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Chairman of CHPSC Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Meeting 6/2003. — MNA

City Housing Project Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 22 NOV—The City Housing Project Supervisory Committee held its meeting No 6/2003 at the meeting hall of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, the deputy attorney-general, members of the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials.

First, Prime Minister made a speech on the occasion.

He said that the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee is engaged in upgrading of roads and amusement parks while supervising the housing projects to enable the Yangon City to possess the characteristics of a city of international level.

In an effort to turn the Yangon City into a city of international level, the High-rise Buildings Construction Project Inspection Group was formed with a view to ensuring the durability of the buildings and systematic, construction tasks meeting the set standard. The group is supervising the weakness and strength in construction of high-rise buildings in Yangon City keeping pace with changes.

As the construction of high-rise buildings have just initiated, it is required to obtain technology and methods and have experiences abroad for durability and grandeur of the buildings in the city. In upgrading Yangon City into a city of international level, the high-rise buildings are needed to

have the characteristics of modern and advanced buildings.

Some housing projects are being implemented with proper foundation and some housing projects without proper foundation. Therefore, priority will have to be given to meeting the set standard in construction of a building.

There are many qualified engineers in the country with the formation of Myanmar Engineering Society. The association was formed with engineers in service, retired engineers and engineers who are engaged in private sectors.

MES is a member of the ASEAN Engineering Federation and was awarded the prizes and medals by the federation. Myanmar engineers have been able to construct giant bridges and dams and reservoirs countable by the hundred in a decade. This being the case, efforts are to be made to ensure Myanmar engineering to keep abreast of those in South East Asia and Asian nations.

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Member of Panel of Patrons of USDA Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the first day session of Annual General Meeting 2003 of USDA. —MNA

Carrying out efforts for regional development, basic economic foundations and raising of living standard is building basic foundations needed for democracy First day session of annual general meeting of USDA for 2003 held



YANGON, 22 NOV—The first day session of the an-

nual general meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association for 2003 was held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of central training school of the USDA in Hmawby Township on 19 November.

Present were member of Panel of Patrons of the USDA Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-General of the

USDA U Htay Oo, members of the Secretariat, CEC members, secretaries of State and Division USDAs and delegates from State, Division, District and Township USDAs.

The annual general meeting was opened with the songs "Pyi-Myanmar" and "Yathet-pan Pyidaungsu" sung by member of USDA students from No 1 Basic Education High School,

Dagon Township, No 1 BEHS, Kamayut Township, No 6 BEHS, Botahtaung Township and No 5 BEHS, Tamway Township.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presided over the first day session of the annual general meeting of the USDA.

Executive of Haka Township USDA Daw Esta Lang Ewai and member of Kengtung Township USDA

Daw Nan Yu Yu Swe acted as master and joint master of ceremonies.

Next, master of ceremo-

nies Daw Esta Lang Ewai announced the ceremony open.

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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 23 November, 2003

For successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap

In building the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the national goal of the entire people, the State Peace and Development Council has laid down 12 political, economic and social objectives and is trying its utmost to realize these objectives.

Unity and stability are key investment for turning the nation into a modern and developed one. Therefore, the Government has been strengthening the national unity, and with prevalence of peace and tranquillity in border areas, development projects for border areas are being implemented constantly.

With the conviction that there must be no development gap between one region and another, 24 development regions have been designated in states and divisions and development undertakings are being carried out in all sectors.

For the development of rural areas where the majority of the population reside, The Government, hand in hand with the people and the Tatmadaw, is implementing the five rural development tasks.

Thanks to the relentless efforts for the nation to be developed, people are now witnessing good foundations for development throughout the country.

In his address to the Annual General Meeting 2003 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association on 21 November, Patron of the association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that defence strength, economic strength and social strength including the rule of law and prevalence of peace and tranquillity are major factors which a developed nation is to be defined; that building of such basic infrastructures with added momentum means laying the foundation for the future nation; and that the future nation must continue to be built based on the firm and strong foundation.

The people unanimously supported the State's future policies and programmes at the mass rallies held in states and divisions and they have resolved to cooperate in implementing the State's seven-point policy programme.

We would like to urge all the national people to actively take part in endeavours for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme while raising the development momentum of the State.

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day colour photo competitions to be held

YANGON, 22 Nov—The Work Committee for Holding Literary and Photo Competitions to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 will hold colour photo competitions. Title for the competitions are "Developed and pleasant Myanmar" and "Preserve cultural heritage". Each contestant can submit four photos of 10 inches x 12 inches and above under each title. Separate documents describing the datum and captions of the photos and letters of consent of models must be attached to the photos. Prize winner is liable to submit the

negatives. Photos taken by digital cameras are not permitted in the competitions. Handsome prizes will be presented to the first, second and third prizes winners on the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27th March 2004 in Yangon, and other prizes at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremonies at the respective headquarters of commands and LIDs. Entries are to be sent to U Tun Min, Director, the Information and Public Relations Department, 22-24, Pansodan Street, Yangon, before 14 February. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets national race leaders U Hsay Htin, U Lwe Maung and party of Shan State (North) Special Region-3. — MNA

Sarsodaw Day commemorative Book Fair and Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show opened

YANGON, 22 Nov—The Book Fair to mark the 1365 Sarsodaw Day was opened in conjunction with the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show at the building, No 379-383 on Bo Aung Kyaw Street here this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), the Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary, the Joint-Secretaries, the CEC members, the MWJA members and guests.

The ceremony was opened in front of the building and MWJA Joint-Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) acted as master of ceremonies. Next, Chairman of the Book Fair Organizing Committee Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung) explained the purpose

of the Book Fair while Chairman of the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) explained the purpose of organizing the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) formally opened the

Book Fair and the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show.

Afterwards, Granddaughter Daw Khin Hta Oo and great granddaughter Mon Mon James Hla Kyaw presented the picture of doyen writer James Hla Kyaw who wrote the first Myanmar novel titled Maung Yin Maung-Ma Me Ma, to Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung). Next, the min-

ister, the deputy ministers, the chairman and guests viewed round the books displayed at the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show and book shops at the Book Fair.

The Book Fair is opened yearly as part of the Sarsodaw Day. In this year's book fair there are 58 book shops selling various kinds of books at reasonable price. The Book Fair will continue until 30 November. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan views books at the book fairs and centenary of Myanmar novels show to mark 1365 ME Sarsodaw Day. — MNA

International Fair 2003 held

YANGON, 22 Nov — Organized by Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association-MAWFA, a ceremony to open International Fair was held in the compound of Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel, Bahan Township, this morning.

Present on the occasion

were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife Daw San Yon, member of panel of patrons of the MAWFA, ministers and wives, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and wife Daw Khin Swe Soe, member of panel of patrons of the MAWFA, Deputy Minister

U Kyaw Thu and wife, Daw Le Le Kyi, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials, President of Zagabar Co Ltd and Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel Dr Khin Shwe, the Chairperson of the MAWFA and members, ambassadors of ASEAN member coun-

tries and other foreign embassies in Yangon and their wives, wives of diplomats and guests. Under the programme, Chairperson of the MAWFA Daw Khin Nyin Nyunt extended greetings.

Next, Daw San Yon, member of panel of patrons of the MAWFA and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, wife of Singapore ambassador, Vice-President of the MAWFA Mme. Poh Choo de Cruz formally opened the fair.

Afterwards, the minister, deputy minister and members of panel of patrons of the MAWFA and guests viewed round the fair. There was a performance for the visitors.

The fair displayed handicrafts of international and various kinds of products and food stalls and it was teeming with the visitors.

The earnings from the fair will be donated to social organizations by the MAWFA and foreign embassies.

MNA



Daw San Yon and Mme Poh Choo de Cruz formally open the International Fair. — MNA

Bush leaves Blair empty handed

LONDON, 22 Nov—British Prime Minister Tony Blair has obtained little from US President George Bush's state visit this week, apart from words of solidarity after attacks on British targets in Istanbul.

Analysts were hard pressed to see how Blair's staunch support of Bush's unpopular war in Iraq had gained the British PM any political capital at all.

The president flew out of the UK on Friday afternoon after a highly choreographed day of leisure in Blair's northern constituency.

"I can't see what Blair has got," Lord William Wallace, a professor of international relations at the London School of Economics, told AFP.

He pointed at Bush's failure to budge on such tough issues as the fate of nine Britons held by the US, or the looming EU-US trade war over Bush's tariffs on imported steel.

"Bush does not appear to be aware that he needs to give Blair some evident concessions in order to make Blair's position more defensible within Britain," said Wallace, who is also the opposition Liberal Democrats' foreign

affairs spokesman in the House of Lords, the upper house of parliament.

Blair has been Bush's staunchest supporter over the war on oil-rich Iraq, despite widespread British public opposition.

The European Union, of which Britain is a member, has complained to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) about the steel tariffs, which Bush introduced in March 2002 to help the flagging US steel industry and its workers.

Bush also failed to give a firm commitment that British companies could hope to get a bite of the \$18.6 billion (15.6 billion euros) in US reconstruction contracts in Iraq, although Blair's government was optimistic.

"I sincerely hope that when the \$18.6 billion approved by the US Congress comes on tap, British companies will again be able to secure a significant proportion of the contracts," said Trade Minister Mike O'Brien. —Internet

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No rewards for being Bush's staunchest ally.—INTERNET

100 kilos of ivory discovered in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 22 Nov—Tanzanian police have discovered 100 kilos of ivory and arrested two people at the spot in connection with the case. Briefing reporters on Wednesday here, Dar-es-Salaam Regional Police Commander Alfred Tibaigana said that the total discovered ivory are valued more than 55,000 US dollars.

He said that under the assistance of a tip-off, policemen had found 47 elephant tusks in a resident house.

The two arrested people will appear in court for illegally preserving ivory.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian cities to strengthen cooperation on SARS prevention

HANOI, 22 Nov—At the third plenary meeting of the Asian network of major cities 21 (ANMC 21), delegates agreed to further cooperation between the cities in severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) prevention.

"Promoting cooperation in the fields of sharing information and experiences on SARS prevention is very important to Asian major cities," the vice-mayor of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality of China, Zhang Mao, told Xinhua on the sidelines of the meeting which opened on Wednesday.

Representatives of India's Delhi City said all SARS-related information should be posted on a website so that not only cities in the

network but others can access it.

Other proposals such as setting up a hotline on SARS, minimizing the number of people coming in and out of SARS-hit regions, and establishing SARS surveillance centres are also intro-

duced at the meeting.

Delegates also shared experiences in SARS prevention. The ANMC 21 now has 12 members, including Beijing, Bangkok, Delhi, Hanoi, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur and Manila.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese experts honoured for contribution to manned space project

BEIJING, 22 Nov—Twelve Chinese space experts were honoured here Thursday for their outstanding contributions to China's first manned space flight on October 15-16.

The experts included Huang Chunping, chief commander of the launch vehicle system, Liu Zhusheng, chief designer of the launch vehicle, known as the Long March 2 F, and Qi Faren, chief designer of the spacecraft system. Six deputy chief commanders or designers of the rocket and spacecraft systems and two leading experts in charge of the propulsion system of the spacecraft and its command system were also honoured.

At a rally held by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp (CAST), the maker of the rocket and spacecraft, 20 divisions and 100 employees from the corporation were also commended for their performance in the country's manned space programme, which was launched in 1992.

