Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

YANGON, 3 Nov—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe received visiting Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at diplomatic hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building this morning.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to the Republic of India U Kyi Thein, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet from Myanmar and Deputy Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Digsyaj Singh, Member of Parliament (RS) Mr Anil Kumar, Member of Parliament (RS) Mr BJ Panda, Foreign Secretary Mr K Sibal, Secretary to the Vice-President Mr Anil Kumar and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia from India.

MNA

Development of performing arts to effect all-round interests secular and ecclesiastical in Myanmar also shows clearly an utmost development of economic and social progress

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers address at prize-presentation of 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 3 Nov—The following is a translation of the address delivered by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the prize-presentation of 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions today:

To all personages of State responsibilities, departmental heads, diplomats, special guests, artistes on the judges committees, and artistes in the competitions, attending this ceremony of prize distribution of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, I would like to extend my greetings with the best wishes. May you be ones capable of safeguarding and upgrading to still greater grandeur and resplendence the traditional cultural performing arts that reflect ones’ national pride and integrity of ones’ nationality and nation.

Once again with all grandeur, the nation has witnessed conclusion of a national-level traditional cultural performing arts competitions of Myanmar with the participation of over 300 maestro’s of artistes and about 2500 participating artistes the length and breadth of the country, under the sponsorship of the State.

The competitions have taken only 18 days but the meaning of the national importance was so firm and serious that even within such a short duration all that had taken place had enabled every Myanmar national to take pride in the fact that things have vividly illustrated the real Myanmar way, Myanmar style, and Myanmar qualities that include the essence of Myanmar culture, the essence of Myanmar performing arts, Myanmar traditions based on sense of justice and fairness, high moral character, righteousness and consideration for others, and a high level of philosophical thoughts in executive, judicial and legislative affairs, all of which had developed in years countable by the thousand within Myanmar nation, nationality and society.

In fact, such a high level of national culture and proliferation of its performing arts are signs that reflect positive development of social and economic bases of that society, free of social inequities and negative elements and amid peace and prosperity.

Especially the development of performing arts to effect all-round interests secular and ecclesiastical in Myanmar also shows clearly an utmost development of economic and social progress but also utmost prosperity of its religious life in the country. So, it has become very clear that it is necessary to strive for preservation and promotion of national culture in endeavouring for development of the Union of Myanmar as a modern developed State, as may be seen in a reciprocal point of view.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Goodwill visit of Indian Vice-President, a shot in the arm for Myanmar-India bilateral relations

The Union of Myanmar constantly practises an active and independent foreign policy based on equality, justice, peace and development and therefore has friendly relationships with all the members in the family of nations. And in dealing with her neighbours, she has always stuck to the five principles of peaceful coexistence — Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, Non-aggression, Non-interference in one another’s affairs, Equality and mutual benefit and Peaceful coexistence.

The leaders of the Union of Myanmar and her neighbours often exchange visits with an object of strengthening friendship and economic cooperation and their reciprocal visits not only contribute to friendship and cooperation between their nations but also to the regional peace, stability and development.

At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a good-will delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat is currently on a State visit to the Union of Myanmar.

On 2 November, 2003, the Myanmar-India Agreement on Visa Exemption for Official and Diplomatic Passports and the MoU between the Ministry of Education of the Government of Myanmar and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India were signed and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat graced the signing ceremony.

At the 9th ASEAN Summit Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia in October, 2003, the ASEAN-India summit meeting was also held and the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed.

The Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India have enjoyed a traditionally good friendship because their historical and cultural backgrounds are akin to one another. Therefore, we strongly believe that the current visit of Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat will further strengthen the bilateral relations, friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and India.

Grandchildren of Indian Vice-President visit Yangon Zoological Gardens, National Museum

On 3 November, 2003 — Ms Mumal Rajvi, Mstr Vikramaditya Singh Rajvi and Mstr Abhimanyu 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, this morning visited Yangon Zoological Garden and National Museum here.

At the Zoological Gardens, Director-General of the Forest Department U Shwe Kyaw and officials welcomed them. At the briefings, an official explained about the Zoological Gardens to them.

Afterwards, the Indian guests visited the National Museum where they were welcomed by Director-General of the Cultural Institute U Myint Thein, pt Col Tin Hlaing, Director of the National Museum, Dna Mra Zan. The guests signed in the visitors’ book and left there at 11 am. — MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 3 NOV — The goodwill delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who arrived here on a good-will visit at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

The visiting Vice-President and party, accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India U Kyi Thein, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and officials, at the Shwedagon Pagoda at 9 am.

They were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The visiting Vice-President and party viewed bell donated by King Thayawady and original umbrella donated by King Meldon, and had a documentary photo taken there.

Next, the visiting Vice-President and party offered flowers, light and scented sticks to Kakusanda Buddha Image kept in the prayer hall at the eastern archway of the pagoda and signed in the visitors’ book.

Afterwards, the visiting Vice-President presented cash for the pagoda and coloured glass to be installed at the northern prayer hall to members of PBT. Members of PBT presented a picture of Shwedagon Pagoda and a book (in English) on Htudaw-hoisting ceremony of the pagoda to the visiting Vice-President as gifts.

Next, the Vice-President and party paid homage to the Buddha image kept at the South-East corner of the pagoda and the replica pagoda of Shwedagon... After that, the visiting Vice-President and party paid homage to Jade Buddha image kept at the prayer hall of Puntaukasula Bahuakara Association and Shwedagon Pagoda and left there at 9.45 am. — MNA

MIBC holds a reception in honour of Indian Vice-President and party

YANGON, 3 NOV — Myanmar India Business Club held a reception in honour of the visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at Dust Inya Lake Hotel here at 6.30 pm today.

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Gen Khin Maung Kyaw, Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Team U Aung Myint, Adviser of the State Peace and Development Council Office U Arnt Maung and departmental heads, U Kyi Thein, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to India, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President and members of MIBC and invited guests.

First, on behalf of MIBC president, Mr Rajul Goenka extended greetings.

Next, Indian Ambassador introduced the Vice-President to the members of the club.

Afterwards, the Indian Vice-President made an address. Next, Executive of MIBC Mr C Muruli gave words of thanks. Next, MIBC President U Shwe presented gifts to the Vice-President and Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Dvigaj Singh. — MNA

Minister inspects information tasks

YANGON, 3 NOV — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Htan inspected Information and Public Relations Department in Sagaing on 31 October.

The minister met with township officers of IPRDs, responsible officials of TV retransmission stations and officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprises in Sagaing Division and gave instructions on taking necessary measures for delivery of newspapers in villages, opening of mobile libraries, documentary film shows, uninterrupted transmission of TV retransmission stations and Colour television services.

In the afternoon, the minister arrived at the district office of IPRD in Monywa. Together with Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the minister attended the work coordination meeting for organizing the respect paying ceremony to teachers and prize-presentation of outstanding students of Nos 1.2. and 3 Basic Education High Schools in Monywa. Subcommittees for holding the ceremony, teachers and old students discussed the arrangements for the ceremony and requirements. The commander and minister fulfilled the requirements.

The minister, next, arrived at the construction project of Upper Myanmar Press of the ministry in Mandalay this morning. Responsible officials reported to the minister on completion of buildings. The minister inspected the construction site and gave instructions. — MNA
**Guerillas’ attacks in Iraq intensifying**

**Baghdad, 3 Nov**—“As we fight this low-intensity conflict,” the American general said, “there will be ... more tragedies in the future.” Hours later, in the flash of a guerilla missile, tragedy struck again and the intensity of this American conflict moved up a notch.

The big, lumbering Chinook helicopter that crashed in flames Sunday in the Euphrates River farm country west of here took with it not just the lives of 15 US soldiers, but also any hopes anyone may have harboured that the war in Iraq would end anytime soon.

After six months, the anti-US resistance is smarter, more active, more effective. The American command says it sees growing signs of coordinated planning. Signs of its growing boldness are unmistakable.

In little more than a week, in an arc stretching through the guerilla belt from north of Baghdad to the west, the insurgents have stunned the US occupation army with one blow after another.

On 25 Oct, they brought down a helicopter for the first time in four months, a Black Hawk of the 4th Infantry Division felled by ground fire at Tikrit, hometown of the former president Saddam Hussein. At sunrise the next day, they battered the occupation’s headquarters hotel in Baghdad with a volley of rockets — fired practically from its doorstep — forcing out hundreds of US staff members.

