Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosts luncheon in honour of foreign counterparts

YANGON, 13 Nov—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at noon yesterday hosted luncheon on board Bagan Shwe Kuncha jetty, they were welcomed by people dressed in styles of Bagan era.

During their luncheon, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the Prime Ministers from the three countries, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers and guests observed Bagan ancient cultural heritage along River Ayeyawady on board the watercrafts. During the lunch, demonstration of re-gatta in Bagan era was presented.

After the luncheon, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented documentary photo albums and VCDs to Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen.

The three Prime Ministers and their entourages were seen off at the airport yesterday afternoon.

The three Prime Ministers and their entourages were seen off at the airport by Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials; together with Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and their entourages who attended the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy of Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand held in Bagan Archaeological Region in Mandalay Division.

Prime Minister of the State Khin Nyunt were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials; together with Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and their entourages who attended the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy of Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand held in Bagan Archaeological Region in Mandalay Division.

Present on the occasion with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials; together with Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and their entourages who attended the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy of Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand held in Bagan Archaeological Region in Mandalay Division.

Prime Ministers from Cambodia, Laos and Thailand leave for home

YANGON, 13 Nov—Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and their members of respective delegations, who attended the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy of Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand, hosted by Myanmar in the Bagan Archaeological Region in Mandalay Division, left home by air from the Bagan NyaungU Airport yesterday afternoon.

The Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, deputy ministers, Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min and members, departmental officials, and social organizations.

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Four political objectives

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

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards regional peace and prosperity

The Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand have long been good neighbours with common historical, cultural and religious background. These four nations are determined to forward their mutual interests by combining the interests of each individual country and those of the entire region.

The Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy was held at the Archaeological Museum in Bagan Archaeological Region, Mandalay Division on 12 November.

Prime Minister of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials attended the summit.

Regarding the future tasks on economic cooperation strategy of the four nations, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, “Myanmar would carry out the tasks for gaining trade and investment opportunities. In Myanmar, there are better prospects in agricultural, fish and meat and forestry sectors. It wished to undertake cooperation in hydro-electric power facilities. Much benefits will be achieved through the development of transport linkage among the nations. It also wished to promote cooperation in tourism and human resources development sectors.”

Prime Ministers of the four nations discussed trade, investment, provision of grant aid and soft loans, promotion of tourism and sources of funds, and cooperation among the four nations and holding joint trade fairs. Moreover, peace and stability in the border areas and development of transport linkages were discussed in a friendly atmosphere.

The Bagin Declaration on the four-nation Economic Cooperation Strategy was also issued. It was also agreed at the meeting to convene summit meeting of the heads of government biennially and for the ministers and the senior officials, annually.

The visions of the four nations on the economic cooperation strategy are to increase the competitiveness and generate greater growth along the borders, to facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantages, to create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries, to enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner.

We believe that the friendly discussions at the summit were very fruitful and they will contribute a lot to the regional cooperation for economic growth of the region.

Myanmar golf team leaves for Kiawah Island

YANGON, 13 Nov — Myanmar golf team comprising professional golfers Kyi Hla Han and Aung Win left here by air yesterday afternoon to compete in World Golf Championship-World Cup at Kiawah Island Resort in South Carolina, the USA, this month.

A total of 48 top golfers from 24 countries who had passed qualifiers will compete in the championship. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attend the dinner hosted in honour of Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and delegates to the Summit by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. — MNA

Commander inspects regional development tasks in Launglon Township

YANGON, 13 Nov — Chairman of the Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint on 10 November morning paid homage to Sayadaw of Weyanbonsan Monastery in Launglon Township, Dawei District, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Canda Siri and members of the Sangha and presented robes and offerings.

Later, the commander met with departmental officials and townsmen at the office of Launglon Township PDC. At the meeting, he called on them to extend agricultural work for regional development and local rice sufficiency. The commander proceeded to the cold storage in Kyaukknaw village in Launglon Township and inspected packaging of prawns to be exported.

During his tour, the commander also provided 150 bags of cement to renovate the primary schools in the villages on Kyaukknaw-Shinmaw road. Brig-Gen Ohn Myint also visited Shinmawtaung Pagoda and made cash donation to renovate the pagoda.

Informal education efficiency course to be opened

YANGON, 13 Nov — Coordination meeting on opening of e-informal education efficiency course was held this afternoon at the Myanmar Education Research Bureau in Kamayut Township.

The lectures of the course will be learned at e-learning centres across the country. The course will be opened at 9 am on 22 November and lectures will be delivered from 9 am to 4 pm from 22 to 30 November — MNA

Mattresses donated to MKF

YANGON, 13 Nov — Managing Director of Kizunax Co Ltd Mr Kimura Shoichi donated mattresses to the Myanmar Karatedo Federation through President of the federation Police Col Khin Maung Tun (Reid) yesterday at Aung San Gymnasium.

First, Mr Kimura Shoichi explained the purposes of the donation. President of the federation spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Karatedo athletes who will participate in XXIISEA Games presented skill demonstrations. — MNA

Myanmar golf team leaves for Kiawah Island

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A total of 48 top golfers from 24 countries who had passed qualifiers will compete in the championship. — MNA

Myanmar golf team seen off at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of MGF U Aung Kyi and executives. — MNA

Managing Director Mr Kimura Shoichi of Kizunax Co Ltd presents mattresses to President of Myanmar Karatedo Federation Police Colonel Khin Maung Tun (Reid). — MNA
Bomb at Italian base in Iraq kills at least 27

In Nassiriya Wednesday, killing at least 18 Italians and nine Iraqis.

The Italian ANSA news agency cited Giorgio Cornacchione, commander of Italian troops in Nassiriya, as saying there were four suicide bombers in two vehicles with between 330 and 660 pounds of explosives. Khadiar al-Habbar, director of Nassiriya General Hospi-

tal, said at least nine Iraqis were killed and more than 80 wounded.

Bloodiest single attack

Wednesday’s bombing was the bloodiest single at-
tack in Iraq since August when at least 80 Iraqis were killed by a car bomb in Najaf.

The Italian deaths were the first among non-British members of the southern multinational force in hos-
tile fire. — Internet

Iraqi official says Iraq becoming hotbed of terrorism

KUWAIT, 13 Nov — A leading member of Iraq’s US-appointed Governing Council said on Tuesday some militants have moved recently to Saudi Arabia from Iraq, which was becoming a hotbed of terrorism.

Abdul Aziz al-Hakim told reporters in Kuwait there was probably a link between terror groups in Iraq and those behind the bombing in the Saudi capital Riyadh which killed 18 people at the weekend.

“We had feared that Iraq would turn into a breeding ground for terrorism,” he said. “We expect those operations which took place in Riyadh have a link to the terrorist groups inside Iraq.”

Saudi Arabia and its ally the United States blamed Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda group for the bombing.

