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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt shakes hands with members of the MES at the ceremony to hand over ASEAN engineering outstanding awards.— MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ceremony to hand over ASEAN engineering outstanding awards to Ministry of Construction

YANGON, 20 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended a ceremony to hand over ASEAN engineering outstanding awards won by the Myanmar Engineering Society to the Ministry of Construction held at the Traders Hotel here this morning. The awards were presented at the 21st Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations.

The ceremony was also attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor and deputy ministers, ambassadors of ASEAN countries to Myanmar, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the managing director of Public Works, and patrons and officials of the MES.

First, MES Chairman Dr Sein Myint made an address. He said that today is auspicious because MES has an opportunity to hand over to Public Works the two ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Awards, which MES received at the 21st

Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations held in Indonesia on 23 last October.

As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar is engaged with numerous tasks of ASEAN in cooperation with other ASEAN member countries. Likewise, Myanmar Engineering Society joined the AFEO in 2000 and is working together with member engi-

neering associations for the development of engineering technology.

Not only did delegates of MES attend the 20th conference of the AFEO held in Cambodia in September 2002 and the 21st conference held in Indonesia in October this year, they also submitted their papers.

At the 20th conference, the Ministry of Agriculture

and Irrigation of Myanmar received an ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Award for its excellent performance in construction of irrigation facilities nationwide.

Also this year, the MES had opportunities to present its strenuous efforts to ensure better transport system and the efficiency of Myanmar women engineers. Therefore, the confer-

ence held this year presented two ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Awards to MES.

Likewise, the MES also won two Energy Saving Awards in 2002 for its skills in construction of the Kambawza Building on Pyay Road and Maha Thanti Thukha Kyaungdawgyi with the assistance of the Ministry of Energy.

It is obvious that the

skills of Myanmar engineers have reached the level recognized by regional countries of the ASEAN. Nowadays, the Government is also giving encouragement to the MES.

And the MES hand in hand with the Government has been undertaking national development tasks. For the development of construction technology and for

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for a documentary photo together with the chairman and members of MES.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 21 November, 2003

USDA, a major force in nation-building work

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is a national organization formed with the purpose of serving the interests of the State and national people. Therefore, the entire mass of new-generation youths who are members of the association are unitedly and enthusiastically lending themselves to national political programmes and development tasks.

In order to forward the interests of the people in accord with the absolute necessity of the State, the seven-point future policy programme has been laid down and is being implemented. Mass rallies in support of and for the successful realization of the policy programme were held in various states and divisions and at the Bagan Archeological Zone.

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is conducting training courses, taking an active part in rural development tasks and carrying out organizational work so as to improve the calibre of its members.

Now is the time when the third 5-year short-term plan is being implemented for the economic development of the State. During the plan period from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006, measures for establishing agro-based industries, developing the electricity and energy sectors needed for the extension of industries and extending the agricultural and meat and fish sectors for domestic consumption as well as for export are being taken.

Implementation of the five rural development tasks is of utmost importance because the majority of the population of Myanmar live in rural areas. Projects for smooth and easy transportation, water supply, promotion of health and education standard and development of agriculture and livestock breeding are included in the five rural development tasks.

The Government is systematically carrying out the national development work for the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation and for creating favourable conditions for new generations. Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association should consider the national development work as a national duty and actively participate in it.

Membership of the association is increasing year by year. The state- and division-level USDAs should strengthen their organizational work and train and nurture the new members in such a way that they can become able and efficient members.

We would like to call upon all the USDA members to actively take part, as a major force, in all the nation-building work while making a constant effort to broaden their horizons.



MEDICAL BOOKS DONATED: Professor U Myo Myint, Rector of Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon) accepts medical books for the Library of the Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon) from Myanmar doctors in Singapore recently. — MNA

Commander and CPT Minister inspects development tasks in Myintkyina

YANGON, 20 Nov — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, together with Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and departmental officials, on 15 November inspected the extended school building of Talawgyi Village, Myitkyina Township, and presented K 50 million as the first instalment.

Next, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented warm clothes for the people in Talawgyi Village and Khaungphu Village.

Afterwards, the commander, the minister and party met with local people, social organizations and townsmen in Hokat Village and discussed regional development tasks. At the meeting, the commander presented K 200,000 for construction of two creek crossing bridges

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 20 Nov — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed U Aye Kyu, Deputy Director-General of the No 2 Basic Education Department (Mandalay) under the Ministry of Education as Director-General of the No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon) of the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

MNA

and attended to the needs for renovation of the village primary school.

Similarly, at the Hsinbo Township, the commander and the minister met with local people and gave instructions on regional development tasks. Next, they presented TVs and warm clothes for local

people through officials. In the evening, the commander went to Dakkhinarama Monastery and made cash donation for the construction of buildings.

On 16 November, the commander inspected departmental offices in the Hsinbo Township.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu-An-Padekaw Road.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of roads and bridges inspected in Rakhine State

YANGON, 20 Nov — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials, inspected the construction work being carried out from Ma-ei bridge to Ma-ei-Padekaw-An road by car on 18 November morning.

After hearing reports by a responsible official, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the road and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected along An-Minbu road.

Responsible officials reported to the minister on work being carried out in respective road sections.

The minister gave necessary instructions.

On 19 November, the minister inspected Patheingyi road. Responsible officials reported to the minister on work done and being carried out on Padan-Mindon road section of the road.

Afterwards, the minister and party arrived at the Shwechaung Bridge construction site.

After hearing reports of responsible officials, the minister gave instructions on construction of reinforced concrete beams and approach road in accord with the requirements.

The minister also inspected the Mindon-Oakshitpin road section of the road and gave necessary instructions. — MNA



An official presents a completion certificate to a trainee.

MNA

Centenary of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javana's birthday held

YANGON, 20 Nov — The centenary of the birthday of Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Javana of Satuditha Maha Wihara (2nd Mile) Wutpaung Monastery in Kehsi Township, Loilem District, Shan State (South) was held at the monastery on 16 November morning.

Present on the occasion were the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha, Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, senior military officers, departmental officials, Chairman of Padanya Naga Co Ltd U Nay Win Tun, wellwishers

and guests.

Members of the Sangha reordained the Sayadaw. The commander, officials and wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaw.

They also presented 101 bronze Buddha images, K 300,000 and offertories to the Sayadaw.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Next, the opening of the 2nd Mile Wutpaung Monastery road constructed with the donation of Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and family was held at the monastery.

The 2,257-foot road was built at a cost of K 2.646 million.

MNA

WTO Valuation Agreement Workshop concludes

YANGON, 20 Nov — WTO Valuation Agreement Workshop for Private Sector No 4 jointly conducted by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Customs Department concluded at the UMFCCI training centre here yesterday.

Present were adviser to the federation U Khin Maung Yi, President U Win Myint, General Secretary U

Sein Win Hlaing and executive committee members, Director-General Col Khin Maung Lin of the Customs Department, and guests. The director-general and the secretary-general made speeches on the occasion. The adviser and officials presented completion certificates to the trainees and gifts to the instructors of the course.

A trainee spoke words of thanks. — MNA

No more Australian troops for Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Nov—Australia has no plans to send more troops to Iraq or Afghanistan, Australia's Defence Minister Robert Hill has said.

Hill said between 850 and 900 Australian troops were working in and around Iraq, and only a few in Afghanistan. "Our contribution is commensurate with our size and responsibility," Hill said at a Pentagon news conference Wednesday with US Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld. "I think we're doing our bit."

Hill, who recently returned from a visit to Iraq, said the US-led coalition needed to stay in Iraq to ensure stability. "I think it's very important to build and maintain a momentum to ensure that the Iraqis maintain their confidence that the benefits that they're seeking can, in fact, be achieved," Hill said.

Internet

Dollar skids on protectionism fears, Iraq

TOKYO, 20 Nov—The dollar slipped on Thursday on worries about lingering violence in Iraq and a US tilt toward protectionism ahead of next year's presidential election.

Against the yen, the greenback got some support from wariness about Japanese intervention. Many dealers attributed the dollar's rapid rise on Wednesday to the Bank of Japan stepping in to sell the yen, although there has been no official confirmation.

Overall, dollar sentiment remained weak after it hit an all-time low against the euro and a three-year low versus the yen earlier on Wednesday on Washington's announcement that it would impose quotas on Chinese textile imports.

That move by the US administration spurred worries that it may be prepared to protect domestic industries and secure job growth at all costs ahead of next year's election. Weakening the dollar is seen as an easy option for achieving those goals.