Addressing the rally, Zhang Qingwei, general manager of the corporation and deputy chief commander of the programme, said the country's successful manned space flight was the result of the endeavours of all researchers and engineers involved in the programme and their predecessors. Chinese space experts have solved technical problems universally acknowledged by the international aerospace community as the most sophisticated one after another in the

past decade, scoring many technological breakthroughs, and acquiring some core technologies of its own, said Zhang, a 42-year-old rocket expert.

About 10,000 space experts and engineers from the corporation have been involved in the space programme. With 103,000 employees, the corporation is specialized in research and development of spacecraft, satellites, carrier rockets, strategic missiles, and some civilian goods.

MNA/Xinhua

US says missile hits plane in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Nov—The latest series of audacious attacks in Iraq has continued with a missile attack on a transport plane and deadly bombings on two police stations, the US military said.

Nine Iraqis were killed on Saturday in Khan Bani Sa'ad, about 12 miles (20 km) north of Baghdad, when a suicide bomber drove a car into a police station, Captain Ryan McCormick said. The bomber also died.

As he sped into the station shortly before 8 am, Iraqi police fired AK-47s at his vehicle and the car—laden with explosives—detonated, McCormick said. Six Iraqi police, three civilians and the driver died in the attack, he said.

There is a huge crater in front of the police station and full damage is still being assessed. There are reports of a live grenade inside the police compound and no one is allowed inside, McCormick said.

At about the same time, a car bomb hit the Baquba police station about 50 miles (80 km) north of Baghdad, the officials said. The US military reported 15-25 civilian casualties. CNN's Jane Arraf said some civilians died in the attack but it is not yet clear how many. No coalition soldiers were injured in the attack.

Also on Saturday morning, a DHL courier plane safely landed at Baghdad International Airport after a heat-seeking, surface-to-air missile hit one of its engines, according to military sources at the airport. No one was injured.

The aircraft had just taken off when it was hit by the SAM-7, sources said. One of the engines was set on fire, which was extinguished after the plane landed, the sources said. Missiles have been fired several times at planes approaching the airport, Arraf said but Saturday's incident was the first time a fixed-wing aircraft had been hit.

The US military has stepped up its offensive against the anti-coalition insurgency throughout central Iraq, hammering guerrilla targets in Baghdad, Baquba and other towns in the region where opposition to the US-led occupation of Iraq runs high.

Internet

424 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Nov—As of Friday, Nov. 21, 424 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 294 died as a result of hostile action and 130 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

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, 286 US soldiers have died—180 as a result of hostile action and 106 of non-hostile causes, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,054 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 347.

The latest deaths reported by the US military:

—A 4th Infantry Division soldier was killed Thursday evening when the soldier's vehicle struck an explosive near Ghalibiyah, 15 km west of Baqubah, Iraq.

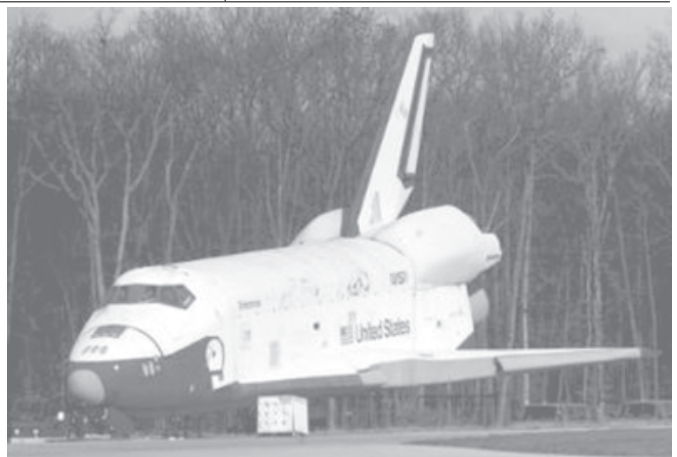
—An 82nd Airborne Division soldier was killed Thursday when a convoy was attacked with two explosives east of Ramadi, Iraq. —Internet

Study finds men-women pay gap persists in US

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov—Despite a sense of progress in workplace equality, women in the United States earn an average of 80 cents for every dollar paid to men, roughly the same as 20 years ago, according to a congressional study released on Thursday.

The study by the General Accounting Office found the gap persisted even when accounting for such factors as occupation, industry, race, marital status and job tenure.

The wage gap was attributed partly to differing work patterns between the sexes, with women being penalized for their frequent dual roles as wage earners while caring for home and family. —MNA/Reuters



The Space Shuttle Enterprise taxis to a hanger at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, Virginia, on 20 Nov, 2003. The Enterprise was the first Space Shuttle built and was used for approach and landing tests but never made the journey to orbit. The Enterprise will be on display when the museum opens to the public in December of this year. —INTERNET

Two Baghdad hotels, oil ministry hit by rockets

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov— Rockets on Friday slammed into the Iraqi oil ministry and two central Baghdad hotels used by Western contractors and journalists, wounding several people, police and witnesses said.

Three rockets had hit the oil ministry, which was ablaze, police said.

Guests evacuated the Sheraton and Palestine hotels, located in a fortified compound near the Tigris River, after the buildings were hit by rockets. Guests saw shards of glass and fragments of plaster and concrete scattered across the floors.

Witnesses at the hotels said they had seen several people with at least light wounds. A security guard said two people had been taken to hospital. Police officers near the scene said a man had fired rockets from a launcher hidden on a donkey cart. A US soldier at the scene said the rockets were RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades.

A Reuters reporter close to the hotels about an hour after the blasts said the cart was lying on its side and he could still see several rockets lying on the ground.

The Palestine Hotel appeared to have been hit around the 16th or 17th floor, a Reuters witness surveying the damage said. At least two holes were punched in windows at the Sheraton, witnesses said.

A security guard at a nearby building said he had seen a rocket or rocket-propelled grenade fly through the air towards the hotels. The Sheraton still uses the name of the luxury hotel chain although it is no longer part of it. The two hotels are guarded round the clock and surrounded by concrete walls.—MNA/Reuters

US destroying Iraqi homes in violation of Geneva Convention

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov—US forces are destroying houses in Iraq as retribution for attacks on their soldiers, according to Amnesty International, in violation of the Geneva Convention.

The report was hotly denied by the Pentagon.

The human rights group said it sent a letter to US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld demanding he clarify whether the demolitions as a form of collective punishment or deterrence was officially permitted. "If such proved to be the case, it would constitute a clear violation of international humanitarian law," the group said in the letter, according to AFP.

The Pentagon whilst acknowledging US forces had destroyed "facilities", including houses, during recent military operations refuted the allegation that the demolitions were intended as retaliation for attacks.

"We have destroyed facilities that were being used by former regime loyalists or terrorists either as a place from which to stage attacks, or as a safe house to avoid capture, or as a facility from which to construct improvised explosive devices," Lieutenant Colonel Jim Cassella told the French news agency. "The idea that this is some type of collective punishment is just absolutely without merit," he added.

He claimed that some houses were razed after opposition groups to the US occupation used them as bases. Families living in the houses were immediately relocated, he added.

"What we are doing here is attacking the terrorist infrastructure to deny them the ability to plan, organize and initiate attacks," he said.

Amnesty cited reports that 15 houses had

been destroyed in the area around Tikrit since 16 November. It added that in one case a family in the village of al-Hawda was given five minutes to evacuate their house before it was demolished by tank and helicopter fire.

"Any destruction by the occupying power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited"

The organization also said it had received reports of a 10 November incident in which soldiers gave people living in a farmhouse near the town of al-Mamudiya south of Baghdad 30 minutes to vacate their property.

The farmhouse was bombed and destroyed later in the day by F-16 fighters.

It said the bombing appeared to have been carried out in retaliation for an attack several days earlier on a convoy in which a US officer was killed. Amnesty quoted Article 33 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which states that "Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited."

Article 53 states: "Any destruction by the occupying power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations." —Internet

ဝတ်စုံများအား ခေါ်ယူရန်လွှာ



White House security personnel block off the streets in front of the White House on 20 Nov, 2003, after a plane strayed into the restricted air space around the White House. Some of those in the White House were told to be evacuated.—INTERNET

Malaysia, S'pore to appoint panel on land reclamation investigation

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Nov— Senior Malaysian and Singaporean officials began a meeting here to appoint an independent panel of experts to investigate the republic's two land reclamation works in the Johore Straits.

The three-day closed-door meeting is held between the Malaysian delegation led by its Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Ahmad Fuzi Razak and the Singapore delegation headed by its ambassador-at-large Tommy Koh.

A statement is expected to be issued at the end of the meeting on Saturday.

The meeting is being convened following the order of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany, after hearing a case filed by Malaysia against Singapore's reclamation projects in Pulau Tekong and Tuas in the Johore Straits.

The tribunal had directed Singapore not to carry out its reclamation work that would cause irreparable prejudice to Malaysia's rights or serious harm to the marine environment. It also directed the two countries to set up an independent panel to investigate the reclamation works.

Malaysia has opted for arbitration to resolve the land reclamation issue with Singapore after several rounds of bilateral negotiations failed.

The reclamation activities in Singapore waters bordering Malaysia's south state of Johore have caused quite a stir here.

Malaysia feels it will affect shipping lanes at the Pasir Gudang and Tanjung Pelepas ports in Johore State, which in recent years have managed to attract large shipping companies. However, Singapore claims that it has the right to do so.

MNA/Xinhua

BMW sales up 16.3% in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Nov— Auto giant BMW enjoyed a sale growth of 16.3 per cent in Indonesia in the January-September period of 2003, during which the sales increased to 1,984 units, the *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper reported recently.

Since the launching of BMW financial services which provide auto loans with competitive rate for BMW brand, the sales have increased, Helena Abidin, the spokesperson for PT BMW Indonesia, was quoted as saying. Helena said that BMW so far has expanded its showrooms to 23 across Indonesia.

She claimed that BMW took the lead in the Indonesian market among five European auto brands by grabbing 48 per cent of premium car market.

The sale of European premium cars in Indonesia rose by 6.6 per cent to 3,915 units in the same period, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian cities to focus on joint projects, disaster management

HANOI, 22 Nov— Major cities in Asia will bolster multilateral collaboration and cooperation in social, economic and cultural fields, mainly by jointly carrying out projects and informing one another about disasters in the region.

The statement was made by leaders of Asian major cities after signing the Hanoi Declaration under the third plenary of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC21) which concluded here on Thursday.

"ANMC21 is an action-oriented network. We reaffirm that we shall make steady progress in implementing 17 joint projects," says the document.

The meeting discussed ways of speeding up implementation of the 17 existing joint projects which were initiated in Japan in 2001 and in India in 2002.

The projects are of economy, transport, education, culture, tourism, environment, healthcare and gender.

In addition to working on the projects, the cities will further exchange experience

and information about crisis management in natural disasters, epidemics and terrorism.

They established two hotlines, one for natural disasters and serious accidents, and the other for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) or other deadly diseases.

"We shall continue to strengthen ties among the member cities of ANMC21 and take initiatives in promoting comprehensive crisis management, including immediate notification to all the other member cities of any outbreak," the declaration says.

The next meeting of ANMC21 will be held in Jakarta next year. The current meeting was attended by leaders from 11 cities, including Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok and Hanoi. —MNA/Xinhua



A sea anemone shares its ocean floor neighbourhood with the reddish finger coral in Cozumel, Mexico. An inspection of deeper-water Caribbean coral reefs found them healthier than previously believed, scientists said this week.

