Virati papa, to refrain from sin; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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YANGON, 25 Oct — Under the patronage of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaying Kyaying, families of the Yangon City Development Committee offered Kathina robes to monks for the eighth time at Thathana Zayya Mingala Sarthintaik in Natchaung Ward in Tamway Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Daw Kyaying Kyaying, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Dr Daw Khan Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khan Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, wives of the members of the State Peace and Development Council, wives of the ministers, YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the vice mayor and members of the YCDC and their wives, wellwishers and guests.

First, the ceremony to reordain Bawditahtaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Narada was held with the sponsorship of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaying Kyaying at Thathana Zayya Mingala Theindawgyi. Daw Kyaying Kyaying and Daw Mya Mya San presented offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Next, the eighth Kathina robes offering ceremony was held at the three-storey building of the Sarthintaik. Thathana Zayya Mingala Sarthintaik President Sayadaw Bhaddanta Parivinda invested the congregation with the Five Precepts and the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited parittas. Daw Kyaying Kyaying, Daw Mya Mya San, Dr Daw Khan Win Shwe and Daw Khan Than Nwe and the congregation presented Kathina robes and offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Osadha delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. And the ceremony came to a close with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciramtitthatu.

Later, Daw Kyaying Kyaying performed the rituals of gold and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony, and offered ‘soon’ to the monks. — MNA

Development projects being implemented with emphasis on raising people’s living standard

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets departmental officials in Kawthoung District

YANGON, 25 Oct — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, together with Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Quarter-master-General Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left Bokpyin by helicopter and arrived at Kawthoung on 23 October afternoon.

The Secretary-1 and party met with chairmen of Kawthoung District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity And Development Association and social organizations and townsmen at Myinzuthaka Hall.

At the meeting, District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Phyo reported on extended paddy cultivation for regional rice sufficiency, progress in planting of oil palms at the farms of entrepreneurs, progress in extended growing of rubber, and measures taken for promotion of the meat and fish sector.

(See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Make sustained efforts for realization of goals set by UN’s Millennium Declaration

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe has sent a message to the ceremony to mark the Fifty-eighth Anniversary of United Nations Day on 24 October.

It is stated in the message that the leaders of the nations of the world greeted the arrival of the new millennium with the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This important document embodies a large number of specific commitments aimed at improving the lot of humanity in the new century. Among the areas on which commitments have been made, peace and security are priorities.

The United Nations was established with the aim of eradicating the scourge of war, of strengthening peace in conformity with justice and international law, and of respecting the equal rights of nations large and small, among others. Since its inception, the United Nations has tirelessly worked to achieve its goals for the benefit of humankind. Remarkable achievements have been attained in many areas, while success has proved to be elusive in others.

Strengthening respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs, taking concerted action against international terrorism, redoubling efforts to counter the world drug problem, intensifying efforts to fight transnational crime, resolving armed conflicts, and disarmament matters are goals set by the Millennium Declaration to be implemented by the States in this century. Other priority areas of commitment are development and poverty eradication.

This is the third year since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. Being a member of the World Organization, Myanmar like other member countries is making relentless efforts in realization of the goals set by Millennium Declaration.

In this regard, it is stated in the message that Myanmar, as a member of the World Organization, believes that it is important to realize the commitments made in Millennium Declaration in a comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and balanced manner at the national, regional and international levels.

The United Nations was formed with 51 countries in 1945 and member countries have now increased to 191. The United Nations will continue to exist as the rays of hope for the entire humanity on which it mainly represents.

The role of the United Nations is greater than ever before in safeguarding peace and security, and boosting the international cooperation and development.

Therefore, it is believed that Myanmar, a member nation of the United Nations will make continued efforts in realization of the goals set by Millennium Declaration, respecting purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Ministry of Rail Transportation offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 25 Oct — Families of the Ministry of Rail Transportation today offered Kathina robes to monks for 12th time at the hall of the ministry at the corner of Merchant Street and Theinbyu Road.

Present on the occasion were Dhammi Kayon Pali Takkkatho Dewa from Nagar Taw Khat, Theinmony Monastery on Theinbyu Road Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita U Indika and members of the Sangha, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin and wife, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and wife, advisers to the ministry, directors-general and managing directors, officials and staff families. — MNA

Commander addresses 9th Conference of Myanmar Veterinary Medical Association

YANGON, 25 Oct — The commander highlighted the role of veterinary surgeons in food security, economic development and public health, and pointed out the concentrated efforts of the government for the development of the meat and fish sector, one of the most promising economic sectors of the country that earns foreign exchange by export of surplus products. The State had given guidance on taking measures for distribution of quality breed of livestock, extension of prawn breeding, and emphasizing the rural livestock breeding development, he said. Veterinary surgeons are required to contribute towards the efforts of the government for development of raising local fowls in rural areas for consumption and systematic breeding of broilers for export.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein made a speech.

Next, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein and President of MVMA Dr Than Daing formally opened the commemorative exhibition of the conference. A total of 15 livestock breeding companies has opened over twenty booths at the exhibition. Dr Mya Nyunt, Dr Ko Ko Gyi, and Dr Than Tint presided over the session of the conference held at 11.30 am.

Dr Mya Nyunt, Dr Than Daing and Dr Saw Pale Saw spoke on the occasion. Afterwards, paper reading sessions were held. The conference and paper reading session continue tomorrow. — MNA

Yagon Division General Enterprise Cooperative Syndicate holds Annual General Meeting

YANGON, 25 Oct — The annual general meeting of the 2002-2003 fiscal year of Yangon Division General Enterprise Cooperative Syndicate took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogoke Aung San Street here this morning, with an address by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Aung Maung Win.

Chairman of the syndicate U Ye Aung made an opening speech. The director-general of the Cooperative Department presented the award for outstanding performance in cooperative activities to the cooperative syndicate of Thakaya Township.

The chairman presented profits to a representative of the syndicate members.

Myanmar delegation arrives back

Delegation member Col Hla Min also arrived back here on the same flight. — MNA

Myanmar delegation led by Minister U Tin Wynn being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Driver SAFELY

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Myanmar delegation led by Minister U Tin Wynn being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA
China’s oil sector opens slightly to private wholesalers

BEIJING, 25 Oct— The government’s recent move to approve private firms as wholesalers of refined oil products will not particularly rock the dominance of the two largest state-owned oil companies in this sector, experts say.

However, the green light to open what until now has been a tightly controlled market indicates that PetroChina and Sinopec will face some stiffer competition, Thursday’s China Daily reported.

The number of domestic players is expected to grow gradually before the market is completely exposed to foreign giant firms in 2006 as part of China’s commitment to the World Trade Organization. Earlier this month, the domestically listed Hubei Tianfa Group, a company spokesman said they plan to occupy half of the wholesale market for refined products. It was the first wholesale licence granted by the government in four years.

In a market overhaul in 1999, the government recalled thousands of wholesale licences for its refined oil products. It was the first wholesale licence granted by the government in four years.

Almost a decade ago, the government’s rise to dominate the entire oil sector was already on with African developments. The issue is whether it is realistic to expect that the traditional knowledge of the developing world will be adequately protected.