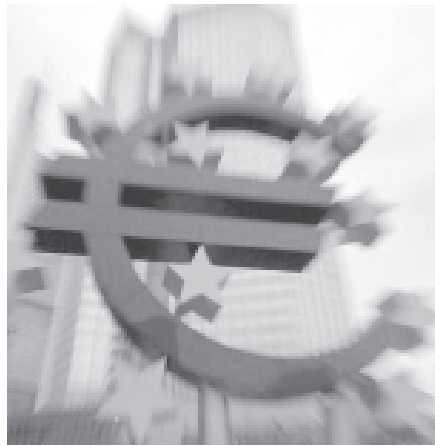
Worries about continuing, or even escalating, violence in Iraq and the Middle East also helped to undermine the greenback. "We think the dollar will continue to fall given the problems in Iraq," said Tohru Sasaki, chief forex strategist at JP Morgan Chase.

As of 9:18 pm EST, the euro was around \$1.1910, up about a quarter percent from its late US levels, although it was off its all-time high of \$1.1978 hit in Asia on Wednesday. The dollar was changing hands around 109.00 yen also down about a quarter percent from its late US levels.

Japanese traders were selling the US currency also because they were counting on the need for Japanese exporters to convert dollars earned overseas into yen.

Still, there was less selling than expected. "I'm left with the impression they are not selling the dollar that aggressively," said a dealer at a Japanese bank. "I think they are scared of intervention. Everyone wants someone else to sell the dollar."

Internet



The Euro sign in front of the headquarters of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany, on 19 November, 2003. Temporarily the Euro hit an all-time high of US\$ 1.1977.—INTERNET

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Russia wants strong UN role in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Nov—Russia made clear Wednesday that any new UN resolution endorsing a hand over of power to an Iraqi transitional government in June should also authorize a strong political role for the United Nations.

Russia also raised the possibility of the United Nations organizing an Afghan-style conference for a broad spectrum of Iraqi groups to choose a provisional National Assembly. The conference should be held in the Middle East, possibly as early as January, officials said.

Russian officials in Moscow and Russian diplomats at the United Nations — clearly unhappy with the way last week's agreement by the US-led coalition and the Iraqi Governing Council for a quicker transfer of power was reached — stressed that the United Nations must be involved to give the process international legitimacy.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov, the country's diplomatic point man on Iraq, strongly criticized the United States for negotiating the new hand over plan in a "secretive" atmosphere.

"In our opinion, if an effort is to be made to settle the problem of Iraq, this must be done collectively," Fedotov said, according to the Interfax news agency. "This is the only way to make the settlement process legitimate."

Russia, Germany and France have been pressing for months for a stronger UN political role in Iraq and Russia's deputy UN ambassador said Moscow wants any resolution endorsing the agreement between the coalition and the Governing Council to authorize a more substantial UN role.—Internet

At least 25 dead, 390 hurt in Istanbul blasts

ISTANBUL, 20 Nov - At least 25 people died and 390 were injured in two huge bomb blasts that targeted British interests in Istanbul today, Anatolia news agency reported, giving a new toll quoting the city's health department.

Diplomats here said at least 10 people died in the British consulate and it was feared that consul-general Roger Short was among them.

In London, a spokeswoman for the banking giant HSBC said there had been "a number of fatalities among HSBC employees" at its offices in Istanbul, but she could not say how many people were dead.

Both attacks are believed to have been carried out by suicide bombers. Witnesses reported seeing a van driving straight at the consulate building before the explosion.

Istanbul is a city in chaos, a correspondent says.

There is collapsed masonry, shattered windows, burned out cars and general scenes of confusion at the two sites. Much of the city's phone network has been cut.

Hospitals are inundated with hundreds of wounded people, traffic is blocking the roads and crisis officials are asking people to leave the centre to clear the way for ambulances.

The 15-storey headquarters of the London-based bank towers over a busy shopping area, which correspondents say would have been crowded when the explosion occurred at 1110 Turkish time (0910GMT).

The consulate bomb occurred two minutes later.

Trading on the Istanbul stock exchange was suspended after the explosions and the Turkish lira dived on foreign exchange markets.—Internet



The HSBC bank building towers over a busy shopping area in Istanbul.—INTERNET

Chinese President appoints new ambassadors

BEIJING, 20 Nov—Chinese President Hu Jintao announced Tuesday the appointment of new ambassadors to Mongolia and nine other countries, in accordance with a decision made by the National Peoples Congress Standing Committee.

Gao Shumao was appointed the new ambassador to Mongolia, replacing Huang Jiakui. Chai Xi was appointed the new ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, replacing Hu Qianwen.

Wu Chunhua replaces Wu Sike as the new ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Qi De'en replaces Shen Jiangkuan as the ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda. Wei

Wenhua is appointed as the new ambassador to the Republic of Mali, replacing Ma Zhixue. Zhao Baozhen, ambassador to the Republic of Ivory Coast, is replaced by Ma Zhixue.

Zhang Deguang, ambassador to the Russian Federation, gave his position to Liu Guchang. Yao Peisheng, the new ambassador to Ukraine, replaces Li Guobang. Gao Yusheng is appointed new ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, replacing Zhang Zhiming. Hu

Shouqin, ambassador to the Republic of Surinam, is replaced by Chen Jinghua.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Pakistani N-power cooperation is for peaceful purpose

BEIJING, 20 Nov— The cooperation in nuclear power generation between China and Pakistan is for peaceful purposes, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here Tuesday at a regular Press conference.

This cooperation is not against international obligations of nuclear non-proliferation and China's exports restrictions, Liu said.

The project was ready to receive the guarantee and supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said. Liu stressed China opposed proliferation of nuclear weapons in any form as a signatory state to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and supported other countries to peacefully use nuclear power under IAEA guarantee and supervision, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

41 die of malaria in Indonesian town

JAKARTA, 20 Nov — Malaria has claimed 41 lives in the past 11 months in Indonesia's West Java town of Sukabumi.

Fatimah Resmiati from the local health office said on Tuesday that the office was trying to stop the spread of the disease, and called on anyone with symptoms of malaria to go to the nearest health post.

"Malaria symptoms include high fever, headache and vomiting for nine to 14 days. The disease can be fatal if treatment comes too late," Fatimah was quoted Wednesday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

Besides the deceased, at least 1,000 other people in the town have also suffered from malaria. Other areas in West Java such as Ciamis, Tasikmalaya and Garut are also prone to the disease.—MNA/Xinhua

Annan says Baghdad not secure enough for UN staff to return

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Nov — United Nations has come under pressure from US, European governments and Iraqi Governing Council to play a major role in Iraq's transition to self-government but Secretary-General Kofi Annan has made it clear that Baghdad was not secure enough for his staff to return.

Annan, who advocates a role independent of US-led coalition but opposes any military or administrative take over as the world body did in East Timor and Kosovo, has taken a cautious approach and asserted that the UN was ready to play its role in Iraq but... "security condition has to be appropriate".

He said he had discussed the new transition plan with US Secretary of State Colin Powell and coalition's deputy administrator Brittan's Jeremy Greenstock and Jalal Talabani, the Kurdish leader who is this month's president of the US-appointed Governing Council.

Talabani, Annan said, expressed the "desire for the UN to play an active role,

providing assistance and advice in implementing the new decisions which have been taken.

"But we are going to study the decision and the plans very carefully and decide what advice we can offer and what role we can play, how and where," the Secretary-General said.

Annan, who held discussions with US Secretary of State Colin Powell over the weekend, told reporters Monday that Powell foresees an important role for UN and "I am sure he will support it". But much depends on the security situation.

"We are monitoring that situation on a daily basis. So if the situation improves we will be ready to go back," he said, adding "we don't need to be in Iraq 100 per cent to do what we can do, or offer our assistance. So we are looking at what we can do outside and cross border and eventually what we can do inside."

Annan also said that he hoped to name the special representative to Iraq in place of Sergio Vieira de Mello who was killed in the August 19 attack on UN headquarters in Baghdad along with 21 others. UN withdrew its staff soon after the incident.

MNA/PTI

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Attackers fire rockets in Kirkuk

KIRKUK (Iraq), 20 Nov — Attackers fired rockets in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Tuesday, probably aiming at an airport used by US forces, but causing little damage and no casualties, police said.

Two rockets landed in open ground near the airport, causing no damage or casualties, Iraqi police major Ayad Fuad said. A third fell on a small farm, causing only broken glass, he said. Residents heard at least two explosions echo across the city at around 5:05 pm (1405 GMT) and saw smoke rise from two locations. The plumes of smoke rose for around five minutes and then began to dissipate.

It was not clear who had fired the rockets. Northern Iraq has been relatively peaceful unlike Baghdad and areas to its north and west which have been the scene of frequent violent attacks against occupying authorities, international organizations and Iraqis cooperating with them. —MNA/Reuters



Two US soldiers watch the area from the top of their headquarters in the Iraqi town of Falluja on 19 November, 2003. US Navy fighter jets flew sorties over northern Iraq from an aircraft carrier in the Gulf Wednesday as American forces pounded suspected guerrilla hideouts with heavy weapons. —INTERNET

Explosions rock Baghdad as US forces strike

BAGHDAD, 20 Nov — A series of heavy explosions shook Baghdad after sunset on Tuesday as US forces stepped up their assault against insurgents in the Iraqi capital.

