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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prevailing peace and stability reflects improvement of living standard of the local people including sector-wise development of the region Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Thandaung Hill Station, Thandaung

YANGON, 13 Nov — Thandaunggyi near Thandaung of Kayin State was designated as the hill station for its development.

While in Thandaung Hill Station on 11 November, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Member of the State Peace and Development Council, together Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party, enjoyed scenic beauty of Thandaung hill station, and visited the guest house and Basic Education High School. Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut of Thandaung Station conducted him round the



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than views the scenic beauty of Thandaung Hill Resort (Thandaunggyi). —MNA

guest house.

In meeting with Tatmadawmen at

Thandaunggyi station hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed them to

cooperate with local people in carrying out development of the region

with Union Spirit and undertake livestock breeding and agricultural tasks to be able to fulfill requirements of Tatmadaw families.

At Thandaunggyi Station Hospital, he inspected wards and the operation theatre and attended to the needs.

In Thandaung, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called on departmental officials, social organization members and local

people at the Township PDC Office and heard reports on salient points of the township, education, health, social, economic, agricultural and livestock breeding tasks of the township presented by Chairman of Township PDC U Aung Ko Ko and facts about Thandaunggyi by Thandaunggyi Administrative Officer U Soe Lin.

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially converse with the headmaster and teachers of Basic Education High School in Thandaung Hill Resort (Thandaunggyi). — MNA

INSIDE

As of 2002, UN special envoy Razali Ismail visited Myanmar many times for negotiations, resulting in several meetings between NLD and the Government. And it reached the stage of building trust.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 14 November, 2005

ICT imperative to keep abreast of global nations

Nowadays, information and communication sectors become vital engines of development and economic growth in other sectors of economies. The growth of digital technology and its impact on multimedia and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have led to boundless enhancements to the quality of our daily life. They have brought drastic changes to the way business is conducted, the management of Government functions, and the communication infrastructure & network.

The opening of Sixth Asia-Pacific Symposium on Information and Telecommunication Technologies (APSITT), jointly organized by University of Computer Studies of Yangon under the Ministry of Science & Technology and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) took place at Myanmar Info-Tech on Hline Campus in Yangon on 9 November. In delivering an address on the occasion Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the symposium will generate knowledge and innovation for the future development of information, communication and multimedia. The development of multimedia & ICT will improve efficiency and productivity and then contribute towards the increased overall competitiveness of the economy.

In earlier history, wealth was measured in land, in gold, in oil and in machines. Today, the principle measure of wealth is information; its quality, its quantity and the speed with which we acquire it. The existence of inequality in access to ICT between continents, between countries and also within countries is widely observed creating the "digital divide".

"Intelligent Living", "Digital Society", "Information Society", "Networked Society" whichever term we use to describe our future, we shall need a modern and efficient telecommunications infrastructure to exploit fully the opportunities that lie ahead. In this context, research and development activities should be encouraged to facilitate the absorption of new technology, to facilitate speedy transfer of know-how, and to upgrade the facilities. Moreover, it is required to exert efforts to build management capability to plan and manage the use, application and integration of ICT.

Indeed, the use, application and integration of ICT is distinguishing imperative for the nation to keep abreast of global countries.

Myanmar stands third at U-16 badminton tourney

YANGON, 13 Nov— Myanmar U-16 Badminton team won bronze at the First U-16 South-East Asian Badminton Tournament held in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam today.

In the single events, Myanmar's Than Lwin Aung and Sai Kyaw Soe beat Singaporean counterparts, and in the double events Than Lwin Aung and Tezar Phyo beat Singaporean team.

At the tournament, Indonesian team stood first, Malaysian the second and Myanmar the third. In its history, Myanmar youth team won the medal in the international competition for the first time.

NLM

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe welcomes back dean of military attaché and party

YANGON, 12 Nov — Military Attachés of foreign missions in Yangon led by Dean of Military Attaché Cambodian Military Attaché Col Ngi Vanndim, accompanied by officials of the Ministry of Defence, who paid a visit to Lashio and Muse regions, arrived back here by air this evening.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe and senior military officers.—MNA



Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Myint Swe welcomes back the Dean of Military Attaché and party.— MNA

Myingyan Township USDA holds communal Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 13 Nov — Myingyan Township Union Solidarity and Development Association held the seventh communal Kathina robes offering ceremony at Yadanayama Monastery in Myingyan on 11 November.

USDA Secretariat member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang and wife offered Kathina robes and alms to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Next, the minister attended a 'soon' offering ceremony of Ponnya Thahaya 'soon' offering association, and presented provisions to members of the Sangha. He donated 100 bags of rice to the association, 28 bags of rice to offer 'soon' to monks who will sit for Pali Pahtamabyan and



Minister U Aung Thuang inspects progress in installation of machines at Taungtha Vest Factory project. — INDUSTRY-1

Dhammadariya exams, 78 bags of rice and K 10 million to Chaungdaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik and 85 bags of rice to 31 aged persons in Myingyan.

The minister and officials then visited

Myanma Cotton Factory, and Dyeing and Printing Factory in Myingyan, and gave necessary instructions. He also inspected Taungtha Vest Factory (Project), and instructed officials to make arrange-

ments for opening the factory in the second week of December. On completion, the factory can produce 770,000 vests, 500,000 T-shirts and 730,000 sports shirts yearly. — MNA

Pro-golfer Min Naing, amateur Nay Lin Tun still leading in Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour



YANGON, 13 Nov — The third leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour continued at Ayethaya Golf Resort in Taunggyi this morning.

After the second round, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) extended its leading role by firing 144

in the professional golfer division. His runners-up were Min Naing (Srixon) who stood second by shooting 149, Myint Thuang (KM Golf Centre), third, scoring 152 and Than Naing (Wilson), fourth, firing 153.

In the amateur division, Nay Lin Tun is standing in the top position with 151 strokes. Naing Naing Lin put his

position behind the leader by scoring 148. Yan Myo Aye and Nay Bala Win Myint tied at third with 159 each.

Air Bagan Ltd, main sponsors, spent its fund to organize the tour one after another. Co-sponsors are KBZ Bank Ltd, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort, Eden Group Co Ltd, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Jade Land

Myanmar Co Ltd, Kachin Golfers Group, Srixon, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, London, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water and Taunggyi Gem Master Enterprise Ltd.

At present, Han Event Management organize the tour.

The third round of the tour continues tomorrow.

MNA

Chinese President meets German Parliament leader

BERLIN, 12 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Friday met here with Norbert Lammert, president of Germany's Bundestag (Parliament).

Hu said that exchanges between German and Chinese legislatures are an important part of the bilateral relations, and China's National People's Congress and the German Parliament have maintained good cooperation with more exchanges and closer contacts.

Lammert, who was newly elected in October, expressed admiration of China's rapid development, saying the enormous changes in China are eye-catching to people

from all walks of life in Germany.

The new session of the German Parliament is willing to increase contacts and exchange views with the Chinese legislature regularly, aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and pushing forward the German-Chinese relations, he added.

Earlier Friday, Hu met Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit. Hu expressed his hope that Berlin, a sister city of Beijing, along with the Chinese capital,

will play a bigger role in the development of Sino-German relations.

Wowereit said that cooperation between Berlin and Beijing has been going smoothly.

The mayor noted he is pleased to see Chinese-language courses being set up in more and more schools in Berlin, saying that he believed such development will bring about positive effects on bilateral relations between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A couple of models participate in a promotion of underwater wedding package at Ocean Park in Hong Kong on 11 Nov. 2005. Ocean Park, one of the hot spots for tourists here, unveils underwater wedding package programme which prices HK\$109,999 (US\$14,182).—INTERNET

Iraq war is similar to Vietnam, both based on lies

MAPLEWOOD, 13 Nov — The former Defence Department official who leaked secret documents about the Vietnam War said on Saturday that he sees many similarities between that conflict and the one in Iraq.

Daniel Ellsberg, 74, became famous for his release of the Pentagon Papers, which indicated the government had deceived the public about whether the war could be won and the extent of casualties.

He spoke to a crowd of more than 400 people at a New Jersey high school, telling them that the Vietnam War and the war in Iraq were both based on lies, referring to the such as the claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Ellsberg, who has praised government whistleblowers who leak information about the Iraq war, said he wishes he had leaked the Pentagon Papers earlier so the

release could possibly have lead to the war ending sooner.

He urged government workers to speak up about possible misconduct related to the war.

He also criticized the news media for not keeping tabs on Iraqi

casualties. Just focusing on lost American lives is not enough, he said, pointing to a headline in a newspaper about four US soldiers who died.

In 1971, Ellsberg, who had worked at both the State Department and the Pentagon, leaked 7,000

pages of classified documents to the Press. He was put on trial on 12 felony counts punishable by up to 115 years in prison, but the charges were dismissed in 1973 because of government misconduct against him.—Internet

Turkey to continue cooperation with Thailand

ANKARA, 12 Nov — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday that cooperation between Turkey and Thailand will continue in various fields.

Erdogan made the remarks at a joint Press conference in Ankara after meeting with visiting Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat. Describing the meeting as fruitful, Erdogan underlined that bilateral trade volume, which has reached 600 million US

dollars, should be further increased.

The Turkish Prime Minister said Thai investments in Turkey should also be accrued, pledging that he would encourage Turkish businessmen to invest in Thailand. Some of the projects that Turkish businessmen might be interested in are infrastructure, dwelling, construction and energy, Erdogan said. For his part, Chinnawat said Turkey and Thailand should support each other in important issues and improve bilateral relations. MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen attack Omani Embassy in Baghdad, killing two

BAGHDAD, 12 Nov — Gunmen attacked the Omani Embassy in Baghdad on Friday, killing two people and wounding four guards, a source from Interior Ministry told Xinhua.

"The gunmen attacked the embassy in a drive-by shooting. An Iraqi policeman and a Sudanese guard were killed, with another four wounded," the source said. "The attackers fled the scene immediately," he added.

