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Government spends over K 18,700 million and US \$ 33.59 million on health from 1988 to 2003 for promotion of health sector and development of teaching of medical science **Sixth Seminar on Medical Studies held**

YANGON, 24 Nov.—The Sixth Seminar on Medical Studies organized by Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health was held at International Business Centre here this morning, with an address by Chairman of National

officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, chairmen of social organizations, the directors-general and deputy directors-general of departments under the ministry, the rectors, director of Medical

scholars contributes much towards the development of Myanmar medical science up to international level, national development and health and fitness of the people. Therefore, the seminar is a national endeavour, he said.

resources through the national health projects at different levels, the special four-year national education project in the health sector and the 30-year long-term health project for turning out highly-qualified scholars.

He said these programmes include upgrading of teaching of medical education, teaching hospitals, upgrading of institutes of medicine and training schools and curriculum, modern teaching techniques, diagnosis, treatment, introduction of new technologies on health, supply of modern hospital equipment and establishment of laboratories of international level and electronic libraries.

At the same time, he said, the government upgraded and opened the institutes of medicine and training schools and they accepted more students and trainees. Post-diploma, master and doctorate courses are being conducted at the institutes

In connection with the health sector, he said, the government has laid down lofty national objectives and is implementing the programmes to promote national health standard. Realization of the national objectives and successful implementation of health projects mainly depend on high qualifications and efficiency of medical scientists and health staff including doctors and physicians.

This is why, he said, the government is implementing the programmes to nurture highly-qualified human

ties and one traditional medicine university. Similarly, there were ten post-diploma courses and 13 master courses. Now there are six post-diploma courses and 25 master courses, seven doctorate courses and 29 Dr.Med.Sc courses. He said the government spent over K 18,700 million and US \$ 33.59 million on health from 1988 to 2003 for promotion of the health sector and development of teaching of medical science. The expenditure included US \$ 21.7 million used for supply of hospital equipment and

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

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

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



Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt makes an address at the opening ceremony of the Sixth Seminar on Medical Studies. —MNA

Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Vice-Chairmen of National Health Committee 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, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, members of NHC, the deputy ministers, the resident representative of WHO,

Services, the rector of Defence Services Institute of Medicine (Yangon), scholars and guests.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said the government with the aim of uplifting health and fitness of the entire nation has laid down national health policies and national health project and is endeavouring for promotion of public health care services and enhancement of quality of health care service.

He said holding of the seminar together with medical scientists and teaching



Dignitaries attending the opening ceremony of the Sixth Seminar on Medical Studies. —MNA

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Circulation
23,951

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 25 November, 2003

The role of literati in successful implementation of policy programme

Myanmar literature is filled with the might and characteristics of literature capable of boosting the national strength and 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.

It goes without saying that literature plays a great role in our efforts for the development of the nation. Everyone who loves and values literature has accepted that the literature has been able to contribute to the life security of an individual who is pursuing literature. Moreover, literature has been accepted as the one capable of enhancing the dignity of the State and the people.

The government places a great value on the strength of literature. Therefore, it is encouraging the development of a national literary structure that can promote the dignity of the State and the people.

In the time of the present government, apart from the national literary awards, other literary awards and cash awards have been presented to literati. In presenting the national literary awards, lifelong national literary awards have been presented to the literati who have served the interests of Myanmar literature.

The prize-distribution ceremony for the lifelong 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, Yangon on 23 November and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister urged the literati to strive for spiritual development of citizens and for successful implementation of seven-point policy programme, which can surely pave the way for the emergence of a modern and developed democratic nation.

Nowadays, some western powers that are highly developed in 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. At such a time, it is necessary to build national immunity of Myanmar people by strengthening Myanmar literature that can vitalize the national prestige and integrity.

It is very important for the literati to guide the youth through the power of literature to have correct thoughts and knowledge and to be able to view the international affairs with Myanmar outlook.

Finally, we would like to call upon the literati, literary enthusiasts and reading public to unitedly strive for the development of Myanmar literature on the right path for the interests of the nation and the people.

Book Fair and Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show continues

YANGON, 24 Nov — To mark Sarsodaw Day of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the Book Fair and Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show continued at No 379-383 on Bo Aung Kyaw Street for the third day today and it was teeming with the enthusiasts.

There are altogether 34 book stalls from the book publishing houses in the show.

Today's earnings from the sale of books were K1,469,450 and over 7,000 people visited the show.

With the assistance of Forever Group, salient points of the show are put on Internet.—MNA



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects production tasks of No 1 Enamel Ware Factory, Mayangon Township.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects Cigarette Factory, Enamel Ware Factory

YANGON 24 Nov — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, this morn-

ing arrived at the No 1 Cigarette Factory of the Myanmar Foodstuff Industries in Hline Township and inspected production process.

Afterwards, the minister

and party proceeded to No 1 Enamel Ware Factory of the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries and inspected manufacturing of enamel ware. At the factory,

the minister also saw over storage of finished products. He gave instructions to the officials on innovation of new products and meeting the production target. — MNA

Third Meeting of Myanmar-Thai, Thai-Myanmar CECA held

YANGON, 24 Nov — The third joint meeting of Myanmar-Thai and Thai-Myanmar Cultural and Economic Cooperation Associations was opened at Hotel Nikko here this morning.

First, Chairman of the Myanmar-Thai CECA Lt-Gen Kyaw Than (Retd) and Chairman of the Thai-Myanmar CECA General Pat Akkanibut extended greetings. Next, Myanmar-Thai CECA presented its implemented tasks with the use of audio visual aids.

At the opening ceremony of the meeting, as a gesture of hailing the third meeting, Gen Pat Akkanibut donated US \$ 1,000; MDX Group of Companies, Thailand, US \$ 25,000; Bangkok First Union Co Ltd, Thailand, 50,000 disposable syringes worth US \$ 12,000 and Hotel & Golf Club, Tachilek US \$ 4,000. Member of the patron of the Myanmar-Thai CECA Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour.

At the meeting, those present were grouped into three and discussed three sectors — cultural and tourism sector, economic and trade sector, and health, education, science and technology and social sector.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Kyaw Than (Retd) hosted a dinner in honour of General Pat Akkanibut and party at the Hotel Nikko. — MNA



Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win accepts cash donated by wellwishers to mark Myanmar-Thai and Thai-Myanmar CECA.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt accepts cash donated by wellwishers to mark Myanmar-Thai and Thai-Myanmar CECA.—MNA

Myanmar-Tong Tah Fair 2003 to be held

YANGON, 24 Nov — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar-Tong Tah Fair 2003 will be held at Yangon Trade Centre from 26 to 30

November.

The trade fair will exhibit various kinds of textile at home and abroad, different kinds of cosmetic and personal goods, varieties of plastic, foodstuff, electrical and electronic gadgets, stationery, automobile, home cleaning products, agricultural pumps, carpenter tools, varnish, lawn mower, high

quality glue, wood cutter, aluminium ladder, generator and engine.

There will also be a performance of sale promotion programme as well as a painting competition.

Goods at the booths of Tong Tah will be sold at 10% discount and for further information, dial-295613 or 298128.

MNA

Earthquake Report

YANGON, 24 Nov — An earthquake of slight intensity 4.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about 344 miles Northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 21 hrs 41 min 30 sec MST on 23rd November 2003. — MNA

Pipeline blaze in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Nov—An important gas pipeline has been blown up near Iraq's northern oil centre of Kirkuk, causing a huge fire.

The head of the fire department in the Kirkuk-based North Oil Company, Jumaa Ahmad, said an explosive device caused the blast on Sunday on the pipeline which transports gas from the Jambur oil field to the Baiji refinery, 250km north of Baghdad.

The blaze was so big that its glow could be seen in the night sky from Kirkuk, 30km to the north of Jambur.

The explosion is the latest in a long series of blasts against Iraq's oil infrastructure, blamed by the US-led occupation on loyalists of toppled president Saddam Hussein and

resistance fighters.

The gas pipeline fed the power plant in Baiji. Ahmad said he expected the city's refinery to experience production problems because of the fire.

The 300,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) Baiji refinery is Iraq's largest and newest refinery, built in the 1980s.

It is supplied mainly from the northern oil fields around Kirkuk. Jambur is one of the main fields in northern Iraq. Before the US-led invasion it produced around 75,000 bpd.

Internet



A US soldier searches an Iraqi at a checkpoint in Baghdad on Monday, 24 Nov, 2003. US officials have warned of more attacks against coalition forces as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan nears its end Tuesday.

INTERNET



Crew of cargo plane hit in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 Nov—The crew of a DHL cargo plane that made an emergency landing at Baghdad's airport reported being hit by a weapon, and ground personnel saw two missiles launched before the plane's wing burst into flames, the US military said Sunday.

Investigations indicate the plane was hit by a surface-to-air missile, said Brig Gen Mark Kimmitt, deputy operations director in Iraq — the first official confirmation that missiles were involved in Saturday's incident.

On Saturday, a military official said on condition of anonymity that a SAM-7 surface-to-air missile struck the plane.

Internet

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Two US-led soldiers hurt in Afghan attack

KABUL, 24 Nov — Two soldiers from the US-led force in Afghanistan were wounded on Sunday when their vehicle hit an explosive device near Shkin, a base close to the Pakistani border.

A statement from the US military, which leads the 11,500-strong force hunting remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda network, also said there were reporters at the scene, although none were "seriously injured".

"Two coalition soldiers were wounded when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on a mounted patrol in the vicinity of Shkin about 1 p.m. (0830 GMT) today," it said.

"The soldiers received initial medical treatment on the scene and were evacuated by air to the medical facility at Salerno firebase for further care and evaluation."

Salerno is another US base near the eastern town of Khost.

Shkin has been a major trouble spot for the US-led force, with troops coming under frequent and occasionally deadly attack from suspected militants from Afghanistan's ousted Taliban militia and the al-Qaeda network it sheltered.

Two years after US forces toppled the Taliban, there are still al-Qaeda rebels believed to be active along the Afghan-Pakistani frontier and the Taliban is regrouping.

Nearly 400 people, including many rebels, have died in violence across the country since early August, much of it blamed on the ousted militia.

Afghan officials have called on Pakistan to do more to clamp down on Islamic guerrillas on its territory, but Pakistan says it is doing all it can with the means at its disposal.

The Taliban on Sunday called for Afghans to unite against US forces on their soil.