"These explosions you are hearing are a continuation of the 1st Armoured Division's Operation Iron Hammer," a spokesman for US forces told Reuters, offering no further details.

A rapid series of deep booms shook the southern part of the city in what sounded like tanks or armoured vehicles firing off rounds. Smoke could be seen rising from some buildings.

Explosions have regularly hit Baghdad after dark in recent weeks as anti-American fighters have detonated small bombs and lobbed mortars towards the headquarters of the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority in the heart of the city.

In response, US forces have stepped up

military action in recent days, launching three major operations countrywide aimed at quashing the deepening guerilla insurgency.

Operation Iron Hammer, which is focused on the capital, has involved aerial bombardments of targets on the city outskirts and raids on neighbourhoods believed to harbour insurgents.

Around Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 110 miles north of Baghdad, the 4th Infantry Division has launched Operation Ivy Cyclone and Ivy Cyclone Two, dropping 500-pound bombs on empty buildings, firing satellite-guided missiles and using tanks to attack suspected insurgent training camps.

MNA/Reuters

Iran, Iraq ink letter of understanding to boost cooperation

TEHERAN, 20 Nov — Iran and Iraq have signed a letter of understanding to boost economic cooperation between the two countries, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

The letter of understanding was signed Tuesday night by Iranian Minister of Commerce Mohammad Shariatmadari and visiting Iraqi Minister of Trade Ali Alawi, the report said.

Iranian and Iraqi tradespeople and businessmen have been in good and close cooperation, both officially and non-officially, since the beginning of work of Iraq's Interim Government, the report quoted Shariatmadari as saying. For his part, Alawi said the priorities of the Iraqi interim Government are establishing good relations with neighbouring countries. —MNA/Xinhua

Tabloid reporter exposes flaws in Buckingham Palace security

LONDON, 20 Nov — A tabloid reporter posed undercover for two months as a footman at Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace, where visiting US President George W Bush is staying for his three-day visit to Britain, the *Daily Mirror* reported Wednesday.

Ryan Parry, an employee of the *Daily Mirror*, succeeded in being employed by the palace by using a false reference two months ago and was still at work at the palace upon the arrival of Bush.

Under headlines such as "A right Royal fiasco" and "I could have poisoned the Queen", Parry claimed he had access to private suites and could have assassinated the Queen or the American president. —MNA/Xinhua

Expressway through mountainous N-W China opens to traffic

XI'AN, 20 Nov — An expressway through the mountainous hinterland of northwest China's Shaanxi Province opened to traffic Tuesday.

The 2.4 billion yuan (about 0.29 billion US dollars), 54.86 kilometres highway extends from the foot of the Qinling Mountains to the middle of the Daba Mountains, an area considered to be an insurmountable barrier in west China.

"As the expressway cuts through the mountainous area, we met great difficulties caused by atrocious weather and bad geological conditions," said an official with the Shaanxi Bureau of Highways.

MNA/Xinhua

India presents rare Buddhist manuscripts to Chinese temple

BEIJING, 20 Nov — India has presented rare Buddhist scriptures, the Tripataka set in Pali language, to the famous Jade Buddha temple in east China's Shanghai City, fulfilling a commitment to enhance bilateral cultural exchanges with China.

On behalf of External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha, Indian Ambassador to China Nalin Surie presented the Tripataka set to the Chief Abbot of the temple recently, official sources said here.

The set comprises 140 volumes and the presentation was made in response to a "felt need" of the library of the temple, the sources said.

The Tripataka set forms the basis of the Theravada of Buddhist teachings and embodies the original thoughts of Buddha and his earliest disciples.

MNA/PTI

World heritage photo exhibition opens in Beijing

BEIJING, 20 Nov — A photo exhibition capturing the diversity of world heritage, by Zhou Jiansheng, a Chinese photographer residing in Japan, opens here Tuesday to mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between China and Japan.

The five-day exhibition, sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, will showcase 80 photographs documenting cultural and natural heritage in 67 countries and regions.

Zhou, now a special photographer with the Pacific Press Service (PPS) in Japan, began his ambitious world tour in 1994, a programme to take photographs of world cultural and natural heritage. In eight years, he tackled incredible difficulties and

travelled in 77 countries and regions unsupported. He shot some of the most renowned cultural and natural heritage, from the Arctic Circle to the Cape of Good Hope, during the trip.

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the normalization of the relations between China and Japan, Zhou launched his World Heritage Photo Exhibition in Tokyo last year.

MNA/Xinhua



Baywatch' star Brande Roderick distributes promotional pamphlets for the Bollywood movie 'Out of Control' to members of the public at a cinema theatre in Mumbai, India, on 19 November, 2003. Roderick stars in this Bollywood film, which is due to open on 21 Nov. —INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Azerbaijani soldiers, part of the coalition forces in Iraq, take up position outside the hydro-electric power station in Haditha, 200 km (136 miles), northwest of Baghdad, on Wednesday, 19 November, 2003.—INTERNET



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the 22nd Regiment of the fourth Infantry Division of the US Army carry shovels past a cache of confiscated SA-7 surface to air missile launchers during a search operation for arms and ammunitions at an orchard on the outskirts of Tikrit.—INTERNET



Sixteen years old Omar Mahmoud lies severely wounded in Samara hospital on Wednesday, 19 November 2003. According to hospital staff, Mahmoud was wounded in US bombing Tuesday night. In recent days, US forces have used heavy artillery, battle tanks, attack helicopters, F-16 fighter-bombers and AC-130 gunships to pound targets throughout central Iraq.—INTERNET



A file photo shows US forces watching Iraqi soldiers enter a house during operation "Iron Hammer" in the Abu Ghraib neighbourhood near Baghdad on Monday.—INTERNET



A British soldier guards a car damaged after a roadside explosive device went off in Basra, some 550 kilometres (300 miles) south of Baghdad on Wednesday 19 November, 2003.—INTERNET



Iraqi children stand outside as soldiers of the 1st Armoured Division, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, search their home in Baghdad's Sunni Muslim neighbourhood of Azamiyah, on Monday, 17 November, 2003. Troops backed by armoured vehicles and helicopters searched a number of houses.
INTERNET

Emotional US officer admits wrongdoing in Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq), 20 Nov — A senior US Army officer told a military hearing in Iraq on Wednesday he was wrong to fire his pistol near a detained Iraqi's head but vowed he would sacrifice his life to protect his men.

His voice breaking with emotion, Lieutenant-Colonel Allen West of the 4th Infantry Division said he had told the families of the men and women in his battalion before leaving for Iraq that he would bring them home alive.

West said he believed the detained Iraqi, a policeman called Yahya Jhodri Hamoody, had information about plots to attack American troops when he was brought in for questioning at Taji, just north of Baghdad, around August 20.

Other officers testifying in the preliminary hearing at a base in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit have said the plots included an imminent plan to kill West, the most senior soldier charged with assaulting Iraqis since the invasion last March.

The military has charged West with beating up Hamoody, firing a pistol near his head

and threatening to kill him.

"I know the method I used was not the right method... I was going to do anything to intimidate and scare him, but I was not going to endanger his life," West told the hearing.

West said he watched his men beat Hamoody without intervening. He said he then went outside and fired a warning shot into the air. Still unable to get information, West said Hamoody was forced over a sand-box which soldiers use to clear weapons.

"I placed my left hand against the side of his head and fired away from him," West said.

Hamoody then told of plans to set up a sniper position near a police station that West's soldiers visited, West said.

Asked by his defence lawyer if he would use such tactics to obtain information again, West, dressed in combat fatigues and wiping tears from his eyes, said: — MNA/Reuters

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An anti-war protester holds up a plastic rocket during a demonstration in London to coincide with the visit of US President George W Bush, as the Millennium Wheel can be seen in the distance, on 19 November, 2003. — INTERNET

Russia criticizes US over Iraq transition plan

MOSCOW, 20 Nov — Russia criticized the United States on Wednesday for not consulting other countries before making plans to set up a transitional government in Iraq in June — plans Washington wants endorsed by the UN Security Council.

Interfax news agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov as accusing the United States of breaking a pledge to allow "maximum transparency" and take into account the opinions of Security Council members, Iraq's neighbours and other nations. The transition agreement between Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council and US administrator Paul Bremer "was signed privately and practically without considering the point of view of the international community or neighbouring countries or the UN Security Council", he was quoted as saying.

"In our view, if effort is to be made to settle the problem of Iraq, it should be done collectively. Only this approach can give the settlement process the necessary legitimacy both in internal terms and from the point of view of International Law."

The Governing Council announced on Saturday that a new transitional government was to take over at the end of June 2004. "Why did they choose the date of June 30? What was their motive?" asked Fedotov. "It is not quite clear. The whole process of discussing and preparing this agreement was, let's say, in a closed regime without consultations." — MNA/Reuters

UN ready to hand over Iraqi oil-for-food programme

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Nov — UN officials told the Security Council on Wednesday that all was in place for the oil for food programme for Iraq to be turned over to the US-led administration in Baghdad at midnight on Friday, as Washington insisted six months ago.

