State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye send messages of sympathy to Indonesia

YANGON, 6 Nov — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar have sent messages of sympathy to Her Excellency Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia and His Excellency Dr Haz Haji, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia for the loss of life and property caused by the devastating floods in North Sumatra of Indonesia. — MNA

Prime Minister attends fourth Maha Kathina Robe-offering Ceremony of State Peace and Development Council in Mandalay

YANGON, 6 Nov — The State Peace and Development Council donated kathina robes to 2,778 members of the Sangha at Masoeyin Monastery in Mandalay at the fourth Maha Kathina Robe-Offering Ceremony yesterday morning.

The ceremony took place at the four-storey Dhamma Maheikdzi Building of Masoeyin Monastery in Mahaungmye Township in Mandalay, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by air and arrived at Mandalay International Airport in Taunay Township, Mandalay Division.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt supplicates matters on religious affairs at the fourth Kathina robes offering ceremony of State Peace and Development Council. — MNA

Prime Minister attends opening of Yadanatheinkha building of Sale Parahita monastic education school in Mandalay

YANGON, 6 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by air and arrived at Mandalay International Airport in Taunay Township, Mandalay Division yesterday morning. They were welcomed there by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt and officials.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Mandalay. They attended the State Peace and Development Council’s fourth Kathina robes offering to 2,778 members of the Sangha at Masoeyin Monastery in Mandalay.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also attended the opening of Yadanatheinkha two-storey building of Sale Parahita monastic education school of Maha Wisaya-yanti Sale Monastery in Chanthagyi Township, Mandalay.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Chairman of Mandalay Division Monastic Education School Supervisory Committee Principal of Sale Parahita Monastic School Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vijaya. Also present were Li-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations, wellwishers U Moe Zaw, Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Daw Nwe Nwe San family (Myanmar Batik Land), teachers and students.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Tin Ohn and wellwisher U Moe Zaw formally opened the building. Lt-Gen Ye Myint pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the building.

The wellwishers handed over the documents related the building constructed at a cost of K 27,970,000 to Director of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Aung Thein Nyunt.

The General and party viewed the building. They paid obeisance to Taikoak Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vijaya, and fulfilled requirements of the school.

The General attended the presentation of cash for the building of Chanthagyi Rice Offering Association Pweong Ward, Aungmyethazan Township. Also present on the occasion were Li-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations, wellwishers U Moe Zaw, Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Daw Nwe Nwe San family (Myanmar Batik Land), teachers and students.

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Towards a genuine democracy through public participation

Since its assumption of State responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government has committed itself to the task of national reconciliation, which is one of the Government’s missions that will go down into history. Not only that, the Government has placed a special emphasis on development work for border areas. As the development work can be carried out with greater momentum, national unity has become more consolidated.

The State Peace and Development Council, amidst all sorts of hardships and obstacles, has been trying with noble spirit and genuine goodwill for gradual improvement in living standard of the people. Moreover, it has laid down the definite policy programme for the emergence of a modern and developed democracy and in the long-term interest of the people. This seven-point policy programme is the future of the nation and what the people have longed for.

The people living in states and divisions across the Union expressed their enthusiastic support for the policy programme at the mass rallies held in their respective regions and representatives of the entire national people from states and divisions gathered at Bagan, the heart of cultural heritage in Myanmar and vowed that they would lend themselves to the task for successful realization of the policy programme.

At the mass rally held at Bagan, some 25,000 people’s representatives unanimously approved the two resolutions, viz, the entire people’s active and enthusiastic participation in any role with full sense of Union Spirit for the successful realization of the policy programme for the future State, and honouring the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and safeguarding and preservation of the progress achieved. Moreover, the participants at the Bagan rally declared that the perpetuation of the Union, the unity of the national races, the emergence of a peaceful and modern national nation and the building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy were their goals.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the sine qua non for the building of a new nation and it is the duty of all citizens living in the Union. Development, peace and prosperity of a nation largely depends on a sound and comprehensive constitution.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the entire national people to actively and unitedly participate in the task for the successful implementation of the policy programme that will surely result in the emergence of a genuine democracy.

Heroin, stimulant tablets seized in Monywa

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Syria calls on US to leave Iraq to end violence

Baghdad, 6 Nov—A Syrian official called in remarks published Wednesday for the United States to withdraw from Iraq, saying the problem of terror attacks had arisen only since US-led forces occupied the country.

Syrian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Bushra Kanfani told the London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper that Damascus was not optimistic about US-Syrian ties in the short term and urged Washington to engage in dialogue instead of making demands.

Last week, Washington demanded a list of Syrian ethnic groups opposed to Israel. Last month, Israel bombed what it called a Palestinian “terrorist camp” in its first strike deep into Syria for nearly 30 years.

Kanfani said the short-term outlook for US-Syrian ties was not one of optimism, “especially during a (US) election year.”

“The problem is there is no objective and fruitful dialogue... This is not for America to come with a list of demands, but for us to sit and talk objectively far away from dictates to reach common grounds. This is what we ask for,” she said.

Kanfani said Syria would defend itself if Israel launched a repeat attack, but did not elaborate.

“If the attack is repeated we have the right to legitimate self-defence by every means,” she said. —Internet

Guerrillas attack US convoys in Iraq

Mosul, 6 Nov—Guerrillas attacked three American military convoys in this northern city with rocket-propelled grenades and roadside bombs Wednesday, killing three Iraqi civilians and wounding five Americans, the US military and hospital officials said.

Tracks werelong considered relatively safe for US troops, compared to Baghdad and the cities and towns in the “Sunni Triangle” to the south. Elsewhere, paraatroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division captured two former Iraqi generals in Fallujah, the military said.

The generals were not identified, but the military said they were suspected of融资organizing anti-coalition fighters in the volatile city west of Baghdad.

Guerrillas near Fallujah shot down a US Army Chinook helicopter on Sunday, killing 15 soldiers in the bloodiest single strike against American forces since the war began March 20. No American soldiers were reported killed Wednesday by hostile fire. But one 1st Armored Division soldier died of wounds from a “non-hostile gunshot” at a checkpoint in Baghdad, the military said.

Two more coalition soldiers die in Iraq

Baghdad, 6 Nov—The deteriorating security situation in Iraq, which included a bombing attack on coalition offices, has prompted Spain to withdraw its officials from the region.

An unidentified soldier kneels as soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division’s 501st Signal Battalion came together in Mosul on Monday to remember one of their troops, who was killed by an improvised explosive device.

A US soldier and a British Royal Marine were killed in Iraq and the Baghdad headquarters of the coalition authority came under barrage in another bold swipe at the US-led occupation that wounded three people.

A judge investigating members of Saddam Hussein’s ousted regime was shot dead Tuesday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul — the second such killing in as many days — while Spain, a staunch US ally, announced it was pulling some of its diplomats and experts out of the war-torn country.

The death of the US soldier pushed the US toll to 141 since May 1, when Washington declared major hostilities over.

