YANGON, 11 Nov— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe hosted lunch in honour of Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen and members, Prime Minister of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Boungnang Vorachith and members and Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and members, who are currently here to attend the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy hosted by Myanmar, at the hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road today.

The luncheon was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Deputy Minister U Khan Maung Win.

Senior General Than Shwe and members, Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand and members posed for documentary photos.

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Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand call on Senior General Than Shwe

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Present on the occasion together with Senior General Than Shwe were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Deputy Minister U Khan Maung Win.

Also present together with the visiting prime ministers were Senior Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Hornamhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR Mr Somsavat Lengsavad and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Dr Surakiart Sathirathai.

After the call, Senior General Than Shwe and members, Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand and members posed for documentary photos.

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--- INSIDE ---

Perspectives
Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty, duty of all Union nationals Page 2

Emerging human resources Page 7

National development can be made with the systematic combination of natural resources and manpower Pages 11

--- Circulation 23,881 ---
Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty, duty of all Union nationals

The Union of Myanmar is a sovereign nation. The duty of preserving and safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty rests with all the national people living in the Union and their descendants.

Myanmar had stood for centuries as an independent and sovereign nation before it was annexed by the colonialists after three aggressive wars. The people of Myanmar had to live under the colonialists' rule for over a hundred years. However, the national people of the Union put up a continuous resistance against the colonialists and fascists till they regained their freedom.

Although it is nearly 56 years now that the Union of Myanmar has become independent again, it is still suffering from the grave consequences of the evil legacy left by the colonialists. Moreover, the neo-colonialists are also maneuvering through various ways and means to manipulate our nation.

Therefore, the Government is ensuring to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty regained through loss of many lives and limbs. The younger generations should know how the colonialists economically, culturally and socially exploited a nation and a people that had lost their freedom and how their ancestors made sacrifices to win back the independence of their nation. Only then will the younger generations come to value the status of an independent nation and people.

Now is the time when the State Peace and Development Council and the entire national people, with the object of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty, are making concerted efforts to successfully realize the seven-point policy programme. This policy programme is the roadmap drawn up with a national outlook for the emergence of a genuine democracy.

In accordance with the policy programme and with the participation of people, step-by-step implementation will have to be made for the emergence of a modern and developed democratic nation.

The Government is fulfilling all the necessary requirements for the harmonious development of all the regions in the Union. The State is now on the right path to development. At such an opportune time, the national people will have to lend themselves to the task of building the nation into a peaceful and developed one.

We would like to call upon the national people to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty so that Myanmar can stand proudly among other nations of the world eternally.

Thai Prime Minister and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 11 Nov—The Thai delegation led by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra who arrived here to attend the summit meeting on economic cooperation strategy of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar visited the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday evening.

Accompanied by Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials, the delegation members at 10 pm arrived at the pagoda, where they were welcomed by members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and officials.

Next, the visiting prime minister and party paid homage to the pagoda.

Afterwards, the visiting prime minister and party inspected the bell of King Thayawady at the north-east of the pagoda and paid homage to Kakthusandha Buddha Image kept at the prayer hall of the eastern archway.

Next, the visiting prime minister signed in the visitors' book and donated cash for the pagoda through members of PBT U Khin Maung Myint, and left the pagoda.

MNA

Health Minister views cleft lip and palate surgery

YANGON, 11 Nov—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, together with Director-General of the Health Department Dr Wan Maung, Deputy Director-General of the Medical Research Department (Up-Per Myanmar) Col Than Aung and officials, this morning viewed the medical treatment given at the Department of Plastic, Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgery of the Yangon General Hospital jointly performed by Myanmar surgeons and Interplast of Australia.

The minister greeted Medical Superintendent Dr Teik Wan, Professor Dr Khin Maung Lwin and officials, and six-member Interplast led by Dr Gary Buckland and Dr Jeremy Hunt and members and discussed matters on technical cooperation between the two countries.

The Interplast, in cooperation with Myanmar surgeons, gave treatment to 43 cleft lip and palate patients in June, 2001, and 70 patients to June, 2002. The Interplast group arrived here to give treatment to 70 patients.

MNA

8th Myanmar-Thailand Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation held in Taunggyi

YANGON, 11 Nov—The 8th Myanmar-Thailand Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation was held at Aye Thar Yar Golf Resort Hotel, Taunggyi in Shan State on 9 am today. Present on the occasion were Myanmar delegation led by Secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Thai delegation led by Secretary-General of ONCB Police Maj-Gen Chudeha Vanasastidhya and heads of department.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters on drug seizures in the two countries, measures taken for the 15-year drug elimination plan in Myanmar, assistance provided by Yonkha project of Thailand, destruction of poppy seeds and prevention of poppy cultivation according to New Destiny Project, decreasing of cultivation and production of poppy according to data collected by the United States of America and UNODC. Moreover, they also discussed drug control and prevention, development of poppy-substitute and future tasks. Similar meeting at low level was held on 10 November 2003.—MNA

Painting competition at Myanmar-Tong Tah Trade Fair

YANGON, 11 Nov—With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar-Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003 will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Street from 26 to 30 November. The trade fair will include exhibition of goods, demonstration and painting competition.

The outstanding artisies in different levels will be presented handsome prizes. Those who are interested may register at Building 3, Room (4/5), Botataung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township (Tel: 2956131/ 2981287) not later than 15 November.

A wellwisher makes cash donation to the fund raising committee for holding of Sarsodan Day for 1386 ME.—MNA
US-backed mayor of Iraq’s Sadr City killed in clash with US troops

WASHINGTON, 11 Nov—Mohammad Ghazi al Kaabi, the US-backed mayor of the Shia-populated Baghdad district of Sadr City, has been shot and killed in an altercation with American troops, the US military said. The US Central Command said the clash, which is now being investigated, took place at the building housing the district advisory council, of which Kaabi was chairman.

“...an incident reportedly occurred as a result of a confrontation following Mohammad’s refusal to follow instructions from the site’s security official, who was enforcing security procedures stemming from recent car bomb incidents in accordance with standard rules of engagement,” the command said in a statement.

A shot fired during the altercation wounded the mayor in the lower extremities, the military said. Although he was given immediate medical assistance on the scene of the incident and quickly taken to a US military hospital, Kaabi was pronounced dead upon arrival, according to the statement.

The command did not reveal who fired the shot. Nor did it offer any details about the nature of Kaabi’s wounds.

A military coalition official contacted by telephone by AFP said he was unable to provide any further details.

It was not immediately clear what implications Kaabi’s killing would have on the already tense and politically sensitive Sadr City, which is home to two million Baghdad Shiites.

Formally known as Saddam City, this part of the Iraqi capital was renamed after Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al Sadr, a spiritual leader of the country’s Shiites believed to have been assassinated by the Saddam Hussein government in 1999.

Various Shi’ite clerics, as well as the US occupation authority, have been competing for the hearts and minds of its residents since the ouster of the Saddam Hussein regime last April. —Internet

Bollywood extravaganza in Singapore

Mumbai, 11 Nov — In an effort to promote ‘Destination Singapore’ in Asia, top Bollywood stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukherjee, Saif Ali Khan and Priyanka Chopra would perform at a cultural extravaganza in Singapore on 30 November.

The show is part of Singapore Tourism Board’s marketing campaign launched in June 2003, which aims at generating global visitor arrivals of four million by the year end.

“We are happy to hold a show of this magnitude for the first time in Singapore. This event will definitely put Singapore on the entertainment and lifestyle map of Asia”, Singapore Tourism Board Area Director Romen Bose said.

