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*Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents the life-long National Literary Award to Writer U Htin Fatt (Maung Htin).—MNA*

## Selection and presenting national level literary awards reflects government's goodwill towards literati and recognition of high literary value

### Prize-distribution for life-long National Literary Award, National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and 14th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions held

YANGON, 23 NOV—The prize-distribution ceremony for the life-long National Literary Award, the National Literary Award, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and the 14th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions for the Year 2002 was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung road here at 2 pm today with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials from the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, the literati, the Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and members, social organizations, members of the Prize-Selection Committee for the life-long National Literary Award, the National Literary Award, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and the 14th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions, the Chairmen of Township Writers

and Journalists Associations in Yangon Division and members, prize-winners and guests.

First, the Prime Minister made a speech on the occasion. He said that the government has been placing emphasis on constant development of literary sector which have a great influence on Myanmar culture. It is also paying attention to Myanmar literature to be developed on the correct path of serving the national interest.

Selection of and presenting prizes for the national level literary awards including the National Literary Award is an encouragement of great value for the national movement.

Selection of and presenting prizes for the national level literary awards reflects not only the goodwill of the government towards the literati but also the government's deserving acknowledgement of the value and might of the award-winning works that could serve the national interest.

Everyone who loves and values literature has accepted that the literature has been able to contribute the life security of an individual who is pursuing literature. In addition, the literature has been accepted as the one capable of enhancing the dignity of the State and the people to stand shoulder to shoulder proudly with those of the world.

The might of literature is of high power that could

#### 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

inculcate the people with knowledge, rationale and thinking, and equip them with high personality. Furthermore, it could also revitalize the nationalism and patriotism that does not want to be under the influence of an alien nation and want the State and the people to be prosperous.

As Myanmar literature is filled with the might and characteristics of literature capable of boosting the national strength it has been able to enhance the nationalistic spirit of Myanmar people, revitalize the nationalism and strengthen the national immunity in the course of history. As a result, there exists the State and the people. At such a time, it is obvious that some Western powers which gain the upper hand over development of information and communication technology are attempting to export their culture and custom, social systems and norms that are different from Myanmar culture to Myanmar politically, economically and socially with the use of the strength of wealth and media.

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*Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt makes an address at the prize-distribution ceremony for the life-long National Literary Award, the National Literary Award, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and the 14th national Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions.—MNA*

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 24 November, 2003

### Organize USDA to become a powerful national force

The first day session of the Annual General Meeting 2003 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held on 19 November at the Union Hall of Central Training School of the association in Hmawby.

In his speech at the meeting, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win said that at present, some nations of the world were disintegrated in no time and their people are facing a lot of hardships; that unity and perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar are the most important factors; and that only the Union Spirit that has enabled national races to live together in the country can initiate non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty and emergence of a modern new nation.

The USDA was formed with five objectives— 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 and modern nation.

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, the association is the one which is made up of members who love and cherish the nation and its people and preserve and safeguard national prestige and integrity.

Membership of the association safeguarding the nation has increased. Efforts are being made for enhancement of qualification of its members. Courses and workshops have 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.

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 so that uplift of dignity of the nation and its people can be created.

We would like to urge all the association members to organize the association that represents the entire people as a powerful national force.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party posed for a documentary photo together with Life-long National Literacy Award winner U Htin Fatt (News page 1). — MNA

### Thai-Myanmar CECA members arrive

YANGON, 23 Nov — The 77-member Thai delegation led by President of Thai-Myanmar Cultural and Economic Cooperation Association General Pat Akkanibut and General Secretary General Sanan Kajornklam arrived here this morning to attend the third meeting of Thai-Myanmar and Myanmar-Thai cultural and economic cooperation associations.

They were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by President of Myanmar-Thai CECA Lt-Gen Kyaw Than (Retd), Vice-Chairman Lt-Gen Nyunt Thein (Retd), Secretary Col Ba Hein (Retd) and members, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Opas Chantarasap, Military Attache Col Kasam Nakpun and

officials.

Later, the delegation, accompanied by officials, went to Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township and paid obeisance to Lawka Chantha

Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image. Next, they made cash donations. Afterwards, they proceeded to Yadana White Elephant Garden near the hill and also made cash

donations for the white elephants.

In the evening, the delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda and donated cash for the pagoda.—MNA



Thai delegation led by Thai-Myanmar Cultural and Economic Cooperation Association President General Pat Akkanibut being welcomed at the airport. — MNA

### Commerce Minister inspects rice reprocessing plant

YANGON, 23 Nov — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, this afternoon went to No 282 Rice reprocessing plant of the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading in Hlinethaya Township and inspected rice reprocessing with colour sorter.

He also saw over fish breeding and agricultural work in the plant compound for staff welfare and gave instructions. — MNA

### 15th e-ASEAN Working Group (EAWG) meets

YANGON, 23 Nov — The 15th e-ASEAN Working Group (EAWG) meeting hosted by Myanmar was held on 21 November at MICT Park in Mandalay.

Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint made an opening address. At the meeting, a total of 34 delegates from ASEAN member nations took part in the discussions.

The discussions focused on development of e-Commerce tasks, free trade of equipment of ICT and making more investment in communication and ICT tasks.

The second day session of the meeting continued yesterday. Chairman of EAWG Dr Pichet Durongbaveroj presided over the meeting. — MNA

### Yangon Division PDC Chairman's shield soccer tournament ends

YANGON, 23 Nov — The final match and prize presentation ceremony of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman's shield inter-townships soccer tournament for 2003 took place at Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, No 4 Military Region Command Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and members, departmental officials and chairmen of district and

township Peace and Development Councils.

At the final match, Mayangon township team beat South Okkalapa township team 3-1.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented the shield to Mayangon township team.

Member of Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe awarded K 100,000 and medals to South Okkalapa township team which stood third and Police Col Aung Naing presented K 200,000 and medals to South Okkalapa township team which stood second.

Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin presented 300,000 and medals to Mayangon township team, the champion team. — MNA

### USDA members tour Yangon

YANGON, 23 Nov — Union Solidarity and Development Association's outstanding youth members for 2003 from states and divisions on 20 November morning paid obeisance to the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Afterwards, they went to

Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township. At the museum, officials conducted them round the museum.

During their tour, they also visited the MICT Park in Hline Township.

MNA



Myanmar Rice Marketing Course (Program-3) (Batch-1) Rice Milling Storage & Transportation opened this afternoon at UMFCCI Training Centre in Pabedan Township. Advisor to the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Khin Maung Yi delivers an opening address. — (H)

**Drive  
safely**



# France, Germany, Russia want bigger UN role in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Nov— France, Germany and Russia on Friday told the United States and Britain to include the United Nations in every stage of the Iraqi self-rule process and organize a conference for Iraqi leaders and key countries in the region.

Ambassadors of the three nations, all of which opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq, addressed the UN Security Council after the United States and Britain gave a detailed presentation of progress in Iraq since the war.

"We're disappointed there is no mention of the United Nations. We think that is wrong," Russian Ambassador Sergei Lavrov told the Council after US Ambassador John Negroponte and British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry spoke.

Lavrov, along with Ambassadors Jean-Marc de la Sabliere of France and Gunter Pleuger of Germany picked up on a proposal from Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov of an Afghan-style conference leading to the formation of an interim government.

Sabliere said that such a conference did not have to duplicate the one organized for Afghanistan in December 2001 in Bonn, Germany. He said it needed a forum that "would be inclusive" and be run by the United Nations to process international legitimacy.

"It is a matter of urgency to rebuild consensus in Iraq, at the regional level, and within the international community,"

the French ambassador said.

Negroponte and Jones Parry said only Iraqi leaders could consider the idea of a broader conference. "It is for the Iraqis to look at options and then identify the best means. We cannot be prescriptive," Jones Parry told reporters.

Pleuger told the Council that "we have to broaden the political process to include all political and societal forces that reject violence and terrorism" adding that the Bonn conference had worked so why not try it again.

Lavrov also questioned whether an accelerated timetable to self-rule agreed to by the coalition and the 25-member Iraq Governing Council was fast enough and whether the coalition intended to stop its civilian occupation in June 2004 when a provisional Iraqi government takes over.

In response, Negroponte said the dates the coalition were maximum deadlines and events could take place sooner.

He said the coalition would "dissolve" in June 2004 while Jones Parry said Britain would limit its operations to "the embassy or a bilateral assistance office."

MNA/Reuters

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## Another local soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Nov — Another local soldier is dead following military operations in Iraq.

Twenty-one year old Private Scott Tyrrell was based out of Fort Hood Texas.

The Department of Defence says Tyrrell died from burns he suffered after an ammunition dump caught fire in Tikrit, Iraq on 14 November.

Tyrrell is originally from the Aurora, Illinois area and spent two years in high school in Oregon, Illinois.

He graduated from Sterling-Rock Falls High School in 2000 and enlisted in the army right after school.