The programme, the world body's largest humanitarian programme, was launched in 1996 to sell Iraqi oil and use the proceeds to buy food, medicine and other civilian goods, in order to blunt the impact on ordinary Iraqis of UN sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

Between December 1996 and the mid-March US-led invasion of Iraq, the programme exported 65 billion US dollars of Iraqi oil and purchased 48 billion US dollars of commercial goods for the civilian population, said Benon Sevan, head of the UN Iraq programme. The rest of the money went to pay for UN weapons inspections, reparations dating from the first Gulf War and administrative costs.

Earlier this week, UN Ambassador Steven Mann said the Coalition Provisional Authority now running Iraq was ready to take over distributing food to millions of needy Iraqis when the UN programme expired, using the systems already in place.

But the CPA's longer-term goal was to turn responsibility for food distribution over to an Iraqi provisional government when one takes power in June 2004, Mann said. Despite the programme's shortcomings and the rigor of the sanctions regime, "we did manage to make a big impact in the daily lives of the Iraqi people," Sevan said. "Nobody has been able to point a finger about any corruption, with all that money involved. I am really truly proud of that."

All funds left in the UN account after the programme is shut down are eventually to be transferred to the CPA-

managed Development Fund for Iraq. While 3 billion US dollars had already been shifted to the CPA fund as of Tuesday, some 1.6 billion US dollars more in uncommitted funds remained in the UN account, Sevan said. "The entire Council was pleased with the manner in which arrangements have been made for the handing over of the programme and the winding up of the programme, as well," said Angolan Ambassador Ismael Abraao Gaspar Martins, the Security Council president for November. — MNA/Reuters

Ivanov says no grounds for Iran sanctions

MOSCOW, 20 Nov — Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said on Wednesday he saw no grounds for imposing sanctions on Iran for its past failure to report the extent of its nuclear activities.

France, Britain and Germany have circulated a draft resolution to the International Atomic Energy Agency criticizing Iran's concealment over 18 years of its nuclear programme. The head of the IAEA was quoted by diplomats as saying that the resolution, to be discussed on Thursday, was too weak. "I see no grounds for imposing sanctions against Iran," Ivanov told CNN television in an interview also posted on the Russian Foreign Ministry's Web site. "On the contrary, if it carries out its obligations to the IAEA, the world community, on the basis of international agreements, is obliged to assist Iran in developing its nuclear programme for peaceful aims." — MNA/Reuters

G-8 Counter-Terrorism Action Group meets in Paris

PARIS, 20 Nov — The Counter-Terrorism Action Group created at the Group of Eight (G-8) summit in Evian in June met for the second time in Paris on Tuesday, the French Foreign Ministry announced.

The meeting was focused on the needs of southeastern Asian countries and assistance to the fight against the

financing of terrorism, said a spokesman of the French ministry.

The objective of the meeting is to make sure that the international aid in anti-terrorism be spent "in a selective and efficient way in the countries that need it most", said the spokesman, without giving details.

At their annual summit

in the French spa town of Evian in early June, G-8 leaders, from the world's seven most industrialized nations plus Russia, announced the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Action Group, designed to provide resources and intelligence to countries needing it most. — MNA/Xinhua

China firmly opposes US quota on textile products

BEIJING, 20 Nov — China is deeply regretful over and firmly opposes the US decision to impose quotas on three types of textile products it imports from China, a spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce said here Wednesday.

The US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) decided Monday to request negotiations on imports from China of knit fabrics, bras, and dressing gowns and robes. The US Administration announced the decision Tuesday. Requesting negotiations meant imposing limits on imports of the products, trade experts say.

Ministry of Commerce spokesman Chong Quan said the Chinese Government and textile industry had pointed out many times that the US textile industry had failed to prove in its application for restriction that the reduction of US textile products was the result of imports from China. This did not conform to the CITA's procedure on special safeguards against Chinese textile products and garments, and the pledges

contained in the working group report on China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

"The US Administration's decision to request negotiations regardless of China's strong opposition runs against WTO principles on free trade, transparency and non-discrimination," Chong said. "As a WTO member, China reserves the right to lodge lawsuits with relevant organizations of the WTO to safeguard the interests of Chinese industries."

China-US trade and economic relations had grown strongly over the years with joint efforts, said Chong. Over the past two years, US exports of raw textile materials and finished products to China increased rapidly, and the prospects for further exports to China looked good. — MNA/Xinhua



A woman holding a US flag takes part in a protest against US President George W Bush near Buckingham Palace, London, on 19 November, 2003.

INTERNET

Prioritizing the national interest always

Sein Shwe Hlaing

The Union Solidarity and Development Association came into existence on 15 September 1993. The USDA was formed with the aim of realizing our three main national causes and defending the State. The USDA also represents the majority of youth and places emphasis on the members' spiritual development.

Members of the USDA are also making efforts to let the nationalistic spirit, patriotism and Union Spirit get rooted firmly in the minds of the people and organizing them with correct outlook and realistic work programmes.

Moreover, they also play their parts actively in the tasks for national development, peace and stability process and social activities hand in hand with the people. Patron of the USDA and Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the fourth day of the USDA Annual General Meeting 2002, saying that "since its formation and till now, the USDA has preserved its fine traditions, dutifully carrying out the tasks of training and nurturing the new generation youths to become qualified citizens and a patriotic force, fully endowed with Union Spirit, and defending and safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the nation and protecting the Union from breaking up".

Therefore, members of the USDA are doing their every bit energetically for the perpetuation and development of the Union by helping maintain peace and stability with the sense of Union Spirit.

Development programmes are being implemented with added momentum in remote areas as well as border areas all over the nation. In doing so, USDA members are also enthusiastically lending themselves to the rural development tasks — better transport, supply of water, promotion of education and health, and enhancement of agriculture and livestock breeding sector, major economy of rural areas.

Members of the USDA, under the leadership of the Government, join hands with the people of national races to carry out these tasks with their perseverance, industry and diligence. As a result, the State is now undergoing prosperity with sound infrastructure. The people of national races and members of the USDA are making concerted efforts to preserve these achievements.

Members of the USDA, keeping in the fore our three main national causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and per-

petuation of sovereignty, are implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives as the policy of the association so as to create a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The stability of the State, the stronger economy of the State and national races and the advancement of national education are king pins in establishing a discipline-flourishing democracy. This being so, the USDA plays its part actively in the accomplishment of the requirements.

The seven-point roadmap of the State has now been laid down.

1. Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.
2. After the successful holding of the National Convention, step-by-step implementation of the process, necessary for the emergence of the genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system.
3. Drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the national convention.
4. Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.
5. Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.
6. Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution.
7. Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the State's leaders elected by the Hluttaw; and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

It is therefore incumbent upon the entire national races to actively take part with full sense of Union Spirit in any sectors to successfully implement the seven-point roadmap of the State.

USDAs at different levels are striving for increasing the awareness of national security involving the entire national people. At the same time, the association hand in hand with the entire national people always plays an active part in the nation-building tasks on the basis of the love of the Union and of nationalism, and willingness to sacrifice their lives to defend the sovereignty of the State while serving the national interest keeping it in the fore for ever.

Translation: KTY

US claims China clothing quotas aimed at protecting US firms

LONDON, 20 Nov — The United States promised a continued commitment to free trade Wednesday although it imposed new quotas on Chinese clothing, by which it claims to help the American firms to adjust to rising imports.

National Security Council Spokesman Sean McCormack, who is accompanying US President George W Bush on a state visit to Britain, told reporters in London that the US "Administration is committed to free trade and fully enforcing our trade laws."

He said the US Government approved an industry request for protection, "consistent with our commitment to ensure that US companies have time to adjust to market disruptions caused by rising imports".

The Bush Administration said on Tuesday it would slap import quotas on Chinese knit fabrics, bras and robes, signalling a new line of attack against the world's fifth-largest trading nation.

Some US officials have blamed job losses on the rapid rise of Chinese textile imports.

"The Chinese Government expresses deep regret and firmly opposes this decision," Chinese Commerce Ministry Spokesman Chong Quan said in a statement.

It "runs against WTO principles on free trade, transparency and non-discrimination", Chong said, adding that China might take the dispute to the World Trade Organization.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela's free trade negotiation with US not priority

CARACAS, 20 Nov — Venezuela Production and Trade Minister Wilmar Castro said on Tuesday "it is not a priority" for Venezuela to hold trade negotiations with the United States at present. This came as a response to a statement made on Tuesday in Miami by US Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick, on negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with the countries of the Andean Community (Ancom), except Venezuela. Ancom groups Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru.

Castro said Venezuela could be at a disadvantage at the moment to negotiate an FTA with "such a big country as the United States".