"Our traditional knowledge is protected, the country would have to fight patents claimed by others as in the case of baladi (turmeric), a special type of rice, which was a costly affair," he said.

The government hoped the move would help the two companies get a better grip of the market and control prices to sustain the revenue streams at their lubricating refineries that absorb millions of workers and contribute millions in tax revenues to the government. Tianfa, which operates more than 100 filling stations, said the licence-call-off has virtually paralyzed its oil storage facilities, which absorbed an investment of more than 10 billion yuan ($2 billion US dollars), and sent its profits plummeting.

Now with a wholesale licence in hand, company spokesman said they plan to occupy half of the wholesale market for refined products in Hubei Province, which is now being dominated by Sinopec. According to its blue-prints, Tianfa also plans to expand its retail network to 3,000 gasoline stations and become the third largest retailer in five years.

India to help others in protecting traditional knowledge

NEW DELHI, 25 Oct — Warning the world against “scientific and technological colonialism”, India on Thursday offered to help all developing countries in protecting their traditional knowledge with patents so that it is not exploited by the West for making money.

"Our traditional knowledge is the result of hard work of our ancestors. It should be used for the benefit of humanity. But in this competitive world of patents, it needs to be protected," Science and Technology Minister Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said here at the launch of the CD of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

"The grant of patents on non-patentable knowledge which is either a part of the traditional knowledge of the developing world or a minor variation thereof has been causing great concern to the developing world," he said.

"Unless the traditional knowledge is protected, the country would have to fight patents claimed by others as in the case of baladi (turmeric), a special type of rice), which was a costly affair," he said.

The visit was concluded by the fact that India favours technology with a human face, he said knowledge should not be exploited to make money. "It should be accessible and affordable rather than being in the domain of few," he said. Talks were already on with African countries in the direction of safeguarding their traditional knowledge. —MNA/PTI
Three US troops killed in Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD, 25 Oct.—A mortar attack killed two American soldiers and wounded four others on Friday at an outpost north of Baghdad, and a third American died in a gunbattle in the northern city of Mosul, the US military said.

The mortar attack occurred about noon at a 4th Infantry Division forward operating base near Samara, 70 miles north of Baghdad, the US Central Command said. It was the second mortar attack against a 4th Infantry Division position in as many days. Late Thursday, 13 soldiers from the division were wounded when a mortar struck a hangar at the U.S. Camp War Horse near Baqouba, 40 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The 4th Infantry is responsible for security in a large swath of territory in northern Iraq and has suffered more attacks than any other US command in Iraq, according to American officials in Baghdad.

In Mosul, a soldier from the 101st Airborne Division was killed during a gunbattle before dawn Friday with armed men who attacked a grain storage facility, the military said. Since President Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1, 108 US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire. In Fallujah, a center of Sunni Muslim resistance 40 miles west of Baghdad, US soldiers were seen beating and kicking a pair of suspects detained after what witnesses said was a roadside bombing. It was the sixth attack by insurgents in Fallujah in as many days.

Iraqi witnesses said the attack took place near a bridge at the western end of Fallujah. The witnesses said three injured US soldiers were evacuated after American soldiers raked the area with gunfire.

After the attack, television footage showed US troops detaining several Iraqi civilians, with one soldier dragging a man from his vehicle and punching him repeatedly in the abdomen as he fell to the ground. Another soldier could be seen kicking a detainee in the legs before hauling him from the pavement and leading him away.

Elsewhere, police said two children aged 3 and 8 were killed and three adults wounded in a grenade attack on a police station in Mosul, a city that has been relatively quiet for weeks.

In another incident near Baqouba, an American patrol was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire Thursday night. US officials said the Americans pursued the two Iraqi attackers into a house and killed them, the military said.

Also Thursday, 4th Infantry troops detained six men digging by a roadside near Beiji, 120 miles north of Baghdad, with the intention to place bombs there.

Vietnam’s export turnovers up in first 10 months

HANOI, 25 Oct.—Vietnam is estimated to gain export turnovers of 16.35 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, posting a year-on-year increase of 22.7 percent.

In October alone, the country is forecast to earn 1.62 billion dollars from exports, up 2.2 percent against the previous month, putting an end to the turnover decreases in the four consecutive months starting in June, local newspaper Vietnam Investment Review reported on Thursday.

Between January and October, the volumes of six among 20 Vietnam’s key export items, namely rice, cashew nuts, garment and textile, wood products, coal and electrical wires and cables, have surpassed the targets set for the whole year.

In the period, the country is estimated to reap 1.85 billion dollars and 290 million US dollars from exporting seafood and rubber latex, year-on-year rises of 10.8 percent and 45 percent, respectively, respectively.—MNA/Xinhua

China welcomes India’s new peace moves with Pakistan

BEIJING, 25 Oct.—Aid of Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf’s visit here, China on Thursday lauded India for initiating new steps to ease the situation in south Asia, which is in accordance with the wishes of the international community.

“China welcomes all the efforts for the relaxation of relationship between Pakistan and India.” Chinese Foreign Minister spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue told reporters when asked to comment on New Delhi’s latest peace moves to ease ties with Islamabad.

“We sincerely hope that Pakistan and India can properly solve their disputes through dialogue and can calmly commit themselves to regional stability and development,” she said. “This is not only in the interest of the two countries and two peoples but is also a common expectation of the international community. So we welcome the decisions made by the Indian side,” Zhang said.

India on Wednesday announced a set of proposals includingaban bus service across the Line of Control between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad and restoration of cricketing and other sporting links.

Earlier, Zhang announced that Musharraf would pay a state visit to China from November 3 to 5 to meet with the new Chinese leadership for the first time.

Commenting on Musharraf’s visit, Zhang said that it would be of great importance to provide a further momentum to the smooth development of Sino-Pakistan ties.

Musharraf would be visiting China at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, who is also the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China. —MNA/PTI

US puts blood ban on soldiers returning from Iraq

ATLANTA, 25 Oct.—American soldiers returning from Iraq are being told not to give blood for up to one year to prevent the possible spread of a parasite into the US blood supply, federal health officials said on Thursday.

The precautionary ban was ordered by the Department of Defence and the nation’s largest association of blood banks following an outbreak of a parasitic leishmaniasis among US soldiers serving in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

Leishmaniasis, which is endemic in the Middle East, tropics and some parts of South America, is usually spread by the bite of sand flies. Those infected develop painless skin lesions that can, if left untreated, cause scars.

Visceral leishmaniasis, the more serious form of the disease, can damage internal organs and cause death. —MNA/Reuters

Africa expects millions of Chinese tourists

BEIJING, 25 Oct.—African representatives attending the World Tourism Organization General Assembly meeting here turned Monday to pressing China on the hope of gaining Approved Destination Status (ADS) for Chinese tour groups as soon as possible.

China’s tourism development progress could be seen from Beijing’s construction, said Roger Mahazovy, Minister of Tourism of Madagascar.

He said his nation would catch up with other pioneering African nations in image promotion in China. He hoped to open a tourism office here soon.