Guerillas have intensified attacks against embassies of foreign countries in Iraq to cripple the Shiite-and-Kurdish-dominated government's effort to rebuild its diplomacy. — MNA/Xinhua

Annan arrives Jordan on solidarity visit after deadly blasts

AMMAN, 12 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived here on Friday for a solidarity visit to Jordan in the aftermath of triple suicide bombing attacks killing at least 57 people on Wednesday.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Jordanian Foreign Minister Faruq Kasrawi, Annan condemned the triple suicide bombings against Jordanian luxury hotels, saying "no ideology can justify the killing of innocent people".

Annan, who is on a regional tour which has taken him to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, reiterated that the United Nations was striving to secure a global agreement to fight terrorism. "We have at the UN 12 agreements on terrorism and we are working on a 13th agreement to close the legal gaps that already exist, especially those that deal with border crossings," Annan said.

Assembly is working on a global strategy to combat terrorism," he said, adding that he discussed these efforts during his visits in the region.—MNA/Xinhua

2,062 US soldiers died in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 13 Nov — As of Saturday, 12 Nov, 2005, at least 2,062 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,604 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is 10 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 97 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,923 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,495 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet



A car bomb exploded outside a public market in a predominantly Shiite district in Baghdad, on 12 Nov, 2005 killed eight people and wounded 21.—INTERNET

"The UN General

Germany maintains continuity of policies towards China

BERLIN, 12 Nov— Germany's outgoing foreign minister Joschka Fischer said on Thursday that the country's next government will maintain the continuity of its policies towards China.

Fischer, who is to leave office soon, made these remarks when meeting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, who is accompanying President Hu Jintao on a state visit to Germany.

The new German Government will stick to its

one-China policy, said Fischer.

For his part, Li has expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by Fischer in promoting Sino-German ties, according to a Press release issued by the Chinese delegation.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Fischer, leading figure in the German Green Party, has been Foreign Minister and vice chancellor in the coalition government formed by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the Green Party

since 1998.

He is to quit the job as the Christian Democratic Union/the Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) alliance and the SPD Social Democratic Party (SPD) have decided to form a grand coalition government following the September 18 election in which neither of them achieved majority.

MNA/Xinhua



A man paints a picture of a panda on a wall of Renmin University of China in Beijing on 12 Nov, 2005. Beijing chose five stylised doll mascots for the 2008 Olympic games on Friday representing a panda, a Tibetan antelope, a swallow, a fish and the spirit of the Olympic flame.—INTERNET

Two US Marines die of wounds in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Nov— Two US Marines died of wounds sustained in combat in western Iraq, the US military said on Friday.

"Two soldiers assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died of wounds received from small-arms fire while conducting combat operations against the enemy near al-Khalidiyah on 10 November," the military said in a statement.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added. The death toll has brought to about 2,060 the number of US military personnel who have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

World's biggest airliner makes first long-haul flight

SINGAPORE, 12 Nov— The world's biggest airliner, the European Airbus A380, touched down in Singapore on Friday, completing its first flight to Asia — the most com-

petitive market for planemaker Airbus and its US rival Boeing.

The double-decker superjumbo, designed to carry 555 passengers but with room for more than 800, landed at the city-state's Changi Airport after a 12-hour flight from Airbus' headquarters near Toulouse in southern France.

The A380, as long as eight London buses and with enough room on its wings to park 70 cars, heralds a new era in pas-

senger travel and is a challenge to Boeing in the battle for market share in the global aviation industry.

Airbus, part of aerospace group EADS, has received 159 orders and commitments from 16 customers for the four-engine plane, still short of the 250 it says is the break-even point.

The planemaker has three A380s in flight testing and expects to attain certification in the last quarter of 2006, in time

for first delivery to initial operator Singapore Airlines.

The A380 has cost 12 billion euros (14.2 billion US dollars) to develop and is running up to six months behind schedule.

The plane's Asian tour was delayed by four days because engine supplier Rolls-Royce had to replace two of its four engines before the trip after one of them overheated during a test flight two weeks ago.

MNA/Reuters

UNSC condemns terrorist bombings in Jordan

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Nov— The UN Security Council on Thursday strongly condemned the terrorist bombings that took place in Jordan, and called on states to combat all forms of terrorism.

After emergency consultations, the 15 Council members unanimously adopted a statement which was read out at a formal meeting by Russian Am-

bassador Andrey Denisov, whose country holds the rotating presidency for the month of November.

The Council expressed its deepest sym-

pathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the people and the government of Jordan, and vowed its determination to combat all forms of terrorism. In the statement, the Council underlined the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these intolerable acts to justice, and urged all states to cooperate with and provide support and assistance to the Jordanian Government.

It further reaffirmed the need to combat, by all means, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador bust drug trafficking ring

BOGOTA, 12 Nov— Police forces in Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador smashed an international drug trafficking group on Thursday in a coordinated operation, arresting 56 people and seizing some four tons of cocaine.

The operation, dubbed "Jaguar", shut down the cross-border organization which smuggles drugs from Colombia to the United States and Europe, usually via Mexico and Ecuador, said Oscar Naranjo, head of Colom-

bia's judicial police direction centre.

Naranjo said the operation aided by the United States started four months ago when police departments in the three countries received intelligence about the group.—MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: www.dailymyanmar.com

Japan, S Korea agree on importance of stable bilateral ties

TOKYO, 12 Nov— Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso and South Korean Ambassador to Japan Ra Jong Yil agreed on Friday that stable bilateral relations between the two countries are important to stability in Northeast Asia.

According to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Aso and Ra also expressed hope during a 25-minute courtesy call that an upcoming bilateral foreign ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meeting in Busan, South Korea, would provide momentum for the improvement of the relations.

South Korea-Japan ties have been strained by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's repeated visits to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine, which honours 14 Class-A war criminals responsible for Japan's military aggression against its Asian neighbours before

and during World War II.

Countries in Asia, especially China and South Korea, regard Yasukuni Shrine as symbolic of Japanese militarism and strongly oppose Japanese leaders' visit to the Tokyo-based notorious shrine.

Ra stressed that ties between Japan and South Korea should serve as a pillar of stability as unstable bilateral ties would likely result in instability in the Northeast Asian region, the ministry said.

Aso was also quoted as saying that Japan's friendly and cooperative ties with South Korea are necessary for regional stability.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi Army soldier secures the area where a car bomb exploded near a police patrol, seen in background right, in Baghdad, on 11 Nov, 2005. —INTERNET

Vietnam to establish food safety warning system

HANOI, 12 Nov — Vietnam will cooperate with three other Southeast Asian countries, namely Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore to set up a warning system for food safety and hygiene, local daily *Vietnam News* reported on Friday.

The daily quoted Vietnamese Fishery Minister Ta Quang Ngoc as saying that the system will provide member countries a forum to timely share database on potential risks, and provide customers with updated information about food hygiene and safety.

The minister added that the ministry has actively conducted inspection on seafood safety and hygiene nationwide. It has also asked local seafood producers to improve quality of their products, and intensify inspection on antibiotic residues in them, Ngoc noted.

The country has targeted seafood export revenue for 2.6 billion US dollars in 2005 and 4 billion US dollars in 2010, up from 2.4 billion US dollars in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Cargo plane crashes near Kabul

KABUL, 12 Nov — A Russian style cargo plane crashed about 20 kilometres north of Afghan capital Kabul on Friday, and a police officer said no one on board could be alive. The officer, Abdul Hakim, told *Xinhua* at the crash spot that the investigation work is very difficult since the plane has crashed into small pieces.

"No one can still be alive in the plane. We just found some body parts of the four or five persons, and we will collect them and the Interior Ministry will take them back to Kabul," he said.

Mohammad Yusuf Stanikzai, spokesperson of Afghan Interior Minister, told *Xinhua* that the Russian-made AN-12 cargo plane crashed in Khak Shahidan area of Guldara District of Kabul, about 20 miles north of the capital. "There is no report about the exact number of casualty till now," he said. He added a joint rescue team from Afghan Interior Ministry and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) have reached the place for the investigation and rescue work, but said the nationalities of the passengers on board cannot be confirmed yet. — MNA/Xinhua

Macedonia to dispatch military surgeons to Pakistan

TIRANA, 12 Nov — The Macedonian Government decided on Thursday to dispatch a group of military surgeons to Pakistan to join the humanitarian relief efforts there, the *MPRESS* news agency reported.

The 10-surgeon group, on a three-month relief mission, will start its trip late this month before joining a Netherlands medical team in Pakistan, the report said.

The death toll from Pakistan's 8 October earthquake has reached more than 86,000 while the number of injured is estimated at more than 100,000, according to Pakistan's Health Minister Nasir Khan. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi firefighters spray water on a burned US truck which was hit by a roadside bomb, in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 11 Nov, 2005. — INTERNET

Thailand benefits from ASEAN industrial cooperation scheme

BANGKOK, 12 Nov — Thai manufacturers have substantially benefitted from a regional industrial project, called the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO), with combined investment value surpassing 1.5 billion US dollars annually, reported the *Thai News Agency* on Friday.

The Industrial Economics Office revealed on Thursday that more than 80 Thai industrial projects had been approved to join the AICO, out of the 126 projects having been approved totally so far from member countries of

the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The approved projects have a combined value of 1.537 billion US dollars, most of them are automobile and parts projects.

Exports of manu-

facturers joining the AICO are all entitled for a zero per cent tariff privilege from importing countries participating in the scheme.

This will help reduce production costs and boost competitiveness of participating project, but

create more jobs and boost regional exports and economy. The AICO also help lower the prices of the semi and final products, benefitting regional consumers eventually.

AICO is aimed at promoting the 10-nation ASEAN as a single market, where member countries cooperate in manufacturing based on the complementary basis to meet the Economies of Scale and the Economies of Scope principles, leading to increased expertise and expanded regional production and exports. — MNA/Xinhua

Balkan countries vow to step up fight against organized crime

TIRANA, 12 Nov — Representatives from Balkan countries on Thursday vowed to step up the fight against organized crime and terrorism.

Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha told the two-day conference that fighting organized crime was his government's priority, noting Tirana will never tolerate any criminal activities.

"Albania and Albanians face organized crime which violates their rights and freedom, ruins the image of the country and hampers the country's efforts to integrate with Europe," he said.

He also stressed the importance of international cooperation in waging a war on organized crime.

"The war requires an effort exceeding Albania's borders", said Berisha, who won the parliamentary election in July on a

promise that he would curb widespread crime.

Organized crime groups have used the instability and corruption

in the Balkans to shore up routes in the trafficking of drugs, human beings and weapons.

MNA/Xinhua



A powerboat skims across the water's surface in front of the Singapore skyline recently. — INTERNET

Japan considers exit from Iraq by September

TOKYO, 12 Nov — Japan is considering beginning to withdraw its troops from Iraq in the first half of next year and completing the process by September, a Japanese daily said on Friday, days ahead of a visit by US President George W Bush.

Iraq is likely to be high on the agenda at 16 November talks between Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, whose show of solidarity in sending troops in early 2004 cemented close ties between the leaders.

The *Asahi Shimbun* said the withdrawal plan reflected Koizumi's desire to bring the mission to a close by the end of his term as leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) next September.

But Japan's Defence Minister said no decision had been made and added that Tokyo would make a determination based on the situation in Iraq and following discussions with other nations that also have troops there.

"We'll have to look at Iraq's security situation and also coordinate with members of the multinational force... and then make a final decision," Defence

Minister Fukushiro Nukaga told reporters.

Keeping the troops in Iraq beyond the end of their current mandate in December would be an unpopular move with Japan's electorate, who are largely opposed to the mission, opinion polls have shown.

Japan's 600-strong force, whose activities are strictly curtailed by the country's pacifist Constitution, is on a humanitarian and reconstruction mission in southern Iraq.

"Japan's activities are not directly related to maintaining security, so even if we withdraw, it will not affect other countries," the *Asahi* quoted a senior Defence Agency official as saying.

The timing of the Japanese withdrawal depends partly on decisions made by the British and Australian governments, whose troops maintain security in southern Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

Demands for dialogue, not solution to Myanmar democracy dispute

Kyaw Myint Naing

The solution to the problems in Myanmar democracy transition is review not dialogue.

Regarding Myanmar's drive for democracy transition, the National League for Democracy demanded variously for dialogue, thus culminating in a halt to the National Convention that commenced in 1993. It has been constantly shouting national reconciliation and national solidarity. Up to now, nothing can break the deadlock in the drive for reunion of NLD and the Tatmadaw. The two sides are still in total disagreement over the democracy movement of the nation.

Why is it so? Is it because the Tatmadaw government does not accept any negotiations? Absolutely not. The 1993 National Convention, the grandest conference of its kind in Myanmar, was attended by representatives from all strata of life and political parties including delegates and representatives-elect of NLD and other representatives-elect.

Yet, billing the National Convention as a sham and saying that a lot of preparations still needed to be made for the NC, Daw Suu Kyi clung on to the policy of dialogue and was opposed to the NC. All the NLD delegates attending the National Convention including Chairman U Aung Shwe agreed to the Daw Suu Kyi's attitude and protested against the NC, calling for dialogue. In consequence, the NC was adjourned in 1995.

As of 2002, UN special envoy Razali Ismail visited Myanmar many times for negotiations, resulting in several meetings between NLD and the Government. And it reached the stage of building trust.

After the restrictions on Daw Suu Kyi had been lifted, she was allowed to travel anywhere across the nation. When she visited some construction sites being implemented by the Government, officials concerned regarded her as a very important person and conducted her round the sites. The Tatmadaw government arranged the tours for her with the aim to enable her to understand its genuine attitude and to build trust with NLD.

However, later, on her way to Wuntho, Sagaing Division, Daw Suu Kyi levelled criticism against local people. So, she came under mass demonstrations against her along the route to upper Sagaing Division and Kachin State. In the end, Dabayin conflict put an end to her around-the-nation trip. In reality, her trip did not create anything except the Dabayin conflict.

Then, anti-government groups abroad resorted to various ways and means to take organizational measures for dialogue and recognition of the 1990 election results. On 20 September this year, Vaclav Havel and Desmond Tutu called on the United Nations to discuss the Myanmar affairs. The anti-government expatriates and certain West broadcasting stations who are finding pretext are calling for pressure on the nation for dialogue under the

pretext of the report of the two men.

Looking back to the history of the nation, the AFPFL government made attempts many times to gain local peace and national unity through negotiations. But it could not make any headway.

In 1962, the Revolution Council Government came into power. In 1963, the then government invited all the national race armed groups to gain internal peace. It could not make peace with all the armed groups except the Kayin armed group led by Saw Kawt Kahsa.

As all the peace negotiations were unsuccessful, the government asked for advice and suggestions after forming advisory group for internal peace. There came out no advice but U Nu's demand for handing over the State power to him.

In the drive for gaining national reconsolidation and internal peace, in settling the disagreement on tactics, reunion can be achieved through discussions, negotiations, and mutual understanding. However, in settling the disagreement on strategy, reunion cannot be gained through discussions, negotiations and compliance.

Supposing, in tactics, one wants to go to Mandalay by car, and another, by train. If one gives in the other's wish, and the two go to Mandalay by car or by train, surely they will arrive at the destination together. So, reunion can be gained through negotiations.

In strategy, if one who wants to go to Mandalay and another, to Yangon cannot negotiate, they will have to decide where they should go, to Mandalay or to Yangon. And one whose wish is improper will have to give in the other. Then, negotiations can be successful.

For example, when 17 national race armed groups gave up their strategy of breaking away from the Union and chose the way of cooperation, ceasefire could be established easily. And when they allied to the government, they could devote themselves to the tasks for raising their social and economic standards, joining hands with the government.

In the Myanmar democracy movement today, the disagreements between the Tatmadaw Government and the anti-government elements led by NLD are those over strategy not over tactics. In other words, they are walking towards opposite directions not in parallel.

It is because the Tatmadaw Government's policy for democratic transition is to ensure stability of the State, community peace, national reconsolidation, proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system, emergence of a new enduring State Constitution, and building of a discipline-flourishing modern developed democratic nation in cooperation with the party that will win the elections in accord with the new State Constitution in playing the leading role in the politics of the future nation. Its attitude is in conformity with the prevailing situations of today Myanmar as well as the correct path to democracy according to the historic events.

The policy of internal and external anti-government elements led by NLD and their supporters is to ensure exclusion of the Tatmadaw from the politics, immediate return of armed forces to the military barracks, handing over the State power without a State Constitution designating the victory in the 1990 election as election results, monopoly of State power by their party, and ruling of the State at will.

In line with their attitude, they are attempting to submit the demands and pressure of international community to the UN Security Council so that the State power will be handed over to NLD under the decision of the UN Security Council. At the same time, they are resorting to various means for NLD to come into power after ousting the Tatmadaw Government through mass demonstration like 1988 unrest resulting from the economic decline due to economic sanctions and political pressure on the nation imposed by international community. They are not only committing but also encouraging all possible wicked ways, within or without the frame of law, against the Tatmadaw Government regarding them as democracy movement.

It can be therefore deduced that the policy for democracy transition by the Tatmadaw and that by the NLD are quite different from each other.

The policy of the Tatmadaw has yielded unprecedented progress in stability of the State, community peace, tranquillity, and national reconciliation that any previous successive governments after 1948 could not achieve. It can be witnessed that today national people have enjoyed fruitful results of development in various sectors including the economic, education, health and transport sectors that the nation had never seen in the period from colonial days to 1988. Totally disregarding true situations, and considering constructive efforts to be destructive acts, and destructive acts to be constructive efforts, the destructive elements are variously putting pressures on the Tatmadaw government to fulfil the demands of the NLD. However, they said that such acts were aimed at contributing towards Myanmar's democracy transition.

Moreover, they are accusing the Tatmadaw government of failing to implement the drive for transition to democracy.

Such misconceptions and conditions are the root cause of why any persons or organizations cannot achieve any success in reconciling the Tatmadaw government with the NLD.

Hence, the destructive elements need to thoroughly review the real evidences through an objective outlook. The Tatmadaw government held the election and convened the National Convention to formulate a State constitution, but the drive for establishment of a democracy government has not come true for 17 years, attesting to the adverse effects of the demands for dialogues.

If speedy and smooth transition to democracy is preferred, instead of clinging on to demands for dialogues,

(1) external elements in total disregard of true situations and having a bias against the Tatmadaw government should stop putting unjust pressures on the nation, and

(2) internal and external anti-government groups should assess their acts as well as the root cause of advantages enjoyed and disadvantages faced by the NLD and the people during the period of past 17 years, upholding the correct conception that judgments must be made based on tangible results to know if an act is wrong or right. Only then will it be possible to seek the most appropriate solution to the dispute over Myanmar's politics.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 13-11-2005

Hence, the destructive elements need to thoroughly review the real evidences through an objective outlook. The Tatmadaw government held the election and convened the National Convention to formulate a State constitution, but the drive for establishment of a democracy government has not come true for 17 years, attesting to the adverse effects of the demands for dialogues.



Government Technological College (Panglong).

Education sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of science and technology in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Myanmar is an agro-based nation. To build an industrialized country based on agriculture, Myanmar is paying serious attention to development of the science and technology sector which is prerequisite for building industrialized country.

Today's world is seeing numerous developments occurring with rapid momentum. To be able to keep abreast of developed nations, Myanmar is trying its utmost for development of the science and technology sector.

In the Union of Myanmar, science and technology have been developing along with the development of basic and higher education sectors. The Ministry of Science and Technology was established to produce highly qualified technicians.