MNA/Reuters

US softens hard line on Iran's nuclear cover-up

VIENNA, 24 Nov — The United States has dropped its demand the UN atomic watchdog declare Iran in violation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, despite its belief Teheran wants to build an atom bomb, Western diplomats said on Saturday.

After two days of talks, the UN International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 35-member Board of Governors on Friday adjourned until Wednesday to allow a chance for diplomats to revise a French, German and British draft resolution condemning Iran's 18-year concealment of sensitive parts of its nuclear programme.

However, Western diplomats said informal talks continued on Saturday between Washington and the capitals of the European Union's three biggest states to toughen up the EU trio's proposal, two versions of which US negotiators have rejected as too weak.

"Talks are definitely ongoing, though much of the discussion is taking place in the capitals," a Western diplomat said. Diplomats close to the talks said US officials had abandoned their demand that the resolution contain an explicit reference to Iran's past "non-compliance" with its NPT obligations and that Teheran be reported to the UN Security Council, which could choose to impose economic sanctions.

"I think the US will accept a resolution without an explicit reference to non-compliance," another diplomat said. Diplomats told Reuters that US negotiators had abandoned early last week their demand that Iran be reported to the Council when it became apparent only four other board members — Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — would support this.

In exchange, diplomats close to the talks told Reuters that the United States, which is convinced Iran wants nuclear weapons, were now helping Britain, France and Germany revise the resolution to include a timetable to keep pressure on Iran to cooperate.

The United States has harshly criticized the IAEA for saying in a recent report on Iran that it had "no evidence" to suggest Teheran had a secret weapons programme.

MNA/Reuters

Bush goes home amid last spate of protest in Blair's constituency

LONDON, 24 Nov— Last spate of daily protests against US President George W Bush visit to Britain drew about 500 people upon his arrival at British Prime Minister Tony Blair's constituency Friday, a few hours before his flight back to the US, police said.

The police said it cost them one million pounds for the few hours of security operation in Sedgefield, northeastern England, with some 1,300 police on duty to protect the American President.

The President, and wife Laura, is now

flying by helicopter to Teesside Airport to board *Air Force One* backing to America. The protesters in Sedgefield shouted "Bush out", waving banners and posters bearing words describing Bush as "the world's No 1 terrorist".—MNA/Xinhua



A nurse carries a wounded Iraqi boy who was injured in a car bomb attack, outside a hospital in Khan Bani Saad on 22 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

Dallas remembers 40th anniversary of JFK killing

DALLAS 24 Nov— Conspiracy theorists flocked to the infamous grassy knoll and parents pointed toward a sixth-floor window as thousands gathered in Dealey Plaza on Saturday to mark the day 40 years ago when President John F Kennedy was assassinated on a trip through Dallas.

Dallas does not hold an official event to mark the day that, the official history says, Lee Harvey Oswald fired three shots from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository with a rifle he purchased for less than 20 US dollars gunning down Kennedy during a trip to Texas he was reluctant to take.

But most of the people in Dealey Plaza for the 22 November, 1963, anniversary do not believe in the official history. Copies of a magazine called *JFK — The Case for Conspiracy* were setting briskly at five US dollars a piece to the crowd of some 3,000 to 4,000 people.

Nearby a man held a placard reading "JFK — Blown away by the CIA. Coup d'état (sic) in the USA".

MNA/Reuters

Iran said to provide Iraq with oil products

KUWAIT, 24 Nov — Iran on Saturday agreed in principle to provide former foe 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, told Reuters in Kuwait by telephone from Teheran that a joint Iranian-Iraqi committee also will 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 agreement was reached on Saturday after talks in Teheran between Iraqi Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloun and Iranian counterpart Bijan Zanganeh, Jihad said, adding the joint committee was studying the mechanisms of implementing the deal.

"The committee is studying the linking of the net-

works for gas and oil products which will facilitate the exchange operations and boost this cooperation," Jihad said. Asked what the Iranians will get in return for the refined products, Jihad said: "This has not been finalized. They may get Iraqi crude."

Iraq and Iran fought a war between 1980 and 1988. Bahr al-Uloun, who plans to return to Iraq on Sunday, has toured other Gulf OPEC states Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Kuwait has agreed in principle to provide Iraq with refined petroleum products in exchange for Iraqi natural gas and the Iraqi minister has also said that he relayed a similar request to the Saudis and Qataris to head off a looming oil products shortage in his country this winter.

MNA/Reuters

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

US forces in Iraq detained 307 foreigners

BAGHDAD, 24 Nov — Coalition forces in Iraq have at least 307 suspected foreign fighters in detention, mainly Syrians and Iranians, a US military official said on Saturday.

"Two days ago the number was 307," the official said, listing 140 Syrians, 70 Iranians and small numbers from Yemen, Chad, Saudi Arabia and the West Bank.

He was referring to non-Iraqis detained since Washington declared an end to major combat on 1 May after the war that toppled Saddam Hussein. The men are suspected to have entered Iraq to carry out suicide and other attacks against foreign occupying forces and Iraqi authorities cooperating with them.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi man looks at a crater made by a car bomb outside a police station after an attack in Baquba, some 60 km (37 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 22 Nov, 2003. Suicide bombers blew up cars packed with explosives outside two police stations north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least 15 people in the latest deadly strikes on Iraq's US-backed police force. — INTERNET

Germany wants to help reschedule Iraq debt

BERLIN, 24 Nov — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Saturday called upon the Paris Club of creditor governments to work out any rescheduling of Iraq's foreign debt and said Germany was willing to consider forgiving some of Iraq's debt to Berlin.

In an interview with *Der Spiegel* magazine, Schroeder said it was up to the Paris Club to decide any long-term rescheduling of Iraq's foreign debt, which he said was 116 billion US dollars. He said Germany was willing to play a role in that. "It's my view that it is up to the Paris Club of creditor states — it has to work on the question of a long-term rescheduling," Schroeder said. "Germany will certainly be helpful on that issue."

Germany has in the past said it would not consider forgiving Iraq's debt to Berlin of some 4.4 billion euros (5.2 billion US dollars) but that a temporary freeze on servicing payments could be discussed by the Paris Club of creditor governments.

"I do not want to rule out the possibility of a partial forgiveness of debts," Schroeder

added in the interview. "The important thing is that this discussion finally gets going."

German media reported last month Germany would be prepared to help Iraq by renegotiating some of its foreign debt, but only once an administration controlled by Iraqis is in place.

Some 21 billion US dollars is owed to Paris Club countries, who are cooperating to restructure Iraq's debt. The Paris Club figure rises to 42 billion US dollars when interest arrears are included. Activists such as debt-cancelling campaigners Jubilee are calling for some of Iraq's debt to be written off, saying it is "odious debt" — a legal term meaning it was contracted without the consent of the people and not spent in their interests. — MNA/Reuters

FBI collecting data on anti-war groups

NEW YORK, 24 Nov — The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been collecting information on the tactics, training and organization of anti-war demonstrators, *The New York Times* reported in Sunday editions.

In a report sourced to several interviews as well as a confidential bureau memorandum, the *Times* said that the law enforcement agency has also advised local officials that they should report to counterterrorism squads any suspicious activity at protests.

The memorandum, which was circulated to local law enforcement officials on October 15 ahead of anti-war demonstrations in Washington and San Francisco, detailed how protesters have sometimes used "training camps" to rehearse, the Internet to raise funds and gas masks to defend against police use of tear gas, the newspaper reported.

The memo analysed legal activities such as recruiting demonstrators, as well as illegal ones such as using false documentation to gain access to secured sites, it said.

FBI officials told the newspaper that the intelligence gathering effort was aimed at identifying anarchists and "extremist elements" plotting

violence, not at monitoring the political speech of law-abiding protesters. Asked to comment on the paper's account, an FBI spokesman emphasized that the agency's interest was in potential criminal, and possibly terrorist, activity.

"The FBI is not interested in individuals who are exercising their constitutional rights of protest," FBI spokesman Bill Carter said. "It's only the groups who would be involved in violent or criminal activity where there would be an interest." "The extent of the scrutiny is that any time there is a large gathering of people ... there is a potential for an act of terrorism," Carter said. But civil rights groups and legal scholars told the *Times* that the monitoring programme could signal a return to the abuses of the 1960s and 1970s, when J Edgar Hoover was the FBI's director and agents routinely spied on political protesters including Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia, Singapore to conduct study on reclamation works

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Nov — Senior officials of Malaysia and Singapore on Saturday agreed to appoint a group of independent experts to conduct a study on Singapore's reclamation works and its impact in and around the Straits of Johore.

A joint statement, issued at the end of the senior officials meeting in Putrajaya near Kuala Lumpur, said both countries had agreed to the appointment of a consultant to assist the group of experts, and the appointment of liaison officials to facilitate communication between

the two governments and the independent experts.

"The meeting also affirmed their respective commitment to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) Order that both countries exchange information on a regular basis and assess the risks or effects of

Singapore's land reclamation works," the two-page statement said. Singapore's reclamation projects cover an area of 5,214 hectares of sea — 3,306 hectares at eastern sector around Pulau Tekong and 1,908 hectares at Tuas in the west.

The reclamation activi-

ties in Singapore waters bordering Malaysia's south state of Johore have caused serious concerns here.

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

The statement said both countries also expressed their commitment to avoid any action incompatible with the effective implementation of the ITLOS Order and to continue consultations through diplomatic channels, with a view to reaching a prompt agreement on "temporary measures, as may be found necessary, with respect to reclamation works in Area D at Pulau Tekong."

"The meeting agreed that the two agents should inform the President of the Arbitral Tribunal of the discussions held and the decisions that were arrived at," the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua



British soldiers patrol following a blast in Basra Saturday on 23 November.

INTERNET

US FACES INTENSIFIED RESISTANCE IN IRAQ

Three US troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Nov—Two US soldiers and a senior Iraqi policeman have been killed in the northern city of Mosul.

Witnesses said the two American soldiers had their throats cut but this was denied by a US military spokesman, who said they had been shot.

In a separate attack, a US soldier died in a roadside bombing near Baquba, north of Baghdad, US officials said.

Soldiers killed

The two US soldiers were killed in the centre of Mosul after the attackers approached their vehicle in traffic and slit their throats, witnesses said.

But a military spokesman said: "Two soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division were killed shortly after midday in west Mosul...they were shot while en route from one compound to another."

The witnesses said that US troops immediately surrounded the vehicle and began interrogating Iraqis in the area.