He said Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean, is the world’s fourth largest island, had many Chinese descendants. Chinese tourists who loved nature would be at home in Madagascar. —MNA/PTI

Hu Jintao meets Australian business leaders, NSW Governor, Premier

SYDNEY (Australia), 25 Oct.—Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday met with Australian business leaders and New South Wales Governor Marie Bashir and Premier Robert Carr, and exchanged views with them on strengthening cooperation between China and Australia.

During talks with Australian business leaders, President Hu was first briefed on the cooperation between Chinese and Australian companies. Hu said China will open up further to the outside world.

The Chinese and Australian economies are complementary to each other. With the Chinese economic fast growing, China’s demands for energy and resources will continue to rise, and the two sides can establish long-term, stable and cooperative relations through trade and investment as Australia is rich in natural resources, Hu said. China’s economic and consumption structures are changing, and demands for services like telecommunications, tourism, education and culture are booming, which provides great opportunities of cooperation between the two countries, the Chinese President said. China’s strategy to develop its western part and to revitalize its northeastern area offers increasing business opportunities, and China welcomes Australian companies to invest in China’s western and northeastern regions, Hu said.

Australian business leaders said they were encouraged by the great potential of cooperation between Australia and China and would work for the establishment of all-round economic and trade ties between the two sides. —MNA/Xinhua

A villager stands near a missile in a field near Baghdad International Airport on 26 October, 2003. Six months after the end of the war in Iraq, the country is still afoul in ammunition, despite coalition efforts to dispose of it. Between 650,000 to 1 million tons of ammunition remain unaccounted for, scattered all over the country.—INTERNET

Iraqi Shiite women and men, supporters of firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, attend the Friday noon prayers in Baghdad’s Shiite neighbourhood Sadr City. US deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz will start a four-day trip to Iraq. —INTERNET

Francis Nhema, Zimbabwe’s Minister of Environment and Tourism led the biggest delegation to China. He said Zimbabwe had the Victoria Falls and many ancient cultural relics. It was also home to elephants, lions, zebras and giraffes. Some couples went to Zimbabwe for special wedding ceremonies on elephant-back. He hoped Chinese tourists would catch up with other pioneering African nations in image promotion in China. —INTERNET

He said, “Zimbabwe and China have a long history of friendship.” —MNA/Xinhua

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PROTESTS AGAINST WAR IN IRAQ

People march behind a banner which reads ‘Donors’ Conference, Pillage of the Country, Out Invaders of Iraq’ during a protest against the International Donors Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq taking place in Madrid on 23 October, 2003. Dozens of activists rallied on Thursday criticising the possible additional dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq.

Islamic women protest against the Turkish government’s decision to send troops to Iraq in Istanbul. Banner reads ‘American media go home’.

Anti-war protesters gather in DC, SF

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct—Protesters began converging on the nation’s capital Friday for what they hope will be the largest anti-war demonstration since the fall of Baghdad.

Organizers predicted tens of thousands of people would turn out Saturday in Washington for a march and speeches calling for the removal of US forces from Iraq. Thousands of demonstrators also were expected to flock to San Francisco at the same time for the largest protests there since April, when more than 10,000 people filled the streets.

“The U.S. government has no right to try and recolonize Iraq,” said Peta Lindsay, national youth and student coordinator for International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), which organized the protests with another group, United for Peace and Justice.

To counter the anti-war demonstrations, the Washington chapter of Free Republic, an independent grassroots conservative group, also planned a rally for Saturday at the US Capitol, where organizers expect about 1,000 people.

“We support our troops and the commander in chief and their mission,” said Kristinn Taylor, co-leader of the group.

Protestors gather in front of the Parliament as US President George W Bush arrives to meet Australia’s Prime Minister John Howard and make a speech in Canberra, Australia, on 23 October, 2003. Bush is making the final stop of his six-nation Asia-Australia tour where he has sought support for the reconstruction of Iraq and the ongoing war against terror.

South Korean protesters shout slogans while carrying an anti-war banner during a rally near the National Assembly in Seoul on 23 October, 2003.

Dozens of activists rallied on Thursday criticising the possible additional dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq.
345 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Oct. 24—As of Friday, Oct. 24, 345 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defense. The British military has...  

Nigeria intensifies efforts to crack down on smuggling activities

Lagos, Oct. 25—In a new effort to stem smuggling activities, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has intensified its air patrols to track down culprits in the border areas, an NCS official said Thursday. Speaking at the end of a communication system course held in Kaduna, a leading commercial city in northern Nigeria, NCS Zonal Coordinator Felix Azorobo said that the NCS has trained 31 officers on air-to-ground communication skills to enable it to gather information on the location of smugglers along the country’s borders. “The service is committed to fighting smugglers fire-for-fire,” he said, adding that officers were trained on communication skills and other operational techniques to enable them effectively police the border areas...  

UNSG stresses key factors to ensure success in Iraq reconstruction

MUSCAT, Oct. 25—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said here Thursday that success in rebuilding Iraq depends not only on the availability of resources, but also on a number of other factors.

First and foremost is security. This will be the primary constraint both now and into the foreseeable future,” Annan said at the opening of the two-day conference on the reconstruction of Iraq, which brings together about 1,200 representatives from 71 countries, 20 international organizations and 225 private companies.

“Second is Iraq ownership and leadership. That means Iraqis defining their own priorities, deciding on strategies, and managing the activities that ensue,” Annan told the conference aimed at getting more cash and troops from other countries to rebuild Iraq and ease the burden on the United States.

“Third, any long-term institutional changes in Iraq's legal norms and economic and fiscal framework must have legitimacy, especially since such changes will affect future generations,” Annan added.

“Reconstruction is thus linked closely to the wider political process. I know we all look forward to the earliest possible establishment of a sovereign Iraqi Government but the start of the reconstruction cannot be delayed until that day,” said the UN chief, who came here on Wednesday and would not attend the conference proper as the day’s events progress at ministerial level.

According to the host Spain, the conference would seek to “set long-term reconstruction priorities, perhaps stretching over 10 years or longer, draw the participation of various countries and create a multilateral fund” for getting Iraq back on its feet.

The first day of the conference would feature largely technical discussions on Iraq’s needs in areas such as education, health and its electrical grid. Separate from the conference, representatives from 225 companies and several business associations from around the world will meet with Iraqi officials to discuss investment opportunities.

The United States is trying to drum up about 36 billion US dollars in donations from other countries. But with World Bank and UN analysts estimating the country’s needs at 55 billion dollars, almost three times as much as the pledges offered to date whether in donations or loans, the conference is likely to be only a first step along a rocky and winding road toward even a semblance of prosperity, analysts said...  

Canada, China vow to double trade volume by 2010

BEIJING, Oct. 25 — Canada and China have agreed to double bilateral trade by the year 2010, said Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien here Wednesday.

At a Press briefing, Chretien said he and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao agreed on this during their talks this morning. Prime Minister Chretien said they had “a lot of good discussions and the relations between China and Canada are very good.”

Basically we concluded that we have tripled our trade in the last ten years,” he said and that we have a goal of doubling our trade before the year 2010.” He said they had discussed many bilateral problems and decided to work to solve problems such as opening the Chinese market “a very important market”.