The Department of Defence says Tyrrell died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas on November 20th.

Tyrrell is part of C Company, 229th Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. There is no word on when his body will be flown to Illinois.

Internet



A Boeing plane of the German company DHL: A civilian plane belonging to international express courier DHL made an emergency landing in Baghdad after being hit by a surface-to-air missile in the first successful strike on a plane of the seven-month-old Iraq resistance. — INTERNET

## DHL flights to Iraq suspended until Monday after missile hits plane

BRUSSELS, 23 Nov— International courier DHL said it was suspending flights to Iraq after one of its planes was hit by a surface-to-air missile and forced to return to Baghdad airport.

The formerly US-owned cargo operation, which is now owned by Germany's Deutsche Post, said it would await the findings from investigations before deciding on Monday whether to resume the flights.

"DHL has made the decision to suspend all flight operations to Iraq for at least the next 48 hours," company spokeswoman Patricia Thomson told AFP.

Investigations into the incident by DHL plus the US military and Iraqi authorities will continue, she said.

"Pending the findings of these investigations, as well as a full assessment of the security situation, DHL will then be in a better position to conduct a further review on how to continue any operations in Iraq."

Nobody was injured in the missile attack on the DHL Airbus A300 freighter but it prompted Jordanian carrier Royal Wings, the only airline to offer civilian

passenger flights into Baghdad, to suspend its service.

The US military said the DHL plane was hit by a SAM-7 missile over Baghdad and caught fire but returned to make a successful emergency landing at the airport.

Thomson said the freighter had been flying from Baghdad to DHL's Gulf hub in Bahrain when it was forced to return to the Iraqi capital at around 9:30 am (0630 GMT). None of the crew was hurt, she said.

The safety of DHL crews will be paramount when the company decides on Monday whether to resume flights, "because obviously we wouldn't put our personnel at any risk if we felt that was to be the case", Thomson added.

It was the first time that a civilian plane using Baghdad airport had been hit by a missile although eight previous firings had been reported and at least one US military helicopter downed.

Internet

## Iran's ex-president voices "no" to any IAEA "oppressive decision"

TEHERAN, 23 Nov— Iran would not accept any "oppressive" decision by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, former president and chairman of the powerful Expediency Council Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani warned here Friday.

Speaking at Friday prayers in Teheran University, Rafsanjani said Iran is waiting to see how much the United States can influence the IAEA, warning against any imprudent decision by the agency regarding Iran's nuclear energy programme.

"The next few hours are the hours of trial. We are waiting to see how much the US can impose its own inhuman and colonial views on the board through threat, coercion and bribing," Rafsanjani said.

"The ball is now in the IAEA ground... If they do bad, things will be then out of our control, and I hope they take no illogical decision because no oppressive decision can ever deprive Iran from its due rights," he added.

Rafsanjani said Iran has shown good cooperation with the IAEA toward the country's nuclear energy activities and Europe as well as IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei are exercising good-will toward the issue.

IAEA should take a decision that would help Iran achieve its due rights and would at the same time alleviate the concerns of the international community, the ex-president urged.

On Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi also expressed that Teheran would abandon its commitments made to IAEA if European countries failed to prevent Iran from being declared in non-compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

IAEA Board of Governors on Friday resumed discussions in Vienna in a bid to issue a resolution on Iran's nuclear programme while differences still remain between the United States and European countries regarding Iran's nuclear energy programme.

Iran has not yet given any decisive response to a proposal by the IAEA Board of Governors to verify its nuclear case in the Friday meeting, the official IRNA news agency quoted an Iranian diplomat who asked to remain anonymity.

The meeting will postpone discussions on the case to Monday if no special development takes place, the diplomat added.

MNA/Xinhua



OH-58D, Kiowa helicopter patrols the area around Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 Nov, 2003. The US military has cracked down on guerillas amid attacks on the American-led coalition forces in the area.

INTERNET

## Soldiers to sue over new Gulf War syndrome

**BUGHDAD, 23 Nov—**Dozens of soldiers who served in Iraq are to sue the Government, claiming they are suffering from a new form of Gulf War syndrome.

Multiple vaccinations given in the run-up to the conflict are being blamed for chronic pains, stomach problems, rashes, swelling, fever, depression and anxiety.

Lawyers and medical experts say the symptoms are identical to those which affected thousands of veterans after the 1991 Gulf conflict.

The *Observer* has learnt that 13 soldiers have launched legal actions against the Ministry of Defence over what is being called Gulf War II syndrome. A similar number of 'robust' cases are to be launched in weeks.

In addition, a former MoD employee has obtained the medical records of another 40 Iraq veterans also suffering similar symptoms. Each case could cost the Government £1 million in damages.

Mark McGhee of Manchester-based Linda Myers Solicitors, said servicemen were coming forward all the time. 'Previously healthy servicemen received inoculations and suffered serious reactions. Now their jobs, livelihoods and their families are being affected,' he said.

The allegations come ahead of the inquest tomorrow into

the death of Major Ian Hill, former chairman of the National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association. Hill suffered a severe reaction to vaccinations he was given and was sent home from the Gulf. However, Army doctors were unable to determine what was wrong with him.

The father-of-four subsequently suffered from a range of illnesses including Q fever, an infection that stops the brain producing cells quickly enough to replace those that die. The MoD disputed that his illness was a result of service and he was denied a pension until shortly before his death in March 2001 at the age of 54.

At the two-day inquest in Warrington, lawyers will argue his deployment to the Gulf and subsequent illnesses contributed to his early death. More than 550 veterans have died since the first Gulf war.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said 12 servicemen from the latest conflict had signed up to a health assessment programme while 7,000 former Gulf veterans are to be screened.

*Internet*

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## Russia insists on resuming weapons inspection in Iraq

**Moscow, 23 Nov —** Russia reiterated Friday that the UN weapon inspectors should return to Iraq to restart the search for the weapons of mass destruction, stressing a definitive conclusion can only be made after they have completed their mission.

"It is necessary to make a decision on issues relating to Iraqi weapons of mass destruction," Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said in an interview with *Interfax*.

"This can be done with the help of mechanisms established by the UN Security Council, in particular, through the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC)," he said.

Fedotov made the statement ahead of an UNMOVIC meeting in New York on Friday, where the draft version of the agency's report to the United Nations Security Council will be discussed. He is to lead the Russian delegation to attend the meeting.—MNA/Xinhua

## Strong winds bring down 500 tons of leaves in Beijing

**BEIJING, 23 Nov —** Hours of strong winds blew down more than 500 tons of leaves Thursday in Beijing, a city refuse company has estimated.

The Beijing Erqing Dust Group said its refuse people had collected 100 tons of leaves from its area of responsibility, five times the daily average.

"We collected one-fifth of the total downed leaves and the rest was done by other companies," said a senior official with the company. Most were poplar leaves, said Li.

Winds in the city ranged from strong breeze to moderate gale, said meteorologists.

The wind also broke dozens of tree branches in parks across the city, said a report in the *Beijing Youth Daily*.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Seven hurt in blasts at Kirkuk

**KIRKUK, 23 Nov —** Seven people have been wounded in an explosion at a heavily protected building belonging to the state-owned Northern Oil Company (NOC) in the Iraqi town of Kirkuk.

Police and security officials said three Iraqis and four Americans suffered injuries when two rockets hit the NOC cultural and social club at dinner time on Saturday.

The club is used as a canteen by the Americans and employees of the US company Kellogg Brown Root (KBR) a subsidiary of US oil services giant Halliburton, which has netted a controversial US government contract to help rebuild Iraq's shattered oil industry. Halliburton was run by US Vice President Dick Cheney from 1995 to 2000. Police officer Salam Jalal confirmed it was the first attack to target the building. Halliburton was run by US Vice President Dick Cheney from 1995 to 2000. NOC director general Adel Kazzaz confirmed the report, saying there were "victims" from the attack. US officials could not immediately confirm the casualties.

Mike McAleer, spokesman from the Restore Iraqi Oil team, said there had been an explosion but doubted it was caused by a rocket attack. The NOC club is situated within a zone of Kirkuk, a northern Iraqi oil city, that is heavily protected by an Iraqi security service trained by a South African private company.—*Internet*

## Helicopter crashes into field in Britain

**LONDON, 23 Nov —** British Royal Air Force said that a civilian helicopter crashed in a field in southern Scotland on Saturday afternoon but no one has been killed.

The aircraft came down shortly after 1400 GMT near the village of Mouswald located in Dumfries and Galloway, southern Scotland, according to a BBC report.

However, a spokesman for the rescue control at RAF Kinloss was quoted as saying that there seemed to be some "walking wounded."

It is not yet known how many people were on board the civilian aircraft and what caused the crash.—*MNA/Xinhua*



*Iraqi policeman holds his gun outside a police station after a car bomb attack in Baquba, some 60 km (37 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 22 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET*

## UNSG warns of North-South information divide

**UNITED NATIONS, 23 Nov —** United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned Friday against a "burgeoning content divide" between North and South that threatens cultural diversity.

