Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat arrives on goodwill visit

Yangon, 2 Nov — At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat arrived here this afternoon on a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar.

Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and members were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and embassy staff.

The special aircraft carrying the goodwill delega-

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at the airport. — MNA

tion led by Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat touched down at Yangon International Airport at 2 pm. Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia boarded the plane and welcomed Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.

Next, a Myanmar damsel of the University of Culture (Yangon) presented a bouquet to the visiting Vice-President.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greeted the visiting Vice-President. The visiting Vice-President greeted those who arrived there to welcome the delegation.

Likewise, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greeted the delegation members.

Next, Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye proceeded to the saluting dais. Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye took the salute of the Guard of Honour while the State Band played the national anthems of the two countries.

Next, Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the delegation members. Likewise, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye introduced his members of the welcoming party to the visiting Vice-President.

Next, the visiting Vice-President greeted the embassy staff of Indian Embassy to Myanmar and their families.

Prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Performing Arts Competitions to be broadcast live

Yangon, 2 Nov — A ceremony to held prize presentation ceremony of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions will take place at National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township at 1 pm on 3 November. Prize presentation ceremony of Myanmar Performing Arts Competitions will be broadcast live by Myanmar Radio and Television. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat inspect the Guard of Honour. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
To raise the patriotic efficiency of the people

With the six objectives—to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens; to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage; to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts; to preserve Myanmar national character; to nurture spiritual development of the youths; to prevent influence of alien cultures—the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held on a grand scale in Yangon from 14 to 31 October.

The contestants participated in the competitions earnestly and they will go back home holding awards won from the competitions. Today, as all nations of the world are becoming linked as one in a global expanse due to development of communications in the international scene.

Some major nations with superiority in wealth and technology are taking advantage of the situation and trying to overwhelm and interfere in the affairs of developing countries including Myanmar politically, economically, socially and culturally.

At such a time, the Government is striving to raise the patriotic efficiency of the people, especially the youths of the future generations. Systematic arrangements are being made for revival and further promotion of Myanmar culture and traditions and fine arts.

The Government has been annually holding these competitions so as to build national self-defence powers while reviving the grandeur of Myanmar history, high level of Myanmar fine arts and such fine qualities.

With the aim of nurturing spiritual development of the youths and the citizens, the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions have been held since 1993.

Myanmar’s traditional cultural performing arts had developed for years countable by the thousand with no blemish on its national character but staunchly in its national style and today it stands as purely Myanmar culture in the world.

The national people and the maestros are to preserve the national culture in order to uplift the prestige of the State and its people. At a time when all nations of the world are becoming linked as one in a global expanse due to development of communications in the international scene, all the national people are urged to strive hand in hand with the Government for raising the patriotic efficiency of the people and the youths.
US chopper downed, 13 soldiers killed

Baghdad, 2 Nov—Thirteen American soldiers have been killed and more than 20 wounded in an attack on a US military helicopter.

It is the highest number of casualties suffered by the US-led coalition in a single incident since Saddam Hussein was toppled in April. The helicopter came down in a cornfield near the flashpoint town of Falluja, 50 kilometres (32 miles) west of the capital. Local Iraqi reports that it was hit by one of two surface-to-air missiles fired at it, but a US military spokesman has said it may have crashed while taking evasive action. The helicopter was one of two twin-engine Chinooks flying nearly 60 personnel from a US military base to Baghdad International Airport.

The troops on board were due to fly abroad for rest and recreation leave. The helicopter was almost totally destroyed. Television pictures showed US personnel recovering the dead and wounded from smoking debris.

Villagers displayed blackened pieces of wreckage to journalists, and residents in nearby Falluja celebrated in the streets. "This was a new lesson from the resistance, a lesson to the greedy aggressors," one Iraqi told the Associated Press news agency. "They'll never be safe until they get out of our country." The downing of the helicopter was one of a number of attacks on US forces in Iraq on Sunday.

One American soldier died when his convoy was attacked in the early hours in Baghdad, witnesses and US officials said. At least 13 soldiers were killed and two others wounded. A US Chinook CH-47 helicopter lands to pick-up troopers to take back to Kandahar air field in Falluja, 193 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 30 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Aid workers keep leaving Iraq

Baghdad, 2 Nov—The UN staff were being withdrawn from Iraq pending talks in Cyprus on whether to keep working in Baghdad. Most foreign staff had already left after a truck bomb attack in August killed 22 people including the head of the UN mission. This week's evacuation followed suicide car bomb attacks on the International Committee of the Red Cross and three police stations on Monday, which killed at least 35 people in the bloodiest day in Baghdad since Saddam Hussein's fall in April.

In the northern city of Mosul, a bomb was detonated outside a police station as two US vehicles drove past on Saturday. The US Army's 101st Airborne Division said two of its soldiers were killed and two wounded.—INTERNET

China issues annual winter conscription order

Beijing, 2 Nov—China has issued an order to recruit new soldiers as of November 1 from across the country.

According to the order issued by the State Council, or the central government, and the Central Military Commission, governments and military organizations at all levels should improve their leadership to ensure conscription targets are met.

A senior conscription officer with the Ministry of National Defence said most of the recruits should be 18-20 years old for men, and 18-19 years old for women. The age limit can be lifted to 21 for men if they have received senior high school education, or they are employees of companies or institutions, and 22 if they had received junior college education.

The minimum education criteria is junior high school education for applicants from rural areas, and senior high school education for applicants from urban areas.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran says its nuclear declaration comprehensive

Teheran, 2 Nov—Iran's declaration of its nuclear activities to the UN nuclear watchdog was "transparent and comprehensive," an Iranian official said on Friday, the day a key international deadline for the Islamic Republic expired.