In the science and technology sector, plans are

being made to nurture human resource that will promote national economic life and raise the living standard of the people. Moreover, modern technologies are applied to enhance the production of the agriculture and industrial sectors.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, five technology universities and 26 technological colleges were opened. A new chapter in the education sector was opened as 2 Universities of Computer Studies and 24 Computer Colleges emerged. Moreover,

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, five technology universities and 26 technological colleges were opened. A new chapter in the education sector was opened as 2 Universities of Computer Studies and 24 Computer Colleges emerged. Moreover, doctorate degrees for apply engineering and computer studies were conferred.

Increasing number of teachers and graduate student from science and technology university, college and institute

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	Number of teacher	408	5377	4869
2	Number of graduate	30200	173331	143131

Newly emerged science and technology university, college and institute

Sr	University, College, Institute	1988	2005	Progress
1	Technology University	1	5	4
2	University of Computer Studies	1	2	1
3	Myanmar Aerospace and Engineering University	-	1	1
4	Government Technological College	-	26	26
5	Government Computer College	-	24	24
6	Government Technical Institute	10	11	1
	Total	12	69	57

doctorate degrees for apply engineering and computer studies were conferred.



The main building of Government Technical Institute (Myingyan).

Myanmar Aerospace and Engineering University needed for a modern country was established. One government technological college and two government computer colleges were opened each in the 24 development regions throughout the country.

The table shows development of the science and technology sector producing new generation scholars in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Sanitation and construction tasks inspected in Yangon City

YANGON, 13 Nov — Sanitation and construction tasks are being carried out for ensuring proper flow of water at drains and emergence of upgraded roads in Yangon City.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, accompanied by Yangon Mayor Brig-

Gen Aung Thein Lin, inspected sanitation and construction tasks.

They oversaw placing of asphalt concrete on Kanpat Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. They also looked into repaving of roads, dredging of drains and sanitation tasks in

Hline, Shwepyitha, and Insein Townships.

Likewise, Tatmadawmen and family members participated in sanitation and weeding works at Myawady and Nawarat Tatmadaw housing estates, and gave necessary instructions.

°MNA

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect repaving of Mandalay Road linking Shwepyitha Bridge road and U Ponnya Road in Hlinethaya Township.—MNA



Prevailing peace and stability reflects improvement of living standard of the local people including sector-wise development of the region...

(from page 1)

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that prevailing peace and stability reflects improvement of living standard of the local people including sector-wise development of the region. Local people are to harmoniously participate in the tasks to

restore peace and stability in the region. More lands are to put under cinchona, tea, coffee, pepper and cardamom as well as monsoon and summer paddy.

They proceeded to Thandaung Township Hospital and inspected wards. Medical Superintendent Dr U Paw Tun explained matters related

to the hospital. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions and the operation theatre and fulfilled the requirements.

They spent the night in Toungoo.

MNA

CPT Minister receives Indian Ambassador

YANGON, 13 Nov — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received Indian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at his office this afternoon.

Present at the call were Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Electronic National Task Force U Aung Myint and officials of Myanma Telecommunications. — MNA



Chinese Minister visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 13 Nov — Accompanied by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the visiting Chinese delegation led by Mr Wang Shucherg, Minister for Water Resource of the People's Republic of China, visited the Shwedagon pagoda this morning. After paying

homage to the pagoda, they made cash donations. Next, the guests paid homage to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadha and members of the Sangha and offered alms and made cash donations.

They then visited

the reliquary of the Kaba Aye pagoda and made cash donations. Later, the Chinese minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, departmental officials and Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu. —MNA



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw receives Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. — COMMUNICATIONS

*Mr Wang Shucherg,
Minister for Water
Resource of the
People's Republic of
China, benign seen off
at the airport. — A&I*

Dry Day inspection teams discharge duties

YANGON, 13 Nov — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint together with member leader of Dry Day Inspection Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Hotel and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, member Vice-Adjutant General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers and heads of departments supervised dry day inspection teams discharging duties on run of Tatmadaw and depart-

ments' vehicles at the main points of Yangon today morning and so did second group leader of DDSC Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, member Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and heads of departments in the evening.

The inspection teams checked Dry Day pass, licence of drivers, wheel tax, departmental uniforms and took action against those who violating traffic rules. —MNA

Social contributions made to commemorate World Chef Day

YANGON, 13 Nov — To commemorate the World Chef Day, Secretary of Myanmar Chef Association U Thein Lwin and chefs served the older persons of Home for the aged in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, disable persons of Eden Home for the disable youth (Insein), the schools for the blind (Insein and Kyimyindine Townships), the vocation training school of Social Welfare Department, the youths of Aids and Rehabilitation Centre and Schools

for the Orphanage on Kyaikwaing and Parami Roads with rice noodles (Mohingha) on 20 October.

In addition, talks were given with the title 'To be a Chef' at Bagan, a Myanma ancient city. They also contributed 3,000 pencils to the primary schools in Bagan and Popa.

The chefs donated 6,000 pencils to the primary schools in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State. MNA

Ministry of Science and Technology holds 10th Kathina ceremony



Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and wife offer Kathina robes and eight requisites to a Sayadaw.— MNA

YANGON, 13 Nov — Staff families of the Ministry of Science and Technology held the 10th Kathina ceremony at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning, attended by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and wife Daw May Kyi Sein.

Member of the State Central Working

Committee of the Sangha Dhamma Yaunggyi Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganhavaçaka Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Aggadhama of North Okkalapa Township administered the Five Precepts.

Minister U Thaung and wife donated Kathina robes and eight requisites to the

Sayadaw.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials offered Kathina robes and eight requisites to members of the Sangha.

Later, the ceremony ended with the sharing of the merits.

MNA

Ministry of Immigration and Population holds Kathina ceremony



Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa donates Kathina robes to a Sayadaw.— MNA

YANGON, 13 Nov — Staff families of the Ministry of Immigration and Population and disciples held the 10th Maha Kathina ceremony at Hinthada Atwin Padamya Pariyatti Monastery in the precinct of 108-elbow Pagoda in Thakayta

Township this morning. Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister U Maung Aung and wife, OSD Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung and departmental officials offered Kathina robes and alms

to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotika of 6th-Mile Weikzadaya Monastery.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. After the ceremony, 'soon' was offered to members of the Sangha. — MNA



KATHINA ROBES OFFERED: Danyawady Missionary Monastery held its 62nd Kathina robes offering ceremony on 13-11-2005. The Sayadaw administered Five Precepts at the ceremony.— MNA

Japan-Myanmar U-19 women soccer continues

YANGON, 13 Nov — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint enjoyed the second Myanmar-Japan friendly football match at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, here, this afternoon.

Japanese U-19 women's Team trounced Myanmar women's selected team 4-0 in the second friendly match.

Before the match, the two teams posed for documentary photos and exchanged batters.

Among the football fans were officials of

the Ministry of Sports, the chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, senior military officers, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and executives and guests.

MNA



FRIENDLY SOCCER MATCH: The Myanmar women's custodian and defenders blocking attacks of Japan U-19 women's strikers. Japan U-19 women's team beat Myanmar selected women's team 4-0. — NLM

Two killed, six wounded in shooting in Matupi

YANGON, 13 Nov — Terrorist insurgents are committing destructive acts using various ways and means with the aim of undermining stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order and making innocent people feel afraid.

At 5.40 pm on 12 November, a prize presentation of the football match was held at Myoma sports ground in Matupi, Chin State after the final match between Kanpetlet and Matupi (A). Meanwhile, two Chin terrorists opened fire on the spectators with small arms and fled.

Maung William, 7 and Maung Hsi Bwe Htaung, 17 were killed and three men and women wounded in the attack.

Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hsan Aung and officials supervised the provisions to the treatment of the wounded. Regional battalions are in hot pursuit of the insurgents.

MNA

Vice Attorney-General leaves for Qatar

YANGON, 12 Nov — A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Attorney-General U Myint Naing left here for Doha, Qatar, to attend the Second World Attorney-General Summit. It was also accompanied by Deputy Director U Khin Maung Oo of Attorney General's Office. — MNA

Donate blood

Busan to use APEC to become international convention city

BUSAN (South Korea), 13 Nov — South Korea's second largest city, Busan, is aiming to become an international convention host city through the successful hosting of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, city planners said Saturday.

Busan, also the country's largest port city, was designated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as an international convention city last month, and city authorities plan to update infrastructure to make Busan even more attractive for conventions. The new status allows the city to receive central government assistance and legal support.

"Conventions are a high-value-added business that can also help transform the city's image from a bustling port to one where people can hold

meetings while taking the time to enjoy scenic vistas," a Busan city official said.

He added that if the city can play host to the leaders of 21 economies and countless officials and reporters, as well as host sideline events, it can hold any convention in the world.

Other experts said the city has great growth potential, with attractive beaches in Haeundae and Gwangalli, as well as parks including Yongdusan and Taejongdae and the Eulsukdo Migratory Bird Sanctu-

ary.

In addition, to splash new green space of the urban landscape, three new parks have been opened to celebrate the hosting of the 2005 APEC summit. They are the Dongbaek Park, APEC Naru Park and Peace Park.

The city, which is one of the five busiest ports in the world, has an international airport for easy access and is linked to Seoul by air and the KTX, the country's bullet train service.

The city boasts first-class hotels in both the downtown area and Haeundae District and at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Centre (BEXCO). BEXCO has an exhibition space of 26,508 square metres and an additional 13,233 square metres for outdoor displays.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese woman sprays disinfectant over empty cages at a poultry market in Shiyan city of Hubei Province on 12 November, 2005. — INTERNET

Hundred of Chinese youth mark "Singles Festival"

BEIJING, 13 Nov — Maybe the arabic numeral of "one" brings too much sentimental feeling for romantic unmarried men and women. The "Singles Festival" was marked spontaneously on 11 November by hundreds of youth across China.