"Television can be a tremendous force for good," Annan said in a message marking World Television Day. "It can educate great numbers of people about the world around them. It can show us how much we have in common with our neighbours, near and far. And, it can shed light on the dark corners, where ignorance and hatred fester."

He noted that the first-ever World Summit on the Information Society next month in Geneva would provide a global platform to address a wide range of important issues, including

how best to put information technology at the service of development.

He said, "But the flow of information ought not be one way only, from North to South; this has led to a burgeoning 'content divide' that threatens to overwhelm or marginalize local views and voices."

"We must find ways to address this situation, and to preserve and promote cultural and linguistic diversity," he added.

Annan noted television's potential to help achieve the ambitious goals set by the UN World Millennium Summit of 2000 to combat the most

serious global problems, such as halving the numbers of those suffering from poverty and hunger by 2015.

Referring to the World Electronic Media Forum that the UN is organizing in connection with the Geneva summit, he invited the world's television professionals to seize the opportunity presented by the upcoming forum, and consider how they can work with the United Nations to ensure that television contributes to progress and to the well-being of all the world's people.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Vietnam to sell more coal

**HANOI, 23 Nov —** Vietnam targets to sell around 20 million tons of coal annually in the next few years, more than one-third of which are for export.

This year, the country will record coal sales of 18 million tons with 6.5 million tons for export, mostly to Japan and China, local newspaper *Labour* quoted sources from the Vietnam Coal Corporation.

Vietnam will intensify coal exploitation like China and the United States have been doing, and is expected to sell at least 19 million tons in 2004 and over 20 million tons in 2005.

The country has so far this year sold 16

million tons of coal. It exported 5.68 million tons of the product worth 145 million US dollars between January and October, up 14.8 per cent in volume and 15.5 per cent in value against the same period last year.

Vietnam, whose total coal reserve is estimated at four billion tons, gained coal sales of 15 million tons and total revenues of nearly 464.5 million US dollars last year.

*MNA/Xinhua*



*Miss World contestants wave after arriving to the seaside resort of Sanya Hainan Island on 22 Nov, 2003 after touring several Chinese cities to promote the contest. The 53rd Miss World contest on 6 December.—INTERNET*



# US FACES INTENSIFIED RESISTANCE IN IRAQ



An anti-explosives team of the Italian Army checks an Iraqi gas mask during an inspection of a former Iraq Army base near the southern town of Nasiriyah, Friday, on 21 Nov, 2003. — INTERNET



A US soldier guards two damaged Iraqi police cars after a car bomb attack in Khan Bani Saad 22 Nov, 2003. Suicide bombers blew up cars packed with explosives outside two police stations north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least 18 people in the latest deadly strikes on Iraq's US-backed police force. — INTERNET



A US Army soldier collects unexploded rockets from a rocket launcher mounted on a donkey cart outside the Italian embassy in Baghdad, Friday, on 21 Nov, 2003. More than a dozen rockets fired from donkey carts slammed into Iraq's Oil Ministry and two downtown hotels earlier in the day, brazen coordinated strikes at some of Baghdad's most heavily protected civilian sites that defied a US crackdown. — INTERNET



Iraqis look at damaged cars outside a police station after a car bomb attack in Baquba, some 37 miles northeast of Baghdad on 22 November, 2003. Suicide bombers blew up cars packed with explosives outside two police stations north of Baghdad, killing at least 18 people in the latest deadly strikes on Iraq's US-backed police force. — INTERNET



US soldiers stand in front of the launcher used in morning attacks in Baghdad on 21 November, 2003. — INTERNET



US soldiers on patrol in Baghdad after rocket attacks on Iraq's oil ministry and main media hotels on 21 Nov, 2003. — INTERNET

## Thousands of anti-war protesters march through Rome and in other Italian cities

ROME, 23 Nov—Thousands of demonstrators marched through the Italian capital Rome and in other Italian cities on Saturday to protest at the war in Iraq and to demand more job security.

An effigy of conservative Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was carried at the head of the demonstration in Rome above a placard that read: "I promised you one million jobs ... in Iraq."

Other placards waved by the protesters read: "A wage for one and all," and "Out of Iraq! No to military spending, yes to welfare spending."

The march was organized by the Network for Income and Welfare Rights, a group of organizations representing the unemployed and workers on short-term non-

renewable contracts.

Opposition Communist and Green party members also took part in the march.

"Today the pacifists are returning to the streets to meet the unemployed and those with no job security to demand a reduction in military spending, the withdrawal of soldiers from Iraq and the introduction in Italy of benefits for low-paid workers," said Green lawmaker Paolo Cento.

Thousands of demonstrators also turned out in Milan, the country's economic and financial capital, and in Florence.—Internet



An Italian Carabinieri police officer looks on at an effigy of Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi with a military helmet and a sign saying: 'one promised you one million jobs...in Iraq' during a protest in Rome on 22 Nov. 2003, against military intervention in Iraq. — INTERNET

## Mature Indo-China relations beneficial to South Asia

NEW DELHI, 23 Nov — Indian Minister of External Affairs Yashwant Sinha spoke highly of the relations between India and China on Saturday, saying that they "have progressively developed and diversified".

"Speaking at Saturday's ceremony in memorial of Admiral R D Katari, a famous Indian Navy officer and diplomat, Sinha delivered a speech entitled "The Emerging Indo-China Relationship and its impact on India and South Asia."

"India and China have today extensive dealings in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums. We are seeking improved relations with each other without pre-conditions." Sinha praised the relationship between the two countries characterized by "a strong commitment, and indeed investment, by the leadership of the two countries".

While showing satisfaction over the bilateral trade between the two countries that is likely to reach seven billion US dollars this year, the minister said "we have now a significant economic aspect to this relationship".

Speaking of the wide-range dialogues between the two countries, Sinha noted that the Indo-China dialogue already transcends bilateral relations to encompass international issues such as security, environment and sustainable development. "These are being

discussed through dialogue mechanisms which have recently been extended to new subject such as counter terrorism and policy planning."

"Both countries seek to reinforce multilateralism and multi-polarity. The concept of multi-polarity must not, however, be mistaken for creating poles in opposition to each other," the minister said, adding "we do not want to reinvest the confrontation model of the Cold War. Both India and China look upon the next twenty years as a window of strategic opportunity to raise the living standards of their people."

"We are both in the forefront of developing countries and have similar approaches to many global and regional issues," he said, noting that the two countries respect each other's independent foreign policies and are adjusting their relationship to take into account the new global realities.

Rejecting the notion that India's relations with the United States could be used as a counter-force against China, Sinha said such notions are "based on outmoded concepts like balance of power".—MNA/Xinhua

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## Teheran agrees to supply Iraq with oil products

KUWAIT, 23 Nov— Iran Saturday agreed in principle to provide Iraq with refined petroleum products to help cover expected winter shortages, and may get Iraqi crude oil in return, an Iraqi oil ministry official said.

Aism Jihad, the Iraqi oil ministry spokesman, said in Kuwait by telephone from Teheran that a joint Iranian-Iraqi committee will also soon study a plan to link the two countries' oil products and gas networks to facilitate the exchange.

"An agreement was reached for Iran to provide Iraq with what it needs of oil products to confront the coming winter season," Jihad said.

"They will ship LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), petrol and kerosene as soon as possible."

The website of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) confirmed Iran was ready to transfer LPG.

"With the capacity Iran has, we can support Iraq in the current situation in whatever fields are necessary," Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh was quoted as saying.

Iraq's Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr Al Uloum said in Teheran he hoped the deal

would be finalised as soon as possible. "We have a shortage of oil in Iraq especially when winter is coming and Iraqi refineries are not producing enough for the needs of the Iraqi people," he said.

The agreement was reached yesterday after talks in Teheran between Al Uloum and his Iranian counterpart, Jihad said, adding the joint committee was studying the mechanisms of implementing the deal.

"The committee is studying the linking of the networks for gas and oil products which will facilitate the exchange operations and boost this co-operation," Jihad noted.

Asked what the Iranians will get in return for the refined products, Jihad said: "This has not been finalised. They may get Iraqi crude."

Al Uloum, who plans to return to Iraq today, has toured other Gulf OPEC states Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Internet

## Turkey, Iraq to open Ovakoy border gate

ANKARA, 23 Nov— Turkey and Iraq on Friday decided to open their border gate at Turkey's Ovakoy region, Turkish State Minister Kursad Tuzmen announced here.

The decision was contained in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by Tuzmen and visiting Iraqi Trade Minister Ali Abdulemir Alawi, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

According to the MoU, which foresees cooperation between the two neighbours in various fields, the railway between Turkey's Nusaybin and Baghdad would also be used efficiently.

Tuzmen was quoted as saying that in order to open the Ovakoy border gate,

the two sides have agreed to exert their efforts to conclude meetings on the issue in January 2004.