Two days later, last Tuesday, an Abrams tank, 68-ton symbol of US Army might, was destroyed for the first time during the six-month-old occupation, blown off the road by an insurgent land mine or makeshift bomb north of Baghdad.

Then, on Sunday, a guerilla gunman — apparently armed with a shoulder-fired, heat-seeking missile and positioned in a date-palm grove — shot the Chinook out the skies, the biggest US military target yet.

The intensity is seen not just in the targets, but in the numbers.

The average number of attacks, around 12 a day in midsummer, reached 33 a day by late October. In seven weeks of war in March and April, 114 Americans were killed in combat. But even more — some 140 US military personnel — have been killed in action since President Bush declared “major combat” ended on 1 May.

**Cyprus sets up service centre to attract foreign investment**

**Nicosia, 3 Nov**—Cyprus’ Commerce Ministry will set up a service centre to attract foreign investors, particularly in the fields of high technology, as one of the core objectives of the government’s development policy, the reports said.

A budget of some 26 million Cyprus pounds ($25.7 million US dollars) has been made for the establishment of the service centre to attract foreign investors, in particular in the new industries that have emerged in recent years.

The centre will also be responsible for the promotion of tourism and the introduction of high technology to the economy.

The government of Cyprus has also taken steps to improve the investment climate by introducing new laws that make it easier for foreign investors to do business in the country.

**ElBaradei says too soon to say if Iran met UN demands**

**United Nations, 3 Nov**—Chief UN nuclear watchdog Mohamed ElBaradei said on Friday it would take him at least two weeks to determine whether Iran had complied with his demand to prove it had no nuclear weapons programme.

“Sometime towards the end of the second week of November, I will be issuing a report to the (International Atomic Energy Agency) Board of Governors with the results at that time of this verification process,” he said.

“I don’t think we will be able to complete our work by that time, but I hope we’ll have made substantial progress,” he told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, where he was attending meetings.

The IAEA board planned to take up the report at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20, IAEA officials said.

ElBaradei, Director-General of the Vienna-based IAEA, gave Teheran a Friday deadline to prove it had no nuclear arms programme or be reported to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

Iran submitted a declaration to the IAEA on 23 October, detailing its nuclear activities, which Washington suspects are a smokescreen for building atomic weapons.

“We are still going through a lot of activities, we have inspection teams in Iran. It is too early, but I hope that we will be able to verify what the Iranians have assured us — that this is a comprehensive and accurate declaration,” ElBaradei told Reuters.

“They are cooperating, but again, we still have a lot of work to do, and I hope the cooperation will continue,” ElBaradei said. “This is a work in progress.”

In Washington, State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said he expected everyone, including the US Government, to withhold judgement on whether Iran was in compliance with the resolution.

“We’re not making any new judgments. As you know, we’ve all along held that Iran has been in non-compliance. But we look forward to seeing the report, to find out if Iran has brought itself into compliance by fulfilling all these requirements of the resolution,” he told reporters.

“We will find out from the director-general’s report whether those promises have been fulfilled and fulfilled to the extent that they actually meet the requirements that were laid down by the board,” Boucher said.

**Australia warns of imminent Baghdad threats**

**Baghdad, 3 Nov**—Australia warned on Friday of an imminent threat of guerilla attacks in an area of the Iraqi capital where a hotel used by foreign media and aid workers is located.

The Australian Government has received credible reports of imminent terrorist threats to the district of the al-Hamra Hotel in central Baghdad, said a statement posted on an Australian Government website. “These reports indicate a particular threat over the next two weeks beginning on 1 November. Australians are strongly advised to avoid the vicinity of the al-Hamra Hotel during this period, including all hotels in this area.”

The warning follows a similar notice from the US consular office in Baghdad, which told Americans in the city to be vigilant at the weekend.

The US warning cited “a number of rumours” that anti-US forces had declared Saturday or Sunday a special day of resistance. Australia’s Government had backed the US-led invasion of Iraq and up to 250 Australian troops are in Iraq in non-combat roles.

This week has been Baghdad’s bloodiest since US-led occupation forces ousted Saddam Hussein in April. The worst bloodshed occurred when suicide bombers blew up vehicles at the International Committee of the Red Cross office and three police stations on Monday, killing at least 35 people.

US troops stepped up checks on cars in parts of Baghdad on Friday, a holiday in Muslim Iraq.

Guerillas have staged bomb attacks against several “soft targets” in the city over the last few months.

In the single bloodiest incident in Baghdad, a suicide truck bomb attack on the United Nations headquarters in August killed 22 people including head of mission Sergio Vieira de Mello.

**Network security system urgently needed in China**

**Tianjin, 3 Nov**—An efficient network security system is urgently needed to safeguard the information security of individuals and institutional network users, according to sources with recent knowledge of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said at the forum that China lacks a system to handle network security issues, especially emergencies such as the spread of computer viruses.

He Dequan, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said at the forum that China lacks a system to handle network security issues, especially emergencies such as the spread of computer viruses.

Meanwhile, the Chinese public has not been fully aware of the potential dangers posed by the lack of the system, according to He.

The latest statistics with the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Centre show that 85 percent of China’s personal computers were infected with viruses for more than three times in 2003, up 25 percent compared to the previous year.

**ElBaradei warns of new Iranian threats**

**Tehran, 3 Nov**—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has warned Iran of new threats to nuclear installations.

In a letter to the UN nuclear watchdog on Thursday, Iran was accused of new threats to nuclear installations.

The IAEA and its constituent bodies have expressed concern over recent attacks on nuclear facilities in Iran.

According to reports, there have been several incidents in recent weeks where security personnel were injured or killed.

The attack on the nuclear facility in Natanz is just one example of the increasing number of incidents against Iran’s nuclear programme.

Iran has repeatedly denied any involvement in the attacks and has called for a resolution of the situation through diplomatic means.

The IAEA has warned Iran of the potential consequences of its actions, including the possibility of imposing sanctions on the country.

The IAEA has called for a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation and to consider what steps can be taken to ensure the safety and security of nuclear facilities in Iran.

The United Nations has also called for an end to the violence and for all parties to engage in dialogue to resolve the dispute.

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The intensity is seen not just in the targets, but in the numbers.

The average number of attacks, around 12 a day in midsummer, reached 33 a day by late October. In seven weeks of war in March and April, 114 Americans were killed in combat. But even more — some 140 US military personnel — have been killed in action since President Bush declared “major combat” ended on 1 May.
Official says blast rips through oil pipeline in northern Iraq

TIKRIT, 3 Nov — An explosion has torn apart an oil pipeline near Kirkuk, 260 kilometres (160 miles) north of Baghdad, a company official told AFP.

The blast ripped through the pipeline in the region of Mashruh al-Therthar, southwest of the city of Samarra, said pipeline director Majid Manun.

“The pipeline feeds the Doraimeries in Baghdad,” he said.

“I heard a powerful explosion in the evening, and I saw huge flames coming out of the oil pipeline,” said witness Hassan Meesalad, a 45-year-old farmer.

On Saturday, another “sabotage” explosion ripped through a gas pipeline near Baiji, 225 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Oil and gas pipelines in the region, a stronghold of Saddam Hussein, have been targeted in acts of sabotage since the former president was overthrown by a US-led coalition on April 9. — Internet

Iraq neighbours slam terror attacks on civilians

DAMASCUS, 3 Nov — Iraq’s six neighbours on Sunday condemned terrorist attacks against civilians and said they would secure their borders, amid US charges foreign militaries were behind a wave of violence in postwar Iraq.

“The ministers” condemn the terrorist bombings that target civilians, humanitarian and religious institutions, embassies and international organizations working in Iraq, the closing statement after a two-day security meeting in Damascus said.

The foreign ministers of the six neighbours plus Egypt said they would cooperate with Iraqi authorities to prevent violation of borders, following US accusations that foreign militaries were crossing their frontiers to stage the attacks in Iraq.

The statement made no mention of persistent attacks on US occupation forces, which have claimed the lives of more than 125 US soldiers in the past six months.

Guerrillas on Sunday shot down a US helicopter in Iraq, killing at least 15 US personnel and wounding 20 others in the bloodiest single strike since US-led forces invaded Iraq and ousted former president Saddam Hussein.

But the attacks have also targeted civilians, including staff at the UN headquarters in Baghdad and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Iraq’s neighbours, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran, represent some of the world’s major oil exporting countries.