"We submitted a comprehensive, transparent and faultless report to the agency," a government official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. "The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) gave Teheran an ultimatum to prove by October 31 that it has no secret arms programme, or be reported to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions. Iran submitted a declaration to the UN nuclear watchdog on October 23 on its nuclear programme and how the���...
Iraq bomb kills 2 US soldiers, more attacks feared

BAGHDAD, 2 Nov—Guerrillas killed two US soldiers on Saturday in a bomb blast in northern Iraq, and warnings of further bloodshed prompted fearful Iraqis to stay off the streets and keep their children out of school. Exactly six months after he declared an end to major combat in Iraq, President Bush vowed to stand firm and said leaving Iraq prematurely would strengthen “terrorists” he blamed for recent deadly suicide attacks.

Iraq’s US governor, Paul Bremer, warned that attackers would probably strike again in Baghdad before occupation forces or Iraqi police could track them down.

Timber import rises in Beijing

Bremer, 2 Nov—China’s capital, Beijing, imported 19.42 million US dollars worth of timber and wood products in the first three quarters of the year, up 22.4 per cent from the same period last year.

Statistics from Beijing Customshouse show that the municipality imported 15.57 billion US dollars worth of timber from January to September, up 73 per cent, including 85,000 cubic metres of unprocessed logs worth 10.09 million US dollars, but imported sheet materials went down by 59.8 per cent to hit 2.39 million US dollars.

Imports of unprocessed timber kept rising. In the first three quarters of the year, the city imported 264,000 US dollars worth of plywood, posting a drastic increase over the 2002 corresponding period, said the Customs sources.

Hundred of Kenyan women protest at British army

ARCHRER’S Post (Kenya), 2 Nov—Several hundred women who claim to have been raped by British soldiers during the 1982-83 coup staged a demonstration on Friday to protest at what they said was a partisan investigation, witnesses said.

Britain’s military police announced they would probe this month into 600 rape claims that might be genuine, although they said most of the Kenyan police reports relating to allegations of rape spanning 30 years appeared to be forgeries.

Women were seen in the traditional red robes and beads of the Samburu tribe gathered at the Archer’s Post trading centre, some three miles from a British Army camp in northern Kenya, saying the Army would not conduct a fair investigation.

“ brisk a deliberate at- tempt by the British Army to frustrate us from achiev- ing justice,” said Nandiliana Kuri, who is almost 60, and who claims to have been raped by British soldiers in 1982.

Many residents in nearby towns accuse the women, most of whom are living in impoverished rural areas, of inventing rape claims in the hope of winning compensa- tion in an area where even a relatively small amount of money represents a fortune.

One witness put the number of women protest- ing in Archer’s Post on Fri- day at about 300, while a local member of Parliament, Sammy Leshore, put the number at 400 to 650.

Leshore accused the British military police of using threatening language when they asked the women to come to a camp to make statements about their alle- gations.

“They are trying to cover it up,” Leshore told Reuters.

“I am appealing to women lawyers in Kenya and all over the world to come and investigate the case so the right suspects will be identi- fied,” he said.

The British lawyer act- ing for the women, Marytn Day, said this month that while most of the 600 claims were probably bogus, he be- lieves at least 100 were real.

Iraqi police patrolled the streets, checking vehicles and questioning passengers. “My family wouldn’t al- low my two sisters to go to school today because of the threats. Even my friends at university and college are staying at home,” said Luay Adeb, 19, a cigarette ven- dor in a Baghdad commer- cial district.

“To be honest, I’m scared, but I have to work.”

A handful of United Na- tions foreign staff who had stayed in Baghdad left their bomb-shattered headquar- ters early in the morning in a bus escorted by American soldiers in Humvees.

Syria invites Iraqi minister to Damascus

DAMASCUS, 2 Nov—Syria, a stern opponent of the US-led war against Iraq, said on Friday it had invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshayri Zebari to Damascus ahead of weekend regional talks after Baghdad complained it had been left out.

Syrian officials said Iraq’s neighbours would decide at the first session of the talks on Saturday whether Zebari would be allowed to participate. The talks were expected to focus on the need to prevent foreign militants from crossing borders to fight the US-led forces occupying Iraq.

The US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council in Baghdad had complained it had not been asked to attend the talks and would not accept any decisions the other states might take.

The Syrian announcement followed speculation in Da- mascus that some countries had threatened not to attend unless an Iraqi representative was invited.—MNA/Xinhua

CEPA boosts HK, Shanghai cooperation

HONG KONG, 2 Nov—The recent signing of CEPA between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government and the central government has opened up a new era of Hong Kong/Shanghai synergies, Hong Kong’s Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa said here Friday.

The chief executive made the remarks during a speech titled “Through Leverage on Complementary Strengths To Mutual Prosperity” at a conference organized by the Business and Professionals Federation of Hong Kong to examine the prospects for co-operation between the Hong Kong and Shanghai Close Eco- nomic Partnership Arrange- ment (CEPA).

Tung noted that Shang- hai was a strategic partner in the future of Hong Kong.

He pointed out that in this era of globalization as the world’s freest economy and a premier international fi- nance, shipping and business centre, Hong Kong maintains constant exchanges with other economies and major cities around the world which are crucial to the SAR’s future.

In the context of China’s economic advancement, Hong Kong/Shanghai coop- eration will enable these two most creative and dynamic cities to contribute to the country’s medium-and long-term development in differ- ent but complementary ways, he held.

Moreover, the develop- ment of Shanghai fosters the development of Hong Kong.

