singapore, indicated that the cooperation on science and technology had entered into a new stage, Wen said.

The Chinese Premier said he hopes more Singaporean business people join the economic and social development of the country's western inland region, particularly in science and technology, environmental protection and infrastructure.

Wen also said that Singapore, a key regional trade and financial centre, was one important destination of Chinese companies' foreign investment. He said he hopes Singapore could remain a bridge between Chinese companies and the international market.

In addition, Wen expressed his gratitude for Singapore's help in training Chinese personnel.

Wen said that the bilateral cooperation joint committee between China and Singapore is one result of Goh's visit this time, and he believed the new mechanism would further push forward bilateral cooperation in trade, science and technology. — MNA/Xinhua

Lone woman ends Buckingham Palace war protest

LONDON, 19 Nov—A lone anti-war protester who dodged tight security on Monday to scale the gates of Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace where US President George W Bush will stay this week climbed down after two hours.

The woman, wearing a fluorescent jacket, had climbed the 18-foot high wrought-iron gates in front of the palace in central London and unfurled an upside-down US flag with the inscription Elizabeth Windsor and Co Ile's not welcome".

Just over two hours after starting her demonstration, the woman dropped the flag to the ground and descended when she was immediately hustled, resisting into the back of a police van and driven away. — MNA/Reuters



A 1995 file photo shows Kashmiri red deers sitting in a forest in Srinagar, Kashmir. Picture taken November, 1995. The rare species found only in the mountains of Kashmir is on the verge of extinction because of years of neglect. —INTERNET

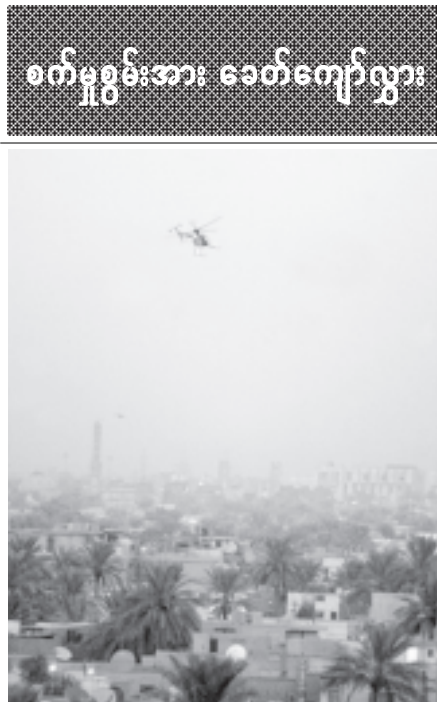
Cuba says foreign debt impedes development

HAVANA, 19 Nov — Cuba said Monday that foreign debt is one of the obstacles to the development of economies which depend on exporting raw materials.

Cuban Economy and Planning Minister Jose Rodriguez said protectionism and agricultural subsidies are two other obstacles that hamper the economic growth of poor nations.

Rodriguez, addressing the opening ceremony of the regional Round Table of Promotion of Basic Products in Latin America and the Caribbean, also said the intent to control basic products like petroleum was behind the United States' aggressive policies on anti-terrorism.

MNA/Xinhua



A US helicopter circles over Baghdad on 18 November 2003. Several explosions were heard in the city hours after dark. —INTERNET

Malaysia PM to manage economy prudently

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Nov — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Monday the government would continue to manage the economy prudently to ensure that strong macro-economic fundamentals were in place.

Tabling the Mid-Term Review of the Eighth Malaysia Plan (2001-2005) at the Parliament here, he said the nation's economic prospects were forecast to improve further in the next two years.

The country is expected to achieve 4.5 per cent increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) this year and 6 per cent GDP growth in the next two years.

He said that the government would continue to ensure a stable exchange rate and prudent monetary and fiscal management besides low inflation, adequate savings and a healthy balance of payments position.

The local currency ringgit has been pegged at 3.8 ringgit to one US dollar since 1998

while annual inflation rate is below 2 per cent in recent years.

Abdullah said efforts would be made to strengthen the economy's resilience, including efforts to diversify the economy, develop a more efficient capital market and financial sector as well as improve risk management and corporate governance.

Abdullah said the government offered a package of incentives as well as specific and non-tax incentives to encourage and develop existing investments or to create investments in new and strategic areas.

"Public consumption would continue to strengthen when the government enhances services to meet the

increasing demand of the people," he said.

The Prime Minister said that private consumption would increase following rising consumer confidence and disposable income while exports were expected to increase with improved global trading prospects.

Abdullah said that the tourism, education, transport, finance, health and professional services sectors would emerge as important sectors to boost the growth besides manufacturing.

The World Competitiveness Report 2003 has ranked Malaysia the fourth most competitive country among nations with a population in excess of 20 million.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam benefits from increasing rubber prices

HANOI, 19 Nov — Vietnam is expected to surpass the target of gaining 365 million US dollars this year from exporting 450,000 tons of rubber, since rubber prices are now very high in foreign markets, according to a report of the Ministry of Trade on Tuesday.

In the last few days, rubber prices in the local market have stood at the highest level of 20-22 million Vietnamese dong (1,290-1,419 US dollars) per ton, while those in China's Shanghai City have been around 1,460 US dollars per ton.

Vietnam posted a year-on-year rise of 45 per cent in rubber export turnover to 290 million dollars despite a decrease of 3.7 per cent in volume to 339,000 tons between January and October. Its biggest importers included the Chinese Mainland, Singapore, Germany, Taiwan and Japan.

The main reason for the price fever is that demands for natural rubber for production of automobile tyres and tubes in many countries, especially China, Japan and the United States, are on the increase, while major rubber-producing countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are experiencing smaller outputs due to unfavourable weather conditions.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia's FDI approvals soar in first 10 months

JAKARTA, 19 Nov — The approved foreign direct investment (FDI) in Indonesia increased sharply to 9.3 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of 2003 as opposed to 6.8 billion dollars in the same period a year earlier.

Most of the FDI approvals went to the pharmaceutical and chemical industries, the *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper reported on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian FM calls for UN takeover of Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Nov — Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said on Tuesday the situation in Iraq would get worse unless the United Nations went in and a deadline was set for the occupying forces to pull out.

Malaysia, the present chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ICO), was not satisfied with the June 2004 deadline set for Iraq to have a new transitional government, Syed Hamid told reporters here.

He said the increased attacks on the coalition forces occupying Iraq showed that the June deadline would not be able to solve the problem there.

"They must set a deadline for the pullout of the occupying forces. We want Iraq to be under United Nations (UN) control so that more countries could join in to rebuild Iraq ... this will give the efforts to rebuild Iraq

international legitimacy," he said.

"Islamic nations too will help in rebuilding the country if the whole process is under the leadership of the UN and not by a sole super power," he added.

Syed Hamid said that the people of Iraq should be given the opportunity to govern Iraq under international norms and practices and this should be done soon to avoid further bloodshed of Iraqis as well as soldiers of the occupying forces.

Last Saturday, the Iraqi Governing Council, after a meeting with US-backed coalition civilian administrator Paul Bremer, issued a statement saying that Iraq would have

a new transitional government with full sovereign powers by the end of June 2004.

The US-led Coalition Provisional Authority would dissolve at that time and "the state of occupation would end," the council had said.

It is reported many members of the Iraqi Governing Council, as well as some leaders of the US Congress, had said that they wanted the US military to leave Iraq as soon as possible, but the White House said Friday that American troops would remain in that country until former president Saddam Hussein is killed or captured.

MNA/Xinhua



Police search a suspicious driver at a security checkpoint near Grosvenor Square (close to the US Embassy) in preparation for the upcoming visit to London by US President George W Bush. The state visit — the first ever by a US president — from 18 to 21 November will take place amid fears of an attack by Islamic extremists and as campaigners against the conflict in Iraq predict that tens of thousands will take to the streets in a mass demonstration. —INTERNET

US plans 24 new contracts for Iraq by February

WASHINGTON, 19 Nov — The United States plans to award up to 24 new contracts in Iraq by February next year and foreign companies may be allowed to bid for the lucrative, dangerous work, a US defence official said on Tuesday.

Weighed down by complaints over the management of rebuilding work in Iraq, allegations of cronyism, overspending, limited competition and delays, the Pentagon has opened a new office in Baghdad to oversee contracts.

"The work in Iraq is moving at such an incredible pace that we needed one office to oversee everything," said the defence official.

Called the Project Management Office, it will handle contracts funded by the 18.7 billion US dollars appropriated by Congress to rebuild Iraq. The office was briefly titled the Iraq Infrastructure Reconstruction Office but it was decided to use the catchier name.

Details of the contracts and how they will work are set to be announced at a conference in Washington on Wednesday to be addressed by new office head, retired Admiral David Nash.

Of the 24 contracts awarded by February 1, 2004, the defence official said up to 17 of these would be for construction and all of these deals would emphasize "full and open competition", the lack of which was a complaint in early deals for Iraq. Many of the new contracts are also likely to be open to foreign bidders, excluded in the first round of prime contracts, a move that angered many traditional US allies.

MNA/Reuters

30,000 Australians killed by alcohol in decade

CANBERRA, 19 Nov — More than 31,000 Australians died from alcohol misuse between 1990-2001, according to a report released Monday.

About 75 per cent of the alcohol-related deaths were men, Parliamentary Health Secretary Trish Worth said in a statement on the release of the report.

The most frequent deaths from alcohol were alcoholic liver cirrhosis, with 6,825 Australians dying from the disease, she said.

In other alcohol-related killers, road crash injury caused 5,849 deaths, cancer accounted for 2,874 deaths and suicide resulted in 2,495 deaths. Worth also said the increasing consumption and related medical problems of teenage girls is of particular concern. — MNA/Xinhua

IBM launches 'Express' offerings for SMBs

CHENNAI, 19 Nov — IBM, the world's largest Information Technology company and leading provider of E-business solutions, on Tuesday launched a portfolio of 'Express' offerings and programmes, designed and priced specially for small and medium-sized (SMB) customers in the country.