“The Damascus meeting highlighted divisions among Middle East nations over Iraq, which shunned the talks, apparently insulted by only a last-minute decision to invite Baghdad.

The statement said Iraq’s neighbours would meet again in Kuwait and an Iraqi representative was welcome at those talks.

Concern about the impact of Iraq’s political future on their own security has driven Middle East nations to hold periodic meetings, despite decades of mutual mistrust and divisions over the US-led war that ousted Saddam.

MNA/Reuters

HK to conduct Chinese medicine practitioners licensing exam

HONG KONG, 3 Nov — The Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong announced Friday that the 2004 Chinese Medicine Practitioner Licensing Examination is open for application from November 11 to December 20, 2003.

The 2004 Licensing Examination consists of Part I Written Examination and Part II Clinical Examination, the council’s Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board said.

The written examination will be held in May or June 2004, and the clinical examination will be held in July to August 2004, it added.

According to the Chinese Medicine Ordinance of the Special Administrative Region (SAR), other than listed Chinese medicine practitioners who are required by the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board to undertake the Licensing Examination, any person who wishes to apply for registration as a registered Chinese medicine practitioner must first undertake and pass the Licensing Examination.

In related development, the Hong Kong Hospital Authority announced earlier this month that it is prepared to open Chinese medicine clinics in three public hospitals.

MNA/Xinhua

US consumer spending down 0.3% in September

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov — The consumer spending in the United States declined 0.3 per cent following strong increases in the previous two months, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The decline was the largest in a year after the spending was down 0.4 per cent in September 2002. It was also much larger than the 0.1 per cent drop many analysts had expected.

The report showed that spending on durable goods — items expected to last for more than three years — declined by 5.1 per cent compared with a 3.8-per-cent gain in August.

But spending on nondurables such as food and clothes increased 0.3 per cent in September after a 1.4-per-cent increase in the previous month. Consumer spending on services also gained by 0.4 per cent in September after a 0.3 per cent rise in August.

The decline of US consumer spending came after the spending increased 1 per cent and 1.1 per cent in July and August respectively.

The consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the United States and is the main force in pushing the economy forward.

The US economy increased at an annual rate of 7.2 per cent in the third quarter of this year helped by a strong consumer spending, according to a report by the Commerce Department on Thursday. However, economists had said that the pace of spending could not be sustained.

MNA/Xinhua

Separated Egyptian twins upgraded to good condition

DALLAS, 3 Nov — Formerly conjoined Egyptian twins took a big step toward recovery on Friday when their condition was upgraded to good from guarded.

Mohamed and Ahmed Ibrahim, aged 2, are making good progress with their therapy, said Dr James Thomas, chief of critical care services at Children’s Medical Centre in Dallas.

The twins, who were joined at the head, were separated three weeks ago after nearly 34 hours of surgery.

“Mohamed’s legs are getting stronger and he is now sucking occasionally on lollipops,” Thomas said in a statement. “Ahmed’s favourite activity is blowing kisses to anyone who comes to greet him.”

MNA/Reuters

Upcoming SAARC Summit to enhance South Asian Cooperation

BOAO (Hainan), 3 Nov — President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf Sunday expressed hope that the upcoming 12th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in earlier 2004 will impart a fresh impetus to enhancing commercial and economic cooperation in South Asia.

“We are looking forward to the next SAARC summit meeting to be held in Islamabad,” said Musharraf in his speech at the opening of the 2003 annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia in southernmost Hainan Province.

Tensions in Asia and the instability in Afghanistan have adversely impacted upon the two regional organizations dedicated to economic, technological and cultural cooperation — namely the SAARC and the Economic Cooperation Organization of Central and West Asian Countries (ECO), he said.

However, the potential of the two organizations is immense, he said, adding that they have developed structures for cooperation and have adopted promising proposals.

The SAARC has already adopted a programme for preferential tariffs and has its sights set on the establishment of a free trade arrangement in the future, he said.

The ECO has plans for promoting economic and commercial activities among countries of Central and South-West Asia, and there are good prospects for developing access routes linking Central Asian states to the Arabian Sea.

Afghanistan and Turkmenistan have agreed on the construction of a gas pipeline, Musharraf said, adding that “we also support an Iranian initiative for a gas pipeline to India through Pakistan territory.” Pakistan is well situated to becoming a commercial hub linking the important regions of South, Central and West Asia, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

A general view of the meeting room where the foreign ministers of Iraq’s neighbours were holding their final meeting in Damascus on Sunday, 2 Nov, 2003. The two-day meeting which started on Saturday aims to discuss the impacts on them of the US-led war on Iraq. — Internet

writing

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 4 November, 2003
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

15 soldiers killed, 21 injured as US chopper shot down in Iraq

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 2 Nov — Fifteen soldiers were killed and 21 wounded when a US military helicopter was downed outside the flashpoint town of Fallujah, in the deadliest attack on coalition forces since they ousted Saddam Hussein nearly seven months ago.

As insurgents made good on threats to turn the weekend into a bloody one for the Americans, the military reported the death of another US soldier in a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad.

The CH-47 Chinook helicopter, ferrying soldiers going on leave after months in war-torn Iraq, was hit at 9:00 am (0600 GMT), making a crash landing one mile (1.6 kilometres) southwest of Fallujah, said US army Colonel Bill Darley.

"As a result of the crash, 15 were killed in action and 21 wounded," Darley said, referring to US-led coalition troops.

US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld told NBC television at least 10 of the dead were US soldiers and speculated the chopper was downed by a surface-to-air missile.

"We’ve known about surface-to-air missiles since before we went in,” he said. "They are dangerous and they exist in that country in large numbers, as they do in that part of the world. So it’s always a risk.”

Hundreds of the portable missiles are said to be scattered around the country, available to insurgents from poorly-guarded arms depots that are a legacy of Saddam Hussein’s regime. Soldiers sealed off the site, as helicopters hovered over the disaster area, which was littered with smoldering wreckage.

Farmer Mohamad al-Issawi told AFP that "a projectile struck the tail of the helicopter around 9:00 am. I saw fire coming out of the front of the aircraft which then crashed."

"Human remains were found 500 yards (metres) away,” he said.

It was at least the fourth time since the United States declared an end to major hostilities on May 1 that the coalition has reported helicopters being hit by anti-US forces. The previous strikes did not cause any fatalities.—Internet

An Iraqi policeman looks up for intruders of the Foreign Ministry in the capital Baghdad on 1 November, 2003. — Internet

A US Army Blackhawk helicopter lifts off as troops search a crash site where a Chinook helicopter crashed into a field near the restive town of Falluja on 2 November, 2003. At least 15 US personnel were killed and 21 wounded when an American Chinook helicopter crashed in Iraq on Sunday, a US military spokesman said. — Internet

A US Army soldier guards the remains of a burned out military ammunition truck after it was attacked in Fallujah, Iraq, late on October, 2003, 35 miles (60 kms) west of Baghdad. — Internet
China to launch moon probing satellite in 3 to 5 years

ZHANGQING WEI, 3 Nov.—China is to launch its first moon probing satellite in the next three to five years, said Zhang Qingwei, deputy head of the visiting delegation of China's first manned space mission, in an interview with Xinhua on Saturday.

Zhang, also general manager of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, said the comprehensive feasibility studies for the first-phase of the moon probing programme has been completed and the engineering operation plan has been drafted.

He said that after the successful development of satellites and launching of manned spacecraft, China is to prepare for moon probing and other outer space probing activities.

Zhang believed that the moon probing will become the third milestone of China's space technology development.

He said China is to use Long March III A carrier rocket for launching the moon probing satellite.

China’s moon probing programme will be divided into three phase. The first phase work will focus on obtaining three-dimension- nal graphs of the moon surface, making analysis on the elements of moon surface and probing space environment of the moon, he said.

The second phase of the programme will send moon probing devices to the surface of the moon and the final phase is targeting on survey of the moon surface and taking back samples.

In a related development, China has been engaged in development of intelligence robot for moon probing for years.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela would support OPEC output cuts in December

CARACAS, 3 Nov.—Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Saturday it was too early to say what action OPEC would take on production quotas at its next meeting in December but said Venezuela would back any supporting cuts if needed.

“We have to wait and see what the (OPEC market) monitors say, and the rest of the ministers,” Ramirez told reporters at a press conference.

“In any case, we would back production cuts to support the price of oil,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Screaming woman rams car into arena at Bush rally

SOUTHAVEN, 3 Nov.—A woman rammed a car carrying children into a building where US President George W Bush was campaigning on Saturday, drawing a swarm of police in her wake before being dragged away at gunpoint.