When creating this win-win situation, said the chief ex-ecutive.

He elaborated that Hong Kong and Shanghai together can optimize their resources by encouraging exchanges among IT experts and pro- fessionals, integrating mar- ket institutions and infrastruc- ture networks and coordinat- ing the respective industrial formations.

Through these exchanges and cooperative efforts, Hong Kong, with the advantages of a well-established market and modern management and international best practices, can play a key role in speeding up Shang- hai’s alignment with the in- ternational market, Tung re- marked.—MNA/Xinhua
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

A US soldier with an unidentified person walks in front of blast damaged vehicles in Mosul, northern Iraq, on Saturday, 1 November, 2003, in this image taken from TV. A roadside bomb killed at least two US soldiers in Mosul on Saturday. —INTERNET

An Iraqi policeman stands guard outside the al Hamra hotel in Baghdad on Saturday, 1 November, 2003. The Australian government has warned that the hotel, popular with foreign journalists and aid workers, could be targeted for an attack, and urged all Australians in Iraq to stay away. —INTERNET

An armed guard keeps watch at the entrance of a school which closed early in Baghdad, on Saturday, 1 Nov, 2003. Most schools were closed Saturday after rumours spread through Baghdad that bombings or other resistance action would strike the capital Saturday. —INTERNET

US soldiers stand with their weapons at the ready around a detained Iraqi man outside his home during a night raid in Tikrit on 30 October, 2003. —INTERNET

US soldiers guard the centre of Baghdad, on Saturday, 1 November, 2003. Security stepped up after rumours swept Baghdad that bombings or other resistance action would strike the capital Saturday. A leaflet attributed to Saddam’s ousted Baathist party declared Saturday a “Day of Resistance,” and called for a three-day general strike. —INTERNET

A British Army soldier guards a damaged car after a bomb exploded beside the vehicle in the southern Iraq city of Basra in this file photo taken earlier this week. Britain’s participation in the Iraq war has so far cost £2.6 billion pounds, including commitments to the country’s reconstruction and funds for additional security at posts in the Middle East, the government said on Friday. —INTERNET
**Annan vows tighter Iraq security**

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Nov — The United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, has written a letter to all UN staff promising action to improve security in the light of the bomb attack on UN headquarters in Iraq in August.

In the letter, Mr Annan said he was believe were clearly responsible for placing UN workers in Iraq at risk, or failing to recognise the scale of the threat against the UN in Iraq.

In his letter, Mr Annan said he was also conducting a review of the serious weaknesses that had been revealed in the UN security system, not just in Iraq, but across the world.

He also confirmed that the UN’s position in Iraq was under constant review, and that the remaining international staff in Baghdad would, for the foreseeable future, be relocated outside the country while discussions continued over the security arrangements that would be required to allow them to continue their work.

**China’s first astronaut Yang Liwei arrives in HK**

HONG KONG, 2 Nov — The Delegation of China’s First Manned Space Mission, including China’s first astronaut Yang Liwei, arrived in Hong Kong Friday afternoon for a six-day visit.

With flowers, China’s national flags and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) flags in hands, over 600 Hong Kong students and quite a number of community representatives gave Yang and the delegation a warm welcome.

China’s first manned spacecraft successfully completed its space mission on October 15-16 and the 38-year-old Yang Liwei, a fighter pilot turned astronaut who travelled 600,000 kilometres in space in Shenzhou V-spacecraft, became a hero of the Chinese nation.

The visit has been earnestly awaited by Hong Kong residents who are very much proud of the Motherland’s success in space exploration and of the national hero himself.

The 26-member delegation, led by vice director-general of China’s manned space flight programme Hu Shixiang, will meet with people from all walks of life in Hong Kong.

HKSAR Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa will hold a welcoming dinner at the Government House Friday night.

On Saturday morning, the delegation will attend the opening of the Exhibition on China’s First Manned Space Mission at the Science Museum.

A big welcoming gathering will be organized by community groups at the Hong Kong Stadium Saturday afternoon.

Yang Liwei will deliver a speech on the development of China’s aerospace programme next Monday.

He is also scheduled to have dialogues with Hong Kong primary and secondary school students.

The delegation will leave Hong Kong for Macao next Wednesday.

**UN to move Iraq staff out of Baghdad over weekend**

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Nov — The United Nations intends to move its remaining international staff in Baghdad to Cyprus over the weekend where they will decide if and when to return to the volatile Iraqi capital, UN officials said.

The withdrawal will involve some 18 international workers in Baghdad while another 40 or so foreign staff would remain in the northern area around Erbil where it is safer.

Some 4,000 Iraqi staff are still on the UN payroll throughout Iraq. UN officials insisted on Thursday the pull out was not an evacuation but a re-evaluation of the security situation after a series of deadly suicide bombings in Iraq this week.

"This is a temporary re-location," US spokeswoman Marie Okabe said.

"It does not represent a policy decision to disengage from Iraq."

**Ranking Chinese economists call for deeper reform**

BEIJING, 2 Nov — China’s political, governmental and institutional reform should be further deepened as the nation is moving ever forward with market-oriented system, a call voiced by ranking economists and officials in Beijing.

At this meeting, the committee mainly studied the role that China should play after joining WTO and the strategies of the enterprises.

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**Int’l investors show great confidence in China**

BEIJING, 2 Nov — Goldman Sachs Chairman and CEO Henry M Paulson said here Friday the huge success that China achieved in global economy has attracted a lot of int’l investors.

Paulson said that interna- tional investors have been watching China closely. They are very impressed with China’s leadership, social stabil- ity and economic progress.