INTERNET

Dollar loses gains as rockets hit Iraq ministry

Tokyo, 22 Nov—The dollar failed to hold on to gains on Friday as rockets slammed into the Iraqi Oil Ministry and two Baghdad hotels, highlighting the global security risks that have undermined the currency in recent months.

"Given the current situation it's hard for the dollar to turn around," a senior foreign exchange trader at a US bank said. "And incidents like these centring on Iraq are just going to instil more fear into the markets."

Three rockets hit the oil ministry, setting it ablaze, while hotels used by Western contractors and journalists were evacuated after being hit.

But Tokyo traders were not willing to sell the dollar aggressively as they were on the lookout for possible intervention by the Japanese authorities following the greenback's recent drop to three-year lows.

At 0600 GMT, the dollar was hovering at 108.97/9.02 yen losing earlier gains that had taken it to 109.40. It had been around 108.95 yen in late US trade.

It was still 1.5 percent above three-year

lows around 107.50 set earlier in the week.

Market activity was choppy in Tokyo as traders worked to square their positions ahead of a three-day holiday weekend. Monday is a national holiday in Japan.

"The risk of more attacks and the three-day weekend ahead are prompting people to lighten their positions," said Hiroyuki Watanabe, foreign exchange manager at Shinsei Bank. The euro was at 1.1894/99 versus \$1.1910 in late US trade. It rose as high as \$1.1975 on Thursday, near a record high of \$1.1978 hit on Wednesday.

The British pound was at \$1.7008/13 well off its five-year high of \$1.7090 hit on Thursday. The Australian dollar was also off Thursday's six-year high of \$0.7267 quoted at \$0.7223/28. Copyright 2003, Reuters News Service—Internet

Newest threat in Iraq donkey cart rockets

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov—US forces now have a new low-tech threat to worry about—donkey carts. Guerillas fired rockets from donkey carts at Iraq's Oil Ministry and two large hotels here Friday in a symbolic strike on two well-fortified targets. US officials dismissed the attacks as militarily insignificant, but they showed a continuing ingenuity by the shadowy guerrillas battling US troops.

"They would certainly have an element of surprise by having a donkey cart," said Col Brad May, commander of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which controls the area near the Oil Ministry. "Most people would not think of a donkey cart being used to fire rockets from. They try and continue to get one step ahead of us. They're going to use varying techniques."

At least a dozen rockets were fired in the donkey-cart offensive, eight at the Oil Ministry and four at the Palestine and Sheraton hotels along the Tigris River in central Baghdad. Two people were reported injured in the hotels, one of them critically.

After the two attacks, which occurred around 7:15 am, US military commanders ordered American soldiers and Iraqi police to stop and search all donkey carts, which often ply the streets in the early morning.

Soldiers and police found two more rocket-equipped carts, one in front of Baghdad University's Law School and the other near offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the political party headed by Jalal Talabani, the current president of

Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council.

The donkey carts were parked between 200 yards and 300 yards away, beyond the security perimeters at both targets. The insurgents tied the donkeys to trees, positioned the launcher, triggered the rockets and fled before they could be apprehended, military officials said.

The carts were outfitted with homemade rocket launchers whose steel tubes contained Soviet-made 107mm Katyusha rockets, which have a range of 10 miles. The Iraqi army had thousands of such rockets.

The donkey cart ruse was just the latest of many deceptive methods insurgents have used to conceal weapons. On roads outside Baghdad, they've hidden bombs in animal carcasses and piles of trash.

Roadside bombs also continue to take their toll on US troops. The military said Friday that two soldiers were killed in attacks by roadside bombs - one victim was from the 82nd Airborne Division and another from the 4th Infantry Division. At least 424 US soldiers have died since American-led forces invaded Iraq in March, 294 of them from hostile fire. — Internet



An overturned donkey cart where a makeshift rockets launcher was used to attack hotels in Baghdad. Two Baghdad hotels and the Iraqi oil ministry were targeted in rocket attacks as defiant US and British leaders vowed no retreat from Iraq. — INTERNET

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Aid agencies alarmed over funds

London, 22 Nov—US and UK aid agencies are alarmed about what they say is the diversion of over \$1bn in foreign aid funds.

They are concerned the funds might be used to pay for the War on Terror and the re-building of Iraq.

The agencies told the BBC that if a trend of this kind continues, the UN's aim of halving extreme poverty by 2015 is unlikely to be met.

The target was agreed by all member states and represents the UN's central Millennium Goal.

Two recent moves over the allocation of funds have

alarmed development economists.

First was the scaling down by US congress of an aid package of \$1.6b to just \$650m.

This was described by the largest consortium of aid agencies in America, known as InterAction, as a trade-off caused by demands on US money from Iraq.

The second was the diversion of about £150m-worth of British development aid to the re-building of Iraq.

The UK-based charity Christian Aid expressed "anger" at this move.

An economist representing a group of British agencies, Audrey Gauchran, said some rich countries' development budgets, including those of Japan and Australia, were being re-defined to include items like counter-terrorism training, which was limiting the money left for poverty reduction programmes.

Internet



An Iraqi family waits outside their home while US Army soldiers search the area in the village of Ouja, the birthplace of Iraq's former President Saddam Hussein.

INTERNET

Suicide attack kills six cops in Iraqi town

KHAN BANI SAAD, 22 Nov—Six Iraqi police were killed when a suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a police station in this town just north of Baghdad, police chief Ismail Kano al-Askari told AFP.

Thirteen people were also wounded — 10 police and three Iraqi civilians — when the bomber struck at around 7:30 am (10.00 IST), Askari said. The Chevrolet car came very fast at the station. Police opened fire but it didn't stop," he said.

An AFP correspondent saw a large hole in the wall of the station and body parts strewn on the ground.

Minutes later, a similar explosion left a large crater outside a police station in the town of Baquba, further north, an AFP reporter witnessed.

A coalition ministry spokesman said that blast too was a car bomb.

There were between 15 and 20 casualties at Baquba, a coalition civilian spokesman said, citing a preliminary toll. — Internet

Hong Kong conducts anti-SARS exercise

HONG KONG, 22 Nov—Hong Kong Government departments and agencies tested their preparedness Thursday in a drill involving a fictitious case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in an elderly home.

The exercise was organized by the Health, Welfare & Food Bureau in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority. Joining in the drill were a home for the elderly and the Social Welfare, Food & Environmental Hygiene, Buildings, Home Affairs, and Information Services Departments and the Education & Manpower Bureau.

The exercise scenario involved a resident of a residential care home for the elderly who came down with a respiratory tract infection after returning to Hong Kong from overseas. The resident was subsequently found to be a laboratory-confirmed SARS case, triggering a Level One Response under the government's overall emergency mechanism on SARS.

According to the emergency mechanism, the Home Affairs, Health and Social Welfare Departments should react swiftly to enhance surveillance, carry out contact trac-

ing and epidemiological investigations, and enhance their capacity to cope with a potential outbreak.

In today's drill, the regional office of the Department of Health, upon receiving hospital notification of the fictitious SARS case, started epidemiological investigations and contact tracing. It visited the home and make sure the necessary precautionary measures were in place.

MNA/Xinhua

Hungarian volunteer shot dead by US soldiers in Iraq

BUDAPEST, 22 Nov—A Hungarian student carrying out humanitarian work in Iraq has been shot dead by US soldiers in an incident at a checkpoint, the Hungarian foreign ministry announced.

"Peter Varga-Balazs was stationed in Iraq on humanitarian duties as a volunteer," a ministry spokesman said.

"According to information obtained from the Americans in Iraq the young man was driving a vehicle which approached a US checkpoint 130 kilometres (80 miles) west of Baghdad at high speed," spokesman Tamas Toth said.

"He failed to slow down both after warnings to do so by the Americans and after shots were fired in the air," Toth said, referring to the US source.

US soldiers then opened fire on the car, killing the student.

The exact date of the incident is not known.

The victim was not connected to the group of 300 Hungarian soldiers stationed in Iraq who are taking part in logistical work under Polish command and who are due to remain in the country until the end of 2004, according to the Hungarian defence ministry.

Varga-Balazs is the second Hungarian to die in post-war Iraq. Last week a subcontractor died in a car accident in unknown circumstances. —*Internet*

Heavy snowstorm hits northern China grazing areas

HOHHOT, 22 Nov—A heavy snowstorm is threatening the grazing areas and livelihoods of more than 50,000 herdsman on the Hulun Buir Plain, north China's Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

So far, there have been no reports of human or livestock casualties.

From 8 pm Wednesday to 8 am Friday, moderate snow, along with strong winds of force 5 to 6, hit pasture and forest areas in Hulun Buir City, meteorologists reported.

Some areas, including 6.4 million hectares of grazing grounds, were covered in 15 to 29 metres of snow, said meteorologists, forecasting that the snowstorm would continue until Saturday night.

The Hulun Buir Plain has 8.4 million hectares of pasture lands, but most only began to grow grass from late July due to severe drought and insect attacks earlier this year. As a result, grass growth on the plain fell by 50 per cent this year.

The snowstorm has led to a shortage of 110,000 tons of fodder for 3 million heads of livestock. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Queen Elizabeth in legal steps against "Bush scare" reporter

LONDON, 22 Nov—Queen Elizabeth is taking legal steps against a journalist and his newspaper after this week's security scare in which the reporter got a job as a Buckingham Palace servant ahead of the visit of President George W Bush.

For the past two days, the *Daily Mirror* has been printing titbits about life in the royal household as told by its man below stairs, reporter Ryan Parry.

"We can confirm that the Royal Household is taking legal proceedings against the *Daily Mirror* and its reporter Ryan Parry for breach of confidence," a palace spokeswoman said.

"We will be asking the High Court to restrain the newspaper and Mr Parry from further publication of information in breach of the duty of confidence Mr Parry owes to his former employer," she added.

In a coup for the tabloid, Parry worked as a footman in Buckingham Palace for two months after getting the job using bogus references.

The *Mirror* printed articles by Parry describing intimate details of the daily lives of members of the royal household, including snippets on how the Queen

takes breakfast and her taste in television soap operas.

The palace spokeswoman said the court action, expected to be heard later on Thursday, applied only to any further revelations.

"This is about privacy. Everybody has a right to privacy in their own home," she said.

In an embarrassing blow for the security forces mounting the capital's biggest ever security operation, Parry said he had access to the suite of rooms being used by Bush during his stay at the palace at the invitation of the Queen.

Cartoonists have had a field day with Parry's scoop.

The *Times* showed two footmen carrying the ermine-lined train of the monarch as she swept along in her royal robes.

One footman asks the other: "Which newspaper do you work for?"

—*MNA/Reuters*

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Fire bomb thrown at British Embassy in Iran

TEHERAN, 22 Nov—A fire bomb was thrown at the British Embassy compound in central Teheran on Friday afternoon, but no one was hurt and little damage was caused, a British diplomat said.

The attack, which followed suicide bomb attacks against British targets in Istanbul on Thursday that killed 27 people, was not preceded by any warnings and there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

"We're in touch with the Iranian authorities and we're reviewing our security arrangements," the British diplomat told *Reuters*.

The incident occurred at 3:30 pm (1200 GMT) at the

back gate of the embassy's large walled compound in central Teheran.

"The incendiary device was thrown by an individual who was in a Peykan," the diplomat said referring to the ubiquitous car based on the Hillman Hunter which is by far the most common vehicle on Iran's roads. "It struck the gate and caused a small fire on both sides of the gate," the diplomat said.