A ball held in a park in west China's Chongqing Municipality in honour of "singles" on Friday turned out to be a match-making occasion for more than 400 people, reported *China Daily* on Saturday.

Joyful women threw out knitted balls into the

crowd of men, which was a modern mock of a traditional Chinese way of knotting a romantic relationship. Only in the modern version, the girls abandoned the shyness, and attached their names and phone numbers on the balls that they threw out to men.

The newspaper quoted a professor from the Faculty of Social Science of the Chongqing Normal University as saying that the so-called "bachelor culture" represented by the "Singles Festival" was a rebellion against traditional values.

"Many single people nowadays are highly educated and financially independent. By choosing to stay single, they can pursue individual freedom whereas marriage implies more social responsibility," said the professor Hou.

Meanwhile in Shanghai, Beijing and east China's Zhejiang Province, similar events were held in forms of party and travel for singles.

MNA/Xinhua



Tunisian policemen in Tunis, where the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society will take place on 16-18 November 2005, gathering government, media, telecommunications and Internet experts to discuss the practical means for pursuing a free information society. — INTERNET

Annual APEC Forum kicks off in Busan

BUSAN (South Korea), 13 Nov — The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies began their annual APEC forum in South Korea's southeastern port city of Busan on Saturday with the start of the Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting (CSOM).

The two-day working level meeting, chaired by South Korea's APEC Ambassador Kim Jong-hoon, will finalize the agenda for the following ministerial meeting and the leaders' meeting.

The main theme of this year's APEC forum is "Toward One Community, Meet the Challenge, Make the Change".

Senior officials from the APEC economies have met three times this year, focused on issues of the region's stance toward the World Trade Organization's Doha Round talks and the 1994 Bogor Goals that call for APEC's developed members to liberalize trade and investment by 2010 and its developing ones by 2020.

In addition to the liberalization of free trade and investment, issues of strengthening "human security" such as anti-terror measures and joint efforts to prevent the epidemics like bird flu will be discussed at this year's APEC Forum, said South Korea's APEC Ambassador Kim Jong-hoon earlier.

Since its inception in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies, APEC has become a formidable regional forum acting as the primary regional vehicle for promoting open trade and practical economic and technical cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven miners killed in Inner Mongolia colliery gas explosion

WUHAI (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region), 13 Nov — Seven miners were killed and nine others still trapped in a colliery gas explosion occurred Friday afternoon in Wuhai City of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The explosion took place at 5:20 pm on Friday in the coal mine owned by the Bayinsai Coal Tar

Co Ltd when 19 miners were working there. So far only three miners have been evacuated and the

bodies of the seven victims founded while the other nine miners are still trapped, according to a local official.

According to a preliminary investigation, the company is operating the mine without safety production licence. The company said that it has applied for the licence, but has not got approval so far.

Rescue work is still underway and the cause of the accident under investigation. A rescue command office has been set up at the site. So far, the investigators have frozen the company's bank account, cash and property.

MNA/Xinhua

4 people die as truck overturns in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 13 Nov — Four people died on the spot while two others got injured seriously when a truck they were travelling in overturned in northern Tanzania, according to police sources on Saturday.

Arusha Regional Police Commander James Kombe told local Press that the tragedy had been caused by a break failure in the mountainous area where the truck was travelling at high speed on Thursday morning.

The truck was loaded with building materials for the renovation of a tourist lodge in the Ngorongoro conservation area.

Mechanical problems have caused 16 per cent of the road accidents between 1999 and 2004, according to police statistics, while reckless driving has accounted for 76 per cent of the road accidents. The remaining 8 per cent were caused by poor road conditions.

MNA/Xinhua

Diarrhoeal disease claims 14 lives in Harare

HARARE, 13 Nov — Fourteen children under the age of five have died of salmonella infections in Harare in the last few weeks adding to the woes of an unrelated dysentery outbreak in Harare and Chitungwiza that has seen 200 people hospitalized.

Harare Central Hospital Medical Superintendent Chris Tapfumaneyi was quoted by *The Herald* newspaper as saying on Saturday that the spread of

the twin infections has not been made public by the authorities in either Harare or Chitungwiza and no warnings or advice have been issued by the health authorities.

Salmonella poisoning is most notoriously contracted from contaminated chicken and eggs although other sources are possible. Dysentery is contracted from contaminated water or food.

MNA/Xinhua

Cat deaths not related with bird flu in N-E China

SHENYANG, 13 Nov — Thirty cats kept by local farmers died suddenly in a bird flu-hit county in northeast China's Liaoning Province, but experts found the deaths were not related with bird flu infection.

The information was released overnight by Liaoning provincial animal health supervision department.

The cat deaths occurred between 25 October and 9 November at Gangtai Village in Badaohao Township in the bird flu-hit Heishan County. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia denies making proposal on Iran's nuclear issue

TEHERAN, 13 Nov — A senior Russian security official on Saturday denied reports that Russia put forward a proposal aimed at breaking the deadlock over Iran's nuclear programme.

Russia had reportedly given Iran a proposal which would allow Iran to keep uranium conversion while shifting the most sensitive part of nuclear fuel cycle — enrichment — to Russia to remove Western suspicion that Iran is developing nuclear weapons.

"No such proposal had been made," Igor Ivanov, Russia's Security Council

Secretary, said after a meeting with top Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency.

Ivanov, who arrived in Teheran on Friday on a three-day visit, reiterated Russia's stance that Iran's nuclear issue should be settled within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Larijani said that Iran needs "a change of attitude" rather than new proposals so that Iran's legitimate right to peaceful nuclear technology is recognized.

Larijani said that no new proposal was discussed at the meeting with Ivanov, adding that if any proposals were put forward, then Iran would take them into consideration.

"What matters to us is

owning the full cycle of nuclear fuel in Iran," he said on Friday when asked to comment on the reported proposal. The West fears that the enrichment process could enable Iran to produce nuclear weapons-grade uranium.

In August Teheran rejected European proposal that Iran give up enrichment in exchange for economic and technical incentives and resumed the uranium conversion work, prompting EU trio of Britain, France and Germany to suspend nuclear talks with Iran.

The IAEA in September paved the way for Iran's referral to the UN Security Council — which could impose sanctions — but it has not set a date for this.

The agency's board of governors is due to discuss the issue on 24 November.

The United States has accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons, a charge rejected by Teheran.

MNA/Xinhua

Singh calls for cooperation inside and outside of SAARC region

DHAKA, 13 Nov — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here on Saturday called for cooperation both within the SAARC member-states, and between the SAARC region and larger Asian neighbourhood.

"If we wish the next 20 years of SAARC to be different, we should take the first decision to reconnect the countries of the subcontinent on the one hand and then reconnect the subcontinent to the larger Asia neighbourhood on the other," said Singh, while addressing the inauguration session of the on-going 13th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit held in Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre here.

To pursue this vision, he proposed that "all South Asian countries would provide to each other, reciprocally, transit facilities to third countries, not only connecting one another, but also connecting to the larger Asian neighbourhood, in the Gulf, Central Asia and the Southeast Asia."

"India, which borders each of the members of the South Asia, is willing to do so," he said.

He said the SAARC member countries should "recharge and regenerate the arteries of transport and communication that bind us together and in turn link our region to the rest of Asia to reclaim the prosperity."

MNA/Xinhua



A picture recently taken shows a policeman next to the world's biggest passenger jet, an Airbus A380 superjumbo at Changi International Airport in Singapore, where it landed on its first test flight outside Europe after completing the journey from the manufacturer's headquarters in France.—INTERNET

Taleban attack police HQs in southeast Afghanistan

KHOST (Afghanistan), 13 Nov — Taleban insurgents killed at least one police officer and wounded four others in an

attack on their headquarters in southeastern Afghanistan, officials said on Saturday.

The overnight raid in Khost Province was the latest series of attacks by Taleban fighters in Afghan provinces bordering Pakistan during the past few days. The police headquarters was partially destroyed during a firefight involving light and heavy weapons, officials said. They did not know whether the attackers suffered any casualties.—MNA/Reuters

Annan arrives Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived in Baghdad on Saturday for an unannounced visit and will meet Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, a UN spokeswoman said.

Annan was in Amman on Friday, where he discussed Wednesday's

deadly bombings in three hotels in the Jordanian capital, which al-Qaeda in Iraq said was carried out by four Iraqis.

His visit follows separate trips by British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in the past few days.—MNA/Reuters

Baghdad market bombing kills five

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov — At least one car bomb exploded in a market in east Baghdad on Saturday, starting fires in several shops and killing at least five people and wounding 12, police and witnesses said.

"There's a car bomb here, many casualties, please send us ambulances," eyewitness Ali Saleh told Reuters by telephone from the scene minutes after the blast.

There were initial reports of a second car bomb but Saleh, who was shopping in the area, said he only knew of one bomb, and police later said it was a single car bomb.

"A car parked near a pharmacy suddenly blew up and we saw smoke and people started running," Saleh said. "Women were searching for their children. The shrapnel flew everywhere, the force of the blast was so strong."

Another witness said many shops in the market were set on fire, with people trapped inside.

Police, who confirmed there was a fire in the market, said there were at least five dead and a dozen wounded.

The latest attack came just two days after a suicide bomber killed dozens of people in a crowded restaurant in Baghdad.

That was one of the biggest attacks in Baghdad

in recent months and came a day after three hotel bombs in Jordan's capital Amman, claimed by al-Qaeda in Iraq, killed 57 people.—MNA/Reuters

Two US soldiers killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov — Two US soldiers were killed and two others wounded in a vehicle accident during combat action near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, the US military said on Saturday.

"Two 3rd Corps Support Command soldiers were killed and two soldiers were injured in a vehicular accident while performing a combat logistical patrol northwest of Kirkuk at about 6:15 am (0315 GMT) on 11 November," the military said in a statement.

The case was under investigation, the statement said.