Chretien said they also discussed other fields of collaboration such as in fighting against SARS, which struck China as well as Canada this spring. He said they had talked for about an hour and it was “very rare” since they were very busy and they agreed to resume discussions this evening when they met with members of the Canada-China Business Council. As the deficit with China, Chretien said they agreed to work on this and close the gap but Canada also had deficits with other countries and this is not unique for China...  

BFA falls at best time for Asian cooperation

BEIJING, Oct. 25 — The second annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) will be held during a time when Asian cooperation has presented an unprecedented momentum for development, said BFA Secretary-General Long Yongtu on Thursday.

He called the meeting “very timely”, indicating that it will be held after two key international meetings, namely, the Association of the South-East Asian Nations meetings in early October and just-concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting. Long said at a Press conference that the second annual BFA meeting, to be held from November 2 to 3, will echo the above two meetings, and contribute to pushing forward the Asian regional cooperation.

So far, over 1,000 participants from the government, business and academic circles and media have confirmed they will attend, and five heads of states, four vice-prime ministers and nine former heads of states are included. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will be present at the meeting.

Long said that taking “Development through Cooperation” as the theme, the participants will discuss Asian financial cooperation, regional free trade, information and tourism industry cooperation...
The duty defined by the national cause-2

Ketu Nila

(Continued from yesterday)

Because of the armed and political opposition and conflicts of the factional prejudices, extreme racism, ex- reme leftists and colonialist lunatics, the Revolutionary Council and Government could not realize the aims of the national re-consolidation task as expected. However, the Revolutionary Council Government was able to transform the Burma Socialist Programme Party from the cadre party to the State party, hold the referendum to approve the 1974 Constitution, hold the election in accord with the Constitution and transfer the State power to the people on 2 March, and end the BSPP to lead the country.

The Constitution was drawn and approved to ensure harmony between the infrastructure (the economic system) and the superstructure (the management system). But it can be said that the BSPP could not implement the task in accord with the Constitution. The section 1 of the Constitution stated that the BSPP was the sole party that should lead the country. The single party law was enacted after taking lessons from the past disputes between the political parties that destroyed the national consolidation and denied the nation-building task. But the aims of the single party system could not be realized, instead, there surfaced the method of vote canvassing among the groups that was against the Constitution and bad organizational network in the Party Unit Committees.

The executive committees of the Party units were able to take the leading role in the functions of the State organs of power. Thus, their organization power rose. But some executives abused their power and got involved in the discharge of duties of the State service personnel. The consequence was that the executives themselves had violated the rules of the political, economic, social and administra tive machinery; they failed to follow the rule of making criticisms with the centralized democratic system and self-criticism, and also the democracy practices. The penetration of the leftist and rightist destructionists and opportunists into the Party had led to destroying the organi zational programme. Thus, the targets of the long-term and short-term socialist economic plans of the State could not be fully realized. The production fell, and the people were suffering from food, clothing and shelter problems. The black market and contraband trade flourished. Denomina tion of the local currency had destroyed the economic lives of the rich as well as the poor. Hence, the people lost faith in the government and the Party. They were longing for some thing new. Some socialist countries began and started facing instability. Those were the basic factors heading for anarchy. Those were the anarchist acts.

Because of the anarchic situation, the then Government could not rule the country anymore. The administra tive machinery came to a stop, and the anarchy reigned in the country. The duty to save the nation from disintegration and loss of independence and sovereignty fell on the Tatmadaw, the national institution and national force. In this regard, the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties on 18 September 1988 due to unavoidable situation.

Soon after taking over the State duties, the Tatmadaw stated the holding of multi-party democracy general election in its four main tasks to build a democratic nation in accord with the people’s wish. But some people demanded the rule of the country as they thought that establishment of democracy involved foreboding of political parties, standing for election, and formation of the government by a party that won in the election. If it is what they feel, they do not understand and believe in democracy. I dare say that the democracy nation built by those persons or organizations will be name in only word. It will be one country under dictatorial rule and the rule of sword or a minion country of the colonialists.

The Tatmadaw has been dutifully serving the country throughout history. Thus, the Tatmadaw has seen the parliamentary democracy of the AFPP, the democracy system of the Pa-Bha-sa, and the socialist democracy of the BSPP. It will choose the system of democracy that will flourish in the nation after weighing on the pros and cons of the previous democracies. Hence, building of the genuine discipline-flourish ing democracy nation based on culture, objective conditions of the social life amounts to discharging the duty defined by the national cause — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Myanmar delegation back from the Philippines

YANGON, 25 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Auditor General Maj-Gen Luin Maung arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 9th Con ference of Federation of Asian General Offices in Asia held in Manila, the Philippines. The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Air port by Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Auditor-General U Khin Win, Deputy Director-General of Auditor-General’s Office Daw Tin Kyi Oo, officials and families of the delega tion. Director-General of Auditor-General’s Office Daw Thin Than also arrived back here on the same flight.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever approached

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 25 Oct — The 2003 Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Fathatun Street from 26 to 30 November. Various kinds of cos metics, personal goods, textiles, foodstuffs, plastic items, electric and electronic appara ratus and stationery from Korea and Singapore, automo...
Development projects being…

Maung Maung Thein said development of the agricultural rice sufficiency, he added. He noted that the need for extended planting of oil palms for local edible oil sufficiency and growing rubber. He called on officials at all levels to make collective efforts and coordinate for economic development of Kawthoung region in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that the meat and fish sector is the most thriving and most reliable one for Taninthayi Division. So efforts will have to be made for further development of the sector.

If reliance is placed only on coastal and deep sea fish, there will be insufficient of rice sufficiency, he noted. Therefore, there is the need to extend fish and prawn breeding industry, he said. All to are emulate Averawaddy Dega regarding the meat and fish sector as it can extend the livestock breeding significantly and is making greater success in the sector than any other States and Divisions.

Taninthayi Division is endowed with water and land resources and there are also a lot of virgin and fallow land in the division. Thus, planting of perennial crops such as oil palms and rubber must be extended as scheduled, he said.

For ensuring regional rice sufficiency, it is effectively extending the cultivation of paddy. With the effective utilization of water and land resources of Taninthayi Division, income and the living standard of the people will rise. Only then will the region be economically strong, he added.

The staff and the people of Kawthoung District, adding that border areas development plan, rural areas development plan and 24 special development regions plan are being implemented in harmony for all-round development of the nation and Taninthayi Division.

Although the State does not gain much benefits economically by implementing the plans, the government has systematically implementing such plans for raising the living standard of the entire people, he added. Similarly, the government has spent a huge sum of money on construction of Kawthoung.

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein meets the chairman of Kawthoung Township War Veterans Organizing Committee and members. — mna

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye makes a speech in meeting with the chairmen of Kawthoung District and Township PDCs, members, service personnel and townsenders at Myintzathuka hall in Kawthoung. — mna
Development projects being implemented...

The minister also inspected mixed plantation of rubber and pineapple at Shweda rubber farm.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected distribution of fuel at Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise in Myeik yesterday afternoon. The minister met with the staff and gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage of fuel and fire preventive measures.

Coordination meeting of the Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens held

YANGON, 25 Oct — Work coordination meeting of the Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens was held yesterday afternoon. The committee was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the chairman of Myanmar Housing and Construction Committee and members. Yesterday afternoon, Minister for Yangon Division Peace and Development Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by officials, inspected the site chosen for construction of a dam in Myeik.