India test-fires “Brahmos” missile

New Delhi, 11 Nov — The Brahmos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired for the fifth time from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-sea on Sunday.

The missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher at 12:04 hours, the Press Trust of India reported.

After achieving the precision guidance capability in surface-to-surface version from a fixed launcher in its fourth trial on 29 October, the missile was test-fired to check its other parameters on Sunday, defence sources told the PTI.

The present version of Brahmos, the product of an Indo-Russian joint venture weighing about three tons, can strike a target located 290 kilometres away. The missile is eight-metre long and carries a conventional war-head weighing about 200 kilograms.

A two-stage vehicle, the missile’s propulsion consists of a solid propellant booster and liquid propellant ramjet system.

Brahmos is the first and only supersonic cruise missile using liquid ramjet technology. It cruises in the atmosphere at speed faster than sound.

The first demonstration flight took place in a vertical configuration on 12 June, 2001 while the second was fired from an inclined plane on 28 April, 2002. The third launch was conducted from a warship of the Navy in the Bay of Bengal on 12 February, 2003.

Nepal’s first “IT” Park to be operational soon

Kathmandu, 11 Nov — The First Information Technology (IT) Park of Nepal will be operational from April next year, a high-ranking Nepali Government official said.

“The government is fully committed to adopting proactive measures and pragmatic policies to promote IT related business in Nepal,” The Himalayan Times newspaper quoted Finance Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani as saying.

The construction of the IT park, which was delayed by two years due to lack of fund, is now at its final stage. Lohani said while inspecting the park at Banapati municipality of Kavre District, some 50 kilometres east of Kathmandu.

The government has allocated 70 million Nepali rupees (nearly one million US dollars) to expedite the construction works, he added, adding that the IT park, the country’s first of its kind, will be completed at a cost of 250 million rupees (3.42 million dollars).

Following the completion of construction, the park, which will be staging computer software and running IT related business, will attract more investment in IT business, he said. It is expected that the IT park will provide direct employment to 1,000 people in the first phase and then 4,000 IT personnel will be employed in the second phase, he added.

Turkey says US troops battled Kurd rebels in Iraq

ANKARA, 11 Nov — Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said on Monday US troops and Iraqi Kurdish forces had clashed at the weekend with Turkish Kurdish rebels holed up in northern Iraq.

Ankara, which last Friday withdrew an offer to send Turkish troops to help the United States secure Iraq, has been pressing US forces there to crack down on separatist Kurdish fighters from Turkey’s banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"It is true that clashes took place yesterday. Not only US forces but also Kurdish ‘peshmerga’ fighters were involved in engagement on separate fronts," Gul told reporters. — MNA/Reuter

Thai researcher wins UNESCO prize

BANGKOK, 11 Nov — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will Monday award a Thai researcher with the Albert Einstein Award for his invention of a machine for drying unhulled rice, Thai News Agency reported Monday.

Professor Somchat Sophonronmart, the Thai researcher from the Faculty of Energy and Materials of King Mongkut’s University of Technology, expressed pride at having won the prize, which will be handed over during a ceremony in the Hungarian capital of Budapest to mark the World Science Day.

The professor wins the prize for alternative energy research. — Internet

Cambodia celebrates 50th Independence Day

Pnom Penh, 11 Nov — Cambodia on Sunday held a grand ceremony in Phnom Penh to mark the 50th Independence Day. King Norodom Sihamouk presided over the celebration.

The King said, “Independence was the great success of Cambodian people because we have a great unity.”

The country has been under UN supervision since 1999.

Premier Hun Sen and other high ranking officials participated in the ceremony.

US picked Baghdad official dies after being shot by US soldiers

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Somchat said that the invention after 12 years of research was economically beneficial. It can dry unhulled rice with a high humidity level rapidly and evenly, without damaging the rice grains. After only 1.5-2 minutes, 8 per cent to 10 per cent of the humidity could be lost.

Moreover, the heat generated during the process can be recycled. — MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
US eyes alternatives to Iraqi council

WASHINGTON, 11 Nov — The Bush Administration is developing possible alternatives to the council to ensure that the United States can turn over political power at the same time and pace that troops are withdrawn, The Washington Post reported Sunday.

According to the newspaper, increasingly alarmed by the failure of Iraq’s Governing Council to take decisive action, the United States is deeply frustrated with its hand-picked council members because they have spent more time on their own political or economic interests than in planning for Iraq’s political future, especially selecting a committee to write a new Constitution. “We’re unhappy with all of them. They’re not acting as a legislative or governing body, and we need to get moving,” the newspaper quoted a well-placed US official as saying on the condition of anonymity. “They just don’t make decisions when they need to,” the official added.

Ambassador Robert Blackwill, the new US National Security Council official overseeing Iraq’s political transition, begins an unannounced trip this weekend to Iraq to meet with Iraqi politicians to drive home that point. Blackwill is also discussing US options with Paul Bremer, civilian administrator of the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, US officials said.

Among several options, the United States is considering a French proposal, earlier rejected, to create an interim Iraqi leadership that would emulate the Afghanistan model. The Bush Administration is also considering changing the order of the transition if it looks as though it could drag on much longer than the United States had planned.

The United States has long insisted that a new Constitution was the essential first step and elections the final phase in handing over power. But now US officials are exploring the possibility of creating a provisional government with effective sovereignty until a new Constitution is written and elections held.

Despite its frustrations with the effectiveness of the Iraqi council, the Bush Administration holds publicly that it is not yet at the point of abandoning the council.

Ambassador Bremer is working with the Governing Council, a White House official said Saturday. “Our priority focus now in working with the council is to formulate a plan to meet the December 15 deadline outlined in UN Resolution 1511, which calls for the council to formulate a timetable and program for the drafting of a new Constitution and for the holding of democratic elections under that Constitution,” the official added. — MNA/Xinhua

UN team to start talks on future in Iraq

NICOSIA, 11 Nov — United Nations staff pulled out of Iraq amid security concerns start week-long consultations in Cyprus on Tuesday to assess their future operations in the war-ravaged country.

The UN officials will hold talks in the Cypriot capital Nicosia and their recommendations will be passed on to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. “This is essentially a review of what we have done and what we can do better,” UN spokeswoman Veronique Taveau told Reuters on Monday, adding that security would also obviously be on the agenda. The United Nations announced last week that it had withdrawn the last of its 20 foreign staff in Baghdad. The pullout was prompted by suicide bombings against the International Committee of the Red Cross and four Iraqi police stations in Baghdad on 27 October that killed at least 34 people. — MNA/Reuters

Peru to participate in UN peace-keeping missions

LIMA, 11 Nov — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo will sign on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding for the Peruvian troops to take part in the UN peace-keeping operations.

Diplomatic sources said Sunday the signing will be during Annan’s visit in Peru from Monday. The UN chief is currently on a Latin American tour.

The document will define the participation of the military in the UN-led peace-keeping missions, with equipment and personnel, as well as the number of troops, the equipment and supplies. — MNA/Xinhua

UNICEF hails India’s efforts in education, polio eradication

NEW DELHI, 11 Nov — In a sharp contrast to UNESCO observations, UNICEF on Monday said India had shown a significant improvement in the field of education, particularly those of girls, and lauded the “enormous” effort being made in the country to eradicate polio.

There has been a significant improvement in the field of education in India, particularly in narrowing the gender gap by educating more girls, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, who is here to attend the high-level group meeting on Education for All, told a group of reporters. Noting that India had put in place the fundamental infrastructure for education for all, she expressed confidence that the country would be able to achieve the goal.