The death toll brought to about 2,060 the number of US servicemen killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media reports.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian porters bring relief goods towards Pakistan-administered Kashmir during a relief exchange in Teetwal. India and Pakistan opened a third crossing point on the disputed Kashmir border to facilitate the flow of aid to desperate earthquake survivors as fresh rain and snow hit the Himalayan region recently.
INTERNET



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**Linear Technology
opens new facility in
Singapore**

SINGAPORE, 12 NOV—
Linear Technology Corpo-
ration, a world leading
manufacturer of integrated
circuit (IC), opened a new
facility in Singapore on
Friday.

With an investment of
100 million Singapore dol-
lars (about 59 million US
dollars), the new facility is
expected to expand the
company's IC test capaci-
ty in the city state by 250
per cent.

Designed to test high-
performance analogue and
mixed-signal IC chips, the
operation will help en-
hance Singapore's capa-
bilities in analogue and
mixed-signal IC design,
according to Minister for
Trade and Industry Lim
Hng Kiang.

Speaking at the open-
ing ceremony, Lim said
that Singapore will con-
tinue strengthening its
manufacturing sector, with
the semiconductor indus-
try being one of the sec-
tor's key pillars.

The city state an-
nounced in September that
it aims to double its man-
ufacturing output and man-
ufacturing value-added out-
put to 300 billion Singa-
pore dollars (about 176 bil-
lion US dollars) and 80
billion Singapore dollars
(about 47 billion US dol-
lars) respectively by 2018.

In 2004, Singapore's
total manufacturing output
reached 190 billion Singa-
pore dollars (about 112 bil-
lion US dollars), which
accounted for more than a
quarter of the country's
gross domestic product
(GDP).—MNA/Xinhua

**Bone marrow
transplant patient
accepts new
kidney**

SINGAPORE, 12 NOV—
A Singaporean, who had a
bone marrow transplant in
July last year, survived a
recent kidney transplant
operation without taking
drugs to prevent rejection.

According to Channel
NewsAsia report on Fri-
day night, Koh Hock
Heng, 43, was diagnosed
with kidney failure four
years ago and was discov-
ered to have a pre-leukaemia
illness two years later.

Both the transplanted
bone marrow and kidney
came from his younger
brother, which cured his
pre-leukaemia illness first
and then took him back to
a normal life.

The two immune sys-
tems blended in Koh's
body after the bone mar-
row transplant and now
his younger brother's bone
marrow cells have com-
pletely taken over his own
immune system, the re-
port said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Cross-Strait artists costar in Chinese
"Romeo and Juliet"**

FOSHAN, 12 NOV— Chinese classic Kunqu Opera "Butterfly Lovers", also known as the Chinese "Romeo and Juliet", for the first time costarring both Mainland and Taiwan Kunqu artists, is scheduled to be staged on Saturday at the Asia Arts Festival opening on Friday in Foshan, south China's Guangdong Province.

The Chinese popular classic love story has been staged in several Chinese traditional play forms, such as north China's Peking Opera, east China's Shaoxing Opera and southwest China's Sichuan Opera, but excluded from the play list of Kunqu Opera, said Zeng Yongyi, a Taiwan elite scholar of Chinese traditional opera and playwright of Kunqu "Butterfly Lovers", here on Friday at the Press conference.

"So it's significant for us to stage a Kunqu version of 'Butterfly Lovers' so as to fill in the blank," added Zeng who has devoted himself for almost 30 years to preserve Kunqu heritage and promote Cross-Strait exchanges.

"Kunqu 'Butterfly Lovers' is a perfect combination of delicate literature and fine arts," said Zeng, adding that artists

from both Taiwan Kunqu Opera Troupe and east China's Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe present the love story in vivid Kunqu form together in a bid to enrich Kunqu storage and highlight Cross-Strait cultural dialogue.

"Butterfly Lovers" tells a love tragedy in the Eastern Jin Dynasty when Zhu Yingtai, daughter of an official, dresses herself as a lad to attend school out of town where she falls in love with her classmate Liang Shanbo, a poor lad. After knowing Zhu is a girl, Liang decides to engage with Zhu but Zhu's family opposes them and forces Zhu to marry rich. The two commit suicide and become butterflies.

Kunqu, China's oldest and one of its most influential theatrical traditions, is an almost 500-year-old theatre form which originated in Kushan, east China's Jiangsu Province and

uniquely blends poetic eloquence, musical refinement and drama. In May 2001, Kunqu Opera was officially listed by the UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Kunqu is especially popular in Taiwan, where Kunqu "Butterfly Lovers" made its debut and received a warm welcome.

"Tickets also sold out quickly for tomorrow's performance in the Asia Arts Festival", acknowledged Zeng, adding this play marks a milestone for Cross-Strait cultural dialogue.

The Seventh Asia Arts Festival is scheduled to be held from November 11 to 17 in south China's Foshan City where art troupes and cultural officials from 22 Asian countries get together to display their fine arts attainment and confer on prospective cultural cooperation among Asian countries.—MNA/Xinhua

**Vietnam reports
big losses in
infrastructure
construction**

HANOI, 12 NOV—
Losses in infrastructure
construction in Vietnam
now stand at 10-40 per cent,
local newspaper *Labour*
Friday quoted delegates at a
seminar on the issue as
saying.

"Annual capital for
infrastructure construction
stands at 100 trillion
Vietnamese dong (VND)
(over 6.3 billion US dollars).

If the loss rate is 30 per
cent, the lost money is
enough to feed the state's
administrative apparatus,"
Nguyen Duc Long, head of
the Economic Crime
Investigation Department
under Hanoi Police, said at
the one-day seminar which
wrapped up on Thursday.

According to a report
presented by the National
Assembly's Surveillance
Team, among 1,505
construction projects
inspected recently, viola-
tions regarding design and
construction are found in 802
projects. Since 2001, local
police have uncovered many
corruption cases, mainly
relating to construction of
roads, warehouses and
industrial complexes using
state monies.

MNA/Xinhua

**Environmental
Education Forum held
in Cambodia**

PHNOM PENH, 12 NOV— The government of Cambodia on Friday held its first National Forum on Environmental Education, bringing together dozens of environmental, fisheries and education experts from across the country.

The meeting marked the first step in a government campaign to improve environmental education and awareness in five provinces on the Tonle Sap Lake — Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Thom, Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap.

In an opening speech to the forum, Sin Khandy, under-secretary of state at the Ministry of Environment, acknowledged the importance of educating people to be more aware of the "complex nature of the environment" in Cambodia.

But education for awareness alone is not enough, he said, adding "People need to have practical alternatives so that their behaviour can become more sustainable."

The national forum brought together officials

from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Representatives of multilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and local newspapers also took part.

Launched in July, the National Environmental Education and Awareness Campaign (NEEAC) is overseen by the Ministry of Environment and is part of the Tonle Sap Environment Management Project under the Cambodian National Mekong Committee, according to a statement of the NEEAC.

The 20-million-US-dollar project, approved in 2002, is financed by the Asian Development Bank, UN agencies and the government of Cambodia.

MNA/Xinhua

**Singapore company launches two
avian flu rapid test kits**

SINGAPORE, 12 NOV— A Singapore-based biotechnology company, *Rockeby Biomed*, has launched two bird flu rapid test kits, *Channel NewsAsia* said on Friday.

One kit is used for veterinary testing of birds' faces, blood and serum samples, which is the first of its kind in the world, while the other is for the screening of swabs taken from human nose or throat.

Relying on immunological detection of the bird flu viral protein, both

tests will yield a result within 10 minutes, said a Press release from the company.

Designed for use by professionals, the test kit for birds costs about 6 US dollars each and the one for humans about 10 to 12 US dollars. It is expected that the fast test kits could help prevent a bird flu out-

break by isolating infected cases as early as possible.

The world is worrying about a bird flu pandemic as wild birds and poultry infected with avian flu virus have been found in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and the number of human infection cases is increasing.

MNA/Xinhua

A picture taken on 12 Oct, 2005 in Kourou, French Guiana, shows an Ariane 5 which will be used to orbit the Syracuse 3A launcher, one day before its launching. A technical hitch delayed Saturday's blast-off from French Guiana of a heavy-lift version of Europe's Ariane-5 rocket that was to have launched two commercial satellites, space officials said.

INTERNET



ဗညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပုံပြေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Bone marrow cells regenerate heart muscle

NEW YORK, 12 Nov— Bone marrow cells (BMCs) transplanted into damaged areas of the heart reduce the amount of damage and improve heart performance, physicians in Germany report.

Previous studies have suggested that BMCs may regenerate damaged heart muscle when given soon after a heart attack. However, this is the first study to examine the cells' potential in hearts damaged further in the past.

Dr Bodo E Strauer and colleagues at Heinrich-Heine-University in Dusseldorf recruited 18 patients who had experienced a heart attack on average 27 months before. The patients' own BMCs retrieved the day before were infused into the damaged heart muscle.

According to the team's report in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, there were no complications of the procedure during follow-up. Three months later, the size of the damaged area of

the heart was reduced by 30 per cent and heart pumping ability improved considerably. A comparison group of 18 patients with similar heart troubles who were not given BMCs

showed no significant changes in damage size or pumping ability during follow-up. These findings strongly support "regeneration of (muscle cells) as the basis for the

improvement in function", Dr Roberto Bolli and colleagues at the University of Louisville in Kentucky indicate in a related editorial.

MNA/Reuters

Latin American nations agree to extend whaling ban

BUENOS AIRES, 12 Nov— Nations in Latin America have agreed to extend the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) ban on commercial whaling, the Argentine Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

The decision was made in the Buenos Aires Declaration signed by a group of 14 nations following the 7-8 November meeting, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The declaration also called on nations to promote

whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic and South Pacific oceans, as well as the non-lethal use of whales.