The two sides also decided that technical talks on establishment of border trade centres will be held in Ankara in the second half of January 2004, he said.

Tuzmen, meanwhile, announced that a Turkish delegation comprised of representatives of contracting services and consultation companies would visit Iraq at the end of January 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

China is set to launch the first satellite in its "Double Star" project before the end of the year, with a second satellite built in collaboration with the European Space Agency going up in early 2004.

INTERNET







## Selection and presenting prizes...

(from page 1)

At such a time, it is necessary to build nationalistic immunity of Myanmar people by strengthening Myanmar literature that can vitalize the national prestige and integrity.

Only the power of own literature and culture can safeguard Myanmar national characters and traditions at a time when customs, traditions and social norm of the western countries, which neglect the respects and codes of conduct but emphasize individual freedom, are penetrating through the power of media into the cultural front.

Therefore, the government, paying great attention to the invaluable strength of Myanmar literature, is striving for emergence of the genuine national literature that can uplift the dignity of the nation and its people.

In encouraging the development of national literature, the government have recognized the gratitude of great literati who have been relaying the banner of Myanmar literature and constantly presented awards to them.

In the time of the present government, apart from the national literary award, other literary awards and cash awards have been presented to literati.

In presenting national literary awards, lifelong national literary awards have been presented to the literati who have served the interests of Myanmar literature.

Moreover, the State has been presenting Excellence in Arts (First Grade) medals to literati who have participated in efforts for development of national literature and the universities have also offered D. Lit degrees to them.

In accord with the fine traditions of Myanmar literature, constant emergence of outstanding literati who deserve for their effort is the pride of the country and the Myanmar literary world.

Nowadays, with the encouragement of the government, efforts of dutiful literati, and encouragement of Myanmar readers, the quality and standard of Myanmar literature have improved and thus it can take pride in the bright future of Myanmar literature.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win awards Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Writer Nan Moe Saw Aung.

MNA

It is necessary for the literati, literary enthusiasts and reading public to strive for development of Myanmar literature in the future on the right path of national interest.

In accord with the wishes of the entire people, the government has been laying down the seven-point policy programme and is implementing them which would contribute to emergence of peaceful, modern democratic nation.

For emergence of the future State in accord with the national aspiration, literati are urged to take part in the tasks for the successful implementation of the seven-point policy and programme through the power of literature.

Especially, literati are urged to guide the youth through the power of literature to have correct thoughts and knowledge and view the international affairs with Myanmar outlook.

Similarly, literati are urged to make efforts through the power of literature for propagation of science and technology in the country, uplift of Myanmar customs and traditions and uplift of nationalist spirit and national immunity that can take up the challenges in various sectors.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the literati to strive for spiritual development of citizens who are the true national force for the nation to stand tall among the nations of the world and uplift national spirit; to preserve and promote the fine traditions of Myanmar literature which possesses the great historical traditions; and to make efforts



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents National Literary Award to Writer Than Myint Aung.

MNA

for the successful implementation of the seven-point policy and programme which will create modern developed democratic nation, the national goal.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister presented prizes to National Literary Award winners Ma Sanda in the novel category, Than Myint Aung in the Collection of Short Stories category, Zaw Min Min Oo in the Collection of Poems category, Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) in the Belles-letters category, Min Shwe Min (Insein) in the Children's Literature category, Yaynanmyay Maung Maung Kyi in the Youth Literature category, Hein Latt in the Translation (Knowledge) category, Nat Nwe in the Translation (Aesthetic) category, Ma Kyan in the Knowledge (Arts) category, Dr Kyaw Than Tun (Yangon Medical University) in the Knowledge (Science) category and Dr Tun Aung Kyaw (Optical) in the Knowledge (Applied Science) category. He also presented the Life-long National Literacy Award for 2002 to U Htin Fatt (Maung Htin).

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win gave away the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2002 to winners: second and third prizes in the Novel category to Nan Moe Saw Aung and Kay (Taungdanpya); first, second and third prizes in the Collective Short Stories category to Aung Thu Yein (Pale), Hta Myat Ma (Dagon University) and Thauang Myint Oo (Kungyangon).

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented first, second and third prizes in the Collective Poems category to Shwe Myaing Maung Phu Wa, Maung Thet Hnin (North Okkalapa) and Maung Hla Myo on behalf of Zani; first, second and third prizes in the Knowledge (Arts) category to U Thauang Ngwe, Dr Aye Kyaw and Maung Nwe Than (IPRD).

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave away first, second and third prizes in the Knowledge (Science and Applied Science) category to Naing Shwe Moe, Htin Lin Aung (Civil) and Shwenaga Tin Win; first, second and third prizes in the Belles-letters category to Maung Sein Htwe, Yawnaka Pho Htaung and Maung Chit Htwe (MA).

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented first, second and third prizes in the Myanmar Culture and Arts category to Bagyi Hla Tin Tun, Aung Nyein Chan (Mandalay University) and Zin Min (Thameinhaw); first, second and third prizes in the Children's Literature category to Daw Aye Aye Myint on behalf of Hsu Labh Tun, Yebaw Mya Thein (Hopong) and Maung Mon Myat (Kyelat-Magway).

Minister Col Tin Hlaing gave away first and second prizes in the Youth Literature category to Maubin Lwin Kyaw and Tint Tun (Chauk); second and third prizes in the Play Literature category to Zin Min (Thameinhaw) and Tin Tun Oo (Culture); first prize in the Translation Literature



National Literary Award Winner Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) speaks words of thanks.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt awards National Literary Award to winner Dr Tun Aung Kyaw.

MNA

category to Zaw Tun Aung.

Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presented first, second and third prizes in the Article contest of the 14th National Motto, Literature and Photo Competitions to Su Khin Lay Oo, Ma Hla Thein and Phyu May Thaw (Myanaung), first, second and third prizes in the Poem contest to Min Yin Su, Min Thway Nwe (Zeegon) and Maung Thin Pyant (Kyaikaw).

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa gave away first, second and third prizes in the Short Story contest to Mya Chu Ein, Than Min Htaik (Myanmasa) and Thein Zaw (Shweli Oo); first, second and third prizes in the Colour Photo contest to Sit Thway Kyaw (Photo Art-2), Kyaw Tha and Aye Lwin Oo (Shwebagyi-Yamethin).

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presented first, second and third prizes in the Tatmadaw Quiz (University Level) to Cadet Win Latt (Defence Services Acad-



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents first prize to winner of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Shwe Myaing Maung Phu Wa.

MNA

emy), Cadet Myat Ko Ko (Defence Services Technological Academy) and Maung Tin Latt Yu (University of Culture).

Deputy Minister U Thein Sein gave away first, second and third prizes in the Tatmadaw Quiz (Basic Education High School Level) to Ma Soe Thanda (BEMS-6, Pathein), Ma Seint Seint Thu (Pyuntasa BEMS) and Ma Yu Yu Maw (BEMS-2, Taunggyi).

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presented first, second and third prizes in the Tatmadaw Quiz (Basic Education Middle School Level) to Ma Thazin Thet Su Tin (Kyauktan Myoma BEMS), Maung Kyaw Khiaing Htet (BEMS-1, Pathein) and Ma Hsu Myat Maung Maung (BEMS-2, Kyaukpheung).

Afterwards, on behalf of prize winners, National Literary Award Winner Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, General Khin Nyunt and party together with the Life-long National Literacy Award winner, the National Literary Award winners, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winners and the winners of the 14th National Motto, Literature and Photo Competitions and Tatmadaw Quiz, posed for documentary photos.

MNA



## Second Day Session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2003 continues

YANGON, 23 Nov — The second day session of the Annual General Meeting 2003 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association continued at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the central training school of the association in Hmawby Township on 20 November morning.

Present were Member of the Panel of Patrons of the USDA Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo, members of the Secretariat, CEC members, and representatives of state, division, district and township USDAs.

Secretariat Member of USDA U Kyaw Hsan presided over the session together with CEC members U Khin Maung and Thura U Aung Ko. Executive of Bago Division (West) USDA Daw May Sanda Tun and mem-



Dignitaries at Annual General Meeting 2003 of USDA. —MNA

to the permission of the chairman of the session.

Next, implementation of future tasks by USDAs in respective states and divisions during the one year period were discussed. Member of Mindat Township USDA Daw Htan Paing, Sec-

Mar Shwe of Toungoo District USDA, Secretary U Nyunt Win of Magway Division USDA, Executive U Thein Tun of Mandalay Division USDA, Executive U Nyi Nyi Khine of Thaton District USDA, and Secretary U Tun Win of Sittway

He, on behalf of the association, took pride in their efforts and thanked them.

What was more significant, he said, was the holding of 17 mass rallies in support of the Prime Minister's Speech concerning the seven-point roadmap of the State in states and divisions from 20-9-2003 to 19-10-2003 under the leadership of the association. As a fruitful result of the mass rallies, dialogue partners of Myanmar such as the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea welcomed and supported the roadmap at the ASEAN Summit held in October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. In conclusion, he suggested holding of such mass rallies by the association at every times when the decisive matters for the

country emerged.