Hakim said militants were taking advan-
tage of the lack of proper controls on Iraq’s vast borders with its neighbours, including Saudi Arabia. — MNA/Reuters

WTO entry spurs China’s economic expansion

BEIJING, 13 Nov — Accession into the WTO has been spurring the growth of China’s economy over the past two years, experts noted here Tuesday.

A group of noted economists and scholars said at a seminar held by the Beijing-based University of International Business and Economics that problems have also been addressed earnestly by China as a WTO member.

China reported large increases in foreign trade in the second year after its WTO entry. Official figures show that the country exported 307.7 billion US dollars and imported 209.36 billion dollars of goods in the first nine months of the year, up 32.3 and 40.5 per cent, respectively, year on year. The country’s contractual and actually utilized foreign investment also jumped a year-on-year 36 per cent and 11.9 per cent, respectively, from January to September.

Behind the robust figures were constant trade disputes, covering trade barriers, trade policies, trade transparency and plant quarantine.

Economists noted and solution of these disputes have exerted a profound influence on the international trade environment and the sustained and healthy development of China’s economy and trade.

A striking point of China’s overseas trade relations in 2003 was how China addressed the issue of RMB exchange rate and the trade deficit of the United States to China.

Economists noted the occurrence and solution of these disputes have exerted a pronounced effect on the international trade environment and the sustained and healthy development of China’s economy and trade.

In response to this, experts and scholars said that the trade deficit of the United States was neither as serious as the United States said nor caused by the RMB exchange rate, instead being the result of the complementary industrial structures of the two countries and investing enterprises moving to China’s mainland from Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong and Taiwan. — MNA/Xinhua

China urges Burundi to take effective measures to guarantee the safety of Chinese diplomats

Bujumbura, 13 Nov — The Chinese Government urged Burundi to take effective measures to guarantee the safety of the Chinese Embassy and its personnel, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here Tuesday.

At a regular Press conference, Liu said that one office building of the Chinese Embassy in Bujumbura was accidentally hit by a mortar shell and damaged to a certain extent, but the blast, on the Euphrates riverfront, set cars on fire and sent a plume of black smoke into the air. Seventeen of the 26 dead were Italians.

The Italian Defence Minister Antonio Martino said the Ital-
ian deaths were the first among non-British members of the southern multinational force in hos-
tile fire. — Internet

Separately, US paratroopers last night killed six attack-
ers and wounded four others in a shootout near the hospital run by the Jordanian government near Fallujah.

A paramilitary guard was also killed when assailants fired rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire at an American military compound in a northern Iraqi city, the US military said.

The Nassiriya explosion tore off the front of the three-

story concrete building used by the Italian Carabinieri on the Euphrates riverfront, set cars on fire and sent a plume of black smoke into the air. Seventeen of the 26 dead were Italians.

In Baghdad, a succession of up to two dozen blasts echoed across the city last night and the US military said they were part of an operation against guerillas responsible for attacks on its forces. Troops killed two Iraqis and destroyed a building in the Iraqi capital which a spokesman said was a known facility used as a meeting, planning and rendezvous point for guerrillas.

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A paramilitary guard was also killed when assailants fired rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire at an American military compound in a northern Iraqi city, the US military said.

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Bush could face anti-war protesters in Britain

LONDON, 13 Nov — Police say there will be no special “exclusion zones” for US President George W Bush’s visit next week and he could easily come into contact with anti-war protesters.

Although Britain joined the United States in waging war on Iraq, anti-Bush sentiment is strong. A poll on Tuesday showed 60 percent of Britons strongly disapprove of his handling of Iraq.

“There is no intention to spare any one’s embarrassment. We have been under no pressure to do so,” said Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Trotter on Wednesday. “There will be no exclusions. What we have planned can quite easily come into contact with demonstrators.”

Tens of thousands of protesters, including some from Europe, are expected for the visit starting next Wednesday, prompting police to mount one of London’s biggest security operations.

The media has been rife with reports that vast areas of central London would be sealed off because the White House and Downing Street wanted the president isolated from protests.

Police said while security would be tight, cordons would be kept to a minimum and peaceful protests allowed.

The prospect of Bush, the Queen and Prime Minister Tony Blair, Washington’s closest ally in the Iraq war, together could present a tempting target for would-be attackers.

A study on Tuesday said London was more at risk of attack by Islamic extremists than any other major city in Western Europe. Trotter told reporters 5,000 officers would be on duty, including all London’s armed units, and all police leave had been cancelled.

Two US soldiers killed, four wounded in separate Baghdad attacks

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov — Two US soldiers were killed and four wounded in separate bombing attacks in Baghdad and north of the capital late Wednesday, a military spokeswoman said.

One regime armed Division soldier died, and two were wounded in an IED (improvised explosive device) attack in Baghdad, she told AFP.

“Despite best efforts at treatment, one soldier was pronounced dead at 9pm at the 28th Combat Support Hospital. The other two wounded soldiers were taken to the 47th Combat Support Hospital for treatment,” she said.

She said that on Monday “one Task Force Ironhorse soldier was killed and two were wounded when their military vehicle struck an IED north-west of Baghdad. “The wounded soldiers were treated at a nearby combat support hospital and were returned to duty,” she added.

Test-tube technology banned for single women

BEIJING, 13 Nov — Chinese hospitals have officially closed their doors to single women who want to use in vitro fertilization to fall pregnant, reported Wednesday’s China Daily.

Under new revisions to Ministry of Health regulations, doctors are forbidden to help single women get pregnant through assisted reproductive technology (ART) such as embryo transfer and artificial insemination, said the newspaper.

The move is aimed to prevent inappropriate use of the technology by single women and unqualified couples, such as those with acute infectious diseases, said Qi Li, a MOH official.

The regulation, which took effect early last month, urges hospitals across the country to strictly obey China’s laws and regulations on population and family planning when using ART.

If not properly used, ART, especially technological such as germ cell transfer that are still under investigation. One child, for example, could be born with genes from more than three peoples, experts warned.

UN population fund finances Nigeria

LAGOS, 13 Nov — The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) will spend 1.3 million US dollars on population programme for Nigeria’s southern state of Abia, the News Agency of Nigeria reported Tuesday.

Niangoran Essan, UNFPA Country Representative in Nigeria, was quoted as saying that the programme was designed to address high maternal mortality, male school drop-out, harmful traditional practices against women and the provision of access to information on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents.

Essan described the programme as a partnership between the state government and the fund, appealing to the government to fulfill its part of the agreement.

The agreement followed the completion of the fourth country programme in 2002, he said, adding that the fund had developed a new system whereby reviews would be carried out in Abia and no longer in Abuja.

He explained that the new approach would afford the government the opportunity to monitor the progress of the programme and make suggestions for effective implementation.

Abia State Governor Orji Uzor Kalu pledged that the government would fulfill its part of the obligation in the spirit of true partnership.

A Georgian freighter ran aground in bad weather and split into two off the coast of Anadoludefeneri in Istanbul, Turkey, on Tuesday. The 25 personnel on board were rescued before the freighter began sinking. Some of the freighter’s fuel leaked into the sea but did not pose any serious danger to the environment.