The IWC, a commission regulating global whaling, banned commercial hunts in 1986, saving the species from near extinction. But the moratorium included an exemption clause allowing countries to kill a limited number of whales for scientific research, which was regarded as a loophole long abused by Japan.

Nations participating in

the meeting are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Uruguay, Panama and Peru. Four nations in other regions — New Zealand, South Africa, Australia and Spain — are also present.—MNA/Xinhua

Italy shows its international heritage-saving works

ROME, 12 Nov — A new show on Italian restoration in defence of humankind's cultural heritage began here on Friday. A fascinating



Aerobatic aircraft fly over the dome housing the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) during the official launch of the telescope near Sutherland in South Africa's arid Karoo region on 10 Nov, 2005.—INTERNET

display of videos, photographs and archaeological finds at Rome's Vittoriano complex reveals the results of Italian projects in 15 countries.

and Organization Department "The exhibition was designed to illustrate some examples of Italian restoration work around the world, which has taken place with the benefit of advances made in the science of conserving monuments and art", he said.

MNA/Xinhua

135-million-year-old crocodile found in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina), 12 Nov — A bizarre marine crocodile that lived 135 million years ago in what is now Argentina had the head of a dinosaur and the tail of a fish, paleontologists said on Thursday.

The finding, published in Thursday's online issue of the journal *Science*, sheds new light on an animal that millions of years ago dominated Earth's seas. Scientists are calling the beast "Godzilla". Its discovery will be highlighted in the December issue of *National Geographic* magazine.

The animal is "the most bizarre marine crocodile known to date", said Diego Pol of The Ohio State University, a co-author of the study.

Alerted by a group of farmers who stumbled across several fragments, a team of paleontologists led by Zulma Gasparini of Argentina's La Plata University collected a skull and parts of a vertebrae of the animal in the Argentine province of Neuquen in 1996.

Scientists named the previously unknown species *Dakosaurus Andiniensis*, after a European crocodile from the same period

that shares some similar characteristics.

With flipper-like feet and a tail like those found on fish, the crocodile is believed to have been about 12 feet (4 metres) long.

But its most unusual characteristic, said Pol, was a short and high snout, unlike the long, thin snouts found on many of today's crocodiles.

The animal also had large sharp teeth — some 13 in all — that paleontologists say were more often found in dinosaurs.

"This was a top predator that probably ... swam around using its jagged teeth to bite and cut its prey, like dinosaurs and other predatory reptiles did," Pol said.

The *Dakosaurus*,

paleontologists say, was an animal that had four paddle-like limbs instead of legs, using its fish-like tail to propel through water.

It likely fed on reptiles and other large sea life when it roamed the Pacific Ocean off southwestern South America millions of years ago, they say.

MNA/Reuters



Museo de La Plata paleontologist Zulma Gasparini, professor at Argentina's Universidad Nacional de La Plata, looks at the skull of a marine crocodile recently.—INTERNET

British royal photographer Lichfield dies

LONDON, 12 Nov — Patrick Lichfield, one of the fashion world's best-known photographers, has died in hospital after suffering a stroke, a hospital spokeswoman said on Friday. He was 66.

Lichfield, who was first cousin once removed to Britain's Queen Elizabeth, was rushed to hospital on Thursday. "He died quietly in the early hours of the morning," the spokeswoman said. Born Thomas Patrick Anson in April 1939, the man who became the fifth Earl of Lichfield and professionally used the name Patrick Lichfield, was considered one of Britain's Premier photographers after a 44-year career behind the lens. Among his best-known work was a series of informally posed wedding portraits of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.—MNA/Xinhua

Oxford to increase scholarship to Chinese students

HONG KONG, 12 Nov— Chancellor of Oxford University Christopher Francis Patten said here on Friday that Oxford will increase the number of scholarship to Chinese students.

Speaking at a book-signing promotion of his new book *Not Quite the Diplomat*, Patten said he was "hugely impressed" by the quality of Chinese students, so he wished to have more of them study at the Oxford.

The university also plans to increase the study of China and help Chinese students, mostly postgraduates, to accomplish their doctorate, Patten said. Another thing upon the Oxford agenda is to build good relationship with the best Hong Kong universities and Chinese Mainland universities, Patten added.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



Brazil's Ronaldinho, right, challenges an Emirates' player during a friendly match on Saturday, 12 Nov, 2005, at the Zayed Sports City Stadium, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Brazil won the match 8-0. —INTERNET

IOC happy to see Olympic spirit spread beyond Beijing

BEIJING, 12 Nov — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has expressed their delight to see the Olympic spirit is being spread outside Beijing, the host city for the 2008 Games.

The IOC Coordination Commission Friday concluded their four-day visit to China, during which they visited for the first time the city of Qingdao, the sailing venue of the Beijing Olympics.

"It is wonderful to see how the Olympic spirit is being spread beyond Beijing into other areas in China," said Hein Verbruggen, chairman of the coordination commission at a Press conference.

"It is a great thing to see Qingdao is transforming itself, taking advantage of the power of the Olympics to act as a catalyst for the city development," added Verbruggen. The coordination commission has held discussions with the local organizing committee of Qingdao and inspected the sailing venue.

Qingdao is one of the five cities outside Beijing that will co-host the Olympic competitions. The other four cities will stage the football preliminaries with the equestrian event to be staged by Hong Kong.

Verbruggen also deemed highly of Beijing's preparations for the 2008 Olympics, saying that the IOC is "very, very happy" with the preparatory work in all fields.

"Organizing the Olympics is always a big challenge, but for us, there is no doubt that BOCOG (Beijing Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games) will be fully meeting the challenge," said Verbruggen.

During their fifth visit to the host city, the coordination commission held discussions with BOCOG over

a wide range of issues, venue construction to services, as well as media operations. —MNA/Xinhua

Beijing unveils 2008 Olympic mascots

BEIJING, 12 Nov— Beijing unveiled a set of five doll mascots for the 2008 Olympic Games Friday evening, exactly 1,000 days before the event's opening ceremony.

The long-anticipated mascots, which embody the natural characteristics of four of China's popular animals — the Fish, the Panda, the Tibetan Antelope, the Swallow — and the Olympic Flame, were presented at a grand televised ceremony inside the Workers' Gymnasium.

It is the first time more than three images share Summer Olympic mascot duty. The 2000 Sydney Games featured three animal mascots — Olly the Kookaburra, Syd the Platypus and Millie the Spiny Anteater.

"We decided to produce five mascots instead of one, because we think no single figure can embody China's profound and diversified culture," said Han Meilin, chief of the mascot designers' group.

Each of the Beijing Olympic mascots has a rhyming two-syllable name — a traditional way of expressing affection for children in China. Beibei is the Fish, Jingjing is the Panda, Huanhuan is the Olympic Flame, Yingying is the Tibetan Antelope and Nini is the Swallow.

When these names are put together — Bei Jing Huan Ying Ni — they say "Welcome to Beijing".

The five elements of nature — the sea, forest, fire, earth and sky — can be found in their origins and headpieces, all stylistically rendered in ways that represent the deep traditional influences of Chinese

folk art and ornamentation.

Each of the mascots also symbolizes a different blessing — prosperity, happiness, passion, health and good luck.

The unveiling of the Beijing Olympic mascots also ended a year-long race of hundreds of candidates.

Since the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG) launched a worldwide solicitation in August last year, competition was hot as a handful of areas were vying to have their local symbols picked. —MNA/Xinhua

Garcia's hat-trick helps Spain thrash Slovakia

MADRID, 13 Nov— Spain took a giant stride towards qualifying for their eighth successive World Cup after Luis Garcia's hat-trick helped them to a 5-1 win over 10-man Slovakia in their playoff first leg on Saturday.

The Liverpool winger gave Spain an early lead when he nodded in at the far post following a Xavi corner and then added a second eight minutes later with a cool finish after another great assist from the Barcelona playmaker.

Slovakia briefly got back into the match when substitute Szilard Nemeth cashed in on a defensive error to make it 2-1, but Fernando Torres restored Spain's advantage from the penalty spot. Slovakia defender Marian Had was sent off for his protests after the penalty and Garcia took advantage soon after to grab his third before substitute Fernando Morientes wrapped up an emphatic win with a trademark header 12 minutes from time.

As well as Had, Slovakia will be also without captain Miroslav Karhan and striker Robert Vittek for Wednesday's second leg in Bratislava after they earned suspensions for picking up bookings.

Spain issued an early statement of intent at a cold and wet Calderon when Xavi grazed the post with a 20-metre free kick with just over a minute on the clock. —MNA/Reuters

Owen stuns Argentina with late goals in 3-2 win

GENEVA, 13 Nov— Michael Owen was once again the scourge of Argentina scoring two goals in the final four minutes to give England a stunning 3-2 victory over their historic enemy on Saturday.

Owen, who in two previous World Cup encounters against Argentina had scored a wonder goal and won two penalties, struck with two headers as England came from behind in the friendly at the Stade de Geneve.

Argentina led twice with goals from Hernan Crespo and Walter Samuel but England equalized twice with goals from Wayne Rooney and Owen before Owen scored the winner.

Owen told the BBC afterwards: "To come back twice was great. These are what these warm-up games for the World Cup are for. Maybe we can go in the lead in the next game and learn how to defend a lead as well.

MNA/Reuters

Del Piero on song as Italy beat the Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, 13 Nov— Italy roared back from being a goal down to beat the Netherlands 3-1 on Saturday in a friendly between two of next year's World Cup favourites.

It was the Netherlands' first defeat since losing to hosts Portugal in the Euro 2004 semifinals and followed a bright start in which they took a 38th minute lead through winger Ryan Babel.

Alessandro Del Piero helped turn the match around for Italy, setting up striker Alberto Gilardino to equalize three minutes later and then curling over a corner which Dutchman Ron Vlaar turned into his own net in first-half stoppage time.

Five minutes into the second half, Luca Toni scored his sixth goal for Italy to sink a Dutch side who showed real passion but lacked the craft to disturb Italy's defence.