“We don’t merely look at figures. We look at the trend and it is encouraging,” Bellamy said but added that “more” needed to be done in this field.

The UNICEF’s chief’s views contrast those of another UN educational body UNESCO which said in a report last week that gender parity in education for girls remains a distant prospect in India despite “slow but significant progress” achieved in 1990s. — MNA/PTI

German publishers set new standards for Harry Potter books

BERLIN, 11 Nov — Thousands of German fans of Harry Potter, many wearing pointed wizard’s hats and round spectacles, stormy bookshops on Saturday as the German-language version of the fifth installment of the magic school saga went on sale.

Many stores hosted special parties to celebrate the midnight launch of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, two million copies of which were in the first German print run.

J.K. Rowling’s original had a worldwide first print run of 12 million copies when it was launched this summer.

Deutsche Post, the German postal service, offered a special service to cope with the demand for houses outstrips the supply, the country’s largest mortgage lending bank said Saturday.

The bank, Halifax, said that unless the rate of house building picks up there would be a shortfall of 453,000 homes within 10 years with the shortages being most acute in London and south-east England. The bank’s research found that, as a result of marital breakdowns and people marrying later, the number of households is increasing by 200,000 a year. However, in 2001, just 162,000 new properties were built, the latest data available showed.

“Such a shortfall of supply will continue to push house prices up and make it even harder for people, particularly first-time buyers, to get onto the housing ladder,” Martin Ellis, chief economist at Halifax, said. — MNA/Xinhua
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

Another US soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Nov—US administrator Paul Bremer said on Monday that Iraqi and foreign fighters would step up attacks to stop reconstruction, and a weekend grenade attack killed another US soldier south of Baghdad.

In the latest lethal attack, a US soldier of the 18th Military Police Brigade was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade on Sunday west of Iskandariya, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

The death brought to 151 the number of American soldiers killed in hostile action since President Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on 1 May.

“Consequences of us not succeeding here would be very grave. They are for the Iraqis fatal, perhaps for the Middle East almost as fatal,” Bremer told the Times.

Soldiers of US Army’s 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse) hold their weapons at ready during a raid in the suburbs of Baquba, on 9 November, 2003. —INTERNET

Casualty of US troops in Iraq rises to 394

WASHINGTON, 11 Nov—As of Monday, 10 Nov, 394 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defence. The British military has reported 52 deaths; Denmark, Spain, Ukraine and Poland reported one each.

On or since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 256 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,938 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures as of Monday. Non-hostile injured numbered 341. The latest deaths reported by US Central Command:

—A US military police soldier was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack south of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defence:

—Staff Sgt Gary L Collins, 32, of Hardin, Texas, was killed Nov 8 in Fallujah, Iraq. Collins was riding in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle when it hit an improvised explosive device. The soldier died of his injuries. Collins was assigned to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Riley, Kan.

—Sgt Nicholas A Tomko, 24, of Pittsburgh, Pa, was killed Nov 9 in Baghdad. Tomko was the door gunner in a convoy vehicle when his team came under small arms attack. The soldier died of his injuries. Tomko was assigned to the 307th Military Police Company, US Army Reserve, New Kensington, Pa.

An Iraqi girl has her bags searched by an armed guard upon entering her secondary school in the capital Baghdad in this November 1 file photo. With its suicide bombings, shootings and kidnappings, Baghdad is far from safety.

Internet
Iraqis vow to keep to timetable for power handover

BAGHDAD, 11 NOV — Iraq’s Foreign Minister promised on Sunday to keep to a US timetable towards sovereign government as another American soldier’s death added to the pressure for a handover of power.

The soldier died and a comrade was wounded when their vehicle hit an explosive device in central Baghdad late on Saturday, the US military said. Another bomb wounded a British soldier in the less volatile southern city of Basra.

Facing US pressure to speed up drafting a Constitution to lay the ground for a sovereign government, the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council plans intensive discussions to draw up a political roadmap, interim Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said.

Washington has set a December 15 deadline for the Council to agree a mechanism for creating a Constitution, which would pave the way for democratic elections.

“The ball is now in our court and we must deliver,” Zebari said.

Facing daily guerilla attacks, the United States is keen to put an Iraqi government in place and hand more responsibility to Iraqi police and soldiers.

With Saturday’s fatality, attacks by insurgents have now killed 150 US soldiers in Iraq since President George W Bush declared major combat over on 1 May.

Washington blames attacks on US forces on die-hard supporters of ousted President Saddam Hussein and foreign Muslim militants, some allied to the al-Qaeda guerrilla network.

Iraq attacks have been centred on US forces in Baghdad and the surrounding “Sunni triangle” region, but in mainly Shi’ite Muslim southern Iraq, a bomb near a hospital was detonated as a British convoy drove past on Sunday, and one soldier was wounded in the hand, a military spokesman said.

US Democratic Lawmaker calls for summit on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV — A top US Senate Democrat urged President George W Bush on Sunday to call a summit on Iraq seeking international troops and assistance in exchange for a greater say in operations.

Speaking after a week in which 33 American soldiers were killed, Senator Joseph Biden, joined by a number of other Democrats, said US policy in Iraq was foiling and it was time for Washington to cede control in Iraq.

“It’s time to make a fundamental shift in the way in which we are going about trying to win the peace here,” Biden, a Delaware Democrat, told ABC’s “This Week” programme.

Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, a Democratic presidential candidate, insisted: “We have to change course.”

“The problem is the president... is completely unwilling to relinquish control. That’s the critical thing that is missing from this process,” Edwards said on NBC’s “Meet the Press”.

And Senate Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, told “Fox News Sunday”, “We’re going to have to give up some of the control that we have in Iraq, and that’s what’s being considered right now. Finally.”

Biden, the ranking Democrat on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Bush must appeal for international assistance by ceding US control in postwar Iraq, where insurgents have now killed 150 American soldiers since the Republican President declared major combat over on May 1.

“It entails the President, literally, not figuratively, calling a summit with our European friends and saying, ‘Look, we got to make three changes,’” Biden said.

In the second proclamation this year, other 27 pieces were listed, such as Songs of Sanaa from Yemen, the Kunqu Opera, a seven-stringed zither, is China’s oldest stringed instrument with a history of some 3,000 years. It is viewed as a symbol of Chinese high culture and the instrument is most expressive of Chinese music.

In imperial China, a well educated scholar was expected to be skilled in four arts: the Guqin, the game of Go, calligraphy and painting. More than 200 harmonics can be played on the Guqin, which is one of the largest numbers of harmonics of any instrument. The art of Guqin has left an esthetic and sociological marks over centuries of the Chinese civilization.

The Guqin is the second Chinese masterpiece proclaimed as the world’s intangible Heritage of the humanity.

In UNESCO’s first proclamation in 2001, the Kunqu Opera, one of the oldest opera forms still existing in China, was put into the list with other 18 masterpieces.

UNESCO proclaims Chinese Guqin music as Intangible Heritage

PARKS, 11 Nov — The United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed recently 28 masterpieces including China’s ancient Guqin music art as the Oral and Intangible Heritage of the humanity.

Guzheng, a seven-stringed zither, is China’s oldest stringed instrument with a history of some 3,000 years. It is viewed as a symbol of Chinese high culture and the instrument is most expressive of Chinese music.

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China’s industrial output rises 17.2%

BEIJING, 11 Nov — China’s factories churned out goods at their fastest rate in eight months in October, as sectors like electronics and machinery kept the world’s sixth-biggest economy buzzing, official data showed on Monday.

