Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosts a working dinner in honour of Cambodian PM Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian PM Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai PM Dr Thaksin Shinawatra at Sedona Hotel. MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Cambodian PM

YANGON, 10 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen and party at 7 pm today at the Sedona Hotel. Cambodian Prime Minister and party arrived here to attend the summit meeting on Economic Co-operation Strategy. Also present at the call were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Saw Hla Min and Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun and Cambodia Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany. —MNA

Second Ministerial Meeting on the Economic Cooperation Strategy between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand held

YANGON, 10 Nov — The second ministerial meeting on the economic cooperation strategy between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand hosted by Myanmar was held at Minkong Room of Sedona Hotel this evening. Present were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the deputy ministers, Myanmar ambassadors to Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand; senior officials, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia Mr Harnamhong, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Chan Sarun, Secretary of State of the Ministry of tourism Mr Thong Khon, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport Mr Tam IV Tek, under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Long Vosal, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and senior officials; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Somsvat Lengsavad, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Mr Somphong Mongkhun, Minister of Industry and Handicraft Mr Somnna Phomma Chan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Boukeut Sangsomsak, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Mr Sompheng Rasphone, Deputy Minister of Commerce. —MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards development of tourism industry

In the world today, tourism industry has become more and more popular and therefore every nation is trying to develop their tourism industry by preserving the unsplendid natural beauty and renovating ancient cultural edifices.

The Union of Myanmar also has a lot of potential for the development of tourism industry because it has so many places of historical interest. Tourists visiting our country are specially interested in Bagan archaeological region, the cultural heart of Myanmar, where there are thousand-year-old pagodas and ancient cultural buildings decorated with ten Myanmar traditional arts and crafts. Moreover, Myanmar has a long coastal line, with its beautiful islands, coral reefs and rich variety of animal species and plants, is a great attraction for tourists who would like to holiday while making a study of nature.

Kachin State in the north of Myanmar is endowed with breath-taking natural scenery. It was once very difficult of access and, due to the lack of peace and stability, it was not easy to travel from one township to another in the state. Now, it is no longer so. Peace is prevailing all over the state and the national brethren, showing genuine goodwill and understanding towards one another, are making concerted efforts for regional and national development.

The military attaches and their families, accompanied by the senior officers of the Ministry of Defence, on 5 and 6 November, made a study tour of Kachin State and they visited the confluence of Maykha and Malikha rivers, the Mulashedi suspension bridge and the Kakhaborazi National Garden in Myitkyina and Putao townships.

As Patao township is an area tourists take great interest in, the local people should try to develop tourism industry in their region by preserving beautiful natural scenery and protecting rare species of flora and fauna.

As Myanmar Travel Association and Myanmar Hoteliers Association have now been systematically formed, these two organizations should cooperate with respective departments for the development of tourism industry and try their utmost to provide the best service to the tourists visiting our country.

Li-Gen Ye Myint attends Matho Thingan offering ceremony of Maha Muni Image in Mandalay

YANGON, 10 Nov — The 14th Matho Thingan offering ceremony of Maha Muni Image in Mandalay was held at the pandal of Mogang Dhammanayon of the pagoda on 8 November morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Maha Muni Image Yadaw Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Pannavamsa, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, senior military officers, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt, Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn and departmental officials, the Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and members, social organizations and others.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid homage to the Buddha Image and offered flowers, water and light to it. They next offered Shwethaging to the Buddha Image.

Next, the ceremony was held at the Mogang Dhammanayon where officials presented Matho Thingan to Lt-Gen Ye Myint. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and officials, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, wellwishers and others conveyed the Matho Thigandaw, Tabetdaw, Thinbaingdaw and Ayeikathi Thigandaw in the precinct of the pagoda clockwise.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party offered Matho Thingan. Tabetdaw, Thinbaingdaw and Ayeikathi Thigandaw to the Buddha Image. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the seventh communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council being held at Maha Aungawarzyin (Atumashi) Kyaung. The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

Next, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Dhaataw Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sujatasara. Next, members of the Sangha recited purummas. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, and officials presented Kathina robes and offerings to members of the Sangha.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Myaungtaungk Shewawmin Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sujatasara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

The ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Crem Tissatho.

President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attends opening of youth centres in Kyauktan, Pazundaung Townships

YANGON, 10 Nov — Under the programme of teenage reproductive health project, organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA), Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division of MMCWA opened youth centres at Myaingthaya Model village, Kyauktan Township Yangon South District and Pazundaung Township, Yangon East District this morning.

Present on the occasion were President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Thintin, General Secretary and executives, Patron of Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members of panel of patrons, resident representatives of the UNFPA Mr Najib M Assifi and others. Patron of Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe formally unveiled the signboard of the youth centre. President Daw Khin Tin Htay presented commemorative flags to President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and resident representative of the UNFPA Mr Najib M Assifi. Afterwards, President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe signed in the visitors’ book and viewed round the youth centre.

Similar opening ceremony of youth centre was held at Maha Bandoola Housing on Maha Bandoola Street, Mandalay, Yangon in the morning. President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explained the purpose of opening the youth centre and resident representative of the UNFPA Mr Najib M Assifi explained about the projects implemented by the UNFPA.

After the ceremony, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party viewed round the youth centre.

The youth centres were opened in Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Sagen Di visions and Shan State (East) during 2003 and the ones in Yangon Division open from 1 pm to 8 pm daily except Tuesdays. Those interested may contact the centres.

MNA President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains the purpose of opening the youth centre at Maha Bandoola Housing on Maha Bandoola Street in Pazundaung Township.
388 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov—As of Friday, 7 Nov, 388 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Denmark, Spain, Ukraine and Poland reported one each.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 250 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,889 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 341.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command:

A 1st Armored Division soldier was killed Saturday by an explosive while on patrol in Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defence:

— Army Staff Sgt Mark D Vasquez, 35, Port Huron, Mich, killed by an explosive Saturday in Fallujah; assigned to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division; Fort Riley, Kan.

— Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Sharon L Swartwout, 43, Virginia; killed Friday in a Black Hawk helicopter crash near Tikrit; Swartwout was the regimental warrant officer for the Judge Advocate General Office; based at Headquarters Department of the Army, Pentagon. —Internet

Iran to suspend uranium enrichment in coming days

Tehran, 10 Nov — Iran said on Sunday it will suspend uranium enrichment activities in the coming days in line with demands of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Government spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told report- ers that “in the course of the coming days, Iran will imple- ment and announce the suspension of uranium enrich- ment”. On Saturday, IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said in Vienna that Iran will give letters next week making official its acceptance of nuclear inspections and a suspension of its uranium enrichment programme.

“Next week we will get the letter for conclusion of the additional protocol,” ElBaradei told reporters after meeting with Hassan Rohani, head of the Iranian Supreme National Security. Last Sun- day, Iran said that its uranium enrichment was conducted only for synthesis under the supervision of IAEA, however, it was going to stop the uranium enrich- ment process voluntarily to prove its goodwill.

Malaysian PM advises leaders to tell truth

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Nov — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi on Sunday advised leaders of the ruling National Front (BN) to tell him the truth so that the government can take effective and timely action to resolve problems.

Tell me the truth. At times people do not give truthful information…afraid that I may cry or cannot sleep over it but as the leader we have to hear the truth. If unwilling to hear the truth, then there is no need to be a leader,” the Prime Minister said when opening the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) convention here. BN, which groups 14 political parties including MIC, was set up in 1974. In 1999 general election, BN won 148 seats in the 193-member Lower House.