Bush was in his limousine ready to leave the arena when the screaming woman hit the same side of the building, near the exit the President’s motorcade was to use. Bush was one level below, down a ramp about 75 yards away.

“She didn’t think there was any malice against the President... It was a matter of very bad timing,” a DeSoto County Sheriff’s Department official, who wished to remain anonymous, said.

Employees of the DeSoto Civic Centre said they ran away from the crash, scared that it was an attempted car bombing.

But the Sheriff’s Department official said the woman had been awake all night arguing with her husband, was late for the event and grew increasingly frustrated as she was turned away from the building at checkpoint after checkpoint.

“She then took the matter into her own hands,” he said.

The sheriff’s department charged the woman, Betina Mixon, 29, with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer. While Bush was apparently in no direct danger during the security scare, the incident raised questions about how well the President is protected at a time when he is leading a war on terrorism.

“The President was never in any danger whatsoever,” White House spokesman Trent Duffly told reporters.

The Secret Service, which is responsible for protecting the President, said they had not filed any federal charges but were still investigating the incident. After interviewing Mixon, they did not think she intended to harm the President.

“She had no direction of interest toward the President,” Secret Service spokesman Ann Romig said.

Several minutes after the incident, the President’s motorcade left the scene from the exit near the crash.

Bush kept to his schedule, travelling to Paducah, Kentucky, for the second of four speeches to rally support for Republican gubernatorial candidate Mixon. Mixon, who lives a few miles from the 10,000-seat convention centre in a poor neighborhood, is running for protection of young children in the car with her.

MNA/Reuters

Moderately strong quake hits northern Japan

TOKYO, 3 Nov.—A moderately strong earthquake hit northern Japan on Friday, causing buildings to shake in Tokyo, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

Public broadcaster NHK said the quake, which struck at around 10:06 GMT, measured 6.8 on the open-ended Richter Scale. It said the focus was 19 miles below the surface off the cost of Fukushima Prefecture in northeastern Japan.

NHK said the quake measured four on Japan’s seismic intensity scale of seven in some areas of Miyagi Prefecture, just north of Fukushima. The Japanese Meteorological Agency later issued a tsunami warning for Miyagi Prefecture, and said a tsunami 50 centimetres (20 inches) high was thought to have reached the coast.

MNA/Reuters

Eighteen die in second deadliest day for US in Iraq

BAQubah, 3 Nov.—Eighteen Americans died in guerrilla attacks in Iraq on Sunday, including 15 soldiers killed when a helicopter was downed in the deadliest single strike on US forces since they invaded to oust Saddam Hussein.

It was the second deadliest day overall for Americans in Iraq since the invasion on 20 March, after 28 soldiers were killed in various attacks on 23 March.

On Sunday, one US soldier was killed in a bomb attack in Baghdad and two American civilians contractors died in a roadside mine blast in the town of Fallujah, a fiercely anti-US centre 30 miles west of the capital.

The crippled Chinook helicopter carrying troops on their way for a rest break came down in farmland at 9 am (1 am EST) near the village of Baisa, south of Fallujah. Another 21 soldiers aboard the Chinook were injured.

US military officials and witnesses said the large transport helicopter was shot down.

Other helicopters circled above the smoking wreckage and American troops rushed to secure the crash site.

Some Iraqis were jubilant. “The Americans are pigs. We will hold a celebration because this helicopter went down — a big celebration,” said wheat farmer Saadoun Jaralla near the crash site. “The Americans are enemies of mankind.”

It was the third time guerillas had brought down a US helicopter since President Bush declared major combat over in Iraq on 1 May. The Americans invaded in March.

“Clearly it is a tragic day for Americans,” Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told ABC television. “In a long hard war we are going to have tragic days.”

MNA/Xinhua

Cuban NGOs condemn US embargo

HAVANA, 3 Nov.—The Cuban non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Friday condemned the economic blockade unilaterally imposed by the US Government against the Caribbean country more than 40 years ago, in a declaration published on Friday by local daily Granma.

A declaration, signed by 115 NGOs and handed over to Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez, reaffirms the full support for the government in acts to defeat or thwart the goals of the blockade, the daily reported.

The “genocidal” policy of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba has its roots on the expansionism of the United States, the declaration said.

“It is clear that the purpose of the blockade policy is destroying the Cuban nation by imposing the will of the United States on this small country through coercion and force, despising the International Law and going against the will and the decisions of the Cuban people to defend its sovereignty and right to self-determination,” it stressed.

“...This economic war lacks of every legal foundation,” and according to the Geneva Convention on the Prevention andSanction of the Crime of Geno- cide, the blockade is consi- dered to be a crime against mankind, the declaration said.

MNA/Xinhua

A youth is led away (C) from the scene where a car crashed into the Desoto County Civic Centre, where President George W Bush was attending a political rally, in Southaven, Mississippi on 1 November, 2003. Police swarmed the car and dragged a woman away, along with a young girl and a boy. "The president was never in any danger whatsoever," White House spokesman Trent Duffly told reporters. Bush was in his limousine at the time of the accident but was not close to the car when it crashed into a loading dock area of the building. Security officials had chased the car as it headed toward the building, witnesses said, but no shots were fired.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 4 November, 2003
Development of performing arts...

(from page 1)

In endeavouring for development of life of the people, it is necessary to strive not only for fulfillment of the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people, uplift of education and health standards but also for development of national culture.

It is a reality that Myanmar people have throughout their history viewed their forms of cultural fine arts not just as pure entertainment but as national heritage that could directly assist social development of the people.

In the process of preservation and development of national character and national culture, examples of success are evident at times endeavours are made by the Development of performing arts…

Success are evident at times national character and navigation and development of heritage that could directly benefit Myanmar people have ars but also for development of life of the people.

Accordingly, I would like to say, that is why the State has been reviving, preserving and upgrading Myanmar cultures through these Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions with national determination to keep national integrity, nationality, national pride, national characteristics, social values and humanist norms along with our national culture.

Myanmar cultural performing arts are of a high standard, so extensive and profound, and so full of national essence, it is but a reflection of our ancestors in- valuable to every Myanmar national in the world.

It may be seen that, just as Myanmar performing arts and Myanmar literature are inseparably intertwined, Myanmar performing arts and Myanmar classics are so linked with ethics, civic and philosophical thoughts based on Theravada Buddhism that is the faith of Myamars.

That is why the marionette drama presentations and drama presentations that are combinations of Myanmar literature and Myanmar performing arts contained guidance to the right way of Magga Dhamma that the way of escape from the Samsara from Loka, Dhamma and Raza ways and prior to that guidance for justice and fairness among people, consideration, tolerance and forgiveness, and loving-kindness for one another among people there have been a great influence on Myanmar people who love equality and fairness among all in accord with the ways of humanism.

As the recently concluded competitions in the marionette drama and the drama presentations, it is most satisfying to see presentations of the essence and values of the traditional marionette theatre and the theatre presentations.

In the presentations of the marionette theatre, that is Maha Janaka Jataka, viewers have been able to clearly see the lesson that it is natural to reach the genuine objectives of justice and fairness after overcoming various kinds of difficulties, thanks to correct vigilance and perseverance structured on purity and high level of personal morals of noble men.

Likewise, in the presentations of the drama, the king of Sattan elephants, every viewer sees the truth that vengeful counter-acting is hatred, grudge and pride of the elephant queen, Sula Thubadda, who made a gravely erroneous wish as she was overwhelmed by her de- lusion and malefactor based on her own one-sided views finally brought about the regretful result of her own fiery destruction.

Every viewer would get good lessons. So they can compare immense greed, cruelty and craftiness of the hunter Thawntaraw with noble loving-kindness, strong karuna, and unwavering toler- ance of King Sattan the embryo Buddha.

This state of affairs, whereby Myanmar maestros were able to let viewers feel such profound philosophical thoughts and cultural mores, and extraordinary high morals and norms, and at the same time impress them with artistic essence, extensiveness and intensity, in the marionette theatre and the dramatic pres- entations, is one that vividly illustrates the success of these competitions from year to year.

Moreover, because of the success of these competitions, we can now see a wondrous improvement in the quality of young artists of the new generation who could show their mastery in the various branches of the most renowned maestros of the singing, dancing, composing and instrument playing sectors of the competitions.