The success of China’s manned space programme is also great news for them, Paulson said.

**Chen urges to cultivate talents on economic management**

BEIJING, 2 Nov — Chinese State Coun- cilor Chen Zhiyi urged Thursday the cultivation of more people skilled in economic management, who are adaptable to the mechanism of the socialist market economy.

Chen made the call in a speech delivered here to members of the consulting commit- tee of the Economic Management Institute of Qinghua University, who were partici- pating in the fourth meeting of the commit- tee. To create such professionals is an important task in reaching the magnificent target of building a well-off society in the country, said the councillor.

The consulting committee, established three years ago, has made a large contribu- tion to the development of the institute and offered a platform for exchange among the committee members, she said.

The committee is made up of more than 30 presidents and board chairmen from well known multinational companies, heads of domestic enterprises and institu- tions, and the presidents of the Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard Business School.

At this meeting, the committee mainly studied the role that China should play after joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the strategies of the enterprises in the new political and economic pattern of the world. — MNA/Xinhua
Border area development (Shan region)

(Continued from yesterday)

Another memorable place for me in the region was a hillock beside Tangyan-Lashio road, on which a small pagoda was located. It was only about seven miles from Tangyan. Our company fought with a combined force of about 60 BCP and SSA insurgents, who were waiting to capture the soldiers of the two platoons alive. The platoons were taking road security duty then. Both sides were engaging in a fire fight that tarnished the beautiful early scene of the area. The explosions of 60-mm rounds could be seen from the hill where our tactical command was stationed. When I returned to the tactical command after the battle, a friend of mine, Maw Si told me that the tactical command was thinking of giving a supporting artillery fire for us. But they were afraid that the shells might mistakenly land on us. When I revisited Tangyan after years had passed, I went to the hillock where three soldiers of my company sacrificed their lives for the national cause during the battle. The SSA had already returned to the legal fold at that time.

Unforgettable Yan-aung-myin

Yan-aung-myin was the name of a building of the No 33 base battalion. Most of the persons, whether they were senior military officers or junior officers, stayed at the building before 1989 were on military missions or duties. Thus, the voices in and around the building were the discussions to attack the enemy, seize enemy positions and kill the enemy. After peace had been achieved, armed group leaders and members and their families arrived at the place and stayed there temporarily. During the time, talks were concentrated on regional development. There were laughter, cordial discussions and peace inside the building and in its compound.

Shan region development

The SSA returned to the legal fold on 24 September 1989. It was the fourth armed group that came back to the legal fold in that year. I was still in Tangyan when it happened. It was the fourth armed group that came back to the legal fold at that time.

YANGON, 2 Nov — The 18th Kathina robes offering ceremony of Defence Services Records Office was held at No 1 meeting hall of the office this morning.

Present were Yankin Township Thiriminlaga Kyaw Zwaarad Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhadanta Vajya and members of the Sangha. Yangon Station Commanders No2 Military Region Commander Defence Services Records, Office Commandant Brig-Gen Myo Myint and wife Dr Daw Thi Aye, the Deputy Commandant, heads of departments, their families and guests.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhadanta Vajya, and members of the Sangha delivered a sermon. Brig-Gen Myo Myint and wife and officials offered Kathina robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Kathina robes offered

YANGON, 2 Nov — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife, and officials of the ministry this morning offered Kathina robes to the members of the Sangha in Dakhkhanayon Monastery in Thangyangon Township.

After the 7th Kathina robes offering ceremony, officials also offered 'soon' to the monks and shared the merits gained.

Kathina robes offered

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Efficient use of electricity

* Do not be softened
* Do not be bolstered
* Do not be frightened
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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

Central executive committee members of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Nyunt and U Tan Aung left here by air on 1st November to attend GMS Workshop on Agricultural Investment and Cooperation in People's Republic of China. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by President U Win Myint and officials of UMFCCI.
Indian Vice President…

(continued from page 1)

...and the junction of Kamayut, the People’s Square and Hanthawady roundabout.

Present on the occasion were Agga Maha Kumantmamacariya Bhuddantana Thiri Lekhanayama, Dagon Sasana Yeiktha, Wellwisher U Aung Thein explained arrangements to be made for construction of Kyaukbaungungs and ambassadoor U Aye Pe (Retd) and wellwisher U Aung Thein formally opened the new tarred road.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends opening of Polyethylene Bag Factory

YANGON, 2 Nov —The opening ceremony of Sun Flower brand Polyethylene Bag Factory implemented under joint-venture between Myanmar War Veterans Organization and Green Light Co Ltd was held at the above factory at the corner of Kwinwunmyingyi Street and U Mye Street in Industrial Zone Section 4 of Shwepyitha Township this morning. Chairman of Central Organizing Committee for the MWVO Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and formally unveiled the signboard of the factory.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of Central Organizing Committee for the MWVO Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Central Organizing Committee members, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and deputy ministers, members of district and township Peace and Development Councils, chairman and members of Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya, Insein and Mingaladon Township War Veterans Organizations, band troupe and pom-pom troupe, officials of the Green Light Co Ltd, and guests.

First, Central Organizing Committee member of the MWVO Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thang Lwin and Chairman of the Green Light Co Ltd U Yone Mu formally opened the factory. Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally unveiled the signboard of the factory and viewed production process round the factory.

After that, at the briefing hall of the factory, Chairman of the Green Light Co Ltd U Yone Mu reported to Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party on location of the factory, investment number of parts installed and productivity. Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave necessary instructions. —MNA
Prime Minister attends Multi-media classrooms opening ceremony in Payagyi Model Village BEHS, Bago

YANGON, 2 Nov — The opening ceremony of Multi Media rooms of Basic Education High School in Payagyi Model Village, Bago Township, was held this morning, attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The ceremony was also attended by Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, the chief of staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the director-general of the No 1 Basic Education Department and officials, social organizations, members of the school board of trustees, teachers and students.