Chinese State Councillor calls for stronger role of NGOs

BEIJING, 13 Nov — Chinese State Councillor Tang Juxian Tuesday called for efforts to enhance the role of non-governmental organizations (NGO) in international affairs.

“With the progress in economic globalization and the increase of non-traditional security issues, NGOs are playing an increasingly significant role, especially in the fields of environmental protection, trade and arms control,” said Tang at a meeting of the United Nations Association of China (UNA-China), an NGO for the promotion of peace and the development of the United Nations.

Tang said China’s economic reform and diplomatic activities provide good opportunities for China’s NGOs to participate in international affairs.

The Internet

Anti-Bush and anti-war campaigners remain angry that a major march will not be allowed through Whitehall and Parliament Square. Left-leaning London Mayor Ken Livingstone said this week: “Any attempt to try and help Bush avoid protesters would be inconceivable. To create a situation in which up to 60,000 people would remain unseen would require a shutdown of central London which is just unacceptable.”

“Although the coalition and their enemies have upped the ante in recent days. Guerrillas have shot down helicopters and the US military has used aerial bombing for the first time since the official end of major combat in Iraq,” he said as a slide of a fighter jet dropping bombs was displayed behind him. US warplanes have struck targets near the towns of Tikrit and Falluja in the past week.

US military officials in Iraq have sought to balance talk of offensive operations with reconstruction work. But with attacks against them rising, Sanchez and other commanders appear ready to toughen their rhetoric and their actions on the ground. He said General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, recently conveyed a similarly hard line to local leaders in Falluja, a hotbed of anti-American violence west of Baghdad.

“Anti-Bush and anti-war campaigners could quite easily come into contact with demonstrators,” Trotter told reporters.

The most important message is that we’re going to get pretty tough,” Sanchez said. “That’s what’s necessary to defeat this enemy and we’re definitely not shy about doing that.”

The US has been stepping up coalition and their enemies have upped the ante in recent days. Guerrillas have shot down helicopters and the US military has used aerial bombing for the first time since the official end of major combat in Iraq. Although the coalition and their enemies have upped the ante in recent days. Guerrillas have shot down helicopters and the US military has used aerial bombing for the first time since the official end of major combat in Iraq. Although the coalition and their enemies have upped the ante in recent days. Guerrillas have shot down helicopters and the US military has used aerial bombing for the first time since the official end of major combat in Iraq.

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Police said while security would be tight, cordons would be kept to a minimum and peaceful protests allowed.
Hu Jintao says China-Australia ties to grow

Beijing, 13 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Wednesday that China-Australia relations will continue to grow thanks to concerted efforts by both sides. He told an Australian Parliament delegation led by Judi Moylan, chairperson of the Australia-China friendship group of the Australian Federal Parliament, that ties had developed soundly with enhanced cooperation in all areas.

Hu, who paid a state visit to Australia in October, said he reached a consensus with Australian leaders on enriching and deepening relations and the two countries would continue to work with China.

Chinese Vice-President meets Gabonese FM

Beijing, 13 Nov — Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong said here Wednesday that China appreciates the Gabonese government's firm support for the one-China policy and China's reunification.

Zeng told visiting Gabonese Minister of State Jean Ping that China valued its traditional friendly relations with Gabon, and would work with Gabon to keep developing the ties between the two countries.

It was almost 30 years since China and Gabon established full diplomatic relations and the two countries had successfully cooperated in politics, trade, culture and public health, and on international issues, Zeng said.

Ping, also the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon, said that Gabon would up-hold the one-China policy firmly and support China's reunification. Gabon will continue to work with China to develop relations.

Ping thanked the Chinese Government and people for their assistance in the construction of Gabon.

Flash floods kill eight in Mecca

Riyadh, 13 Nov — Flash floods swept through Saudi Arabia's holy city Mecca, killing eight people and destroying homes over the past two days.

Saudi newspapers said on Wednesday that torrential rain — described by one daily as the worst to lash the area in 12 years — caused the floods, which also inundated more than 100 people and stranded several families.

Most fatalities were caused by drowning or electric shocks.

Saudi Arabia is one of the most arid countries in the world, but severe rain storms are common in the mountainous region along its west coast.

Iraq is to face bad health for decades

London, 13 Nov — Iraqis will suffer physical and mental illnesses for “years, maybe generations” due to poor living conditions, ongoing violence and a collapsed health service, according to a medical charity report.

The report on Tuesday by British-based charity Medact said 20,000 civilians were killed during the war and its aftermath to July. It said the breakdown in law and order, lack of security and damage to infrastructure were hitting vulnerable groups like women and children.

“Limited access to clean water and sanitation, poverty, malnutrition, and disruption of public services including health services continue to have a negative impact on the health of the Iraqi people,” said the report’s author Dr Sabya Farooq.

The report said the problems were compounded by widespread contamination.

“...the environment is littered by mines and they are killing humans. A lot of unexploded bomblets exist in Iraq, particularly children because they are brightly coloured,” Farooq said.

She also said maimed Iraqi children would not gain the same benefits as Ali Abbas, a child who lost both arms and his parents in a missile attack on Baghdad and later received treatment in Kuwait and Britain.

An Medact statement said: “For every Ali Abbas...there are thousands of maimed children with no safe access to adequate health services, let alone sophisticated rehabilitation.” — MNA/Reuters

Mubarak says Egypt will not send troops to Iraq

Cairo, 13 Nov — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reiterated on Tuesday that his country will not send troops to Iraq, the official MENA news agency reported.

“... the decision was made on national interests,” Mubarak told the parliamentary board of the ruling National Democratic Party. He underlined the importance of enabling the Iraqis to rule themselves, saying that the Iraqis alone are capable of making changes and establishing a new regime accepted by all. He also called for ending any influence by any neighbouring country of Iraq.

Arab countries have refrained from sending troops to Iraq, fearing that such a move would amount to the recognition of the US occupation of Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

China urges US to end steel duties after ruling

Beijing, 13 Nov — China on Tuesday welcomed a World Trade Organization ruling against US steel tariffs and urged Washington to live up to its obligations by scrapping the duties as soon as possible.

The WTO’s highest court ruled on Monday that the US duties on imported steel violated international trade laws.

The European Union immediately warned President George W Bush that he must quickly withdraw them or face retaliation which could amount to some 2.2 billion US dollars in duties on US goods.

“The measures protecting steel carried out by the United States affect China’s steel exports to the United States,” Chinese Ministry of Commerce spokesman Chong Quan said in a statement on the ministry’s web site.

“We hope... the United States will carry out its international obligations as soon as possible and withdraw the measures protecting steel.”

China’s steel makers had not been hit hard by the US duties as their exports to the United States are relatively small.

But Beijing was among the 7 countries that joined the EU in filing a complaint to the WTO over the 20-month-old US duties, which were initially levied up to 30 per cent but later reduced.