The latest attacks brought to 185 the number of US soldiers killed in action since President George W Bush declared major

combat operations in Iraq over on 1 May.

Elsewhere in Mosul, Iraqi police said a top police officer was killed by unknown gunmen in a car late on Saturday.

Colonel Abdel Salam Qanbar - who was in charge of oil installations in the area - was gunned down as he "was leaving the mosque" in the evening, Iraqi police general Khaled Fathi Jassim told the *AFP* news agency.

Baquba bombing

In the Baquba attack, the US soldier from the 4th Infantry Division was killed and two others wounded when their convoy hit an "improvised explosive device," a US military spokesman said.

The spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Bill MacDonald said that the incident happened at about 0740 local time (0440 GMT). The attack came only a day after car bomb rocked the city's main police station, killing seven policemen and two civilians, a US military spokesman said.

Internet



Iraqis inspect the damaged police station after it was attacked by a car bomb in Baqouba, about 40 miles (60 kilometres) northeast of Baghdad, Saturday, on 22 Nov, 2003. Suicide attackers detonated two vehicles Saturday at police stations in towns northeast of Baghdad, and at least 18 people were killed, US and Iraqi officials said. — INTERNET



Iraqi police stand next to a crater where a car bomb exploded in Khan Bani Saad, a market town on the northeastern outskirts of Baghdad, Saturday on 22 Nov, 2003. — INTERNET



Three US soldiers killed in Iraq and civilian flights banned. — INTERNET



US soldiers at the site of attacks at the centre of Baghdad on 21 November.

INTERNET



A US soldier inspects a launcher used in morning attacks in Baghdad on 21 November. Rockets slammed into the Iraqi oil ministry and two central Baghdad hotels used by western contractors and journalists, wounding several people. — INTERNET

Turks gather to condemn attacks, blame US policy

ISTANBUL, 24 Nov—Several thousand Turks gathered in Istanbul and other cities on Saturday to condemn this week's suicide bombings, with many protesting against what they see as the root cause of the attacks — the United States.

Police in riot gear looked on in Turkey's business capital as unions, political parties and community groups peacefully joined those affected by the blasts to share their sadness and anger at the four attacks, which killed more than 50 people.

"Curse this terrorism, it killed my friend," said retired businessman Ismail Yildirim. "The imperialist powers are behind this, they are turning the Middle East into a bloodbath. They want to drag Turkey into it but they will fail."

Pinned to his lapel was a photograph of a friend killed in last Saturday's suicide attack on the Neve Shalom synagogue.

Some in the crowd of several thousand held up Turkish flags and stood motionless in the bright winter sunshine for a minute of silent remembrance.

One group laid a wreath of red carnations at a monument in the square, below a statue of modern Turkey's founder, Ataturk.

Nearby a leftist group chanted anti-American slogans, shouting: "Terrorist America get out of the Middle East."

"We know who the murderers are," said a caption on one placard, below pictures of US President George W Bush and British

Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Turkey is a close NATO ally of the United States, but many Turks believe US Middle East policies played an indirect role in provoking the Istanbul attacks.

Some in the crowd also suggested that US and other intelligence services were directly responsible.

"I believe these attacks carry the fingerprints of the CIA, Mossad and (Turkish intelligence service) MIT. They want to push Turkey and America closer together after recent tensions between them," said 22-year-old engineering student Mustafa Colak.

He pointed to strains in ties between Ankara and Washington after Turkey refused to allow the deployment of US troops on Turkish soil ahead of the Iraq war, and Ankara's recent decision to withdraw its offer of troops to help US forces there.

Among those gathered in Istanbul's Taksim Square were also some who saw the bombs as an attempt to undermine Turkey itself.

"The groups behind this don't want to see a powerful Turkey in the Middle East," said metal union official Mehmet Soyuek.

MNA/Reuters



The mother of an Iraqi boy wounded in a car bomb attack cries over her son in Khan Bani Saad 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

China to promote cooperation with Togo

BELJING, 24 Nov—China will make concerted efforts with Togo to promote bilateral relations, Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan said here Saturday.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and a state councillor, made the remark when holding talks with Togolese Minister of Defence and Veterans Assani Tidjanja.

Cao said that since they forged diplomatic relations, two countries had made fruitful cooperation in the fields of politics, economy and culture together with frequent high-level exchanges and deepening friendship between the two peoples.

The Chinese Armed Forces attached importance to developing military relations

with Togo, said Cao, adding that China would make efforts to raise military friendship and cooperation between the two Armed Forces into a new height.

Tidjanja extended his congratulations on China's successful launch of the *Shenzhou-5* manned spacecraft, and hoped China would continue to make contribution to the peaceful utilization of outer space.

He voiced his thanks for China's long-term assistance to Togo, and reiterated Togo's adherence to the one-China policy.

MNA/Xinhua

UN agency stresses need to give attention to Ethiopian youth

ADDIS ABABA, 24 Nov—The Ethiopian Government should give special attention to youth in helping it bring about sustainable development to the country, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) said Friday.

UNICEF Representative Abdelmejid Tibouti said young people are the positive force for change and a key resource for poverty reduction.

Abdelmejid was speaking to the Third Meeting of the Ethiopian Teenagers' Forum examining "Poverty Reduction and Youth" which got underway here.

He said poverty causes lifelong damage to children's minds and bodies, perpetuating the cycle of poverty across generations.

"This is why poverty reduction must begin with the protection and realization of the human rights of children," Abdelmejid said. — MNA/Xinhua

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Bremer, IGC members differ over transfer of authority

KUWAIT CITY, 24 Nov—A big difference has emerged between US civil administrator Paul Bremer and a number of interim Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) over the issue of transferring authority to Iraqis, Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* reported on Friday.

The Arabic-language newspaper quoted Iraqi sources as saying that the agreement reached last week may be completely blown up as a result of the differences between the two sides.

A number of IGC members believe that Bremer made mistakes as regards the details of the broadlines of the agreement, the report said.

It added that details on the mechanisms of transferring authority to Iraqis were a time bomb which went off between the Shiite members

of the council and Bremer.

According to the report, the difference between the two sides is mainly on the rejection of IGC members to dissolve up the council as mentioned in Bremer's statement.

Instead IGC members are for the council to remain beside an intended interim legislative council, the *Al-Qabas* said, adding the Shiite IGC members object the mechanism of forming the legislative council.

On 15 November, the US-handpicked IGC said that

a new Iraqi provisional government will be in place by mid-2004, when the US-led occupation is supposed to end.

A permanent sovereign government will be elected by the end of 2005 after a new Constitution is drafted.

As required in the plan, members of a transitional assembly shall be selected no later than May 2004, which will then elect a provisional Iraqi government before the end of June 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish FM confirms suspects arrests over Istanbul bombings

ANKARA, 24 Nov—Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul confirmed on Friday that several suspects have been arrested in connection with a series of bomb attacks on British targets in Istanbul one day earlier.

MNA/Xinhua

Huaihe River dammed for flood control project

HEFEI, 24 Nov — Huaihe River one of the most flood-prone rivers in China's history, was successfully dammed at 11.28 am Sunday at a section in the juncture between Huoqiu and Yingshang counties in east China's Anhui Province.

The damming is designed to make way for the construction of the Linhuaigang Project, so far the largest water control project on the Huaihe River, the third longest in China. It is also one of the 19 key parts of the Huaihe River management blueprint and has been listed as one of the major projects in the national economic and social development plan. The successful damming, the first one the river, showed that China entered a new stage in harnessing the Huaihe River.

The 1,000-kilometre-long river is notorious for its frequent floods with 300 disastrous floods recorded over the past five centuries, endangering the lives of local people in the river valley. — MNA/Xinhua



Carlos Sanz, who runs a large, fenced in refuge for wolves in Chapineria, 50 kms southwest of Madrid, prepares to feed a pair of wolves. Hatred of the wolf and its status as vermin caused Spain's Iberian wolf population to plunge to about 400 by the late 1960s. But a 1970 hunting law, human exodus from the countryside and greater ecological awareness among Spaniards have helped boost the wolf population today. — INTERNET

From the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among four countries to the ultimate goal of ASEAN

Chin Gya (Maubin)

(Continued from yesterday)

Not long ago, Myanmar hosted the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. The four-country meeting was held with the following objectives — to increase competitiveness and generate growth along the borders; to facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantage; to create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries; to enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner.

Myanmar, with a population of over 52 million, is a good market for the ASEAN member nations to make investment and to trade. Myanmar is located in the area where China, India and the ASEAN meet. Thus, it is an important country in the strategic relations among the ASEAN nations. If the ASEAN country trades with the world's two largest markets — China and India — it is sure that they will have to transport their goods via Myanmar.

As Myanmar is a strategically and economically important country for the ASEAN, she should use her advantages effectively.

Myanmar is rich in human and natural resources, the basic needs for national development. The required capital and technology will come into Myanmar from the ASEAN nations. We will be able to enjoy fruits of the economic development by combining the capital and technology that come into Myanmar from the ASEAN nations and Myanmar's rich human and natural resources.

The more the ASEAN investment area becomes established, the more direct investments Myanmar will receive from ASEAN and other foreign countries. Myanmar has the largest population skilled in English among the countries of the Southeast Asia landmass. A lot of labour is available in Myanmar and is cheaper than in other nations. Raw materials are also available in the country. Because of these advantages, the investors will take interest in Myanmar. The ASEAN projects to share the manufacturing business of goods under the same brand and trademark and to form joint-ventures in the technological and investment sector will generate more job opportunities in and bring extra capital and technology to Myanmar.

Because of the ASEAN science and technological cooperation and social cooperation programmes, there will be greater progress in multiple sectors including agricultural, industrial technology, health, education, cultural, environmental, narcotics elimination and hotel and tourism sectors and in the relations between the non-governmental organizations including engineering federations and film associations. In the trade sector also, Myanmar export items will freely enter other ASEAN nations at low tariffs.

As the ASEAN countries are neighbours mostly lying contiguous to one another, love and friendship in the region will create a firm and united strength within the Association. In the past, Myanmar had to face and overcome her problems alone. But now she will be able to solve her problems with greater strength than in the past with the help of other member nations.

Myanmar will also gain the opportunity to face certain dialogue partners, who see Myanmar in a wrong way, and explain to them about her objective conditions and her stand through the formal meetings of the ASEAN. In the security sector, Myanmar can support her security programmes by building mutual trust and through diplomatic channels, resulting from the formal meetings of the ASEAN region.