Also present were Chairmen of the Work Committee for Upgrading Yangon Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Command-Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, and members of the work committee.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on undertaking the upgrading of Kandawgyi Garden by designating four zones, sectorwise tasks being carried out in the respective zones, completion of works, and future tasks with the use of charts and designs. Next, Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on arrangements for location of restaurants, and construction tasks to be carried in Myanmar traditional style. Afterwards, Major Brig- Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on upgrading tasks of the relaxation zone such as putting modern design and timely completion, and Managing Director U Win Aung of Woodland Co Ltd on construction of the swimming pool, shops, the modern aquarium, and car parking with modern designs in the education zone and landscaping works in the recreation zone.

Next, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and coordinated the works out, he said. In conclusion, he urged officials of the departments concerned to systematically cooperate in upgrading the garden with a view to conserving natural environment and modernizing the city.

After the meeting the Prime Minister and party viewed round the upgrading tasks in the recreation zone of the garden. — MNA

Agricultural and livestock breeding works inspected

YANGON, 25 Oct — Chair of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, together with division level departmental officials, inspected agricultural, livestock breeding and regional development works in Yangon North District this afternoon. At the Lalhuapung nursery of the Forest Department in Taikkyi, officials reported on sowing of saplings to be grown for the greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon. The commander inspected the nursery. Next, the commander and party viewed the harvesting of 100 ares of monsoon paddy in Transport Planning Division under the Ministry of Transport and Communications from the Philippines; Mr Wong Kok Ohn, Director of the Ministry of Transport from Singapore; Mr Nixorn Chammong, Deputy Minister of Transport from Thai land; Mr Pham The Minh, Deputy Minister of Transport from Vietnam; Mr Zhang Chuxun, Minister of Transport from China; Mr Yoususke Tsuruho, Parliamentary Secretary for Land, Infrastructure and Transport from Japan; Mr Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary-General; Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung; high-ranking officials from ASEAN member countries, U Hla Tun, Director (News) of the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information; U Maung Maung Aye, Chief Editor of the New Light of Myanmar; U Tin Hlaing, Chief Editor of the Myanmar News Agency (Internal); U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Myanmar Foreign Correspondent Club’s Patron U Hla Hwe, President (See page 12)

Press conference on meetings of 9th ATM, 2nd ASEAN+China TM, and 1st ASEAN+Japan TM held

YANGON, 25 Oct — A press conference was held at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon, regarding the 9th ASEAN Ministers Meetings, the Second ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting, and the First ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting, all of which were hosted in the Union of Myanmar.

Present on the occasion were Mr Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria Sulaiman, Minister of Communications from Brunei Darussalam; Mr Chin Kong Heng, Director-General of Public Works and Transport from Cambodia; Mr Kalalo Nugroho, Director of the Legal Affairs and International Cooperation Bureau from Indonesia; Mr Bouathong Vonglakham, Minister of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction from Lao PDR; Dato Zahara Shaari, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Transport from Malaysia; Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Transport from Myanmar; Mr Arnel R. Mamase, Head of the Road…

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 26 October, 2003 9
The Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting was held in Yangon, Myanmar on 23-24 October 2003.

1. The Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting was held in Yangon, Myanmar on 23-24 October 2003. The 16 Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) held on 20-21 October 2003. HE Maj Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister of Transport for Myanmar chaired the Ninth ATM, with HE Mr Chinh Khoi Nguyen, Deputy Minister for Public Works and Transport for Cambodia as Vice-Chairman.

2. The Ministers had a retreat where they had candid exchange of views on the broadening and deepening of policy and programme directions for ASEAN transport cooperation, particularly in the light of the new challenges and opportunities set by the ASEAN leaders in the Ninth ASEAN Summit Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 7-8 October 2003.

Opening Ceremony

HE General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, officially opened the Ninth ATM. In his Opening Address, the Prime Minister expressed that the Ninth ATM assumed special significance as it had taken place a fortnight after the Ninth ASEAN Summit. He stated that the role of transportation networks connecting all ASEAN states cannot be overemphasized in the ASEAN Community's goal of a single market and regional integration. With the progressive development of infrastructure, he believed that Myanmar could become a transport hub connecting Southeast Asia and South Asia as well as with China. The Prime Minister affirmed Myanmar's full support to the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link. He expressed confidence that the SKRL spur line to Myanmar will also receive due attention and support for such a development would benefit all countries on the Singapore-Kunming rail route.

Transport in the ASEAN Economic Community

4. The Ministers welcomed the 9th ASEAN Summit's decision to formalize the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) as the end-goal of economic integration in the ASEAN region by the year 2020. The Ministers realized that the efficient and integrated transport system is key for ASEAN to integrate with the global economy, improve competitiveness and enhance the inflow of foreign direct investment.

5. In moving forward the AEC, the Ministers agreed to intensify regional activities to enhance multimodal transport linkages and interconnectivity, promote the seamless movement of peoples and goods, promote further liberalization in the air and maritime transport services, and further improve integration and efficiency of the transport and supporting logistics systems. The Ministers tasked their senior officials to prepare an updated transport cooperation plan for 2005-2010, for adoption at the Tenth ATM.

6. The Ministers, in line with the ASEAN leaders' directive to accelerate the integration of the air travel and tourism sectors, tasked their officials to develop a regionally integrated and coordinated transport system. The Ministers agreed to upgrade and formalize transport relations in a more holistic and integrated manner, as well as lay the solid foundation for medium-to-long term transport cooperation.

To achieve this, the Ministers agreed to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on ASEAN-China transport cooperation to support the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area initiative. The Ministers agreed to upgrade and formalize transport relations in a more holistic and integrated manner, as well as lay the solid foundation for medium-to-long term transport cooperation.

ANNEX: ASEAN—Japan Transport Partnership Projects

1. Maritime Transport Security Programme
2. Transport Logistics Project
3. Transport Policy Officials Training in Japan
4. Seafarers Policy Cooperation
5. New Air Navigation System
6. Automotive Technical Cooperation Project
7. Safety and Environment
8. ASEAN Railways Revival Plan
9. Cruise Promotion Project
10. Port Technology Research Project
11. Urban Transport Policy Framework
12. Cooperation on Coast Guard Development
13. Public Transport Smart Card Initiative
14. High Speed Maritime Network Project
15. ‘Mega-Floot’ Promotion Project
16. Intelligent Transport System Development
17. Road Signage Harmonization in ASEAN

First ATM + Japan

1. The First ATM and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting was convened in Tokyo, Japan in the second quarter of 2004, to assess the implementation progress of the 16 joint projects in the third quarter of 2004.

2. The First ATM + Japan will be held in Cambodia in October 2004.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

To promote the agricultural sector, new dams are being built by the State Peace and Development Council. This is the newly built Thinpon Dam in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division.

Photo MNA

The government is building a network of roads and bridges, with the conviction that transportation plays a vital role in regional development. This photo shows the Kwinchaung Bridge in Pyu, Toungoo District, Bago Division.

Photo MNA

The Photo shows the Institute of Medicine in Magway. It is the symbol of endeavours made by the State Peace and Development Council for development of various sectors of the country.