Iran is generally consid-

ered to be a low security risk in the Middle East and attacks against Western embassies, businesses or individuals are extremely rare.

But the British Embassy has been the object of a number of attacks this year, including four shooting incidents in August and September following the arrest by Britain of a former Iranian diplomat wanted by Argentine authorities.

—*MNA/Reuters*



An anti-explosives team of the Italian Army inspects a former Iraq Army base near the southern town of Nasiriyah, on 21 Nov, 2003. On the wall are painted the instructions to take apart an AK-47 rifle. —*INTERNET*

Two leading iron, steel companies in W China merge

CHENGDU, 22 Nov—A grand ceremony here Thursday marked the merger of Panzhihua Iron and Steel Group Company and the Great Wall Special Iron and Steel (Group) Co Ltd.

Panzhuhua Iron and Steel, based in Panzhuhua City of southwest China's Sichuan Province, ranks sixth in the country and is the largest and most competitive iron and steel company in west China.

The Panzhuhua company, with 30 billion yuan (about 3.62 billion US dollars) in total assets, produces 5.3 million tons of steel a year, and is also one of the world's major producers of vanadium and titanium.

Annual pre-tax profits exceed two billion yuan (about 241 million US dollars), according to Hong Jibi, chairman of the board of the group company.

Great Wall Special Iron and Steel (Group) Co Ltd., founded in 1965, is the biggest special iron and steel maker in west China. Great Wall Special Iron and Steel Co Ltd, a subsidiary of the company, went public in 1994.

The Great Wall Special Iron and Steel group is capable of annually producing over 400,000 tons of special steel in 350 specifications which are used in aviation, aerospace, nuclear industry, electronics and telecommunications, petrochemical industry, energy and transportation sectors.

However, the company has long suf-

fered economic losses. By late July this year, the group company's net assets totalled 5.3 billion yuan (some 639 million US dollars), but its debts made up about 2.5 billion yuan (about 301 million US dollars), with the debt equity ratio standing at 46.32 per cent.

At Thursday's function, both Panzhuhua chairman Hong Jibi and Ren Yong, chairman of the board of the Great Wall Special Iron and Steel (Group) Co Ltd, said the merger was fully out of their own will.

"Via the merger, the Great Wall conglomerate can bid farewell to loss-making and walk out of the financial difficulty in three years at most," said Ren.

Ren said the reorganized Great Wall company has a total stock of 1.62 billion yuan (about 195 million US dollars), of which, the Panzhuhua group company takes 41 per cent, or 671 million yuan (about 808,434 US dollars), and six other institutions take the rest.

Industry experts said that through the reorganization, both partners will improve ways to utilize resources and the move will help Panzhuhua become stronger while Great Wall will hopefully step out of its economic hardship.

—*MNA/Xinhua*



Italian Army soldiers open a bag containing part of some 40 pounds of explosive confiscated by the 'Dimonios' task force during a search operation some two miles from the southern Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, early on 22 Nov, 2003. Some 17 members of Italy's military mission in Iraq died in a suicide bombing in Nasiriyah last week. —*INTERNET*

Meeting held to pay respects to doyen literati

YANGON, 22 Nov — A coordination meeting was held to pay respects to doyen literati at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of departments and enterprises under the ministry, Chairman of 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) and Joint-Secretaries, CEC members and guests.

At the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made

a speech on matters related to holding the ceremony.

Next, Chairman of central committee for holding the ceremony Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and chairmen of the various committees presented reports on arrangements being made for holding the ceremony. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended to the needs and made concluding remarks.

After the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife and family donated K 50,000 for the respect-paying ceremony and Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay and wife, K 10,000. Chairman of the MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) accepted the donations.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash donation of K 50,000 to MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung). — MNA

Carrying out efforts for ...

(from page 16)

He said the Prime Minister laid down these tasks as the State's seven-point future policy programme. Mass meetings organized by USDA were held in States and Divisions and the entire people unanimously supported and approved the programmes. The Bagan mass rally revealed the seven-point future policy programme declared by the Prime Minister at the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Yangon on 30 August 2003 as the seven-point policy programme of the people. The Bagan Declaration also stated that perpetuation of the Union, the unity of national races, emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation and building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy are the goals of the people.

In conclusion, he urged

the USDA members to carry out the tasks for non-disintegration of the Union in accord with the motto—morale, discipline, solidarity and unity, to build a national force representing the people while undertaking rural development tasks, to accept the guidance of Patron of the USDA as work guideline, and the entire people to actively participate in the tasks for success of the seven-point policy programme of the State in the respective role with Union spirit.

Afterwards, the meeting went into recess. The Secretary-I cordially greeted the representatives.

The meeting resumed at 8.35 am. USDA Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw chaired the meeting while USDA CEC members U Thein Aung and U Aung Thein Lin were named members of the panel of chair-



USDA Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw presides over first-day session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2003 together with CEC members U Thein Aung and U Aung Thein Lin. — MNA



The seminar on organizing sector in progress at first-day session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2003. — MNA

men.

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo delivered a speech, saying that the association formed with five objectives has entered into its 10th anniversary. It is heartening to note that the meeting annually adopted the future tasks in line with the prevailing situations and that the associations at all levels accomplished them.

Senior General Than Shwe, Patron of the USDA, would give guidance on the morning of 21 November, the third day of the meeting. The USDA Patron himself had attended all the USDA annual general meetings as well as the opening of the courses conducted by the USDA (Central) and had given guidance since the establishment of the association. On every occasion, he gives guidance on implementation of the national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It is encouraging to receive the guidance of the patron on 21 November. The members were to translate the guidance into reality upholding it as working guidelines and they were to accelerate implementation of the tasks. It is all known that the association is being involved actively in realization of the national goal by doing their bit. The membership of their

association is increasing because of noble aims of their association and its practical endeavours in the interest of their respective areas. It is heartening to learn that the association is made up of people from all walks and ages of life.

The association has been nurturing and training youths, who will shoulder the State's duties in future, to become highly-qualified human resources equipped with good morals. It is also taking measures to turn out more and more outstanding and dynamic youths.

The association's ultimate goal is to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The association will have to cooperate with the government for accomplishment of

the State's seven-point roadmap. It also has to take part in the tasks for strengthening of the economy of the State and the people and promotion of the national education standard through cooperation. At the same time, the members are to speed up organizational measures so as to continue to win the trust of local people. Hand in hand with the people, the members are to accomplish the national goal organizing the members as well as the local people.

The morning session of the first day meeting went into recess at 10.25 am.

The master of ceremonies formed six groups — organizing group, management group, economic group, social and cultural group, education group and the

group for participation of the association in successful implementation of the State's seven-point roadmap.

The group No 6 read the list of representatives from respective States and Divisions for the tasks. Next, USDA Secretariat member U Thauang read the report of the USDA central executive committee. The respective representatives from States and Divisions reported on progress in implementation of the future tasks in a year.

The sector-wise seminars followed at designated places at noon. The seminar of the organizing group took place at Bayintnaung Hall. USDA Secretariat Member U Thauang presided over it together with USDA CEC member Thura U Aye Myint.

(See page 9)



Dagon Myothit (South) Township USDA executive Daw Su Su Hlaing. — MNA



Mongnai Township USDA Secretary Daw Nan Lay. — MNA



Mongpyin Township USDA Secretary U Sai Naw Kham. — MNA

Dumex Medical Seminar held

YANGON, 22 Nov — The Dumex Medical Seminar, Jointly-organized by Myanmar Medical Association (Central) and The East Asiatic Company, was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this afternoon.

After Managing Director Mr Gerard Geraets had made a speech, resident man-

ager U Peter Moe Kyaw of the EAC Co Ltd donated K 100,000 each to MMA and Children Health Education Group. Professor Dr U Myo Myint and Professor Dr Thein Aung accepted the donations.

Next, Neuro-Surgical Specialist (Child) Dr Ong Hian Tat of National Uni-

versity Hospital of Singapore gave talks on diseases of children; and Regional Nutrition Manager Ms Ho Fong of EAC-Singapore, on the fats which are beneficial to human beings.

After that, responsible officials replied the queries raised by those present.

MNA



Managing Director Mr Gerard Geraets speaks at the seminar. — MNA

Carrying out efforts for ...

(from page 8)

Executive of Myingyan Township USDA in Mandalay Division Daw Wah Wah Soe acted as master of ceremonies.

The chairman of the seminar delivered an opening address. Respective representatives from States and Divisions discussed organizational matters.

The seminar chose a representative to deal with the sector on the second day. A group was formed to compile a paper on the sector for the second day. The seminar chairman made concluding remarks.

The management group held a seminar at Anawrahta Hall. USDA CEC member U Than Shwe chaired the seminar together with CEC member Thura U Aung Ko. Executive of Laukkai District USDA in Shan State (North) Daw Zin Mar Win acted as master of ceremonies.

The chairman delivered an opening address on the



The seminar on economic sector in progress at the first-day session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2003. — MNA

occasion. Respective representatives from States and Divisions discussed matters on the management sector.

The seminar chose a representative to discuss the sector on the second day. A group was formed to compile a paper on the sector for the second day. The seminar chairman made concluding remarks.

The seminar on the economic sector of the discussion group-3 was held at Myawady Thabin Hall. Central Executive Committee member U Ohn Myint of USDA presided over the seminar together with Central Executive Committee members U Maung Maung Thein and U Khin Maung. Executive of Yathedaung Township USDA Daw Mya Thazin Nwe acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman of the seminar CEC member U Ohn Myint made an opening speech.

Executive U Kyaw Thuya of Hlegu Township USDA, Secretary U Khun Than Tun of Hsihseng Township USDA, Executive Daw San San Htay of Momeik Township USDA, Secretary



USDA member students open the USDA AGM 2003 singing songs collectively. — MNA

U Sai Tin Tun of Tachilek Township USDA, Secretary U Win Thein of Thabaung Township USDA, Executive U Soe Min of Myitkyina District USDA, Executive Daw Hnin Moe Aye of Paswang Township USDA, Executive U Soe Thein of Kya-in Seikkyi Township USDA, Secretary U Pyay Lay of Paletwa Township USDA, Secretary U Kyaw Myint of Ayadaw Township USDA, Secretary U Thein Oo of Dawei Township USDA, Secretary U Aung Naing Oo of Paungde Township USDA, Executive U Aung Naing of Bago District USDA, Executive U Win Tint of Yenangyoung Township USDA, Executive Daw Win Thida of Mahlaing Township USDA, Executive U Min Ye Tun of Mawlamyine District USDA, and Secretary U Tha Tun of Myebon Township USDA took part in the discussions.

Next, they selected and assigned duties to a representative to discuss

economic matters at the second-day session of the annual general meeting.

After the formation of a team to compile the paper to be submitted to the second-day session, the chairman made conclusion remarks.

The seminar on the social and cultural sector of the discussion group-4 was held at Bagan Mess Hall. Secretary U Tin Htut of USDA presided over the seminar together with CEC member U Maung Pa. Executive Daw Theingi Win Shwe of Monywa Township USDA acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman of the seminar USDA Secretary U Tin Htut made an opening speech.