"He added that once Venezuela advances in its accords with South Ameri-

can countries, conditions would exist to "negotiate with a little bit more strength", because at present, "the rules of the game are imposed by the United States".—MNA/Xinhua

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 appeared

နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တောဝှမ်းဖြင့်

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INTERNATIONAL FAIR 2003

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Organized by

MYANMAR ASEAN WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (MAWFA)

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ကြီးမားသောနေ့

22-11-2003 10:00 a.m to 16:00 p.m Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ceremony to hand over ASEAN engineering outstanding awards of Myanmar Engineering Society to the Ministry of Construction. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt ...

(from page 1)

the emergence of high-rise housing projects, MES has now been a member of the supervisory committee. Moreover, the seismological engineering committee was also set up for development of seismological technologies and for emergence of earthquake-proof buildings.

Myanmar will host the 22nd conference in 2004, and the chairman of MES took over the presidency of the AFEO at the last conference. Arrangements are under way to make the conference a grand one, he concluded.

Next, Dr Sein Myint handed over the awards to Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Managing Director of Public Works U Nay Soe Naing.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party posed for a group photo together with the chairman of MEA and executives.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen

Myint Thein spoke words of thanks. He said only five awards were presented at the 21st Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization and he took pride in winning the two awards out of five by the Ministry of Construction of Myanmar. Next, he thanked Myanmar Engineering Society that presented the efforts of the ministry that had relentlessly constructed transport infrastructures essential for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation. He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that roads and bridges are the strength of the nation at the conclusion ceremony of the International and Myanmar Affairs Course No 3 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association on 29.8.2001. Total length of roads in the country, which stood at 13,635 miles in 1988, increased to 18,112 miles, up 4,477 miles of new roads. A

total of 164 bridges, each of which is 180-foot long and above, had been constructed all over the country including 37 bridges of 1,000-foot and above in length. Another 31 bridges were under construction, he said. The bridges were constructed on a self-reliant basis. In conclusion, he pledged to serve the interest of the nation.

Afterwards, wellwishers donated a total of K 86.6 million to the MES. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and the ministers accepted the cash donation and presented certificates of honour.

Next, General Secretary of the MES U Than Myint reported on the 22nd conference of AFEO to be hosted by Myanmar in 2004.

After the ceremony, dinner was hosted in honour of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, and guests.

MNA



Dr Sein Myint hands over ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Award to Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein. — MNA

SWEL course at MICT Park

YANGON, 20 Nov — Software e-learning Blending Course (SWEL) will be conducted jointly by Myanmar Computer Federation and Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship at the e-learning centre in MICT Park, Hline Township. Interested persons are to attend 3 hours' Software Content course a day totalling 60 hours from 15 December

2003 to 16 January 2004 at the e-learning centre and attend the class work course from 19 January to 14 February 2004.

Any interested graduate or those who has 2 years' experience in IT can apply for the course before 5 December 2003. For further information, contact MCF (Phone: 707503).

MNA

Blood donated at DSGH

YANGON, 20 Nov — The 70 members of Mibagonyi Blood Donation Association in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division, this

morning collectively donated blood at the Defence Services General Hospital. The donation was the 294th time of the association. MNA

Earthquake report

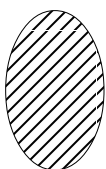
YANGON, 20 Nov — An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about 317 miles

Southwest of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (20 hrs (36) min (36) sec M.S.T on 20 November 2003. — MNA



Secretary-2
Lt-Gen Thein
Sein accepts
cash dona-
tions from
wellwishers.

MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects...

(from page 16)

measures for ensuring smooth transportation and local rice sufficiency, extended cultivation of opium substitute crops, application of modern cultivation methods and participation of the local people in the realization of five rural development tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the honey-orange plantation of Monghsat Station. After hearing reports of the responsible officials, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instruction on minimizing loss and waste and extended cultivation. Later, he inspected round the plantation. Lt-Gen

Aung Htwe also visited the honey-orange plantation of U Khahtiya and inspected round the plantation.

On 18 November, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe left Monghsat and arrived at Tachilek in the afternoon. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected Wanpon jetty and the border post between Myanmar, Thailand and Laos and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Malaysian guests call on Commerce Minister

YANGON, 20 Nov — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received Advisor to Chief Executive Officer of Bernas Co of Malaysia Dr Larry Wong Chee Yoong and

party at his office here at 5 am today.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt

Aye, Director-General of the Border Trade Department U Nay Win, Managing Director of the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Min Hla Aung and officials.

MNA

Volleyball tournament for disabled held

YANGON, 20 Nov — The volleyball tournament of the 15th National Sports Competitions for the disabled 2003 was held this morning at Aung San Gymnasium here.

After the competitions, Chairman of the Myanmar Sports Federation for the

Disabled Maj-Gen Aung Thein awarded the Ayeyawady Division team which stood first. Ministry of Defence team (A), Commerce and Mines team and Ministry of Defence team (B) stood second, third and fourth respectively.

MNA

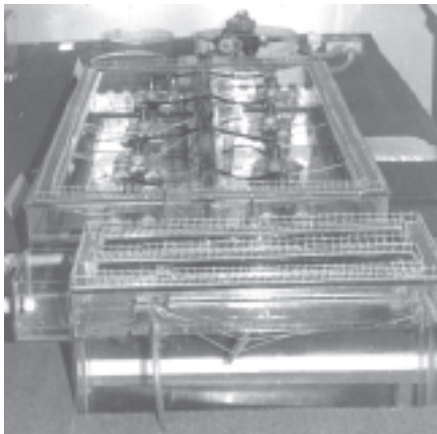
Water Treatment Plant construction project

Article by Kyaw Sein, photos by Aung Moe (Kyemon)

Efforts are being made for upgrading the Yangon City into a city of international level. In the process, the Water Treatment Plant construction project that is being implemented by the Yangon City Development Committee is included.

The Kyemon newsmen visited the Water Treatment Plant construction project being implemented at Thanlyetsun in Botahtaung Township. At the project office, the Kyemon newsmen interviewed Assistant Head U Tin Ngwe of Environmental Conservation Department of YCDC.

The sewage system of Yangon City was constructed in 1885 with the use of a compressor. The compressor pumped sewage and blew it into the Yangon River. The compressor was built in the time of the British government. In the past, it



Scale model of Water Treatment Plant

was able to work round-the-clock, but with a decline in its capability it could now work only for seven hours a day.

As the system was dumping sewage through systematic underground pipe-lines with the compressor, it could be carried out only in Yangon. Although it has been too costly, YCDC

have to use it for years.

To avoid being rusted, only durable pipes are used, costing YCDC too much. Therefore, the system cannot be carried out in other cities except Yangon.

Under the new water treatment plant project, sewage blown out by the compressor will be sent to the water

treatment plant. And The sewage is to be stored in tanks and blown into the Yangon River.

Some materials required for the project will be imported. Thus, the government will have to pay for the use of foreign currency while the People's Housing have to pay for the use of local cur-

rency. The YCDC undertakes the construction work, and foreign technicians are also involved.

The project which is scheduled to be completed in April 2004 is being implemented by Head of Environmental Conservation Department of YCDC U Tun Than Tun and other techni-

cians, applying advanced technology.

On completion, there will be no blockage in sewage system, thereby contributing much to modernization, cleanliness and development of Yangon City.

Translation: TS
(Kyemon: 15-11-2003)



Building for Water Treatment Plant being constructed in Botahtaung Township.

Methanol and health hazards

Dr Phone Myint

Chemicals are widely used in various regions of Myanmar. There are different kinds of chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers used in agriculture, industrial chemicals and consumer chemicals. They are so useful to man that they are necessary in everyday use. Used carelessly, however, they can cause poisoning. In the hospitals across Myanmar, there are many cases of poisoning that are due to various chemicals used in foods, pesticides and medicines.

It is found that some of the patients receiving treatment at hospitals are involved in methanol poisoning. Methanol poisoning can result in blindness and even loss of life. Therefore, it is necessary for people to know about methanol and health hazards caused by it.

Methanol is one of the consumer chemicals. It is a component in water used in radiators of cars in very cold regions, liquid to clean windscreens, diesel and petrol. It is also used as

fuel in small car engines and stoves. Moreover, it is included as an ingredient in ink, dyes, paints, glues and adhesives, thinner and breaching powder. It is also widely used in producing formaldehyde, acetic acid and spirit.

Drinking to excess is harmful to one's health and social and economic affairs. If one has an alcoholic drink containing methanol, one is likely to suffer such health hazards as blindness and even death. Children, in

particular, are more vulnerable. Should methanol be placed within the reach of children and they accidentally drink it, they would surely die.

Alcohol with a little percentage of methanol can be harmful to health. Those who have drunk methanol, also called methyl alcohol, are liable to dizziness, vomiting and bowel disorder. Moreover, they will not be able to see well and can even experience total blindness. Moreover, the death

rate from methanol poisoning is on the increase.