The task of economic cooperation in the ASEAN region is being implemented sector-wise. The establishment of the economic zones of the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — in the region is also included in the task. The ASEAN countries are collectively setting up development zones in the regions where the borders of two or more countries meet. The task is to catch up with others in the field of global economy where competition is getting more intense.

Employing the cheap labour of Indonesia and Malaysia and utilizing the technologies and capital of Singapore, a triangle development region was successfully established in the regions where the borders of the three countries meet.

Moreover, the ASEAN is trying to set up triangle development regions in the area covering some parts of Indonesia, the northern regions of Malaysia and the southern part of Thailand; and another triangle development region in Borneo Island where the borders of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei meet. The Association is also striving to set up the Mekong region countries development plan with the help of international financial institutions.

According to the figures released by the Thai Commerce Ministry, the volume of the border trade between Thailand and three other countries — Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia — during the first ten months of the fiscal year 2002 was US \$ 4.08 billion.

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — will produce sound economic results among the ASEAN countries concerned and create good opportunities in other areas.

At present, the Union of Myanmar has already laid down the seven steps of the future political programme of the State or in other words, the roadmap. The future political programme is the national objective for emergence of a modern democratic nation, that is the ultimate goal of the country. With the leadership of the State, all the nationalities of the Union are striving in unity to implement the seven steps stage by stage till reaching the national goal. Despite the alien instigation, the ASEAN, with the Southeast Asian spirit of sympathy, cooperation and goodwill, is trying to realize the goal — One Southeast Asia.

In this regard, the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand is a step towards establishing collective economic development zones at the focal points at the border regions of the ASEAN nations to reach the ultimate goal of the ASEAN — One Southeast Asia.

(Concluded)

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 22 November 2003.

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့်
စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

Latin America adopts common strategy on aging

SANTIAGO, 24 Nov — The countries of Latin America have agreed to adopt a common strategy on aging, another problem agitating the region besides the economic crisis, reports here Saturday quoted a communique of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) as saying.

Officials reached the agreement at the Regional Inter-Governmental Conference on Aging closed in Santiago on Friday.

The general goal of the strategy is to protect the human rights of the elders and to ensure economic security, social participation and education for them to satisfy their basic needs and help them fully participate in the society and the develop-

ment process, CEPAL said.

The strategy also seeks to help the elder citizens have access to integral health services and better living conditions, as well as to maintain their functionality and autonomy.

Besides, the strategy aims to create an enjoyable physical, social and cultural environment for the elders to develop and exercise their rights and duties.

The strategy also intends to implement the International Action Plan of Madrid, agreed upon during the Second World Assembly on Aging held by the United Nations in 2002, said CEPAL in the communique.

MNA/Xinhua

၁၃၆၅ ခုနှစ် စာဆိုတော်နေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ်

စာအုပ်ဈေးပွဲတော်

နှင့်

ဝတ္ထုရှည် ဖြန့်မာနှစ်တစ်ရာပြည့်

၂၂-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ မှ ၃၀-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ ထိ

စာအုပ်ဈေးပွဲတော် နှင့်
ဝတ္ထုရှည်ဖြန့်မာ နှစ်တစ်ရာပြည့်

နံနက် (၉:၀၀) မှ ည (၅:၀၀) အထိ

အမှတ် ၃၇၃-၃၈၃ ဗိုလ်အောင်ကျော်လမ်း (ယခင်ပုံနှိပ်ဈေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ဆိုင်ဝေမျှလုပ်ငန်း)
အောက်အတွဲ ခြေညီတန်း ပထမထပ်နှင့် ဒုတိယထပ်၊ မြည်သူ့အဆုံး အခါခွဲလက်ကိုင်သန့်သန့်သည်။

Government spends over K 18,700...

(from page 1)

As for remarkable success gained in surgical operations, the cases involving surgical treatment to be performed in foreign countries in the past can now be conducted successfully at home with the use of modern medical equipment and international-level surgical techniques.

For instance, "Open Heart Surgery" can now be operated at both Yangon General Hospital and Mandalay General Hospital.

Such advanced cardiac surgical operation as therapies to enlarge narrow blood vessels with balloon with the use of "cardiac catheterization laboratory equipment, and percutaneous transluminal coronary Angiography (PTCA) & Stent Deployment therapies can now be conducted in Yangon as well as in Mandalay.

In like manner, kidney transplant can also be conducted in both Yangon and Mandalay. Moreover, the historical as well as successful separation of chest-conjoined twins and buttock-conjoined twins by Myanmar surgeons can also be regarded as national pride.

In 2000, Myanmar orthopaedic surgeons could write a success story in the replantation of a left arm which was traumatically crushed at waist with the aid of modern microscopic lens. In a similar operation conducted in Novem-



Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views booths at the Sixth Seminar on Medical Studies held by Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health.—MNA

ber of this year, a severely crushed distal forearm could also be re-joined successfully and it is also a great achievement worthy of putting into record. Such significant performances which deserve to be documented in the course of Myanmar medical history should be handed down to new generation medical doctors. And the new generation doctors are to exert concerted efforts hand in hand with senior physicians and surgeons to acquire further achievements in the field of medical science.

At such a time when medi-

cal science is advancing with high acceleration, amending the medical curriculum to be suited to the condition, prospect and requirements of the State by holding medical seminars is an impetus to increase the number of well-rounded medical professionals as well as being an attempt to advance the medical science up to international level in accord with the national goal.

With the scientific and technological advancements influencing all development sectors including health and education sectors, arrange-

ments are to be made systematically to have access to diagnostic tests, therapies, sophisticated hospital equipment and medical curriculum consistent with the advancing science and technology in the field of medical studies.

The findings of researches on medical science, diagnosis and therapies are becoming more advanced with the passage of time. Therefore, efforts are to be made to produce curriculum conforming to ever-changing such technologies and create constant learning opportunities for all medical professionals.

Likewise, steps are to be taken systematically for the emergence of medical curriculum suited to international standards as well as to the geographical, political, economic and social conditions in Myanmar. The national development tasks are gaining speed as the Government is promoting the political, economic and social infrastructure of the State. Therefore, it will be necessary to make co-operation and coordination to draw medical curriculum capable of shaping medical advancement that can attend to health needs of the people.

In particular, the medical curriculum should be the one underlining the goodwill, attitude and ethics, all of which are essential to be practised in providing public health care services.

Generally speaking, at a time when the medical seminar involving well-rounded medical professionals is in progress, measures are to be taken with great vigour for the emergence of medical curriculum and teaching techniques which will promise the development of medical universities in harmony with that of medical science and the

creation of highly-qualified human resources aiming to effectively support advanced science and technology related to health sector in the field of medical science for the success of the national goal in the health sector.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called upon the technicians to promote the national health standard and medical standard, create healthy human resources, and strive for development in medical teaching that will result in broader public health care services and serve national interests; and to take systematic measures for the application of modern techniques in the teaching of medical studies and the dissemination of international-level medical science to universities, training schools and hospitals.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party viewed round the booth displayed in commemoration of the sixth medical seminar. The seminar will continue at the Medical Science Department under the Ministry of Health on Bogyoke Aung San Street here till 27 November.—MNA

Myanmar-China tennis friendly begins

YANGON, 24 NOV —A ceremony to open Myanmar-China tennis friendly was held at Theinbyu tennis court here this morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, officials of the Minis-

try of Sports, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and members, members of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and Chairman of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Zaw of Max Myanmar Co Ltd, secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin and executives and guests.

Next, the tennis friendly followed. In the single event (Men), Tan Hai Yun of China played against Too Maw of Myanmar and Li Can of China against Zaw Zaw Latt.

In the doubles event (Men), Yang Jing Zhu and Tan Hai Yun played against Khin Maung Win and Min Min. In the singles event (Women), Jiang Ting of China played against Kyi Mya Zaw of Myanmar and Na Wei of China against Ame Tun of Myanmar. In the doubles event (Women), Ma Jiang Ling and Jiang Ting of China played against Moe Chit The and Chit Su Ye of Myanmar. In the doubles event (Men), Chen Xin and Li Can of China played against Khin

Maung Win and Zaw Zaw Latt of Myanmar, and Yang Jing Zhu and Tan Hai Yun of China against Nge Naung and Man Lyan Sein of Myanmar. In the doubles event (Women), Na Wei and Ding Ying of China played against Ame Tun and Moe Chit The of Myanmar, and Ma Jiang Ling and Jiang Ting of China against Kyi Mya Zaw and Chit Su Ye of Myanmar respectively.

The tennis friendly continues up to 26 November at the same venue.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe watches Myanmar-China tennis friendly at Theinbyu tennis court.—MNA

USDA Annual General meeting...

(from page 16)

As is known to all, the present time is the time when the State, the Tatmadaw and the people are making efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The government has been making efforts for peace and tranquillity of the State, economic strengthening of the State and national people and promotion of national education standard.

To reach the national goal, the seven-point future programme has been laid down and is being implemented. The national association, the USDA, is to co-operate hand in hand with the Tatmadaw and the people to reach the national goal. The future work programmes and resolutions made at the meeting are the duties of the association to be discharged in shaping the future nation. So, all are urged to strive for successful implementation of the tasks.

USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe has constantly given guidance for successful implementation of the objectives of the association. This morning, the Senior General himself attended the meeting and gave guidance.

The Patron explained building of economic infrastructures and human resources for development of the State. Prevalence of law and tranquillity as well as defence strength, economic strength and social strength are included in the meaning of development. Building of infrastructures means building of good foundations for the State. Based on the firm foundation, the future nation must be built.

To be able to systematically practise democracy in future, the basic three factors need to be sound: peace and tranquillity of the State, strengthening of economy the State as well as the people and promotion of national education standard. In conclusion, the Senior General explained the three factors: nurturing the members to be highly-qualified forces equipped with good morals, making greater participation in the tasks for the development of the State and rural area development tasks, welcoming the spirit to take responsibilities for the interests of the public and active participating in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-point future policy of the State with true sense of Union Spirit.

The guidance of the Patron is the highlight to be placed emphasis by the association in the interest of the people. The USDA at different levels are to regard the instructions of the Patron as the work guideline.

At the first day session of the meeting, member of the Panel of Patrons Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win gave instructions which are noteworthy.