Industrial output in October was 17.2 per cent higher than a year earlier, accelerating from September’s annual rise of 16.3 per cent, the bureau said.

It was the fastest clip since an annual 19.8 per cent rise registered in February.

“Looking at pillar sectors, the three major industries of telecommunications equipment, machinery and metalurgy... were major forces driving industrial output growth in the month,” the State Statistics Bureau said in a statement.

But automotives, another booming industry that has lifted demand for other industrial goods such as steel and plastic, saw growth brake sharply from the previous month, the bureau said.

China’s factories churned out goods at their fastest rate in eight months in October, as sectors like electronics and machinery kept the world’s sixth-biggest economy buzzing, official data showed on Monday.
Emerging human resources

Yenatha Maqua Kyaro Nyunt

My uncle arrived at my house just before the beginning of the new academic year. My uncle lives in New Phontha village, Kyanukpaung Township. The New Phontha village is just a fifteen-minute walk from Chankan, the village where I live.

“I come here to ask you about something. I have heard that your village elementary school has become a post-primary school. What is a post-primary school. Please explain”, he asked me.

“A post-primary school is a school which opens middle education classes including the fifth, the sixth and the seventh standards. Our village school has already been permitted since last year to open middle education classes. Since previous year, it has been opening the fifth standard. This academic year, the school is opening classes up to the sixth grade. Next year, the school will teach seventh graders,” I explained to him about the post-primary school to some extent.

“Who are the teachers of the classes of the post-primary school? Do you have to pay them wages or hire more teachers?” He asked me.

“We do not need more teachers, uncle. There are certain requirements for a post-primary school. An elementary school that will be upgraded into a post-primary school must already have teachers who are qualified to teach the middle school education well,” I told him.

Continuing I said, “The word “qualified teachers” means the holders of the education diploma certificate of a certain education college and the junior assistant teachers who are teaching lessons at primary classes. The schools which have qualified teachers and required facility are permitted to be upgraded into post-primary schools. The permission to open post-primary schools has already paved the way for the primary students to continue their middle school education at the same school.”

Then, my uncle told me, “There is another thing. It has been a year since my grandchild left school after passing the fourth grade. I pity him as he wanted to continue his studies. I want to send him back to school, but for certain reasons, I cannot do so. He still wants to attend classes. So, I would like to discuss with you whether it would be good or bad for my grandchild to attend classes at your village post-primary school.”

“It’s a good idea uncle. It would be very nice for him to pursue education at my village school. He needs to take the certificate together with him to enroll at our village school. Are there any more children at your village facing difficulties to continue studies after passing the fourth standard? You can also enroll them at our village school.”

Students in some villages were not within the reach of middle or high school education. My village, the Chankan, and my uncle’s village, the New Phontha, were also included in those villages. Children of the villages who passed the fourth standard, and wished to attend middle school education classes found a host of difficulties. Only a small number of children were able to continue their studies. But the majority had to leave the school. I wish to find these children and help them continue their classes at middle school education. Thus, I told my uncle to send other drop-outs to our village school.

“There are four other children, who passed the fourth standard together with my grandchildren. They too want to continue their studies. I will bring them to you also. Besides, my grandchild will have friends who will accompany him on the way to and back from school.”

After the discussions, my uncle left my village for home happily. He came back to me two days before the start of the new academic year. He took together with him his grandchild and other four kids.

They were very lucky, as they got the opportunity to attend classes at my village post-primary school. They were so active and happy as they would be able to learn middle school education without facing difficulties.

The State is upgrading primary schools into post-primary schools every year. It is the goodwill of the State to uplift the education standard of the entire nation. It is also an act of farsightedness. Because of the goodwill and the farsightedness of the State, every child in the nation can now study middle school education easily.

(Translation: TMT)

Angolans urged to work hard for country’s development

LUANDA, 11 Nov — Secretary-General of Angola’s ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola ( MPLA) party Joao Lourenco, said here Monday that “only work can change the country and that there is no point remembering the past and pointing the years of independence to be marked on Tuesday, Lourenco stressed that “only work can change the country and that there is no point remembering the past and pointing the years of independence to be marked on Tuesday.”

Lourenco said the MPLA, which is the ruling party in Angola, has been in power since independence from Portugal in 1975. He said that Angolans have always demonstrated a great love for their homeland, and that the MPLA is the party “that has led the nation to independence.”

He said that the MPLA has always been committed to the development of Angola and that the country’s future depends on the hard work of every citizen.

Lourenco also praised the efforts of the government and the people of Angola in building the country and promoting economic development.

He said that the MPLA is committed to the welfare of the Angolan people and that the party is working hard to improve the living standards of the Angolan people.

Lourenco urged Angolans to continue working hard to build the country and to contribute to the development of the nation.

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MNA/Xinhua

Mozambican police seize 75 kilos of drug ingredient

MAPUTO, 11 Nov — The Mozambican police seized 75 kilos of an ingredient for the manufacturing of the illicit drug mandrax and a vehicle abandoned in a Maputo street last week, local media reported on Monday.

The owners of the vehicle abandoned it when they realized that they were being followed by the police. The product was found in three packs of 25 kilos each. The police are still investigating to identify the owners and determine the origin and the destination of the product.

According to Maputo police spokesperson Jacinto Cuna, over the past week, the Maputo police also recovered three stolen vehicles and a number of other goods, including household appliances.

Cuna said that 31 suspects were arrested during the same period, in connection with various crimes, including one for homicide, two for falsification of documents, and others for theft. — MNA/Xinhua

Efficient use of electricity

* Do not be softened whenever intimidated
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
MWJA book fair 22 November

YANGON, 11 Nov — Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will hold a book fair in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day at No 379-383, Bo Aung Kyaw Road, here, from 22 to 30 November.

Those wishing to sell books at the fair are to present applications to Secretary of Shop Supervisory Committee U Kyaing Myint (Wa Moe Aung Sarpay) (254955, 295988) by 17 November.

Lots will be drawn to allot shops. Authorized persons from book shops are invited to attend the meeting.

MNA

YANGON, 11 Nov — The First Anti-AIDS Exhibition continued for the ninth day today at Tatmadaw Convention Centre drawing attention of staff, students and people.

In the morning, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and member correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and member correspondents Club U Sao Kai attended the exhibition.

Activities on anti-AIDS of the Ministry of Health, cooperation of the related ministries and UN agencies in the fight against AIDS, activities on anti-AIDS of the state and division health departments, cooperation of social organizations at home and abroad in the fight against AIDS, and booths of pharmaceutical companies are on display at the exhibition. — MNA

Country Co-ordinating Mechanism Meeting for Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS/TB/Malaria held

YANGON, 11 Nov — The 10th Country Co-ordinating Mechanism Meeting for Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS/TB/Malaria was held at the meeting hall of the National Health Committee of the Ministry of Health on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Street in Dagon Township this afternoon. It was attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, departmental heads, resident representatives of UN agencies, and officials of international and local NGOs.

The meeting chairman Minister Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech on the occasion. Director (Disease Control) Dr Ye Myint gave an account on reports for the global fund; UN Resident Representative to Myanmar Mr Charles Petrie, on future tasks of the CCM; and officials of AIDS Control Project and Malaria Control Project, on matters related to the global fund.

Next, a general round of discussions followed. The chairman delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Anti-AIDS Exhibition continues

YANGON, 11 Nov — The First Anti-AIDS Exhibition continued for the ninth day today at Tatmadaw Convention Centre drawing attention of staff, students and people.