Photo MNA
Two draft laws to be deliberated by NPC

BEIJING, 25 Oct—Draft laws on securities investment fund and transportation safety will be submitted for deliberation at the fifth meeting of the 10th Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), which opened here Thursday.

Chairman Wu Bangguo of the NPC Standing Committee presided over Thursday’s meeting.

The two draft laws have been deliberated by the NPC Standing Committee for several times previously.

According to Hu Guangbao, vice-chairman of the NPC Law Committee, the current draft law on transportation safety provided specific management over vehicles for agricultural uses while insuring transportation departments exercise unified management over all vehicles.

Besides, it limited the precondition in conducting safety checks over vehicles to the necessity of only car licence and the compulsory insurance policy on the third party responsibility and in the meantime included a special item to offer reasonable awards to law-biding drivers.

According to Wang Yiming, another vice-chairman of the NPC Law Committee, the current draft law on securities investment fund aims to improve both the quality and stability of the securities management companies and their executives.

“The law bears great significance in standardizing the investment of securities and funds, safeguarding the investors’ legitimate rights and interests and ensuring the healthy growth of the securities market,” said Wang.— MNA/Xinhua

China sets up reserve to protect wild rice species

CHANGSHA, 25 Oct—China’s central-south province of Hunan, a major rice production base, has set up a wild-rice species protection reserve in its Chaling County, according to the provincial agriculture department.

The province is also planning to open a similar reserve for wild soybean species, to protect the genes of wild plant species, the department said.

Furthermore, the two leaders shared the view that the Korea-Singapore FTA would strengthen the basis for South Korea’s engagement in Southeast Asia and Singapore’s engagement in Northeast Asia, thereby also contributing to further trade liberalization and economic integration in East Asia, it said.

The statement added that Prime Minister Roh and President Roh also shared the view that the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula through dialogue is essential for the maintenance of peace and stability not only in Northeast Asia but in the world.

The installation, here on a three-day state visit to Singapore on October 22-24, 2003 at the invitation of Singapore President SR Nathan.

Total trade between Singapore and South Korea amounted to some 7.7 billion US dollars in 2002.

The proposed Korea-Singapore FTA, when effective, could result in tariff savings for Singapore businesses of close to 100 million Singapore dollars (about 58 million US dollars) a year.— MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, SKorea to begin free trade negotiations in early 2004

SINGAPORE, 25 Oct—Singapore and South Korea have agreed to start Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations early next year, a Singapore-South Korea joint statement said here on Thursday.

The two countries also hope to conclude a comprehensive and WTO-consistent FTA within a year, said the joint statement published by the Prime Minister’s Office of Singapore.

The statement said that during the summit meeting held on October 23 between Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and visiting South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the “remarkable development” of Singapore-South Korea bilateral ties in political, economic, social and cultural fields.

They agreed that further trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, along with bilateral cooperation in various areas, would be to the mutual benefit of the two countries by “providing greater opportunities and larger economies of scale” for the South Korea and Singapore businesses, said the statement.

Furthermore, the two leaders shared the view that the Korea-Singapore FTA would strengthen the basis for South Korea’s engagement in Southeast Asia and Singapore’s engagement in Northeast Asia, thereby also contributing to further trade liberalization and economic integration in East Asia, it said.

The statement added that Prime Minister Goh and President Roh also shared the view that the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula through dialogue is essential for the maintenance of peace and stability not only in Northeast Asia but in the world.

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The proposed Korea-Singapore FTA, when effective, could result in tariff savings for Singapore businesses of close to 100 million Singapore dollars (about 58 million US dollars) a year.— MNA/Xinhua

China to strengthen ties with GCC

MUSCAT, 25 Oct—China is willing to further strengthen its ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council and its members, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said Thursday.

Wu Guanzheng, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, made the remarks while meeting with Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Fahad Bin Sultan.

China and Oman are politically friendly and economically complementary, and have extensive cooperation scope, said Wu, who arrived here Tuesday night for an official goodwill visit.

Mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries has progressed into a new stage, Wu said. China and Oman have swiftly enlarged cooperation in the oil sector and some Chinese companies have participated in a number of infrastructure projects in Oman.

He appreciated the GCC’s efforts in maintaining regional stability and active participation in regional and international affairs, saying China thanks Oman for enhancing ties between China and the GCC.

The Chinese new leadership will work to further relations with the GCC and its members, Wu said.

Fahad said that China has advanced in a very stable and healthy way over recent years and is playing an increasing role in regional and international affairs.

As developing countries, he said, Oman and China have a very solid basis for their relationship and face many identical problems and challenges.

Earlier Thursday, Wu met with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, and Minister of Commerce and Industry Maqbool Bin Ali Bin Sultan.

The two sides exchanged views and reached consensus on how to strengthen coordination in international affairs and to expand trade and investment between the two countries.— MNA/Xinhua

N-power project

HANGZHOU, 25 Oct—Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien Thursday hailed the completion of the third phase of the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant, the biggest cooperation project between China and Canada.

Zeng described the project as an “important milestone” in the history of economic cooperation between China and Canada.

At a ceremony marking the completion of the project, he said it was a great “success” and technology breakthroughs had been made in the project.

Extending the hope that the two countries would continue to enhance cooperation, Zeng said Canadian business people were warmly welcomed to seek opportunities and development in China.

Chretien said the completion of the project stemmed from the concerted efforts of technological staff from both countries.

He said the Canadian Government valued ties with China, and was willing to promote exchanges and cooperation in fields like politics and economy.

Before the ceremony, the two leaders met and discussed investment and economic cooperation.

After the meeting, they attended a ceremony unveiling a monument marking the completion of the project.

World’s largest Kwan-yin sculpture to be positioned in Hainan

HAIKOU, 25 Oct—A 108-metre-high sculpture of Kwan-yin, or Bodhisattva of infinite compassion and mercy, is being positioned in Sanya city of south China’s Hainan Island province, bringing another tourist attraction to the scenic city famed for its tropical beach landscape.

The installation, which was formerly started in mid-October, will be completed in the latter half of next year.

The sculpture, the world’s largest maritime Buddhist statue, consists of a steel framework and coat. The sculpture coat, made of two-millimetre alloy plate, weighs some 200 tons and has a total area of over 10,000 square metres. Upon completion of installation, the giant sculpture will stand on a cliff of the Nanshan Mountain, located 38.5 metres above sea level.— MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Canadian leaders hail N-power project

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A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

INVITATION

HUNAN YANCHENG FAIR, 2003

10TH AUGUST—15TH SEPTEMBER

Hunan boasts rich diversity of wild plants fields.
Second ATM+China and...

(from page 16)

(b) Implementation of the commercial navigation agreement on the upper Lancang-Mekong River.

(c) Facilitation of Cross-Border Road Transport in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), and

(d) Construction of the Pan-Asia Railway.

We learned that our officials in the Second STOM+China have taken note of the substantive developments, particularly on the proposed ASEAN-ASEAN+China Transport Ministers Meeting.

In conclusion, on behalf of the ASEAN Transport Senior Officials Meeting, I sincerely hope that we could successfully put the good cycle into dynamic motion and lay down a sound basis for creating greater opportunities to work together toward the future.