A ceremony to unveil the stone inscription of Myanmar education goal and education motto at the school was held.

First, while the band troupe was playing the national anthems, the prime minister and those in attendance saluted the State Flag. Next, outstanding students unveiled the stone inscription of Myanmar education goal and education motto.

Afterwards, the opening ceremony of multi-media rooms followed.

At the ceremony, Headmistress Daw San San Yi and Patron of School Board of Trustees U Sein Maung formally opened the multi-media classrooms. Next, the prime minister unveiled the signboard to mark the opening ceremony.

Next, the prime minister and party inspected the rooms of Electronic Media (Visual Presenter), Electronic Media (Language Lab), Computer Aided Instruction Computer Application and E-mail, Electronic Media (Video System) and Printed Media (Reading Corner) and viewed the learning of students in the rooms.

Afterwards, they inspected the Arts room and domestic science room, and skill demonstration of the students in the music room.

At the opening ceremony of multi-media rooms, Headmistress Daw San San Yi and members of SBT U Sein Lwin reported on the purpose of the opening of multi-media rooms and teaching with the use of teaching aid and making efforts for the media rooms.

Next, the prime minister presented teaching aids tapes, a set of computer, television and video cassette.

Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, on behalf of wellwishers, handed over the donations for the school to Minister U Than Aung. The donations included a set of computer by Bago Division Peace and Development Council K 2.3 million by U Teza-Daw Thida Zaw (Hlco Trading Co Ltd), K 500,000 by U Maung Gy-Daw Tin Tin Ohn (Myint Tun Oo Co Ltd), K 500,000 by old students and K 300,000 by U Kyaw Lin (Bell Co Ltd) of Yangon.

Minister U Than Aung made a speech. He thanked Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt for attending the ceremony. It is heartening to see teachers giving lectures with the use of modern teaching/learning aids to the students learning lessons actively with full self-confidence for successful implementation of national education promoting programmes.

In basic education sector, as measures have been taken for enrolment of all school-going age children, over 95 percent of school-going age children are pursuing education. The State has been making arrangements for giving them the opportunity to continue schooling in their own region. The number of universities, colleges is 154, up from 32 in the past. He then urged teachers, students, parents and members of school board of trustees to strive for national education promotion with added momentum.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party together with members of school board of trustees, the Schoolhead, teachers and students, posed for documentary photos.

Poem

Shall meet again at 12th Competitions

*This journey, the Performing Arts Competitions
With vibrance of the State and pride of lineage
Culture that benefits Myanmar
Directed at national benefit
With amity and unity, we hold these
The 11th Competitions
Have been successfully held.

* Though the 11th Competitions have been completed
Myanmar character and lineage strong
Beneficial culture in total
Must be nurtured for posterity
Myanmar blood kin, citizens all
Hand in hand we must in amity
Work for posterity of Myanmar lineage
Must work for success of Myanmar character
Together and in unity
Let’s meet again at the threshold
Of the 12th Competitions, O blood brothers.
Yan Naing Oo (Trs)

SWRR ministry offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 2 Nov — Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held in seventh Kathina robes offering ceremony at Thida Hall of Fire Services Training School in Mayangon Township this morning. Parahita Mettavadi Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma-jonakadhaja Bhaddanta Cand-dobhasa of Mettavadi Hinthada monastery in Hlaing Township administered the Five Precepts. Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Hwa and wife, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and wife, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung and their wives and officials offered Kathina robes and provisions to the Sayadaws, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Afterwards, soon after was offered to the Sayadaws.—MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends 54th Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of Kyakhahtawng Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Bago

YANGON, 2 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by car this morning. The Prime Minister was welcomed at Wabawdaw Bridge near Thayagon Model Village at the border of Bago Division by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southwestern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko and officials. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Phayagyi Model Village in Bago Township and attended the opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms of the basic education high school of the village. Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at ancient Mahawizaya Ramtha Pagoda in the village. The Prime Minister was welcomed by the Prime Minister and party and paid homage to the pagoda. The Sayadaw was also elected as the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw. After the ceremony, he added.

The Sayadaw was able to compile 45 books although he was busy teaching, lecturing and delivering sermons. It was also known that the Sayadaw was also taking meditation. In conclusion, the Prime Minister honoured and paid homage to perseverance, persistence, wisdom of the Sayadaw and efforts made in the interest of the Sangana by the Sayadaw. Afterwards, the Prime Minister, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander, ministers and wellwishers presented offerings to the monastery and members of the Sangha. The Kyakhahtawng Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of the merits gained. Next, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to Seinthalyaung Buddha Image. The cornerstone laying ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of namottasas.

The Prime Minister placed the gem casket. The Prime Minister, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and ministers laid the cornerstone. The Prime Minister laid the stone inscription and sprinkled the scented water on it. The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the evening. The Prime Minister and party arrived at the construction site of Naungdawgyi Myathalyaung Buddha Image. The Prime Minister in charge U Tun Shwe reported to the Prime Minister on completion of construction work of the Buddha Image and Myanmar traditional handicraftsman U Otn in completion of Myanmar traditional handicraft wood and future works.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported to the Prime Minister on stock piling of construction materials, cash donation and expenditure and arrangement for holding a ceremony to enshrine religious objects. The Prime Minister inspected the construction site and gave necessary instructions. The Prime Minister also viewed the Bot trees in the precinct of the Image. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the construction site of cast-iron Tampalawha Buddha Image in Bago. At the Dhammalkakara Buddha Image in Bago, the Prime Minister and party paid reverence to the Sangana Mahajana Committee President Nayaka Sayadaw of Paunghlaing Pariyatti Sarthintaik to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

The Prime Minister presented offerings to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. The opening ceremony of Gandakutitaik of Seinthalyaung Buddha Image and the stone inscription took place on the platform of Seinthalyaung Buddha Image. The cornerstone laying ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of namottasas.