Next, Executive Daw Su Su Lwin of Kawthoung District USDA reported matters related to the management sector. She said assistance of the association such as distribution of book to expand the knowledge of the members, sale of exam-oriented CD-Roms at low price for matriculation students, and providing of swan timbers for repair of school furniture contributed much towards the success of basic level organizational activities, and suggested offering of continued assistance.

As for the visits of goodwill delegations to the association, she said three delegations from the PRC, four delegations from Japan and one delegation from Cuba visited the association, and

invitation of such goodwill visits should also be extended to ASEAN member countries and other friendly nations. With the aims of providing international experience to the youth members of the association and promoting the friendship between the association and its foreign counterparts, four delegations of the association paid goodwill visits to the PRC, two delegations each to Japan and ASEAN member countries, one delegation to five-country tour of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and the PRC. She proposed to send such delegations to ASEAN and other friendly countries.

She quoted the guidance of Patron of USDA Senior General Than Shwe at the Annual General Meeting 2002 of USDA as saying that the members to be loyal to the country, to try to possess the strength, diligence and constant vigilance to overcome any difficulties, and undertake the development tasks with added momentum, to successfully implement the development zones project, economic plans and rural development tasks and to participate in human resources development tasks being carried out by the State. In conclusion, she urged the members to firmly uphold the guidance and to undertake organizational tasks and future tasks together with the people and social organizations in their respective regions.

Afterwards, member of Thabaung Township USDA U Win Thein reported on matters related to the economic sector. He said economic proposals submitted to the annual general meeting were based on the fundamental principle in undertaking the tasks for five sectors of the association such as organizational, management, economic, social and cultural, and education — Self-reliance is noble and ensures perpetual existence, so funds of the association must be raised by contributing labour of the members.

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USDA Secretariat Member U Kyaw Hsan presides over second-day session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2003 together with CEC members U Khin Maung and Thura U Aung Ko. —MNA

ber of Kayin State USDA Daw Nan May The Su Nyein acted as master and co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the opening of the session with

retary Daw Khin Cho Cho of Yinmabin Township USDA, Executive U Than Aung of Taninthayi Division USDA, Executive U Zaw Lwin Oo of Bago Division (West) USDA, Executive Daw Win

District USDA took part in the discussion.

Afterwards, findings of the respective seminar held on 19 November were submitted to the meeting.

Executive of South Okkalapa Township USDA U Aung Kyaw Moe reported the matters related to the organizational sector. He said the association, established on 15 September 1993, was over ten years old. The association was able to carry out organizational tasks in Kachin State, Taninthayi Division, and Shan State (North). He said he welcomed the association's increased organizational capability that reflected the stability of the respective regions.

Members of the Panel of Patrons and the Central Executive Committee themselves made organizational field trips to the basic level associations for 1,283 times during the period from July 2002 to September 2003. During their field trips, they proved themselves to be carrying out organizational matters with the noble and correct deed of the association by implementing the five rural development tasks and agricultural development tasks.



Yinmabin Township USDA Secretary Daw Khin Cho. — MNA



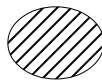
Taninthayi Division USDA Executive U Than Aung. — MNA



Bago Division (West) USDA Executive U Zaw Lwin Oo. — MNA



Wundwin Township USDA Executive Daw Khin Hlaing Myint. — MNA



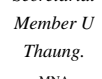
USDA CEC member U Tin Hlaing.

MNA



USDA Secretariat Member U Thauang.

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USDA Secretariat Member U Than Shwe.

MNA



USDA Secretariat Member U Than Shwe.

MNA



## Prime Minister hands over...

(from page 16)

to win the competitions is the duty of the athletes and to fulfil the aspiration of the State and the people. As Myanmar athletes have won victories in international competitions, all the athletes are to compete in the games with the spirit to win the competitions.

From the time of departing the country to arriving back, the athletes are to obey the orders of managers and coaches and unitedly strive to realize the goal.

With family spirit, all are to help each other, he said.

At a time when the whole nation is wishing Myanmar athletes to win victories in international competitions, all the athletes are to compete with the spirit that winning competitions means uplift of the prestige of the country; and contributing to the objective Myanmar

Sports the World to Conquer.

Next, on behalf of the State, the Prime Minister spoke words of thanks to national entrepreneurs, wellwishers and the people for providing assistance.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister wished the athletes for their victories after competing the games with the spirit of uplift of the national prestige and integrity; for becoming the ones who are discharging national duties of uplifting the prestige of the nation; and for hoisting the Myanmar flag among nations of the world.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the State Flag to Deputy Minister for Hotel and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Myu who will lead Myanmar sports contingent.

Afterwards, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for documentary photo together with winners of life-long National Literary Award, the National Literary Award, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and the 14th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions.—MNA

Gen Thura Aye Myint accepted the cash donations made by the wellwishers for

the winning of Myanmar Sport teams and presented certificates of honour to them. A total of over K 13.9 million and US \$ 13,000, and in kind worth K 11,750,000 were donated by wellwishers.

After the ceremony, General Khin Nyunt greeted the coaches and athletes.

In the XXII SEA Games, 21 teams of Myanmar Sports Federation will participate in football, Volleyball, track and field, archery, billiards, body building, boxing, chess, acrobats, karate, rowing, sepak takraw, swimming, shooting, table tennis, Taik Kwando, tennis, martial art, judo, weight-lifting and wushu tournaments and contests. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects sports gear. —NLM



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to Yebaw Mya Thein (Hopong) —MNA

## Second Day Session of USDA...

(from page 9)

It could be seen that members of the USDA at different levels raised the fund for the association, the basic requirement for the in-

creasing organizational strength of the USDA, in accord with the basic financial rules. It was encouraging to see the implementation of agriculture, livestock

breeding and distribution of fertilizer by respective work committees under the supervision of the leading economic committee of the CEC. He proposed further extension of such undertakings in the years to come and suggested providing fertilizer and seeds in border areas as an organizational measure of USDA.

In conclusion, he thanked the CEC of the USDA for giving out K 304 million of rural development funds to state and division USDAs. With the use of the funds, he said, the associations at different levels were able to effectively fulfil the basic requirement of the rural people. Such measure in the years to come would contribute much towards success of rural development tasks being carried out by the State, he expressed his belief.

Next, Secretary of Nyaungshwe Township USDA U Soe Nyunt Shwe reported matters related to the social and cultural sector. He said it was encouraging to witness conducting of national culture and moral courses more than ever. The courses were conducted in Ayeyawady Division, Mandalay Division, Bago Division (East) and Yangon Di-

vision. Number of courses conducted in some states and division was still low, he pointed out. He suggested conducting courses on national races literature and culture.

With the aim of nurturing human resources essential for the development of the nation, the public sector group of the USDA had been able to conduct courses that produced qualified youth. Computer courses, English language courses and other various courses had been conducted. It was known to all that the computer and language skill were essential for the time being. It was required for the members to grasp the importance of computer and language skill in the age of development. Only then, the association would be able to nurture highly qualified youth and would overcome the challenges of the millennium. The nation would be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the developed nations of the world, he said.

The sports, literature and arts group conducted various kinds of sports courses. What was significant was that the soccer championships of USDAs were held reaching to the village-tract level. It could be seen as the

sound foundations for the revitalization of Myanmar football, he said. He was pleased to see the opening of increased number of libraries and suggested establishing of e-libraries in order to catch up with the time.

Next, Executive of Wundwin Township USDA Daw Khin Hlaing Myint reported on matters related to the education sector. She said with the aim of disseminating the policy and principles of the association among the members and the people, they were expressed in the books published by the educational group of the association. She suggested publishing of manuscripts that inspire Union spirit and patriotism, and VCDs and tapes of songs that inspire nationalistic spirit like "Perpetual Union". In addition, it is needed to give guidance for development of literacy talks, paper-reading sessions, cartoon, painting, poster and poem contests.

Good articles from the books, journals, periodicals and magazines published by the Education Group should be translated into languages of national races. This will help flourishing of Union Spirit among national races in border areas.

It is heartening to know

that the mass rally held by the USDA to support the seven-point future policy for the State included in the Prime Minister's speech and the state and division mass rallies (2003) have already been published, and the records of Bagan mass rally has been compiled. The record books are the prominent ones in transforming the national politics. These will be the historic activities of the USDA.