The portfolio would comprise new hardware, software, services, solutions and financing, all designed to meet the specific needs of the SMBs and which would be easy to be installed and managed, Abraham Thomas, managing director of IBM India, told newsmen here on Tuesday. "Today's announcement is a big shift in IBM's stand, both internally and externally" as hitherto it was taking care of the requirements of only

large business houses. The express offerings would be made through 1000 odd business partners in 200 cities in the country, he said.

R Dhamodaran, Country executive, Small and Medium Business, IBM India, said that the company, in order to support the launch of the express portfolio, would spend over 200 million US dollars in 'demand generation tools' this year.

MNA/PTI

US may face severe flu season this year

WASHINGTON, 19 Nov — The United States may be in for a more severe flu season this year, top US health officials said Monday.

"Early indications are that we may be in for a more severe season than in the previous three years," said Tommy G Thompson, health and human services secretary.

"Each year in the United States 36,000 people die from complications related to the flu," he said. Assuring there is plenty of vaccine to meet the demand, Thompson

urged people, particularly those at high risk of serious complications from influenza, to get their flu shot as soon as possible.

Dr Julie Gerberding, director of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), also predicted a severe flu season, citing several reasons.

"First, it's early in the season and flu viruses are circulating at a higher level than usual... and second, the group of influenza viruses circulating this year has in previous years caused a lot of people to become ill and to develop complications," she said.

"It takes about two weeks to develop maximum protection after a flu shot, so we urge people not to delay," she said. — MNA/Xinhua

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List of those killed in Iraq copter crash

BAGHDAD, 19 Nov — Two Black Hawk helicopters collided Saturday in Iraq killing 17 soldiers from the 101st Airborne based in Fort Campbell, Ky. The Department of Defence and family members have identified those killed as:

- Sgt. Michael D Acklin II, 25, of Louisville, Ky.
- Spc. Ryan T Baker, 24, of Browns Mills, NJ.
- Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Bolor, 37, of Whittier, Calif.
- Spc. Jeremy DiGiovanni, 21, of Pricedale, Miss.
- Spc. William D Dusenbery, 30, of Fairview Heights, Ill.
- Pfc. Rick Hafer, 21, of Nitro, WV.
- Sgt. Warren S Hansen, 36, of Clintonville, Wis.
- Pfc. Sheldon R Hawk Eagle, 21, of Grand Forks, ND.
- Pfc. Damian L Heidelberg, 21, of Shubuta, Miss.
- Chief Warrant Officer Erik C Kesterson, 29, of Independence, Ore.
- 1st Lt. Pierre Piche, 28, of Starksboro, Vt.
- Sgt. John W Russell, 26, of Portland, Texas
- Chief Warrant Officer Scott A Saboe, 33, of Willow Lake, SD
- Spc John R Sullivan, 26, of Countryside, Ill.
- Spc Eugene A Uhl III, 21, of Amherst, Wis.
- Pfc Joey Whitener, 19, of McDowell County, NC.
- 2nd Lt. Jeremy L Wolfe, 27, of Menomonie, Wis. —Internet

Solana says Iran honest on nuclear policy

BRUSSELS, 19 Nov — European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Monday that Iran had been honest about its nuclear programme and should not be reported to the UN Security Council this week for potential sanctions.

His comments were in sharp contrast to the stance of the United States, which wants the UN nuclear watchdog to declare Tehran has not complied with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to report it to the Security Council.

They were also far less circumspect than a leaked International Atomic Energy Agency report, which said that while there was no evidence Iran was developing atomic weapons, it had failed to declare some of its nuclear

activities in the past. Solana said it was up to Tehran now to comply with an agreement it reached with three EU foreign ministers last month to halt uranium enrichment and open all its nuclear facilities to intrusive spot checks by UN inspectors.

"They have been honest. Let's see if they continue this all the way to the end," he told reporters before talks with Hassan Rohani, secretary of Iran's powerful National Security Council.

MNA/Reuters



A demonstrator holds a banner depicting US President George W Bush as a criminal, during an anti-climate change protest in central London, on 18 Nov, 2003. The demonstration was being held on Tuesday night to coincide with the arrival of US President George W Bush in the UK for the start of a four-day state visit. —INTERNET

Iraq delegation in Iran to talk energy cooperation

TEHRAN, 19 Nov—An Iraqi Governing Council delegation arrived in Teheran on Monday for talks on political and economic cooperation including Teheran's offer to help rebuild its war-torn neighbour through an energy swap.

The Iraqi delegation, led by Governing Council President Jalal Talabani and five ministers will spend two days in talks in Teheran before heading to Turkey.

"As Iraq's neighbour we cannot remain indifferent towards development in Iraq," Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told reporters after meeting the Iraqi officials at Teheran's Mehrabad Airport.

Teheran is aiming to bolster ties with Iraq through an exchange that could help boost crude oil export revenues urgently needed to fund Baghdad's reconstruction.

"We're very serious about this proposal. We've not have made it otherwise," an Iranian oil industry source told *Reuters*.

The two major oil producers already have gone some way towards rapprochement after Saddam Hussein waged war with Iran from 1980 to 1988.

Teheran first extended its energy swap

offer to Baghdad at an OPEC meeting in Vienna in September. It was made public at last month's international donors conference in Madrid.

The Iranian oil industry source said Teheran was willing to take delivery of 350,000 barrels per day of Iraq's Basra Light crude into its Abadan refinery in southwestern Iran. The equivalent amount of Iranian Light crude could then be sold on behalf of Baghdad via Iran's Kharg Island terminal in the Gulf.

Iran is also prepared to trade gas, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and electricity and share industry expertise with Iraq, said the oil source.

Iraqi Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahar al-Uloum was not among the original delegation which arrived in Teheran on Monday but may join it later in the day, an Iraqi official told *Reuters* in Teheran.

MNA/Reuters

Iran's President backs Iraq Governing Council

TEHRAN, 19 Nov—Iran's President Mohammad Khatami was quoted on Tuesday as saying his country recognizes Iraq's Governing Council, which the Islamic Republic had previously portrayed as a US-installed puppet.

Often rebuked by Washington for meddling in postwar Iraq, Teheran also reassured a visiting Iraqi Governing Council delegation that it had not and would not interfere in its affairs.

"Iran recognizes Iraq's Governing Council and believes that no country has the right to interfere in Iraq's state matters," newspapers quoted Khatami as saying.

Khatami's comments came during a two-day visit to Teheran by a 17-strong Iraqi Governing Council delegation led by the current Council President, Jalal Talabani.

Khatami stressed the importance of a full transfer of power in Iraq and called on Washington to fulfil its promises and hand over authority to Iraqis as soon as possible.

US officials announced last week that a sovereign Iraqi Government would take over from occupation authorities by the end of June 2004.

"Establishing a government in Iraq is impossible except by respecting the Iraqi people's demands," Khatami said.

Iranian officials reiterated that Iraq's peace and stability was vital for the Middle East.

Washington has repeatedly accused Iran and Syria of letting foreign militants cross their borders into Iraq to fight US forces there, a charge Teheran and Damascus reject.

At a meeting on Tuesday with Talabani, an Iraqi Kurd, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said that "Teheran's policy is not to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs," the official IRNA news agency reported.

Talabani's official visit aims to improve sometimes troubled ties with Iran, with which Iraq fought a bloody war from 1980-88.

Under ousted leader Saddam Hussein, Baghdad believed predominantly Shiite Muslim Iran was trying to stir up Iraq's majority Shiites against the country's Sunni rulers. Leaders of a Shiite faction now represented on the Governing Council formerly spent years in exile in Teheran.

MNA/Reuters

Mainland firms finance 753 billion HK dollars in Hong Kong

BEIJING, 19 Nov—Enterprises from the Chinese Mainland have financed 753 billion HK dollars in the Hong Kong capital market over the past decade, accounting for 51 per cent of the total in the period.

The figures were released at an ongoing forum on the past and future development of Hong Kong-listed Mainland enterprises in the past decade.

Charles Lee Yem-kwong, chairman of the board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, said at the opening ceremony that 247 Mainland enterprises have been listed in Hong Kong in the past ten years, achieving a market value of 1.44 trillion HK dollars, or 28 per cent of the total Hong Kong market value.

The first domestic enterprise was listed in Hong Kong as H share in 1993, marking an overture to the large-scale fundraising of Mainland companies in Hong Kong securities market.

The turnover of Mainland enterprises had reached 758.5 billion HK dollars, 38 per cent

of the total turnover, in the first ten months of this year in the Hong Kong stock market.

"It also benefits Hong Kong," Lee said. Hong Kong's stock market has become diverse with increasing inland companies enhancing its attractiveness and influence.

Henry Tang Ying-yen, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region, said Hong Kong provided a platform of international financing for the whole Chinese economy.

He expected more comprehensive, prosperous and closer relationship between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong.

Shang Fulin, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), said Mainland enterprises have improved the transpa-

rency of their operation and optimized their capital structure after being listed overseas.—MNA/Xinhua



Italian soldiers order a driver from his car at a checkpoint outside the Italian base in Nasiriyah. In an emotional farewell that brought the nation to a standstill, Italy laid to rest 19 Italian victims of a bombing at their base in Nasiriyah.—INTERNET

Philippine troops to be pulled out of Iraq if situation worsens

MANILA, 19 Nov—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Tuesday that she is considering a possible move to pull out all Filipino troops currently deployed in Iraq if the situation there continues to worsen.

"We are continually assessing the security conditions in Iraq to sharpen our options. We have to balance our international commitments against the safety of our own peacekeepers and humanitarian workers," a presidential palace statement quoted Arroyo as saying.

"We shall closely monitor developments directly from the ground and we will ensure that our nationals will be kept out of harm's way

and will be immediately evacuated if called for by the shifting situation," she added.