In the evening, Joint Secretary of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon U Aye Kyaw Lay and trainees of Acting Course visited the exhibition.

Activities on anti-AIDS of the Ministry of Health, cooperation of the related ministries and UN agencies in the fight against AIDS, activities on anti-AIDS of the state and division health departments, cooperation of social organizations at home and abroad in the fight against AIDS, and booths of pharmaceutical companies are on display at the exhibition. — MNA
National development can be made with systematic combination of natural resources and manpower

Prizes presented for excellent performance in production of crops for 2002-2003 in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 11 Nov.—A ceremony to present prizes for excellent performance in production of crops for 2002-2003 was held at the town hall in Pathein yesterday morning, with an address by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing. Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Swe and senior military officers, members of Division Peace and Development Council and departmental officials and local authorities, members of social organizations, service personnel, farmers, teachers and students.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing spoke on the occasion. He said the area of the division is 13,525 square miles and net cultivated land is 4,782 million acres. The Division Peace and Development Council made efforts for increase of cultivation acreage. The cultivation acreage was 6,166 million acres in 1997-98 and now there are 7,154 million acres, he said.

He said a total of 4,506 million acres of paddy were grown in 1997-98 and 4,567 million acres in 2002-2003. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of 5,042 million acres of paddy for 2003-2004.

He stressed the importance of practical use of cultivation methods and use of machines in efforts for development of agricultural sector and spoke at length on construction of irrigation projects and river water pumping projects in the division for availability of water.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that Ayeyawady Division economically plays an important role in agriculture. It is important to fully exploit the existing better conditions of the division in order to contribute towards the economic development of the State during his inspection tour of the division. Efforts are to be made for production of 1,200 million baskets of paddy, he said.

The commander said the division was known as a garden or a rice bowl of the State. Now it can be called the curry pot. All round developments have been made in the division due to correct leadership of the Head of State, efforts and cooperation of regional authorities at different levels, goodwill of national and local authorities, members of social organizations, service personnel, farmers, teachers and students.

Lt-Gen Maung Than delivered a speech, saying that the honouring of outstanding people striving for the curry pot. All round development of Ayeyawady Division will contribute much towards national and regional development. The government has been making efforts for boosting per acre yield of paddy to 100 bunches, black peas to 20 baskets, green peas to 20 baskets, pigeon pea to 25 baskets, groundnut to 20 baskets, corn (monsoon) to 400 viss and sugarcane to 30 tons. So, the division is to follow the four agricultural methods laid down by the Head of State. In addition to that, the division is to extend growing of pepper, coffee and tea, he pointed out.

The division is a region on which the nation relies in fish and prawn production sector, and so emphasis is to be placed on livestock breeding sector. The government has been building irrigation and transport facilities in the region for greater development of the region, he said.

As a result, the division has enjoyed a rapid development in economic as well as coastal and deep sea fisheries sector. Having greater development potential, the division is to make harmonious efforts for promotion of other sectors in cooperation with respective administrative bodies, departments, local people and entrepreneurs, he elaborated.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented the first prize for outstanding performance in economic development to Myanmaung District, second prize to Pyayon District, third prize to Pathein District; the first prize for outstanding performance in cultivating monsoon paddy, summer paddy, black pulse and cashew, and the prizes for outstanding performance in breeding pawns in a planned year to respective States and Divisions, the prize for outstanding performance in raising pigs to respective townships, and to those who won prizes in the institute of agriculture level essay and poster competitions.

General Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service Dr Min Aung presented prizes for outstanding performance in producing fish, breeding pawns, in carrying out the five rural development projects and associate activities for reducing poverty, improving population. So, in order to contribute towards the summer paddy cultivation and 47.93 per cent total output of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors contributes much to the region as well as the nation. The government has been taking measures for boosting the region’s monsoon paddy output reaching up to 1,200 million baskets for the growing population. So, in order to meet the target, efforts are to be made for extending cultivation of paddy and other crops.

The government, on its part, is constructing irrigation facilities across the nation for ensuring agricultural development. Being rich in natural resources, Ayeyawady Division is to make continuous efforts based on the five agricultural methods so as to accomplish the objectives laid down by the nation, he noted. Out of the ten major crops of the nation, the government has adopted the targets for boosting per acre yield of paddy to 100 bunches, black peas to 20 baskets, green peas to 20 baskets, pigeon pea to 25 baskets, groundnut to 20 baskets, corn (monsoon) to 400 viss and sugar cane to 30 tons. So, the division is to follow the four agricultural methods laid down by the Head of State. In addition to that, the division is to extend growing of pepper, coffee and tea, he pointed out.

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The commander presented the first prize for outstanding performance in cultivating crops most to Zalun Township, the second to Danubyu Township and the third to Logapu Township; the first prize for outstanding performance in boosting per acre yield of paddy to 100 bunches, black peas to 20 baskets, green peas to 20 baskets, pigeon pea to 25 baskets, groundnut to 20 baskets, corn (monsoon) to 400 viss and sugar cane to 30 tons. So, the division is to follow the four agricultural methods laid down by the Head of State. In addition to that, the division is to extend growing of pepper, coffee and tea, he pointed out.

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Indonesia’s palm oil output to reach 9.9 million tons this year

Jakarta, 11 Nov — Crude palm oil (CPO) output in Indonesia is expected to reach 9.9 million tons by the end of this year, 6.5 per cent higher than last year, Chairman of the Indonesian Palm Oil Producers Association (Gapki), Derom Bangun has said. Among those attending the second international conference on promotion and cooperation between the space industry and its users in the Asia-Pacific Region came as observers, and it has been agreed that the proposed APSCO should be based in Beijing. Addressing the opening ceremony, Luo Enjie, director of the Chinese Government will, as always, support the establishment of the organization at an earlier date, make due contributions and facilitate its work in various aspects in the early years of its founding. The Chinese Government will continue on construction of Phayachau Bridge (Daw Tin Mya Bridge) linking Myma Ward and Phayachau Village in Bagoalay Township. Ayeawady Division.

The construction of the bridge began on 1 November 2002 and was finished on 14 October 2003. The 125 feet long and 13 feet wide reinforced concrete bridge can withstand 10-ton loads. The inauguration of the bridge was held at the archway of the bridge on the morning of 26 October 2003. Chairman of Ayeawady Division, Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wellwisher Daw Tin Mya formally opened it. On the occasion, the commandant delivered a speech, saying that she had a strong desire for a long time to construct a fine bridge with her cash donation. She dreamt that her son could successfully translate her desire into reality in 2002, she added. On its part, the government contributed technology and machinery to construction of the bridge. With the donations towards the construction of self-reliant roads and bridges in respective regions across the nation, he noted. The commandant expressed his thanks to the wellwishers.

China’s industrial added value in October increases 17.2%

Beijing, 11 Nov — China’s industrial added value in October increased by 17.2 per cent from the same month last year, reaching a total 375.3 billion yuan (452.2 US dollars), the State Statistics Bureau said Monday. The added industrial added value in October was 0.9 percentage points more than that in September.

China’s total industrial added value in the first 10 months of 2003 stood at 3272.8 billion yuan (394.3 billion US dollars), up 16.7 per cent from the same period last year, according to the bureau.

A slowdown in automobile sales dropped the transportation equipment manufacturing sector’s contribution rate to the growth of the total industrial added value in October compared with that in September, according to the bureau’s statistics.