Afterwards, Secretary U Myo of Pyaw township USDA in Bago Division (West) took part in the discussions regarding the cooperation for successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State. He said all-out efforts have been made for emergence of a new peaceful, modern and developed nation. In so doing, Our Three Main National Causes, the Twelve Political, Economic and Social and Objectives, the Four-point People's Desires and the Six Resolutions of the People are regarded as national policy and development in respective sectors have been achieved. At a time when the State's development has gathered momentum, endeavours for national reconsolidation have been

(See page 15)



Magway Division USDA Secretary U Nyunt Win. —MNA



Pyaw Township USDA Secretary U Myo. —MNA



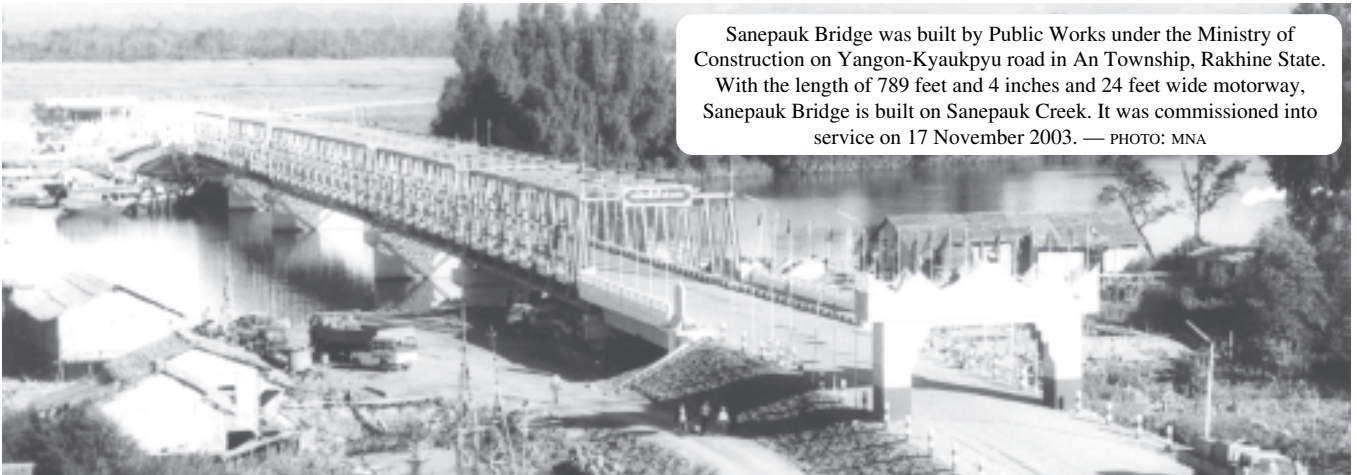
Toungoo District USDA Executive Daw Win Mar Shwe. —MNA



Mindat Township, Chin State, USDA Member Daw Htan Pai. —MNA



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



Sanepauk Bridge was built by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction on Yangon-Kyaukpyu road in An Township, Rakhine State. With the length of 789 feet and 4 inches and 24 feet wide motorway, Sanepauk Bridge is built on Sanepauk Creek. It was commissioned into service on 17 November 2003. — PHOTO: MNA



With a view to producing more highly-qualified human resources, more and more universities, colleges and institutes are being constructed throughout the country. The photo taken on 11 November 2003 shows the Government Technological College in Patheingyi Township.

PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise discovered the Nyaungdon oil field in 1999. Now, the oil field produces about 84 million cubic feet of natural gas and 1,320 barrels of condensate daily.

Oil Well No 20 produces 5.7 million cubic feet of natural gas and 120 barrels of condensate per day. The photo taken on 3 November 2003 shows natural gas and condensate coming out from No 20 well. — PHOTO: MNA







# မညာရေးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

## Cambodia, Thailand to jointly build hydropower station

PHNOM PENH, 23 Nov—The Cambodian and Thai governments plan to build two hydropower plants in Cambodia's Koh Kong Province, which could make the area a centre for hydropower generation, reported the *Cambodia Daily* here.

The feasibility studies for first plant, a 210-megawatt plant to cost around 250 million US dollars, have begun and the results of the studies are expected in early 2004. The time for a project construction would be around five years.

The second study, scheduled to be launched soon, will examine the possibility of an 800-million-US-dollar, 400-megawatt hydropower plant. That study is expected to take about two years and will cost close to two million US

dollars. "If Koh Kong has hydropower, the development zone at the border will move forward," Koh Kong Governor Yuth Pouthang said.

Cambodian Government has been planning to create a special economic development zone on the Cambodian-Thai border.

The first plant will be built by a branch of Chinese, Thai and US joint venture, Asia-Pacific Hydropower Co (Cambodia) Ltd.

Power from the plant

could be potentially sold to both Electricite du Cambodge (EDC) and the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand.

Cambodia and Thailand agreed to perform the joint study during the Summit on Economic Cooperation Strategy in Bagan, Myanmar, on November 11-12. Koh Kong Province, about 280 kilometres south-western of capital Phnom Penh, is a mountainous area and has coastline bordering with Thailand.

MNA/Xinhua

## China's science satellite returns to Earth

CHENGDU, 23 Nov — The science experimental satellite China put into orbit on November 3 returned to Earth and landed in Sichuan Province, southwest China, at 10:04 am (Beijing Time) on Friday.

The satellite began its reentry after it was ordered to "manoeuvre for returning" by a control station of the Xi'an Satellite Monitor and Control Centre at 9:42 am (Beijing Time).

Experts with the recovery team said the re-entry module of the satellite was found to be in good shape after landing on Earth.

The satellite responded to more than 1,000 remote instructions from the centre while in orbit.

The experts said the satellite is the 18th recoverable satellite China has developed, and is technically much more advanced than the previous ones in terms of performance.

All of the satellites but one has been recovered, a high recovery rate by international standards.

The China-made satellite was launched from a newly-built launch tower at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Gansu Province, northwest China.—MNA/Xinhua

## Swiss President says China's tour successful

BEIJING, 23 Nov — Visiting Swiss President Pascal Couchepin said here Saturday that his working visit to China was successful.

Couchepin told a Press conference that he held substantial talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao and had a meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao.

The four-point proposal put forward by Hu on strengthening bilateral relationship was significant, Couchepin said, adding that Switzerland would like to promote cooperation with China in major international issues, and expand exchanges in the fields of banking and insurance.

He pointed out that during his visit, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on scientific cooperation and other documents. "This will further the cooperation between the two countries on science and tourism," he said. Couchepin also expressed appreciation for China's strict observance of obligation in the World Trade Organization, saying that it would add more confidence for foreign investors.

MNA/Xinhua

## Foreign tourist arrival in Bali increases in October

JAKARTA, 23 Nov—The number of foreign tourist arrival in Indonesia's resort island of Bali was recorded at 97,435 in October, 20.14 per cent higher as compared to that of the same period of the previous year, an official said.

"The number of foreign travellers visiting Bali stood at 81,100 in October 2002, following the Bali bombing," head of Bali tourism office Gde Pitana was quoted by state news agency *Antara* as saying.

He referred to the blasts ripped through the Kuta resort beach on October 12, 2002, killing at least 202 people notably Australian tourists and injured more

than 300 others.

Pitana said only about 2,700 foreign tourists flew to the world renowned resort daily in October 2002, decreasing from about 5,000 daily before the blasts.

Based on its survey on about 60,000 subscribers around the world, the *International Time* magazine recently mentioned Bali as the most favourite destination.

MNA/Xinhua



The winner of the Miss Shanghai competition Chen Naliangzi (C), is flanked by runner-up Cao Yiwen (L) and second runner-up Liu Xiannu after the award ceremony in Shanghai on 21 Nov, 2003. Shanghai on Friday night officially resumed the beauty pageant which was banned in 1949.

INTERNET

## Thailand beefs up security around foreign embassies

BANGKOK, 23 Nov—Security around foreign embassies in Bangkok had been beefed up following Thursday's deadly blasts in Istanbul, local Press reported on Saturday.

Additional police had been deployed at the Turkish Embassy in Bangkok, newspaper *The Nation* quoted Special Branch police commander Tritot Ronnaritvichai as saying. They also stepped up security patrols outside the United States and British embassies and commando teams had been deployed inside the US Embassy compound, said Tritot.

Metropolitan police had also been sent to Khao San Road, foreign backpackers favourite haunt, to monitor security issues.

Altogether 27 were killed on Thursday in the explosion at the British Consulate and the British-owned HSBC Bank in Istanbul.

In the wake of the attack, the Thai Government

denounced the bombings and advised all Thai citizens to avoid travelling to Turkey in the near future.

In a related movement, police on Friday arrested three men suspected of attacking the US Consulate in the northern Thai city Chiang Mai with a failed Molotov cocktail on Wednesday night.

The firing makeshift weapon failed to explode after falling into the consulate compound, causing neither casualty nor damage.

The authorities insisted the incident was done by unruly young men, who tried to make trouble, denying any relations with terrorists act.

The three suspects included two young Thai men and a Tunisian man.

MNA/Xinhua

## Annan urges institutional investors to help curb climate change

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Nov—Institutional investors can have "a decisive impact" on future greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental performance of major companies, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan told a gathering of senior financial and corporate figures in New York on Friday.