Arroyo made the remarks in reaction to the suicide attacks by Iraqi elements against members of the international forces on peacekeeping missions in that country.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, however, said on November 13 that his country will not pull out its 96-man humanitarian contin-

gent to Iraq despite increasing incidents of terrorist attacks.

Earlier reports said the Philippines has decided to increase to 500 the number of the Filipino peacekeeping team in Iraq from the current 96, consisting of 55 soldiers, 26 policemen and 15 medical workers, upon the request of the US-supervised provisional authority in Baghdad.

MNA/Xinhua



President Gloria Arroyo has said Philippine troops stationed in Iraq would be pulled out swiftly if the security situation threatened their safety.—INTERNET

Chinese Vice-Premier calls for int'l energy cooperation

BEIJING, 19 Nov—Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan called for extensive international cooperation in the energy sector here Monday afternoon at a meeting with participants attending a related forum.

More than 80 energy-related experts, officials and entrepreneurs from both home and abroad discussed China's energy issues, including energy efficiency, energy and environment and new energy forms during the two-day China Development Forum special session on China's Energy Strategy and Reform, sponsored by the Development Research Centre of the State Council.

Zeng said at the meeting that the Chinese Government attaches great importance to environmental issues and will follow a new industrial development path with better economic returns, low consumption of resources and less pollution.—MNA/Xinhua

TOEFL sees sharp drop in attendees in China

BEIJING, 19 Nov—The TOEFL exam, or the Test of English as a Foreign Language, appears to be losing its magnetism in China, with a sharp decline in the number of people taking the test nationally.

But sources from the National Examination Centre under the Ministry of Education said it is still hard to say whether the number of the participants will hit a record low this year, the *China Daily* reported Tuesday.

In Beijing, TOEFL attendees numbered around 10,000 this year, a sharp decline from more than 30,000 per year in previous years, according to the Beijing-based *China Youth Daily*. The number shot 100,000 in peak years.

Officials at the Beijing-headquartered New Oriental Education Group also witnessed a 30-per-cent fall of TOEFL applicants in its training schools. The big drop of TOEFL exam attendees was chiefly attributed to the hard applications for US visas after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States.—MNA/Xinhua

Unforgettable summer nights

Ni Min Swe

The renowned universities of the world always take pride in the jewels, or in other words, the outstanding scholars they have produced. These renowned universities celebrate anniversaries such as silver jubilee or golden jubilee. Different student or scholar groups also observe their own jubilees.

The Mandalay University has become an independent institution since 1958. And it will be a 50-year old institution in 2008. As a pre-Golden Jubilee celebration, the University will hold a ceremony to pay respects to 132 former faculty members of ages 68 and above on 24 November this year.

On the telephone, a faculty member of the Mandalay University praised one of my articles and requested me to write an article about the respect-paying ceremony. I was moved.

My mind was back in the Mandalay University many years ago. Far away from the University was the bluish mountains of the Shan plateau. Belles strolled around the campus, where the Yeni-myaung (the Red Creek) flowed quietly.

Then, the University had only five halls — Aungmyingala, Shwepyithar, Yadanabon, Shwemann and Thitsa. For old students, there will be many things for them to remember about their days at the University. And for a writer, there were many things and stories to write about the institution.

I was captivated by the University in many aspects. The most memorable part for me was the early summer nights when the university holidays were drawing nearer. I felt as if something was missing in my heart. I felt sorry to leave the University for home.

However, I totally forgot to write an article about the University as I was so busy with my work every day. But there occurred the situation that reminded me to write the article.

I flew to Thailand to attend a video-conferencing seminar on rural poverty alleviation on 29 October 2003. At 8.30 am the next day, I was in the meeting room on the top floor of the Central Library of the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. I was accompanied by my assistant, and two representatives from Thailand also attended the meeting in the room. Other delegates took part in the discussion from their respective video-conferencing rooms in Washington, Tokyo, Jakarta and other ASEAN nations through the video screen. Apart from four of us, officials of the central library and video technicians totalling over 10 were also in the meeting room.

On the stage in front of me were two 10-ft by 10-ft screens. The screen on my right side was showing our images that were being beamed to the delegates of other countries. I could see the delegates of other countries on the screen placed on my left side. The screen was showing them individually, in a group or in small images of all the delegates in turn. The Secretariat of the ASEAN acted as the master of ceremonies, while the World Bank in Washington was directly editing the pictures. The image of every speaker appeared on the screen on my left side.

My turn arrived after the Indonesian and the Malaysian delegates had concluded their discussions. I had already prepared to present my discussion in accord with the framework of the policy. But my speech would be very dull if I said everything within the framework. So, I tried to capture the interest of the delegates.

In my discussion, I said. "The Wa region has few plains. It is formed with mountains with elevations ranging from 800 metres to 2,000 metres. As the region has few plains, the people could not grow rice as much as they wished to. Thus, the region's rice production was sufficient for the local requirement only for a period of six months a year. The soil and climate of the mountainous region was suitable only for opium poppy cultivation. Transport was difficult in the region and illiteracy rate was high among the local people. In addition, there was language barrier. However, since they came to realize that poppy cultivation is not a good practice, the Wa people have been striving to declare their region an opium free zone on the 2005 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June every year. The State is not only rendering assistance for the development of the Wa region, but also implementing the 15-year plan to free the whole nation from narcotic drugs by the year 2014. The nation has never received international assistance of significant amount for the drug elimination drive. Anyhow, the State and the Wa people are striving to wipe out the drugs and to reduce rural poverty on own conviction."

As soon as I switched off my microphone, the face of a person from Washington appeared on the screen on the left. He said that he took real interest in the Wa region after listening to my discussion. (I assumed that he would already have known about the region to a certain degree in the past also. But he seemed not to know about the facts I had presented in my discussion). I was pleased as he showed much enthusiasm in the issue. He said that he was happy to know and that he acknowledged the self-reliant efforts of Myanmar. He then continued his discussion.

When his turn arrived, the Indonesian delegate said that although the poverty reduction efforts of Myanmar and Indonesia were not exactly the same in form, both countries were facing the same difficulties and problems. He said that in that regard, he sympathized Myanmar; and that he had no other significant issues to criticize or give suggestion concerning my presentation.

Delegates of other countries also discussed my presentation. Later, the meeting recessed for tea break.

Before I left the room for some coffee, the two Thai delegates shook hands with me and said "Congratulations!" Their turn for the discussion had not arrived yet. I felt so happy and excited.

I could hardly sleep that night. I was looking at a lot of cars travelling on the roads from my high-rise hotel room. But my mind went back to my days at the Mandalay University many years ago.

I got much free time in the evenings after studying for two years at the University. So, I went to attend the evening English classes for senior students. Later, I became a regular student of the class, for, the way the professor taught the subject was very interesting. But the professor knew well that I was not one of the senior students of the class, as I always sat at the back row of the class that had only 13 students. I was afraid that the professor might tell me to leave the room. I was also thinking that I would be in pretty trouble even if the teacher might ask me who I was. But it seemed that the teacher knew my ardent desire to learn English very well.

(To be continued)
(Translation: TMT)

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

58 drug traffickers arrested in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 19 Nov— The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) of Nigeria has arrested 58 persons for drug-related offenses over the past three months, an NDLEA official said Tuesday.

In a statement issued in Warri in Nigeria's southern state of Delta, Bridget Ede, public affairs officer of the Delta Command of the NDLEA, said that the command had impounded about 1,700.07 kilos of cannabis, 105 kilos of cocaine and 99 kilos of heroin from suspects since September. The statement quoted Delta State NDLEA Commander Aju Okopi as saying that eight persons had already been convicted.

Okopi said the drug traffickers had devised a strategy of using fake vehicle numbers or pretended to be top government officials by using official vehicle number plates when trafficking in drugs.

He attributed the feat recorded by the command to the doggedness on the part of the staff of the agency to stem the tide of drug trafficking in the state.

The commander warned the traffickers to desist from such crimes, adding that every vehicle passing through inter-state highways would be subjected to searches by officials of the command. — MNA/Xinhua

World Conservation Union warns of wildlife extinction threat

GENEVA, 19 Nov— Colombian spider monkeys, Galapagos snails, unique South African rabbits and one of the world's largest freshwater fish are in stark danger of extinction, a nature body warned on Tuesday.

Also under threat of disappearing in the near future, according to the Swiss-based World Conservation Union (IUCN), are the 21 species of albatross, dozens of types of shark and rayfish and Mediterranean dolphins.

All are among a total of

12,259 varieties of animal, plant and water life described as critically-endangered in this year's version of the IUCN's Red List — the key reference for biologists tracking the state of the planet's health.

And, according to the inter-governmental organization which works with civil society groups and scientists around the globe, it is largely the fault of humans.

"Places such as the Galapagos, Hawaii and the Seychelles are famed for their beauty, their diversity

of plants, animals and ecosystems," said IUCN Director General Achim Steiner, introducing the 2003 list.

"But the Red List tells us that human activities are leading to a swathe of extinctions that could make these islands ecologically and aesthetically barren."

The IUCN said studies show that Indonesia, Brazil, China and Peru have the highest number of endangered birds and mammals while plants are most under threat in Ecuador, Malaysia and Sri Lanka as well as in

Indonesia and Brazil.

All are countries where industrialization, forest clearance and tourism have developed rapidly in recent decades. The Red List includes extinctions that have been recorded since the start of the 16th Century — by this year totalling 762.

But biologists say that there are almost certainly hundreds, if not thousands, more as so many species — especially of the smallest animals, insects and plants — go unrecorded.

MNA/Reuters



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than hears a report by an official on construction of Thanthamache Bridge on Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu road section. — MNA

Road and bridge construction ...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left instructions. They arrived at Taungup in the evening.