China’s public welfare to be expanded

Beijing, 11 Nov — China will cultivate more non-governmental organizations (NGOs), offer preferential support for enterprises entering China’s social welfare system and learn from the world in a bid to expand public welfare, a government minister said on Tuesday.

Minister of Civil Affairs Li Xuejia told the opening ceremony of the Transnational Business and Civil Affairs Forum that China had attached great importance to development of a public welfare system since the founding of new China in 1949. The government has been promoting the creation of public welfare donations to enter China’s public welfare system, which set orienta-

Four nations, UN organization meet for proposed APSCO

Beijing, 11 Nov — Representatives from 14 nations and a United Nations organization gathered Monday to discuss the formation of the proposed Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), which is being designed to promote the peaceful use of space and space applications in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Among those attending the second international conference on promotion and cooperation between the space industry and its users in the Asia-Pacific Region were representatives from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, South Korea, Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Pakistan, Ukraine, Chile and the UN Economic and Social Council.

The conference, co-hosted by 16 public welfare organizations, including China’s Charity Federation, MNA/Xinhua
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, bridges with various sizes have been built on Yangon-Sittway Highway. The photo shows Kissapanadi Bridge on Yangon-Sittway Highway in Rakhine State.

PHOTO: MNA

Paungtok Bridge was inaugurated in MraukU Township, Rakhine State, on 20-5-2003. —PHOTO: MNA

Ma-ëi Creek Bridge linking Taungup Township of Thandwe District and An Township of Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine State was opened on 18-11-2001. The 940 feet long and 30 feet wide bridge was built at a cost of K 7,129 million.

PHOTO: MNA
The toddler, Mackayala Ling, 20 months old, was revived after being declared dead in S California.

Toddler revived after being declared dead in S California

A 20-month-old American girl who was pulled out from a chilling swimming pool was revived Friday 45 minutes after being declared dead, local reports said recently.

The toddler, Mackayala Jesperse of Fullerton, was under intense care at Children’s Hospital of Orange County, southern California, minutes before her mother jumped in and got her out, according to Fullerton police. It was unclear whether the girl suffered brain damage due to lack of oxygen.

The mother called 911 at 9.06 am Friday moments after pulling Mackayala, a twin, out of the family’s pool. Paramedics and medics arrived about two minutes later and tried to revive the girl as they rushed her to Anaheim Memorial Hospital.

Soon the hospital staff detected a heartbeat and had the girl breathing again.

“I didn’t want a wedding. I didn’t love my husband. He was an old man,” said R. K., who had six children, four of whom died in childhood.

R. K. spent her life carrying out tough farming jobs and household chores — pasturing livestock, raising children and never taking a break. A devout Muslim who never touched alcohol, she smoked instead, drank coffee and liked butter.

“I did not want a wedding. I didn’t love my husband. He was an old man,” said R. K., who had six children, four of whom died in childhood.

Slovaks charge 10 with $61m bank fraud

Bratislava, 11 Nov — Slovak police have charged 10 people in a fraud case involving $61 million US dollars in bad loans granted by the country’s second largest bank when it was under state control last decade, a spokesman said on Saturday.

Police charged four former and one current board member of Všeobecná úverová banka (VÚB) with fraud for granting loans totalling 2.2 billion crowns to a company on whose board three of them also sat, investigators’ spokesman Stanislav Ryban said.

Five others have also been charged, including four from the firm, Konsult Real, which did not pay back the obligations.

“All have been charged with fraud,” Ryban told Reuters.

Slovakia sold off VÚB and the rest of its financial sector in 2000-2002, in part to free it from the state hold of murky economic and political influences that flourished under corrupt, autocratic governments of Vladimír Meciar in the 1990’s.

The loans in question, all granted in 1998, were eventually transferred from VÚB’s books to the state in a 6.5 billion crown buyout of bad debt at the bank before it was sold to Italian financial giant UniCredit BCI in 2001.

In comments to news agency SITA, a former VÚB and Konsult Real board member accused of the case denied the charges and said that he and the other former VÚB board members had filed a complaint to the prosecutor’s office that investigators had used illegal procedures and that their actions had not damaged the state, as police allege.

Albania’s oldest woman dies aged 123

Tirana, 11 Nov — The oldest woman in Albania — and perhaps in the world — died on Saturday at the age of 123 and was buried on Sunday beside the husband she resisted being forced to marry at 14.

Born on August 22, 1880, Havva R. X. breathed her last on Saturday in the picturesque central Albanian village of Shushice, where she had lived her whole life.

Wrapped in a faded shroud which she embroidered for herself when her elderly husband died a few years after World War II, X. R. was buried in the wooded Shushice cemetery.

Hundreds of people, who saw her as an icon of longevity, joined her only surviving daughter, Vule, 80, and 120 other members of her family to pay their last respects at a Muslim ceremony local reporters described as “majestic.”

Interviewed by Reuters.

Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge
Study finds weight loss supplement may raise heart risk

ORLANDO (Florida), 11 Nov — US researchers said on Sunday they had evidence that diet supplements containing the herb Ephedra can disrupt heart rhythm and raise blood pressure.

They said volunteers who took a popular diet pill called Metabolife 356 had immediate adverse effects after just one dose.

Although the study was small, it supports reports that Ephedra supplements, linked with the deaths of 155 Americans, are dangerous, said Brian McBride, a professor of pharmacy at the University of Connecticut.

"Millions of people consume herbal supplements in this country every day," he said. Metabolife 356 makes up 40 per cent of the market, he said.

Because Ephedra is considered a supplement, it is not subject to the same Food and Drug Administration regulation as drugs are. Ephedra, also known as ma huang, acts as a stimulant.

The study, conducted using rats, suggests that teens may not always bounce back from trauma and adolescents may be more susceptible to permanent damage from stress than younger children.

Susan Anderson of Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts and colleagues found that rats exposed to stress during adolescence — by being kept alone in cages — had lower levels as adults of a key protein in the hippocampus, a brain region important for learning and memory. The protein, synaptophysin, is used to measure how many brain cell connections are being made. Lower levels suggest reduced brain activity.

Andersen's team told a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans that their study was the first to show that stress during adolescence affects adult brain cell connections.

"These pre-clinical data suggest that stress early in life alters the normal increase in synaptophysin as they reach early maturity," said Andersen.

Andersen's team tested rats of comparable age. The rats kept alone — something very stressful for a rat — did not experience the normal increase in synaptophysin as they reached early maturity.

That raised questions about whether children exposed to stress during adolescence — by being bullied, for example — could experience a similar decline in synaptophysin levels.

"These data may suggest why early trauma, such as physical or sexual abuse or neglect, is associated with a decrease in the size of the hippocampus in adulthood," McLean Hospital said in a statement.

The hippocampus is a brain area important for learning and memory. The team said the data suggest that stress early in life alters the normal developmental trajectory of the hippocampus, but that these changes are not apparent until later in life, said Andersen.

US study shows stress changes adolescent brain

WASHINGTON, 11 Nov — Severe stress can permanently affect an adolescent’s brain, causing changes in an area important for learning and memory, US researchers reported on Saturday.

The study, conducted using rats, suggests that stress early in life alters the normal increase in synaptophysin as they reach early maturity.

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Study says tea may offer treatment to fight HIV

WASHINGTON, 11 Nov — Japanese researchers said on Monday they had discovered a molecule in tea that could block the spread of the AIDS virus.

The lab findings could offer a novel way to combat the HIV infection by preventing the virus from spreading throughout the body, scientists said. Current treatments that target HIV the infection after it has spread.