China, although the world’s biggest manufacturer of steel, is still a net importer of it because domestic demand far outstrips supply for high-end products.

China sees more volunteers in public welfare

Beijing, 13 Nov — More and more people in China have volunteered to get involved in the public welfare cause to help the needy people throughout the country.

The welfare workforce, which yet lags behind that of the world, said Yang Liu, who just returned from a kidney donation foundation in Singapore.

Many Chinese volunteers in grassroots organizations tend to devote themselves to China’s public welfare, which yet lags behind that of the world, said Yang Liu, who just returned from a kidney donation foundation in Singapore.
Iran, Iraq to start oil, gas swaps soon

TEHRAN, 13 Nov—Iraq and Iran would soon start oil and gas swap projects, a senior Iraqi official was quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency as saying on Wednesday.

Iraqi Oil Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr al-Ulum said he would discuss details of the projects during his upcoming visit to Teheran. Bahr al-Ulum said he would discuss with Iranian officials about his participation in the next summit of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries on December 5.

Kamal Kharazi told a donors conference in Madrid last month that Teheran was ready to offer oil swap arrangements with Baghdad of up to 350,000 bpd a day to help the Iraqi reconstruction efforts. He said Iran is ready to provide a facility of up to 500 million dollars in buyers' and suppliers' credits and offered to supply electricity and gas to Iraq.

Irish teenagers cheer as American blood flows

BAGHDAD, 13 Nov—If Washington doubts there is Iraqi public support for guerillas killing its troops, it should consider the teenagers who happily watched American blood spill on Wednesday.

After a roadside bomb ripped through a military vehicle and wounded two soldiers, Iraqi boys rushed out of their homes to survey the damage.

"This is good. If they ask me, I will join the resistance," said Ali Qais, 15. "They are just here to steal our oil!"

The US Administration has long dismissed the guerillas as isolated "terrorists" who are Saddam Hussein loyalists or foreign Islamic militants.

But the scene in the Sarafiya District of Bagh- dad suggests they are win- ning the sympathy of Iraqis, whose joy at Saddam's fall has been overshadowed by anti-American rage.

Teenage boys were ir- ritated to hear that two American soldiers were just wounded, not killed.

"I saw them pushing their hands onto one of the Americans' chest. They must have died. One soldier's friend was crying," said Abdulkhalil Omair, 18.

His fury has been fuelled by what he says is an American desire to humili- ate all Iraqis. He even be- lieves that US troops plant the bombs themselves, risk- ing American lives to terrify and kill Iraqis.

"They are watching us die and laughing. They hu- miliate us. They handcuffed me and arrested me in front of my parents late one night because I stood on my house porch after curfew," he said.

A new CIA report on Iraq warns of growing popu- lar support for insurgents combating US occupation forces and says efforts to re- build the country could col- lapse without immediate cor- rective action, the Philadelphia Inquirer said on Wednesday.

Trade giant joins hands with Malaysia for budget airline

BANGKOK, 13 Nov—Thailand's largest telecom conglomerate Shin Corp on Tuesday confirmed it would invest 250 million baht (about 5.95 million US dollars) to establish a discount airline with the Malaysian no-frills carrier Air Asia.

Shin, founded by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, told the Stock Exchange of Thailand that it planned to buy 20% of the low-cost airline's shares for 51 per cent stake of a yet-to-be-established Air Asia Aviation Group.

Shin is a subsidiary of the Thai telecommunication and media group Shin Corporation, the second largest company in Thailand.

The airline, ex- pected to start operation at the end of this year or early next year, will ask licence to oper- ate all flights to Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Nakhon Ratchasima, newspaper The Nation quoted a Trans- port Ministry source as say- ing.

French urges transfer of sovereignty to Iraq

PARIS, 13 Nov—The French Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that the transfer of sovereignty to Iraq must be done without delay when commenting on remarks by British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw that such a move could happen sooner than expected.

"We are informed of the latest statements (of British Foreign Minister Jack Straw.) France has a con- stant position on this issue that underlines the neces- sity of a transfer without delay of the sovereignty to the Iraqis," a spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry. Earlier Wednes- day, Straw said over BBC radio: "We want to hand over power to the Iraqi people as quickly as possible," adding that a transfer of con- trol could happen "more quickly than planned."

There have been sug- gestions, not just from the United States and our- selves, but from our other partners that there may be other ways of achieving that," said Straw.

"We think that the early transfer of power would be helpful to everyone," the spokesman said of a news release on Wednesday.

UN advocates early power handover to Iraqis

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in October chal- lenged the Bush Adminis- tration by outlining a rival blueprint that would transfer sovereignty to Iraqis within three months, similar to one the world body helped insti- tute in Afghanistan last year.

There’s no change in our position," chief UN spokesman Fred Eckhard told reporters.

"A clear timeline for the early transfer of power to Iraqis, we think, would help reduce tensions somewhat," Eckhard said in answer to questions. "We think that an early transfer of power would round of meetings this week to speed up the transfer of power to Iraqis, appears to be considering a smaller core group or a single leader to move the process along.

"We want to accelerate our work with respect to putting a legal basis under the new Iraqi government," Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters.

British left the door open for various alternative plans, without giving details.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said power could be handed to the Iraqis "more quickly than planned."

Terrorism is the most immediate threat to world peace in the 21st century," Straw said.

"As to the date of the handover, we’re not sure yet how it’s going to go. It’s going to be a rapid transfer of power that’s going to take place over a three-month period," Straw said.

"I think that we’re prepared.

"I think that we’re prepared to work hard at that, but it’s going to be a very rapid transfer of power," Straw said.

"I think that the early transfer of power would be helpful to everyone," the spokesman said of a news release on Wednesday.

"A clear timeline for the early transfer of power to Iraqis, we think, would help reduce tensions somewhat," Eckhard said in answer to questions. "We think that an early transfer of power would...
Harmonious efforts for women’s sports to reach international level

May Chin (Haka)

The Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation held a national level conference on women and sports at International Business Centre from 28 to 29 September 2003. The conference was held with the objectives — Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation; and Myanmar Sports: the Women’s Sector.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address at the opening of the conference. He said, “The State is giving encouragement to the womenfolk in all aspects to progress of the women’s sector and to enable the Myanmar women to stand shoulder to shoulder with their international counterparts. The women’s sector will be developed on all fronts only if all the sectors including health, education, cultural and economic sectors can be promoted. Due to the encouragement provided by the Government, the MNCWA, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, the MWSF and other women’s social organizations have emerged. And these social organizations are striving for progress of the women’s sector.”

In the evening session, the participants at the conference were divided into four groups and held the discussions on two topics — health and fitness of women and raising of the women’s sports standard; and emergence of brilliant sports women who will bring honour to the nation.