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

River water pumping projects are being implemented in the country with the aim of supplying water for agricultural purpose. The photo shows Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project in Nyaung-U District, Mandalay Division.

PHOTO: MNA

River water pumping projects benefit people in the arid zone of the country. The photo shows Kyawzi river-water pumping project in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division.

PHOTO: MNA

Thaphanseik river water pumping project, located in Thaphanseik village, Magway Township, benefits over 8,000 acres of farmland.

PHOTO: MNA
Ugandan Government Army kills 33 rebels
KAMPALA, 2 Nov — The Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) has killed 33 rebels of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in separate battles in east and north Uganda in the past three days. Eighteen of the rebels were killed on Thursday in separate attacks in Kakumadu and Katakwi districts in eastern Uganda and the rest were killed on Wednesday in Lira District, northern Uganda, according to The New Vision newspaper. — MNA/Xinhua

Ramos underlines China’s role in promoting Asia’s eco integration
BOAO (Hainan), 2 Nov — Fidel Ramos, chairman of the Board of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), Friday underlined the important role China plays in advancing Asia’s economic integration process.

The free trade zone which is to be set up in 2010 between China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an important step in the process of Asia’s economic integration, said Ramos, former president of the Philippines, at a press conference held prior to the opening of the 2006 BFA annual conference in Boao, in southern China’s Hainan Province.

Other East Asian countries such as Japan and South Korea, are considering following China’s step to set up a similar free trade mechanism with ASEAN, said Ramos.

China is a huge market for ASEAN and other Asian countries, he said, adding that the ASEAN nations with combined population of 500 million is also a big market for China.

Ramos also emphasized China’s role in keeping balance in regional affairs, especially its efforts in helping find solutions to the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula.

Official says Shanghai World Expo to cost over $3b
SHANGHAI, 2 Nov — The Shanghai World Expo scheduled for 2010 will cost about 25 billion yuan (about 3.01 billion US dollars), according to Liang Yingzhi, director of Shanghai’s Municipal Development and Reform Commission.

Addressing a forum on Shanghai World Expo Thursday, Liang said 17 billion yuan (about 2.05 billion US dollars) will be spent in land acquisition and relocation of residents and institutions, and another eight billion yuan (about 964 million US dollars) will go to construction of facilities for the expo.

Shanghai World Expo Group Corporation will soon be set up to take charge of fund raising, management and debt repayment for the expo, said Liang.

Zhu Linchu, deputy head of the development and research centre of Shanghai Municipal People’s Government, said apart from advancing modernization and internationalization of the service industry, the municipality’s gross domestic product (GDP) is to grow at an annual average rate of about 2 per cent over the next seven years. — MNA/Xinhua

Congo signs diamond pact to halt illegal trade
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Malaysia continues to implement current policies

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Nov — Malaysian new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Saturday he would continue to implement current development policies planned by former leader Mahathir Mohamad.

“All the policies were drawn up through consensus. They are actually our joint policies,” Abdullah said at the Bayan Lepas Airport in Penang State upon his arrival for a visit there.

In a smooth transfer of power, Abdullah was sworn in as the country’s fifth Prime Minister on October 31 to replace Mahathir, 77, who stepped down on the same day due to ageing.

The policies could be successfully implemented as all member parties of the National Front (BN), the ruling coalition, and people gave their support to enable the country to continue charting its progress, he was quoted by local Bernama news agency as saying.

He urged BN member parties to work harder to face the next general election for a bigger victory.

The next general election is scheduled for 2004. In the last general election in 1999, the ruling BN won two-third majority seats in the Parliament.

“This is my aspiration. I’m not asking you to work for me, but (you) must work together with me for the people and country,” he said.

Meanwhile, Abdullah expressed his thanks for inheriting such an effective government and success of the country’s development due to the leadership of his predecessor Mahathir Mohamad.

He added the success was due to the efforts and contributions of Mahathir during his 22-year tenure as Prime Minister.

Malaysia’s new leader Abdullah Ahmad Badawi gestures as he deliver his first public speech upon arrival at the Penang International Airport, north of Malaysia, on 1 Nov, 2003. Abdullah started his first day in office Saturday with a visit to his hometown, where thousands of people were gathering to give him a hero’s welcome and mark a fresh era.

WHO calls to recognize value of traditional medicine

KAMPALA, 2 Nov — The World Health Organization (WHO) Saturday called on African countries to formally recognize the value of traditional medicine in health systems particularly in primary health care through development of national policies to be implemented according to national health policies.

WHO regional director for Africa Ibrahim M. Samba made the call in a message to mark this year’s International Traditional Health Day which falls on November 1 every year.

The message said that traditional medicine was the only system available for health care for centuries for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of social, mental and physical illnesses.

“The use of traditional medicine is widespread in Africa, its acceptability, availability and popularity is not in doubt as about 80 per cent of Africans have recourse to it for their health care needs,” the message said.

It pointed out that diminishing national income, cuts in foreign aid and the search for effective treatment for common diseases such as malaria, and opportunistic infections associated with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, “is driving renewed policy interest in traditional medicine in Africa”.