On the morning of 18 November, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went

to Shwe Mya Ya Yeiktha of Road Construction Special Group 8 of Public Works on Taungup-Padaung Road. Officials reported on upgrading of the road section between mile post No 59 and No 102/2, arrival of tar and

reconstruction of the road section from mile post No 72 to 75. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

Cooperative Products Exhibition and Market Festival on 13-19 January

YANGON, 19 Nov — Cooperative Products Exhibition and Market Festival jointly organized by the Cooperatives Department, the Cottage Industries Department and the central cooperative syndicate under the Ministry of Cooperatives will be held from 13 to 19

January at the Cooperative Trade Centre of Saya San Plaza in Bahan Township.

Products of the cooperative societies, consumer products, household goods, clothes, electronic devices stationery, foodstuff, handicrafts, construction materials, machinery and

natural fertilizer, furniture and export and import goods will be exhibited and will be sold at fair prices at the festival.

Those wishing to participate in the festival may contact the festival organizing committee Ph 243854, 543227. — MNA



MWJA Vice-Chairman U Than Maung receives donation of K 50,000 from wellwishers. — MNA

Respect-paying for doyen literati 25 Nov

YANGON, 19 Nov — Respect-paying ceremony for doyen literati to mark the 1365 ME Sarsodaw Day, organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, will be held at Yangon City Hall at 9 am on 25 November. Doyen literati from districts have been informed to contact (Ph- 254173 and 252417) not later than 24 November. Doyen literati who are not able to come to Yangon will be paid respect at their respective residences. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to doyen literati

YANGON, 19 Nov — Cash and kind was donated to doyen literati today at Sarpay Beikman building on the Merchant Street here, attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), officials and wellwishers. At the ceremony, officials concerned accepted the cash and kind presented by the wellwishers and presented certificate of honours to them. Those wishing to donated cash and kind may contact Ph- 254173, 252417. — MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye inspects coal mines...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party inspected round the fertilizer plant, finished products and production process of the plant, bio-gas tank, and other facilities of the plant.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party also inspected the seed production zone near Lashio. The deputy commander reported to Lt-Gen Tin Aye on production of seed of opium-substitute monsoon crops and cultivation of winter crops seed. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye fulfilled the requirements.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party viewed round the mix-crop cultivation of wheat and sunflower and the threshing and winnowing of soya beans. They also inspected So So Pyay Pyay Brick Kiln and fulfilled the requirements. Later, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party arrived at the coal mine in Narhlan region in Lashio. The commander and officials reported to Lt-Gen Tin Aye on exploration and mining of coal in Lashio, Tangyan and

Mongyai townships and future tasks. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions on production of high quality coal and boosting production with use of machinery to meet the demand, and inspected round the coal mine. Local battalions and units under the command and geologists of the Ministry of Mines have explored over 41 million tons of coal in the regions under the command, and plans are under way to mine coal on commercial scale.

MNA

Second ASEAN e-Measurement Workshop held

YANGON, 19 Nov — The Second ASEAN e-Measurement Workshop was held at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hline Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were delegates from ASEAN nations, Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint, officials of UNCTAD e-Commerce Branch, departmental officials, members of e-Application Committee and e-National Task Force, members of e-Measurement and executive committee members of Myanmar Computer Federation.

First, Senior Director of Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore Mr William Hioe delivered an opening address.

Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint extended greetings. Director of Electronic Com-

merce Resource Centre (ECRC) and National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC) of Thailand Dr Somnuk Keretho reported on information on international efforts towards the establishment of e-Measurement frameworks.

Next, Ms Susan Teltscher of UNCTAD e-Commerce Branch reported on measuring electric commerce as an instrument for the development of the digital economy—regional and international collaboration and Senior Director Mr William Hioe on ICT indicators.

Participants discussed common definitions for key ICT indicators.

In the afternoon session, the participants discussed difficulties and experiences in collecting ICT indicators. They approved the next steps of formulating the e-Meas-



Mr William Hioe speaks at the workshop. — MNA

urement Action Plan for 2003-2004 and recommendations to be tabled at the meeting of the 15th e-ASEAN Working Group to be held in Mandalay on 21 and 22 November.

The workshop came to a close after closing remarks by Senior Director Mr William Hioe. The delegates will leave here for Mandalay on 20 November to attend the meeting of the 15th EAWG.

MNA



Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint extends greetings at Second ASEAN e-Measurement Workshop. — MNA

Myeik Livestock Breeding Zone

Aung Soe (Veterinary Surgeon)

Among the mottoes which appear in the papers, the one "Development of meat and fish sector, the interest of the State" reminds the people about what they should do. Commercial scale production benefits both producers and customers.

Under the organization of the Coastal Region Command Headquarters, local regiments and units, departments and national entrepreneurs are engaged in Myeik Livestock Breeding Zone, which was established at the block No 245 (Bokchaung) in Myeiktaung Village-tract, Myeik, Taninthayi Division, on 1 February 2001 with the aim of boosting production of fish and meat. However, the zone could launch its functions at the starts of 2002 due to various reasons. The zone has an area of 81.27 acres and consists of 81 200' x 200' plots.

In addition to the Livestock Breeding Zone Supervisory Committee formed with the tactical operations commander of the command as chairman and 20 departmental officials and entrepreneurs as members, there are nine supporting committees in order to carry out the tasks in an effective way.

The region cannot produce sufficient feedstuff for poultry farming except dried fish and particles of dried prawn shell. So, the livestock breeding industry could be run only on a small scale in the past. But, now, with the encouragement of the government for the development of the meat and fish sector of the State, national entrepreneurs raise over 100,000 chicken in the region, obtaining feedstuff from Yangon.

In the zone, national entrepreneurs breed some 30,000 chicken, 1,300 ducks, 150 pigs and 3,000 fishes, and now the zone is gaining development momentum.

Arrangements are being made for construction of a feedstuff mixer for national entrepreneurs engaged in the zone. The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and the livestock and fisheries bank are rendering neces-



Chicken runs in Myeik Livestock Breeding Zone.

sary assistance to them. Therefore, the zone is developing day by day.

The zone provides necessary assistance for local farmers breeding chicken and pigs. Under the crossbreeding programme to upgrade local breed chicken, Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council distributed about 1,800 RIR bred cocks to the districts and townships of the division. Plans are well under way for chicken runs each of which can hold around 1,000 local breed chicken in ten townships in the division.

Local regiments and units, respective departments and national entrepreneurs are making sustainable efforts with might and main for production of chicken and eggs as well as distribution of hybrid chicken.

Thus, the division will make significant contribution towards the development of the meat and fish sector of the nation soon.

Translation: MS

(Kyonon: 14-11-2003)

HK, Chinese Mainland to work closer on public health

HONG KONG, 19 Nov — Hong Kong and China's Mainland have signed an arrangement on closer co-operation and communication in protecting public health.

The document was signed Monday here between the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and China's State General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection

and Quarantine.

The arrangement reaffirmed the established co-operation between the two sides in the inspection and quarantine of food, live animals, plants and animal products.

The arrangement also formalizes the liaison and exchange mechanism on port health control measures.

Under the arrangement, the two sides will conduct exchanges on major inspec-

tion and quarantine issues. An annual liaison meeting of senior officials will be held to examine major inspection and quarantine issues and other important data.

Individual working panels will be organized to study specialized issues relating to inspection and quarantine of animals and plants, food safety, health and quarantine measures and testing techniques.

MNA/Xinhua

Ugandan PM becomes Chancellor of Makerere University

KAMPALA, 19 Nov — Ugandan Prime Minister Professor Apolo Nsibambi has become the sixth chancellor of Makerere University and the first non-head of state Ugandan to become the university chancellor.

Vice-President Professor Gilbert Bukenya installed Nsibambi at a colourful ceremony at main hall on Monday.

He symbolically dressed Nsibambi with the chancellor's red-and-black gown and matching headgear and handed the new chancellor the key to his

office and mace, a symbol of authority over the university, according to local media report on Tuesday.

President Yoweri Museveni, in a speech read by Bukenya, hailed the University Council for recommending Nsibambi for the post, saying that Nsibambi was the right choice owing to his high integrity and a sound academic background.

Present at the ceremony were Speaker of Parliament Edward Ssekandi and other top government officials.

Nsibambi took over the post from Museveni in implementation of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001, which gives universities wide ranging autonomy in their management.

He warned that the prestigious 81-year-old university must modernize, saying that "we want a university that produces the best and relevant academic products which are responsive to national, regional and international manpower needs."

MNA/Xinhua

China to invest \$265m in coal mine safety

BEIJING, 19 Nov — The Chinese Government will invest 2.2 billion yuan (265 million US dollars) next year to enhance safety at the nation's coal mines, with emphasis placed on improving the release of deadly methane gas aiming at draining deep from below underground coal beds through discharge systems.

The improvements are a bid to better use the methane as an energy resource rather than send it straight into the air where it can cause global warming, according to Tuesday's China Daily.

The gas can also cause deadly explosions, a frequent problem throughout China, said the English-language newspaper.

This year's investment for the same purpose totalled 2 billion yuan (240 million US dollars), the paper quoted Chairman Fan Weitang of the China National Coal Association as saying Monday.

China produced 1.3 billion tons of coal last year, and this year's output is esti-

mated at more than 1.5 billion tons.

In another move, officials said 1 billion yuan (120 million US dollars) in treasury bonds have been allocated this year to help some 1.2 million rural families develop methane ponds.

According to Gao Shangbin, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture, there are 11 million rural families in China using methane ponds with each pond generating 200 to 300 cubic metres of methane per year.