Scientists at the University of Tokyo, led by Kazushige Kawai, who found a compound called epigallocatechin gallate or EGCG, the element believed to contain most of the health benefits found in green tea, rapidly attaches to the doorways that the AIDS virus uses to invade cells.

HIV prefers to infect cells called CD4 T-cells, and uses a molecular doorway called the CD4 receptor to do so.

By bonding with the CD4 molecule first, EGCG effectively prevents the HIV virus from attaching — at least in lab dishes.

"This potentially opens up an avenue for preventing HIV infections," said Dr. William Shearer, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, who wrote an editorial that accompanied the study. "Is there something here that mother nature is trying to tell us?"

China launches space environmental research centre

BEIJING, 11 Nov — The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) unveiled Monday a space environmental research centre, aiming at providing space environmental data and analyses for China’s manned space programme and other outer space activities.

Wu Ji, a leading scientist with the CAS Centre for Space Environmental Research and Forecast, said the primary mission of the new institute is to "dish out detailed data and effective analyses" which are vital to key national space programmes.

Your clothes may soon know more about you than you do, from changing colour to releasing scents.

New technology and fashion are beginning to come together to produce new intelligent fabrics and miniaturised electronics which can measure your heartbeat, massage you and tell you when you've got a phone call.

American Heart Association’s annual meeting, 15 people took a single dose of either Metabolife 356 or a dummy pill.

Then the researchers did a series of measurements, including taking their blood pressure and taking an electrocardiogram or EKG, which measured heart rhythm. The researchers found a troubling measurement in a rhythm factor called QT interval. Prolonged QT is linked with fatal heart arrhythmias.

The QT interval increased by 24 milliseconds on average at one, three and five hours after the volunteers took the pill. They had on average a 5 per cent increase in blood pressure. McBride said 60 per cent of the patients who took Metabolife had the QT prolonged by 30 milliseconds.

China Trade Union honours “Shenzhou-V” staff

BEIJING, 11 Nov — The All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) on Monday honoured institutions and individuals who made great contributions to China’s first manned space flight.

Nine institutions were awarded the May Day Certificate, including four institutions of the China Electronics Technology Group Corporation.

Nine individuals earned May Day Medals, including Wu Yansheng, president of the China Carrier Rocket Technology Research Institute, Zhang Baiman, deputy chief designer of the Shenzhou V spacecraft, and Xiao Houde, deputy director for the carrier rocket research for the manned space mission.

China launches space environmental research centre

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Visitors look at a talking robot outside the Sony Technology Lab at Sony Corporation’s New York offices on Thursday, 6 Nov, 2003, in New York. Sony Corp announced a preliminary agreement to manage robotic businesses, setting the stage for a music company that would vie for world primacy with Universal Music Group. — INTERNET

Study says email, net abuse increases in British workplace

LONDON, 11 Nov — Abuse of emails and the Internet in the workplace has become a big headache for British employers, and British companies are increasingly disciplining staff for accessing racw websites or sending porn to colleagues.

Nearly one in three British companies have disciplined staff for breaking company Internet and email rules in the past year, according to a survey released on Monday by LexisNexis Industrial Relations Services, a publication that covers human resources issues.

Internet access and email have become indispensable parts of working life, bringing with them widespread abuse as an increasing number of workers use corporate email accounts to send personal messages and the web to do their own shopping.

A number of companies have begun to crack down, drafting codes of conduct in an effort to regulate employees’ use of the firms’ high-speed Internet connections.

The crackdown has become more important in the past year as companies have been hit by damaging computer worm and virus attacks that have planted in emails and brought in by errant Web surfing.

“It is a continuing headache. Employers are just getting to grips with it now and many employees are not taking it seriously enough,” said Mark Craig, managing editor of IRS Employment Review.

New laws addressing workers’ computer rights have also become a minefield for companies, Craig added, forcing them to strengthen their codes of conduct to make clear which cyber workplace activities are off limits. Some companies have also installed firewalls that block access to racw websites and have begun to filter outgoing and incoming email for pornographic images and information vital to their business.

One email filtering specialist, Clearswift Ltd of Reading, has introduced Image Manager, a software product that scans outgoing emails for flesh-coloured images, thus stopping suspected pornographic images from entering or leaving the corporate network. Clearswift Ltd of Reading, has introduced Image Manager, a software product that scans outgoing emails for flesh-coloured images, thus stopping suspected pornographic images from entering or leaving the corporate network.

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**SPORTS**

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Injured Owen set to miss England-Denmark friendly

LONDON, 11 Nov — Liverpool striker Michael Owen will almost certainly miss England’s friendly against Denmark at Old Trafford next Sunday due to the recurrence of an ankle injury. Owen pulled out of his club’s Premier League game against Manchester United on Sunday.

“He could feel his ankle again so he decided not to take part. There is no point playing if he is not 100 percent,” Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier told Sky Sports television after his team’s 2-1 defeat.

“I don’t think he will be able to take part in the international game either. He should be okay for the Middlesbrough game (on November 22).”

England’s first-choice striker also missed their last game against Turkey due to a different ankle injury.

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said: “Probably he is out, though it’s not confirmed yet. You have to accept when players are injured.”

“There’s no reason why you should risk players in a friendly.”

— MNA/Reuters

Deportivo stay top as Real lose 4-1 at Sevilla

MADRID, 11 Nov — Sevilla tore through Real Madrid’s paper-thin defence on their way to a 4-1 win over the reigning champions on Sunday, while Valencia went down 2-1 at home to Racing Santander on a night of surprises in the Primera Liga.

Real, needing a win to claim the league leadership from Deportivo Coruna, fought themselves 3-0 down inside 15 minutes and Javi Casasco crashed in a fourth eight minutes from time to seal the reining league champions reeling.

Ronaldou pulled one back ten minutes into the second half but there was to be no heroic comeback, and the sending off of Guti six minutes from time turned a miserable night for Carlos Queiroz’ side.

Real’s defeat followed a less dramatic send-off for Valencia, who went down 2-0 to Rodolfo Bodipo struck twice for Racing.

Those results gave Deportivo full value for their 2-1 win at home to Real Sociedad on Saturday, taking the Galicians top of the table with 25 points from 11 matches. Valencia slipped to second on 23, with Real staying behind them in third on goal difference.

Barcelona edged past Real Betis 2-1 with goals from Patrick Kluivert and Rafel Marquez, while Atletico claimed their fifth successive league win, 1-0 against Villarreal, with a fine Alvaro Novo strike.

Barcelona’s victory took them up to fourth on 19 points, ahead of Atlético on goal difference, and after a disappointing start to the season Frank Rijkaard’s side are now just four points behind Real Madrid.

Queiroz was forced into a defensive reshuffle against Sevilla, with Miguel Salgado suspended and Roberto Carlos out injured.

A decision to replace the regular fullbacks with Francisco Pavon and Raúl Bravo and bring in youngster Ruben to

Queiroz accepts blame for heavy Real defeat

MADRID, 11 Nov — Carlos Queiroz accepted a measure of blame for Real Madrid’s 4-1 defeat by Sevilla on Sunday, after his tactical gamble failed in spectacular style.

“We’re all responsible for this result, starting with me,” Queiroz told reporters after the match. “We all made mistakes. I wasn’t disappointed with the players, though, because they didn’t deserve it.”

In the absence of the suspended Michel Salgado and the injured Roberto Carlos, Queiroz chose to move both his regular centre-backs out to the wings and bring in the inexperienced Ruben to partner Ivan Helguera in the centre.