Air India to buy 28 new aircraft

NEW DELHI, 10 Nov—India’s flag-carrier Air India will buy a total of 28 new planes from both Airbus Industrie and Boeing Co over the next five years in a purchase worth $2.1 billion, news reports said Sunday.

The airline currently has a fleet of 33 planes.—Internet

US sales frenzy at Cuban fair, sugar deal opposed

Havana, 10 Nov—US companies, some complaining politics at home was blocking their growing business with Cuba, landed new deals on Friday to sell grain, chicken, tomato paste, mayonnaise, spaghetti sauce and gum.

The frenzy of contracts with the Cuban food import agency Alimino totalled 26 million US dollars for the day and 52 million US dollars for the week at Havana’s annual trade fair.

Having grown giant Archer Daniels Midland of Decatur, Illinois, signed for another 17 million US dollars in grains, oil, meat and soy beans. Trading company Louis Dreyfus, of Atlanta, Georgia, sold 6,000 tons of chicken leg quarters for 3.5-4 million US dollars.

Throughout the week, a line of companies that are American household names — Tyson Foods, Goldkist, Sysco Corp, ConAgra Foods Inc — secured more business with the government of President Fidel Castro, in power since a 1959 revolution.

Bomb fears force Baghdad kids to skip school

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov—School is out again in Baghdad. Since Oct 27, when a series of suicide bombings devastated the local Red Cross headquarters and three police stations throughout the city, killing 35 people and wounding more than 200, parents have agonised over sending their children to school.

They desperately want their children to resume their studies, which have been interrupted by months of war. But the parents fear that those who have terrorised the city will eventually attack schools, and when it comes to their children, they are unwilling to take any chances.

‘I am not going to lose my daughter for the sake of bravado or because of carelessness,’ said Ms Reem Kubba, 36, from southern Baghdad.

The efficacious poet and author kept her 11-year-old daughter Layla out of school for 10 days after the bombings. The attacks kicked off a calculated campaign to frighten Iraqis. After the different school:

Iraqi television said that there was a bomb in a school and everyone was talking about it,’ said Ms Alisham Jarrala, 40, who kept her two children home for several days. ‘These rumours spread very quickly.’ At the Taglibia Primary School in a working-class Baghdad neighbourhood, only 100 out of 712 students showed up on 1 Nov.

‘My parents didn’t want me to come, ’ said Noor Chiad, 13, shyly admiring her headscarf. ‘My parents said, ‘Don’t go to school today because there might be a bombing in the schools.’ They were afraid of the terrorists.’

Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division held a sign reading in Arabic STOP, a check-point ahead of you, wait for instruction on the Leader bridge in Baghdad, on 9 Nov, 2003. Security has increased after the recent attacks to the US-led coalition forces in the Iraqi capital. —internet

Military sources say Soviet missile brought down Black Hawk

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov—It was a Soviet-built missile which brought down the US helicopter Friday in Iraq, near the US air base in Tikrit, killing all six aboard, CNN reported.

Quoting military sources, the report said Friday’s deadly crash added to a bloody week for the coalition forces in Iraq. Thirty-five US troops and one Polish soldier died in Iraq in the first week of November.

Sources with the 4th Infantry Division told CNN they suspect a Soviet-built Kolomna KB-3 surface-to-air missile hit the Black Hawk helicopter, using an infrared guidance system.

Earlier, US military officials had ruled out the use of SAMs in the crash but had not discounted the Black Hawk went down as a result of hostile fire.—Internet

Iran suspends uranium enrichment

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Shocking images shame US forces in Iraq

Baghdad, 10 Nov—Fearful women and children bound by US soldiers in their home. A series of shocking pictures revealing US soldiers upping Iraqi women and children in their own home has provoked international outrage.

The occupying forces have now come under renewed fire for their treatment of ordinary Iraqis as shown in the pictures published today by Al Jazeera.

CAIR, the Council on American Islamic Relations, is conducting an investigation and seeking advice before taking action.

“This kind of image increases the sentiment of American troops in Iraq and can also play a major part in demoralizing troops who are having to lift up small children.

“We are seeking to raise this issue further in the appropriate arena,” said Washington CAIR spokesman Ibrahim Hooper.

A spokesman for the London-based Islamic Observation Centre said the pictures showed a “complete disregard for the human rights of the Iraqi people”.

He added: “A normal human being should be repulsed by the very idea of lifting up children.

“You have to question the mental state of soldiers who are being forced to do this.”

The IJC recently supplied pictures to Al Jazeera.net showing US soldiers frisking a four-year-old boy in an Afghan village as part of a military operation.

A senior officer justified the action at the time saying the child could have been carrying explosives. He added the security of US soldiers came first before any hearts and minds operation.

Those particular pictures provoked a huge, mixed response from Al Jazeera users who inundated the website with feedback expressing concern.

This latest series of pictures was sent to US military headquarters Centcom in Florida via comment Major David Farlow warned Al Jazeera.net not to publish the pictures on this site.

“It would be irresponsible. I can’t second guess what has happened here without knowing all the facts but US forces operating in Iraq have to use the appropriate level of restraint to the mission.

“US soldiers will use minimum forces wherever possible,” he added.

However John Rees, head of the British Stop The War Coalition, condemned the pictures as “the most inhuman pictures I have ever seen.”

The pledge by Hoshiyar Zebari came amid frustration expressed by occupation officials that Iraqi politicians have not moved more quickly to draw up plans for taking over power. In the new air strikes, F-16 fighter-bombers dropped three 500-pound bombs near the flashpoint town of Falluja, in the area west of Baghdad where 16 American soldiers were killed when a U.S. Chinook helicopter was downed a week ago.

The air strikes early on Sunday followed attacks on US troops, a US military source said. He had no precise details.

Warplanes dropped 500-pound bombs on suspected guerrilla hideouts on Friday night around Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, where a US Black Hawk helicopter was shot down that day, killing all six aboard. That was the first time U.S. planes had bombed Iraq since the official end of major combat on May 1. A third US helicopter, a Black Hawk, was downed near Tikrit on October 25. Another US soldier was killed and a comrade wounded late on Saturday when their vehicle ran over a bomb in Baghdad. A bomb also wounded a British soldier in the southern city of Basra.

China, Zambia vow to enhance cooperation between legislatures

Beijing, 10 Nov—Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo and Zambia President Levy Mwanawasa agreed here Friday to enhance cooperation between the two countries’ legislatures.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), said the NPC, China’s top legislature, hopes to strengthen contact with the Zambian National Assembly to promote exchanges and cooperation between the two countries’ parliaments.

Wu said visits by Mwanawasa that China and Zambia share long-term friendship. The two peoples have supported and helped each other in national development and international affairs.

As developing countries, both China and Zambia shoulder the heavy task of developing economy and improving people’s living standard, Wu said, adding that to enhance and expand cooperation between the two countries is in the basic interest of the two peoples.

Mwanawasa, who is on his first visit to China, said cooperation with China is of vital importance to Zambia, including between legislation bodies and ruling parties, Mwanawasa said.

The Zambian people cherish friendship with the Chinese and he hoped to learn more China and expand cooperation, including between legislation bodies and ruling parties, Mwanawasa said.