It is learnt that occurrences of methanol poisoning are largely due to distillers producing alcoholic drinks with the use of methanol, retailers or wholesalers who sell alcoholic drinks mixed with methanol and those who drink alcohol mixed with methanol.

To prevent occurrences of methanol poisoning, it is necessary for methanol producers, retailers and wholesalers of alcohol

drinks and those who drink to realize the grave consequences of methanol poisoning. Only then can the occurrences of methanol poisoning be prevented.

Distillers as well as retailers and wholesalers are not to use methanol, on any account, in producing and selling alcoholic drinks. If they do, they should know well that action will be taken against them according to the existing law.

Translation: NN

China planning to boost digital cable TV service

QINGDAO, 20 Nov — China will push the development of digital cable TV this year in a move to realize the digitization of China's radio and TV service.

Zhang Haitao, deputy director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), made this statement Tuesday in Qingdao, a seaside city of east China's Shandong Province.

"Programme preparation, sending and transmission in most radio and TV stations in China have been digitized. But as most families still use analogue TV sets, the digitization of programme reception is still a problem and considered to be an obstacle to the entire digitization of China's radio and TV service," said Zhang.

According to Zhang, a three-step strategy by SARFT for the digitization of China's TV and radio service began this year. In the first step, China would make great efforts to develop digital cable TV in 2003.

The second step will begin in 2005 when live digital TV transmission service through satellites and the experiment of land-based digital TV will be carried out. It is estimated

that by then China's digital cable TV users will be up to 30 million.

In 2008, as the last step of the strategy, China will take advantage of the opportunity to transmit the 2008 Olympic Games to be held in Beijing to spread land-based digital TVs and high definition televisions.

When the three steps are completed, China's digital radio and TV service will cover the whole country in wire, satellite or wireless ways.

The transition to digital cable TV will be carried out in eastern, central and western China in turn and in four stages divided by the years of 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2015. And in 2015, all analogue transmissions will be ended in China.

A digital cable TV network is being constructed in six provinces including 40 cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Qingdao.

"Users of digital cable TV can select programmes," said Zhang. So far, 27 pay digital TV channels and seven pay digital radio channels have been authorized by SARFT in China. — MNA/Xinhua

Police seize 42.8 kilos of heroin in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 20 Nov — Turkish police seized 42.8 kilos of heroin in the eastern part of the country on Tuesday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Acting on a tip-off, the police found 42.8 kilos of heroin in a car in Van Province of eastern Turkey.

Four people in connection with suspected drug smuggling were detained, said the report.

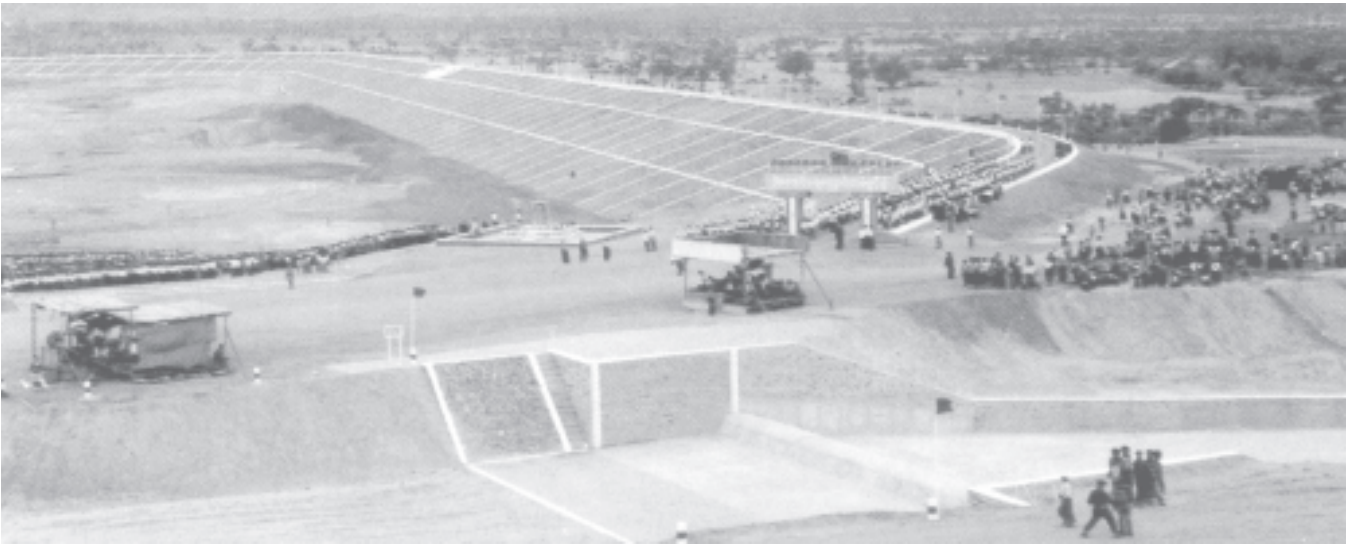
In another operation, the police seized 16.4 kilos of hashish buried in two sacks in a field in Baskale Town of Van Province. Because of its geographical position, Turkey plays a central role in the drug trade destined for Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

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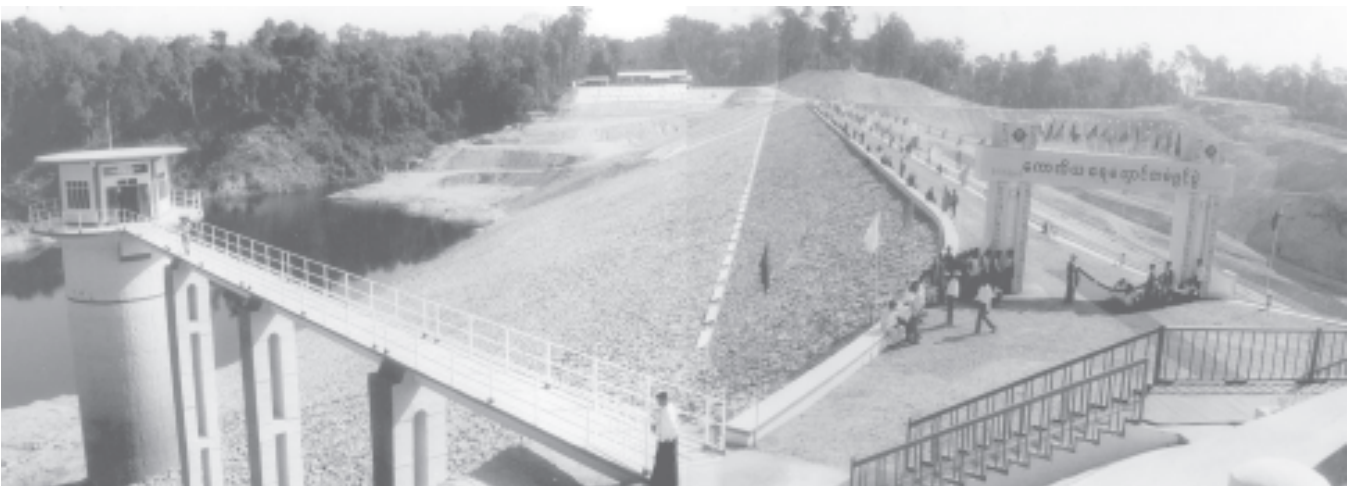
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country



The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is building irrigation facilities throughout the country. The photo shows Welaung Dam in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division. The dam was inaugurated on 13 July 1998.— PHOTO: MNA



Water is essential not only for agricultural purpose but also for household use. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is taking responsibilities for building dams and reservoirs in the country. The 132 feet high and 3,044 feet long Minhla Dam in Okpo Township will irrigate 5260 acres of farmland in Okpo Township and 9740 acres of cropland in Minhla Township.— PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar being an agro-based country, agricultural development contributes to progress of economic life of the State and enhances socio-economic life of rural people, the majority of the population of the country. That is why the government is building dams and reservoirs, the basic requirement of agriculture. Kawliya Dam, 130 feet high and 900 feet long, which was opened on 22 March 2003 in DaikU Township, Bago Division, can irrigate 24,500 acres of farmland. — PHOTO: MNA

Three killed as boat capsizes in north India

NEW DELHI, 20 Nov—Three people, including an Army man, were killed Tuesday when a boat carrying them capsized in the waters of Sharda Sagar dam in Uttarakhand, North India, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported. Local police sources were quoted as saying that the three had gone to the area for fishing when the accident occurred. All of them died on the spot, the sources said. Two bodies including that of the Army man have been recovered so far and efforts were on to fish out the other body, they said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

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Boca TV to air next month

BUENOS AIRES, 20 Nov— Boca Juniors has scheduled to begin broadcasting in December with its own television channel, said the club on Monday.

The pay channel, called "Boca TV", will cover the area of Latin America and will air reports on the team, interviews with players and some live matches of its lower division teams, as well as programmes on Boca's basketball and volleyball teams.