He couldn’t recognize a selection error when he replaced Ruben with Santiago Solari but worse was to follow when Javi Casasco crashed in a fourth goal after Reyes had already hit the ball from Pavon.

Real improved in the second half but Ronaldo’s cracking drive 10 minutes after the break failed to spark a comeback.

— MNA/Reuters

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**Two-goal Giggs gives United the points at Liverpool**

LIVERPOOL, 11 Nov — Manchester United produced another important victory on Sunday, winning 2-1 at big rivals Liverpool without playing anything like their best.

Ryan Giggs struck twice in the space of 11 minutes in the second half to take the defending champions back to within two points of Arsenal at the top of the table and at the same time leave Liverpool further adrift of a coveted top-four place.

Despite Harry Kewell’s fourth league goal of the season, which gave them late hope, Liverpool’s mini-revival ended in the continued absence of England international Michael Owen.

Owen is yet to recover from a shin injury sustained at the start of last month and without him Liverpool lacked the cutting edge to capitalise on below-par United performance.

Only when France Under-21 international Florent Sinama-Pongolle came off the bench after 63 minutes did Lilywhites really threaten as his pace caused the visitors defence numerous problems.

— MNA/Reuters

**“Supersub” Di Vaio fires Juventus clear**

MILAN, 11 Nov — Substitute Marco di Vaio scored two late goals as Italian champions Juventus came from behind for a 4-1 win over Udinese and took over sole control of the top spot in Serie A on Sunday.

European champions AC Milan, who began the day level on points with Juve, were held to a goalless draw at Parma while Inter Milan picked up their second straight win with a comfortable 3-0 home victory over Ancona.

Despite scoring a spectacular equalizer against Milan last week, di Vaio was back on the Juve bench following the return to fitness of Alessandro del Piero.

But if di Vaio was disappointed by coach Marcello Lippi’s choice, he responded in the best possible way by turning the game around for the Turin side.

Juventus were struggling after del Piero struck a penalty against the cross-bar in the 56th minute and shortly after Lippi replaced him with di Vaio.

But Udinese went ahead with a Marek Janukovski spot-kick after Juve keeper Gigi Buffon had brought down Dino Favia.

With Juve facing the prospect of their first home defeat in almost 11 months, di Vaio equalised with a fine header from a Lilian Thuram cross in the 79th minute.

Six minutes later another Juve sub, Fabrizio Miccoli, put the champions in the lead with a tap-in after Udinese keeper Morgan de Sanctis had parried a low shot from Alessio Tacchinardi.

Di Vaio made it 3-1 in the 89th minute, latching on to a cross from Pavel Nedved and four minutes into injury-time Nedved set up the fourth for Frenchman David Trezeguet.

Lippi, who raised some heated words with midfielder Guti.

“We were nervous to start,” Queiroz said. “We didn’t have to win the game in the first few minutes but we shouldn’t have lost it.”

Queiroz appeared to

— MNA/Reuters

Zidane and David Beckham were left shaking their heads as the third goal went in, while Casillas exchanged heated words with midfielder Guti.

“We were nervous to start,” Queiroz said. “We didn’t have to win the game in the first few minutes but we shouldn’t have lost it.”

Queiroz appeared to

— MNA/Reuters

Recognition a selection error when he replaced Ruben with Santiago Solari but worse was to follow when Javi Casasco crashed in a fourth goal after Reyes had already hit the ball from Pavon.

Real improved in the second half but Ronaldo’s cracking drive 10 minutes after the break failed to spark a comeback.

— MNA/Reuters

**Kim Clijsters, from Belgium, left, receives the championship trophy from tennis legend Billie Jean King after defeating Amelia Mauresmo, from France, 6-2, 6-0, at the WTA Tour Championships on Monday, 10 Nov, 2003, at Staples Centre in Los Angeles.**
The News of Myanmar (Wednesday) 12 November 2003

The News of Myanmar (Wednesday) 12 November 2003

**12/11/2003 (Wednesday)**

**Morning Transmission**

1. Greetings
2. National News
3. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar, Bagan" 7:20 am
4. Morning news
5. National News

**Programme Schedule**

1. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar, Bagan"
2. Morning news
3. National News
4. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar, Bagan"
5. Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill
6. National News
7. Song on Screen "Ma Ma Moce"
8. Wonderful Swiftlets Dwelling in House
9. National News
10. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
11. Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)
12. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar, Bagan"
13. Wonderful Swiftlets Dwelling in House
14. National News
15. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**12/11/2003 (Wednesday) - Regular Programme for Viewers from Abroad**

**Evening Transmission** (15:30 - 17:30)

1. Greetings
2. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar, Bagan"
3. Yangon's Bustling Bogyoke Market
4. National News
5. Song on Screen "The Arts Winning Post"
6. National News
7. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
8. Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)
9. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar, Bagan"
10. Wonderful Swiftlets Dwelling in House
11. National News
12. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Weather**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2003**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:**

- **Temperature:** 15°C to 6°C below normal in Yangon Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kayin and Rakhine States, Manda- lay, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

- **Maximum temperature on 11-10-2003 was 35°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 11-11-2003 was 17°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-11-2003 was 53%.**

- **Total sunshine hours on 10-11-2003 was (9.0) hours approx.**

**Rainfall on 11-11-2003 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 8 mph from Northwest at (10-10 hours) MST on 11-11-2003.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 12/11-2003:** Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Chin States, 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.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-11-2003:** Fair weather.

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**Weather Report**

**Wednesday, November 12**

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**Tuesday, November 11, 2003**

**MRT3-3**

**Home News**

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2. National News
3. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar, Bagan"
4. Morning news
5. National News

**Programme Schedule**

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3. National News
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**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-11-2003:** Fair weather.
Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Maldives

YANGON, 12 Nov—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives on the reassumption of the high office of the President of the Republic of Maldives on 11 November 2003.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Thai counterpart

YANGON, 11 Nov—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt met Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra who is here to attend the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy at Room No 318 of Kandawgyi Palace Hotel on Kanyeiktha Street here at 8 am today. Also present at the call together with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, and together with Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra was Thai Foreign Minister Dr Surakarti Sathirathai.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt leaves for Bagan to attend Summit

YANGON, 11 Nov—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party flew to Bagan at 12.20 pm today to attend the four-country Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy to be held in Bagan, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division. The prime minister was accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein the ministers the deputy ministers and senior officials.—MNA

U Tin Latt appointed ambassador to SRV

YANGON, 12 Nov—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Latt as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.—MNA

Cambodian, Laotian, Thai PMs leave for Bagan

YANGON, 11 Nov—Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and officials left here for Bagan this afternoon to attend the four-country Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy hosted in Myanmar. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials of the embassies of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Pathein bridge construction site

YANGON, 11 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Ayeayarwady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Swe and senior military officers, visited the local battalion in Pathein yesterday morning to inspect growing of crops and vegetables. At the livestock breeding and agricultural camp of the command. At the briefing hall, Lt-Col Tin Myo Tint made a report on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. The commander presented a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the livestock breeding tasks of the regiments and units have achieved success and all are to strive for maintaining the already-achieved success. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the construction site for the Ngawun river-crossing Pathein Bridge where In charge of the project Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Win reported on construction of approach bridges with the help of charts. Division Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint of the Public Works reported on construction tasks. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials presented supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge, meeting the set standard of the bridge and worksite safety and inspected the construction site.

On completion of the bridge, there will be smooth transportation and marine products and agricultural produces can be transported to Yangon and other towns smoothly and quickly. (See page 8)