Meanwhile, three explosions in the compound housing the US-led coalition’s headquarters wounded three people.

Internet

Blasts shake central Baghdad

Baghdad, 6 Nov—Four Coalition Provisional Authority personnel were wounded Tuesday night when three large explosions shook central Baghdad, the Pentagon said.

Projectiles landed in the heavily secure “Green Zone” that includes a former palace of Saddam’s, which US authorities use as headquarter.

The projectiles did not land on palace grounds, officials said. Three rockets or mortar rounds hit in the same area Monday night, a coalition spokesman said.

No damage or injuries were reported.

Early Wednesday, three US soldiers on patrol were wounded when they were caught under fire from rocket-propelled grenades near Ramadi, west of Baghdad, according to coalition officials.

The soldiers were from the 82nd Airborne Division, the officials said. The assailants are unknown. No word is available yet on the soldiers’ condition.

Other developments

The Iraqi National Museum has recovered two more prominent items stolen during the battle for Baghdad, including a 660-pound (300-kilogramme) bronze statue found in a palace, museum and security officials said Wednesday.

Three people were arrested in a sting operation to recover the second artifact, a 2,800-year-old, chariot-shaped charred helm believed to have been used by Assyrian kings.

The United Nations has put on leave two senior officials who were responsible for security at UNheadquarters in Baghdad when a suicide bomber hit the building August 19.

Twenty-two people were killed, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the top UN representative. Ramirez Lopes da Silva and Tun Myat “have been asked to be relieved of their security responsibilities,” a spokesman said Tuesday. —Internet

Chinook survivors recall crash

Baghdad, 6 Nov—Two US soldiers injured in this week’s deadly helicopter crash in Iraq said Wednesday they did not see what hit the chopper but only heard a loud noise at the time.

“I heard a loud boom sound, and after I heard the sound, I closed my eyes and I prayed,” said Sgt Christopher Nelson from Lansdown Medical Centre in Germany, who was receiving treatment for a fractured ankle and hip.

After that, “I don’t know what happened ... cause I blacked out, and when I woke up, I was on the ground, and there was a lot of debris around me,” said Nelson, who is with the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment.

“There were people trying to rescue us out of the area,” Nelson said.

The Pentagon said 15 people were killed and 27 were wounded when the OH-58D Chinook helicopter went down Sunday near Fallujah, a hotbed of US resistance.

Witnesses said it was hit by a missile. (Gallery: The Chinook Fatalities) (Family react) The helicopter was carrying troops away for rest and recuperation.

Another survivor, Sgt Raymond Mont-Littlefield, of the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment, described a similar situation at the scene.

“I heard a loud explosion, and the chopper just shook a little bit. I thought it was falling, and after that I think I went unconscious,” said Mont-Littlefield, who was hit in the head during the crash.

He said the next thing he remembered was waking up in the hospital.

With abrasions to their faces, Nelson and Mont-Littlefield spoke at a news conference from their hospital beds in Germany on Wednesday about the downing of their Chinook helicopter... — Internet

“Did we go to Iraq, and what is the meaning of this?” said Mont-Littlefield, left, and Sgt Christopher Nelson speak from their hospital beds in Germany on Wednesday about the downing of their Chinook helicopter... — Internet

Sgt Raymond Mont-Littlefield, left, and Sgt Christopher Nelson speak from their hospital beds in Germany on Wednesday about the downing of their Chinook helicopter... — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 7 November, 2003 3
**British expert warns against more attacks on coalition in Iraq**

**LONDON, 6 Nov** — A British counterterrorism expert warned Tuesday that Iraq in the near future was likely to see intensified attacks against the occupying forces in the country, which has seen escalated violence during the past weeks.

"There appears to be more centralized command and control of the insurgency," Ian Stevenson, a senior fellow at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), told the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

The coalition should develop a "new strategy and counterinsurgency effort" in fighting against the terrorists responsible for the attacks in Iraq, Stevenson told the lawmakers.

The IISS warned last month that the adoption of asymmetric tactics by Iraq regime loyalists working closely with those "who have infiltrated the country" has challenged occupying forces who are still struggling with the right techniques to counter this insurgency.

"The US-led invasion of Iraq brought about a collapse in the security structures of the country including the structures for guarding arms dumps and the state's border regime. The coalition was unprepared for the scale of the problem, and had no way of securing the quantity of ammunition and weapons storage sites," John Chipman, the IISS director, said at a Press launch of The Military Balance, an annual IISS assessment of the military capabilities worldwide.

"Some five months on the situation has hardly improved and small arms and light weapons are readily available to criminals and insurgents alike," Chipman told reporters.

Amid unrelenting violence in Iraq during recent days, there are growing concerns that the US-led coalition forces in Iraq are facing a "guerilla war."

The British Government, which sent about 45,000 troops to Iraq, admitted that security situation in the country was still "unsatisfactory," months after the United States announced in May that major military campaign in Iraq was over. "It is disappointing that in certain areas of the country, including critically in the capital and the area to the North East, it was very unsatisfactory," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told the British Channel 4 News on Monday.

**Gunmen kill two prominent judges in Iraq**

**MOSSUL, Iraq, 6 Nov** — Gunmen shot dead a prominent Iraqi judge outside his home in the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday, a day after another judge was kidnapped and killed in the south of the country, police said.

Some judges with links to ousted president Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party were fired after the US-led war, but Youssef remained on the judge’s bench.

"He was a good and honest man. He wasn’t a member of any political party," his brother-in-law Tarik Moussa said. A lawyer who worked with Youssef said he had not been involved in investigations into former Baath Party leaders.

On Monday, a senior judge in the southern city of Najaf was kidnapped and killed by what his deputy said were gunmen carrying out the orders of Saddam Hussein.

Aref Aziz said he was kidnapped along with Mohan Jaber al-Showeli on Monday and released after Showeli was shot dead. "The gunmen said they were carrying out a judgement from Saddam," Aziz told Reuters.

"There appears to be more centralised command and control of the insurgency," Jonathan Stevenson, a senior fellow at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), told the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

**Explosion rocks Turkish Embassy in The Hague**

**AMSTERDAM, 6 Nov** — An explosion rocked the Turkish Embassy in The Hague on Tuesday, police and embassy officials said.

Nelly Ebbeschot, a secretary at the embassy, told Reuters no one had been injured. She could give no further details.

"Something has exploded at the Turkish Embassy. I have no more details right now," a spokesman for police in The Hague said.

He could not say whether the blast was an attack on the embassy or an accident. "There was a fire, we’re gathering more details," he added later. Police cordoned off the area around the embassy and a fire engine was outside the building, according to a photographer at the scene. — MNA/Reuters

**Minister says illegal logging causes Indonesian flash flood**

**JAKARTA, 6 Nov** — Some 40,000 hectares of protected tropical forest in Bahorok of North Sumatra province, Indonesia, have been damaged by illegal logging which caused a recent flash flood, killing at least 170 people, a minister said Tuesday.