Especially the sight and sounds of new generation youths playing those sung by famous composers of ancient times with zeal and ardour are those that raise the national vigour to new heights of power.

In the songs composing field, it is seen with a great pride that the young children and the young composers were able to make use of a high class of rhymes and tunes and at the same time they have also shown their loyalty to their nation and nationality, their firm spirit, their proud stand, their positive attitude, and their goodwill towards their country.

Moreover, the fact that women have taken part in competitions in the four fields of singing, dancing, composing and instrument playing side by side with the marionette theatre and the theatre, many of them showing their fine talents, must be taken to show that they have succeeded due to greater ef- forts for brilliance in their own time to the best tradi- tions of women maestros in the field in the history of Myanmar countable by the thousand and beginning from Pyu Period and Bagan Period.

Especially it is extraordin- ary achievement of the com- petitions that have permitted participation of women in the marionette theatre competi- tion alongside the men, as this has brought forth many marionette artists of excel- lence among the women even now.

In a general review, it is prominently clear that the entire nationalism is imbuing Myanmar ways, pride, and culture all the more as the value of Myanmar arts and cultures so extensive and pro- found has been upheld most sacred in the hearts of all Myanmar including the new generations as the State has systematically managed and encouraged these competi- tions more grandly than in the past to year successively without interruption.

However, as there still ex- ists the danger of penetration and domination of alien ways that come through political, economic and cultural doors through abuse of advances in science and technology, I would like to urge all maes- tros and new generation young artists to keep up efforts for further growth of Myanmar ways, Myanmar styles and...
Prize distribution of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held in Yangon, 3 Nov — The prize distribution of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street this afternoon, with an address by Patron of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, local and foreign newsmen, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, officials of social organizations, members of the Panel of Patrons of the University of Culture (Yangon) and guests.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a prize to U Poe Lay (a) Myo Moe Win (Yangon Division) who stood first in amateur level Maha Gita song contest (men). — MNA

General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to U Poe Lay (a) Myo Moe Win (Yangon Division) who stood first in amateur level Maha Gita song contest (men). — MNA

The competitions were held with six objectives—to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens, to preserve and safeguard Myanmar culture heritage, to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance, and traditional fine arts, to preserve Myanmar traditional character, to nurture spiritual development of the youths and to prevent of alien culture.

Also present on the occasion were Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, local and foreign newsmen, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, officials of social organizations, members of the Panel of Patrons, judges, and scholars from states and divisions, managers and contestees, students of the University of Culture (Yangon) and guests.

At the Maha Gita song contest, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the respective first, second and third prizes to U Kyaw Kyaw Han (a) Thar Htwe Sin of Yangon Division, Yangon Than Swe of Yangon Division and U Soe Tint of Mandalay Division at men’s professional level; U Poe Lay (a) Myo Min Win of Yangon Division, U Tin Oo Hlaing of Mon State and U Ye Three (a) Maung Bo Hoo of Mandalay Division and U San Lwin of Rakhine State at men’s amateur level; Maung Nyi Nyi Aung of Rakhine State, Maung Aung Ko Thet of Mon State and Maung Kyaw Swa Thwin of Mandalay Division and Sai Nyo Min of Shan State at men’s higher education level; Maung Win Han of Ayeyawady Division and Maung Han Soe of Taninthayi Division, Maung Hein Htoo Zaw of Yangon Division, Maung Aung Kyi Soe of Kachin State at boys’ basic education level (aged 15-20); Maung Thida Kyaw of Kachin State, Maung Htet Aung Lin (a) Zin Maung Maung of Yangon Division, Maung Yan Min Aung of Mon State and consolation prize to Maung Naing Lin Aung (a) Pho La Pye of Rakhine State, at boys’ basic education level (aged 10-15); Maung Aung Kyaw Phyo of Yangon Division, Saw Aung Kyaw Zaw of Kayin Division and Maung Zaw Naing Moe of Rakhine State at boys’ basic education level (age 5-10). Next, at the marionette contests (Mahajanaka Drama), the Prime Minister presented the respective first, second and third prizes to Tawwin marionette troupe of Yangon Division, Shweyadanamyang marionette troupe of Yangon Division and Eayaline marionette troupe of Ayeyawady Division and consolation prizes to Pannanbary marionette troupe of Mon State, Shweyadanamyang marionette troupe, Myanmarpary Hlaing Mintroupe, Taungyan Aung Toe troupe of Yangon Division at the professional level (group), at the drama contest (Haddian Hminmin Drama), U Nyau Min Win troupe of Yangon Division, Pantaya Tin Moe Win troupe of Yangon Division and Mann Myo Thein Than Win troupe of Mandalay Division and outstanding prizes for the respective roles in the drama to U Nyan Win of Yangon Division, Daw Thawye of Yangon Division, Daw Thawye of Yangon Division, Daw Myint Myint Kyi of Yangon Division, U Shwe Kyi of Yangon Division, Myanmar-pyi Kyauksein troupe of Yangon Division and U Ko Ko Gyi (Hinthada) of Ayeyawady Division. MNA (to be continued on 4 Nov)

Ms Mumal Rajvi, Mstr Vikramaditya Singh Rajvi and Mstr Abhimanyu Singh Rajvi, grand-children of the Indian Vice-President, visit National Museum. (News on Page-2) — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives a speech at the prize distribution ceremony of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt ... (from page 16)

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the International Archery Federation (FITA) and Asian Archery Federation (AAF), for offering Myanmar to host this Asian level competition.

The art of archery is well known to Myanmar since ancient times, but Myanmar archers started to take part in modern international competitions, just in 1995. From there on, Myanmar Archery Federation takes its bold steps, to promote and uplift archery in Myanmar. We feel that, this competition will be a launchpad, for the aspiring archers to gain and acquire invaluable experience and skill to bring the nation’s archery, to become a promising sport, especially in the 2004 Olympic Games at Athens.

As you may all aware that, in Archery, there is not such a big gap between Asian and International level, because most of the championships are Asians. We believe that through this competition, not only the athletic abilities of the competitors is developed, but even more important the spirit of friendliness and even create a sense of fellowship and goodwill in the true Olympic Spirit.

I would also like to extend my warm hospitality and gratitude, to all the members of International Archery Federation and Asian Archery Federation, who in conjunction with the Myanmar Archery Federation has given all the support, in organizing this event.

Sincere thanks are also extended to sponsors, donors and to every individual, for all the assistance afforded, to make this championship a successful one.

Last but not least, my best wishes to all the archers, who in this one week of competition will display the best of their performance and sportsmanship to add lustre to the Asian Archery.

With our warm Myanmar hospitality and culture embracing you, I wish you all the best of luck, and hope that you can make the best of your time with full enjoyment, during your short stay in Yangon.

Myanmar.

Next, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation Mr San Guan Kosavinta and Vice-Chairman of International Archery Federation Dr Ugor Edener extended greetings on the occasion.

Afterwards, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint opened the competition by shooting at special target with an arrow. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Vice-Chairman of Asian Archery Federation Mr San Guan Kosavinta and Chairman of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe Myint cordially greeted the athletes. To mark the opening of the competition, athletes of Myanmar Thaing Federation demonstrated Myanmar Thaing skills and Myanmar national races presented traditional cultural dances to those present. The competition will be held from 4 to 9 November. — MNA

Indian Vice-President pays tributes to King Zafar Shah’s Tomb, donates books to Yangon University

YANGON, 3 Nov — A delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who arrived here on a goodwill visit at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, arrived at King Zafar Shah’s Tomb on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township at 4 pm today. They were welcomed there by Chairman of King Zafar Shah’s Tomb Supervisory Committee Deputy Commissioner of Yangon West District U Soe Min, Secretary Township Officer of Dagon Township General Administration Department U Min Soe and committee members.

The Vice-President and party paid tributes to the tomb. Next, they viewed the tomb. Afterwards, visiting Vice-President and party ar- rived at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road where they were welcomed by Deputy Ministers for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and U Myo Nyunt, heads of departments under the Ministry of Education, students from Institute of Education Practising School and No 2 Basic Education High School, Latha.

After arriving at the second floor of Diamond Jubilee Hall, the visiting Vice-President signed in the visitors’ book. Next, Rector of Yangon University presented the visiting Vice-President a silver bowl as a gift. Next, at the guest room of Diamond Ju- bilee Hall, ceremony to do-nate publications for Yangon University by the Vice-President was held. Minister for Education U Than Aung ac- cepted the donations and spoke words of thanks. Next, the visiting Vice-President and Minister U Than Aung exchanged gifts. The visiting Vice-President and party left there in the evening.