The 1st ASEAN+Japan Transportation Ministers Meeting, on which Mr. Yousuke Tsuruho, Transport Minister of Japan, expressed his appreciation, came to an end at 12.30 am.

After which, the meeting ended with a discussion on the recommendations and follow-up steps of our officials on the proposed ASEAN+China Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cross-Border Road Transport.

In conclusion, we will discuss and deliberate on the recommendations and follow-up steps of our officials on the proposed ASEAN+China Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cross-Border Road Transport.

The 1st ATM+China meeting was held from 10.15 am. Those present at the meeting were then sought for the report on the progress of the joint statement of the 1st ATM+China Meeting held on 22 October. Discussions were also made on the report of the 2nd ATM+China Meeting held on 22 October. Discussions were also made on the report of the 2nd ATM+China Meeting held on 22 October.

In conclusion, he expressed thanks, on behalf of the delegates of ASEAN countries, to the delegation for the contribution towards the progress of the second conference.

Next, Mr. Yousuke Tsuruho extended greetings, saying that looking back on the past year or two, we can see some remarkable developments in the cooperation between Japan and ASEAN. Our leaders have repeatedly expressed their intentions to strengthen economic ties between Japan and ASEAN. Efforts towards the Japan change, the transport sector has a vital role to play. We have many reasons to strengthen our partnership in the short and medium term. First of all, trade and transport provides the infrastructure for other economic and social activities. Without an efficient transport network, active trade and investment cannot be realized. Efforts to establish and improve transport networks should precede any real economic integration.

In this First Ministers Meeting, I sincerely hope that we could successfully put the good cycle into dynamic motion and lay down a sound basis for creating greater opportunities to work together toward the future.

In conclusion, we will discuss and deliberate on the recommendations and follow-up steps of our officials on the proposed ASEAN+China Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cross-Border Road Transport.

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Song Hongjuan sets Asian record in women's 20,000m walk

Changsha, 25 Oct—Song Hongjuan from Nanjing City clocked one-hour 29 minutes and 32 seconds to set a new Asian record in the women’s 20,000km walk at the 5th Chinese City Games on Friday. The previous mark of 1:36:28 was set by Xue Ailing in the last city games four years ago.

Song Hongjuan, 19, outwalked her teammate Jiang Jin and Boston Games bronze medalist Gao Kelian from Xi’an City for the title in the event.

Jiang Jin was timed at 1:31:08 and Gao Kelian third at 1:34:58. Gu Junjie set a new Asian junior record in the men’s triple jump at 16.90m, winning the gold with ease.

He Jun, from Chongqing, became the fastest runner in the games, winning the men’s 100m sprint in 10.46 seconds while Zou Yingting, from host Changsha, won the women’s 100m at 11.53 seconds.

MNA/Reuters

Ferguson says Man United still seeking top form

Manchester (England), 25 Oct—Premier League champions Manchester United will not be at their best until after Christmas, according to their manager Alex Ferguson.

“United have made their best start to a season for 10 years after winning seven of their opening nine games and losing just one to lie second in the table behind Arsenal. But Ferguson insists they will not peak until the last few months of the season as they seek a ninth Premier League title in 12 years.”

“We don’t usually (hit top form yet) anyway. What we have done is we have been consistent,” said Ferguson.

“What we hope to do is maintain that consistency up to New Year and we always feel we improve in the second half. “There’s no doubt Chelsea and Arsenal have achieved a great consistency themselves.

“We want a consistency up to New Year and I think after New Year we will be in a good position.”

Ferguson’s words were echoed by winger Ryan Giggs, who returns to league action against Fulham on Saturday after recovering from illness to help United win at Rangers in the Champions League on Wednesday.

“I don’t think there’s a lot missing and I think the form, generally, has been good,” said Giggs.

“But I think we realise it’s a long season and I think we can definitely go up a gear. I think when the big games come that’s when you see the lads respond.

“I think the team, generally, is not firing on all cylinders, but we are playing quite well and we realize if we show this form and if we’re there or whereabouts at the turn of the year then we’ve got a chance.”

Sixth-placed Fulham have made a decent start to the season under Chris Coleman, who at 32 is the youngest manager in the top flight.

“That was the age I was when I started but I was at a lowly (Scottish) Second Division club,” said Ferguson.

“He (Coleman) is right into the Premier Division in England and that’s not easy. But he has galvanized them. They are playing in a very determined way and are difficult to beat.

“It won’t be easy, but I think the form of the team has been good. There has been a good atmosphere and spirit about the players.”

Ferguson will not be able to sit near Coleman in the dug-out as he starts a two-match touchline ban.

“I don’t think it’s a tremendous handicap,” he said.

“It’s not the best situation but we will have a communication system that will help me get in contact with (coach) Mike Phelan.”

Ferguson says Man United still seeking top form

MNA/Reuters

Traditional Asian archery exhibition opens in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 25 Oct—An archery-culture exhibition was held Friday in Hong Kong. The exhibition, titled “Archery Traditions of Asia”, features 200 pieces relating to the traditional archery of China and other Asian regions as well as the history, folklore, rituals and the construction of traditional bows and arrows.

Ancient Asian bows, including a 2,000-year-old Chinese single-wood self-bow, one of the earliest examples of Chinese bows, arrows, archery equipment and bow-making tools were on display.

The invaluable artifacts were on loan from a private collector Stephen Selby, the governor of Asian Traditional Archery Research Network.

From the Paleolithic period 25,000 years ago, China’s ancestors already had commanded bow-making skills. Archery has long held an important place in Chinese literature as well as the folk-culture of Chinese minorities.

From the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.), bows and arrows were favoured on the battlefield because of their long range.

Bow-makers were continually challenged to improve the design of the bow to meet new military needs — smaller size, greater strength, weather-resistance and durability. Chinese military technicians invented the crossbow around 600 BC.

As archery skills were considered essential in hunting and warfare, the art was absorbed into the court by the ruling classes of the Shang and Zhou (1046-256 B.C.) periods.

It became one of the six basic skills along with ritual, music, chariot-driving, writing and arithmetic, and evolved from a military skill into a religious ritual, an entertainment for guests, and finally the imperial military examination system in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Members of the Qing (1644-1911)Imperial Court, originally residing in northeast China, brought their own distinctive style of bows to Chinese culture. They appreciated fine bows as works of art, and preferred heavy bows with long ears, capable of shooting arrows more than a metre long with steel tips that could pierce armour.

Following cultural exchange and interaction across China’s borders, China’s archery techniques and bow-making skills greatly influenced neighbouring regions.

With the abolition of the imperial military examination system and the import of firearms, traditional bows and arrows became useless and archery a declining tradition.

Traditional Asian archery exhibition opens in Hong Kong

MNA/Reuters

French midfielder extends contract with Fulham

London, 25 Oct—French midfielder Steed Malbranque has signed a contract extension with Fulham and will stay at the English Premier League club until the summer of 2007.

Malbranque, who joined Fulham two years ago, has been one of the key players for his club, scoring 13 goals last season. He has had one goal along with three assists this season.