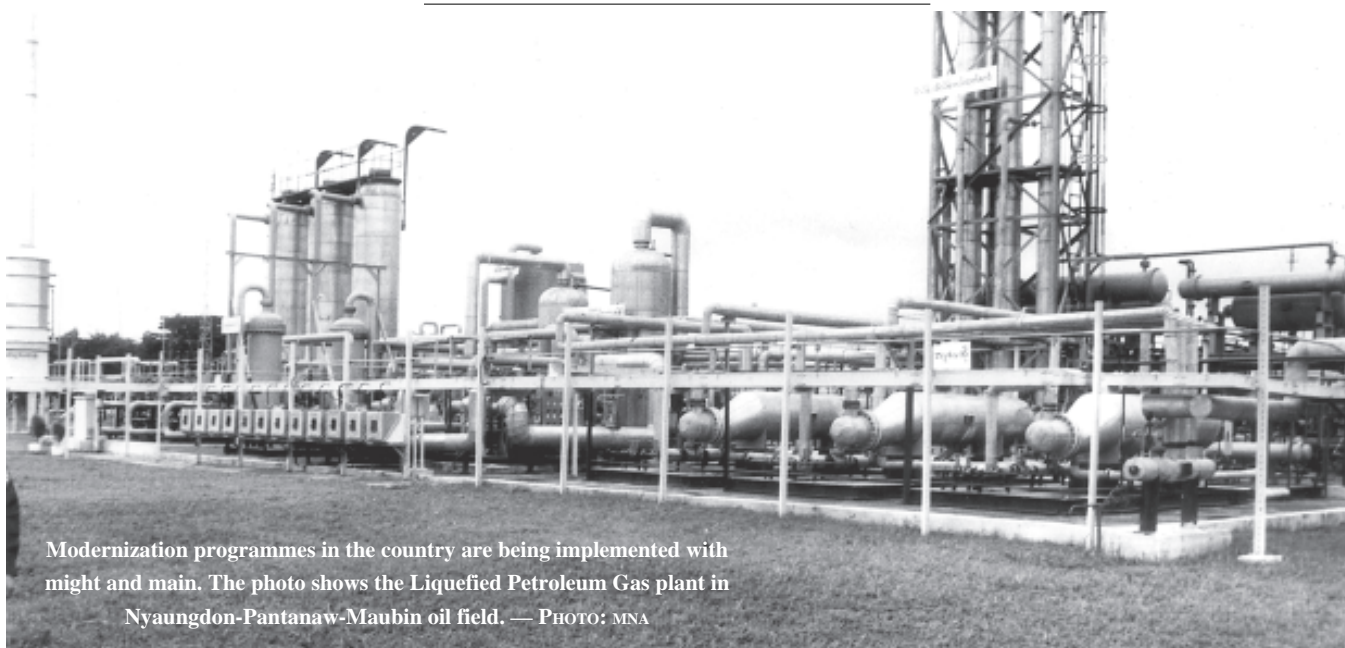
MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL FAIR 2003
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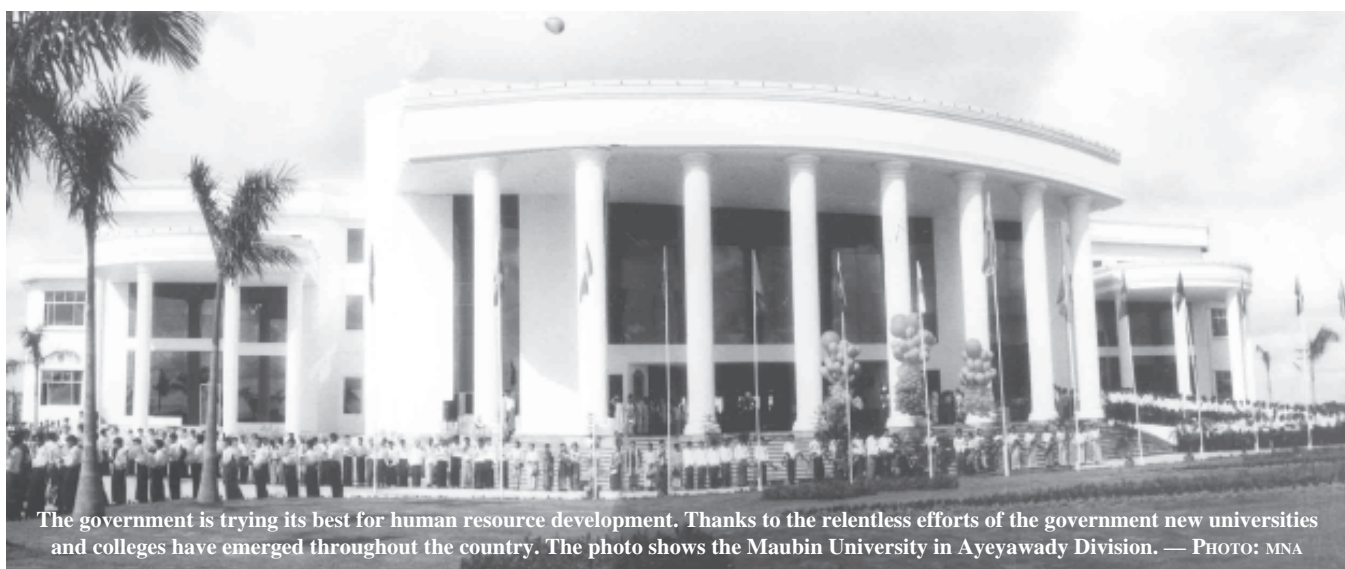
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country



The 1,900 feet long Shwelaung Bridge on Pantanaw-Shwelaung-Wakema road is a bailey truss suspension one. The bridge was commissioned into service on 21-3-2002. PHOTO: MNA



Modernization programmes in the country are being implemented with might and main. The photo shows the Liquefied Petroleum Gas plant in Nyaungdon-Pantanaw-Maubin oil field. — PHOTO: MNA



The government is trying its best for human resource development. Thanks to the relentless efforts of the government new universities and colleges have emerged throughout the country. The photo shows the Maubin University in Ayeyawady Division. — PHOTO: MNA

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Sichuan welcomes HK investment

HONG KONG, 19 Nov—Southwest China's Sichuan Province welcomes Hong Kong investment for a total of 268 programmes, said Zhang Zhongwei, governor of Sichuan Province.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony for the Sichuan-Hong Kong Joint Development Week on Monday, Zhang said with a total investment of 6.6 billion US dollars, those projects cover infrastructure, service and trade, traditional Chinese medicine, manufacturing and projects of other sectors.

He said the signing of Chinese Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) lays a solid and better foundation for widening cooperation between Sichuan and Hong Kong.

Zhang said Hong Kong has its edge on capital, information, technology and marketing while Sichuan is

rich in natural and human resources as well as a sound investment environment. Sichuan also has preferential policies for overseas investments, he added.

The governor emphasized that the bilateral cooperation will be mutually beneficial and has great prospect, adding win-win is the goal of the bilateral cooperation.

Sichuan also opened an exhibition Monday to showcase over 1,000 kinds of commodities produced by over 100 Sichuan ventures.

Hong Kong investment has ranked top among Sichuan's overall investments from various countries and regions.

MNA/Xinhua

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for K&N ENGINEERING, INC.

P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 20 November 2003

Uganda to get over \$97m for "AIDS", malaria

KAMPALA, 19 Nov—Uganda is to receive over 97 million US dollars from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria (GFATM), reported the *New Vision* newspaper on Monday.

Uganda Health Services Commissioner Dr KWLwamafa was quoted as saying that 51.8 million dollars would go to fighting AIDS, 10.6 million dollars to TB and 35 million dollars to combat malaria.

He said all the money is for three years.

Lwamafa added that Uganda would soon receive the first instalment of 20 million dollars.—MNA/Xinhua

40,000 Ugandans die of sleeping sickness annually

KAMPALA, 19 Nov—An estimated 40,000 Ugandans die of sleeping sickness annually while another three million are already infected by the disease, Radio Uganda reported on Monday.

Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Health Mohammed Kezaala made the remarks when he was opening here on Monday a three-day workshop on sleeping sickness for participants drawn from east and central Africa countries. He said the Ugandan Government is addressing the issue by building expertise among medical practitioners to handle the disease.—MNA/Xinhua

Regional Information Security Summit opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 19 Nov—The first regional information security summit opened here Monday with the participation of more than 120 information technology professionals and business executives.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of "Information Security Summit 2003: Hong Kong," K.K. Yeung, executive director of Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), said, "The summit aims to provide a platform for experts from the Asia Pacific Region and beyond to exchange their views and experience on this very important subject."

In a global economy that relies increasingly on the flow of information through computernetworks, information security has become

a prerequisite of business operation, said Yeung.

"Over the past few months, the business community worldwide has weathered wave after wave of virus and worm attacks, a timely reminder for us all that information security has no national or regional boundaries, and that business continuity under such circumstances can only be ensured through international

cooperation," he said.

Under the theme of "Capitalize the Value of Information Security for Competitive Advantage," over 20 speakers from Australia, France, Germany, China, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, the United States and Britain are sharing their insight on the latest development in information security at the two-day summit.

MNA/Xinhua

China has 20,600 towns

BEIJING, 19 Nov—China has 20,600 towns with a combined population of 150 million urban residents, according to latest figures from the China Urban Development Science Society. Among the 20,600 towns, 1,660 are county seats and there are 800 towns with a population of more than 30,000 each, statistics showed.

In recent years, the Chinese Government has tried setting up new towns to speed up the urbanization process and reduce gaps between urban and rural areas.—MNA/Xinhua

China to enroll 330,000 graduate students in 2004

BEIJING, 19 Nov—China plans to enroll 330,000 graduate students next year, 20 per cent more than this year, sources with the Ministry of Education said here Monday.

An official with the ministry said this figure was worked out according to demand raised by economic construction, technology advancement and social development in China, and more importantly, the capacity of higher institutes to cultivate graduates. He said China, with a view to better educate graduate students, will further support new subjects, and discontinue courses that do not meet market demand and social development.

MNA/Xinhua

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Indian businesses booming in East China

SHANGHAI, 19 Nov — The booming East China region as well as Shanghai metropolis have wooed top Indian firms like Infosys, Satyam, TCS, NIIT, State Bank of India and Reliance to set up software development centres or representative offices to tap the huge Chinese as well as the East Asian markets.

"In keeping with China's emergence as a manufacturing hub, Indian industry is taking a dispassionate look at the benefits of greater economic engagement through investments, opening of representative offices and the setting up of operations in East China region, especially in Shanghai," the Consul General of India in Shanghai, Sujun Chinoy told *PTI* here.