Executive Daw Kaythi Win of Kyauktan Township USDA, Secretary U Soe Nyunt Shwe of Nyaungshwe Township USDA, Secretary U Aung Htein Lin of Laukkai Township USDA, Executive U Tun Lwin of

Monghsat District USDA, Secretary Dr Maung Maung Soe of Einme Township USDA, Executive Daw Lin Lin Khine of M'jyang Township USDA, member U Sein Pan of Meisei Township USDA, Executive Daw Khine Khine Win of Papun Township USDA, Executive U Om Galang of Mindat District USDA, Secretary U Tin Hlaing of ChaungU Township USDA, Executive Daw Thi Thi Htwe of Kyunso Township USDA, Secretary U Lwin Maung Win of Thegon Township USDA, Executive U Lwin Myint of Ottwin Township USDA, Executive U Sein Shwe Min of Minbu Township USDA, Executive U Myint Kyaw of Pynmana Township USDA, Executive Daw Yin Min Htaik of Bilin Township USDA and Secretary U Than Wai Ko of Taungup Township USDA took part in the discussions.

Next, they selected and assigned duties to a representative to discuss social

and cultural matters at the second-day session of the annual general meeting.

After the formation of a team to compile the paper to be submitted at the second-day session, the chairman made conclusion remarks.

The seminar on the education sector of the discussion group-5 was held at Tagaung Mess Hall. CEC Member U Tin Hlaing presided over the seminar together with CEC Members U Thein Sein and U Kyaw Win. Executive Daw Thuza Lwin of Mudon Township USDA acted as master of ceremonies.

The chairman of the seminar made an opening speech.

Executive Daw Mi Htay of Latha Township USDA, Executive U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk Township USDA, Secretary Daw Nan Mo Kham of Mantung Township USDA, Secretary U S Wai Lwin of Metmang Township USDA, Secretary U Than Win of Kyaiklat Township USDA, Executive U Bom Yein of Waingmaw Township USDA, Executive U Aung Tun Kyi of Loikaw Township USDA, Secretary U Maung Maung of Thandaung Township USDA, Executive Daw Nan Khan Kyin of Tiddim Township USDA, Secretary U Kyaw Min Tun of Kanbalu Township USDA, Secretary U Pe Than of Yebyu Township USDA, Secretary U Nan Oo of Monyo Township USDA, Joint-Secretary U Kyi Soe of Pyu Township USDA, Executive U Aung Naing Lin of Ngaphe Township USDA, Executive

(See page 10)



Kayin State USDA Executive U Saw Tun Kyaw Lin. — MNA



Mohmyin Township USDA Executive U San Lin. — MNA



Maubin Township USDA Secretary U Than Tun. — MNA



Hsipaw Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Theingi. — MNA



Pruhs Township USDA Secretary U Saw Hu Hu. — MNA



The seminar on management sector in progress at the first-day session of USDA AGM 2003. — MNA

City Housing Project...

(from page 1)

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged Myanmar engineers to make strenuous efforts in equipping Yangon City with the characteristics of a modern city and implementing the high-rise buildings project meeting the set standard and ensuring timely completion and durability.

Next, members of the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee and officials reported on matters related to estate, housing and housing projects and work being carried out and future tasks for development of Yangon City.

After that, Chairman of High-rise Buildings Construction Project Inspection Group Deputy Minister for

Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Ngwe reported on matters related to providing designs and advice in construction of high-rise buildings for durability.

Next, Director-General of DHSD U Ant Kyaw reported on upgrading of the main roads in Yangon City and roads in Dagon Myothit, Shwepyitha, Hlinethayar, Mingaladon and North Okkalapa Townships, construction of new roads and bridges and extension of roads in Kyauktan Industrial Zone.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.—MNA



Member of MNCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially greets trainees at the UDNR, Ywathitgyi, Sagaing Division on 22 November (News reported). — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts the photo of James Hla Kyaw from the wellwishers. (News page 2) — MNA

Carrying out efforts for ...

(from page 9)

Daw Khin Hlaing Myint of Wundwin Township USDA, Executive U Min Aung Than Nyunt of Paung Township USDA, and Secretary U Saw Myint Oo of Thandwe District USDA took part in the discussions.

Next, they selected and assigned duties to a representative to submit the paper and findings at the annual general meeting. Afterwards, the chairman of the seminar made concluding remarks.

Seminar on cooperation for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State of the discussion group-6 was held at Khittaya Mess Hall. Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo presided over the meeting together with CEC member U Aung Thein Lin.

Executive Daw Khin Thida of Yebu Township USDA and Executive Daw Thanda Lwin of Myitkyina Township USDA acted as master of ceremonies and co-master of ceremonies.

Secretary-General U Htay Oo made a speech.

Executive U Aye Khine of Thongwa Township USDA, Secretary U Sai Tin Htwe of Taunggyi District USDA, Executive Daw Thida Moe Naing of Hopang Township USDA, Secretary U Sai Kyaw Nyunt of Mongphyat Township USDA, Secretary U Win Ko Ko of Myaungmya Township USDA, Executive U Myint Ko of Tanai Township USDA, Executive U Myint Maung of Loikaw District USDA, Executive U Min Lwin of Myawady

Township USDA, Executive U Kyin Shan Kham of Chin State USDA, Secretary U Htain Min of Wundwin Township USDA, Executive Daw Myint Mar Cho of Taninthayi Township USDA, Secretary U Myo of Pyay Township USDA, Executive U Tin Soe of Toungoo Township USDA, Executive U Han Maung of Magway Division USDA, representative U Thaung Wai of Mandalay District USDA, Executive U Myo Min Hlaing of Chaungzon Township USDA and Secretary U Hla Maung Wai of MraukU Township USDA took part in the discussions.

Next, they selected and assigned duties to a representative to submit the paper and findings at the annual general meeting. Afterwards, the seminar came to a close with concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA



Seminar on education sector of discussion group-5 in progress at the Annual General Meeting 2003 of USDA. — MNA

Transport Minister inspects maintenance of waterways

YANGON, 22 Nov—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials arrived Nyaungdon-Setkot by car yesterday morning.

The minister inspected

condition of the Setkot waterway. Director-General of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of Rivers Systems reported on measures being taken to the minister.

Next, the Deputy Minis-

ter reported on measures to be taken for extension of original waterway up to 1500 feet.

Next, the minister and party inspected maintenance of banks and waterways.

MNA

Minister inspects Thakayta Industrial Zone

YANGON, 22 Nov — Member of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee in charge of Thakayta Industrial Zone Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone arrived at the management committee office of the zone

in Thakayta Township this morning.

Officials reported on the work done, arrangements for Auto Parts Buyer's Show to be organized by the committee, and progress in construction of the roads in the zone.

The minister gave in-

structions on collective efforts for holding the show and fulfilled the requirements, and inspected the spare parts.

He next inspected the main workshop of the MWVO.

MNA

Paunglin (Ngamoeyek Supporting Dam) Construction Project inspected

YANGON, 22 Nov — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin

inspected the control tower, spillway and storage capacity of Ngamoeyek Dam in

Hlegu Township this morning. He also inspected the herbal plantations being undertaken by the ministry near the dam.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the project site for construction of Paunglin (Ngamoeyek Supporting Dam) and looked into the flooring of the creek.

Officials reported on construction of the conduit of the main embankment and arrangements for construction of a control tower and a spillway. The minister gave instructions on future tasks and inspected the construction work. — MNA

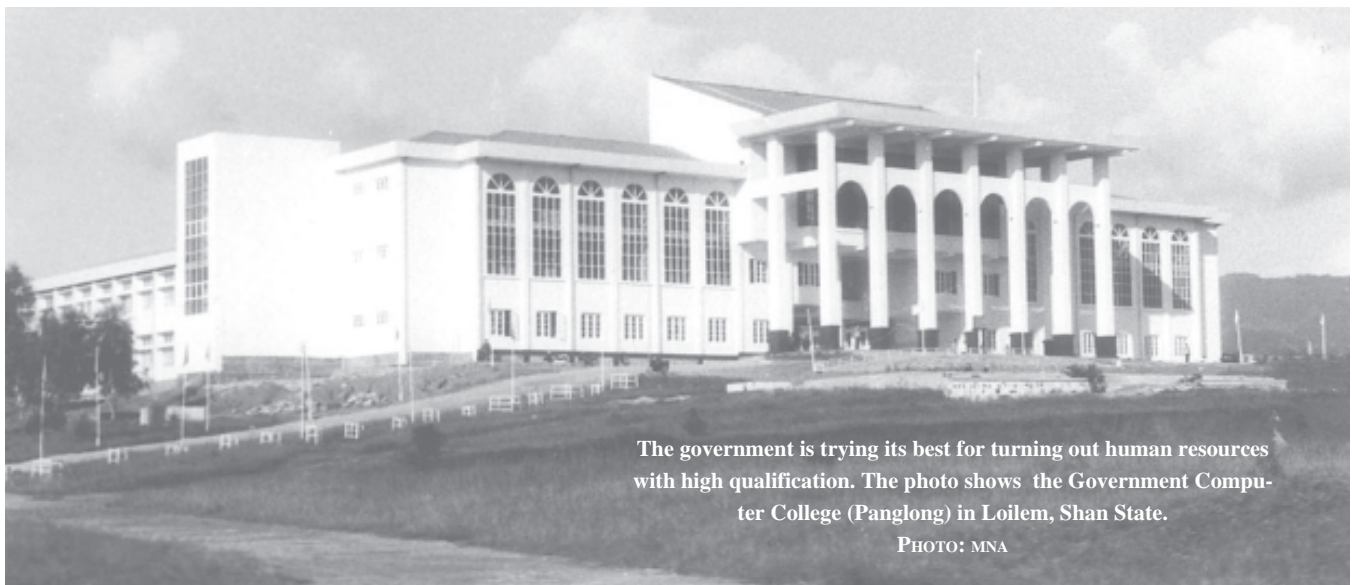


Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspects Paunglin (Ngamoeyek Supporting Dam) project. — A & I

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



Myanmar ICT Development Corporation opened the MICT Park (Yangon) on 21 January 2002 with the aim of creating an ICT hub of the country to establish Myanmar as a software developer and exporter. The photo shows the Cyber Cafe at MICT Park in Hline Township, Yangon.—Photo: Ko Ko SOE NYUNT

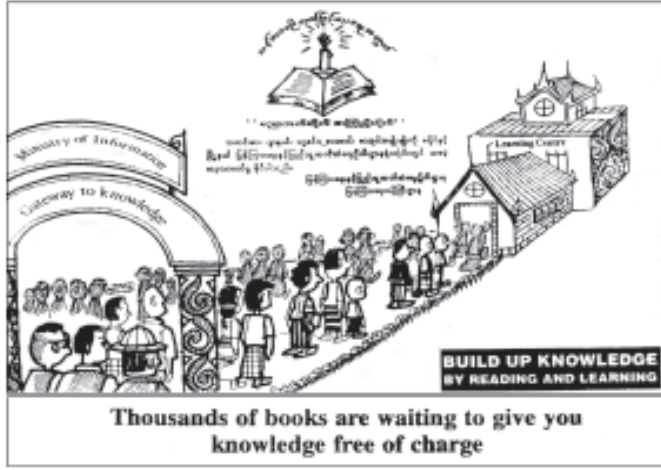


The government is trying its best for turning out human resources with high qualification. The photo shows the Government Computer College (Panglong) in Loilem, Shan State.