The groups discussion continued till the next day’s morning session. The group discussions were coordinated by the secretariat of the conference. The main results of the group discussions were to apply all possible means to organize the entire womanfolk to have interest in sports; to hold the mass sports events in the whole nation; to cooperate with the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Education; to fairly select talented athletes and send the promising ones to the Institute of Sports; to bring out outstanding new generation athletes; to extend sports institutions; to open a sports university; to host international sports events; to provide all-round assistance to find jobs for outstanding athletes; to raise funds for sports development; and to conduct sports research.

At the conference I met with 11 outstanding sports women who brought honour to the nation, and later came to know that two thirds of the gold won by Myanmar contingents were bagged by female athletes. And I believe that it is the national duty for all of us to further develop the women’s sports sector.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered the concluding address. He said that he found the results of the conference satisfactory and would contribute much towards further development of the Myanmar women’s sports sector. He also explained the medal-winning situation of the women’s sports and means to improve it.

We, the delegates to the conference, gained much knowledge there. And we came to understand our duty to take part in the respective sectors for development of the women’s sports sector; striving to develop the health, education, cultural and social sectors of women. As the Federation President Daw May May Yi is also the Vice-President of the Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, she has been able to receive the leadership and directives of the Patrons.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the women’s sports sector to give support to raise the standard of the nation’s sports level as it amounts to the standard of the nation’s dignity. He also urged the women’s sports sector to strive harmoniously for the Myanmar womenfolk’s delight to be born Myanmar woman, as the Myanmar women have been enjoying equal rights with men since 1947.

The Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra pose for a documentary photo. — xexs.
Agricultural research work under way in Mudon

YANGON, 13 Nov — Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, accompanied by departmental officials, on 10 November morning inspected durian nurseries at Azin Farm of the Myanmar Agriculture Service in Mon State and heard reports on measures being taken for off-season production of durian and gave instructions.

The commander also inspected pilot plantations of pepper plants at Pepper Research and Development Centre (Mon State) and attended a demonstration of pilot fields at the central agricultural farm worked by MAS (Seeds Division).

On the occasion, the commander heard reports on agricultural researches, preservation of quality seeds, and measures being taken for doing researches on cultivation of 40 varieties of local paddy.

Next, the commander looked into measures being taken for double cropping and triple cropping with the combination of non-organic fertilizers and heard reports on competitive cultivation of different paddy varieties, findings of agricultural researches, paddy plantations, research work on Kyaw Zeya paddy variety, which can yield 118 baskets per acre.

At the meeting hall, the commander met with local farmers and state-level officials and arrangements for implementation of five rural development tasks with the use of regional agricultural development measures, and efforts to be made for 10 major crops and meeting the set standards.

At the office of Mudon Public Works, the commander also heard reports on the tarring of Public Works and future plans.

After giving instructions, the commander inspected the nurseries at the farms and gave instructions on promoting research works.

Earthquake report

YANGON, 13 Nov — An earthquake of slight intensity 4.3 Richter Scale with its epicentre about 260 miles north of Yangon Seismological Observatory was recorded at 08 hrs 29 min 22 sec MST today. — MNA

MMA holds 15th Eye Surgeon’s Conference

YANGON, 13 Nov — The inauguration ceremony of the 15th Eye Surgeon’s Conference sponsored by Eye Society of Myanmar Medical Association was held in the MMA auditorium on Thiribya Road here at 10.30 am today.

The conference was opened by the Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. It was attended by directors-general of departments under the ministry, directors, rectors and eye surgeons from all the states and divisions of the country.

The conference continues tomorrow and there will be 20 papers to be read and discussed during the conference. — MNA
Agriculture and regional development tasks inspected

YANGON, 13 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the agriculture and regional development tasks in Hmawby, Htantabin, Taikkyi, and Hlegu Townships in Yangon North District yesterday morning.

Accompanied by officials, the commander and party arrived at Gyyon wa- ter pumping station near Myochaung Bridge in Bawlegyun region in Htantabin Township at 7 am. Brig-Gen Htain Win of Taikkyi station and officials welcomed the commander.

Next, the commander and party viewed the digging of the main canal for irrigation of summer paddy from Myochaung Bridge. Officials of the Yangon Di- vision Water Resources Util- ization Department reported to the commander on arrangements for irrigation tasks and cultivation of 5,000 acres of summer paddy.

Afterwards, the com- mander viewed the harvest, threshing and winnowing of paddy in Htantabin Town- ship.

Later, the commander and party inspected the station hospital in Hleseik Vil- lage in the township. The commander left the hospital for Yaybawthoung river water pumping project. At the temporary briefing hall of the project, responsible official of the WRUD explained the salient points of the project and arrange- ments for cultivation of 2,000 acres of summer paddy. The commander gave instructions on sufficient water supply for sum- mer paddy and winter crops.

The commander arrived at Thabyatyan river water pumping project in Aikalaung Kyun region in Taikkyi Township and met with local farmers. At the meeting, the commander gave instructions on culti- vation of monosoon and sum- mer paddy and winter crops for the greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon. Local farmers submitted their re- quirements for timely sup- ply of water for agricultural purpose, repairs of drains, cultivation of summer paddy. Next, the chairmen of Township Peace and De- velopment Councils in Htantabin and Taikkyi Townships reported on the requirements for cultivation of summer paddy. After hearing reports of the responsible officials, the com- mander fulfilled the require- ments. Afterwards, the com- mander and party inspected 9 mile and 4 furlong long Tawthi-Kalathot agricultural waste water pumping project linking Taikkyi Town- ship and Danuhyu Town- ship in Ayawady Divi- sion.

Next, the commander and party arrived at the ASEAN Polymer Fish and Prawn Breeding Camp near Kalathot Village. Managing Director of U Ye Htet Kyaw reported to the commander on hatching of fish and breeding of fish and prawn. The commander gave in- structions on completion of digging fish breeding ponds in wetlands in the open sea.

Afterwards, the com- mander inspected the patient wards, the operation theatre, medical store, delivery room and laboratory at the Tawthi station hospital. Next, the commander proceeded to the basic education high school in the village and inspected construction of new buildings and multimedia classrooms.

Next, the commander in- Inspected Aikalaung river wa- ter pumping project, and con- struction of Paunglin Dam (supporting dam for Ngamoyeik Dam) in Hlegu Township, and gave instruc- tions on timely completion of the dam. Later, the com- mander met with township level departmental officials, members of non-governmen- tal social organizations, and town elders at the hall of Hmawby Township Peace and Development Council and gave instructions on undertak- ing regional development tasks, and serving the interest of the people. — MNA

In the presence of Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, Director-General of Technical Affairs Mr Mao Thosa of Cambodia and Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand Mrs Anchalee Chu-Vanich sign Development of Industrial Estate Special Economic Zones in Cambodia on 12 November. — mna

Monywa BEHSs 2 & 3 to hold respect-paying ceremonies

YANGON, 13 Nov — Re- spect-paying ceremonies for the teachers of old-age re- tirement of Nos 2 and 3 Ba- sic Education High Schools in Monywa are to be held in conjunction with the cere- monies to honour outstanding students at 8 am at the BEHS-2 and at 10 am at BEHS-3 on 15 November. Former teachers and stu- dents have been invited to attend the ceremony whether they receive the in- vitations in time or not.