Global warming could have serious consequences for businesses and investor budgets — and not just for the environment itself — unless the world "mounts a sufficient response", Annan told the Institutional Investors Summit on Climate Risk.

The summit's attendees included former US vice-president Al Gore, institutional investors who represent more than one trillion US dollars of assets, senior Wall Street fund managers, academics, and state treasurers and comptrollers from across the United States.

The event was supported by the Global Compact, a UN initiative launched in 2000 with some of the world's biggest corporations. The compact calls on all companies, large and small, to uphold principles on the environment and to protect workers and human rights.

Annan told the summit that where and how they place their investment portfolios will help shape the financial viability of environmentally-friendly technologies and

the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that companies' operations make.

"Those decisions (that institutional investors make) can greatly affect how people work and live over the coming decades," he said.

The UN chief noted that other speakers at the gathering had pointed out that serious global consequences are looming for businesses and their budgets if an appropriate response to climate change is not made.

Annan said investors should encourage corporations to voluntarily reveal information about how their businesses affect climate change — "it would send a message that corporate performance will be measured in both financial and environmental terms".

He added that investors and fund managers could help create conditions for more efficient emissions trading systems and accounting methods, citing the launch of the Chicago Climate Exchange as a good example for the creation of a carbon market. — MNA/Xinhua

## Guests evacuated from Kabul hotel after huge explosion

KABUL, 23 Nov — Guests were evacuated from a hotel in the Afghan capital city here late Saturday in fears of further terrorist attacks after a huge explosion shook a five-storey building, witnesses said.

The explosion occurred around 7:45 pm local time only some 10 metres from the main building of the Kabul Intercontinental Hotel, but without causing any casualties, they said.

"It was an attempt of terrorist attack by some terrorist elements," Kabul Police Chief General Baba Jan told *Xinhua* by telephone.

However, the police chief did not directly blame the explosion on the ousted Taleban movement or al-Qaeda network, whose remnants were reported regrouping in southern and eastern border areas in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

## Vogts sets to stay on as Scots coach

LONDON, 23 Nov—German coach Berti Vogts is expected to stay on to lead Scotland's bid for the 2006 World Cup finals despite Wednesday's 6-0 humiliation by the Netherlands in the Euro 2004 second-leg playoff.

The Scotland Football Association (SFA) has expressed their faith in Vogts while playing down the six-goal rout in Amsterdam.

"Maybe what happened in Amsterdam should not come as too much of a surprise. Holland are a world-class team, one of the very best and we couldn't live with them," the SFA chief executive David Taylor told the *Daily Record*. "In black and white, they are a lot better than us. It's as simple as that and I did fear that this might happen."

"Club managers will tell you that young players need time to settle in and learn about competing at the highest level of football, and Berti will say the same. Taylor added that the Scottish side under Vogts have progressed with a few young talents emerging.

"The best thing for me is that we reached this level and, at the same time, brought through three or four really good youngsters."

"With all due respect, it would not have been progress if we lost in the play-off with the exact same players of four years ago," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Real Betis Argentine forward Martin Palermo, left, goes for a high ball against Deportivo La Coruna's Brazilian player Mauro Silva, right, and Cesar during a Spanish league soccer match in Seville, Spain, on 22 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

## Ferguson says Chinese striker keen to play for United

LONDON, 23 Nov—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has said that they are close to securing the service of Chinese striker Dong Fangzhuo.

He told *Manchester Evening News* that United is still holding talks with Dong's Chinese club Dalian Shide but a deal is "not far away".

He admitted that there are various difficulties "when you are dealing with young players and clubs so far away".

But "the big thing is that

he (Dong) is keen to come to us," Ferguson added.

Dong, 18, had a trial at Manchester United in September and impressed the coaching staff so much that manager Ferguson asked him to extend his week-long stay to one month. He also scored in a reserve team match a few days into the trial.

"We brought him over for a month and we like the look of him. He's aggressive and quick," said Ferguson.

Ferguson has targeted the Chinese teenager to bolster the set-up at Old

Trafford where youth is now high on Fergie's priorities.

Shide want Dong only to move on loan and are said to be resisting a permanent deal though United reportedly have offered over a million pounds. — MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese lifter Shang refreshes three world records at worlds

VANCOUVER (Canada), 23 Nov—Chinese veteran Shang Shichun broke three world records, which had been set by her compatriot Sun Ruiping, at the women's 75-kilo class weightlifting as she swept the gold medals at the Weightlifting World Championships here on Thursday.

Shang lifted 120.0-kilo in the snatch to refresh the previous record of 118.5-kilo, as she improved the clean and jerk mark of 152.5-kilo with a lift of 153.0-kilo for a total of 273.0-kilo, better than the world record of 270.0 set by Sun last year.

It was the first showdown of the 24-year-old Chinese at worlds, who began weightlifting training at 14 and is now a freshman of the Beijing Sport University.—MNA/Xinhua

## No change as Arsenal, Chelsea, United all win

LONDON, 23 Nov— Arsenal stayed top of the Premier League on Saturday with a 3-0 victory at Birmingham City but failed to open up a bigger lead over their title rivals.

Chelsea ground out a 1-0 victory at Southampton while champions Manchester United, who had briefly gone top, beat Blackburn Rovers 2-1 at Old Trafford in the early kickoff.

The victories kept Arsenal top of the leading trio with 33 points, Chelsea on 32 and United just one point further back on 31 as they all limbered up for Champions League duty next week.

Skipper Alan Shearer scored twice as Newcastle United trounced Manchester City 3-0, Liverpool drew 0-0 at Middlesbrough and caretaker boss Eddie Gray made a losing start with bottom club Leeds United slumping to a 2-0 home defeat by Bolton Wanderers.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger celebrated victory in his 400th match in charge despite missing six first-team regulars, including skipper Patrick Vieira, through suspension, jet lag and injury. Sweden midfielder Freddie Ljungberg gave them a fourth-minute lead but the points were assured only when Dutch forward Dennis Bergkamp and France winger Robert Pires added two more goals in the last 10 minutes.

France striker Thierry Henry underlined his value to the Arsenal cause by setting up all three goals for his teammates. "We needed a lot of togetherness, a lot of spirit to get through the game," Wenger told Sky Sports.

"They (City) closed us down and gave absolutely everything. We found an opening in the last 10 minutes but overall it was a

difficult victory... we needed great concentration."

Chelsea had a rare goal from Dutch defender Mario Melchiot to thank for their victory at St. Mary's. Southampton had their chances to earn a point but were clearly missing the influence of their injured main striker, James Beattie.

Ruud van Nistelrooy, who scored a hat-trick in the Netherlands' 6-0 midweek demolition of Scotland in a Euro 2004 playoff, gave Manchester United a 24th-minute lead in their victory over Rovers.

Brazilian midfielder Kleberson notched his first goal for the club 14 minutes later.

United's lead, built on two assists by South African midfielder Quinton Fortune, was narrowed by Australian Brett Emerton in a swift 62nd-minute counter-attack as Rovers showed a marked improvement in the second half. The mixed performance did not impress United manager Alex Ferguson, who said: "For an hour we were absolutely superb and then we got slack, careless and started trying to put too much icing on the cake."

"We missed some good chances to make it 3-0, we lost a goal and after that we're scrambling home. It's disappointing." Rovers boss Graeme Souness said: "In the first half we didn't have enough people who believed we could come here and get a result and in the second half we did... but the damage had been done."

## Everton 2 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

Everton moved out of the relegation zone after the players answered coach David Moyes' call for a much-needed victory.

Wolves were killed off early by a two-goal salvo in the space of three minutes, with Tomasz Radzinski firing home from over 20 metres and Kevin Kilbane heading in after superb work by teenage forward Wayne Rooney.

## Leicester City 1 Charlton Athletic 1

Charlton, unbeaten in the league since September, were heading for defeat after a 39th minute goal from Les Ferdinand until Paolo di Canio controversially won and converted a late penalty.

Charlton dominated the first half but paid the price for missed chances when Leicester's Ben Thatcher picked out Ferdinand and the striker, who turns 37 next month, flicked the ball past a stranded Dean Kiely. Six minutes from time, di Canio went down to earn a spot kick, to the fury of Leicester players.

MNA/Reuters

## Scholes on way back from surgery

LONDON, 23 Nov— England midfielder Paul Scholes is coming back to first team action after having surgery on his groin a month ago.

"Paul has done his rehabilitation work now and is doing some training," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said Friday.

"He is getting stuck into gym work. He has been playing basketball and hockey in the gym as part of his programme and is looking good."

"He's coming along great. The good thing about Paul is that he is a quick healer so it won't be too long now before he is back for us."

"I expect him to be ready again in a fortnight," said Ferguson.