PHOTO: MNA



An MICT park of international standard has emerged in Mandalay, the capital of the upper Myanmar, on 16 August 2003. It can be considered as a significant achievement that has resulted from the efforts to build information and communication infrastructures of international standard.— PHOTO:MNA



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၂။ တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက် - (၂၈-၁၁-၂၀၀၃)ရက်နေ့

၃။ အချိန် - (၁၄:၀၀) နာရီ

တင်ဒါပိတ်နှင့် တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်း အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဌာနများတွင် စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်း နိုင်ပါသည်။

တယ်လီဖုန်းနံပါတ်

မြန်မာ့ဆေးဝါးနှင့်အိမ်သုံးပစ္စည်း

လုပ်ငန်းရုံးချုပ်

၅၆၁၃၉၁

၁၉၂၊ ကမ္ဘာအေးဘုရားလမ်း

၅၆၆၇၁၅

ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။

၅၆၆၇၁၆

Int'l forum on juvenile issues opens in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 22 Nov— The fourth "For Children" international forum, featuring a theme of "children's development and social responsibility", opened in Shanghai on Thursday, with the attendance of specialists on juvenile issues from a dozen countries and regions. The opening of the forum coincided with the World Children's Day.

During the three-day forum, participants will discuss subjects such as the responsibilities society should bear in the process of children's development, creation of a safe social environment, offering of a quality education, implementation of a treaty on children's rights and concern for special children groups, organizers said. The forum is jointly sponsored by the Shanghai Municipal Women's Federation, the Shanghai Municipal Academy of Social Sciences and the *Modern Family* magazine. —MNA/Xinhua

ရုပ်သိမ်းတင်ခါ မေးမြန်းခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်စာတုဗေဒ လုပ်ငန်းကြီးကြပ်မှုအောက်ရှိ စက်ရုံများအတွက် အောက်ပါ ပစ္စည်းများအား မြန်မာ့ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြော်ငြာ အပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ် အကြောင်းအရာ အရေအတွက်
၁။ စက်အရန်ပစ္စည်း (၂၀) မျိုး
၂။ PUMP (၅) မျိုး
၂။ တင်ဒါပိတ်မည့်ရက်/အချိန် ၄-၁၂-၂၀၀၃နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ
၃။ သိရှိလိုသည့်အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်- ၅၄၃၃၆၅ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်စာတုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း

ငှားပေါ်

သက်နံကျွန်းမြို့နယ်လေးဒေါင်ကန် လမ်းမပေါ် စတုရန်း ပေ ၂၀၀၀၀ ဝိုဒေါင်ကို မြန်မာ ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းလိုပါသည်။

Ph: 09-9924494

Beijing Customs seize smuggled ivory

BEIJING, 22 Nov— Beijing Customs announced here that they have seized six and a half smuggled elephant tusks and another 387 ivory-based products since the beginning of this year.

A spokesman for Beijing Customs said that the contraband were found in six cases involving endangered species when they carried out routine checks on air passengers.

The Customs officers dealt with three such cases in November alone. In the latest case, on November 18, a Liberian passenger was found carrying four elephant tusks in his luggage by the Customs officers. The four tusks were then confiscated.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

China to become the world's second largest oil importer next year

BEIJING, 22 Nov— China's consumption of crude oil has seen rapid growth in recent years, and China will surpass Japan to become the second largest crude oil importing country in the coming year, said Wang Jiming, president of China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (CPCC).

Wang made the remarks at an international summit on mergers and acquisitions in Beijing. He also predicted that the total import volume of China's crude oil this year will be over 80 million tons.

When asked to comment on CPCC's risk management on the potential energy crisis, Wang said CPCC could secure the oil and gas supply by enlarging importation while actively seeking high-quality overseas resources.

Wang stressed that the Chinese oil giant would promote an integrated approach to secure the oil and gas supply.

"We will not put all our money in one basket," Wang said, adding that the corpora-

tion would conduct oil purchases in north Africa and Southeast Asia besides the traditional Middle East region.

Wang said CPCC would boost cooperation with overseas partners by participating in the shareholding companies and providing technical services.

CPCC would also use trade advantages to promote cooperation with overseas oil companies on resource exploitation, Wang said, revealing that the corporation imports 60 to 70 million tons of crude oil per year.

CPCC is one of the biggest Chinese oil enterprises and is listed on the stock markets of Hong Kong, New York, London and Shanghai. —MNA/Xinhua

China Int'l Travel Mart opens in Kunming

KUNMING, 22 Nov— The China International Travel Mart 2003 (CITM) opened Kunming Thursday, aiming at promoting exchanges and cooperation between China's tourism industry and overseas counterparts.

China's Vice-Premier Wu Yi said at the opening ceremony that as a vital industry with huge potential, tourism plays an active role in promoting economic growth, social prosperity, maintaining world peace and development and promoting

mutual understanding and friendship among different peoples.

She said tourism has become a new industry with high potential in China as well as a growth point in the national economy. In some areas, it even became the pillar industry of local economy.

Tourism has played a more and more important role in helping stimulate domestic demand, increase foreign currency income, improve industrial structure and alleviate poverty, Wu said, noting that tourism has also enhanced the friendly exchanges between China and

the world.

She said that in the promising 21st Century, China will adopt a more open approach in enhancing the ties with the outside world and the world will pay more attention to China with more expectant eyes.

CITM is an important window for China to demonstrate the new appearance of its tourism industry and also provides an excellent chance for the world to promote their tourism products. It is expected to help promote the development of China's inbound tourism, publicize China's image to the world, as well as expand industrial exchanges and cooperation, according to organizers of the event.

The four-day CITM, covering an area of 30,000 square metres with 1454 booths, has attracted nearly 10,000 professionals from 49 nations and areas.

MNA/Xinhua

16th Asia Int'l Stamp Exhibition opens in Sichuan Province

MIANYANG (Sichuan), 22 Nov— An international stamp exhibition which displays elaborate stamps from 24 Asian countries and regions opened in Mianyang, in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The five-day China-Mianyang 2003 Asia International Stamp Exhibition has attracted more than 3,000 visitors who will enjoy 1,500 cases of valuable and unique Chinese and foreign stamps.

China put forward 567 cases of stamps and 78 documents on stamps.

Other activities such as an international philatelic symposium, and an auction of elaborate stamps and philately will be staged during the exhibition period.

Wu Jichuan, chairman of the organizing committee, said the exhibition was designed to boost cultural and artistic exchanges between the members of the Inter-Asia Philatelic Federation, enhance the friendship between China and other countries and promote

the development of philately. The exhibition was also held to mark the 125th anniversary of the issue of China's first stamp — "Dalong" (Big Dragon). MNA/Xinhua

China to promote Internet standardization

BEIJING, 22 Nov— Chinese telecommunication operators and research institutes jointly launched an expertise team in Beijing Thursday, with a view to creating better order in the telecommunications industry, and guarantee smooth operation of networks employing different technical standards.

Sources with the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) said Gong Shuangjin, an expert with the MII Telecommunication Research Institute, will be the team leader. The team is to carry out research on technical standards of exchange and communication between different networks, draft project plans and protocols on standards, and organize discussions and publicity.

Lu Yang, an MII official in charge of telecommunications, said Internet standardi-

zation was an important means to supervise the information industry. Currently, China is taking concrete measures to solve problems arising from different technical standards, such as regulating account settlement between different networks and monitoring the quality of exchange. Lu said researching and launching telecommunication standardization should be far-sighted and the interests of customers and operators should also be taken into account. —MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Chinese Premier meets Swiss President

BEIJING, 22 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here Friday with visiting Swiss President Pascal Couchepin.

Since the establishment of bilateral relations some 50 years ago, Wen said, China and Switzerland had developed a stable relationship. China regarded Switzerland as an important partner in Central Europe.

China respects Switzerland's neutral policy and is willing to play an active role, together with Switzerland, in safeguarding world peace and stability, Wen said.

From January to September 2003, Wen said, the bilateral trade volume had increased by 34 per cent on a year-by-year basis.

With a highly developed economy, advanced technologies and sufficient funds, Switzerland is very strong in financing,

social security and environmental protection Wen said.

Wen said he hoped the two sides could further enhance their trade cooperation.

Couchepin said that his country highly valued the achievements made by the Chinese people in developing its economy.

China's opening-up to the outside world had benefitted world peace and stability, he said.

He also said that after its entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), China has strictly abided by WTO rules and fulfilled its pledges in protecting intellectual property and reducing trade tariffs.

He said Switzerland would be more active in cooperating with China in political, trade and scientific and technological fields.

MNA/Xinhua

Clinton says AIDS medicines may soon be cheaper in India

NEW DELHI, 22 Nov — On a visit to pharmaceutical giant Ranbaxy Research Laboratories in New Delhi, former US president Bill Clinton on Friday indicated that anti-AIDS medicines may become cheaper for the Indian patients.

Visiting India as a representative of his William Jefferson Clinton foundation, Clinton told reporters he had had discussions with Indian officials on the

subject and he would also be taking it up with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

There was high level of interest in India towards curtailing AIDS, he said.

The Clinton Foundation had signed an agreement with three generic drug manufacturers from India — Cipla, Ranbaxy and Matrix Laboratories — last month that would reduce the cost of commonly

used triple drug regimen for AIDS by about one-third to about 36-38 US cents per person per day for distribution in some African and Caribbean countries.

The Indian Government has already formed a working group that also includes members of industry to chart out a similar strategy to reduce the drug prices in India.

MNA/Xinhua

Electricity line linking China, Thailand under construction

GUANGZHOU, 22 Nov — China and Thailand have started to build a direct current line of 500 kilovolts linking Jinghong in southwest China's Yunnan Province and Bangkok, according to a meeting on the Mekong sub-region power grids connection held here.

The 1,070-kilometre electricity line is expected to transmit 300 kilowatts of electricity from 2013 to 2014.

The meeting, attended by China, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, was sponsored by the Asia Development Bank and China's Southern Power Grid Co Ltd, one of China's two power grid companies, which manages the southern Guangdong, Guizhou, Hainan and Yunnan provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

MNA/Xinhua

Solar hurricane hits Earth in repeat of October storm

HELSINKI, 22 Nov — Magnetic solar hurricanes like those that wreaked havoc last month have hit Earth again, confusing satellites and causing aurora borealis displays as far south as Florida, Finnish meteorologists said on Friday.

"The storm has already begun, and last night it grew incredibly strong," said Heikki Nevanlinna, research manager at the Finnish Meteorological Institute told Reuters.

"There have been solar flares from the sun, and my estimate is that this weekend will see a lot of atmospheric disturbance."

Magnetic solar storms, caused by a burst of charged particles from the sun hitting the Earth's magnetic field, caused technical glitches around the world at the end of October in some of the most intense storms ever detected.

The current storm stems from the same giant sun-

spots that caused last month's solar flares, but is clearly weaker than the October storm, Nevanlinna said.

Nevertheless, Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receivers have already experienced disturbances, as have mobile phone networks, Nevanlinna said.

"(GPS receivers) may give bad coordinates or it may take them an extremely long time to get data. This demonstrates that the intermediary substance in which the signals are travelling is in a very disturbed state," he said.

Solar storms can interfere with satellite paths, causing them to fly off course.

They can also damage electricity grids, and last month a blackout that affected 50,000 people in Sweden was suspected to have been caused by these storms.

MNA/Reuters

Construction of Bangkok's satellite city to start in 2004

BANGKOK, 22 Nov — Construction of Bangkok's satellite city should begin next year on a 240-square kilometre land straddling three districts of Nakhon Nayok Province, 110 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, the *Bangkok Post* reported.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra revealed that the new city, tentatively called Muang Mai Nakhon Nayok (New Nakhon Nayok City), could cost less than 2.5 billion US dollars.