MNA/Xinhua



Champion chess player Gary Kasparov listens to questions during a press conference following the fourth and final virtual reality match against the computer X3D Fritz in New York, on 18 November, 2003. In the live broadcast event called 'Man vs Machine,' Kasparov obtained a tie to win the trophy, splitting a four game match 2-2 on the final day of play.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Kasparov and computer end 3-D chess series in tie

NEW YORK, 20 Nov — World No 1 chess player Garry Kasparov's latest attempt to conquer a computer programme ended in a tie on Tuesday when he drew the fourth and final game of his match against "X3D Fritz", which had voice-recognition and virtual reality features.

Kasparov, 40, said after the week-long match at the New York Athletic Club that computer programmes were stronger now than the IBM supercomputer Deep Blue he took on in 1996 and 1997, the benchmark for man vs machine contests.

"Machines are getting better, but we humans are also

learning," said Kasparov, considered by chess experts to be the best player in the history of the ancient game. "Today, I know much more about computers than six years ago."

The grandmaster and the computer's programmers agreed to a draw in Tuesday's fourth game after about 90 minutes and just 27 moves,

the shortest game of the series that began with a November 11 draw. X3D Fritz won the second game last Thursday when Kasparov blundered. The grandmaster won comfortably on Sunday. In chess, one point is awarded for a win and a half point for a draw. The match ended in a 2-2 tie.

MNA/Reuters

Women players Svensson, Ljungberg turn down Perugia

STOCKHOLM, 20 Nov — Sweden strikers Hanna Ljungberg and Victoria Svensson have turned down the opportunity to become the first women to play in Serie A, Swedish media reported on Tuesday.

Perugia president Luciano Gaucci had been hoping to complete a female signing during January's transfer window but his efforts have so far been in vain.

"I find it difficult to see what I am to do in a men's team," Svensson was quoted as saying in the Swedish daily *Aftonbladet*.

Gaucci was disappointed with the pair's decision. "They should have said no straight away if they didn't want to come," said the controversial Gaucci, who made headlines in June when he signed Al-Saadi Kadaffi, son of Libyan leader Moammar Kadaffi.

"They've made us lose three months of precious time.

"We will bring another foreign woman over here. There are many that would feel proud to play here."

Ljungberg, who was in the Swedish team that finished runner-up in the women's World Cup last month, added: "I have always said this was not something for me.

"And it wasn't until last week that they made a concrete offer."

Ljungberg and Svensson both play in the women's First Division in Sweden, for Umea and Djurgarden/Alvsjo respectively.

Perugia have made a name for themselves as a springboard for young talent and finished 10th in Serie A last season. — MNA/Reuters



Chunhong Liu, of China, lets out a yell as she successfully lifts 150.0 kg (330 lbs) in the clean and jerk lift for a new world record in the women's 69 kg weight class at the World Weightlifting Championships on 19 November, 2003 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Liu set a total of 10 world records in the session.—INTERNET

Tropical storm Nepartak passes by Hainan

HAIKOU, 20 Nov — Tropical storm Nepartak passed by south China's island province of Hainan Tuesday morning and is moving toward Guangdong Province.

Hainan provincial meteorological observatory said the storm, which formed into a typhoon Sunday night, may land in coastal areas in Guangdong or Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Wednesday.

The eye of Nepartak was monitored less than 20 kilometres south of Dongfang City in Hainan Tuesday noon, according to the observatory.

Affected by Nepartak, torrential rains with strong wind hit most of Hainan in the daytime.

Nepartak, the 20th typhoon this year, shaped in the western Pacific Ocean on November 13.

MNA/Xinhua

GENERAL INTEREST

Gates Foundation gives grant to UN fight against MNT

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Nov — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has received 10 million US dollars in grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT), the UN agency said in a Press release Tuesday.

The agency said that at a cost of just 1.2 US dollars per woman, UNICEF can eliminate these needless deaths with a safe and effective vaccine that has been available in the developed world for more than 70 years.

The agency called the gift, an extension of 26 million US dollars given in 1999, a challenge grant to encourage other donors and foundations to contribute.

In order to achieve elimination of MNT worldwide by 2005, UNICEF needs to raise an additional 147 million US dollars. An estimated 207 million women still need to be immunized.

The MNT kills an estimated 230,000 mothers and babies annually in the poorest and most remote areas of the world.

MNT strikes when tetanus spores, found in soil everywhere, come into contact with open cuts during childbirth in unsanitary conditions. Within days, tetanus spreads throughout the body, causing spasms, paralyzing stiffness and arching of the spine. Eighty per cent of newborns and mothers who develop the disease die from it.

The vaccine protects mothers for up to 10 years and their newborn babies for the critical first few months of life. — MNA/Xinhua

China upgrades DVD to evade huge licensing fee

BEIJING, 20 Nov — The China digital disk technologies community announced here Tuesday that it will promote an upgraded consumer electronic product, in place of DVD, in the coming golden sales season.

A spokesman for the community said it was hoped the new audio and video device, EVD or enhanced versatile disk, would attack the market share of DVD, or digital video disc.

Funded by the government, major Chinese manufacturers initiated research to develop EVD in 1999.

Beijing E-world Technology Co., Ltd., a

window company of the community, said that it has already overcome all difficulties from primary development, chip designing and industrialization.

The community applied 25 patents for the EVD technologies, with seven being granted patents. Some 40 more patent applications are also in the pipeline. — MNA/Xinhua

US starts trial of Ebola vaccine

WASHINGTON, 20 Nov — US researchers said on Tuesday they were starting testing on the first experimental vaccine against the Ebola virus in people.

The virus, which kills anywhere between 50 and 90 per cent of victims, is still rare but the most recent outbreak in Congo Republic has killed at least 11 people in a remote forest region.

It is considered a threat because it is deadly, highly infectious and has no treatment. US experts fear it could also be used as a biological weapon.

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases will test the vaccine for safety in about two dozen volunteers.

The vaccine, made by San Diego-based Vical Inc., has so far fully protected monkeys from the virus. It uses pieces of DNA from the virus to prime the immune system.

"Our accelerated effort to understand and combat Ebola infection is part of the NIAID commitment to its biodefence mission," NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci said in a

statement.

"An effective Ebola vaccine not only would provide a life-saving advance in countries where the disease occurs naturally, it also would provide a medical tool to discourage the use of Ebola virus as an agent of bioterrorism."

The World Health Organization has been called in to help with the most recent Congo outbreak of Ebola, which kills through shock and which can cause internal bleeding.

The virus is named after a river in the Democratic Republic of Congo where it was discovered in 1976. The worst outbreak was in that country in 1995 when more than 250 died.

"The current Ebola outbreak in the Congo provides a stark reminder of the need to rapidly develop vaccines against such perilous infections," NIAID vaccine chief Dr. Gary Nabel said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Dortmund considering legal action against Amoroso

BERLIN, 20 Nov— Borussia Dortmund are considering taking legal action against their injured striker Marcio Amoroso for failing to return to Germany from Brazil in time for a medical examination ordered by the Bundesliga club.

"Amoroso did not come and we have no documentation which justifies his absence," Dortmund's sporting manager Michael Zorc told reporters on Tuesday, adding that legal steps were being considered.

Amoroso, who has been out of action since September after tearing a right knee ligament, told Bild newspaper last week he was seeking permission to have treatment in the United States.

But the club said the 29-year-old was in breach of his contract and had ordered him to return to Dortmund by midday on Tuesday for an examination by team doctor Markus Braun.

Zorc did not rule out the Brazilian returning to the side at some point but said Amoroso's continued absence was not endearing the player to the team.

"Marcio is isolating himself a lot at the moment with the way he is behaving," he told Dortmund's official web site.

MNA/Reuters



Uruguay's Diego Forlan (L) is challenged by Brazil's Ronaldo in the second half of their qualifying match for World Cup Germany 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, on 19 November, 2003. The match ended in a 3-3 tie.

INTERNET

Keane double helps Ireland to friendly win over Canada

DUBLIN, 19 Nov — Two second-half goals from Ireland striker Robbie Keane wrapped up a comfortable 3-0 win over Canada in an international friendly on Tuesday.

Keane struck on the hour and again six minutes from time after a dazzling run by winger Damien Duff had given the Irish a 23rd minute lead against a hard-working Canadian side.

Despite the disappointment of not qualifying for next year's European Championship in Portugal, Brian Kerr's side put on an upbeat display with Andy Reid showing promise on his debut. —MNA/Reuters

Argentina's Tevez goes to court over World Youth call-up

BUENOS AIRES, 20 Nov— Striker Carlos Tevez is taking legal action against a decision forcing him to play for Argentina in the World Youth Championship rather than for Boca Juniors in the Intercontinental Cup final.

South American champions Boca are due to meet Champions League winners AC Milan in Tokyo on December 14 to decide the unofficial world club champions.

But the exciting Tevez, 19, the inspiration when Boca won the Libertadores Cup for the third time in four years earlier this season, has also been included in the Argentina squad for the World Youth Championship in the United Arab Emirates.