Those wishing to contrib- ute cash towards the funds of the ceremonies are to con- tact the Ministry of Infor- mation (Ph 01-245615, 01- 245619), District Peace and Development Council Of- fice (Ph 071-21157), Town- ship Peace and Develop- ment Council Office (Ph 071-21156), Com-mander of District Myanmar Police Force (Ph 21039), the Head- master of BEHS-2 (Ph 071- 21140), the Headmaster of BEHS-3 (Ph 071-21176), Dr Nyan Lin (Ph 071-22031) and U Nay Win (Ph 071- 21525). — MNA

In the presence of Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, Deputy Foreign Minister of LPDR Mr Boukeat Sang Somask and Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand Dr Sorajak Kasemsuvan sign joint statement on energy cooperation strategy after the summit on 12 November. — mna

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra before his departure for Thailand on 12 November. — mna

Royal barge procession of Bagan era displayed at luncheon hosted in honour of Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laos Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and delegates to the summit by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. — MNA
First anniversary of Panglong University

* Article by Khin Hsan Oo (Myanmarsar); Photo by MNA

The Panglong University was born on 18 December 2002. Construction began in July 2002, the university lies on the Lolim-Panglong-Leikha-Mongkai-Hsipaw Road to the north of Panglong. It is situated of Panglong-Leikha-Mongkai-Hsipaw Road to the north of Panglong. It is situated 4,372 feet above sea level. It has four two-storey buildings and one four-storey building (the main building). On both sides of the main building are two big stone pillars can be seen in front of the university, the words “the Panglong University” can be seen. Eight big stone pillars can be seen in front of the main building.

The opening of the university was held on 11 February 2003, the eve of the 56th Anniversary Union Day, attended by Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Minister for Education U Than Aung.

Colourful flags were flying on top of the flag-staffs on either side of the entrance to the university and hailing the opening ceremony. The Union Flag flanked by the fourteen flags of states and divisions was graceful.

The university was opened at 8.30 am with three ceremonies. At the first one, fourteen students in national races costumes formally opened the stone inscriptions of the university. As the second one, a Shan national boy and a Shan national girl cut the golden string held by 14 students in national races costumes to release gas balloons. The blue sky was full of colourful balloons them.

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The university was formally opened at 8.30 am with three ceremonies. At the first one, fourteen students in national races costumes formally opened the stone inscriptions of the university. As the second one, a Shan national boy and a Shan national girl cut the golden string held by 14 students in national races costumes to release gas balloons. The blue sky was full of colourful balloons them.

Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opened the bronze inscriptions of the university and sprinkled scented water on them. Minister for Education U Than Aung, Pro-rector of the university U Tha Oo and Managing Director U Chit Khaing of Eden Co that had constructed the university also sprinkled scented water on it to successfully open the university.

After the ceremony, the book exhibition at the library and the IT exhibition at the computer room were held. Altogether 210 students attended the first year courses of the university starting from 18 December 2002. The university has a ferry Hino bus, there is smooth transportation. The computer room, the language lab, the resource centre, the e-education learning centre and the multimedia room have been opened there. A library, a recreation centre and communication office have also been opened. Students held sports contests and respecting ceremonies.

On 30 September 2003, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visited the university and cordially greeted teaching staff and spoke words of honours. With a view to successfully implementing the 30-year long-term education plan and the national education promotion programme, the university successfully produced the first year students. The university is looking forward to the freshers who will attend courses in December 2003.

* successfully, how far they’ve proceeded
* built on that, as seen at cultural land
* Myanmar’s glory has been enhanced
* The ancient land, the true roots
* In City Bagan, they’ve rejoiced
* Sharing goodwill, holding hands firmly
* They made the Declaration
* The great River Ayeya
* Will bear witness for long
* Till posterity, without doubt.

Po Wa (Trs)

* Ayeya-Mekong entwined in love
* Progress of Four Nations
* We’ll look forward and exist thus.

Translation: KKK (Kyemon 10-11-2003)

* The meandering Mekong River
* Joins Laos and Myanmar like brothers
* Downward it flows to Cambodia
* Nearer lies Thai, four nations
* From the four abodes, came four leaders
* Joining hands, moving forward
* Happily for their nations
* Reciprocate action for progress
* To help, they discuss
* And deliberate, it’s been
* Successfully concluded.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives instructions to officials of Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project and hydel power project at the briefing hall of the project in Sedoktara Township. (News on page 16) — MNA

After the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents souvenir to Lao Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith on 12 November 2003. — MNA

**POEM**

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( Honouring the Summit of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar which successfully concluded in Bagan on 12-11-03.)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Many students from Chin State (North) are attending Kale University and colleges in Kale. The photo taken on 25 July shows the magnificent building of Kale University in Kale, Sagaing Division.—PHOTO: MNA

Chindwin River Bridge (Monywa) was opened on 7-4-2003. The bridge is on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa strategic road between Monywa and Yinnabin townships. The upper structure of the bridge is of steel beams produced in the country and the lower structure, of reinforced concrete. The main bridge is 2,745.6 feet long and the two approach roads, 1,984.6 feet long. —PHOTO: MNA

Thaphanseik dam is located near Thaphanseik village in Kyunhla Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Division. It was opened on 17 April 2001. It is the largest in Myanmar and also included in the longest dams in Southeast Asia. —PHOTO: MNA
MARRIAGE

Parents of both families are pleased to announce the marriage of
Khine Soe Win
Daughter of U Myint Lwin and Daw Khin Khin
Htwe (Galan Yarzar Pharmaceutical MFG.)
To
Ho Eng Shwe
Youngest son of Ho Leong Har and Daw Shu Khin (Myaung Mya) on 3rd November (Monday)
at Yangon Divisional Court in the presence of the
divisional judge and parents of both sides.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MY “YANGON STAR” VOY NO (340)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “YANGON STAR”
Voy No (340) are here by notified that the vessel will be
arriving on 14-11-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the
premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s
risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions
of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20
am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the
third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the
Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION
Phone : 256908, 378316, 376797

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “BAGO” VOY NO 755/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No
755/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at
Yangon port on 17-11-2003 and will berth on about
15-11-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises
of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consign-
nee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and
conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to
11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared
as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the
Claims Day.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

Britain funds
UNICEF to fight malaria in Ethiopia

ADVISER ASSIA, 13 NOV - Britain has agreed to fund a United Nations Children
Fund (UNICEF) emergency malaria intervention project in Ethiopia with
a total of 2.5 million US dollars, said a Press release of the British Embassy
here Tuesday.

Malaria is one of the big-
gest killers in Ethiopia, and
according to the United Na-
tions, an estimated 15 mil-
lion Ethiopians are threat-
ened by the deadly disease
over the next few months.