“WHO has been supporting and leading the process through technical support and policy advice to member states,” it assured.

WHO also advised African countries to “create an enabling environment for the practice of traditional medicine through development of legal and regulatory frameworks for the practice and registration of traditional medicines and qualified traditional health practitioners”.

“Conduct research with involvement of traditional health practitioners, to validate claims on safety, efficacy and quality of traditional medicines used for treating common diseases, using WHO protocols and tools,” it said.

It also called to carry out large-scale cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants with involvement of traditional health practitioners and the local communities and create an enabling political, economic and regulatory environment for increasing local production from small-scale to large-scale manufacturing of traditional medicines.

Laos strives to achieve 6-7% economic growth

HANOI, 2 Nov — Laos has targeted to obtain a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.7 per cent in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, Lao news agency KPL reported on Friday.

This was the message from the final session of the Lao Government in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the agency said.

The three-day session also discussed measures to boost production, deal with difficulties in the fields of state budget and finance, consolidate and intensify the role of state management, according to KPL.

At the session which was closed on Thursday, Cabinet members agreed to give priority to ensuring political stability and social security.

Donate blood

Malaysia continues to implement current policies

India keen on cooperation with China

BOAO (Hainan), 2 Nov — Amit Mitra, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry said Saturday that India is keen on the cooperation with China, which he termed as a subcontinental cooperation.

Good political relations and comparative advantages in economic development in China and India lay good foundation for the connection of the two nations, especially in trade, investment, tourism and cultural areas, said Mitra in an exclusive interview with Xinhua on the eve of the opening of the 2003 Boao Forum for Asia in southernmost China’s Hainan Province.

China’s official statistics show that bilateral trade between India and China exceeded 4.9 billion US dollars in 2002, up 37 per cent year-on-year, and reached 2.9 billion dollars during the first five months of the year, up 70 per cent year-on-year.

The bilateral trade is expected to hit 10 billion US dollars in 2005.

India has great advantages in information, biological, pharmaceutical as well as entertainment technologies, said he, adding that India could learn from China’s experience in economic, cultural and educational development.

The combination of China’s hardware facilities with India’s software technologies will give big boost to the development of the two countries, and the two nations even could join hands to explore markets in other countries worldwide, he said.

Haier Group, one of China’s leading manufacturers of electric household appliances, has got approval from India to make huge investment in building factories in India, becoming China’s largest manufacturing investor in India, said Mitra.

Singapore’s employment shows signs of picking up

SINGAPORE, 2 Nov — Singapore’s employment shows signs of picking up after eight consecutive quarters of decline, the Ministry of Manpower said Friday.

Preliminary estimates indicate that total employment rose by 1,000 in the third quarter of 2003 after declining by 26,000 in the previous quarter, the ministry said in a Press release published on Friday.

It said that the turnaround is brought about by the return of more services jobs as companies affected by the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in the previous quarter have started hiring against the backdrop of a strengthening economy.

However, the ministry noted that although employment is starting to improve, the gains are not sufficient to absorb the increased pool of job seekers as this year’s new entrants join the labour market.

Preliminary estimates show that the seasonally adjusted overall unemployment rate rose from 4.5 per cent in June 2003 to 5.9 per cent in September 2003, exceeding the previous high of 4.6 per cent hit in September 2002, it said.

The ministry added that a survey of private sector establishments each with at least 25 employees shows that an estimated 3,700 workers were re-trenched in the third quarter of 2003, a 28-per cent decrease over the previous quarter.

Singapore’s employment shows signs of picking up after eight consecutive quarters of decline, the Ministry of Manpower said Friday.
Thistle 3-1 at Ibrox with two goals from Spanish midfielder Kilmarnock 5-0 to stay five points clear of Rangers on the aftermath of Celtic’s 4-0 win on the final day of last season. But Celtic remain just a point behind after Romanian striker Adrian Mutu got the only goal of their game at Everton, while third-placed United have 25 points after a 3-0 win over Portsmouth. United, beaten at home by Fulham last weekend, made no such mistake at Old Trafford on Saturday as Diego Forlan gave them a first-half lead, Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo added his first for the third-placed and fellow substitute Roy Keane smashed home a late third. Elsewhere, Newcastle United drew 1-1 with 10-man Aston Villa after skipper Alan Shearer had a late penalty saved. Manchester City won 2-0 at Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur suffered their first defeat under caretaker boss David Pleat, losing 1-0 at home to Bolton Wanderers. Saturday’s defeat rounded off a miserable week for Leeds after they announced record losses for a Premier League club of nearly 50 million pounds (84.69 million dollars) and debts of 78 million pounds. Matters on the pitch for Peter Reid’s side fared no better as Arsenal accelerated into a 3-0 lead by halftime after a series of counter-attacks to keep Leeds second from bottom. “They were very, very good and we didn’t handle them on the break, in particular,” Reid said of Arsenal’s winners’ side.

Police in the southern city of Portland, Oregon, have arrested a man on suspicion of making threats against the president of an organization that is a branch of the United Nations. The man, who has not been identified, was arrested after he made a series of threats against the president of the United Nations Association of Oregon. The threats included threats of violence and of suicide.

However, fans of the club in Lisbon were not as pleased with their team’s performance. They called for a change in management and said they would not attend future matches if things did not improve.

In other football news, Manchester United remained top of the Premier League table after a 3-0 win over Portsmouth at Old Trafford. The Red Devils were on top for most of the match, with striker Cristiano Ronaldo scoring the only goal of the game. The win was crucial for United as they move five points clear of second-placed Arsenal. The match was watched by a crowd of 76,000.