It is believed that the government has shaped the country with sheer goodwill and all will take part in the tasks to achieve success. However, it is needed to take care of those with sectarian, partisan and egoism. It is needed to organize those with opposite views with patience in the interests of the State and the national people and to cooperate in the tasks that can bear fruits with goodwill. It is also needed to find means and ways to control them if they oppose. To control them, we ourselves need to be strong and skillful and mingle with the public. Practical works are to be done for winning the familiarity and trust of the public so that the incitement of the opposite organizations can be prevented. These factors are to be considered. The important decisions, future programmes and work guideline have been laid down at the meeting. The CEC thanks those helping the meeting successful. The good results of the meeting are to be put into practice on arriving back at the respective regions.

Afterwards, the representatives of the USDAs at different levels chanted slogans: Non-disintegration of the Union (Our Cause, Our Cause), Non-disintegration of the national reconsolidation (Our Cause, Our Cause), Perpetuation of the sovereignty (Our Cause, Our Cause) and Successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State (Our Cause, Our Cause). The meeting came to a close later in the morning.

MNA



Reserve executive Daw Myat Lay Ngon of Patheingyi Township USDA, Ayeyawady Division acted as master of ceremonies at the meeting and co-master of ceremonies is Daw Mya Thanda Oo of Nyaungshwe Township USDA, Shan State (South).—MNA



Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the USDA presides over on the third and final day session of the Annual General Meeting of USDA 2003 with members of Secretariat U Tin Hlaing and U Pyi Sone as members. — MNA

Two resolutions passed...

(from page 16)

organizational work by enhancing the four capabilities of the association.

The USDA members are to adopt the guidance of the USDA Patron as their work guideline. One approval is to approve the report presented

by the USDA Central Executive Committee at the first day session of the annual general meeting 2003 of USDA held on 19 November 2003.

The first matter is to put on record the implementation of future work pro-

grammes state and division-wise during one year presented at the first day session and second day session of the annual general meeting 2003 of USDA held on 19 and 20 November respectively.

The second matter is to put on record the findings of sector-wise discussions on

organizational, management, economic, social, cultural and education sectors and participation in the successful realization of the seven-point political roadmap of the State presented at the second day session of the annual general meeting 2003 of USDA held on 20 November.—MNA

Myanmar/ASEAN/Japan Follow-up Seminar on Industrial Relations opened

YANGON, 24 Nov.—With the sponsorship of the Ministry of Labour, the ASEAN and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare of Japan, the Myanmar/ASEAN/Japan Follow-up Seminar on Industrial Relations was opened at the Traders' Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, heads of department under the Ministry of Labour, officials of Japanese Embassy to Myanmar and the embassies of ASEAN member countries, experts from Japan, the representatives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Industrial



Myanmar/ASEAN/Japan Follow-up Seminar on Industrial Relations in progress. —

MNA

Producers Association and the industrial zones, observers and guests.

First, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein made an opening speech on the occasion.

Next, Vice-Chairman of the ILO Association of Japan Mr Tadashi Nakamura spoke and the opening ceremony ended.

Then, the Myanmar/ASEAN/Japan Follow-up Seminar on Industrial Relations followed. Director-General of Labour Department U Soe Nyunt presided over the seminar and made a speech.

Afterwards, Director of Labour Department U Myat Tha Tun reported on the main points and results of the First Regional Seminar on Industrial

Relations held in Malaysia in February 2003 and the First Regional Workshop held in Japan in July 2003.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The first day's session of the seminar ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman. The seminar continues tomorrow at the same venue.—MNA



A vessel named Mv Silver Shadow carrying 131 tourists berthed at Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal on 22 November evening under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, with the assistance of the Ministry of Transport and Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co Ltd. They visited places of interest in and around Yangon and the vessel left the terminal on 24 November afternoon. —MNA

Emergence of Okpo-Thilawa Railroad, winning pleasure of local people

Article by Maung Maung Htwe &
photos by Aung Kyaw Oo

Hearing the sound of siren of the train in Okpozu Station in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District, we staff speeded up our step. On arrival at the site for the opening of Okpo-Thilawa Railroad, we noticed delight on the faces of local people.

The opening ceremony took place at 7 am on 15 November 2003. The train was moving to the newly-constructed Thilawa Station.

There have emerged Thilawa railroad and railway station thanks to the efforts of the Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation. In the past, container trucks were the only means of transporting commodities.

Now, Okpozu-Thilawa railroad has been constructed under the guidance of Head of State Senior General, resulting in swifter flow of commodities with less transport charges. Moreover, two more up-trains and two more down-trains are plying between Yangon Central Railway Station and Thilawa Station in Okpo daily, ensuring convenience and winning satisfaction and pleasure of local people.

To successfully complete the project, the employees had to construct 25 small-and-big bridges along the 8.33-mile railroad that is with six bends, overcoming natural barriers. The project was launched on 20 May 2003 and completed on 10 November 2003. The facility emerged in a short time due to the collective efforts and close cooperation of members of the Tatmadaw and various organizations and employees of Myanmar Railways.

We, staff of Myanmar Alin daily, interviewed some travellers on the train on the opening day of the railroad. An elderly woman of about 50 of Ahmuhtan Ward in Thanlyin



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and members have a cordial conversation with local people on the first trip. — AUNG KYAW OO

said to Myanmar Alin daily, "I enjoy myself taking the train to Thilawa Station". Another traveller, a pensioner of Myanmar Railways said that she lived in Thauktawdwin Ward in Thanlyin Township, and that she had been looking forward to taking the first trip of the train since she had got news about the opening ceremony. Thus, she could not pay any attention even to preparing breakfast for her family so as to enable her family and her to take the trip. She felt delighted and pleased that from then onwards Thilawa was

accessible by train, she noted. And a man, approximately in his sixties, said that he had been living in Thanlyin since he was born. He had never expected to have a railroad in his native town before and it was heartening and encouraging to note that the new railroad could be put into service. In conclusion, he expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Head of State and the government for the project.

(Translation: MS)

Myanmar Alin: 16-11-2003

WTO chief backs fresh talks next month

HAVANA, 24 Nov — Key players in world trade should meet in early December as proposed by Brazil to inject new momentum into deadlocked global talks, the head of the World Trade Organization said on Saturday.

"I think that is a good idea. It would help us keep the momentum for forward movement," WTO director-general Supachai Panitchpakdi told Reuters in an interview at the start of a trip to Cuba, Honduras and Guyana.

Brazil last month called for a meeting between the European Union, the United States and the G-20 group of developing countries that faced up to rich nations at the failed WTO meeting in Cancun, Mexico, over farm subsidies and other issues.

Talks at the WTO on lowering global barriers to trade have been floundering since negotiations collapsed at the Cancun meeting in September.

Western hemisphere talks fared somewhat better in Miami, where 34 nations agreed on Thursday to a watered-down version of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Their plan, which keeps alive prospects for an FTAA by 2005, calls on participants to negotiate minimum levels of commitment in nine negotiating areas, while allowing groups of countries that want to seek higher commitments to pursue separate pacts.

Supachai welcomed the FTAA adjustment to a "pick-

and-choose" plan because it will allow negotiations to advance while giving all countries the opportunity to participate.

"It is a good sign," he said.

Rather than taking steam out of the global round, the FTAA talks will work in tandem with the WTO and help "push forward very strongly at our multilateral negotiations" tough issues such as agriculture, he said.

Supachai said the crucial question for the global round was to keep trade ministers involved and reengage them in talks.

Cancun made the chances of completing the round by January 1, 2005, more difficult. The WTO chief has been travelling to talk to trade officials to try to revive negotiations ahead of a December 15 deadline to set an agenda for next year.

"We are most anxious to get everyone back to the negotiations first before we can really reengage them," he said. "At the moment we are consulting among the members as to how best to approach the reengagement of the member countries."

MNA/Reuters

India blasts developed nations for high agri subsidies

NEW DELHI, 24 Nov — India Sunday blasted developed nations for being reluctant to phase out agriculture subsidies now at over 360 billion dollars even as it favoured a successful trade negotiation at WTO.

"Cancun is not equivalent to WTO. Please don't measure WTO from the failure to achieve results," Finance Minister Jaswant Singh said defending India's stance for articulating developing nations' demand for increased market access.

"It is not motivated for equal trade as there are many

in-built preferential provisions," he said, pointing to large agriculture subsidies given by developed nations amounting to 1.0 billion dollars a day.

Defending the food subsidies provided in India, he said it was aimed at ensuring food security to over one billion population of the country. "Nobody on earth will feed my one billion citizens. Food security is a must and I will have to continue to offer subsidies even if it is painful," Singh said.

He said the member nations at WTO should not feel "defeated" after Cancun round and India was ready to work shoulder-to-shoulder for the successful completion of Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Stressing on a more robust Indo-US economic relations, Singh, a former External Affairs Minister, said "the US have to move away from their prejudices and rigidities...We have to refuel the partnership."

"We discussed mostly politics and not economics. But we need to continue and engage ourselves to have a robust economic relation which almost remained an uncharted territory," he added. — MNA/PTI

Milan residents given all-clear as bomb removed

MILAN, 24 Nov — Thousands of Milan residents got the all-clear to return home on Sunday after being evacuated so police could remove an unexploded World War II bomb.

The bomb was taken to a Milan suburb to be blown up. More than 55,000 residents had been forced to leave their homes in driving rain earlier on Sunday, reminding older citizens of taking shelter from the Allied bombardments which devastated Italy's business capital in 1943.

Milan's central railway station was shuttered while the bomb disposal experts did their work. Trains were diverted to other stations and some metro stations were closed. — MNA/Reuters

Cuba produces key synthetic vaccine for children

HAVANA, 24 Nov — Cuban researchers have developed the first synthetic vaccine against a bacteria that causes pneumonia and meningitis, a breakthrough aimed at lowering the cost of immunizing children in poorer countries.

The vaccine protects against haemophilus influenza Type B, a bacteria that causes upper respiratory infections, mainly in children up to five years of age. The disease is a leading cause of meningitis, an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings that can cause brain damage, deafness or death.

The research on the new vaccine, which has already been tested and put into production in Cuba, will be presented on Wednesday to experts from the world over at a biotechnology congress in

Havana. This is the first vaccine for humans made with a chemically produced antigen, Cuba says. The available, conventional vaccine is made using a difficult and more costly process of growing antigens in a bacterial culture.

"It took us six years," said Dr Vicente Verez, head of the University of Havana's Synthetic Antigens Laboratory.