Noting the steady flow of Indian companies and Indian professionals in East China, Chinoy said Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had paid a two-day visit to Shanghai in June which clearly recognized the cosmopolitan city's importance as the vanguard of trade and commerce and high-tech endeavour in China.

The total gross domestic product of Shanghai (municipality), Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces is 230 billion US Dollars, which is almost half the GDP of India, Chinoy said.

The total exports of Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang amounted to 90.40 billion US

dollars in 2002, almost twice the exports of India. In 2002, the total amount of the foreign investment utilized in this region was 18.8 billion US dollars.

This underscores the degree to which the region is dependent on exports and foreign investment, Chinoy noted.

Commenting on India's trade with the East China region, Chinoy said it is estimated that about 32 per cent of the trade between India and China is conducted through Shanghai port and other ports in the neighbouring provinces Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

India's total trade with East China has registered an impressive 70 per cent growth in 2000 reaching 777 million US dollars, and another impressive 28 per cent increase in 2001 reaching almost one billion dollars.

In 2002, India's total trade with East China stood at 1.582 billion dollars, an increase of 60 per cent over 2001. During 2002 India's total exports to East China reached 669 million dollars while imports touched 913 million dollars. — *MNA/PTI*

Hu Jintao urges non-Communist parties for economic development

BEIJING, 19 Nov — The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting Tuesday to consult leaders of non-Communist parties, the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and people with no party affiliation on major issues regarding economic and social development.

Chinese President and General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Hu Jintao presided over the meeting, saying that building a well-off society in an all-round way and bringing about a great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation need wisdom and efforts from not only the CPC but also non-Communist parties and people with no party affiliation.

Such discussion with non-Communist figures is an important part of China's multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of CPC and a major effort to build a scientific

and democratic decision-making mechanism, he said.

China has maintained rapid economic growth and smooth social development this year despite the outbreak of SARS and severe natural disasters, but problems still remain and effective measures must be taken, Hu said.

An overall, balanced and sustainable economic growth is key to building an affluent society in China, he said.

Non-Communist figures are expected to put forward proposals to improve China's market economy, promote the development of sciences and technologies and contribute to

a democratic, united, stable and vigorous political environment in China, Hu said.

The non-Communist leaders voiced their views at the meeting, urging economic reforms and those in other fields. They also made proposals on major issues like health care service and education in rural areas, science and technologies development plan, restructuring of old industrial bases, expansion of domestic market, employment of rural redundant labour, development of private economy and social security network. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China urges better eco, cooperation among China, Japan, S Korea

BEIJING, 19 Nov — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said in Beijing Tuesday that China, Japan and South Korea are highly economically complementary and the three sides should explore more areas for cooperation.

Wu said in a letter to the Second China-Japan-South Korea Business Forum which started here Tuesday morning that to deepen the economic cooperation and relations among the three countries would contribute to the peace and prosperity of the whole of east Asia.

The forum, hosted by major business organizations from thither countries, attracted about 400 entrepreneurs and experts. The topics to be discussed at the one-day forum included the possibility of building a China-Japan-South Korea free trade area, and cooperation in areas of textile, garments, mechanics, iron and steel, electronics, automobiles, among others.

China, Japan and South Korea issued a joint statement last October from Bali, Indonesia, on promoting cooperation among the three parties, whose trading volume added up to some 200 billion US dollars in 2002.

"China's strong economic growth, plus its strategies to develop its western areas and to rejuvenate Northeast China, will open up new business opportunities for entrepreneurs from Japan, South Korea and other parts of Asia," said Wan Jifei, president of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), which co-organized the forum.

Hira Katsuhiko, head of the Japanese delegation, said Japan, China and South Korea should take the lead in promoting economic cooperation in East Asia, and lay a foundation for the future free trade area.

South Korea delegation head Lee Chong-Hoon said Northeast Asia is the fastest growing area in the world in terms of the growth of gross domestic product, trade volume and logistics. He proposed to expand cooperation from the manufacturing sector to finance, energy and information technology.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Rains, snow disrupt mobile phone services in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, 19 Nov — Mobile phone services in the India-controlled Kashmir valley have been cut off since Monday night owing to a technical snag in the system caused by incessant rains, snowfall in some areas and shortage in electricity supply.

Quoting local telecommunication sources, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Tuesday that the technical snag in the mobile telephony system was being checked by the engineers, and the services will be restored very soon.

The mobile phone services in the India-controlled Kashmir valley were inaugurated by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on August 22.

The sources said the snag was due to incessant rains in the plains and low voltage of electricity or shortage in its supply to the mobile towers in the valley. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Miss World 2002-2003, Azra Akin from Turkey, smiles during a banquet in Beijing, on 18 Nov, 2003 to promote the contest. The 110 beauties vying for the Miss World arrived in China's capital on Tuesday for a few days of photo-ops on the Great Wall and the Forbidden City ahead of the December 6 contest in the resort of Sanya on the semi-tropical island of Hainan. — *INTERNET*

149 children die of pneumonia in three districts of Bangladesh

DHAKA, 19 Nov — At least 149 children died of pneumonia in the last two weeks in three districts of Bangladesh, reported the *Daily Star* on Tuesday.

The situation is most serious in the southeastern district of Cox's Bazar where 80 children died of the disease in the last two weeks, then comes Jhenaidah District in the west with 50 having died in the period, and Netrokona District in northern region with 19 children having died in only one week, according to

the data from the respective Civil Surgeon offices of the three districts.

Unofficial sources said more than 70,000 children have been affected with pneumonia in a dozen of districts including Dhaka and its adjacent areas in recent weeks. Professor Mohammed Hanif of Dhaka Shishu Hospital was quoted as

saying the disease is spreading fast as a contagious infection, and fortunately the situation in Dhaka is not serious yet. The spreading and aggravation of pneumonia all over the country is nothing new for the semi-tropical country due to the weather change in this very period as winter is coming.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

African experts meet in Kenya over tobacco treaty

NAIROBI, 19 Nov — Kenya is hosting a four-day Regional Meeting on World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

The meeting which brought together delegates from 10 countries is identifying legislative, technical, capacity building and infrastructural measures and actions needed in countries to lay groundwork for implementation of the FCTC.

The convention requires countries to impose restrictions to tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion, establish new labelling and clean indoor air controls and strengthen legislation to clamp down on tobacco smuggling. In his opening remarks, the WHO representative to Kenya, Peter Eriki urged countries to sign and ratify the FCTC as quickly as possible to pre-

vent further loss of lives from tobacco-related diseases.

"We must do our utmost to ensure that young people everywhere have the best opportunities for a healthy life. By signing, ratifying and acting on this Tobacco convention, we can live up to this responsibility," Eriki noted.

He said tobacco kills 4.9 million people each year, most of whom live in poorer countries where tobacco use is increasing largely due to aggressive marketing by the industry.

"We must do more to stop young people from starting to smoke, and help everyone who want to quit. Stopping smoking, even at a late age, greatly reduces health risks and is to be only way we can

substantially reduce smoking-related deaths over the next 40 years," Eriki said.

By 2020, the total number of tobacco users worldwide is expected to reach 1.7 billion, up from the current 1.3 billion.

"Studies have shown that one of the best ways to stop youth from starting to smoke is to raise prices, and an increased tax on tobacco products will not only reduce consumption, but also raise government revenue," he said. The UN official said 192 members of the WHO unanimously adopted the FCTC, the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO, aimed at curbing tobacco-related deaths and disease on May 21 this year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

SPORTS

England coach Eriksson criticizes FA bosses

LONDON, 19 Nov—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has criticized his Football Association (FA) employers over the length of time it is taking to settle the Rio Ferdinand misconduct charge.

Manchester United central defender Ferdinand was last month charged by the FA over his "failure or refusal" to take a drugs test in September.

"It's crazy that Rio Ferdinand, after eight weeks, does not yet know if he's guilty or not guilty, or if he's going to be fined or suspended for one month or whatever," Eriksson told British newspapers on Tuesday.

"But he has already been banned by the FA for eight weeks as far as England are concerned. The process takes far too long and I don't think it's fair.

"I also don't understand, or agree with, the system for selecting players in those circumstances," added the England coach.

Eriksson was unable to play Ferdinand in England's final Euro 2004 qualifying game against Turkey last month.

He also had to discard Alan Smith from his squad for the 3-2 friendly defeat by Denmark on Sunday after the Leeds United striker was arrested over an alleged bottle-throwing incident in a League Cup match against Manchester United last month.—MNA/Reuters

Beckham power to drive England at Euro 2004

LONDON, 19 Nov—More than 300 players will be involved in Euro 2004 but only one of them, David Beckham, will combine the roles of international footballer, fashion icon and heart-throb.

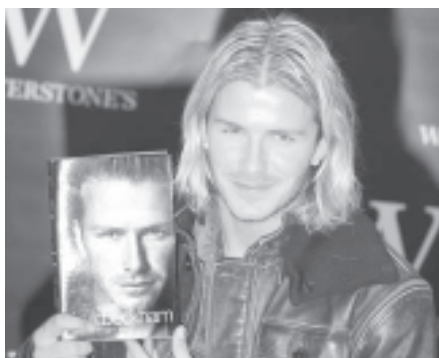
Beckham's move from Manchester United, the club he had supported since he was a boy, to Real Madrid has only broadened the appeal of the 28-year-old in all three areas.

Though some pundits and Real fans were sceptical of the England captain's presence in the famous all-white strip, Beckham needed less than three months to convince people in the Spanish capital that 41.22 million US dollars had been sensibly invested in the London-born player.

On the international front, England also hope to reap the benefits of Beckham's spell with the most successful club and the most envied starting XI in world football.

Beckham and Michael Owen are already the two most important players in Sven-Goran Eriksson's squad.