In tennis, the Paris Masters ATP tournament at Paris Bercy stadium, on 1 November, 2003, is underway. The tournament features some of the best players in the world, including Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, and Rafael Nadal. The tournament is a key event in the tennis calendar, and the players are competing for a chance to win a place in the ATP World Tour Finals.

In another event, the World Cup Qualifiers are taking place in Europe with some exciting matches scheduled. Scotland are scheduled to play against The Netherlands on 8 November, with the winner likely to progress to the next round of the tournament. The matches are being played in front of packed stadiums with fans from both countries in attendance.

In other news, a group of protesters in the United States has called for a boycott of a visit by the Pope to the country. The protesters claim that the Pope’s visit is a form of cultural imperialism and that the Vatican has an agenda to control the world. The Pope is scheduled to visit the United States on 4-5 November, and the protest is expected to attract large crowds.

In rugby, the New Zealand All Blacks defeated the South Africa Springboks 31-10 in a test match in Pretoria, South Africa. The All Blacks are the reigning world champions and are expected to perform well in the upcoming World Cup.

In cricket, the England team defeated Australia 2-1 in the Test series, with the final Test being played in Manchester. The series was a highly competitive one, with both teams performing well. The final Test was won by England, who took the series 2-1.
Kathina robes offering ceremony of King of Thailand held

YANGON, 2 Nov — The merit-sharing of the Kathina robes offering ceremony of the King of Thailand was held at Pañca Nikāya Tipitaka monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Katha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Suddhammagāmajī Tipitaka Bhaddanta Kumara Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Kumara and members of the Sangha.

A sermon was held at 7th Kathina Ceremony of Ministry of SWRR. (News on page 9) — MNA

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than presents championship trophy for professional golfers event of the third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour (Kanbauk Open) to Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-Watt). — New

Archery athletes arrive

YANGON, 2 Nov — Archery Athletes from Indonesia, Singapore, China and Mongolia arrived here today to participate in the 13th Asian Archery Championships and 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier. They were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by officials concerned. — MNA

WEATHER

Sunday, 2 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mandalay Division, isolated in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagarigyi and Magway divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 3°C below normal in Ayeyawady Division, 8°C above normal in Rakhine State, 5°C to 4°C above normal in Bago, lower Sagarigyi and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 1-11-2003 was 35°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 2-11-2003 was 20°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-11-2003 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 1-11-2003 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Northeast at (11:40) hours MST on 1-11-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-11-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State, upper Sagarigyi and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.


On behalf of the Thai delegation leader Dr Sorajak Kasemsuvan, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, offers Kathina robes and offerings to Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Suddhammagajita Bhaddanta Kumara Maha Rattha Guru. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and wife offer Kathina robes to a Sayadaw at 7th Kathina Ceremony of Ministry of SWRR. (News on page 9) — MNA

Minister Kyemon Daily interviewed writer Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) who won National Literary Award for his belles-lettres.

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Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mandalay Division, isolated in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagarigyi and Magway divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 3°C below normal in Ayeyawady Division, 8°C above normal in Rakhine State, 5°C to 4°C above normal in Bago, lower Sagarigyi and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 1-11-2003 was 35°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 2-11-2003 was 20°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-11-2003 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 1-11-2003 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Northeast at (11:40) hours MST on 1-11-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-11-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State, upper Sagarigyi and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat meet

YANGON, 2 Nov — The delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat met at Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road here at 6 pm today.

Also present at the meeting together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyen, and Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet.

The Indian Vice-President was accompanied by Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Foreign Secretary Mr K Sibal, Senior Minister of Parliament (RS) Mr B J Panda, Foreign Secretary Mr K Sibal, Secretary Mr K Sibal, Secretary to Vice-President Mr B J Panda, and officials of the Indian delegation.

Also present at the dinner were Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Col Pe Nyen, and Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Government of Myanmar, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Next, MoU between the Ministry of Education, Government of Myanmar, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, was signed by Education Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and Mr K Sibal. The documents were exchanged and the ceremony came to an end.— MNA

Indian-Myanmar bilateral agreement, MoU, signed

YANGON, 2 Nov — A ceremony to sign the bilateral agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India was held at 7.20 pm today at Pyithu Hluttaw Building here.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win Aung, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen U Thein Sein, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, and Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Myo Nyunt. The documents were exchanged and the ceremony came to an end.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts dinner in honour of Vice-President of India

YANGON, 2 Nov — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting goodwill delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at the reception hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road here this evening.

Also present at the dinner were Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Minister of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win Aung, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen U Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India U Kyi Thein, Myanmar Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and directors-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Government Office, the Presidential Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

First, the State Orchestra played the national anthems of the two countries. Before and during the dinner, song were presented with the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan modern music troupe. After the dinner, artists of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture entertained the guests with variety dance show.

After that, the Vice-President presented a flower basket to the artists.

The guests fed the White Elephants and left there in the evening.— MNA

Grandchildren of Vice-President of India visit Myanmar Gems Museum

YANGON, 2 Nov — Ms Mumal Rajvi, Ms Vikramaditya Singh Rajvi and Ms Shweta Singh Rajvi, grandchildren of Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat who was here at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by officials, visited Myanmar Gems Museum on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

They were welcomed there by Deputy Director U San Lwin and officials. The guests viewed round the museum.

Next, they went to Yadana White Elephant Garden near Mindaruma Hill in Insein Township.

Director-General U Shwe Kyaw of the Forest Department and Director U Myint Swe of Zoological Gardens Department welcomed them.

At the White Elephant House, the director-general and the director explained facts about the White Elephants to the guests.

The guests fed the White Elephants and left there in the evening.— MNA

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