Kathina robes offering on 8 November

YANGON, 3 Nov — The Kathina robes will be offered collectively to over 200 members of Sangha led by the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Dhamma Medini Parittyari Sarthantaik and monastic education school, Zahu Aye Kyawngtaik in Zamyinzwe Ward, North Okkalapa Township, on 8 November (full-moon day of Tazawunmon). Wellwishers may dial 699163, 705583 and 635976 for donation. — MNA

UMFCCI hosts lunch in honour of Indian Vice-President and party

YANGON, 3 Nov — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry hosted lunch in honour of the visiting Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and party at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at noon today. Also present on the occa- sion were Minister for Indus- try U Aung Thaung, Minis- ter for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, heads of department, Myanmar Ambassador-desig- nate to India U Kyi Thein, In- dian Ambasador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Presi- dents of UMFCCI U Win Myint and advisers, the Vice-Presi- dents, CEC members and en- trepreneurs. Before the lunch, UMFCCI President U Win Myint extended greetings. Visiting Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat expressed thanks. Next, to- gether with those present, Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and mem- bers enjoyed the lunch. After the lunch, UMFCCI President U Win Myint presented gifts to Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. Next, the Indian Vice-President had a group photo taken together with those present. — MNA

Chinese delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 3 Nov — A 14-member Chinese delegation led by Yunnan Provincial Government Vice Secretary General Mr Duan Guanhua arrived here to attend the Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Breeding Fair—2003 this morning visited the Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

Minister for Education U Than Aung accepts books donated by the Indian Vice-President. — MNA

Digests and guests seen attending the ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA
Press conference on visit of Indian Vice-President to Myanmar held

YANGON, 3 Nov—A press conference regarding the goodwill visit of the Indian Vice-President and his entourage to Myanmar took place at the Bagan Hall of the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road in the afternoon.

At the press conference, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India Mr Kanshu Shihal, who accompanied Visiting Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, made clarifications.

Present on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India Mr Nan Tso Dwe, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Indian First Secretary Ms Maina Jain, officials of the Indian Embassy, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha, Director (Newo) U Hla Tun, chief editors of newspapers, journalists and officials of Indian news agencies.

In his clarification, Mr Kanwal Sibal said that the visit of the Indian Vice-President to Myanmar would give further impetus to the bilateral relationship. The leaders of both sides discussed on economic development projects, in which India was involved. These projects covered the Kaladan project, the Hommuant hydel power project, and the construction of Kaladan motor road and the trilaterial highway project involving Myanmar, India and Bangladesh. The ministers concerned of the three countries would meet at the coming ministerial level meeting to be held in New Delhi in December. The foreign ministers of Myanmar would also attend the meeting.

Matters relating to the human resource development is also included in the economic development projects. The Indian Vice-President offered to increase the number of trips to be sent to India by 25 per cent next year and would accept up to 152 trainees. And the Myanmar side also agreed to accept the offer. For upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay railway, the Myanmar side requested 357 million US dollars for which, the Indian side replied with a positive response.

The leadership of Myanmar benefited to the political and economic situation of their country, India, as a friend of Myanmar, is homing in on measures being taken for national reconciliation and restoration of democracy in Myanmar. As for economic cooperation, the leadership of both countries had a desire to work hard to reach the target of US$ 1 billion bilateral trade by 2006.

Efficient use of electricity

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

Mr Kanwal Sibal, Foreign Secretary of India, explains the purpose of the goodwill visit of the Indian delegation led by Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road.—MNA
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Irrigation facilities benefit the agriculture sector of the nation. Therefore, the government is building these facilities across the country. The photo taken on 3-7-2003 shows the Zaungtu Diversion Weir in Bago Township.

PHOTO: A&I

The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate built with the aim of letting rain water flow out rapidly during the rainy season and supply water in summer lies beside the Zaikkaye canal near Aungkantha Village in Thaton Township in Mon State. It is of reinforced concrete type and has 21 gates each of which is 6 feet by 12 feet wide. The benefited acres of the sluice gate is 20,000 acres.

PHOTO: MNA

Zwebat Sluice Gate in Waw Township, Bago Division, is built with the aim of preventing floods and flow of brine. The sluice gate is also providing greater assistance to reclaiming wetlands and enough water for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops and plants.

PHOTO: MNA
California wildfires will bring floods, mudslides

LOS ANGELES, 3 Nov — Long after California’s raging wildfires have finally been extinguished, they will still be wreaking havoc on the lives of Californians, setting off a dangerous wave of flash floods and mudslides.

With firefighters just beginning to make inroads against the biggest-ever wildfires in the state, scientists, forestry officials and other experts were already warning that residents lucky enough to have escaped the fury of 10 infernos that scorched southern California could fall victim to mudslides, floods and landslides that will follow in their wake.

“California never just gets a fire. When the rain comes, then you get the mudslides and a further cycle of disasters, maybe not on the same scale, but you almost certainly are going to lose more homes and have more property damage,” said University of California, Irvine history Professor Mike Davis. — MNA/Reuters

Water shortages may make Africa more aid dependent

NAIROBI, 3 Nov — Scientists warned on Sunday that instead of decreasing, water shortages across Africa could drive the continent into greater reliance on food aid over the next two decades.

Issuing their warning ahead of the World Conference on Water and Food Consor- tium, a group of scientists and policymakers research- ing water scarcity, Frank Rijberman, chairman of the Challenge Platform on Water and Food Consor- tium, said that the number of people in Africa without access to clean water will more than double to 401 million by 2025, rising to 523 million under a worst-case scenario.

The meeting starting in Nairobi on Sunday will also discuss the impact of rules set by the World Trade Or- ganization on water use, as well as ways to improve farming to use water more efficiently.

“Agricultural subsidies in North America and Eu- rope determine where food is grown and policy deci- sions taken in the World Trade Organization are possi- bly the single most domi- nating factor behind glo- bal demand for food and con- sequently the amount of wa- ter required to grow that food,” Rijberman said. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese Mainland reports no SARS cases

BEIJING, 3 Nov — The Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH) reported no severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) cases in the 24 hours from 10:00 am Friday to 10:00 am Saturday on the Chinese mainland.

According to reports, no SARS cases have been reported since the ministry re- sumed daily reporting on the disease in June. — MNA/Xinhua

Asia’s largest black bear rescue centre saves 100 black bears

CHENGDU, 3 Nov — Asia’s largest black bear rescue centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province has saved over 100 black bears from bear farming, according to Jill Robinson, founder of the Animals Asia Foundation (AAF).

The black bear rescue centre, financed by the AAF, has been cooperated with local governments on ways to reduce the demand for bear farming in China and the pro- motion of herbal alternatives to bear bile.

The black bear rescue centre was built last December in Longqiao Township in Chengdu City, capital of Sichuan Province, and can accommodate 150 black bears in an area of some 11 hec- tares. — MNA/Xinhua
Chinese, Tongan Premiers exchange congratulations on anniversary

BEIJING, 3 Nov—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Tongan counterpart, Prince Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, on Sunday exchanged congratulations on the 5th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In his message to the Tongan Prime Minister, Wen said: “Over the past five years... mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples have deepened, and sound coordination and cooperation have been conducted between the two sides on international and regional affairs.”

Wen said the assistance that the Chinese Government had provided to Tonga within its capacity had yielded good social and economic benefits.

He said he was confident that with the concerted efforts of both sides, the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries would bear “bumper fruits to the benefit of the two peoples.”

Ulukalala said in his message to the Chinese Premier that the bilateral relations have grown “in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and friendship” since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries five years ago.

He said mutual economic and social benefits had been obtained as a result thereof. Ulukalala expressed his belief that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Tonga would develop even further in the years to come.—MNA/Xinhua

HK businessman to establish space development fund

HONG KONG, 3 Nov—Tsang Hin Chi, chairman of Hong Kong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, has announced that he has decided to donate 100 million Hong Kong dollars (12.88 million US dollars) for establishing “Tsang Hin Chi Space Development Fund”.

He made the remarks at a banquet held Saturday night in honour of China’s first astronaut Yang Liwei and the visiting delegation of China’s first manned space mission.

He said the fund is to be established for reawarding outstanding space experts and astronauts, and helping advance the development of China’s space industry.