Under Argentina Football Association (AFA) rules, the national team automatically gets priority. Boca have protested against the decision but a club spokesman said Tevez had gone to court on his own initiative.

"Boca did not make any complaint, Tevez did it on his own," the spokesman told reporters. "But, in any case, Boca support and approve everything the player is saying and doing." Tevez is expected to be out of action with a knee injury for another two weeks but was asked to travel with the national team in any case. The World Youth Championship starts on November 27 and the final is due to be played on December 19.

The player was missing from the official Argentina team photo session on Monday and the squad left for the UAE on Tuesday without him, the AFA said. —MNA/Reuters

China drop third straight at men's volleyball World Cup

TOKYO, 20 Nov— China improved their team performance here on Tuesday, but still could not register a win at the men's volleyball World Cup being held in Japan.

The Chinese men dropped their third match in three days, losing to the United States 23-25, 25-20, 25-20 and 25-19.

"I am happy with the win," said US head coach Douglas Beal. "We know the Chinese team had strong performance at the Asian Championship, so we are happy with the result."

For the second day in a row, the Asian runners-up clinched the opening set before going down in the next three.

Coming off a 3-1 defeat to Japan on Monday, the Chinese improved their receiving and got their attack going in the first set. They kept a narrow lead most of the way for a 24-22 advantage and Tang Miao converted their second point with a smash.

China stayed within 21-19 in the second set, but the United States ran off four of the last five points to level one set back.

Then China ran into receiving trouble again and the Americans met no great difficulty taking the last two sets as Gabriel Gardner, Clayton Stanley found the spaces with their blitz attacks.

Stanley collected 18 kills, four blocks and three aces to lead the United States with 25 points. Gardner and Ryan Millar added 19 and 14 respectively. —MNA/Reuters

France looking to repeat perfect record in the finals

PARIS, 20 Nov— France qualified for Euro 2004 with a perfect record of eight wins in eight games, scoring 29 goals and conceding only two. They will be looking for another perfect run to victory in the finals next year.

The French have quickly consigned those qualifying successes to the history books and are focusing on a number of tough friendlies before the start of the finals in June.

The series started on Saturday with a convincing 3-0 win over old foes Germany in Gelsenkirchen which stretched their winning sequence to 13 straight matches — a French record — and it continues with tricky trips to Belgium and the Netherlands.

Les Bleus will host world champions Brazil in the FIFA Centenary match at the Stade de France a few weeks before flying to Portugal.

The French have been beaten only once this year, 2-0 by the Czech Republic in a friendly at the Stade de France in February.

But France were unbeatable when it really mattered, although Group One was among the weakest of the 10 qualifying groups with Malta and Cyprus not in the top 80 of the FIFA rankings and Israel and Slovenia mid-ranking nations at best.

France duly made the most of it.

After a sluggish start in Cyprus, where they won 2-1, the French thrashed the Cypriots 5-0 in Paris and humiliated Malta 4-0 and 6-0.

They proved solid when it came to sealing their finals place in the small, hostile Central Stadium in Ljubljana, matching the gifted Slovenians with only 10 men and winning 2-0.

On the surface little seems to have changed since the world champions were eliminated in the first round in South Korea, failing to win or even score a goal with Juventus's prolific David Trezeguet and Arsenal's Thierry Henry up front.

But France have regained their confidence and self-esteem this year.

The team against Slovenia was full of familiar names — nine of the 11 who played were also in the side that lost 2-0 to Denmark in France's last game at the 2002 World Cup.

On the plus side too, the French have learned that they can play — and win — without Zinedine Zidane, arguably the most inspirational player in world soccer.

Since Jacques Santini took over from Roger Lemerre in July 2002, France have played eight of their 18 games without Zidane. They have won all of them, scoring 25 goals and conceding three.

With the former Juventus player in the team, they won nine and lost once, netting 30 goals and conceding five. —MNA/Reuters

Ferguson in court fight with United's biggest shareholder

LONDON, 20 Nov— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has issued legal proceedings against the club's biggest shareholder in a row over the ownership of the racehorse Rock of Gibraltar, British newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Ferguson's solicitors have issued legal proceedings

against Irish racehorse owners JP McManus and John Magnier, who through their company Cubic Expression control 23.15 per cent of United, claiming half-ownership of Group One record-breaker Rock of Gibraltar.

A statement from Coolmore Stud said: "Coolmore Stud has today (Monday) been advised that legal proceedings have been issued against Mr John Magnier by Alex Ferguson alleging certain ownership rights for the stallion Rock of Gibraltar."

"Coolmore Stud and John Magnier consider the action to be without merit and it

will be vigorously defended. As this is a legal matter, no further comment will be made."

Ferguson alleges he was given a half-share of Rock of Gibraltar as a gift by Magnier and wants half the stud fees, which could be worth between 50 million pounds (84.47 million US dollars) and 150 million pounds, said the Daily Mail and Daily Mirror newspapers.

Rock of Gibraltar, trained by Irishman Aidan O'Brien, was retired to stud last year after winning seven successive Group One races, breaking the record of six set by Mill Reef in the 1970s.

MNA/Reuters



Spain's Carles Pujol, top jumps onto various teammates after Joseba Etxeberria, partly seen in the pack, scored against Norway during the 2nd leg of their Euro 2004 play-off qualifying match in Oslo, Norway on 19 November, 2003. Spain won the match 3-0. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects regional development tasks in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 20 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials, held a meeting with officers and other ranks of Mongtwam Station and their families at the hall of the station on 15 November morning.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe stressed the importance of cooperation between departments and local people and extension of small scale agriculture and livestock breeding.

On the morning of 16 November, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party also met with officers and other ranks and their families at Mongton Station and discussed extension of agriculture, livestock breeding, production services and successful implementation of the five rural development tasks.

At the office of Mongton Township Peace and Development Council, he met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders. On the occasion, the township chairman reported on measures being taken for accomplish-

ment of the five rural development tasks. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe elaborated on the government's strenuous endeavours in implementing the development projects across the nation. He called for participation of service personnel and local people in the tasks.

Together with the commander, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe arrived at Monghsat and met with Tatmadaw members and their families at Monghsat Station and gave instructions on extension of agriculture and livestock breeding.

At the office of Monghsat District Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Aung

Htwe met with departmental officials. On the occasion, the district chairman reported on population of the region, sown acreage, measures being taken for rice sufficiency, cultivation of other crops and poppy-substitute crops, arrangements for land reclamation, growing of Thitsein (Bellaric Myrobalan) trees and health, education and livestock breeding tasks in the region. Responsible officials reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on arrangements for regional development tasks. The commander gave a supplementary report. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on taking

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win accepts the cash donation for Myanmar Engineering Society made by a wellwisher. (News on page 1) MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveils the signboard of the Basic Education High School (Branch) of Kanni Village in Kawkaireik Township. — MNA

Tasks for prevention against bank erosion inspected in Taikkyi Township

YANGON, 20 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by No 1 Military Region Commander Lt-Col Tun Tun Oo, Division Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and departmental officials, arrived at the port of Ayeyawady River in Aphyauk, Taikkyi Township, this morning.

They were welcomed there by Brig-Gen Htein Win of Taikkyi Station, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col San Ma Tu and officials. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected tasks being carried out by Division Water Resources Utilization Department for prevention against the river bank erosion in Aphyauk. Head of

the department U Ohn Han reported to the commander on preventive measures against bank erosion. The commander gave necessary instructions.

The commander and party inspected condition of the bank along Ayeyawady River and gave instructions to officials concerned on construction of embankments for prevention against bank erosion in the town. — MNA



Yangon Division PDC Chairman Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects tasks on prevention of erosion of Ayeyawady River in Taikkyi Township, Yangon District (North). — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo looks into development projects in Kayin, Mon State

YANGON, 20 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence and party, accompanied by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials, inspected progress of road sections of Mawlamyine-

Hpa-an-Kawkaireik Road, harvesting of monsoon paddy, cultivation of summer paddy and cold season crops on 17 November morning.

Next, they attended the opening of the archway of the basic education high school of Nabu Village, Kawkaireik Township. Also present were No 22 LID Commander Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein, Col Maung Shein of Kawkaireik Station, Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Cho Tun Aung and members, local authorities, departmental heads, officials, the headmistress, teachers, students and others.

Kawkaireik District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi and Deputy Director-General of No 1 BED (Lower Myanmar) formally opened the archway. The outstand-

ing students formally opened the stone inscription. Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the signboard saying, Build Modern Developed Nation Through Education.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed the multimedia teaching classrooms of the school and left necessary instructions.

At the assembly hall of the school, officials reported on tasks carried out and assistance rendered for promotion of education standard of the students in the BEHSs in Kayin State.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo made cash donations for construction of the school buildings and presented school uniforms to the headmistress. The commander presented 200 bags of cement; Col Maung Shein, bricks and sand, Col Cho Tun Aung, (See page 9)

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