He was quoted as saying that the new city, to be mod-

elled on Japan's Tama District, will be a modern city and provide good living, a clean environment, good health and good services to the residents.

There would have schools, hospitals and first-class hotels, but not too many government offices, and no industrial factories would be allowed, Thaksin said, adding that an electric train system and a highway could be built to link the city with Bangkok.

According to government spokesman Sita Divari, construction work would take six to eight years to complete. Land would be acquired through direct purchase, or by issuing to landowners government bonds commensurate with the real value of their plots, or by allowing landowners to exchange their plots with properties outside the area, he said, adding that construction of roads and infrastructure projects would be funded by the state. — MNA/Xinhua

India to undertake lunar mission in 4 years

NEW DELHI, 22 Nov — India will have its own payload going around the moon in another four years to study the lunar surface, which would throw light on the origin of the universe, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chairman G Madhavan Nair said.

"It will also help create a scientific temperament in students. Now it is for the space community to absorb the challenge and perform," Nair said while inaugurating the 40th anniversary of launching of "sounding" rockets from the Thumba Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala state of southern India. — MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai set to train more "grey collars"

SHANGHAI, 22 Nov — A personnel official in the eastern commercial hub Shanghai has said the city is poised to train more "grey collar" professionals to meet the demands of the local

job market. Advertising copy writers, network administrators, fashion designers and programmers were most frequently sought after by local headhunters and were among the most popular choices for job-hunters, said Zhu Junyi, director of the Shanghai Municipal Labour and Social Security Bureau.

These "grey collar" professionals, who were expected to combine the book knowledge of white-collar professionals with the nimble fingers of blue-collar workers, were needed by the traditional manufacturing industry as well as the rising service sector, where creativity was crucial, said Zhu.

While schools would recruit more students for these practical fields, the city also planned to set up a dozen vocational training centres to make up for the shortage, he told a recent seminar in Shanghai.

Insiders say the training of "grey collars" will also help relieve the pressure for college graduates who may not easily find a white-collar job but do not want to start their career as a blue-collar worker.

MNA/Xinhua



"Baywatch" star Brande Roderick arrives at a cinema theater on a promotional campaign for the Bollywood movie "Out of Control" in Bombay, India, on 19 Nov, 2003. Roderick stars in this Bollywood film, which was due to open on 21 Nov. — INTERNET

SPORTS

US outplay Belgium 3-1 to reach Fed Cup final

Moscow, 22 Nov— Lisa Raymond Thursday beat Belgium's Elke Clijsters 6-2, 6-1, to lead the United States into the Fed Cup final.

With a 3-1 win over Belgium, the United States will next face the winners of the second semifinal between hosts Russia and France, who were level at 1-1 after the first day.

Belgium are missing their top two players, world numbers one and number two Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters.

Clijsters' younger sister Elke, a late replacement for 17-year-old Kirsten Flipkens, could do nothing to stop in-form Raymond.

Raymond, who had little trouble on her own serve, broke 18-year-old Clijsters twice in each set before finishing the match in just 47 minutes.

Earlier, Callens rebounded with a solid effort against Shaughnessy, the world number 17. The Belgian earned the only break in the second game to take the first set 6-3 before securing victory at her first opportunity, winning the tiebreak 7-5.

The Americans, also missing several of their top players, have won the Fed Cup 17 times, more than any other nation in the competition's 40-year history. —MNA/Xinhua

Iran, Qatar book Asian Cup spots

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Nov— Iran and Qatar have booked their places at the 2004 Asian Cup, while Thailand boosted their chances with a second successive victory, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Thursday.

Iran beat Lebanon 3-0 in Beirut on Wednesday to improve to nine points from four games, three behind Group D leaders Jordan, who qualified for the finals in China after a 3-0 win over North Korea the previous day. Striker Ali Daei converted a 38th-minute penalty to give Iran the lead at a near-empty Beirut Municipal Stadium.

Second-half goals from Yahya Golmohammadi and substitute Vahedi Nikbakht sealed the points for the three-times Asian

champions.

In Group B, former Japan coach Philippe Troussier guided Qatar to the finals thanks to a 2-0 home victory over Singapore.

Strikers Syed Basheer and Mubarak Mustafascored first-half goals in Doha to give Qatar eight points from five matches.

Kuwait, demolished 8-0 by Portugal in a friendly on Wednesday, qualified as Group B winners with 16 points from six games.

Elsewhere, Thailand left it late in Bangkok but playmaker Therdsak Chaiman scored from the spot in the 83rd minute to give the home side a priceless 1-0 win over Tajikistan in Group A.

The Thais, who began as joint group favourites but lost their first three matches, climbed to second behind Uzbekistan.

Thailand play Uzbekistan on Friday needing another victory to be sure of qualifying for their fourth straight Asian Cup. Tajikistan, who face Hong Kong in their final game, have five points.

Unbeaten Uzbekistan edged Hong Kong 1-0 to clinch their spot in China, improving to 13 points.

South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Oman, Iraq and Bahrain have also booked their spots at the Asian Cup, which takes place from July 17 to August 7 next year. —MNA/Reuters



San Jose Sharks left winger Marco Sturm top, of Germany, shoots the puck between Phoenix Coyotes goalie Sean Burke bottom, and the post for the game's first goal on a powerplay in the first period on 21 November, 2003, in Phoenix. —INTERNET

Newcastle boosted by return of Woodgate and Dyer

NEW CASTLE (England), 22 Nov— The return of Jonathan Woodgate and Kieron Dyer to Newcastle United's squad has given manager Bobby Robson a welcome selection dilemma, captain Alan Shearer said on Friday.

Centre-back Woodgate has been absent for almost two months after undergoing double hernia surgery while his fellow England international Dyer has missed Newcastle's last six games due to a hamstring problem.

Both players, who played for the reserves on Monday, have been included in the Newcastle squad to face Manchester City in their Premier League match at St James' Park on Saturday.

"Overall, our defenders have done well without Jonathan (Woodgate) and I have to say I think their performances have been good and now the manager has a selection problem although I don't think he'll lose any sleep over it because I would imagine those are the sorts of problems he likes," Shearer said.

"He also has a selection problem in midfield as to whether or not he brings Kieron back because that is another area that has been functioning well, obviously minus the last game," he told reporters.

Shearer has recovered from the illness that ruled him out of Newcastle's last game which they lost 5-0 at Chelsea and is ready to lead his team into action against a side managed by Kevin Keegan, the man who brought him to St James' Park for a then world record 15 million pounds in 1996.

"I'm sure Kevin will try to ensure his side outscore the opposition because that is his philosophy on football," Shearer said. —MNA/Reuters

Houllier says Owen back to lift Liverpool

LIVERPOOL (England), 22 Nov— Liverpool will be boosted by the return of England striker Michael Owen at Middlesbrough this weekend, manager Gerard Houllier said on Friday.

A shin injury ruled the prolific forward out of Liverpool's last two games, a 2-1 defeat by champions Manchester United and a 1-1 UEFA Cup draw at Steaua Bucharest.

"It's a real boost," Houllier told reporters as he prepared for Saturday's Premier League match. "His all-round game has improved and he's not just a goal scorer now. He frees up space for other players and he links up play with midfield well now."

"His presence is a boost for the confidence of the whole team and a threat for other teams."

Liverpool have a score to settle with Middlesbrough after a defeat at the Riverside last season heralded the start of a calamitous run of form that shattered their title hopes.

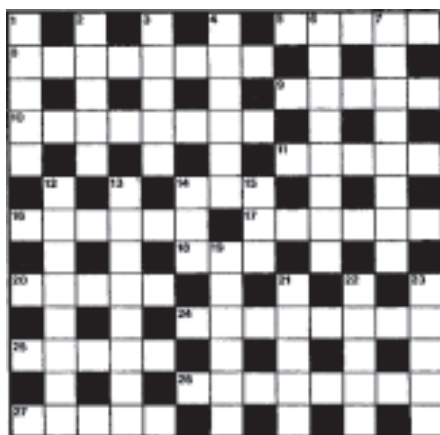
Houllier's league leaders had amassed 30 points in 12 games before their loss in the northeast triggered a series of 11 matches without a win, Liverpool's worst league run in 50 years.

"Maybe this time it will start us on a good run for the team," said Houllier, whose side are only eighth in the table, a full 13 points adrift of leaders Arsenal.

Houllier knows Liverpool have to sharpen up if they want to match the league's top sides, having lost by one goal to Chelsea, Arsenal and, a fortnight ago, United at home.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 5 Town in Somerset
- 8 Surviving traces
- 9 Sacred song
- 10 Spectator
- 11 Oven
- 14 Some
- 16 Risk
- 17 Prolong
- 18 Speck
- 20 Coral island
- 24 Furtive
- 25 Buffoon
- 26 Mention in dispatches
- 27 Convenient

DOWN

- 1 Streamlet
- 2 Abundant
- 3 Truncheon
- 4 Scattered
- 6 Demur
- 7 Pertinent
- 12 Spanish lady's lace scarf
- 13 Consecrated
- 14 Append
- 15 Still
- 19 Procure
- 21 Trite
- 22 Blemish
- 23 Mendacious



Florent Malouda, right, of Lyon, and Yacine Abdessadki of Strasbourg, challenge for the ball during their French League soccer game played in Lyon, central France, on 21 November, 2003. —INTERNET

MRTV-3
**23-11-2003 (Sunday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Gold Honey,
Honey Gold
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Head of River Catfish
and Indian Leek Sour
Soup)
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Aungpan Oranges
9:25 Sagaing Hill
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Nipa Palm Forest
9:40 Song "You can take
me but not my love"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Myanmar Beauty &
Myanmar Nature Photo
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**23-11-2003*(Sunday)
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 "Mingalabar"
15:36 Gold Honey,

- Honey Gold
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Head of River Catfish
and Indian Leek Sour
Soup)
15:45 **National News**
15:50 Aungpan Oranges
15:55 Sagaing Hill
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Nipa Palm Forest
16:10 Song "You can take
me but not my love"
16:15 **National News**
16:20 Myanmar Beauty &
Myanmar Nature Photo
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanmar Sen-
timent"
16:30 **National News**
16:35 Travel & Description
(Yangon to Thanlyin-
Kyaik Tan)
16:40 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
clean soup with tender
gourd leaves)
16:45 **National News**
16:50 Native home of the
Kham
16:55 Wararya Dance
16:57 Unique Style of
Kachin Dress
17:00 **National News**
17:05 The Gold and Silver
Smith of Inlay
17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Golden
Mandalay"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Myanmar Paintings of
Successive Periods
17:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- Myanmar"
**23-11-2003*(Sunday)
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 "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanmar
Sentiment"
19:36 ASEAN Food Festival
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Short-headed Fish
with Roasted Rice
Soup)
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Naga Traditional
Culture Showroom
19:55 Sound of the harp
attracting Love
20:00 **National News**
20:05 A Gift to Mark a visit
to Myitkyina
(Kachin-Snack)
20:10 Song "Magnificent
Darka Bridge"
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Telefood Project in
Myanmar
20:25 Song "Sumpabum"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Three Dimensional
Gems Studded Paint-
ing
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Myanmar Movies
Impact "Lusk's Gift"
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Women with Remark-
able Necks
21:10 Song "Let go of me"