Tsang handed over first five-million-Hong Kong-dollar (644,329-US-dollar) cheque to Yang Liwei at the banquet.

Yang Liwei said he will submit the donated money to the state for further development of China’s space industry.

Tsang said he is eager to do something for the Motherland’s fostering. The establishment of the fund is his and his family’s expression of esteem for the space heroes and confidence that China will be more powerful and prosperous.

Under the theme of “Chemical Safety in a Vulnerable World”, the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemistry Safety opened Saturday afternoon with an arap for the meeting signing “though chemical use may have its benefits/chemical use also creates risk.”

Affirming the benefits of the use of man-made chemicals, the forum noted the severe fact that people are faced with mounting health risks caused by chemical exposure due to the increasing production and consumption of chemical.

“Output of chemicals has increased from 171 billion US dollars in 1970 to 1,503 billion dollars in 1998, and will continue to grow over the next 20 years,” said the news release issued by the forum.

Children have become the focus of prevention of diseases and deaths related to chemical exposure.

Unintentional poisonings account for 50,000 deaths of children under 14 years, according to estimates by the World Health Organization.

“We urgently need to focus on the special vulnerability of children exposed to serious health threats from chemicals,” said Hungary’s Chief Medical Officer of State Gyorgy Ungvary. “We must put children and their mothers at the centre of our efforts.”

“Children and chemical safety” is one of the new issues that will be discussed at the forum and a working group is reportedly working on a related report to be submitted to the forum.

Besides, some 600 participants of the forum are expected to touch on new topics including occupational safety and health, the demographic gap among countries in following the chemical safety policies and the strategic approach to international chemicals management.

This session would call for new efforts by industry and governments to generate and make available practical information on hazardous chemicals, which is believed to be “one of the most powerful tools available for the protection of public health and the environment”.

Governments and stakeholders would also be asked to prepare national assessments on children’s health and chemical safety as a basic information tool to identify priority concerns.

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety was created in 1994 and holds a session every three years.

Safety of vulnerable groups becomes chemical forum’s focus

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov—Researchers in the United States have created a genetically altered smallpox virus so potent that it kills vaccinated mice, raising new concerns that biotech advances may be misused by terrorists, The Washington Post reported Saturday.

The research, led by Mark Buller of Saint Louis University, involved inserting an extra gene that can suppress the immune system of the mouse into the smallpox virus, thus making it easier for the virus to overcome the animal’s defenses.

This was not the first time such work had been done. In 2001, Australian researchers accidentally achieved a similar feat, but what Buller has created was more deadly.

In his experiments, all the mice infected with the engineered smallpox virus died.

US health officials emphasized that the federally financed work posed no threat to people, saying that although the smallpox virus is highly contagious and lethal in mice, it does not cause illness in humans.

But given the similarities between the mousepox and smallpox viruses, some scientists argued the same technique might be useful for making a beefed-up strain of smallpox virus that could kill people despite the fact they have been vaccinated.

Acknowledging that someone could, in theory, apply similar techniques to smallpox, Buller said he had no qualms about presenting his findings because his team had found two different ways of counteracting the enhanced virulence with drugs and vaccines, and is close to perfectioning a third way.

MNA/Xinhua

US researchers create lethal vaccine-evading virus

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov—Researchers in the United States have created a genetically altered smallpox virus so potent that it kills vaccinated mice, raising new concerns that biotech advances may be misused by terrorists, The Washington Post reported Saturday.

The research, led by Mark Buller of Saint Louis University, involved inserting an extra gene that can suppress the immune system of the mouse into the smallpox virus, thus making it easier for the virus to overcome the animal’s defenses.

This was not the first time such work had been done. In 2001, Australian researchers accidentally achieved a similar feat, but what Buller has created was more deadly.

In his experiments, all the mice infected with the engineered smallpox virus died.

US health officials emphasized that the federally financed work posed no threat to people, saying that although the smallpox virus is highly contagious and lethal in mice, it does not cause illness in humans.

But given the similarities between the mousepox and smallpox viruses, some scientists argued the same technique might be useful for making a beefed-up strain of smallpox virus that could kill people despite the fact they have been vaccinated.

Acknowledging that someone could, in theory, apply similar techniques to smallpox, Buller said he had no qualms about presenting his findings because his team had found two different ways of counteracting the enhanced virulence with drugs and vaccines, and is close to perfectioning a third way.

MNA/Xinhua

A nun sells products featuring Mother Teresa at a sale counter of the “Mother Teresa International Film Festival” in Calcutta. Ten movies about Mother Teresa will be screened during the nine-day-long festival.—IANS

Los Angeles, 3 Nov—Weary firefighters braved welcome rain, snow, and near freezing temperatures in the mountains of Southern California on Saturday, as Mother Nature drenched wildfires that had raged for more than a week and gave the blazes could be contained more quickly.

Temperatures have plummeted by some 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 Centigrade) in the last two days, from around 90 degrees F (32 C) to around 30 degrees (-1 C), and heavy rains and snow that arrived Friday night and carried through into Saturday morning proved a boon to fire crews.

Mike McGroarty, deputy chief of fire operation for California’s Office of Emergency Services, said, “The weather has been very very good to us over the last 24 hours.”

“It looks like (Southern California) is going to have some really good humidity over the next several days,” he added at a media briefing.

Snow, rain help control California wildfires

MNA/Reuters

China issues stamps to mark the successful manned space mission.

MNA/Xinhua

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety are expected to touch on new topics including occupational safety and health, the demographic gap among countries in following the chemical safety policies and the strategic approach to international chemicals management.

This session would call for new efforts by industry and governments to generate and make available practical information on hazardous chemicals, which is believed to be “one of the most powerful tools available for the protection of public health and the environment”.

Governments and stakeholders would also be asked to prepare national assessments on children’s health and chemical safety as a basic information tool to identify priority concerns.

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety was created in 1994 and holds a session every three years.

MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 4 November, 2003  13

MNA/Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar
Lippi, Ancelotti agree draw was fair result

Milan, 3 Nov — AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti and his Juventus counterpart Marcello Lippi agreed the 1-1 draw between the Serie A table-toppers on Saturday was a fair reflection of a fiercely contested game.

A superb 25-metre volley from Juve striker Marco Di Vaio six minutes from the end cancelled out Jon Dahl Tomasonn’s opener for Milan and left the pair, European and Italian champions, still neck and neck at the top of the table.

“There is something of a bitter taste when you draw a game that was almost won,” said Ancelotti. “But with Juventus you can never feel calm.”

Based on how the game was played, I think a draw was a fair result, even though it seemed we had the game under control after the goal,” he added.

Milan’s Brazilian keeper Dida had produced two outstanding saves to keep out a David Trezeguet shot and a Di Vaio header but there was nothing he could do about the equalizer.

“Di Vaio is clearly in great form and his goal was amazing,” said Ancelotti, “as for Dida, he made some important saves tonight, some excellent stops and he gives our defence a real feeling of security.”

Lippi said a point was the least his side deserved.

“It would have been unfair to lose that game. We looked very down after their goal but we then recovered and were able to get a point that I think we deserved,” said the Juve coach.

“Di Vaio did well not to lose his confidence after he hit the post and then had Dida pull off those saves. He carried on trying and he was rewarded for that,” he added. The Juve boss was critical though of the surface at the San Siro which has been below standard throughout this season and was particularly tricky after Saturday’s rain in Milan.

“The players use up more energy on that pitch than on a normal surface. It was hard work for them to keep their feet and change direction,” he said.

FA to investigate drug-taking claims

London, 3 Nov — The English Football Association (FA) said on Saturday that they would investigate allegations made in a national newspaper that four England players had used cocaine.

The FA spokesman Adrian Bevington said no England player had tested positive for any drugs, but then went on: “It’s the best we’ve played,” he said. “But the job’s not done, I’ve got a big day tomorrow.”

Roddick, top of the rankings since Thursday, was well below his best and hit only nine aces with his rocket serve.

“Hermann’s brand of serve-volley tennis consistently foxed the US Open champion who became increasingly bad tempered as the match slipped away. He earned a code of conduct warning at the end of the first set for banging his racket into the court.

Roddick is playing at the peak of his form. To play matches as consistently and consecutively, it’s the best I’ve played,” he said. “But the job’s not done, I've got a big day tomorrow.”

Roddick, top of the rankings since Thursday, was well below his best and hit only nine aces with his rocket serve.

“I don’t want to start pre-judging cases here. It’s simply a case that one individual has made allegations.