"But what could be more precious for society than to have healthy two-

month-old babies," he said.

Poor nations that depend on multinational pharmaceutical companies for the vaccine — now costing three US dollars a dose — will now have a less expensive alternative, Verez said.

The disease has been almost erased in the United States, the US Centres for Disease Control said. But it remains a problem in developing countries where the cost of the vaccine has been a barrier to widespread immunization.

Clinical trials con-

ducted in the central Cuban province of Camaguey, first on adult volunteers, then on four-year-old children and finally on babies, showed a 99.7-per-cent success rate in developing the required antibodies.

The technology for the new vaccine was patented in 1999 by the University of Ottawa and the University of Havana. The Canadians discovered how to simplify crucial chemical reactions and Cuba applied the method on a larger scale, Verez said. — MNA/Reuters

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



Bagan captures the heart of the entire national people and it is also the glory of the country. The government has taken all possible measures for the convenience of visitors at home and from abroad. The photo shows the scenic beauty of ancient Bagan. — PHOTO: MNA

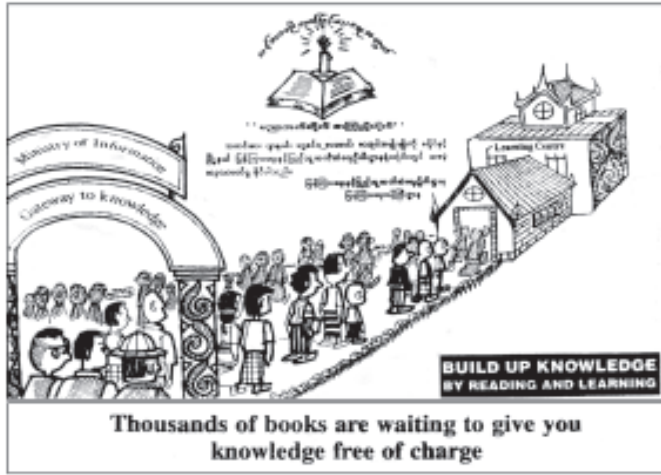
Human resource development plays a key role in building a nation to become a modern one. With this concept, the government is building new universities and colleges across the country. The photo taken on 16 November 2003 shows the four-storey school building at Pyay University in Bago Division (West).

PHOTO: MNA



Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is trying its best for the travellers' convenience. The photo shows the inner decoration of a new coach assembled by the Myitnge Coach Factory.

PHOTO: YE CHAN
MYINT (KYEMON)



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(For: Domnarn Songiat & Boonma Attorneys at Laws, Thailand).
Dated: 25 November, 2003

Over one ton of illegal drugs seized in northern Philippines

MANILA, 24 Nov—The police has seized more than one ton of methamphetamine hydrochloride and over seven tons of chemicals used for manufacturing the drug in a raid on a warehouse in the northern Philippine city of Antipolo, a newspaper reported here.

Five suspects were arrested in the raid on Friday in what is believed to be the largest police bust in government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs, *The Philippine Star* reported.

MNA/Xinhua

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China punishes 12,000 firms for environmental offences

HANGZHOU, 24 Nov—China had punished 12,000 firms for breaking environmental laws during the first 10 months of the year, an official for environmental protection said here.

Addressing a seminar on China's ecological environment and economy, Wang Yuqing, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration of China, said 33.5 per cent of the firms dealt with according to law were using outdated production facilities banned by the government for inefficiency and pollution.

About 13.6 per cent of the 12,000 firms had violated environmental laws on construction projects, said Wang.

The country's environmental situation allows no room for optimism as the environmental deterioration trend has not yet been contained, he warned.

Environmental protection and pollution control efforts could not match the pace of pollution in the cause of faster economic development, said Wang, blaming weak law enforcement and local protectionism for the problem.

Indonesia eager to form one squadron of "Sukhoi"

JAKARTA, 24 Nov—The Indonesian Air Force Chief of Staff said he hoped the country would have at least one squadron of Russia-made *Sukhoi* jet fighters in the next two years.

"In addition to our four *Sukhois*, we plan to get more to make one squadron, and we hope the Russia-made jet squadron can be materialized in the next two years," Air Marshall Chappy Hakim was quoted by the official *Antara* news agency as saying in Yogyakarta Province.

But he added the decision to buy new jet fighters should become the responsibility of the military headquarters, not the Air Force.

Indonesia purchased four *Sukhois* and two *MI-35* helicopters under a 192-million-US-dollar counter trade deal with Russia, following a state visit by President Megawati Soekarnoputri to Moscow in April.

MNA/Xinhua

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Yangon. 25 November 2003

Indonesia eager to form one squadron of "Sukhoi"

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MNA/Xinhua

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Chinese Premier hopes for more coordinated development

BEIJING, 24 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said he hoped China can gradually bring about more coordinated development between different regions during a *Washington Post* interview here.

"However, this could be a very time-consuming process," Wen said when he was interviewed Friday by Leonard Downie, executive editor of *The Washington Post* of the United States.

Asked if he was concerned about a gap growing in economic conditions between the more well-off parts of China and the poorer parts of China, such as in the west, Wen said "I do have such concerns".

He recalled that not too long ago, the US Commerce Secretary, Mr Donald Evans, visited China, and he started his visit going to China's northwest.

"He came to see me with two photographs that were taken when he visited the countryside in China's northwest. From his visit, he learned that the countryside in China is still very backward. So I told him with this knowledge, all the problems that he was about to discuss with me could be well solved," said Wen.

Wen said: "I've personally been to over 1,800 counties throughout the country. So I'm in a position to say I've seen the worst

poverty in China. So I know very well how uneven our development has been."

"It is true that in the coastal areas in the East, skyscrapers overwhelm you," Wen said. However, in large areas of the countryside, people are still living in shabby houses with thatch roofs and still use oxen to till the land. Thirty million people are still below the poverty line, said he.

"So one important inspirational lesson we, the new Chinese leadership, have learned from the struggle against the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) epidemic is that we have to emphasize coordinated development," he said. He said that uneven development between the urban and rural areas, and imbalance between economic development and social progress — this situation can be described with an analogy.

"It's like a human being who has one long leg and one short leg. If one leg is longer than the other, this person is bound to stumble and fall. And a country with one leg longer than the other will also stumble and fall," Wen said.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian Army team winds up China visit

BEIJING, 24 Nov — A high-level Indian Army team Sunday concluded its visit to China, which included a first-ever trip by an Indian military delegation to the "roof of the world" — Tibet.

Described by officials here as a continuation of the process of high-level military exchanges between India and China aimed at greater understanding of each other, the six-member delegation of senior Indian Army officers was led by Lieutenant-General Mohinder Singh, Commanding General Officer of the Tezpur-based 4 corps.

The visit to Tibet was aimed at increasing the levels of confidence and transparency between the two armies. During the visit, which began on November 16, Singh met senior officials of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and discussed matters of mutual

interest.

The delegation also interacted with the National Defence University here and visited some Chinese military facilities in Chengdu in southwest China.

The visit highlights the commitment of the two armies for taking steps to increase mutual trust and understanding and enhancing mutually beneficial and broad-based cooperation, officials here said.

The visit came soon after Indian and Chinese navies conducted a successful search and rescue exercise off the coast of Shanghai in the east China Sea on 14 November.

MNA/PTI

Nepali PM arrives India on three-day visit

NEW DELHI, 24 Nov — Nepali Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa arrived here Sunday on a three-day visit in his capacity as SAARC Chairman to discuss issues relating to the grouping and also review with Indian leadership the entire gamut of bilateral ties.

Thapa was received by Foreign Secretary-designate Shashank, India's Ambassador to Nepal Shyam Saran and Nepali Charge d'Affaires Pradeep Khapivada. Asked whether he was carrying any message for Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the outgoing Chairman of SAARC, the Nepali Prime Minister said, "we want that the SAARC summit should take place properly and SAARC should function effectively so that its future is protected." — MNA/PTI

Vajpayee discusses AIDS with Clinton

NEW DELHI, 24 Nov — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Friday discussed the country's AIDS programme with former US President Bill Clinton who offered to secure funds from Canada, Ireland and Norway for India's anti-AIDS initiative.

External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha and Principal Secretary to PM Brajesh Mishra also attended the meeting.

MNA/PTI



India's leading industrial group, the Tatas, is making its foray into Bollywood with a film *Aetbaar* featuring superstar Amitabh Bachchan. — INTERNET

Survey shows public knows little about wildlife

SHANGHAI, 24 Nov — Are sparrows, frogs, tortoises and snakes wild animals that should be spared from your dinner table? Only 57.5 per cent of Shanghaiese said "Yes", and 83 per cent admitted having eaten them.

A recent survey in the eastern commercial hub showed its citizens knew little about wildlife and its protection, and nearly a half of teenagers had never even heard of the country's 15-year-old law on the protection of wild animals.

The survey was carried out by the Public Health Institute of the Shanghai No 2 Medical Sciences University, following health experts' assumption that severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which broke out in China in the spring, could have originated in wildlife. Of the 400 Shanghaiese surveyed, 60 per cent said they would never eat a wild animal, while 22.5 per cent said they would remain avid epicureans and 17.5 per cent were uncertain.

Only 1.9 per cent of the 240 respondents who swore to stay away from wildlife dishes admitted that it was because "animals are friends

to human beings and should be well protected", while the absolute majority were putting down their chopsticks for fear of catching diseases or breaking the law.

Of the 22.5 per cent of affirmed wildlife eaters, 30.2 per cent said wild animals were "nutritious and delicious", 60.4 per cent were eager to try new tastes and 9.4 per cent were just following others.

High earners were eating more wild animals, as the survey found nearly 100 per cent of those with a monthly income of over 600 US dollars admitted having eaten wild animals, as against the 77.63 per cent of those earning less than 120 US dollars.

Although there was no direct evidence that the SARS virus came from wild animals, the genetic identities of the coronavirus detected in the wild were very similar to what had been found to trigger SARS. — MNA/Xinhua

CPPCC Chairman says China, India to further cooperation, exchanges

NEW DELHI, 24 Nov — Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said here on Sunday that China and India should expand cooperation and exchanges and enhance people-to-people contacts in various fields so as to further consolidate the basis for bilateral friendship and cooperation.

Jia made the remarks at a meeting with Manohar Gajanan Joshi, speaker of Lok Sabha (House of the People) of India, pointing out the momentum of steady development of Sino-Indian relations as results of joint efforts made by both sides.