Owen provides the goals, along with a somewhat worrying statistic that England have not won a game since the end of Euro



Britain's and Real Madrid soccer player David Beckham holds up a copy of his book 'My Side' at a book signing session held at a London bookstore, Monday on 17 Nov.

INTERNET

2000 without the Liverpool striker being on the field.

But Beckham also provides goals — five in the seven Euro qualifiers he played — and, more importantly, his naked desire to succeed enables him to lift a struggling team single-handed.

His trademark free-kick equalizer against Greece, which booked England into the 2002 World Cup, was

not just a superb piece of skill but a reward for a dogged afternoon of tireless running, tackling and tracking back by the England captain. Hamstrung at the 2002 finals by his slow recovery from a broken foot, Beckham will be key to England's hopes of progress at Euro 2004 and selling even more number 7 England shirts around the world.

MNA/Reuters

Wales want intimidating atmosphere for Russians

CARDIFF, 19 Nov—Wales goalkeeper Paul Jones is urging Welsh fans to fill the Millennium Stadium with their own wall of sound for Wednesday's Euro 2004 playoff second leg.

Jones said he could not even shout instructions to his defence because of the noise levels at Lokomotiv Stadium where Wales held Russia 0-0 in the first leg on Saturday.

"I was trying to urge (the defenders) to keep their concentration but I don't think they could hear me, even from 25 yards away," said Jones.

"The noise levels were incredible but hopefully it will be the same for them on Wednesday.

"The Welsh public have been fantastic so far and we need them to get behind us one last time."

A full house of 72,500 is expected for the Cardiff decider. The winners qualify for next year's finals in Portugal while a score draw will benefit the Russians on the away goals rule.

Jones is hoping the atmosphere will rock the Russians and especially goalkeeper Vyacheslav Malafeyev who looks set to

win his first cap in place of the suspended Sergei Ovchinnikov.

"Hopefully he might be intimidated by the crowd and the fact it's such a big game," said Jones.

"We'll have to try and put him under pressure in the first 20 minutes with some high balls and some shots to see how good he is.

"But then again, it could work against us because he'll go into the game with no fear."

Jones is under no illusions, though, at the size of the task ahead of him on Wednesday, even after Saturday's positive result.

"People have said (Russia) don't travel well but they've had a few results recently to suggest otherwise," Jones said.

"We're certainly not counting our chickens and we haven't got carried away after the result.

"We know it's only half the job done and we would have had the same attitude if we had won or lost."—MNA/Reuters

Turks in tunnel bust-up, says Latvia's Laizans

RIGA, 19 Nov—Latvia midfielder Juris Laizans says Turkish players started a fight with security officers in the players' tunnel after Saturday's Euro 2004 playoff first leg.

Latvia sprang a 1-0 surprise to beat the Turks, World Cup semifinalists, and are gearing up for Wednesday's second leg in Istanbul.

Laizans, who plays for CSKA Moscow, was quoted as saying in Russia's *Sport-Express* newspaper: "After falling behind in the match they started playing dirty, began appealing to the referee and ended up getting six yellow cards and one red card."

Turkey's Emre Asik was sent off in the 73rd minute after a second yellow card.

Laizans said: "After the final whistle, the Turks ran after the referee and, as far as I know, their behaviour was mentioned in the (referee's) report.

"But the trouble didn't end there as they also started a fight in a tunnel with our security officers after the game."

Latvian Football Federation spokesman Danis Pandars said on Monday: "After the game there was something happening in the tunnel but I am not exactly sure what.

"Some Turkish player was shouting at the referee and there was some sort of struggle."

MNA/Reuters

Thailand exact Asian Cup revenge on Hong Kong

BANGKOK, 19 Nov—Thailand got their faltering Asian Cup qualifying campaign back on track with a 4-0 thrashing of Hong Kong on Monday.

The Thais, who began as Group A co-favourites before losing their first three matches, exacted swift revenge at home after being stunned 2-1 by Hong Kong in Tashkent last week.

Striker Manit Noyvach opened the scoring from close range in the 24th minute and midfielder Datsakorn Thonglao fired a superb second from the edge of the box 10 minutes later.

Two late goals from substitute Sarayoot Chaikamdee made the points safe for Thailand, who had to win to preserve any chance of qualifying for the 2004 Asian Cup in China.

Group leaders Uzbekistan all but booked their spot with a 4-1 victory over Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan have 10 points from four matches, Tajikistan have five, Hong Kong four and Thailand three points with two games left.

"We played well but the performance still could have been better," said Thailand coach Carlos Roberto Carvalho.

"The players looked comfortable at home and in the heat, so I am hopeful we can get nine points and qualify."—MNA/Reuters

Kahn fed up talking to media after defeats

BERLIN, 19 Nov—Germany captain Oliver Kahn is fed up being the spokesman after poor performances by the national team, crushed 3-0 by France on Saturday, and Bayern Munich, who are struggling in fourth place in the Bundesliga.

"My job as goalkeeper is hard enough," Kahn told Tuesday's edition of Munich's *TZ daily*. "I can't permanently exhaust myself on all fronts. I've got to think about myself, especially as we have important matches ahead of us."

Even though Kahn is captain of both Germany and Bayern he said it was time others did the talking after defeats.

"It's always demanded of me that I present myself (to the media)," said Kahn, who has been criticized for avoiding journalists after the defeat to France. "It's time that others took over some responsibility."

MNA/Reuters

Dutch winger Van der Meyde faints during interview

AMSTERDAM, 19 Nov—Dutch winger Andy van der Meyde fainted during a television interview on Monday but the Dutch Football Association KNVB said he would be fit to play in Wednesday's Euro 2004 playoff second leg against Scotland.

Van der Meyde, a constant danger against the Scots despite the 1-0 defeat on Saturday, suffered constriction of the blood vessels, aggravated by heat from the TV crew's spotlights during an interview at a Dutch team news conference, KNVB said.

"During an interview, the striker suddenly collapsed and fell with his head against a loudspeaker. But after the initial shock was over things turned out not to be as serious as feared," said the web site.

Van der Meyde, who plays for Inter Milan, was examined by the Dutch national squad's doctor and then he had lunch.

MNA/Reuters



Paraguay's captain Carlos Gamarra celebrates the victory over Chile's team during their qualifying match for the 2006 World Cup in Germany in Santiago, Chile, on 18 November, 2003, at the National Stadium. Paraguay defeated Chile 1-0.—INTERNET

MRTV-3


**20-11-2003 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)**
**Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Development Centre
for Rubber Technology
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 9:25 Dance of the Royal
Page
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 9:40 Song "We'll Greet You
In Mon Language"
- 9:42 Memorial Stones from
Chin Mountain Ranges
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**20-11-2003 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad**
**Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 15:36 Development Centre
for Rubber Technology
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 15:52 Dance of the Royal
Page
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 16:08 Song "We'll Greet You
In Mon Language"
- 16:10 Memorial Stones from
Chin Mountain Ranges
- 16:15 National News**



Thursday, November 20

View today:

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော် သံလမ္မာ
နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊
အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မ
မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ
ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ သန္တန္တ မိမိတ္တ
သရဏ်တံသင်္ခါ ဝရိတိတရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. Dance of national races

8:10 am

6. Dance variety

8:20 am

7. လွမ်းမြင်ရလှောင်တံခွန်

8:30 am

8. International news

- 16:20 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 The Inlay Khaun Dain
Hotel and Spa
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Peppery Monhinga)
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 16:55 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 National Races Village
(Kachin, Kayah,
Kayin)
- 17:10 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
- 17:12 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOoLwin"
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Tiger Population
Counting (Part-II)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 20-11-2003 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Potted Plants for all
Occasions
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 The Decoration of
Lacquerware
(Stylus Drawing)
- 19:55 Myanmar National
Race Cultural Dance
(U Shwe Yoe &
Daw Moe)
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:10 Song "Blessed Myanmar"
- 20:12 The Myanmar
Turban-Unique
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 A Journey to Research
Taron Race
- 20:25 Song "Peace Be
With You"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung
Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Chicken with
gourd curry bachelor
style)
- 20:40 National News**
- 20:50 How to Cook "The
Nga-paine Fish Curry"
- 20:55 Magnificent

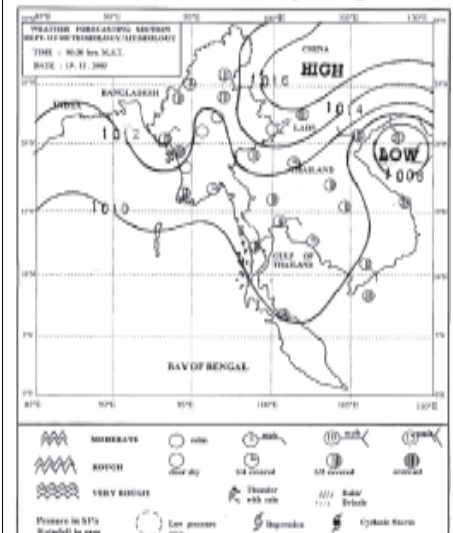
- Pindaingsan Dance
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 The Unique Pindaya
Shan Paper
- 21:10 Song "My Ardent Wish"
- 21:12 Papa Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Tiger Population Counting
(Part-I)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 21:35 Development Centre
for Rubber Technology
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 21:52 Dance of the Royal
Page
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 22:08 Song "We'll Greet You
In Mon Language"
- 22:10 Memorial Stones from
Chin Mountain Ranges
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
- 22:25 Song "Predestination"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 The Inlay Khaun Dain
Hotel and Spa
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Peppery Monhinga)
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 22:55 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 National Races Village
(Kachin, Kayah,
Kayin)
- 23:10 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
- 23:12 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOoLwin"
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Tiger Population
Counting (Part-II)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 20-11-2003 (Thursday) &
21-11-2003 (Friday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 01:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"