In their first meeting since a memorable Euro 2000 semifinal won by Italy on penalties, both coaches were forced to improvise because of injury problems.

Marco van Basten moved Dirk Kuijt into the centre to replace striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, while Babel started on the left flank due to Arjen Robben's absence and Robin van Persie's lack of fitness. —MNA/Reuters



Sydney FC Japanese soccer star Kazuyoshi 'Kazu' Miura warms up before the start of his club's A-League game in Sydney on 13 November, 2004. Although benched for the first half of this game, Miura will play four matches before joining Sydney FC's FIFA Club World Championship soccer competition in Japan from 11-18 December.

INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

F	R	A	Y	E	D	T	I	A	S	T	I	R
R	S	M	S	Y	S	T	S	L	S	R	S	E
A	M	B	L	E	O	R	E	P	R	O	O	F
N	S	I	S	S	U	S	S	S	O	S	U	
C	H	E	M	I	S	T	A	R	A	P	E	S
E	S	N	S	G	A	H	O	W	S	R	S	E
T	U	T	A	H	T	S	L	E	A	S	T	N
T	S	I	S	T	I	P	Y	D	S	H	S	S
W	I	C	K	U	M	R	A	G	T	I	M	E
I	S	A	S	R	S	A	S	W	S	V	S	V
T	E	N	S	I	O	N	A	O	B	E	S	E
C	S	O	S	C	S	K	S	O	S	R	S	R
H	I	N	G	E	D	E	E	D	I	S	O	N

Indonesia detains Europeans in big drugs factory raid

SERANG (Indonesia), 13 Nov— Indonesian police have detained 21 people including a French and a Dutch national after raiding a factory making ecstasy pills and methamphetamines that officers on Saturday said was a "mega superlab".

Anti-narcotics officers raided the factory on Friday near the city of Serang, 45 miles west of Jakarta.

"Can you imagine, in one week they could produce one million pills or tablets," an angry looking President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said during a visit to the plant, which was licensed as a cable factory.

Yudhoyono, who has declared war on drugs, told reporters the factory had

the capacity to produce drugs with a potential street value of up to 600 million US dollar a year.

Apart from the European men, a number of Chinese nationals and Indonesians were also detained, police said. Twelve people were detained at the factory and the rest at a warehouse.

Police chief General Sutanto and other officers earlier said it was third biggest ecstasy making

factory in the world.

Asked later by reporters about those comments, Sutanto said foreign anti-drug officials had called it a "mega superlab".

Western drug officials were later seen at the plant, and some Indonesian police said they were either from the United States or Australia.

The plant had been under surveillance since May, but police said they waited until production began before moving in.

The official Antara news agency said police had seized 62.4 tons of raw materials for making methamphetamines and 6.7 tons for making ecstasy pills. It said the factory covered an area of four hectares. Police also seized 150 kilos (330 pounds) of ready-to-use crystal methamphetamines, known locally as shabu shabu. Samples had already been sent to buyers in Hong Kong, police

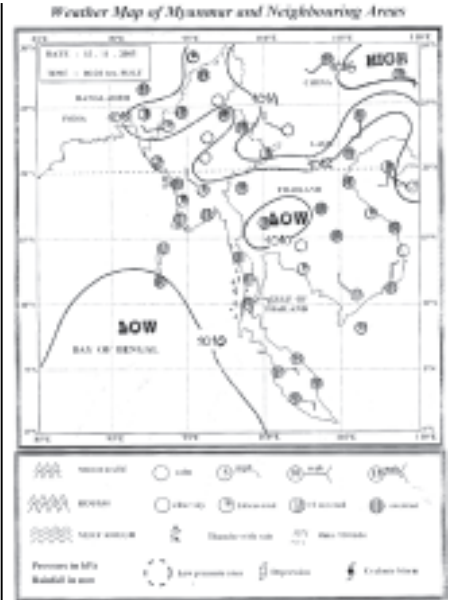
added.

Indonesia imposes the death sentence for many narcotics offences. Police did not say when the detainees — who were all brought back to the site from Jakarta's police headquarters to coincide with Yudhoyono's visit — would be formally charged.

Despite the tough penalties, numerous foreigners have been arrested in recent years, mainly for trafficking or possession.

In one case, nine Australians are on trial on Bali on charges of trying to smuggle heroin from the resort island to Australia. They face the maximum penalty of death.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Sunday, 13 November, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions. (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State and Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 12-11-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 13-11-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 13-11-2005 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 12-11-2005 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 13-11-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (102.60) inches at Mingaladon, (101.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (106.46) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from North at (12:00) hours MST on 12-11-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 14-11-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Mon State and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions 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 decrease of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-11-2005: Partly cloudy

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-11-2005: Fair weather.



U Thwai family of No 12, Bogyoke Museum Street, Bahan Township, hand over K 100,000 for the three-storey hospital of Hninzigon Home for the Aged to Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi. — H



Monday, 14 November Tune in today

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Get away Maxx
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: -Go on move - Reel 2 Reel
- 8.50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -The real thing...2Unlimited
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:20 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Baby what about you
- 9.00 pm Spotlight on the star "John Bonjw
- 9.15 pm Article
- 9.35 pm Golden Land's melody -Kantharyar
- 9.45 pm News & Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Monday, 14 November View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင် ရူပံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဗ္ဗ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစောတိဏ၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဗျာဓိဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am
- 6. Song of national races.
- 8:10 am
- 7. Cute little dancers.
- 8:15 am
- 8. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am
- 9. သံလွင်တံတား (တေးဂီတ)

- 8:30 am
- 10. International news
- 8:45 am
- 11. Gammar Made Easy.
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Practice in Reading.
- 4:45 pm
- 4. တန်ဆောင်တိုင်တေးများ
- 5:00 pm
- 5. အစေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ရုပ်ဖောအထူးပြု) (ရုပ်ဖော)
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Dance Variety.
- 5:30 pm
- 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:35 pm
- 8. မြန်မာရိုးရာတေးဂီတလေးကျေး လက်တေးသံများ
- 5:45 pm
- 9. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတေး
- 5:55 pm
- 10. Musical programme. (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:05 pm
- 11. Industrial achievement.
- 6:15 pm
- 12. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 6:20 pm
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းထဲ "ရယ်လွင်ဆော့ပြောပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဆိတ်လေ (အပိုင်း--၃၈)
- 6:30 pm
- 14. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
- 15. Weather report.
- 7:05 pm
- 16. ရှိငံ ခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်လေကားထစ်ခန်းများ" (အပိုင်း--၁၃)
- 7:35 pm
- 17. (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက်အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာ အားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင် ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ကရာဇေးဖို)
- 7:50 pm
- 18. မျှော်မျှော် ရှင်ရှင်ဆင်ကာနဲ့ တောင်ကြီးမြို့ရှိ တန်ဆောင်တိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 pm
- 19. News
- 20. International news.
- 21. Weather report.
- 22. ရှိငံ ခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မစိ သူလတ်ဆောင်" (အပိုင်း--၉)
- 23. The next day's programme

Continued efforts to be made for the State's development through support and unity of people

Lt-Gen Maung Bo makes inspection tour of Kayin State

YANGON, 13 Nov — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence together with Mon State PDC Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials arrived at Zathabyin Bridge between Mon State and Kayin State on 11 November and met with officers, other ranks and their families at the local battalion in Thingan Nyinaung Station. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented cash assistance to officials for Tatmadawmen.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party met with departmental personnel at Myawady District and Township level at the hall of local battalion and made an address. In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that it is important for the State service personnel to know the objective conditions of Myanmar at present and all the officials under the guidance of the Head of State, are striving day in, day out for the emergence



Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence delivers a speech in meeting with the headmaster and teachers at Myawady BEHS.—MNA

of modern, developed and discipline-flourishing nation. In the process of transition to democratic nation, peace and stability is essential. Nowadays, it can be seen clearly that there were much troubles in some nations in the process of transforming into democratic ones under the influence of western powers. As a result of the cooperation of departmental officials and the people, the conspiracies and subversive acts of internal and external destructive elements could be prevented in time. In

conclusion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo stressed the need to make continuous efforts for the State's development through the support and unity of people.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the crop plantations of the lo-

cal battalion. At the People's Hospital in Myawady Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the hospital and gave necessary instructions. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented K 500,000 of cash assistance for medical fund of the hospital

through Head of the Health Department Dr Khin Maung Nyunt.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo arrived at Myawady Friendship Bridge between the border of Myanmar and Thailand and inspected the durability of retaining wall

from Myanmar side.

On arrival at Myawady BEHS, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with the headmaster and teachers at the school hall and gave instructions on the effective use of teaching and learning aids. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented K 500,000 of cash assistance for the development of education sector.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed the construction of Myawady-Thingan Nyinaung Asia Highway. MNA

It is important for the State service personnel to know the objective conditions of Myanmar at present and all the officials under the guidance of the Head of the State, are striving day in, day out for the emergence of modern, developed and discipline-flourishing country.

Yangon Command Commander honours victorious athletes

YANGON, 13 Nov — Yangon Command is striving for enhancement of its sports standard systematically in line with the motto — uplift of the Sports sector is the safeguarding of the State.

Yesterday evening, the ceremony to honour

victorious athletes who won championship shields and trophies in the soccer (youth, chess, basketball and Sepak Takraw (senior) events in the 2005 Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Meets was

held at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander of Yangon Command, accepted championship shields and trophies handed over by victorious teams and awarded cash prizes to them.

At the dinner hosted by the commander and wife, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that the athletes and officials are to maintain their victorious traditions in respective sports events and to make all-out efforts for making more progress. The athletes, officials and guests were hosted dinner.

Yangon Command fetched six championship shields and three first prizes, totalling nine in the sports meets of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in 2005.

MNA



Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts a shield won by a victorious team.—MNA

Weather forecast for 14-11-2005

Isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.