He mentioned the Sino-Indian joint declaration on principles for relations and comprehensive cooperation, which was signed during Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to China this year.

The declaration has deepened mutual trust, expanded consensus and opened a new chapter for the overall development of bilateral relations in the new century, said Jia. He said that to develop friendly and cooperative relations between China and India conforms to the fundamental interests of the two peoples, adding that mutual understanding serves as the basis of building mutual trust and the pre-condition for developing cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua

Guatemala increases coffee exports to Europe

MEXICO CITY, 24 Nov — Guatemalan coffee producers increased their exports to Europe by 17.8 per cent in the 2002-2003 harvest year, compared with the previous one.

The shipments of Guatemalan coffee to Europe rose from 1.4 million, 46-kilo sacks to 1.65 million, reports from Guatemala City, capital of the Central American country, said Saturday.

The National Coffee Association (ANACAFE) of Guatemala said in a report that Germany topped the purchases with 520,000 sacks, followed by Italy with 260,000 ones, Belgium 220,000 and France 70,000.

Gerardo de Leon, commercialization manager of the Federation of Cooperatives of Guatemala (FECECOCAGUA), said sales to France would rise next year due to the advances in negotiations with French

importers.

De Leon said that besides negotiations with France, talks have been held with potential buyers from the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium.

MNA/Xinhua

Bill Gates tops list of charitable givers

NEW YORK, 24 Nov — Microsoft Founder and Chairman Bill Gates and his wife Melinda are the most generous charitable donors in America, *Business Week* magazine said on Thursday, as the couple gave away or pledged a staggering 23 billion US dollars — more than half of their net worth.

In the magazine's second-annual ranking of the top 50 philanthropists in the United States, the Gates' are worth a net 46 billion US dollars — the rough equivalent of Hungary's entire gross domestic product. With the couple's having donated 54 per cent of their net worth, *Business Week* dubbed them "the reigning royalty of a new class of self-made superphilanthropists".

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Juve move five clear with win at Modena

MILAN, 24 Nov— Champions Juventus moved five points clear at the top of Serie A after goals from David Trezeguet and Pavel Nedved gave them a 2-0 win at Modena on Saturday.

Modena had caused Marcello Lippi's side some problems in the early stages with some highly aggressive play in midfield but they created little in the way of real chances.

Juve's Alessandro del Piero might have done better in the 28th minute when he was put free by Nedved after a swift counter-attack.

But the Italy international striker's shot was pushed wide at the near post by Modena keeper Marco Ballotta, who minutes later did well again to keep out a fierce shot from Trezeguet.

But Frenchman Trezeguet did put Juve ahead three minutes before halftime with a controversial goal from a quickly-taken free kick.

Five minutes after the restart Juve made it 2-0 when Nedved cut in from the left and beat Ballotta with a low right-foot shot from 25 metres. The best opportunity for the home side came midway through the second half when former Juve striker Nicola Amoroso found himself in a good position but Gianluigi Buffon parried his shot.

MNA/Reuters



Villareal's Brazilian player Sonny Anderson, left, heads the ball beside Barcelona's Dutch player Phillip Cocu during a Spanish league soccer match in Villarreal's Madrigal stadium in Villarreal, Spain, on 22 Nov, 2003. — INTERNET

Jubilo edge closer to second-stage title

TOKYO, 24 Nov — Second-half goals from Brazilian striker Rodrigo Gral and substitute Takahiro Kawamura gave Jubilo Iwata a 2-1 victory over Gamba Osaka on Saturday, moving the J-League champions closer to the 2003 second-stage title.

Gamba forward Kota Yoshihara had given the away side a 15th-minute lead and four minutes into the second half Jubilo's problems mounted when midfielder Norihiro Nishi was shown the red card for his second bookable offence. However, Gral equalized from the penalty spot in the 61st minute and Kawamura headed the winner 10 minutes later in front of 16,000 in Shizuoka.

The result left Jubilo on 26 points from 14 matches, three points clear of first-stage winners Yokohama F-Marineros, who thrashed Vegalta Sendai 4-0.

Jubilo play Yokohama at International Stadium in the final round of matches next Saturday. Striker Tatsuhiko Kubo scored a hat-trick for Yokohama at struggling Vegalta. JEF United Ichihara can go second on 25 points with victory at home to bottom club Oita Trinita on Sunday.

Kashima Antlers, currently eighth in the closest title race since the J-League began in 1993, will improve to 24 points if they can beat visiting Kashiwa Reysol. — MNA/Reuters

Leaders Deportivo held at Betis

MADRID, 24 Nov — Deportivo Coruna missed their chance to consolidate their lead at the top of the Primera Liga when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Real Betis at a rain-drenched Ruiz de Lopera Stadium on Saturday.

The Galicians can count themselves lucky to emerge with a point but they managed to cling on to a draw thanks to a first half penalty save from keeper Jose Molina and the home side's failure to put the finishing touches to some promising attacking moves.

The result leaves Depor three points clear at the top, but chasing duo Valencia and Real Madrid will have a chance to draw level if they win their matches on Sunday.

Last season's runners-up Real Sociedad slumped to a 1-0 defeat at home by struggling Real Mallorca, their first loss at their Anoeta Stadium in over 20 months.

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o grabbed the winner when he side-footed past Sander Westerveld after nipping in to snap up a neat through-ball from Fernando Correa on 18 minutes.

Large swathes of the Betis pitch were swimming in water following a torrential downpour in Seville shortly after kickoff and neither side was able to settle into a rhythm in a disjointed opening quarter. — MNA/Reuters

Rangers cling on behind Celtic

GLASGOW, 24 Nov— Champions Rangers kept in touch with leaders Celtic in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday when three goals in the last 13 minutes gave them a 3-0 home victory over 10-man Aberdeen.

Stephen Hughes and Dane Peter Lovenkrands (twice) scored to cut Celtic's lead back to five points at the top of the table after they had thrashed Dundee United 5-1 earlier on Saturday.

Chris Sutton scored a hat-trick for unbeaten Celtic, who have 37 points from 13 games. Rangers have 32, nine clear of third-placed Hearts who play neighbours Hibernian on Sunday.

Aberdeen's hopes of a win probably ended when young defender Alexander Diamond was sent off for fouling Shota Arveladze in the 55th minute.

Stephen Hughes broke Aberdeen's resistance with a 77th-minute header before Peter Lovenkrands made the scoreline more convincing with two goals in the dying minutes.

"Aberdeen did well and worked very hard and we spurned a few chances but it was important not to lose the head because we were creating chances," Rangers manager Alex McLeish told reporters.

Rangers go to VfB Stuttgart in the Champions League on Wednesday requiring a win to retain hopes of qualifying for the knockout stage.

But they may have to travel without Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta, who was carried off in the second half against with a possible muscle injury.

Celtic's destruction of Dundee, which also included two goals for Sweden's Henrik Larsson, will give them a boost for their Champions League match against Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

"The players are playing very well at the

moment," said Celtic manager Martin O'Neill. "The second-half was great for us and we played very well indeed after weathering plenty of uncomfortable moments in the first-half."

Celtic were fortunate to be ahead at halftime as Sutton benefitted from home defender Chris Innes' mistake to score on 32 minutes, but they ripped the heart out of a mediocre United with a three-goal flurry in six minutes after halftime. —MNA/Reuters

Bayern struggle in Derby before Celtic clash

BERLIN, 24 Nov— Bayern Munich struggled to a 1-0 win over cross-town rivals TSV 1860 Munich on Saturday, remaining in fourth place, six points behind VfB Stuttgart.

Stuttgart extended their unbeaten record to 13 matches with their 10th win, a 3-1 victory over Hannover 96, and Werder Bremen rose to second ahead of Bayer Leverkusen with a 3-1 triumph over VfL Bochum. Leverkusen and fifth-placed Borussia Dortmund drew 2-2.

Four days before Bayern face Celtic in the Champions League in Glasgow, Bayern edged eighth-placed 1860 Munich with a 34th-minute goal from Netherlands striker Roy Makaay, his seventh of the season, from the champions' only first-half shot on target.

It took an impressive save by goalkeeper Oliver Kahn late in the match from a Benjamin Lauth shot to prevent 1860 from earning the draw.

MNA/Reuters

Monaco go three points clear after Giuly gem

PARIS, 24 Nov— Monaco went three points clear at the top of Ligue 1 with a 2-0 win over RC Lens lit up by a sumptuous volley from Ludovic Giuly, while Olympique Marseille kept in touch with a victory by the same margin at Lille.

After a goalless first half Lens, fifth at start of play, were weathering intermittent Monaco pressure with ease when Jerome Rothen centred from the left and Giuly flipped into the air to volley home right-footed at shoulder height.

The midfielder then turned provider for Fernando Morientes, beating three defenders to cross for the Spanish striker to head home at the far post.

Monaco have 33 points from 14 games, three more than champions Olympique Lyon who beat Racing Strasbourg 1-0 on Friday thanks to an injury-time penalty from Peguy Luyindula.

Third-placed Olympique Marseille, beaten 4-1 at home by Lyon in their last game, have 27 points after Ivorian striker Didier Drogba scored one and set up Ahmed Mido for the second. Drogba, Giuly and Montpellier's Habib Bamogo have eight goals, two behind leading scorer Djibril Cisse of Auxerre.

Auxerre, now fifth, beat Metz 2-0 thanks to a fine volley by captain Yann Lachuer and a late goal by Cisse who prodded home after racing through from halfway. Bamogo scored the first in Montpellier's 3-1 win over AC Ajaccio.

The Lille game was vital for Marseille coach Alain

Perrin who has been under pressure since the failed attempt to sign Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez upset morale.

Marseille were never in trouble against a side that had not won for 10 games after Drogba scored in the 23rd minute from close range.

Sochaux went fourth on 24 points after inflicting the

fifth home defeat this season on En Avant Guingamp 2-1. In a match between the two bottom sides Le Mans appeared to be heading for their second successive victory before Toulouse, who had missed a second-half penalty, grabbed an equalizer with seconds to go through Brazilian striker Eduardo.