The damaged forest is part of the Lauser Mountain National Park which is also the Centre of Conservation for an extinct species, Orang Utan, said Yusuf Kalla, the Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare and Poverty Alleviation.

Five foreign tourists from Singapore, Switzerland and Germany were among the dead in the flood, he said.

A German woman who is an orangutan expert and leads the conservation programme, has been missing since the natural disaster on Sunday night. The minister said that it was believed dozens of others were still missing. During the flash flood, many residents stems of trees from the logging destroyed houses.

"There is no reason for us to send combatants to an unjustified war that the international community has turned against and that is being criticized within the United States," the statement said.

The statement was signed by 37 of the National Assembly’s 272 legislators: two from the main opposition Grand National Party, 17 from the former ruling Millennium Democratic Party and 18 from UTP Party, a new political camp loyal to South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

The government decided last month to send more troops to help Iraq in its re-habilitation, but did not decide on how many and what type of the additional troops. — MNA/Reuters

**S Korean legislators oppose troop dispatch to Iraq**

**SOUTH KOREAN major parties issued a joint statement on Tuesday opposing dispatch of combat troops to Iraq. "There is no reason for only us to send combatants to an unjustified war that the international community has turned against and that is being criticized within the United States," the statement said."**
US FACES RESISTANCE AND PROTESTS

An Iraqi policeman guards the entrance of the Spanish Embassy on Tuesday, 4 November, 2003, after Spain announced that they will withdraw much of its diplomatic staff from Iraq for security reasons, the third coalition country to do so in recent weeks. The embassy will remain open but with minimal staffing and a significant number of its 29-member staff is being pulled out, a Foreign Ministry official said.—INTERNET

British soldiers on patrol in Iraq. The Ministry of Defence confirmed that a Royal Marine commando was killed in Iraq — raising to 52 the number of British troops killed since the invasion in March.—INTERNET

US soldiers foot patrol the city of Mosul in northern Iraq. An Iraqi judge tasked with investigating officials of the ousted regime of president Saddam Hussein was shot dead in the northern city of Mosul, in the second such killing in 24 hours, Iraqi police said.—INTERNET

Soldiers guard the front of the British Embassy in Baghdad. A British soldier was killed in Iraq last Friday, it was announced.—INTERNET

Protesters carrying a banner reading 'Colin Powell — You are the terrorists' 'Leave Iraq' in Managua, Nicaragua, on Tuesday, 4 November, 2003. —INTERNET
Iraq Council head to visit Turkey, Iran, Syria

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — The head of Iraq's US-backed Governing Council said on Wednesday he would visit Turkey, Syria and Iran this month to try to improve strained relations with the country’s neighbours.

Jalal Talabani, the current holder of the council's rotating chairmanship, said he would travel to Turkey on November 19 to discuss security and other issues but added the question of Turkey sending troops to occupied Iraq had been “closed”.

“The Turkish President and Turkish Prime Minister have announced that the issue of sending forces has been closed,” Kurdish leader Talabani told a news conference in Baghdad.

“I will head to Turkey to clear the air... We want excellent relations with our neighbour Turkey,” he said, adding that security would be one of the issues on the agenda.

Turkey’s Parliament last month approved government plans to send troops to Iraq, where US-led occupying forces and Iraqis cooperating with them face daily attacks.

But the Governing Council, a body of Iraqi leaders set up by the occupying powers following the war that ousted Saddam Hussein in April, promptly voiced opposition to the plan.

Kurds in northern Iraq have tense relations with Turkey, which has a large, restless Kurdish minority. But leaders from other parts of Iraq also oppose the troop plan, saying neighbours have too many interests in Iraq to stay neutral.

Talabani did not give dates for the visits to Iran and Syria.

No chemical agents found in Iraq shells

WASHINGTON, 6 Nov — Many US helicopters in Iraq lack standard anti-missile equipment that might have prevented last weekend's attack on a Chinook helicopter that killed 15 US troops, a Democratic senator said on Wednesday.

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin said he had received e-mails from “reliable military sources” who told him they had been battling for the past six months to get anti-missile equipment for helicopters being used in Iraq.

“They've even had to take them off other helicopters leaving for Iraq. It's (anti-missile equipment) the most basic equipment they need to protect themselves,” Durbin told ABC's “Good Morning America” program. An American military CH-47 Chinook helicopter, whose pilot came from Durbin's state, was downed by a shoulder-guided missile last Sunday, killing 15 US troops and injuring 27, two of whom were aboard another helicopter that landed nearby in a rescue effort.

“What we've learned from communications is that for months they've been flying without the protective equipment, and the crew and pilots have tried to secure the equipment from every source imaginable. That's unacceptable to me, to put the troops’ way of life in less than the best equipment,” Durbin said.

He released an e-mail he said was from a pilot who backed his claim that helicopters were not properly equipped.

France exhumes remains of executed German soldiers

SANTIAGO-DEL-CERMEÑA (France), 6 Nov — French authorities on Tuesday exhumed the remains of 17 German soldiers believed taken prisoner and shot by French Resistance fighters during World War II in order to give them a proper burial.

They were executed in 1944 in a field on the outskirts of the village of Saint-Julien-de-Cerménya in the southwestern Dordogne region, in retaliation for the killing of 17 French soldiers by German troops, according to a resistance veteran who has fought a long campaign to honour their remains.

The bodies of the soldiers were to be blessed and taken to a nearby church before their planned transfer on Wednesday to the German military cemetery in nearby Beurreau, which oversaw the exhumation.

A team of six people unearthed the bodies from their unmarked grave and found metal “dog tags” which may enable French authorities to identify some of the soldiers and notify surviving family members.

Watching the operation was former resistance fighter Emile Guet, 82. The soldiers were part of a group of 82 who surrendered to a resistance unit led by Guet during the liberation of Bergerac.

Guet said the men were promised by his superiors that they would be considered prisoners of war and their lives spared. However, on September 9, 1944, 17 of the group were killed by resistance fighters, acting against orders.

Guet tracked down the only surviving witness of the massacre, who was a child at the time, to tell him of the murky circumstances of the execution. The witness indicated the location of the bodies, although it is unclear who buried them.

BIMSTEC meeting opens in Bangladesh

DHALEA, 6 Nov — Trade and investment experts from five South-East Asian nations began a two-day dialogue here on Tuesday to identify areas of joint action for economic development, reported the official Bangladesh News Agency.

The experts of the Bangla- desh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) focused on expansion and development of several sub-sectors through mutual and bilateral cooperation.

These sub-sectors include textiles and clothing, drugs and pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, horticulture and floriculture, processed food, automobile industry and parts, coconut as well as tea and coffee. Bangladesh has taken the lead in textile and clothing sector, while Thailand on horticulture and floriculture. Sri Lanka came up with its gems and jewellery sector, and India with automobile and pharmaceuticals, said the meeting sources.

Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Subhel Ahmed said that the BIMSTEC would help remove trade barriers among the member states and boost trade volume of the region.

CBS cancels Reagan TV mini-series

LOS ANGELES, 6 Nov — In a move that generated immediate political controversy, CBS on Tuesday dropped plans to air its mini-series “The Reagans” after coming under fire from Republicans who condemned the film as biased and unfair. The network, which earlier this year sparked an uproar for broadcasting a docudrama on Adolf Hitler, denied that it was bowing to pressure, but rebuked the producers of the Ronald Reagan biography for not producing a balanced portrayal of the 40th president.

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A team of six people unearthed the bodies from their unmarked grave and found metal “dog tags” which may enable French authorities to identify some of the soldiers and notify surviving family members.

Watching the operation was former resistance fighter Emile Guet, 82. The soldiers were part of a group of 82 who surrendered to a resistance unit led by Guet during the liberation of Bergerac.

Guet said the men were promised by his superiors that they would be considered prisoners of war and their lives spared. However, on September 9, 1944, 17 of the group were killed by resistance fighters, acting against orders.

Guet tracked down the only surviving witness of the massacre, who was a child at the time, to tell him of the murky circumstances of the execution. The witness indicated the location of the bodies, although it is unclear who buried them.

BIMSTEC meeting opens in Bangladesh

DHALEA, 6 Nov — Trade and investment experts from five South-East Asian nations began a two-day dialogue here on Tuesday to identify areas of joint action for economic development, reported the official Bangladesh News Agency.

The experts of the Bangla- desh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) focused on expansion and development of several sub-sectors through mutual and bilateral cooperation.

These sub-sectors include textiles and clothing, drugs and pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, horticulture and floriculture, processed food, automobile industry and parts, coconut as well as tea and coffee. Bangladesh has taken the lead in textile and clothing sector, while Thailand on horticulture and floriculture. Sri Lanka came up with its gems and jewellery sector, and India with automobile and pharmaceuticals, said the meeting sources.

Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Subhel Ahmed said that the BIMSTEC would help remove trade barriers among the member states and boost trade volume of the region.
Let’s guard against the threat of human trafficking

Khin Myaung

(Continued from yesterday)

Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs has been carrying out tasks for prevention of trafficking in persons and development of women mass. Under the MNCWA, the work group for prevention of trafficking in persons, Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, State/Division work groups for prevention of trafficking in persons, State/Division Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, and District/Township work groups for prevention of trafficking in persons, District/Township Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, Ward/Village work group for prevention of trafficking in persons and Ward/Village Work Committee for Women’s Affairs.

The MNCWA undertakes its functions under the following organizational set-up:

- respective ministries of the State
- committees for women’s affairs at different levels
- NGOs such as the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association, the association for prevention of violence against women and rehabilitation, women cooperative societies, women religious organizations, and women social organizations.

The committee for fighting against trafficking in women and children, formed in cooperation with UNIAP, are disseminating strategies on fight against trafficking in persons to governmental officials in States and Divisions. The MNCWA in cooperation with the UNIAP and the Save the Children (UK), held a national level seminar on prevention of trafficking in persons in May 2003. The meeting focused on seeking the root cause of the problem, exchanging information, laying down strategies, making a review on the internal laws on human trafficking and strengthening cooperation with international organizations. The Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the ministerial meeting for prevention of human trafficking in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, in 2002. The deputy minister for Home Affairs attending the meeting in Bali, Indonesia, in 2003. Myanmar also actively attended the meetings of experts under the Bali work programme. Myanmar and Thailand signed the MOU on labour appointment between the two nations. The MOU translated into action starting from June 2003 plays a valuable role in tackling the problem. According to the instructions given by the government on 18 February 2002 for ensuring safe return of Myanmars in overseas including Thailand, reception camps are opened in Myawady near the border with Thailand. The camps are systematically accepting Myanmar returnees.

With a view to ensuring effective prevention of human trafficking, the team of the MNCWA is making field tours of all regions across the nation. At focus group discussions with local people, the team holds talks on seeking ways and means to expose human traffickers and gives advice and makes suggestions to solve their difficulties and problems on social affairs, education, economy and health for development of women’s sector. The team fulfills their requirements through coordination with respective bodies. At the central level, measures are taken for prevention of human trafficking, such as airing educative video plays and circulating addresses to be contacted if necessary and making laws and penalties known to the people, distribution of booklets, conducting courses and dissemination of consoling and comforting methods and knowledge in the States and Divisions, broadcasting radio talks and holding educative talks at schools. Regarding reports on human trafficking cases, the MNCWA and the work group for prevention of human trafficking made careful investigations and took severe actions against the human traffickers.

In accordance with the sections from 359 to 374 under “Myanmar Penal Code” enacted in 1861, the offences of kidnapping, abduction, slavery and forced labour carry a penalty ranging from five to life imprisonment. During one-year period from 17 July 2002 to 16 July 2003, a total of 206 cases on human trafficking were exposed and severe actions were taken against 390 human traffickers.

The society today can no longer tolerate the exploitation of the naive and needy. Therefore, the UN and other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations have been actively cooperating with one another to cope with the problem of human trafficking. The Union of Myanmar, on its part, is determined to deal with the ugly problem seriously. The MNCWA, in cooperation with the Government to prevent the trafficking in persons, is making field trips to every part of the nation and trying to realize its objectives. Finally, I would like to call upon the entire people to lend themselves to the task of wiping out the danger of human trafficking in cooperation with the Government and the MNCWA.

(continued)

Translation: NN + MS

Efficient use of electricity

- Use the least possible amount of electricity in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and other

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased
**Work coordinated for manufacturing buses and trucks**

YANGON, 6 Nov — The coordination meeting for manufacturing buses and trucks organized by Myanmar Industrial Development Office was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry yesterday afternoon. Chairman of the work committee Minister for Industry Dr Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Gen Khin Maung Kyaw, members of the work committee and representatives of industrial zones and bus and truck organizations attended the meeting.

The minister spoke on the occasion. In his speech, he said industrial zones, based on their experience in manufacturing small vehicles, were required to strive for manufacturing 10-ton and above buses and trucks. Plans for manufacturing the vehicles using local materials were also to be worked out in respective industrial zones and the government would render necessary assistance, the minister said.

The deputy minister, Director-General U Khin Maung of the Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning and Managing Director U Soe Thein of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries also took part in the discussion.

Afterwards, Director U Myint Than of MADEI General Manager U Hlaing Than of No-1 Automobile Plant (Yangon) and Director U Win Tint of Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries explained the requirements for manufacturing buses and trucks and application for CNC lathe machines.

Representatives from industrial zones reported on technical, financial and material requirements.

**Prime Minister attends...**

(From page 1)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers Kathina robes to Mahayana Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Rajadhamabhivamsa at the Fourth Kathina robes offering ceremony of SPDC Office. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers ‘soon’ to a Sayadaw of Masoein Yatkhitt and Masoein monastery at the Fourth Kathina robes offering ceremony of SPDC Office. — MNA

**WHO Regional Director visits Anti-AIDS Exhibition**

YANGON, 6 Nov — The first Anti-AIDS Exhibition continued at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here today. Dr Uson Muchtar Rafie, Director of WHO to South East Asian Region, and party visited the exhibition today. Members of social organizations, students and people totalling 10,000 today visited the exhibition which will go on till 9 November.

**Thutapadetha Journal comes out**

YANGON, 6 Nov — Thutapadetha Journal No 11 published by Sarpy Beikman of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information has come out today. It is available at the Sarpy Beikman book shop on Merchant Street and agents of Sarpy Beikman in Yangon and districts.
Prime Minister attends opening…
(from page 1)
and members of Chanthagyi Rice Offering Association and wellwishers.
The Prime Minister and party viewed the building. Vice-Chairman of the association U Thant Zin reported to the Prime Minister on background history of the association, saying that according to Mingun Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bandagarika Sayadaw, starting from 1332 Myanmar Era, the rice, donated by those who observed the Precepts on Full Moon Day of Kason, was offered to the two Chanthagyi monasteries. In 1339 ME, the rice was offered to over 12,400 members of the Sangha in four Mandalay townships, he added.
In 1340 ME, the executive committee of Chanthagyi Rice Offering Association was formed following the Ovada of successive Sayadaws in Mandalay.
Now, thanks to the assistance rendered by the State leaders and donations of the people, the association is contributing towards promotion and propagation of the Sasana, he noted.
Secretary of the association U Sein Nyunt presented K 8,803,795 for the building including K 1 million donated by Chairman of the association U Dwe-Daw Tok and family; and K 1 million by U Mya Maung-Daw Khin Khin Kyu (Mya Brokerage House) family. K 500,000 each by U Kaung-Daw Aung Kyi (Thantaya Oil Mill and Sanpya Ice Factory) owner of Pwegwen Road (26th Street), U Thaung Nyan-Daw Khin Hla (Aungchantha family) of Pwegwen Ward, Daw Amaygyan (Amaygyan Brokerage House) and family, Daw Khin Su family, U Ba Than-Daw Thet Kyin and family, and Daw Khin Than Win and U Chit Swe Win (ELSC) and family. U-Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the minister accepted the donations.
U-Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented 500 bags of rice donated by the State Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and officials. The Prime Minister inspected cultural heritage sites of Bagan Archaeological Zone and tasks for upgrading of Bagan region. The Prime Minister and party went to Bagan Archaeological Museum and inspected the statues of kings Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Alaungsitha and Kyaswa and Bagan heroes Kyansittha, Ngahwey, Ngalelephe and Nyangu Phee, scale models of Bagan Shwenandaw, Thripissaya Bagan village (11th Century) and Kantar Dam constructed in the time of king Anawrahta, and gave instructions on preservation of ancient cultural heritage.
The General inspected the endeavours for upgrading of Bagan region and left necessary instructions. This morning, the General inspected the check-in counter, departure lounge and requirements for extended construction of the airport building. Officials concerned conducted the General and party round the airport.
The General also inspected preparation of the runway and left instructions.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived back here later in the morning.

River water pumping projects inspected

YANGON, 6 Nov — Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than inspected the river water pumping projects situated in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions. — TRANSPORT

Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspects the river water pumping projects situated in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions. — TRANSPORT

YANGON, 6 Nov — Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, together with departmental officials, inspected the repair of Lawkaanda waterway and water supply of Twinywa river water pumping in NyaungU and gave necessary instructions to the officials on 3 November morning.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister and party inspected the water supply of Lawkaanda and Kyawte river water pumps in NyaungU and gave necessary instructions to the officials on 3 November morning.

Vice-Chairman Col Zaw Min and officials of the Prime Minister inspected the scale model of the Bagan Golden Palace at the Bagan Archaeological Museum. — MNA

YANGON, 6 Nov — Chair- man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the upgrading of the environs of Kandawgyi Garden and Yangon Zoological Gardens and gave necessary instructions to the officials today.

The commander arrived at the construction site of Relaxation Zone of Kandawgyi Garden at 3 pm. He was welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Commander of No.3 Military Region Col Tin Hsan, departmental heads and officials.

The commander inspected the construction of a concrete bridge, landscaping and construction of timber trellis, walkway, wooden bridge and elephant statue. The vice-mayor and officials reported on completion of upgrading works and future tasks. The commander gave instructions on timely completion.

Next, the commander inspected the upgrading of the environs of Kandawgyi Garden and Yangon Zoological Gardens. He inspected landscaping and upgrading of animal cages. The deputy minister and Managing Director U Shoe Kyaw of Forest Department and officials conducted the commander round the gardens. The commander gave necessary instructions. — MNA

In the evening, the commander inspected the water supply of Lawkaanda and Kyawte river water pumping in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

The newly-opened two-story Tadana Themkha Monastic Education School in Chaungmyathaz Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

The commander then inspected the water supply of Lawkaanda and Kyawte river water pumping in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

The general inspected the water supply of Twinywa river water pumping in NyaungU and gave necessary instructions to the officials.
Coffee: a promising export item

**Article by Kayan Soe Myint; Photos by Jy Chan Myint**

Coffee is grown on 23,000 acres of land in Myanmar, and 12,000 acres of them produces 2,418 tons of coffee yearly.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, Myanmar Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Enterprise of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reclaimed 5,457 acres of land in PyinOoLwin Township for growing coffee. The reclaimed land was allotted to private entrepreneurs and 8,489.20 acres of them have been put under coffee.

Similarly, 2915.3 acres of land was reclaimed in Banbwe region in Naunghkio Township and allotted to coffee growers beginning 1999-2000. Now, coffee plants have been grown on 1975.41 acres of them.

The Head of State gave guidance on cultivation of 100,000 acres of coffee in PyinOoLwin and Naunghkio Townships. In accord with the guidance, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and party made field tours of the townships to reclaim 114,242 acres of land including 59,242 acres in PyinOoLwin Town-ship and 55,000 acres in Naunghkio Township. Arrange-ments have also been made to grow 10,000 acres of cof-fee in 2004-2005 and 20,000 acres in 2005-2006 totaling 50,000 acres in PyinOoLwin Township and 50,000 acres in Naunghkio Township.

The ministry has invited private entrepreneurs who take interest in coffee cultivation in the dailies and on MRTV. A total of 485 entrepreneurs and four organizations applied for cultivation of coffee on 24,708.25 acres of land in the townships.

The staff of the Kyemon Daily visited coffee plantations in PyinOoLwin together with Deputy Director U Hla Myint, of the coffee section of Myanmar Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Enterprise in July this year.

Managing Director of Green Land Coffee Planta-tion U Sai Aik Paung explained that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation allotted the land and granted 30-year permission for coffee cultivation in 1998. A total of 272 acres of land was put under coffee in May 1999. Now, about 300,000 coffee plants are thriving in the plantations three years after they have been grown. Therefore, the plantation produced 40,000 viss of coffee seed in 2001, and 70,000 in 2002. Coffee seed was sold to companies for K 200 per viss and exported. The managing director hoped to produce 100,000 viss of coffee seed this year. Coffee plants bear fruit up to 30 years. Coffee Seed Section of MALBE has provided cul-tivation methods.

Deputy Director U Hla Myint also explained that fruit trees can be planted among coffee plants and cash can also be earned from the mix cropping. Land for cof-fee cultivation has already been reclaimed. Those who are interested in coffee cultivation can apply for 5 acres of land and above. Coffee plants are to be grown on the allotted land within 3 years. The enterprise is rendering assistance such as quality strains, cultivation methods, fert-ilizer, loans and water supply. Those who take interest in coffee cultivation may contact MALBE (HQ) in Yangon (Ph 01-665493, 01-666027) and coffee section (088-22135) in PyinOoLwin, he explained.

Translation: MWT

(Kyemon:30-10-2003)

**US deadliest killer admits 48**

**Seattle-area women killings**

**LOS ANGELES, 6 Nov —** The deadliest woman killer in the United States pleaded guilty in a Seattle court Wednesday to 48 accounts of murdering women, most of whom were prostitutes and runaways.

Gary Ridgway, the 54-year-old former truck painter long suspected of being the Green River Killer, said the word “guilty” 48 times in a plea bargain that will save him from execution but will face a life sentence.

“I killed so many women, I have a hard time keeping them straight,” he said in confessing to murder.

“I wanted to kill as many women as I thought were prostitutes as I possibly could,” he said in the statement.

Ridgway has worked with investigators to recover some of whom were prostitutes and runaways.

By admitting these murders, Ridgway set a record of the man who is becoming known as the Green River Killer.

The family of the last victim said they believe the last victim had disappeared in 1984. But one of those family members said Ridgway admitted to killing at least one in 1974.

Ridgway, of the Seattle suburb of Auburn, was arrested in 2001 as he left his longtime job as a painter at a truck company.

“Road accidents have continued to rob us of many innocent lives. We should stop turning roads into competition tracks,” Museveni was quoted Wednesday by the New Vision newspaper as saying. Museveni’s message was contained in a speech read on Tuesday by Minister in charge of the Presidency Kirunda Kivejinja at the funeral service of Shula Atamba, daughter to Joan Kakwenza, presidential adviser on poverty alleviation.

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

In order to effectively utilize the rich human and natural resources of Kachin State for the benefit of the local national races as well as the whole Union, the government has been building the required infrastructures in all sectors. The photo shows the Kandawyan Thit-khet Diversion Weir in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, which benefits 12,000 acres of farmland.

PHOTO: MNA

Hopin Bridge was built on Thayet creek on Shwebo-Myitkyina road in Hopin, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. The bridge with 200 feet in length was opened on 17 June 2003.

PHOTO: MNA

Thanks to the national re-consolidation that has been restored by the Tatmadaw government with true goodwill, the development drive has reached the remote areas which are enjoying rapid progress, and seeing many towns emerging as centres for border trade and cross-border tourist entry points. The photo shows an aerial view of developing Panwa in Kachin State.— PHOTO: MNA
China's foreign debt size still safe

Brunei, 6 Nov — Risks incurred by the increase of China's short-term foreign debts can be controlled, a spokesman for the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said Tuesday.

He noted that the hike of short-term foreign debts, which should be serviced within one year, "should not affect the safety of the country's debt size."

By the end of June this year China's outstanding foreign debts stood at 182.57 billion US dollars (excluding those in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan regions), 14.03 billion dollars more than the end of 2002.

Short-term debts made up 52.5 per cent, beyond the international "danger line" of 25 per cent and aroused concerns from departments concerned. According to the SAFE spokesman, however, China had a fairly strong ability to service the debts, citing that the ratio of the country's foreign exchange reserves to the outstanding foreign debts was 190 per cent, far above the international requirement of 20 per cent. —MNA/Xinhua

China offers preferential loan to Pakistan

Brunei, 6 Nov — China has offered a preferential loan of 500 million US dollars to Pakistan for bilateral trade and economic cooperation, said An Min, Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce here Tuesday.

An announced the deal, offered by Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday during talks with visiting Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf. He said at a Pakistan-China business forum that the trade and economic cooperation between China and Pakistan is fruitful, with many projects completed in Pakistan.

"Pakistan and China are cooperating in the economic field since the inception of our friendship, Musharraf said at the forum. "There are numerous monuments of this friendship all across Pakistan, such as Karakoram Highway, Heavy Mechnical and Electrical complexes."

China, which has provided assistance and safety net to the Southeast Asian economies when these were shaken by the financial crises of 1997 and 1998, could help accelerate development and bring about economic integration within Asia," he said.

said President Musharraf expressed his views on China's economic development and said here Tuesday that China has emerged as a positive force for economic stability and progress in Asia and the world at large.

At a 40-minute speech at prestigious Beijing University, President Musharraf said Pakistan's economic engagement in Central and South West Asia is similar to its economic and commercial role across the Asia-Pacific.

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Stronger Pakistan-China economic relations to come

Brunei, 6 Nov — Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, said here Tuesday that the friendship between Pakistan and China has emerged as a positive force for economic stability and progress in Asia and the world at large.

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**Hundreds of China’s space experts funded by Macao tycoon**

Beijing, 6 Nov—More than 500 young space professionals have benefited tremendously from funding support from a foundation named after Macao business tycoon Stanley Ho Hung-sun since 1999, space programme officials said on Tuesday.

Wang Liheng, director of the Science and Technology Commission under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, said the Hong Kong-based foundation offered funding support totalling nearly 30 million Hong Kong dollars to about 100 training and exchange programmes for bright young space professionals.

The funding support was crucial for the young space professionals who benefitted from the programmes and the corporation, the manufacturer of China’s carrier rockets, spacecraft and strategic missiles, since Chinese space professionals had been paid insufficiently until recently.

The exchange or training programmes involved carrier rockets, manned space programmes, rocket engines with liquid propellant, international trade and economic law projects and human resources management, said Wang, the former deputy director of the China National Space Administration.

Some of the space personnel who benefitted from the support had become managers of related companies or leading officials of space institutes. Four hundred and seventy young professionals, 83 teachers and 23 postgraduates from four prestigious space universities on the Chinese Mainland were awarded bourses or scholarships for their outstanding performance over the past decade.

More than 50 technical workers selected by the corporation have received short-term training in Germany thanks to funding support from the foundation.

Meanwhile, Tsang Hin Man, chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, has announced his decision to donate 12.88 million US dollars to set up the Tsang Hin Chi Space Development Fund.

He was speaking at a dinner Saturday night in Hong Kong in honour of China’s first astronaut Yang Liwei and the delegation of China’s first manned space mission.

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

Macau, 6 Nov—The delegation of China’s First Manned Space Mission, including China’s first astronaut Yang Liwei, arrived in Macau Wednesday noon for a two-day visit.

Yang disembarked the ferry jetboat at the Macao Ferry Terminal still carrying the gentle and humble demeanor, which has been familiar with the whole world after he travelled over 600,000 kilometres in the spacecraft Shenzhou V on October 15-16.

He walked out the terminal building accompanied by Bai Zhijian, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Ao Man Long, Secretary for Transportation and Public Works.

A large crowd waving China’s national flags and Macao SAR’s flags welcomed the heroes.

Yang shook hands with the people and surprised a group of middle school students by autographing a horizontal scroll they held high.

**Megawati expresses sympathy to flash flood victims**

Jakarta, 6 Nov—Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri on Wednesday expressed her sympathy to the victims of a deadly flash flood in North Sumatra Province over the weekend, from which at least 92 people were found dead.

“On behalf of the Indonesian people and government, my deepest condolences go to those who lost their loved ones in the tragic disaster,” Megawati said at the state palace.

“I have sent the coordinating minister for people’s welfare to meet our brothers and sisters who are now suffering and to take any necessary measure to ease their suffering,” she said.

The government blamed illegal logging and deforestation as the main causes of the flash flood.

**China to boost gas pipeline construction**

Beijing, 6 Nov—China will concentrate on constructing gas pipelines in the next 10 to 20 years, hoping to meet domestic growing demands for natural gas, said experts at a national workshop here.

The rapid economic development, pressure of environmental protection and the imperative need to improve energy resources infrastructure would prompt an increasing demand for natural gas, said Liu Lei, general manager of PetroChina pipeline company, at a national workshop on pipeline development and technologies.

It is predicted that gas consumption will rise at an annual rate of 7.5 per cent by 2020, and the total volume will reach 55 billion cubic metres in 2005 and amount to 100 billion cubic metres in 2010. Petroleum takes up 59.7 per cent and natural gas accounts for 23.2 per cent of the world’s consumption of energy resources.

However, in China, gas consumption takes up only 2.5 per cent in its energy structure, far less than the world average and less even than the Asian average proportion of 10.1 per cent, statistics show.

As the petroleum shortage and environmental problem loom large in China, governments at various levels, oil and gas field enterprises as well as many consumers have begun to focus more on the utilization of natural gas, which is cleaner. According to Liu, China’s natural gas is mainly distributed in the central and western areas, while the annual demand in the country’s eastern areas will reach 44 to 100 billion cubic metres in the next five to 10 years. The wide distance between sources of production and sales centres has impelled the acceleration of pipeline construction.

**Vietnam identifies key exports, markets for next year**

Hanoi, 6 Nov—Vietnam has chosen 16 groups of goods and seven countries and regions as national key exports and markets for trade promotion in 2004, a Trade Ministry official told Xinhua on Tuesday.

The key export items include seafood, rice, tea, processed coffee, processed pepper, fruits, vegetables, garments to non-quotas markets, footwear, plastic products, pork and construction materials, said Ngo Van Thuan, head of the ministry’s Trade Promotion Department.

Meanwhile, key export markets are China, the United States, the European Union, Japan, Russia, Eastern European countries and South Korea.

“Some 0.25 per cent of this year’s total export turnover of Vietnam will be spent on trade promotion activities next year,” Thuan said.

The country is estimated to record export turnovers of 19.5 billion US dollars this year, a year-on-year rise of 16.7 per cent. It has targeted an increase of 11-12 per cent next year.

**Pakistan President concludes China visit**

Beijing, 6 Nov—Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf left here Wednesday, concluding his three-day state visit to China.

During his stay in Beijing, Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with him.iang Zengmin, chairman of the Central Military Commission, Wu Banggao, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Ja Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, met him separately.

**Heroin hidden in spare tyre seized on Chinese border**

Kunming, 6 Nov—Four suspects have been caught after 41 kilos of heroin was found hidden in a truck’s spare tyre at the city of Ruili, in southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

Border police were tipped off on October 2 that a gang was planning to traffic drugs into the province through Ruili, so they set up an undercover team to prevent the traffickers.

On the evening of October 31, the police pinpointed the truck which the traffickers who had carried the drugs into Yunnan, and swooped on them. The heroin was spotted hidden in the spare wheel of a truck, and further investigations are underway, according to police sources.
Athens Olympic organizers present “floating hotel” cruise ship

ATHENS, 6 NOV — Organizers of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens presented the first of 11 cruise ships recently in southwestern Greece they wished to serve as “floating hotels” during the Games and to help make up for Athens’ accommodation shortage for the event.

The cruise ships will house 13,000 people, including members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), national sports federations, sponsors, broadcasters and visitors.

The MS Osterdam, based in Rotterdam, is the first ship presented by the Athens Organizing Committee that can host up to 1,848 passengers in five-star luxury surroundings.

“It is the first time that 11 of the best cruise ships in the world will serve as hotels for the Olympic Games,” said Basile Niadas, the general manager for games services.

The Osterdam will host members of the Russian and South African Olympic delegations, as well as officials from 15 other countries during the August 13-29 games.

A third of the ship is reserved for members of the Olympic family.

The rest will go to broadcasters and visitors. Most of the ships rooms are already booked, Niadas said. — MNA/Kiosis

Celta beat Ajax to revive Champions League hopes

VIGO (Spain), 5 Nov — Celta Vigo re-lived their hopes of making the knockout phase of the Champions League with a breathtaking 3-2 victory over Ajax Amsterdam in Group H on Tuesday.

Celta, bottom of the group following their defeat away to Ajax two weeks ago, went up two goals in the first half with a Peter Luccin penalty and a brilliant Suo Milosevic header.

Ajax, bidding to hold on to top spot in the group, pulled a goal back eight minutes after the restart when Wesley Sonck headed in from Maxwell’s cross but midfielder Vagner struck after 63 minutes to restore Celta’s two-goal advantage.

Rafael van der Vaart set up a frantic finale when his first-time shot beat Jose Manuel Pinto at his near post with eight minutes to go but Ajax, who had Zdenek Grygera sent off in the final minute, could not find an equalizer.

The result, coupled with AC Milan’s 1-0 win away at Club Bruges, left everything to play for in Group H with two games left to play.

Milan took over at the top of the group with six points, one ahead of Ajax. Celta moved up to third on five points, one ahead of Bruges.

MNA/Reuters

Quieroz happy with hard-fought point in Belgrade

BELGRADE, 6 Nov — Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz paid tribute to Partizan Belgrade after his side qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League with a hard-fought 0-0 draw on Tuesday.

Madrid lived dangerously at times against an inspired home side, and Quieroz said he was happy to go home with a point. “I think we had the best chances but I am happy with the outcome as we were a bit fortunate at the end to not concede a goal,” he said.