- Sentiment"
- 23:36 Development Centre
for Rubber Technology
- 23:40 National News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)
- 23:45 National News**
- 23:50 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 23:52 Dance of the Royal
Page
- 24:00 National News**
- 00:05 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 00:08 Song "We'll Greet You
In Mon Language"
- 00:10 Memorial Stones from
Chin Mountain Ranges
- 00:15 National News**
- 00:20 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar (K.
Ja Nu)"
- 00:30 National News**
- 00:35 The Inlay Khaun Dain
Hotel and Spa
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Peppery Monhinga)
- 00:45 National News**
- 00:50 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 00:55 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
- 01:00 National News**
- 01:05 National Races Village
(Kachin, Kayah,
Kayin)
- 01:10 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
- 01:12 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOoLwin"
- 01:15 National News**
- 01:20 Tiger Population Counting
(Part-II)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 21-11-2003 (Friday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**
- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 03:36 Potted Plants for all
Occasions
- 03:40 National News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
- 03:45 National News**
- 03:50 The Decoration of
Lacquerware
(Stylus Drawing)
- 03:55 Myanmar National
Race Cultural Dance
(U Shwe Yoe & Daw
Moe)
- 04:00 National News**

- 04:10 Song "Blessed Myanmar"
- 04:12 The Myanmar
Turban-Unique
- 04:15 National News**
- 04:20 A Journey to Research
Taron Race
- 04:25 Song "Peace Be
With You"
- 04:30 National News**
- 04:35 Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung
Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Chicken with
gourd curry bachelor
style)
- 04:45 National News**
- 04:50 How to Cook "The
Nga-paine Fish Curry"
- 04:55 Magnificent
Pindaingsan Dance
- 05:00 National News**
- 05:05 The Unique Pindaya
Shan Paper
- 05:10 Song "My Ardent Wish"
- 05:12 Papa Flat-topped Hill
(Taung Ka Lat)
- 05:15 National News**
- 05:20 Tiger Population Counting
(Part-I)
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 05:35 Development Centre
for Rubber Technology
- 05:40 National News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Curry of Hilsa)
- 05:45 National News**
- 05:50 The Thrones of

- Myanmar Sovereigns
- 05:52 Dance of the Royal
Page
- 06:00 National News**
- 06:05 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 06:08 Song "We'll Greet You
In Mon Language"
- 06:10 Memorial Stones from
Chin Mountain Ranges
- 06:15 National News**
- 06:20 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
- 06:25 Song "Predestination"
- 06:30 National News**
- 06:35 The Inlay Khaun Dain
Hotel and Spa
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Peppery Monhinga)
- 06:45 National News**
- 06:50 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
- 06:55 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
- 07:00 National News**
- 07:05 National Races Village
(Kachin, Kayah,
Kayin)
- 07:10 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
- 07:12 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOoLwin"
- 07:15 National News**
- 07:20 Tiger Population
Counting (Part-II)
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



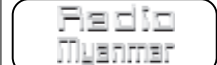
WEATHER

Wednesday, 19 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were 7°C to 9°C below normal in Chin, Shan States, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Kachin State, Yangon and Bago Divisions, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Rakhine and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway and upper Sagaing Divisions and 3°C above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 18-11-2003 was 35.2°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 19-11-2003 was 16.5°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-11-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 18-11-2003 was (8.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 19-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Northerly at (14:50) hours MST on 18-11-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Special Features:** According to the observations at 06:30 hours MST today, yesterday's Tropical storm "Nepartak" over South China Sea has weakened. **Forecast valid until evening of 20-11-2003:** Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of decrease of night temperatures in Eastern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-11-2003:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-11-2003:** Partly cloudy.



Thursday, November 20

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 9.15 am** News/Slogan
- 9.30 am** Lunch time music
- Hey (Julio Iglesias)
- You (Crystal Gayle)
- 9.40 am** Aspects of Myanmar
- Archaeological
museum of MraukU -
U Kyi Khin
- 9.10 pm** Article/Music
- 9.20 pm** Topics potpourri
- Well preserved
ancient heating wall
found in N-China
- 9.30 pm** Favourite songs
chosen by "Aung
Kyaw Moe"
- Listen to the radio -
Don William
- If-Bread
- Summer Holiday -
Cliff Richard
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Lamutan river-water pumping project at Bawle Kyun in Htantabin Township. —MNA

River-water pumping projects inspected in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 19 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the cultivation of summer paddy and regional development activities in Htantabin Township, Yangon North District, this afternoon.

At 3 pm, the commander arrived at the Lamutan river-water pumping project on Bawle Kyun, Htantabin Township, where he looked

into the tasks being carried out by the Water Resources Utilization Department for pumping water from the river to cultivate summer paddy. He also heard reports on measures being taken. Next, local farmers reported to the commander on cultivation of summer paddy.

After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions, saying that the township is the second region where summer paddy is grown most, and officials concerned are

therefore responsible for timely supply of irrigation water. He also urged the local farmers to grow more paddy than last year. Later, the commander and party went to the Kyunngu river-water pumping project on Tetthit Kyun, where he inspected the tasks being carried out for supply of water to cultivate summer paddy.

After hearing reports, the commander gave instructions on efforts to accomplish the project in time for

cultivation of summer paddy.

Next, the commander and party proceeded to the construction site of Myoma market in Htantabin and inspected the construction of shopping malls. Officials conducted the commander round the construction site. Later, the commander gave instructions on construction of the market in conformity with city characteristics and timely completion of the market meeting the set standard. — MNA

Regional development tasks inspected in Lashio, Muse districts

YANGON, 19 Nov — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint arrived at Kutkai Township People's Hospital on 15 November morning.

Head of Shan State Department of Health Dr Nyo Win Myint and Psychiatrist Dr Tin Min Soe reported on community health care services. After fulfilling the requirements, the commander and the minister inspected X-ray room, consulting room and ward (men). They comforted the patients and presented gifts to them.

Next, the commander and the minister inspected the 16-bed Kyukok (Panghsan) hospital. They also inspected preventive measures against possible outbreak of SARS in border area of Kyukok (Panghsan) and fulfilled the requirements.

They inspected the sports ground upgrading project in Muse. Officials reported on progress of work with the use of charts. They inspected the project site and gave in-

structions.

On the morning of 16 November, they looked into Muse People's Hospital and spoke words of encouragement to the patients and presented gifts to them. They viewed the site chosen for construction of a two-storey hospital (200-bed) and left necessary instructions. Afterwards, they inspected Namhkam People's Hospital and give instructions to the officials concerned.

The commander and the minister attended the launching of the 50-acre model plot for cultivation of cold season crops in Teinlon Village tract, Muse Township. Officials reported on progress in cultivation of monsoon paddy, cold season crops and summer paddy and earth work for cultivation of wheat. The commander gave instructions and attended to the needs.

After the ceremony, they inspected the 1,000-acre mixed crop plantation of Macadamia and Hsinshweli hybrid groundnut in the special high-yield seeds production zone in the entrance to Lashio. — MNA

WFP presents 760 tons of rice to former poppy growers

YANGON, 19 Nov — The World Food Programme of the United Nations presented 760 tons of rice to farmers in Kokang region who no longer grow poppy at Drugs Elimination Museum in Laukkai on 15 November morning.

On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun made a speech. He said thanks to the 15-year drugs elimination programme and the New Destiny Project of Myanmar, no poppy is grown in Kokang region in 2003. The international community acknowledges it and the WFP presents 760 tons of rice to former poppy growers. He then spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Than Win of Laukkai region reported on endeavours for elimination of poppy growing in the region, WFP Resident Representative Mr

Bhim Udas on tasks being undertaken by the WFP and assistance being rendered for eradication of poppy growing.

Minister Counsellor Mr Hiroshi Kawamura of Japanese embassy explained assistance rendered by Japan for the eradication tasks in the region and the WFP Resident Representative presented rice to Kokang region National Race Leader U Phon Kyar Shin who later spoke words of thanks. He pledged to continue cooperating with the State and international institutions for the region to remain as opium-free zone. After the ceremony, officials visited Tashwehtan Village to see distribution of the donated rice to villagers. The donated rice was distributed to the farmers by World Vision in Kongyan Township, by ADRA in Shaukkai and Care Myanmar in Tashwehtan Station. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint views successful performance on replantation of a traumatically crushed distal forearm at Yangon General Hospital. —MNA

Minister for Health inspects successful performance on replantation of a traumatically crushed distal forearm

YANGON, 19 Nov — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and Director-General of Health Department Dr Wun Maung inspected successful replantation of a traumatically crushed distal forearm at High Dependency Unit of Yangon General Hospital this morning.

The minister and party inspected U Tin Naing, 30. Medical Superintendent of YGH Dr Taik Wan, Hand Surgeon Dr Khin Maung Myint and officials reported on the performance of replantation of the forearm.

The patient whose right forearm was almost cut in a

car accident arrived at the emergency unit of the YGH at 3 am on 4 November. After examining him, the hand surgeons decided to replant his arm.

The operation began at 4.30 am. The patient was anesthetized by anaesthetist Lt-Col Win Maung, first assistant surgeon Dr Zaw Aung and post graduate student Dr Ma Lay Nwe.

The operation was performed by the surgical team comprising hand surgeon lecturer Dr Khin Maung Myint, orthopaedic surgeon Dr Christopherson and first assistant surgeon Dr Soe Naing and nurses Daw Nilar

Win and Daw Aye Aye Khaing.

The right forearm of the patient was traumatically crushed. About 2.5 cm (approximately) of the two bones of the arm was cut. The surgeons operated muscular and bone nerves clean cut cases step by step.

Two bones of forearm were joined by two steel bars and tendons which support the movement of fingers were also joined.

His nerves, arteries and veins were joined with the use of microscope.

Vein transplant was performed as the cephalic vein and Basalic vein were trau-

matically crushed. The surgical operation took five and half hours. The IV Dopamin was given to the patient because of his low blood pressure during the operation. (See page 9)



Replanted forearm (Volar Surface) of the patient. —MNA



Replanted forearm (Dorsal Aspect) of the patient. —MNA