- 21:12 Kayin Traditional
Weaving Industry
21:15 **National News**
21:20 National Races Village
(Shan & Bamar)
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35 Gold Honey,
Honey Gold
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Head of River Catfish
and Indian Leek Sour
Soup)
21:45 **National News**
21:50 Aungpan Oranges
21:55 Sagaing Hill
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Nipa Palm Forest
22:10 Song "You can take
me but not my love"
22:15 **National News**
22:20 Myanmar Beauty &
Myanmar Nature Photo
Contest
22:25 Song
"Our Cherryland"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 Travel & Description
(Yangon to Thanlyin-
Kyaik Tan)
22:40 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
clean soup with tender
gourd leaves)
22:45 **National News**
22:50 Native home of the
Kham
22:55 Wararya Dance
22:57 Unique Style of
Kachin Dance
23:00 **National News**
23:05 The Gold and Silver
Smith Dress
23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Golden
Mandalay"

- Mandalay"
23:15 **National News**
23:20 Myanmar Paintings of
Successive Periods
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
**23-11-2003*(Sunday) &
24-11-2003 (Monday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 01:30)**
23:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 Gold Honey,
Honey Gold
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Head of River Catfish
and Indian Leek Sour
Soup)
23:45 **National News**
23:50 Aungpan Oranges
23:55 Sagaing Hill
24:00 **National News**
00:05 Nipa Palm Forest
00:10 Song "You can take
me but not my love"
00:15 **National News**
00:20 Myanmar Beauty &

- Myanmar Natural
Photo
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
" Myanmar Panorama
& Myanmar Senti-
ment"
00:30 **National News**
00:35 Travel & Description
(Yangon to Thanlyin-
Kyaik Tan)
00:40 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
clean soup with tender
gourd leaves)
00:45 **National News**
00:50 Native home of the
Kham
00:55 Wararya Dance
00:57 Unique Style of
Kachin Dance
01:00 **National News**
01:05 The Gold and Silver
Smith of Inlay
01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Golden
Mandalay"
01:15 **National News**
01:20 Myanmar Paintings of
Successive Periods
01:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"



Sunday, November 23

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw
U Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ခြောက်လ
8:00 am
6. အတိတ်ကြည့်
8:15 am
7. ယုဒဇာတ်တော်
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Say it in English
11:00 am
1. Martial Song
11:10 am
2. Musical programme
11:20 am
3. ကျိတ်စရာဆုတောင်းပြည့်
အလှူအတန်းမြှင့်တင်
ပြိုင်ဆိုင်မှုလုပ်ငန်းများ
(မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့၊ ကျိတ်စရာမြို့)

- 11:30 am**
4. Roundup of the week's
international news
11:45 am
5. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ
"အချစ်သံစုံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
12:20 pm
6. Milo Success in Soccer
12:35 pm
7. "မိုးရေချိုး"
စစ်တမ်း၊ ရုပ်၊ မင်းသမီး၊ သတ္တိ၊
မင်းသမီး၊ နိုင်ငံခြား၊ စာအုပ်တို
(ဒေါ်နီတိတာ-သုမောင်)
1:25 pm
8. ဆွစ်ဇာလန်နိုင်ငံတော်
တော်ကြီးမြို့ရပ်တော်တိုင်ပင်
1:35 pm
9. လောကီတီ (၄)
"လူ့ပြုမူမှုအပေါ်"
အကယ်ဒမီစီမံခန့်ခွဲမှု၊ နိုင်ငံခြား၊
နိုင်ငံခြား၊ ရုပ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှု
(ဒေါ်နီတိတာ-ဦးစင်စေ)
2:15 pm
10. ကိုဇာနည်တိုင်းရင်းသားတို့ရဲ့
ရုပ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှု
2:30 pm
11. သုံးဆယ့်ရှစ်လောက်တစ်
2:45 pm
12. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm
4. သာယာချိုဆုံး(၃၈) ခြောက်လ

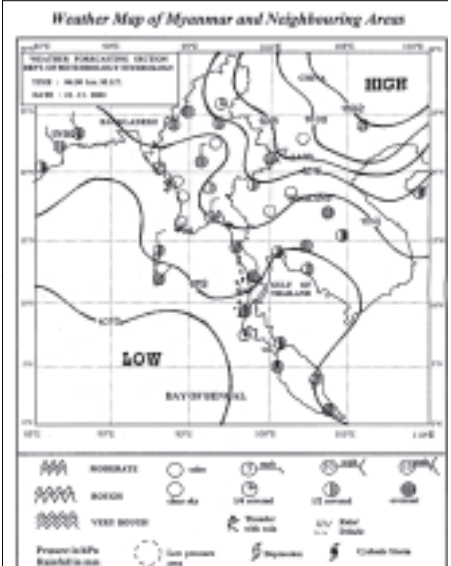
- 4:55 pm**
5. အဆင်သင့်တော်တော်လေး
ရုပ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုတော်
- စတင်မှု (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြု
အားလုံး) (ဒေါ်နီတိတာ)
5:10 pm
6. Song of national races
5:25 pm
7. မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့အက
5:40 pm
8. Musical programme
5:50 pm
9. ကြိုတင်လေ့ကျင့်အောင်ပွဲ
ဆိုင်
5:55 pm
10. Sing and enjoy
6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. အမှတ်တိုင်ကြီး
(အထက်-၁၊ ၁၇)
7:30 pm
14. Agricultural force
country's development
7:45 pm
15. Industrial achievement
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. Calcio Serie A ဆောင်ပွဲ
ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်
မင်းသမီးဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး
ဒီဂရီမြို့နယ်တော်တော်လေး
အရပ်
အရပ်အရပ်တော်တော်
များပြားတော်တော်
21. The next day's
programme



Sunday, November 23

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
9:05 am Music
9:10 am International news
9:15 am Music
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Story for children:
"Bambi"
1:50 pm Songs for children
9:00 pm Weekly news review
9:10 pm Music
9:15 pm Article
9:25 pm Latest Hits
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

**DRIVE
SAFELY****WEATHER**

Saturday, 22 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C above normal in Taninthayi Division, 7°C below normal in Yangon Division, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Shan, Rakhine States and Mandalay Division and 3°C to 4°C below normal in the remaining areas.
Maximum temperature on 21-11-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 22-11-2003 was 16.5°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-11-2003 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 21-11-2003 was (8.4) hours approx. Rain-fall on 22-11-2003 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 9 mph from Northeast at (10:55) hours MST on 21-11-2003.
Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 23-11-2003:** Weather will be fair in the whole country. **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Northern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-11-2003:** Fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-11-2003:** Fair weather.

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

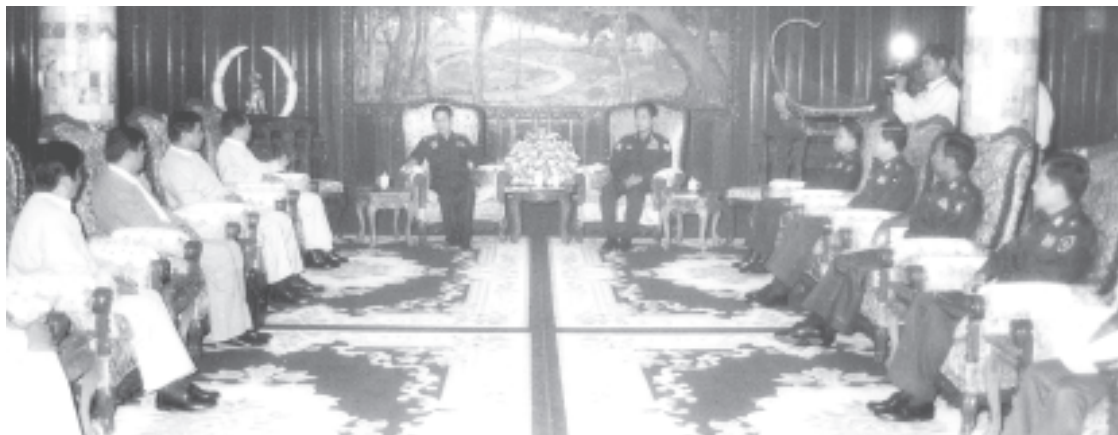
Four economic objectives

- * 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

Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders U Hsay Htin, U Lwe Moung and party of Shan State (North) Special Region-3. — MNA

**Carrying out efforts for ...**

(from page 1)

Member of Panel of Patrons of the USDA Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said the USDA was formed with five objectives of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty, promotion and vitalization of national pride and emergence of a prosperous, peaceful modern nation and the association has now turned ten years. It has become a tradition to hold annual general meeting every year.

He said based on new generation youths who will be discharging national duties for emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation the association was established with five noble and correct objectives, five fundamental principles, four oaths, ten codes of conduct and 14 duties and responsibilities. Therefore, he said, members of the association should be ones who love and cherish the nation and its people and preserve and safeguard national prestige and integrity.

He said the membership of the association safeguarding the nation has increased. Efforts are being made for enhancement of qualification of its members, he said. Courses and workshops nurtured the members enhancing their thoughts and competence. The USDA members are assigned duties in practical and organizational fields in order to apply the knowledge and thoughts gained at the courses and workshops as work guidelines, he added.

Nurturing the members of the association based on new generation youths leads to uplift of national prestige and integrity and this in turn leads to implementation of the objective of keeping patriotism alive and dynamic. Every citizen must have ability to defend the nation and therefore uplift of dignity of the nation and its people can be created, he said.

He said at present, some nations of the world were disintegrated in no time and their people are facing a lot of hardships. Unity and perpetuation of the Union of

YANGON, 22 Nov—Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received national race leaders U Hsay Htin and U Lwe Moung of Special Region 3, Shan State (North),

at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthata at 5 pm today. Present at the meeting were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Border Areas and National Races and De-

velopment Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of

dangers of the nation.

He said after consolidating national solidarity, the government is making efforts for regional development, basic economic foundations and raising of living standard. This means that the government is building basic foundations needed for democracy. National development is only for the people. Construction of dams and reservoirs, efforts for development of agriculture and improving the life of farmers are food sufficiency programmes for posterity, he said.

Supply of clean water, construction of roads and bridges and promotion of education and health care service are for rural development and improvement of

the life of rural people many of whom are poor. Establishment of industrial zones, factories and workshops is meant for possessing basic foundations of modern industrialized nation and creating job opportunities, he added. In carrying out rural development tasks, USDA at different levels will have to win the lovingkindness of the people by organizing them and engaging in their welfare.

He said the members of the association have to carry out rural development tasks and organizational matters at the same time. He said efforts of the association are meant for prosperity of the people and regional development. It is necessary for USDA members to organize

local people patiently to make them accept and support the tasks of the association through participation in practical work, he said.

For emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation, the national goal, he said the USDA implemented the tasks for stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and prevalence law and order, national reconsolidation which include in four political objectives, upholding Our Three Main National Causes. At the same time, the association is helping implement the four economic objectives and four social objectives. Therefore basic economic and social foundations have now been built, he added.

Grasping the nation's development the USDA members are to actively work under the leadership of the government.

Despite difficulties and local and foreign hindrances the people had worked hard with patriotism. Therefore they can now enjoy fruitful results.

He said the tasks for emergence of a new enduring constitution and building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State constitution, the remaining two points of the four political objectives must be implemented.

(See page 8)



Seminar on cooperation sector of successful implementation of seven-point future policy programme of the State of discussion group-6 in progress at the first day session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2003. —MNA