MNA/Xinhua

## Answers for yesterday's Cross puzzle







Deputy Minister U Thein Sein presents prize to Ma Soe Thanda (News Page 1).—MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presents prize to Maung Kyaw Khaing Htet (News page 1).—MNA



Minister Col Tin Hlaing presents prize to Maubin Lwint Kyaw (News Page 1).—MNA



Executive Daw May Sanda Tun of Bago Division (West) USDA acts as master of ceremonies with Daw Nan May The Su Nyein as joint master of ceremonies.—MNA

## Second Day Session of USDA...

(from page 10)

implemented step by step. So, 17 national races armed groups have entered into legal fold and made efforts for the development of the State hand in hand with the government.

Based on the already-achieved good foundations for political, economic and social sectors, in accordance with the desire of the public, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 30 August 2003 clarified the seven-point future programme for the State to shape the country into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The seven-point roadmap laid by the government with far-sightedness is very important for the State as well as for the public. So, it is specially needed to actively participate in the activities for successful implementation of it.

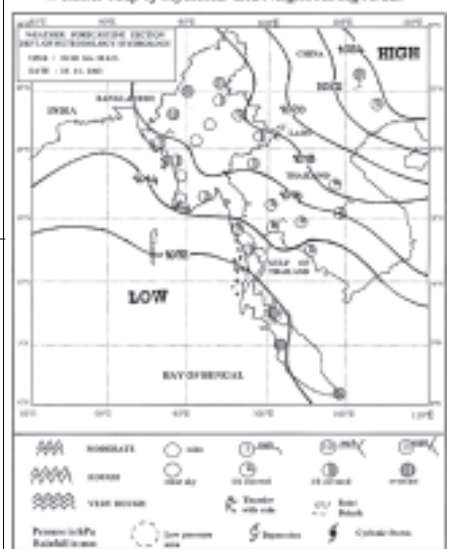
The association has already organized mass rallies in 17 places in the states and divisions for the public to re-

alize the roadmap widely. After these mass rallies, the Bagan mass rally was held to pass resolutions for the future political programmes of the State in Bagan archaeological zone in Mandalay Division, on 21 October. Representatives of the people from the whole country and local people attended it to make decisions and release Bagan mass rally declaration. So it is needed to make step by step efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap. Then, the meeting came to a stop.

At 10 am, the meeting continued. The Central Executive Committee responded to the presentations. Member of the secretariat U Thang, CEC members U Than Shwe and U Soe Tha, member of the secretariat U Tin Htut and CEC member U Tin Hlaing made reports and the meeting came to a close at 10.45 am.

MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Sunday, 23 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 Ayeyawady Division, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Yangon Division and 3°C to 4°C below normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 22-11-2003 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 23-11-2003 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-11-2003 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 22-11-2003 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-11-2003 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 8 mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 22-11-2003.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 24-11-2003:** Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-11-2003:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-11-2003:** Fair weather.



Monday, November 24

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. Cute little dancers

8:05 am

6. Song of national races

8:15 am

7. ဝိုင်းကျဲရေထိန်းတံခါး

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's Go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:25 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:40 pm

4. Musical programme

4:50 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ငန်းရပ်ခြင်းသင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (ခါတုပေးအထူးပြု) (ခါတုပေး)

5:05 pm

6. Dance variety

5:20 pm

7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတထား

5:30 pm

8. Strong and healthy Myanmar

5:40 pm

9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Troupe)

5:55 pm

10. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာတေးဂီတ

ထူးလက်တေးသံများ

6:10 pm

11. Discovery

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. Milo success in soccer

7:10 pm

15. ကပ်တပ်ကြိုးတံတား

7:20 pm

16. Musical programme

7:35 pm

17. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးပြည့်အဖွဲ့

7:45 pm

18. (၂၂)ကြိမ်မြောက်အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ အကြံပြုဆိုင် လေ့ကျင့်မှု (ကာယဗေ)

8:00 pm

19. News

20. International news

21. Weather report

22. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လှန်လွှဲ

"ဧည့်သည်" (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

23. The next day's programme



Monday, November 24

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9.00 am Music

9.05 am International news

9.10 am Music

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Lunch time music

- Let's live for today (Dream House)

- Yellow river (Asimou)

9.00 pm Spotlight on the star

"Collin Raye"

9.15 pm Article

9.25 pm Drugs Elimination/

- Myanmar will not be deviated from her path by threats & challenges

9.35 pm Vocal Gems

- Come see about me (Shaken Stevens)

- Into my dreams (Jennifer Rush)

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

## Prime Minister hands over the flag to Myanmar sports contingent to XXII ASEAN Games



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents the State Flag to leader of Myanmar Sports contingent Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Nov — The ceremony to hand over the flag to Myanmar sports contingent to the XXII ASEAN Games to be held in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 5 to 13 December in 2003, was held at the National Indoor Stadium 1 on Waizayanda Street in Thingangyun Township this afternoon.

Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the ceremony and handed over the flag to the leader of the Myanmar sports contingent.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the council, ministers, the mayor of Yangon, deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, the Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports, leader of the Leading Panel of Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the director-

general of the Sports and Physical Education Department, departmental heads, presidents of Myanmar sports federations, officials, wellwishers, Myanmar sports team, referees and guests.

The representatives, managers, referees, coaches and members of the sports contingents were introduced to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister delivered a speech on the occasion, saying that at a time when the government has been making sustained efforts with the concept that the nation and the people can stand tall among the world nations by raising the nation's sports standard, first and foremost, athletes of Myanmar sports contingents are urged to participate in the games being equipped with the spirit to polish and uplift the national prestige and integrity.

Today, the government has been giving encouragement and placing emphasis on revitalization of Myanmar's sports standard and regaining of the traditions that Myanmar could penetrate deep into ASEAN

Games and Asia games as well as world sports events. And the entire people are also harmoniously contributing towards the tasks.

It can be found that the world nations are vying and contending each other for ensuring success in sports sector as a national concern with the concept that high sports standard and winning prizes in international sports games reflect their high and honourable position of prestige and dignity.

Therefore, performance and potential for success in the games depend much on the individuals' strength, nationalistic spirit and strong desire for victory.

Myanmar athletes are the ones who were selected and have been well trained to represent the mother land in international sports games. So, they are expected to have equipped with all-round skills and qualifications on sports.

In actual fact, undergoing severe training and fair play spirit play a main role in winning the prizes and therefore the individuals are urged to win success in order to uplift the national prestige and integrity based on na-

tional spirit.

Now, the encouragement of the government and the people regarding the sports sector as well as the spirit to win victory in international sports games have developed unprecedentedly.

Leadership of the State, systematic management of respective sports federations, assistance of national entrepreneurs and wellwishers, and enthusiastic encouragement and support of the entire people have made remarkable contribution towards physical and mental requirements of the athletes.

It can be said that now is a time when basic requirements for development of sports such as health and fitness of athletes, nutrition, going under training with modern sports methods under the supervision of skilled coach and gaining experiences through international competition have been achieved.

At a time when the State and the people are encouraging the sports sector for its development, the athletes are to take part in the competitions with the conviction that

(See page 10)

## Prime Minister attends dinner hosted in honour of literary award winners

YANGON, 23 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended a dinner in honour of winners of life-long national literary award 2002, national award and Sarpay Beikman manuscript award and the 14th Anniversary National Motto, Literary and Photos Competitions and prize scrutinizing committee members hosted by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at Karaweik Palace Hotel, Kandawgyi Lake this evening.

It was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the

Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, doyen literati, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and the Vice-Chairmen, secretaries, executives, prize-winners, prize scrutinizing committee members and guests.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party together with the doyen literati and prize-winners enjoyed the dinner hosted by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

After the dinner, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted doyen literati and prize-winners.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the dinner hosted by Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in honour of award winners of the life-long National Literary Award, the National Literary Award, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and the 14th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions and scrutinizing committee members at Karaweik Palace Hotel. — MNA

## Cash donated to mark Annual General Meeting 2003 of USDA

YANGON, 23 Nov — A ceremony to donate cash to mark the Annual General Meeting 2003 of Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at Bayintnaung hall of the association, Hmawby on 20 November morning. Member of leading panel of patrons Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the ceremony and accepted cash donations.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo, sec-

retaries, executives and wellwishers.

To mark the Annual General Meeting 2003, cash donations were K 500,000 by Cooperatives Bank Ltd, K 300,000 by Mingalamay Cooperatives society, K 300,000 by Myintmyat Industrial Product and General Economic Cooperatives, K 300,000 by U Htay Hlaing and Daw Le Le Oo of Malamyine Enterprise, K 500,000 by Asia World Co Ltd, K 500,000 by Adin Construction Group, K 500,000 by Fortune Interna-

tional Co Ltd, K 500,000 by Olympic Co Ltd and K 500,000 by Aung Ye Phyto Co Ltd. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win accepted the cash donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Next, a total of 72 wellwishers donated K 29 million to the USDA. Officials of the association headquarters accepted the donation and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win spoke words of thanks. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win accepts cash donation at the Annual General Meeting of USDA. — MNA