The release quoted Bri-
tish Ambassador to Ethiopia
Myles Wickstead as saying
that financial support from
the donor community is
required to avoid a major
epidemic.—MNA/Xinhua

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 18th November (Tuesday)
National Day 2003, being public holiday under the Negotiable
Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS.

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

Sr No.    Tender No      Description      Quantity
1. 15(T) 1/MR (E) (1) Fish Bolt and Nut BS 75 R     50602-Pairs
2. 2003-2004 (2) Fish Bolt and Nut 60 lbs BS       2600-Pairs

Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

Chair of the logistics, Zeferino
Amade Hassane, the riot po-
testigation Police (PIC)
director of the Criminal In-
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British citizens will have to
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Under the plans, people
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ID card will have to produce a valid card.

Response to fears about
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Three Mozambican officers
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The three are Inhambane
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MNA/Xinhua
**A little time helps heart patients follow orders**

**ORLANDO** (Florida), 13 Nov— Spending a little extra time with heart failure patients — just an hour — helps them understand how to take care of themselves and avoid getting into the hospital, US researchers said on Monday.

The study is one of several being presented to this year’s American Heart Association meeting in New Orleans, the world’s largest annual meeting of heart disease professionals.

**Thousands greet China’s first astronaut at Shanghai airport**

**SHANGHAI**, 13 Nov — It took only 21 hours for China’s first astronaut Yang Liwei to circle the globe 14 times, but it took him eight minutes to travel a distance of 200 metres in Shanghai Tuesday morning.

En route from Shanghai to Beijing, Yang Liwei and a large entourage entered into the book as a record holder was surprised by the sight of thousands of admirers waiting at the airport to see China’s first astronaut.

**Guinness Book of World records**

**LOUVAIN**, 13 Nov — A burp from the loudest belcher in the world echoed round Brussels’ Tete Moderne Gallery as the Guiness Book of World Records celebrated the release of its 100 millionth copy on Tuesday.

“The book, which lists world records from the smallest dog to the highest paid TV guest star, has its own entry in the latest edition as the best-selling copyright book of all time,” said an official of the Guinness Book of World Records.

“Everybody has a dream to be the best at something in the world and the public has an incredible imagination,” said Co-founder and Managing Director of Guinness Book of World Records, Alain Casson.

“Piercing is my stress relief.”

— Monica Johnson, the nurse who conducted the patient education sessions.

“Heart failure is a chronic disease that affects more than five million Americans by 2030, according to the US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.”

— Dr. Todd Koelling, who led the study.

Miss World contestants pose for a picture at Hong Kong’s Victoria Peak observation point over the city on Monday, 10 Nov, 2003. Some 110 contestants have kicked off the first leg of the 53rd Miss World Beauty Pageant, which will be held in different parts of China with the finals scheduled to take place on 6 Dec, in the southern Chinese resort city of Sanya. —INTERNET

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“Everybody has a dream to be the best at something in the world and the public has an incredible imagination,” said the book’s editor Clare Folkard said at a reception in London. “This is what has kept us going.”

“One guest who satiated her desire to be entered into the book as a record holder was Elaine Davidson who had 1,903 piercings, studs and rings over her tattooed body.

The Brazilian living in Edinburgh said she does all the work herself and had once pierced herself 85 times around her waistline in just two hours.

She started piercing herself four years ago because she wanted to be listed in the book. “Now, my dream has come true,” she said. “Piercing is my stress relief.” — MNA/Reuters

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Kasparov draws first game against computer

New York, 13 Nov—World No 1 chess player Garry Kasparov was held to a draw on Tuesday in the first game of his latest match against a computer and admitted having difficulty with the program's virtual reality component.

Kasparov and the programmers of "X3D Fritz" agreed to a draw on a 37th move after three hours and 20 minutes of play in a hard-fought game in which Kasparov won a powerful rook in exchange for a bishop and a pawn in the middlegame, but could not convert that slight material advantage into a victory.—INTERNET

Injuries disrupt Spain’s playoffs preparations

Madrid, 13 Nov—Spain's preparations for their Euro 2004 playoff against Norway have been disrupted by injury worries over winger Joaquin and defender Ivan Helguera.

Team medical staff decided that Joaquin would remain with the squad despite pulling out of training on Tuesday because of pain in his abdomen, while Helguera has been forced to rest because of the recurrence of a sciatic nerve problem.

Both players are doubtful for the first leg of the playoff in Valencia on Saturday.

Spain, who finished as runners-up to Greece in Group Six of the qualifying phase for next year's tournament in Portugal, play the second leg against Norway in Oslo on November 19.

Foe remembered in All-Stars vs Cameroon match

LYON (France), 13 Nov— Cameroon beat an All-Stars team in a match played on Tuesday in memory of Marc-Vivien Foe, who died at the same Gerland ground in June 26, 2003.

The African champions, who took over the captaincy from Sami Hyypia last month, is a product of Liverpool's youth academy and had been widely expected to sign a new deal.

"I've been here since I was eight years old and there has never been a single moment when I have wanted to move on and play for someone else," Gerrard told the club's website.

"I want to win a lot more trophies with the club. I want to get them back into the Champions League and I want to stay here for as long as possible. This is a club I have supported since I was a young boy and I don’t want to leave."

The new contract, Gerrard, who helped Liverpool win the FA, League and UEFA cups in 2001, will also be a welcome lift for manager Gerard Houllier.

Figo doubtful for Greece friendly

Madrid, 13 Nov—Portugal midfielder Luis Figo is doubtful for Saturday's friendly international against Greece because of an ankle injury sustained while playing for club side Real Madrid.

The 31-year-old winger strained ligaments in his right ankle during Real's 4-1 defeat at Sevilla on Sunday and was a late withdrawal from the club's squad for a commemorative match against Valladolid on Tuesday.

Club medical staff have recommended rest and physiotherapy before evaluation of the player's injury on Thursday.

Portugal, who host next year's European championships, also play Kuwait on November 19.—MNA/Reuters

Gerrard signs on again at Liverpool until 2007

LONDON, 13 Nov—Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard signed a new contract on Tuesday that will keep him on Merseyside until 2007, the Premier League club said.

The 23-year-old England midfielder, who took over the captaincy from Sami Hyypia last month, is a product of Liverpool's youth academy and had been widely expected to sign a new deal.

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Denmark’s Jensen, Poulsen to miss England friendly

COPENHAGEN, 13 Nov— Denmark midfielders Claus Jensen and Christian Poulsen will miss Sunday's friendly against England in Manchester on Sunday due to injuries, the Danish Football Association (DBU) said on Tuesday. Jensen, who plays his club football in England with Charlton Athletic, and Poulsen, who plays for Schalke 04 in Germany, have been replaced in coach Morten Olsen's squad by FC Copenhagen's Thomas Roll Larsen and Daniel Jensen of Spain's Murcia, the DBU said on its website.