A British soldier stands guard at the site where a British army jeep was hit by an explosion near the medical college hospital in central Baghdad, southern Iraq, on 9 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

Delegates in WEDDC highlights credibility in economy

Zhuhai, 10 Nov—Heated discussion went on about building credibility in the economy and security on the second day of the World Economic Development Declaration Conference (WEDDC) & China Business Summit.

China issued a declaration on world economic growth by itself for the first time at the summit which sets quotas for urban products like China.

China enterprises need to pay more attention to their company images and brands, said Shelly Lazarus, CEO and president of Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide.

A good company image and brand will contribute to building credibility of the company and develop loyal customers, she added.

China has faced great challenges in supervising its banking sector after it entered the World Trade Organization (WTO) and integrating with the global economy, said Liu Mingkang, chairman of China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC).

The CBRC, China’s banking watchdog, founded in April this year, has worked to improve supervision of banks in line with prudent management principles and impose serious punishment on illegal operations, Liu said.

Water rationing set for residents of east China province

Nanchang, 10 Nov—East China’s Jiangxi Province will possibly introduce water rationing for urban domestic, industrial and agricultural use in 2004 to curb waste.

A spokesman for the provincial hydrological bureau said the province had worked to implement early next year," the provincial government said.

A third US helicopter, a Black Hawk, was downed near Tikrit on October 25. Another US soldier was killed and a comrade wounded late on Saturday when their vehicle ran over a bomb in Baghdad. A bomb also wounded a British soldier in the southern city of Basra.

Canada’s UN Ambassador quitting post early

Ottawa, 10 Nov—Canada’s Ambassador to the United Nations—best known for trying to broker a deal to avert the U.S. invasion of Iraq—will leave his post at the end of the year, officials said on Friday.

The Foreign Ministry said Paul Heinbecker, whose term as ambassador was due to run out in the middle of next year, would take a job in academia. No reason was given for his early departure. — MNA/Reuters

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Bush challenged foes Iran and Syria as well as key ally Egypt on Thursday to adopt democracy, saying past US policies of supporting non-democratic Middle East leaders had failed. But analysts said Bush mainly criticized US foes rather than the region's least democratic states. In a front page editorial, Syria's daily al-Thaara newspaper accused Washington of trying to act as a regional guardian. "The American Administration is practising the role of guardian over sovereign states. Threatening to impose democracy by force kills democracy and assassinates freedom," it said. "The people of the region are not in need of lessons in democracy and freedom." Syrian-US ties are strained over accusations by Washington that Damascus is turning a blind eye to militants crossing its borders into Iraq to fight US troops. Bush has blamed "foreign terrorists" in part for a wave of violence in Iraq. Syria, which said on Wednesday relations with Washington were the most negative in years, says it is working to secure the border, and called on the United States to do the same on the Iraqi side. Syria also questioned how Washington can call for democracy in the Middle East while it is occupying an Arab state. "Can there be a democratic revolution by occupying sovereign countries? Can it be by jets and cannons and destructive weapons?" the paper said. "This speech... is not in the interests of the United States of America at all, and it is not in the interest of the region." Syria is also under heavy US pressure for its backing of Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas and Palestinian groups opposed to Israel, which last month bombed what it said was a training camp for militants deep in Syria for the first time in 30 years. The US House of Representatives also voted last month to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions on Syria until the White House says it no longer supports "terrorists". If the Senate approves the measure as is expected, Bush could sign it into law. "I think the Syrian people, all of them, would welcome Turkey's decision as wise and rational," Interim Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told Reuters. "It will help us develop bilateral relations in the future with Turkey, a very important neighbour, in areas such as trade, reconstruction and culture," he added. US officials voiced regret at Turkey's change of heart, but said sending troops might not have furthered the aim of stability in Iraq given the degree of Iraqi opposition. "There is recognition, I think, on all our parts — the United States' side, Turkish as well as the Iraqis — that maybe this deployment at the moment this would not add to that goal in the way that we had hoped it would," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. The decision was a victory for the Governing Council, which has set its face against troops from neighbouring countries, especially Turkey, a former imperial power in Ottoman times. Turkey has tense relations with Iraq's Kurds. Ankara fears its demand for a federal state could spur pressure for self-rule among Turkey's own large Kurdish minority.

Iraqi minister says Turkey wise not to send troops

Baghdad, 10 Nov — Iraq's interim foreign minister on Saturday hailed as "wise and rational" Turkey's decision not to send troops to bolster US-led forces in the country. Reversing an earlier decision, Turkey said on Friday it would not deploy troops to help the United States secure postwar Iraq after encountering strong opposition from the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council. Bush challenged foes Iran and Syria as well as key ally Egypt on Thursday to adopt democracy, saying past US policies of supporting non-democratic Middle East leaders had failed. But analysts said Bush mainly criticized US foes rather than the region's least democratic states.

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Iraqi minister says Turkey wise not to send troops

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"I think the Iraqi people, all of them, would welcome Turkey's decision as wise and rational," Interim Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told Reuters. "It will help us develop bilateral relations in the future with Turkey, a very important neighbour, in areas such as trade, reconstruction and culture," he added.

US officials voiced regret at Turkey's change of heart, but said sending troops might not have furthered the aim of stability in Iraq given the degree of Iraqi opposition.

"There is recognition, I think, on all our parts — the United States' side, Turkish as well as the Iraqis — that maybe this deployment at the moment this would not add to that goal in the way that we had hoped it would," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

The decision was a victory for the Governing Council, which has set its face against troops from neighbouring countries, especially Turkey, a former imperial power in Ottoman times.

Turkey has tense relations with Iraq's Kurds. Ankara fears its demand for a federal state could spur pressure for self-rule among Turkey's own large Kurdish minority.
**For Iraq police, a bigger task but more risk**

**Baghdad, 10 Nov**— In an empty office in a bombed-out station, the lieutenant colonel in the local police force was explaining the miseries his officers face. Two weeks ago, a car bomb blew up the station, killing at least 13 people. One police officer lost a leg and could lose the other; he does not know how he will pay for his care. We don't have weapons," said Muhammad Hasen Rahma, the lieutenant colonel at this station here in the Khidra neighbourhood in western Baghdad. "We don't have flak jackets. We don't have good cars. And we are face to face with death, because everybody thinks we are supporting the Americans." He said that he himself had received a death threat three days after the bombing. Then a rocket-propelled grenade exploded 200 yards away and Colonel Rahma ran to investigate, ending the interview.

The police are the core of the American plan to restore civil society in Iraq, but they are staggering, and not only at this station and the two others hit by devastating bombs this week. The Americans, who are promising to increase the number of officers, are leaning on the police and other Iraqi security forces to help them root out the guerrillas plaguing the 150,000 international troops in Iraq. While the demands on the police have grown, their resources have not kept pace. Powell said the US realized the "difficulty" presented by the implementation of the National Security Entry/Exit Registration System (NSEERS) by the Department of Homeland Security last year. "We understand the difficulty that it has presented to people wanting to visit, wanting to come to this country, Powell said, adding "but we are not standing still." "We understand that it is still imperfect, and we are working on a better long-term solution, which we call US-VISIT. We want to ensure that all visitors, of all faiths and backgrounds, are received here with dignity and with humanity," he said Wednesday night.

Powell took the opportunity to reach out to the Muslim world. "Our relations with the Muslim world are enriched when we can host Muslim visitors, attract Muslim students, and welcome Muslim businesses.

"However, in the post-9/11 world, as you all know, we had to ensure that, as we honour our commitment to openness and diversity, we had to do it in a way that was consistent with our needs for security. That is not easy. It is always a difficult balance," Powell said.

Powell said, "young people are the bridge to a better future, a future we all dream about, a future in which Muslims and Christians, Jews and Hindus, Buddhists and people of all faiths work together."

**US voices regret about no Turkish troops for Iraq**

**Washington, 10 Nov**— US officials voiced regret on Friday that Turkey will not send troops to Iraq but said a deployment might simply have been dominated by Iraqis fiercely opposed to having Turkish soldiers on their soil.

"Obviously, we would have preferred this (had) all worked out very nicely to everybody's satisfaction but let's remember that the goal is stability in Iraq," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

"There is recognition, I think, on all our parts—the United States' side, Turkish as well as the Iraqis—that maybe this deployment at this time would not add to that goal in the way that we had hoped it would," he added.

Reversing an earlier decision, Turkey would not deploy troops to help the United States secure post-war Iraq after encountering strong opposition from the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

"If this was going to cause more divisions and difficulty inside Iraq, then maybe it's better not to do it," said a senior State Department official who asked not to be named. "If it was going to create friction with the Iraqis, it isn't a good thing to do."

The decision represents something of a victory for the Iraqi Governing Council, which was handpicked by the United States but made no secret of its reluctance to help troops from Turkey, which ruled Iraq for nearly four centuries.

It also eases pressure on Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government, which went against public opinion to allow the deployment under pressure from Washington and Ankara's powerful military establishment.

In a sign of the sensitivity of the issue, US Vice-President Dick Cheney spoke to Erdogan on Friday morning and Secretary of State Colin Powell discussed the matter with Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul on Thursday. The State Department said Powell had stressed Washington's gratitude to obtain its assent for its offer to send Turkish troops, who might have eased the pressure on US forces fighting persistent guerilla resistance in Iraq. **MNA/Reuters**

**US devising new system for checking visitors**

**Washington, 10 Nov**— Facing criticism for the restrictions imposed on entry of foreigners into the country in the aftermath of the September 11 terror attacks, the US is now formulating a new system of checking entry of visitors hoping to strike the right balance between "openness and security," Secretary of State Colin Powell said on 27 Oct.

Powell said the US realized the "difficulty" presented by the implementation of the National Security Entry/Exit Registration System (NSEERS) by the Department of Homeland Security last year. "We understand the difficulty that it has presented to people wanting to visit, wanting to come to this country, Powell said, adding "but we are not standing still." "We understand that it is still imperfect, and we are working on a better long-term solution, which we call US-VISIT. We want to ensure that all visitors, of all faiths and backgrounds, are received here with dignity and with humanity," he said Wednesday night.

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**Canada seeks to block reimport of cheap “AIDS” drugs**

**Ottawa, 10 Nov**—Canada unveiled legislation on Thursday that would enable the country to take concrete measures to implement a World Trade Organization agreement to provide cheap drugs to poor countries to treat AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics.

“This is a compassionate and effective Canadian response to a global challenge,” Health Minister Anne McLellan told a news conference after the bill was introduced in Parliament.

Generic drug firms would be allowed to reach contracts with poor countries to supply the drugs, though the brand name patent holders would have 30 days to decide whether they want to fill the contracts themselves, on the same terms.

One worry of the brand-name companies — GlaxoSmithKline, for instance, which holds the patent for the anti-AIDS drug AZT — is that the cut-price drugs could find their way on to a black market and back into North America.

But Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew said the government would take steps to prevent that before allowing the plan to go ahead.

“We will assure that there is no diversion or reimporting of these drugs back into Canada,” he said.

Dr Robert Peterson, a senior official within the government’s health department, said each pill would have some sort of marking identifying where it was destined.

“We will be able to track it (back) to the contract,” he told Reuters. “Action could then be taken, seeking an end to the black marketing and, if necessary, even cutting off the supply of the drug to a country. If the generic companies end up supplying the drugs, they would have to pay the patent holder a 2-per-cent royalty. Their licences would be valid for two years.” **MNA/Reuters**
Myanmar engineers who bring honour to the country-3

Maung Phyu (Energy)

Economists see China’s economy to maintain high growth

SUZHOU, 10 Nov — China will maintain a high economic growth rate over the next 15 to 20 years, according to economists attending the 23rd China Economic Growth Forum in Suzhou in east China’s Jiangsu Province, which opened here on Sunday.

Nobel laureate Lawrence Klein said China had recorded rapid growth over the past two decades, and its economy would continue to grow strongly in the next 20 years though there might be some slowing down. The economy might grow at six to seven per cent instead of eight or nine per cent some years, Klein noted.

Goldman Sachs (Asia) managing director Fred Hu also expressed optimism about the long-term prospects as the country had some positive fundamentals for long-term rapid growth. China had great catch-up potential as the per-capita gross domestic product was still low compared with developed nations.

He said the Chinese economy was backed up by the high proportion of saving deposits and mainly driven by long-term investment, such as infrastructures, the equipment retooling and innovation and housing consumption.

Hu also said the human resources in China were immense in numbers. The government had accumulated rich experience in economic management and adopted a sound policy environment for economic growth, he noted. Entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) and opening up would help the country optimize distribution of resources and further improve productivity. He predicted the improvement of productivity would replace capital accumulation as the major driving force of China’s growth in the next 20 years.

Li Deshui, director of China’s National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), noted that China would be able to maintain a growth rate of seven to 8 per cent for an unprecedented period of more than 40 years.

China had developed a relatively strong base of materials, enjoyed a great potential for growth and followed a practical strategy of development, he said. The government had accumulated plentiful experience in macro-economic control and explored a unique route of development with Chinese characteristics.

Acknowledging that China was accelerating the pace of opening itself to the outside world and implementing the strategy of developing education and science, Li said the country has a sound development environment as it adopted a new ideology on social and economic development.

Klein said China has already realized the importance of coordinating and balancing quality and quantity of economic growth. This would have great impact on the country’s economic growth, he added.

The two-day forum was sponsored by the NBS and attended by more than 300 officials, academics and business people from both China and abroad.

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

China’s steel, auto giant signs deal on cooperation

SHANGHAI, 10 Nov — China’s steel giant Shanghai Baosteel Group Company said it has signed a deal on strategic cooperation with Dongfeng Motor Corp., one of the country’s three biggest automakers, over the weekend.

The move came after Baosteel signed similar deals with the First Automobile Works Group (FAW) and Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp, the other two auto giants in China.

Under the latest deal, Baosteel and Dongfeng will cooperate on steel supply, technological development, steel and auto parts processing, logistics management, enterprise administration, and auto sales.

Baosteel will set up a sales and service centre in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, where the headquarters of Dongfeng is located, according to the deal.

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Nyunt makes a speech at the opening ceremony of the courses of the ministry. — MNA

Minister attends opening of courses of Ministry of PBNRDA

YANGON, 10 NOV — Ad-\nanced management course No9, clerical training courses No29 and 30, basic engineer-\ning course No5 and tailoring course No5 were opened at the central training school of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Dagon Myothit (North) this morn-\ning, with an address by Min-\ister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Nyunt.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Nyunt.

Anti-AIDS Exhibition continues

YANGON, 10 NOV — The First Anti-AIDS Exhibition Centre continued today as the eighth \nday at Tatmadaw Convention Centre here attracting visitors. There is a computer quiz on HIV/AIDS at the exhibition which will remain open till 12 November.

Cash and kind donated to doyen literati

YANGON, 10 NOV — The ceremony to donate cash and kind to doyen literati was held at the Sarpy Beikman Build-\ing at the corner of Merchant and 37th streets here at 11 am today, attended by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-\Gen Aung Thein, directors-gener-\al and officials.

Altogether 100 trainers were taking the courses. The min-\ister and guests then inspected nurseries, landscaping and lawns and gave instructions.—MNA

UN Agencies, International social organizations, social organization in Myanmar and pharmaceutical compa-\nies are on display.

Educative pamphlets and books were distributed to the visitors. There is a computer quiz on HIV/AIDS at the exhibition which will remain open till 12 November.

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8 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 11 November, 2003
Second Ministerial meeting

In the morning, the Second Senior Officials’ Meeting on the Economic Cooperation Strategy between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand was held at Mindon Room of Sedona Hotel. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the deputy minister. — MNA

Yangon holds hot-air balloon festival

Yangon, 10 Nov — Shan State Peace and Development Council organized the Maha Kathina Festival and the Taungdaing Hot-air Balloon Festival at the foot of Sulamuni Lawka Chantha pagoda in Taunggyi from 2 to 8 November. Local people as well as those from far and near visited the Hot-air Balloon Festival during which altogether 67 balloons were released at night and 284 ones in daytime.

Communication courses opened

Yangon, 10 Nov — Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications opened E-mail Operating Course, U/G Cable Construction and Maintenance Course, Digital Microwave Communication Course and Introduction to Data Communication Course this morning at the training school of the ministry. CPT Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw made an address at the opening ceremony. A total of 45 trainees are attending the course.

Shooting team demonstrates skill

Yangon, 10 Nov — The Information Subcommittee for the observance of the 26th Anniversary Independence Day and Exhibition Subcommittee held coordination meeting at Information and Public Relations Department this afternoon. Present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Then, the director-general, managing director of the Myanmar News Agency, and other officials. Then he discussed matters relating to ensuring fence services (Army, Navy, Air) Shooting Contest. The commander viewed the skills demonstration and presented cash assistance to the winners and winning teams.

Information and Exhibition Subcommittee hold coord meeting

Yangon, 10 Nov — The Information Subcommittee for the observance of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day and Exhibition Subcommittee held coordination meeting at Information and Public Relations Department this afternoon. Present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Then. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the deputy minister. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw makes an address at the opening ceremony of communications courses. — (Communications)
**Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun), assembling road rollers**

The No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) of Myanmar Agriculture Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2 is situated on the west bank of the River Ayeyawady near Malun Village in Minhla Township, Thayet District, Magway Division. Originally, the factory produced various kinds of agricultural machinery. However, with a view to fulfilling the requirement of the State, the factory is also assembling road rollers after laying down plans. Now, the factory has launched assembling of 10-ton road rollers. In October 2003, it produced five road rollers per month during the period from November 2003 until March 2004. It means the factory will have to manufacture 55 road rollers in 2004 fiscal year.

The model of road rollers assembled at the factory is named MM-2 F8. The engine models assembled to the road roller in Myanmar are locally made engine, Zwe tractor engine and 50 hp clutch housing. Furthermore, gear box, body, wheel and frame can be now successfully produced in the nation. Arrangements have been made to assemble 80 hp road rollers and production has been launched in a bid to translate the guidance of Head of State Senator General Than Shwe on manufacturing import-substitute items into reality, the Ministry of Industry-2 is making strenuous efforts to serve the purpose.

With the aim of making significant contribution towards road construction projects for development of border areas, plans are well under way to produce locally-made road rollers cheaper than imported ones. So it will save foreign exchange. The No 2 Agricultural Machine Factory (Malun) produces all parts of road roller except the front wheel, rear wheel and the fork.

The roads, one of the infrastructures needed for development of the country, are being extended and built by the Government. So, the road rollers, which play a key role in constructing roads, are being assembled in the country.

Therefore, the road rollers will contribute much towards ensuring smooth and secure transport in the country.

**Commander offers Kahtina robes**

**Yangon, 10 Nov —** The 13th communal Kahtina ceremony of Thaninthayi Division Peace and Development Council was held at Buddha Sasana Beikman of Laykyun Hsimee Pagoda in Myeik at 9 am on 6 November.

The ceremony was attended by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and wife, senior military officers from the command, division/district/township PDC members, departmental heads, town elders and wellwishers.

Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Panna Wama administered the Eight Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta. The commander offered Kya robes to the Buddha image there. Afterwards, the commander and officials presented Kahtina robes to Sayadaws. Wellwishers also presented offerings to the monasteries.

The Bothaung monastry President Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. The commander and wellwishers offered Soon to the members of the Sangha. —MNA

**MMU, MAEU to announce lists of students on 15 Nov**

**Yangon, 10 Nov —** The Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport and the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University under the Ministry of Science and Technology will open on 1 December 2003. The lists of the students who gained admission to the two universities will be announced at the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) on Thahton Street, Kamayut Township, the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) in Mandalay, the MMU in Hsinmalai, Kamayut Township in Yangon, the Yangon Technological University, Gyogone, Insein Township in Yangon and the MAEU in Mekitla on 15 November 2003 (Saturday).

Those who are allowed to join the two universities are to register at the respective university from 24 to 28 November. —MNA

**Holding of 9th Convocation of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities coordinated**

**Yangon, 10 Nov —** Work coordination meeting on holding of the ninth convocation of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities was held this afternoon at the office of the minister for Religious Affairs on KabaAye Pagoda Road here.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung made an address at the meeting. It was attended by Chairman of the coordination committee Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and leading committee members, Director General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana U Sann Lwin and officials. Officials concerned reported on matters on holding of the convocation, progress of work and needs for the convocation. After hearing reports, the minister attended to the needs. Next, the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the minister. The convocation will be held on 8 December. Those wishing to offer soon to members of the Sangha who will attend the convocation may contact Director U Khang Aung of the DPPS and Ph-661275, 662148.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen. — MNA

MCCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe unveils the signboard of the Youth Centre in Kyauktan Township. — MNA

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivers an address at the work coordination meeting on holding of the ninth convocation of the State Pariyatti Sasana universities. — MNA
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

No. 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2 is located six miles from Thaton, Mon State. Being surrounded by many rubber plantations, the factory gets raw materials with ease. Thanks to the factory there are job opportunities for over 1,000 people. It produces different kinds of tyres. The photo shows part of the production process at the factory. —PHOTO: HTWE KYI

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) will be 11,575 feet and can withstand 60 tons of loads. The construction project is targeted to complete in December 2004. The bridge is on Kawthoung-Myeik-Dawei-Mawlamyine-Yangon Union highway. It is the biggest one through which vehicles and trains could pass. On completion of the bridge, access to Taninthayi Division, Kayin State, Mon State and Bago Division will be easier. —PHOTO: MNA
Baltic ministers call on EC to fund for “Rail Baltica”

Riga, 10 Nov — Three Baltic states transport ministers in Lithuania’s Druskinkai on Friday signed a joint letter to the European Commission (EC), proposing that feasibility study for the “Rail Baltica” railroad project be fully funded by the EC, local media reported.

Ministers of Transport from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in their letter said the feasibility study should be launched as soon as possible. The project involves not only Baltic nations but also other countries, they emphasize in the letter.

During the annual meeting the ministers repeatedly expressed support for proclaiming the Baltic Sea a sensitive zone. — MNA/News

Over 13% of Mozambican adults infected with HIV

Maputo, 10 Nov — At least 13.6 per cent of adults aged between 15 and 49 in Mozambique are infected with HIV, local media reported on Friday.

According to the Mozambican Ministry of Health, the new figure results from the analysis of blood taken from 10,788 pregnant women in 36 sentinel sites throughout the country in 2002. The statistics show a sharp difference between Mozambican provinces and regions.

The southern region now leads the epidemic with a 17 per cent HIV prevalence rate against 13.2 per cent in 2000. The central region has an infection rate of 16.7 per cent, which is exactly the same in 2000.

The northern region is the area least affected by the epidemic, but even here the rate of infection rose from 5.7 per cent in 2000 to 8.4 per cent in 2002. The capital, Maputo, registered a rate of 7.9 per cent.

The HIV prevalence in Maputo, capital of Mozambique, is estimated at 17.5 per cent. Beira, the second largest city in the country, gave an HIV prevalence of 35.7 per cent. — MNA/News

Death in childbirth remains high in Latin America

SANTIAGO (Chile), 10 Nov — At least two Latin American women died every hour last year from complications during childbirth, caused by poverty and a lack of access to proper health care, said a report released on Friday.

Haiti and Bolivia had the highest maternal mortality rate in the region while Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago registered a rate closer to that of rich nations.

The United Nations set a goal of cutting the Latin American maternal mortality rate in half by 2010 but Belizan said that was impossible. We’re not going to achieve that,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Brazilian lawmaker convicted of keeping slaves

BRASILIA (Brazil), 10 Nov — One of Brazil’s most powerful lawmakers has been convicted of keeping slaves on his farm in the poor northeastern state of Maranhao, a labour court said on Friday.

Lawmaker Inocencio Oliveira of the opposition rightist Liberal Front Party said in a statement that the decision was “pure political persecution” and vowed to appeal the decision made by a state court.

Oliveira also holds the position of Deputy President of Brazil’s Lower House of Congress, making him one of the country’s most prominent opposition politicians. The Superior Labour Tribunal, Brazil’s highest court for labour issues, said in a statement that Maranhao court had sentenced Oliveira to pay $300,000 reais ($185,000 US dollars) in fines for the practice of slavery.

Modern-day slavery still exists in pockets of Brazil’s dirt poor interior, where land owners lure workers to isolated farms which they can not leave because they are unable to pay off debts amassed for tools, clothing and sundries.

The centre-left government of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has pledged to end the practice. It estimates there are some 25,000 indentured servants in this country that imported more African slaves than any other before ending the practice in 1888.

Maranhao is one of the states where the practice is still found.

The court statement said the landowners Oliveira’s farm were found in “subhuman conditions...without the right to come and go at will.” — MNA/Reuters

Don’t smoke
German Upper House votes to block reforms

BERLIN, 10 Nov—Germany’s Upper House of Parliament voted on Friday to temporarily block labour market reforms amid expectations it would also hold up tax cuts to force changes that could embarrass the government.

The Bundestag Upper House voted to convocate a parliamentary mediation committee on the plans to cut benefits for the long-term unemployed and create a network of job centres.

The legislation lies at the heart of labour market reforms proposed by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in his “Agenda 2010” package of measures to lift Europe’s largest economy out of three years of stagnation.

The centre-left government has proposed flanking the reforms, which will suck money out of the economy, by bringing forward 15.6 billion euros of tax cuts to 2004.

Economy Minister Wolfgang Clemont told the Bundestag he hoped both sides could reach a compromise on all aspects of Agenda 2010, including the tax cuts, as quickly as possible, saying this was needed to support signs of recovery.

“We are interested in a solution to all the problems linked to Agenda 2010. It’s important that this happens...what we cannot agree on what will come into law and when as quickly as possible,” Clemont said.

The opposition conservative opposition to propose to pay for the tax cuts by raising borrowing five billion euros and by reducing tax breaks for homeowners and commuters. They aim to use their majority in the Bundestag to force changes.

The conservatives, in turn, divided over the tax cut and facing mounting pressure from business leaders not to wreck the nascent recovery, are widely expected to agree a compromise deal in a parliamentary mediation committee by mid-December.

“We are not blocking these tax cuts out of party political or tactical grounds,” said Edmond Stoiber, Bavaria’s premier and leader of the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU).

“We want these tax cuts...we want to make them possible, but with different financing. Not financing on credit,” Stoiber said.

Cuba makes businesses with foreign firms

HAVANA, 10 Nov—Cuba has signed contracts for over 150 million US dollars with companies from different countries, including the United States and China, during the 21st International Fair of Havana which will be concluded on Sunday.

Cuba’s Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade, Pedro Luis Padron, told reporters that his government also signed several letters of intention for businesses amounting to 17 million dollars.

Throughout the expo which began on Monday, Cuba has made business contacts with companies from the United States, China, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Colombia, Mexico, the Vice-Minister added.

During the awarding ceremony at the fair on Friday night, Cuban President Fidel Castro said that the high number of participating companies shows the sincerity of the island to do business.

Castro pointed out that the contracts signed by Cuba with the foreign companies made it clear that it is impossible to do business with the Caribbean country.

Cuba to purchase 50,000 tons of grain from China

HAVANA, 10 Nov—Cuba and China signed an agreement on Saturday under which the island will purchase approximately 50,000 tons of grain from China for 16.2 million US dollars.

The contract was signed by Pedro Alvarez, president of Cuban state-owned company for food products Alimport, and Zhou Tianxiong, general director of the Chinese company CEM International Trading Corporation.

Both sides reached the agreement during the 21st International Fair of Havana which started on November 3 and will conclude on Sunday.

The fair has attracted the participation of 3,293 firms from 49 nations.

Alvarez said the agreement marks a new step in the strengthening of relations with China. He commended the professionalism of his Chinese partners and the quality of Chinese products.

Chinese Ambassador to Havana, Wang Zhiqian, witnessed the signing of the contract.

Cubans sign joint statement on all aspects of Agenda

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Saudia Arabia donates relief food, medicines to Zambia

LUSAKA, 10 Nov—Saudia Arabia has donated tons of assorted relief food and medicines to Zambia especially for its Southern Province which had poor rainfall, local newspaper Daily Mail reported Friday.

The donation includes 200 tons of maize, 100 tons of assorted food stuffs and 210 cartons of medicines.

Receiving the donation here Thursday, Deputy Min ister in the Office of the Vice-President Rose Banda was quoted as saying the Saudi Arabian assistance came against the backdrop of unfavourable weather conditions, in some parts of the country during the last farming season, which culminated in poor crop yield.

Banda hoped that the relief food and medicines would reach the intended target.

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Minimal damages to Douglas, Zeta-Jones over photos

LONDON, 10 Nov—Hollywood stars Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas won just 14,600 pounds in damages from Hello! on Friday, far short of the 500,000 pounds the couple wanted from the magazine for having published unauthorized photos of their wedding.

Hello! printed surreptitious pictures of the pair’s star-studded 2000 wedding three days before official shots appeared in rival magazine OK!, which had snapped a one-million-pound deal with the couple.

During a month-long case earlier this year in London, which the pair attended, Zeta-Jones called the photos sleazy and unflattering.

But at the High Court on Friday, judge John Lindsay ruled against them on several key points.

Although he said Hello! had breached the couple’s rights of confidence, he ruled against their claim of invasion of privacy and rejected their demands for “aggravated and exemplary damages.”

Hello! could only be blamed for publishing the photos, not for the distress caused by the intrusion of the uninvited photographer who took the secret pictures, he said.

Brazil’s President ends Africa tour with unity pledge

PARIS, 10 Nov—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wrapped up an African tour on Saturday pledging to bolster the unity of developing countries as they fight for leverage in the global trade system.

The Brazilian leader spent a final day in talks with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the continent’s economic and diplomatic powerhouse, and both men emerged promising to strengthen their growing diplomatic partnership.

“South Africa and Brazil are following the right track in a globalized world where the developed countries already have the way to play the game,” Lula told a news conference.

Lula arrived in South Africa late on Friday on the final leg of a tour that included visits to Portuguese-speaking Sao Tome and Principe, Angola and Mozambique as well as Namibia.

South Africa and Brazil, along with India, formed the core of the so-called Group of 20 Plus countries which torpedoed trade talks in Cancun, Mexico, arguing they were not advancing the Development Agenda agreed at the WTO meeting in Doha, Qatar.

In a statement issued after the meeting, Mbeki and Lula agreed on “the unacceptable of developing countries being subjected to protectionist policies by developed countries”.

Mbeki said Lula’s visit would broaden the scope of cooperation between the two countries — which on Saturday signed new agreements on scientific and technical co-operation and double taxation.

“We count Brazil as an important partner in the process of the renewal of the African continent,” Mbeki said.

South African officials said Brazil and South Africa agreed that the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organiza tion all required restructuring to give the developing world a greater voice.

MNA/Reuters
Iversen earns Wolves draw against Birmingham

LODZEN, 10 Nov—A scrappy goal by Norwegian striker Steffen Iversen earned Wolverhampton Wanderers a 1-1 draw against local rivals Birmingham City at Molneux on Saturday. Iversen bundled the ball home at the far post from Henri Camara’s cross after 66 minutes to cancel out Finnish striker Mikael Forssell’s second and the home side almost went ahead from Henri Camara’s cross after 66 minutes. Eight minutes into the second half Alexander Frei equalised with a shot that went in off the post and Stephane N’Guema put 10-man Rennes ahead with a crashing header.

Portsmouth. Charlton Athletic went fourth in the Premier League on Saturday with a 2-1 victory over West Ham United. Charlton have 21 points. Chelsea and five more than champions Manchester United, who remain in mid-table after their best win of the season. Leeds stay bottom on eight points, the same tally as Blackburn Rovers and Leicester who did not play on Saturday. Finnish striker Johnson scored twice for Charlton as they got the better of West Ham United. Charlton went fourth in the Premier League on Saturday with a 2-1 victory over West Ham United.

Deportivo late to reclaim top spot

Madrid, 10 Nov—Deportivo Coruna recovered from their midweek European humiliation to return to the top of the Primera Liga on Saturday with a 2-1 victory over Real Sociedad that came courtesy of two Igor Arjuegi own goals. Deportivo, handed a crushing 8-3 defeat by Monaco in the Champions League in midweek, were in trouble again on their return to domestic duty when Nilah Kahselli gave Sociedad the lead midway through the first half. Jurergui turned a Joan Capdevila cross past his goalkeeper Sander Westerveld after 72 minutes, though, and the unfortunate defender got the final touch on a glancing Walter Pandiani header two minutes from time to hand Depor the win. Victory took Deportivo back top of the table with 25 points from 11 matches.

Arsenal’s Thierry Henry fell to the ground after colliding with Tottenham Hotspur’s goalkeeper Kasey Keller during their Premiership match at Highbury Stadium in London. —Reuters

PSG win 1-0, Rennes player sent off for halftime fight

PARIS, 10 Nov—Paris-St. Germain kept in touch with Ligue 1 leaders Monaco thanks to a 1-0 win at Nantes on a strange night involving a power cut, a player sent off in the tunnel at halftime and the first win for bottom side Le Mans.

Stade Rennes played the last quarter on the pitch after a goalless first half. Nantes, fifth at start of play, dominated the start of the second half and the home side almost went ahead when Gregory Pujol’s shot was saved by Jerome Alonzo.

Two minutes later Fabrice Fiorese, back in the PSG side after injury, showed good control outside the penalty area before firing home a fierce half volley. But PSG owed their three points to Alonzo who pulled off at least four top-class saves. PSG have 23 points behind Monaco on 27, and Lyon and Marseille on 24.

In a thrilling game at Rennes, their striker Frederic Piquionne was sent off at halftime for fighting with home supporters who had insulted him.

Rennes were 1-0 down at the time after Vladimir Manchev had made the most of slack marking to score in the 32nd minute. Eight minutes into the second half Alexander Frei equalised with a shot that went in off the post and Stephane N’Guema put 10-man Rennes ahead with a cracking header.

Rennes were reduced to nine when midfielder Cyril Yeuchamp picked up his second yellow for getting involved in a scuffle. Three minutes later Manches fired his second, a volley from close in against a stretched Rennes defence. Frei then hit the Lille bar from a free kick and Manchev should have scored a third but he chipped wide when on one on one with keeper Petr Cech.

Manchester is now top scorer in the league with eight goals. The floodlights failed at Le Mans and the game was delayed about 35 minutes.

Arsenal’s Thierry Henry falls to the ground after colliding with Tottenham Hotspur’s goalkeeper Kasey Keller during their Premiership match at Highbury Stadium in London. —Reuters

Sampdoria deepen Empoli gloom, Brescia-Bologna draw blank

ROME, November 9 — First-half goals from strikers Fabio Bazzani and Cristiano Doni gave promoted Sampdoria a comfortable 2-0 win over Serie A strugglers Empoli on Saturday.

The victory lifted Sampdoria to eighth ahead of Sunday’s matches but deepened the gloom surrounding Empoli, who have now lost five consecutive matches and remain rooted to the foot of the table with just two points from nine games.

The home side took the lead in the 21st minute when Bazzani latched on to Doni’s through-ball and burst between two defenders before pokng his shot past keeper Luca Bucci.

Six minutes later, Doni doubled home side’s advantage with a free kick that crashed down off the crossbar but was adjudged to have gone over the line. —Reuters

Sampdoria’s goalkeeper Michele Verruca (L) and Empoli’s goalkeeper Gianluca Curci challenge for the ball during their Serie A soccer match at Empoli’s Stadio Carlo Castellani November 9, 2003. —Reuters

Deportivo double takes Celtic 8 points clear

Glasgow, 10 Nov—Wales striker John Hartson warmed up for next week’s Euro 2004 playoff games with Russia by scoring twice as Celtic crushed Dunfermline Athletic 5-0 to move eight points clear at the top of the Scottish Premier League.

Hartson was on target after 23 and 37 minutes to crack Dunfermline’s resistance before Ross Wallace, Stanislav Varga and Henrik Larsson completed the rout in the final 10 minutes. Celtic remain unbeaten at the top with 34 points from 12 games, eight points clear of champions Rangers who play at Kilmarnock on Sunday.