He is also encouraged to extend his stay by Fulham’s performance this season under the tutelage of new manager Chris Coleman. Fulham, rated as likely to be relegated at the end of this season, continued to prove their doubters wrong by standing sixth in the current league standings.

“I think the future here looks very good, and I would say that I think we will be able to bring some success here,” said Malbranque.

“I hope that this will put a positive message out to the fans. I know they are behind me, and I think it was important to reassure them about the future by signing,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Casey leads by four strokes in Madrid

Madrid, 25 Oct—Paul Casey led the Madrid Open by four strokes on Friday but the 26-year-old Briton will have to finish off his second round on Saturday, following a two-hour morning frost delay at Club de Campo.

First round leader Casey stood 13-under-par after 15 holes, currently four shots better than the target set by clubhouse leaders Paul Lawrie and Stephen Gallacher of Scotland and Australian 44-year-old Peter Fowler.

Rounds of seven-under par 64 by 1999 British Open champion Lawrie and Gallacher, who incurred a one-shot penalty for accidentally hitting his ball on the practice putt at the 15th, and a 66 by Fowler, hauled them up the leader board.

Swede Martin Olander and another Australian, Nick O’Hern, the only one high on the leaderboard to complete his second round in the afternoon, are a stroke off the clubhouse lead.

Because of bad light, only O’Hern’s three ball of the afternoon half of the 126-strong field completed their second rounds and the remainder will restart at 0730 GMT on Saturday.

One player from the second half of the draw who will not be restarting, however, is 45-year-old Sandy Lyle.

The double-major champion and three-times European number one ended his 25 years holding a European Tour card when he retired at the fourth hole, suffering from a bad cold and aching muscles that debilitated his swing.

Having lost his chance of rejoining the top-40 players on the career money-list who automatically keep their cards, Lyle will have to rely on past wins and invitations for the 2004 season.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 He sells from barrow
4 A benefice
5 Pink flower
9 Hunting whip
10 Learning
15 Chirpy insect
17 Silly smile
19 Give out
20 Holm-oak
22 Long cut
23 Air nipped (ang.) (5,4)
24 Killer
25 Decide

DOWN
1 Domestic pottery
2 Snare
3 Milk curdler
4 Brood
5 Stringed instrument
6 Mourn
7 Linked
8 One end of earth’s axis (5,4)
11 Prepared
12 Ghostly in colour
15 Bulb herbs
16 Better ventilated
17 Hillsides
18 Irritate
21 See-through photo (1-3)
22 Blemish

MNA/Xinhua

Switzerland’s Roger Federer serves against his opponent Ivan Ljubicic from Croatia during their second round match at the Swiss Indoor tennis tournament in Basel, Switzerland, on 23 October, 2003.—Reuters
Press conference on meetings of the 9th ATM, 2nd ASEN+China TM and 1st ASEN+Japan TM in progress. — MNA

Further steps were to be taken to attract more attention, more investment and more businesses to the ASEAN.

He also said that easier regulations and more open markets would be needed for transportation, whether land, sea or air, to enhance various sectors in economy and to enable everybody to participate in it. In particular, terrorism, SARS and economic competitions were viewed as evils. If quick measures were not taken to tackle these problems, it would be very difficult for the ASEAN to maintain the high growth in the economic arena.

The Open Sky Arrangement was for all members of the ASEAN. And the ASEAN leaders declared that they wanted to develop and achieve an open sky arrangement for aviation in ASEAN region. Different countries had embarked on different bilateral agreements with other countries to develop the open sky policy. The ASEAN had its own framework to develop an open sky arrangement encouraging ASEAN airlines and other airlines to operate in a very open market. Therefore, Thailand, Singapore and other countries launched specific activities. That Open Sky Arrangement would also benefit Myanmar. With increasing airlines operating flights to Southeast Asia, it could be assumed that more tourists would visit Southeast Asia as well as Myanmar.

There had been flight connections among Yangon, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, and there would also be direct links between other cities of Myanmar and capital cites of Southeast Asia. One immediate benefit was the enormous arrival of tourists as there would be more businessmen finding flight arrangements under the GSA convention for their travel around the region, he concluded.

The press conference ended at 2.45 pm. — MNA

View today:
Sunday, October 26
7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Gaminathas
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. —
8:05 am
6. —
8:25 am
7. —
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Say it in English
11:00 am
1. Martial Song
11:10 pm
2. Musical programme
11:25 pm
3. Round-up of the week's International News
11:45 pm
4. —
12:15 pm
5. Milo success in soccer
8:30 pm
6. —
8:40 pm
7. —
8:50 pm
8. International News

1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:00 pm
3. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:25 pm
3. English for uphold Everyday Use
4:40 pm
4. —
4:50 pm
5. —
5:50 pm
6. Songs of national races
5:20 pm
7. —
5:35 pm
8. Sing and enjoy
6:30 pm
9. Evening news
7:00 pm
10. Weather report
7:05 pm
11. —
7:15 pm
12. Agricultural Source Country's Development
7:25 pm
13. —
7:40 pm
14. Industrial Achievement
8:00 pm
15. News
8:15 pm
16. International news
7:40 pm
17. —
8:10 pm
18. —
8:30 pm
19. Calcio Series A
8:45 pm
20. —
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives delegates to ATM, ATM+China & ATM+Japan meetings

YANGON, 25 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received the delegates of ATM, ATM+China & ATM+Japan meetings. The meeting was attended by Mr. Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria Sulaiman, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Transport and Communications from Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Chhin Kong Hean, Director-General of Public Works of the Ministry of Public Work and Transport of Cambodia; Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong, Director of the Ministry of Transport and Expansion of Maritime and River Transportation Infrastructures from Singapore; Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Deputy Minister of Transport from Thailand; Mr. Pham The Minh, Deputy Minister of Transport from Vietnam; Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong, Director of the Ministry of Transport from Singapore; Mr. Nikorn Chamnong, Deputy Minister of Transport from Thailand; Mr. Pham The Minh, Deputy Minister of Transport from Vietnam; Mr. Zhang Chuxuan, Director of Communications from China; Mr. Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary-General; Mr. Arnel R. Manresa, Head of the Road Transport Planning Division of the Ministry of Transport of the Philippines; Mr. Yeoh Cheow Tong, Director of Transport from Malaysia; Mr. Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria Sulaiman, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Transport and Expansion of Maritime and River Transportation Infrastructures from Singapore; Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Deputy Minister of Transport from Thailand.

In extending greetings on the occasion, Major General Hla Myint Swe said:

May I recall that at the 5th ATM-China summit (November 2001) in Brunei, ASEAN leaders and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji decided to convene a meeting of ASEAN and Chinese Transport Ministers. The 1st ATM-China policy dialogue meeting was held on 20th September 2002 in Jakarta, Indonesia. At that meeting, the Terms of Reference for ASEAN-China Transport Co-operation were established. We agreed that our cooperation shall cover Land Transportation Infrastructure, Expansion of Maritime and River Transport and expansion of Air Transport services. We also noted that the Chinese intend to focus Transport Co-operation Projects at the initial stage in the following areas:

(a) Construction of Kunning-Bangkok Highway through Lao PDR.

(See page 13)

Transport Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe extends greetings at the 9th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting. — MNA

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