MNA/Reuters



Inter Milan forward Obafemi Martins, of Nigeria, celebrates after scoring against Reggina during Italian Serie A major league soccer match between Inter and Reggina at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 22 Nov, 2003. —INTERNET

MRTV-3
**25-11-2003 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanmar Sen-
timent"
9:06 Traditional Chin
Liqueur (Khaung Yay)
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Pork curry
with mixed Vegetable
Sour Soup)
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Lacquerware in
Bagan
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-II)
9:40 Song "Blue Moon"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Myanmar Ramayana
(Human Weakness in
the face of Temptation)
(Part-XI) (Scene II)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

**25-11-2003 (Tuesday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Traditional Chin
Liqueur (Khaung Yay)
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty

- Dishes (Pork curry
mixed with Vegetable
Sour Soup)
15:45 **National News**
15:50 Lacquerware in
Bagan
15:55 Vram Naga Harvest
Dance
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-II)
16:10 Song "Blue Moon"
16:15 **National News**
16:20 Myanmar Ramayana
(Human Weakness in
the face of Tempta-
tion)
(Part-XI) (Scene II)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 **National News**
16:35 Mogyingyi Wildlife
Sanctuary
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Squid Salad"
16:45 **National News**
16:50 Art of Carving on
Fruits
16:55 Myanmar Marionette
16:58 Palm Leaf Inscription
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Tour in Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
17:10 Songs on Screen
"Through My Eyes"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanmar Sen-
timent"
19:36 Rakhine Ordination
Novitiation & Ear-
boring Auspicious

- Ceremony
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Catfish Curry)
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Marine Undertakings
of Myeik Archipelago
19:55 Thu Wana Tha Ma
JATAKA Scene (IV)
19:58 Fishery in Kayin State
20:00 **National News**
20:05 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
20:10 Song "The Towering
Flowers"
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-I)
20:25 Song "Come, Visit
My Home"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Myanmar Coffee
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Fish Soup"
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Fantastic Scenic
Sunsets of Myanmar
20:55 Kham Traditional
Cultural Dance
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Panwa with its
Tourist Attractions
21:10 Song "Dear Myanmar"
21:15 **National News**
21:20 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
21:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanmar Sen-
timent"
21:35 Traditional Chin
Liqueur (Khaung Yay)
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Pork curry
mixed with Vegetable
Sour Soup)
21:45 **National News**
21:50 Lacquerware in
Bagan
21:55 Vram Naga Harvest
Dance
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-II)

- 22:10 Song "Blue Moon"
22:15 **National News**
22:20 Myanmar Ramayana
(Human Weakness in
the face of Tempta-
tion)
(Part-XI) (Scene II)
22:25 Songs on Screen
"Musical Maze"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 Mogyingyi Wildlife
Sanctuary
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Squid Salad"
22:45 **National News**
22:50 Art of Carving on
Fruits
22:55 Myanmar Marionette
22:58 Palm Leaf Inscription
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Tour in Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
23:10 Songs on Screen
"Through My Eyes"
23:15 **National News**
23:20 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

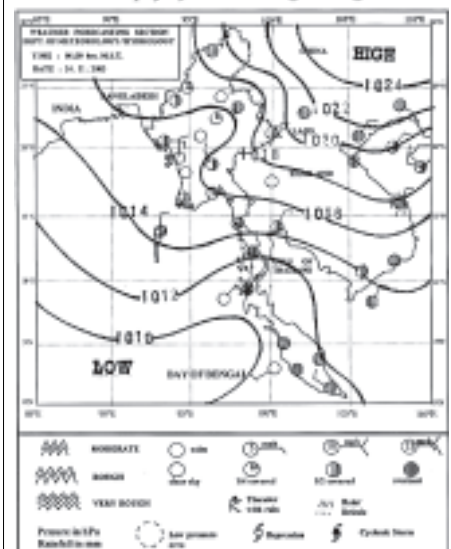
**25-10-2003 (Tuesday) &
26-10-2003 (Wednesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 01:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 Traditional Chin
Liqueur (Khaung Yay)
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Pork curry
mixed with Vegetable
Sour Soup)
23:45 **National News**
23:50 Lacquerware in
Bagan
23:55 Vram Naga Harvest
Dance
24:00 **National news**

- 00:05 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-II)
00:10 Song "Blue Moon"
00:15 **National News**
00:20 Myanmar Ramayana
(Human Weakness in
the face of Tempta-
tion)
(Part-XI) (Scene II)
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30 **National News**
00:35 Mogyingyi Wildlife
Sanctuary
00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Squid Salad"

- 00:45** **National News**
00:50 Art of Carving on
Fruits
00:55 Myanmar Marionette
00:58 Palm Leaf Inscription
01:00 **National News**
01:05 Tour in Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
01:10 Songs on Screen
"Through My Eyes"
01:15 **National News**
01:20 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


WEATHER

Monday, 24 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather is partly cloudy in Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were about normal in Kayah, Kachin States, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Magway and Yangon Divisions and 3°C to 4°C below normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was 5°C in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 23-11-2003 was 35.5°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 24-11-2003 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-11-2003 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 23-11-2003 was (8.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 24-11-2003 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 6 mph from North at (12:20) hours MST on 23-11-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 25-11-2003:** Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division, Eastern Shan State and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-11-2003:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-11-2003:** Fair weather.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 23:30 hours MST today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (344) miles Northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (21) hrs (41) min (30) sec MST on 23rd November 2003.



Tuesday, November 25

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
7:55 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းညွှန်း
8:05 am
6. အဆိုတို့
8:15 am
4. Song of yesteryears

- 8:30 am**
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
national spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday
Use
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. အဆောင်တူသို့လုပ်သော
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဝေခ၊ ရုက္ခဝေခ
အထူးပြုများ) (သတ္တဝေခ)
5:15 pm
6. Dance of national
races
5:30 pm
7. မိမိတို့အားဆက်တမ်းတော်ဝင်
5:40 pm
8. ကျင်းသောရေလှောင်တံခံ

- 5:50 pm**
9. Sing and Enjoy
6:30 pm
10. Evening news
7:00 pm
11. Weather report
7:05 pm
12. Milo success in
soccer
7:10 pm
13. The mirror images of
musical oldies
7:25 pm
14. (၂၀)နှစ်မြောက်အရောင်အရောင်
အကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ အကြံပြုဆင်
ဓလေ့ကျင့်မှု (ရိုက်ကွက်ပြိုင်ပွဲ)
7:35 pm
15. Musical programme
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International News
18. Weather report
19. မိုင်းမြစ်တော်လှန်မှု
"မေတ္တာကုသ" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
20. The next day's
programme



Tuesday, November 25
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
-Where you are
(Jessica Simpson)
-Have you ever been
in love
(Celine Dion)
9:00 pm English Lesson:
Look Ahead (60)
9:15 pm Article/ Music
9:25 pm Weekly sports
reel
9:35 pm Music for your
listening pleasure
I'm all about you
(Aaron Carter)
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL



Chairman of the meeting USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo delivers a speech at the third and final day of the Annual General Meeting 2003 of USDA.—MNA

USDA Annual General Meeting for 2003 concludes



YANGON, 24 Nov — The third and final day session of the Annual General Meeting 2003 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association successfully concluded at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the central training school of the association in Hmawby Township on 21 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 and outstanding youths.

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo presided over the session together with CEC members U Tin Hlaing and U Pyi Sone. Reserve Executive of Patheingyi Township USDA in Ayeyawady Division Daw Myat Lay Ngon and member of Nyaungshwe Township USDA in Shan State (South) Daw Mya Thanda Oo acted as master and co-master of ceremonies.

Chairman of the meeting

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo announced the resolution of the meeting to practise the guidance of Patron of the USDA Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe given at the USDA Annual General Meeting 2003 as the work guidelines of the USDAs at different levels. He also sought the approval of the members attending the meeting on the report of the central executive committee submitted to the meeting.

Then, the confirmation of the report was announced.

The chairman of the meeting sought the approval of the members attending the meeting on the report for laying down the seven future programmes included in the CEC's report as the work programmes of the USDAs at different levels.

Then, the seven future programmes were declared the work programmes of the USDAs at different levels.

Next, approval was sought to record the implementation of future tasks by USDAs in respective states and divisions during the one year period submitted in the first and second day sessions.

The implementation of future tasks during the one year period was put on record.

Afterwards, findings of the respective seminars on successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State submitted to the meeting on the sec-

ond day session were put on record. The chairman of the meeting presented two decisions and two confirmations and two matters put on record at the meeting.

He then made a concluding speech. He said the conclusion of the meeting is the beginning of the practical implementation of the findings of the meeting.

He was delighted to see the representatives actively cooperated in the seminars and group discussions with enthusiasm.

At the meeting, the representatives reported on implementation of tasks in respective regions during the one year period.

Discussions included co-operation for regional stability and development, regional economic projects, development of human resources and successful implementation of the five rural development tasks.

All in all, the future tasks laid down by the annual general meeting were implemented with the cooperation of other organizations and local people.

At the seminars and group discussions, the representatives placed emphasis on organizational, administrative, economic, social and cultural sectors as well as participation of the association for successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State and the future work programmes and decisions were made.

(See page 9)

Two resolutions passed, one approval made, two matters put on record at USDA's Annual General Meeting for 2003



YANGON, 24 Nov—The Annual General Meeting 2003 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held at the central training school of USDA in Hmawby Township from 19 to 21 November passed two resolutions, made one approval and put two matters on record.

The first resolution is the USDAs at different levels are to adopt and follow the guidance of Patron of USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior Gen-

eral Than Shwe made at the third day session of the annual general meeting 2003 of USDA held on 21 November as work guideline, and the second resolution is to lay down the following seven future work programmes included in the report presented by the Central Executive Committee at the first day session of the annual general meeting 2003 of USDA held on 19 November as the future work programmes for the USDAs at different levels. The seven future work programmes are as follows: The USDA members upholding Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—are to build a peaceful modern and developed nation.

The USDA members are to adopt the 12 political, economic and social objectives laid down for the emergence

of a peaceful modern and developed nation which is the goal of the State as the policy of the association.

The USDA members are to ensure the active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit with Union Spirit in successful realization of the seven-point political roadmap of the State in accord with the resolution of Bagan Mass Rally held on 21 October 2003.

As peace and stability of the State, strong economy of the State and the people and high standard of the national education are the basic requirements, the USDA members are to actively participate in successful realization of the requirements.

USDA members are to participate in the third short-term five-year project and five rural tasks in the respective role.

The USDA members are to fully engage in the (See page 9)



USDA delegates chant slogans at the third and final day of the Annual General Meeting 2003 of USDA.—MNA