“…”
11-11-2003 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(09:00 - 16:00)
9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
9:06 Lucky Bamboo
9:10 Headline News
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Snake gourd stuffing: pounded prawns)
9:15 National News
9:20 Biological Expedition to Hpoinkan Razi Region (II)
(Shan-Subuung-Awadan)
9:25 The Myanmar Dance, A Modern Version
9:30 National News
9:35 Exhibition HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Activites (Part-2)
9:40 Song of “Glory of Myanmar”
9:45 National News
9:50 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
“Come and See Myanmar”
11-11-2003 (Tuesday)
Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
15:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
“Mingalabar”
15:36 Living in Myanmar (Taung Thun)
14:40 Headline News
14:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Snake gourd stuffing: pounded prawns)
14:54 National News
15:00 National Convention
15:02 Biological Expedition to Hpoinkan Razi Region (II)
(Shan-Subuung-Awadan)
15:55 The Myanmar Dance, A Modern Version
16:00 National News
16:05 Exhibition HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Activites (Part-2)
16:10 Song “Glory of Myanmar”
16:12 Solar car for energy saving
16:15 National News
16:20 Rayamanya in Myanmar (Soeprapa Episode)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
16:30 National News
16:35 Myama Crocodiles
16:40 Myana Cuisine “Steamed Eggplant with Tomato Sauce”
16:45 National News
16:50 Myanmar Marine Products For All Nations
16:55 Rakhine Traditional Cultural Dance Honoring Buddha
17:00 National News
17:05 The beautiful green ice cream “You Buy - You Don’t Door”
17:12 Weaving school in Falarn
17:15 National News
17:20 Agricutural Marketing in Myanmar
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)
19:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
19:36 Living in Myanmar (Taung Thun)
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Snake gourd stuffing: pounded prawns)
19:45 National News
19:50 National Convention
19:52 Biological Expedition to Hpoinkan Razi Region (II)
(Shan-Subuung-Awadan)
19:55 The stage male dancers in Myanmar
20:00 Let’s mail the lovely card
20:10 Song “What love is”
20:13 A Prospective Industry in Shan North
2015 National News
20:20 The Woman in Ta JATAKA Scene (II)
20:25 Song “RHYTHM OF Walaung”
20:30 National News
20:35 The Golden Jubilee
WEATHER
Tuesday, November 11
View today:
7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:15 am
2. ྲླླ ཤེ་ བོ་ གྱུར་ ཞེས་པ་ ཞུས་ པོ་ སྡེ་ དེ་ དུ་ རྡུབ་ རྐྱུར་ བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
4. Morning news
7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
6. རྡུབ་ རྐྱུར་ བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
8:10 am
7. Ban of yesteryear
8:20 am
8. རྡུབ་ རྐྱུར་ བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Grammar made easy
4:30 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. Songs to uphold National soccer
Spirit
4:25 pm
3. English For Everyday Use
4:35 pm
4. Musical programme
4:45 pm
5. འབྲི་ རྡུ་ སྒྲོལ་ ཚུ་ ཐ་ བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
5:00 pm
6. Dance of national races
5:10 pm
7. བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
5:25 pm
8. བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
5:40 pm
9. Sing and enjoy
6:30 pm
10. Evening news
7:00 pm
11. Weather report
7:05 pm
12. Milo success in soccer
10:00 pm
13. Musical programme
10:20 pm
14. རྡུ་ སྒྲོལ་ ཚུ་ ཐ་ བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
7:30 pm
15. The mirror images of the musical oldies
7:40 pm
16. རྡུ་ སྒྲོལ་ ཚུ་ ཐ་ བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. རྡུ་ སྒྲོལ་ ཚུ་ ཐ་ བོད་ གི་ནེར་ ཞེས་པ་ བོད་ ན་ རྒྱུན་ སྣང་ དབྱུར།
21. Calcio Serie A
22. The next day’s programme
5:40 pm
23. 20: Agricultural Marketing in Myanmar
23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
“Come and See Myanmar”
11-11-2003 (Tuesday) &
12-11-2003 (Wednesday)
Evening & Morning Transmission
23:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
23:36 Lucky Bamboo
23:40 Headline News
23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Snake gourd stuffing: pounded prawns)
23:45 National News
23:50 National Convention
23:52 Biological Expedition to Hpoinkan Razi Region (II)
(Shan-Subuung-Awadan)
23:55 The Myanmar Dance, A Modern Version
Monday, November 10, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 5°C to 6°C.Surface normal in Kayah State, Kayin and Rakhine States, Bago, Yangon and Magway Divisions, and 4°C to 4°C below normal in Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining regions.
Maximum temperature on 9-11-2003 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 10-11-2003 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-11-2003 was 64%.
Total sunshine hours on 9-11-2003 was (9.0) hours approx.
Rainfall on 10-11-2003 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 5 mph from Southwest at 11:30 hours MST on 9-11-2003.
Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 11-11-2003: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kangin State, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).
State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-11-2003: Generally fair weather.
Cambodian Prime Minister arrives for Summit

YANGON, 10 Nov—Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen and party arrived here to attend the Summit meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand to be hosted in Myanmar by special aircraft this morning. The delegation led by Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Mr Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Saw Hla Min and officials. Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany. The Prime Minister and party went to Sedona Hotel. The Cambodian Prime Minister was accompanied by Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Hor Namhong, Minister of Commerce Mr Cham Prasidh, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Cham Sarun, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy Mr Suy Sem and deputy ministers and senior officials. — MNA

Thai PM arrives to attend Summit

YANGON, 10 Nov—A delegation led by Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra arrived here this evening to attend the summit meeting on economic cooperation strategy of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand to be hosted in Myanmar. The Thai Prime Minister and party were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Surakiat Sathirathai who is currently here, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador Mr Oum Maolanon and officials. The delegation led by Thai Prime Minister proceeded to Kandawgyi Palace Hotel where they would stay. The Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Somkid Jatusripitak, Minister of Transport Mr Sorya Jangrungreaengkiti, Minister of Energy Mr Prommin Lertsuridej, the Ministry of Defence and officials.

Pagodas, monasteries in Mandalay crowded with people

YANGON, 10 Nov—On 8 November (fullmoon day of Tazaungmon), pagodas and monasteries in Mandalay were crowded with people offering flowers, water and lights, keeping Sabbath and meditating. At night, lighting ceremonies were held at famous pagodas.

Maha Muni Yokeshin-daw image was crowded with devotees at 4 am. Devotees led by Yaydaw Sayadaw visited Maha Muni Yokeshin-daw image and offered flowers, water and light to it at 5 am. Devotees offered gold foils, flowers, water and light to the image. Fish are set free and fed.

Other famous pagodas in Mandalay were also crowded with the pilgrims. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects monsoon paddy cultivation in Nyaungdon Township

YANGON, 10 Nov—Minister for Defence and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the State Peace and Development Council office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries arrived at the border of Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions yesterday. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and heads of departments. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander arrived at Ashwelkwin farm between Mezali and Ashwel Villages in Nyaungdon Township. Maubin District Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Mya Shein reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected samples of beans and pulses and summer paddy in the township. In meeting with local farmers, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on preparation for cultivation of monsoon paddy. — MNA