“No current England player has tested positive for any drugs, everyone should realize that at this stage. Yes, we have received certain evidence now. Whether that evidence is accurate or not has to be adjudged by the next few days,” said Bevington.

Henman stops Roddick express in Paris semis

Paris, 3 Nov — Unseeded Tim Henman stunned Andy Roddick 7-6, 7-6 in the Paris Masters semifinals on Saturday, just two days after the American became world number one.

The Briton, who played sublime tennis for the first five games, hesitated at the brink of victory, allowing the 21-year-old American to come back from 5-1 down in the tiebreak before winning on his sixth match point.

Henman, with one title this year, will play either 14th seed Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic or unseeded Romanian Andrei Pavel in Sunday’s final.

After beating Washington Classic champion Roger Federer in the quarter-finals, Henman is playing at the peak of his form.

“Playing matches as consistently and consecutively, it’s the best I’ve played,” he said. “But the job’s not done, I've got a big day tomorrow.”

Roddick, top of the rankings since Thursday, was well below his best and hit only nine aces with his rocket serve.

“I don’t want to start pre-judging cases here. It’s simply a case that one individual has made allegations.

“No current England player has tested positive for any drugs, everyone should realize that at this stage. Yes, we have received certain evidence now. Whether that evidence is accurate or not has to be adjudged by the next few days,” said Bevington.

Henman also beat Roddick in the semifinals of the Washington Classic in August, which the Briton won, and leads 2-1 in career matches.

Roddick, winner of six tournaments this year, now travels to Houston for the eight-man, season-ending Masters Cup where he will defend his ranking against Spain’s Juan Carlos Ferrero — the previous number one — and Federer.

From the first point Henman, whose season has been disrupted since shoulder surgery, hit with power and superb length to have Roddick scrambling along the baseline trying to plug the gaps in his defence.

Roddick had conceded just two break points in the tournament but his service was broken 15 times in the opening game.
Regional development activities inspected in Maungtaw

YANGON, 3 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Buthidaung township on 30 October morning and arrived at 100 acres of pepper planted at the special teak plantation of the Mayyu reserved forest at 8 am the same day.

At the pepper plantation, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on cultivation of 90,000 pepper plants on 100 acres of land, and completion of 101,030 acres of pepper plants on 511.60 acres against the targeted 300 acres in the township. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo made additional reports. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to officials.

In line with the motto that reads “Raikhine must be the land of pepper plants”, a total of 11,637.60 acres of land have been put under cultivation in the areas of Rakhine State.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected round the special teak plantations along the Buthidaung-Maungtaw motor road. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the basic primary school at Warthali model village in Maungtaw township. At the meeting hall of the school, he met with villagers and gave instructions on development of the village.

He also heard reports on assistance rendered by the Government and arrangements for education, health and supply of electricity. Later, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Col Aung Naing Tun of Buthidaung Station gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than addressed to the reports and gave instructions. He said that assistance necessary for agriculture will be offered to the reclamation of farmland in Warthali village. He also called on the locals to carry out agricultural and livestock breeding work with added momentum.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than provided villagers with clothes and then the commander donated exercise books and stationery for the school. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party later inspected development activities being carried out in the village and met with teachers and encouraged them. On arrival at Taungpyoletwe in Maungtaw township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party looked into the Thitsene and Thitsu trees grown by the Zone-3 and local battalion, and thriving plantations of Lantawii Shweaui paddy species. They also inspected the police station in Taungpyoletwe township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also visited the basic education high school and the People’s Hospital in the township.

At the meeting hall of the township, he met with villagers and gave instructions on tasks for regional development.

At the get together, officials reported on matters related to the township, agricultural undertakings, and livestock breeding work. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions. He said departmental officials and local people should cooperate actively in the drive for regional peace and enforcement of law and order. New farmlands should also be reclaimed to ensure rice sufficiency in the region. He also called upon the officials and local people to strive for the progress of agriculture and livestock breeding work. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected measures being taken for regional development. They also inspected the bridge at Maungtaw-In达 border and the border post. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to the paddy cultivation and prawn breeding camp at Kunthipin village of Maungtaw.

At the briefing hall of the worksite, officials reported on matters related to agricultural and livestock breeding work.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected thriving and ripe monsoon paddy plantations of local farmers on both sides of Maungtaw-Buthidaung motor road and regional development conditions. Afterwards, they stopped over Maungdaw.

Will be forever honouring you

* The 11th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
* With an influx of competitors
* Joyously taking part
* Has now concluded successfully.
* At these, Myanmar movements
* Those who cherish Myanmar tones
* Myanmar traditions, Myanmar character
* Ever carries on, and take joy in these
* Strong tenacity, prepared zealously
* Have surely taken part.
* * Having taken part in these All competitors involved
* Enjoyed it, with basic traits
* With Myanmar movements, Myanmarish
* That they have cherished these
* And taken part, are lovable
* Maintaining national pride openly
* We have thus held it at all competitions
* And this we will forever honour.

Po Wa (Trx)
(In honour of all competitions at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions)

WEATHER

Table: Weather forecast for Myanmar and surrounding areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Humidity</th>
<th>Wind Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>35°C</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>33°C</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagaing</td>
<td>32°C</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2 mph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>29°C</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2 mph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>31°C</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2 mph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>29°C</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mawgyaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taninthayi</td>
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<td>Chin</td>
<td>23°C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayah</td>
<td>22°C</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>2 mph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 195

N.B: Medals for Outstanding performance in Acting and Singing are counted as golds.

Forecast valid until 4-11-2003:

* Except for the likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers in Yangon and Bago Divisions, weather has been generally fair in the whole country.
* Night temperatures were 8°C above normal in Rakhine State, 6°C above normal in lower Sagaing Division, 3°C above normal in Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas.
* Maximum temperature on 2-11-2003 was 35°C (95°F).
* Minimum temperature on 3-11-2003 was 22°C (72°F).
* Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-11-2003 was 75%.
* Total sunshine hours on 2-11-2003 was 6.6 hours approx.
* Rainfall on 3-11-2003 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 2 mph from North at (12:50) hours MST on 2-11-2003.

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

Forecast valid until 4-11-2003:

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-11-2003:

Possibility of isolated light rain or thunder showers in the after-noon.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-11-2003:

Possibility of isolated light rain or thunder showers in the after-noon.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

Generally fair.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt enjoys drama of Yama’s bending a bow presented by Ministry of Culture at the opening ceremony of 13th Asian Archery Championships and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athens Olympic held in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna). — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening ceremony of 13th Asian Archery Championships and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athens Olympic

YANGON, 3 Nov — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended opening ceremony of the 13th Asian Archery Championships and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athens Olympic held in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna). Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon, leading patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation, committee members of holding the tournament, Vice-Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, members of National Health Committee, members of Central Committee for Prevention and Combating AIDS, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, ambassadors, Charge d’Affairs of the embassies, resident representatives of UN Agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the directors-general and deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, officials of local non-governmental organizations and international NGOs, guests, nurses, teachers and students.

First Anti-AIDS Exhibition opens

Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opened the exhibition. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Secretary-1 and the Secretary-2 of the Ministry of Health, 17 from state and division health departments, six from the UN Agencies, six from departments related to the Ministry of Health, seven from Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs and local social organizations, eight from international NGOs and six from traditional and western medicines are on display. Educational programmes on HIV/AIDS are shown. Arrangements are made for those who wishing to take part in computer quiz on HIV/AIDS. The exhibition is kept open from 9 to 6 pm daily till 9 November. — MNA

YANGON, 3 Nov — MIBC holds a reception in honour of India Vice-President, a shot in the arm for Myanmar-India bilateral relations

Article

Border area development (Kengtung East Region) Page 2

Foreign news pages 3,4,5,6,12,13,14

Circulation 24,061

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon, leading patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation, committee members of holding the tournament, Vice-Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, members of National Health Committee, members of Central Committee for Prevention and Combating AIDS, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, ambassadors, Charge d’Affairs of the embassies, resident representatives of UN Agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the directors-general and deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, officials of local non-governmental organizations and international NGOs, guests, nurses, teachers and students.

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

YANGON, 3 Nov — Prime Minister of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended opening ceremony of 13th Asian Archery Championships and Continental Qualification for 2004 Athens Olympic held in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna). — MNA

First Anti-AIDS Exhibition opens

Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening ceremony of the First Anti-AIDS Exhibition. — MNA