“We have qualified for the last 16 but we also want to win the group and there is still work to be done in that sense. “It was a fantastic atmosphere and their fans clearly lifted them to an outstanding performance. We have done well to take four points from two matches against a team of their quality.”

Partizan coach Lothar Matthaeus believes his side can still qualify for the knockout stage, although he admits their chances are slim. “By my calculation, we can finish runners up if we win both our remaining matches and Porto lose at Madrid in their final match,” he said a news conference after watching his side qualify for the last 16. — MNA/Reuters

Beckham praises Matthaeus, hard-working Partizan

BELGRADE, 6 Nov — Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham praised manager Lothar Matthaeus and his Partizan Belgrade players after the two teams drew 0-0 in a Champions League Group F match on Tuesday.

“Lothar Matthaeus has got a good team that works hard for their manager and for each other,” the England captain told Belgrade’s B 92 television channel.

Beckham said Real Madrid were happy to come away with the draw, which left the Spanish champions top of the group with 10 points and secured a berth in the knockout stages of the competition.

“You never go into a game expecting a goalless draw but the pitch was hard, they (Partizan) worked hard and we are happy in the end.”

Asked to compare Partizan with Olympic Marseille and Porto, the other two teams in the group, Beckham said: “They’ve got a great manager and he is a great person as well.”

Partizan prop up the group with two points from four matches, one point behind Mar- seille and five adrift of second-placed Porto.

The Serb and Montenegro champions must win their remaining two fixtures and hope other results go their way to progress to the last 16. — MNA/Reuters

Ten-man Milan snatch famous win in Bruges

BRUGES (Belgium), 6 Nov — AC Milan, reduced to 10 men and without both main central defenders, snatched a famous 1-0 win at Club Bruges in a fiercely-fought Champions League clash on Tuesday.

The result, courtesy of a magnificent winning goal from Brazilian midfielder Kaka four minutes from time, lifted Milan to the top of Group H and avenged their defeat by the Belgian champions in Italy two weeks ago.

But this determined and well-motivated European victory for the Italian champions came at a high cost with the loss of both veteran captain Paolo Maldini and his central defensive partner Alessandro Nesta.

Maldini went off injured after 33 minutes and was followed soon afterwards by Nesta, who was sent off by German referee Herbert Fandel after receiving his second yellow card.

Milan, playing fluently, had the best of the first half but struggled to keep a spirited Bruges out in the second when striker Andres Mendoza headed against the bar and substitute Alin Stoica forced a superb save from Dida.

Milan had dominated possession and produced flowing football in the first half but must have gone in at the interval wondering what went wrong.

Nesta collected his first yellow card for dissent after bouncing the ball in anger when a free kick against him after he had been fouled by midfielder Ivan Gvozdevonic.

He received his second yellow when he fouled Mendoza in midfield, realizing immediately what this meant for Milan who were already without cap- tain Paolo Maldini.

Maldini limped off after stretching in a tackle and was replaced by Alessandro Costacurta who became the only recognized central de- fender when Dario Simic partnered him after replac- ing striker Jon Dahl Tomasson following Nesta’s dismissal.

The Italians collected another yellow when Giuseppe Pancaro was caution- ed for a foul shortly before the interval, his actions betraying the frustration of a side that dominated without reward until Kaka swept in a magnificent 20-metre volley to seal victory.

MNA/Reuters
Northern Command holds Kathina ceremony

YANGON, 6 Nov — The 31st Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of Northern Command was held at the Dharmasangha of the command on 31 October morning. It was attended by 20 members of Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Wuntho Kyaw Taik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhadanta Silavamsa, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife, Commander of Myitkyina Air Base Brig-Gen Bo Kyi, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun and senior military officers, local authorities, officers, other ranks and families of battalions and units in Myitkyina Station.

First, the congregation received the Eight Precepts from the vice-chairman Sayadaw. The commander and wellwishers presented Kathina robes and offertories to members of the Sangha. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon at the ceremony. After the ceremony, the commander and wellwisher offered rice to members of the Sangha.

Launching ceremony of Shweli Haed-power Project held

YANGON, 6 Nov — Chair- man of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, together with Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, attended the launching ceremony of Shweli Hydel-power Project held in Namkham Township, Muse District, on 2 November morning.

The commander and the minister spoke on the occasion. President Mr Feng Ke of YMEC of the People’s Republic of China reported on the cooperation tasks for the project. Afterwards, the commander, the minister and the president formally opened the ceremony.

In the afternoon, the commander and minister party viewed the project site and posed for a documentary photo together with those present. In charge of the construction project Director U Win Kyi and Deputy Director U Aung Hlaing reported on arrangements and sites for the projects. The commander and the minister fulfilled the requirements.

Launched ceremony of Shweli Haed-power Project held

18th Myanmar Orthopaedic Surgeons’ Conference held

YANGON, 6 Nov — The opening of the 18th Myanmar Orthopaedic Surgeons’ Conference was held at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Road here this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oh, the director-general and deputy directors-general and directors of the ministry, the rectors of institutes of medicine, medical superintendents, professors, orthopaedic surgeons from abroad, Lt-Col Tun Tun of Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500 bed), Chairman of MMA (Central) Prof’U Myo Myint and CEC members, Chairman of Myanmar Orthopaedic Surgeons Association U Kyaw Myint Naing and CEC members, representatives of general hospitals from states and divisions and interested doctors.

In the address the minister, said according to the guidance of the Head of State, the ministry is making efforts to upgrade the health standard of the country and to give best health care services to the public. In implementing the projects, development of human resources is a major task. In so doing, altogether four institutes of medicine, two institutes of dental medicine, two institutes of paramedical sciences, one community health university, 43 nursing training schools and one dental institute of nursing have been opened under the Medical Science Department.

At present, the number of doctors is 16,570, up from 12,268 in 1988-1989. So also the number of hospitals amounted to 775 up from 631 in 1988-1989. Nowadays, 29 post-doctorate courses, seven Ph.D courses, 25 Master’s Degree course and six Diploma courses have been conducted. The main objective of national education development (health sector) is to upgrade

13th Asian Archery Championship, Athens Olympic Qualifier for 2004 continue

YANGON, 6 Nov — The 13th Asian Archery Championship, Athens Olympic Qualifier for 2004, hosted by Myanmar continued this morning at Youth Training Centre (Thuwanna) here. Archers from Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, Bhutan, the Philippines, China (Taipei), Malaysia, India, Kirgyzstan, China, Indonesia and Japan took part in Women Recurve (70 metre) and Compound Event.

In Women Compound, Ms Chen Liyu (China, Taipei), Ms Yap Chow Kam (Hong Kong) and Ms Choi Mi Yeon received bronze, silver and gold medals respectively.

In women’s Recurve, Ms S Lin (China), Ms S Jan (ROK) and Ms S Y Lee (Korea) stood first, second and third respectively. Thin Thin Khaing of Myanmar won 10th position among 50 archers in Women’s Recurve (70 metre).