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MNA/Reuters

Rooney, Beckham doubtful for England’s friendly

LONDON, 13 Nov—Striker Wayne Rooney and captain David Beckham have been doubtful for England’s coming friendly against Denmark at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Rooney, a tenanting sensation of English soccer, missed Everton’s 1-2 loss at Blackburn on Monday night while Beckham suffered a back injury in Real Madrid’s 4-1 defeat by Sevilla at the weekend.

Everton’s team doctors told the club’s website on Tuesday that Rooney “is feeling very unwell” and might need “a period of five or six days” before recovery.

Rooney was one of the only three strikers England named for their Euro 2004 playoff against Norway have been disrupted by injuries, the Danish Football Association (DBU) said on Tuesday. Jensen, who plays his club football in England with Charlton Athletic, and Poulsen, who plays for Schalke 04 in Germany, have been replaced in coach Morten Olsen’s squad by FC Copenhagen’s Thomas Roll Larsen and Daniel Jensen of Spain’s Murcia, the DBU said on its website.

MNA/Reuters

When the captain reports for England training on Thursday, his fitness will be assessed by England’s medical staff.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Friday, 14 November, 2003

WEATHER
Thursday, 13 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST. During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated rain or thunderstorms in Tanintharyi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were 2°C to 5°C below normal in Mon State, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and 4°C above normal in Rakhine State and about normal in the remaining areas. Maximum temperature was 35°C (95°F) at Mawlamyine on 13-11-2003. Relative humidity was 70% at 13-11-2003.

Friday, November 14

View today:
7:00 am 1. Recitation of Paritas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottama
7:15 am 2. บท ตักบุตร
7:25 am 3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 4. Reading news
7:40 am 5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 6. News and music
8:05 am 7. 11 (The mirage images of the musical oldies
8:10 am 8.

4:10 pm 1. Martial song
4:10 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:10 pm 3. Practice in reading
4:35 pm 3. Cultural programme
4:45 pm 4. 5. Nat"a Kyaw (Nat Thein Kyaw) Song
5:00 pm 6. 5. Nat"a Kyaw (Nat Thein Kyaw) Song
5:10 pm 7. Song of national races
5:20 pm 8. Nat"a Kyaw (Nat Thein Kyaw) Song
5:30 pm 9. Nat"a Kyaw (Nat Thein Kyaw) Song
5:40 pm 10. Musical programme
6:00 pm 11. 11 (The mirage images of the musical oldies
6:15 pm 12. Discovery
6:30 pm 13. Evening news
7:00 pm 14. Weather report
7:05 pm 15. Milo success in soccer
7:10 pm 16. 17. Songs of yesteryears
7:40 pm 18. 19. News
7:50 pm 20. International news
8:00 pm 21. Weather report
8:20 pm 22. Teleplay
9:00 pm 23. 11 (The mirage images of the musical oldies
9:15 pm 24. 11 (The mirage images of the musical oldies
9:25 pm 25. 11 (The mirage images of the musical oldies
9:30 pm 26. 11 (The mirage images of the musical oldies
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Friday, November 14

Tune in today:
8:30 am 1. Brief News
8:35 am 2. News
8:40 am 3. Perspectives
8:45 am 4. News
8:50 am 5. National news/ Weather
9:00 am 6. Music
9:05 am 7. National news/ Weather
9:10 am 8. News/Slideshow
9:15 am 9. Lunch time music - Time for love
9:20 am 10. Music
9:25 am 11. Article/Music
9:30 am 12. Music at your request
9:35 am 13. You're still the one (Shanta Twist)
9:40 am 14. Jaya video
9:45 am 15. News/Slideshow
10:00 am 16. PEL
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project

YANGON, 13 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers, deputy ministers, Chairman Col Zaw Min of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at the construction site of Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project, two miles north of Sedoktara in Minbu District, Magway Division, by helicopter yesterday.

First, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported to the Prime Minister on construction tasks of the main dam and related structures, tunnels and three spillways being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, tasks jointly carried out with the Ministry of Electric Power, and tasks for irrigation of 108,000 acres of land via Mezali Diversion Weir.

Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported to the Prime Minister on progress of works including construction tasks of the main dam, tunnels, the surge tank, spillways and hydel-power generation facilities.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint reported to the Prime Minister on progress of the diversion intake and the intake structure, high pressure pipelines (1), (2) and (3), turbines, and construction of the hydel power plant, and test running after installation of the control panel and cables, installation of 61 miles long 132 KVA power line to connect the power plant and the main power distribution station in Chauk, and generation of 330 Kilowatt hour of electricity after installation of three 25 Mega watt generators. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party inspected the construction of the main dam, water intake facilities, surge tank and spillways, installation of sluice gates, completion of the power plant and installation of three 25 Mega-watt generators. The project is being implemented to irrigate the farmland via Mezali Diversion Weir in the rainy season, to generate hydel power, and to prevent floods of Mone Creek.

The Prime Minister and party left Bagan by air and arrived back here this morning. — MNA

Observe 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day coordinated workshop on drawing of teenage health strategies

YANGON, 13 Nov — The Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day for 2004 held its first meeting at the Resistance Park this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Management Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Min Aung. Also present on the occasion were senior military officers, chairmen and members of the Management Committee and work groups and officials.

In his speech, the commander said that arrangements are to be made in advance for the convenience of officers and other ranks who will take part in the columns of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade. He spoke of the need for management committee members to make arrangements for the parade. Measures are to be taken for upgrading the Resistance Park and Myoma Ground and for successfully implementing the objectives of Armed Forces Day, the commander noted.

Secretary of the Management Committee Staff Officer (Grade I) of Yangon Command Lt-Col Min Naing reported on formation of the management committee and work groups. Officials of the parade work group, ground renovation work group, transport and accommodation work group, information and entertainment work group, invitation work group, medical work group, reception work group, best company selecting work group, welcoming work group, security work group and management work group reported on tasks carried out.

Afterwards, Yangon Police Force, Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Yangon City Development Committee, the Ministry of Electric Power and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise also presented respective reports, followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting fixed the date for presenting plans and holding the second meeting.

The commander delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Workshop on drawing of teenage health strategies

YANGON, 13 Nov — Workshop on drawing of the strategies for the five-year project on teenage health jointly organized by the Health Department of the Ministry of Health and the WHO was held this morning at Summit Parkview Hotel here. It was attended by officials of respective ministries, social organizations, WHO, UN agencies SEARO and guests. Those present discussed the project’s future tasks which will be implemented in coming five years in Myanmar.

The workshop continues tomorrow. — MNA

Cultural Museum in Loikaw inspected

YANGON, 13 Nov — Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Oo at the Cultural Museum in Loikaw and inspected the library and the museum.

The chairman attended the prize presentation ceremony of Kayah State PDC Chairman’s Trophy Soccer Tournament for 2003 the next day and presented the trophy to the winner team.

On 7 November, he awarded prizes to the winner artistes of Kayah State who participated in the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA