Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends cornerstone laying ceremony in Tipitika Monastery

YANGON, 15 Nov—The cash donation and cornerstone laying ceremony of Tipitika Nikaya building of Tipitika Monastery was held at the monastery on Sakawa Road in Dagon Township this morning. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Secretary Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammanu Pitakadju Bhdanta Kumara, the pro-rector Sayadaw (Academic) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Tipitika Ovada Cariya Sayadaws, Tipitika Dhara Tipitika Kovida Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee, the Nayaka Sayadaw and members of the Sangha of the monastery, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of Ti-Ni Missionary Upagaha Committee and wellwishers.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets members of MNCWA

YANGON, 15 Nov—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met members of the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and officials from the women’s sector at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hline Township this afternoon and gave instructions on promotion of activities in carrying out the tasks of the women’s sector widely and effectively by MNCWA, he said.

He said present activities are not enough for the committee to continue its efforts as there are a lot of tasks to be done. That is why the meeting was held to promote the tasks of the women’s sector widely and effectively by MNCWA, he said.

He said 52 per cent of population in the Union of Myanmar are women. It is an enormous force which constitutes more than that of men. Myanmar women, like men enjoy equal rights throughout Myanmar history according to existing laws.

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It is a practice for women to follow the men’s leadership according to Myanmar cultural customs emerged from the teachings of Theravada Buddhism which Myanmar people believe in, he added.

In accord with a Myanmar saying “Couples, man and wife, have to do their bit”, a husband was designated as the head of the household and a wife supported him as a life partner and they established a family life together, he said.

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

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

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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

Garovo ca, reverence; this is the way to auspiciousness.
PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 November, 2003

For further regional development

The Government is seeking various ways and means to promote the development momentum of the agricultural sector, the mainstay of the State. Cotton, sugar-cane and beans and pulses are designated as the four major crops in addition to paddy and emphasis has been put on growing these crops.

At the same time, efforts are being made to upgrade the agricultural standard by providing modern farm implements, distributing quality strains and disseminating modern cultivation methods to farmers.

In the country, Ayeyawady Division takes the first position in growing monsoon and summer paddy. Altogether 3.4 million acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy, 1.6 million acres under summer paddy and 1.3 million acres under beans and pulses in the division and thus it can be said that the division is the one on which the State can rely economically.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, on 9 and 10 November, inspected agricultural and livestock-breeding tasks and regional development tasks in Ayeyawady Division.

During his inspection tour, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with local farmers and discussed matters relating to making preparations for growing summer paddy and beans and pulses and urged them to strive for realizing the goal of growing 1.6 million acres of summer paddy.

In addition to the agriculture sector, livestock-breeding tasks are being carried out in Ayeyawady Division. The incubator of South West Command can produce 2,700 chickens every six days. Moreover, local pedigree chickens are being raised at Apinhnahse Farm every six days. Moreover, local pedigree paddy.

The minister of the goal of growing 1.6 million acres of summer paddy, 1.6 million acres under summer paddy and 3.4 million acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy, 1.6 million acres under summer paddy. Altogether, 1.6 million acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy, 1.6 million acres under summer paddy and 1.3 million acres under beans and pulses in the division and thus it can be said that the division is the one on which the State can rely economically.

On completion of the project, the hotel will have 105 rooms with the main building, kitchen room, swimming pool, and two storey building with 12 rooms. They next arrived at the construction site of Ngapali Beach Hotel which is being built by Tun Lin Yangon Company. Director U Zeya Min Din of the company reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on construction of the hotel.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were conducted round the construction site by officials. Tun Lin Yangon Company is implementing the Ngapali Beach Hotel Project on 4.33 acres of land. It is implemented in two phases—in the first phase, there will be 37 rooms that can accommodate 74 guests and in the second phase, 35 rooms for 70 guests.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party next arrived at local battalion in Thandwe and met with local people, other ranks and their families. After giving instructions on extension of agricultural and livestock-breeding tasks Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left there in the evening.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects regional development tasks in Rakhaing State

Rakheekhine State Education Officer U Thaung Sein and officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with the local people. First, Kyaukkalbalaville Tract PDC Chairman U Hla Pa reported on formation of the village tract and education, health, economy and transport of the village tract.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech saying that he was there to observe the objective conditions of the area and fulfill the needed. He continued to say that only when there is peace and tranquility in the region will there be better condition to carry out regional development tasks. Eighty percent of the population of the country reside in rural areas and rural area development undertakings are being carried out after laying down the five rural development tasks, he noted. It is required to extend paddy cultivation and in doing so, it is necessary to use quality strains of crops, organic and inorganic fertilizers and extend the sown acreage he stressed. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted those present.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Station Hospital in Rakheekhine Tract of Rakheekhine Township. He gave instructions to the hospital staff and officers.

Culture Ministry offers Soon to Sangha

YANGON, 15 Nov.— Staff of the Ministry of Culture offered Soon to Sayadaws (Aca- demics) of the State Pariyatti Sasana University in the Sangha at Mogok Refectory, Kaba Aye Hill this morning. Minister for Cul- ture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung at- tended the ceremony and of- fered provisions to Sayadaws. Present on the occasion were State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) Rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa, directors-general, deputy directors-general of the department under the min- istry, rectors, professors and directors of the University of Culture, cultural officials and staff families. First, the rector and the congre- gation received the Five Pre- cepts from Rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa. Next, the minister offered provisions to the Rector Sayadaw. Afterwards, Min- ister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung pre- sented K 180,000 for offereing Soon by staff families of the ministry to staff families of the ministry. After the cere- mony, the minister received the congregation and guests of the Sangha.

Auto-Exchange Spare Parts Factory opens

YANGON, 15 Nov.— The Auto-Exchange Spare Parts Factory of FISCA Enterprises was opened at No 1/B, Pyay Road 9th Mile, Mayangon Township yesterday evening.

The opening ceremony was attended by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraph Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Economic and Commercial Counsellor Mr. Jin Honggen, delegates to Yunan Telecom Group and guests. After the ceremony, those in attend- ance viewed round the show room of FISCA Enterprises.

Next, officials of FISCA Enterprises presented reports to the ministers and guests on functions of the enterprises. Afterwards, the ministers and guests viewed round the Auto-Exchange Spare Parts Factory.
**Three US troops killed in Iraq as Washington steps up fight against guerillas**

Baghdad, 15 Nov—Three more US soldiers were killed in attacks in Iraq as the US military on Friday stepped up the fight against armed resistance to its occupation of the country, fueling an allegedly plot to fire rockets at an American base. The intensification of the US offensive against alleged guerillas came as Washington explored a faster handover of power to Iraqis in the wake of a surge in violence since the start of the month.

The two soldiers were killed and six others were wounded when their convoy was struck by an explosive charge north of Baghdad late Thursday, a military statement said Friday. “Two Task Force Ironhorse soldiers were killed and three were wounded when the convoy they were travelling in was attacked with an improvised explosive device at approximately 4:30pm (1330 GMT) on November 13,” it said. A 1st Armoured Division soldier died from wounds received when his convoy was struck in a similar bombing attack Friday morning in central Baghdad, another military statement said.

Two soldiers received shrapnel wounds in that attack.

The latest casualties come amid a surge in violence that has killed more than 41 US soldiers in combat since the start of November. The deaths also raised to 160 the number of US soldiers killed in combat in Iraq since May 1, when Washington declared major hostilities over.

A military spokesperson also said Friday a US civil engineer working for the US army was killed and another wounded when assailants opened fire late Thursday on them as they were travelling north of Baghdad. In an effort to stem rising attacks, US forces stepped up their offensive military operations in Baghdad and further north, in regions considered as strongholds of ousted president Saddam Hussein.

**IAEA rejects US criticism of Iran report**

Vienna, 15 Nov—The UN nuclear watchdog on Thursday rejected criticism of its report on Iran’s nuclear programme by a senior US official, who said the UN was wrong to conclude it had no evidence Tehran wanted atomic weapons.

In its first reaction to a confidential report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by its Undersecretary of State John Bolton said the agency's conclusion that there was no evidence of a military nuclear programme was “impossible to believe”.

IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky responded: “We stand by the report, but it’s confidential and will be considered at next week’s (IAEA) board meeting.” He declined further comment.

In the report, which was circulated among officials on Monday and obtained by Reuters, the IAEA said Iran had a centrifuge uranium enrichment programme for 18 years, and a high-tech laser enrichment programme for 12 years, both of which it kept hidden from the United Nations.

The report also said Iran admitted to producing small amounts of plutonium, usable in a bomb and with virtually no civilians uses, and had conducted secret tests of its centrifuge enrichments using natural material.

All of these activities could be linked to bomb-making.

“To date there is no evidence that Iran’s previously undeclared nuclear material and activities referred to above were related to a nuclear weapons programme, the IAEA said in the report.

But the agency also made it clear it had yet to declare Iran innocent of US charges it had a secret weapons program.

Syria says US sanctions will not hurt Damascus

DAMASCUS, 15 Nov—Syria’s state media on Thursday condemned US threats to impose economic sanctions on Damascus, which Washington accuses of back ing “terrorism.”

In an editorial, the al Balad daily said the legislation would mean little to Syria, but would damage US interests by aligning them with those of Israel, Syria’s arch foe.

“I t’s clear that the Syria Accountability Act neither serves America nor harms Syria, something reasonable people in Washington grasp completely,” it said, arguing that the bill proved Syria’s importance to the region.

The emphasis that US officials, including supporters of “Accountability,” place on Syria’s role reflects their anxiety that Washington’s policy of falling in line with the Israeli project will not benefit the Americans.

The bill to impose sanctions would ban US oil companies from investing in the country’s energy industry. The al-Thawra daily echoed the sentiment that the legislation would do little to advance Washington’s interests in Iraq or elsewhere.

**Germany to pull plug on nuclear power plant**

Berlin, 15 Nov—Germany switches off on Friday the 19th of operational nuclear power stations due to be shut down over the next two decades under legislation to phase out nuclear energy.

The 672 megawatt Stade nuclear reactor near the northern port of Hamburg is Germany’s second oldest. Work on dismantling the plant, owned by utility E.ON, is due to begin in 2005, once its fuel has been removed.

Germany’s Greens made phasing out nuclear power a condition for forming a coalition with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder’s Social Democrats (SPD) in 1998. The centre-left government agreed with industry in 2000 to phase out all reactors by about 2025, but the question of what happens afterwards remains a source of controversy.

Nuclear power generates nearly a third of Germany’s electricity and the government is divided over which other energy sources should replace it.

**Indian brands can upstage global players**

Jaipur, 15 Nov—Indian brands that represent a range of goods and services, from airlines to mangoes, have the potential to match or even upstage well-established global brands as all the “key ingredients” of an Indian success story are already there, Ian Batey, the internationa lly revered marketing guru, said here.

Indian brands like Infosys, Wipro, TCS, Ranbaxy, Tetley, and Reliance have the potential to eclipse Western giants in both size and global brand recognition within the next 10 years, Batey told delegates attending Ad Asia 2003, the ongoing biennial convention of advertising and marketing professionals.

**Gunmen hit Portuguese reporters in Iraq**

Lisbon (Portugal), 15 Nov—Gunmen opened fire on jeeps carrying Portuguese journalists in southern Iraq on Friday, wounding one reporter and kidnapping another, news reports said.

The six journalists were travelling in a convoy of three jeeps from the Kuwaiti border to Basra when they came under attack, Lisbon-based radioTSF reported. They had no military escort.

On an open stretch of road, two vehicles containing five armed men pulled up alongside the convoy and began shooting, one of the journalists — Sofia Lorena of the newspaper Publico — told SIC television by satellite telephone.

The front two jeeps managed to flee and reach Basra, but the third attempted to turn around when it was captured, she said.

Maria Joao Roela, an SIC reporter, was shot and wounded in the leg, TSF said.

A TSF reporter in the convoy, Carlos Ralcairas, went missing. He was later contacted on his satellite phone by the Portuguese news agency Lusa.

“I’ve been kidnapped. It’s been a very confused situation. I can’t talk now,” Ralcairas told the agency. Ralcairas was approached Basra. — Internet

**Two tourists walk in front of ‘Mossi’ statues, near the town of Hanga Rosa on Easter Island, 4,000 km (2,486 miles) west of Santiago, October 20, 2003. Easter Island’s mysterious ‘Mossi’, giant head statues carved out of volcanic rock, are in danger of being destroyed by years of tropical rains and wind as well as careless humans and farm animals. — MNA/PTI"
Bush loses credibility with public over Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — President George W. Bush's credibility has suffered a notable decline as a result of the Iraq war and its aftermath, according to a new poll released Thursday by the University of Maryland’s Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA).

The percentage of people who now believe that Bush and his administration were presenting evidence they knew to be false to justify the decision to go to war last March has doubled from ten percent five months ago to 21 percent in the new PIPA polls, which conducted its survey of more than 1,000 adults contacted at random from October 31 through November 10. Moreover, there was an 11 percent rise in the percentage of respondents who say Bush's performance on Iraq would make them less likely to vote Bush next year’s presidential elections—from 31 percent in September to 42 percent—according to PIPA director, Steve Kull.

"For the first time, the president's handling of Iraq has shifted from a net positive to a net negative for his electoral prospects," Kull told reporters Thursday.

The poll, the latest in a series that has tried to assess in depth the evolution of US public’s foreign-policy attitudes, suggests that the public remains highly conflicted about the Iraq war.

While a clear majority believe that the administration took the country to war on incorrect assumptions and that the war was a mistake, 56 percent still believe that it was the best thing Washington could do, and an overwhelming majority of 77 percent believe Washington now has the responsibility to remain in Iraq until a stable government can be put in place.

"The majority’s views about the decision to go to war are muddled," Kull said.

"It believes there were legitimate concerns that prompted the decision, while at the same time it believes the threat was not imminent and the decision was taken precipitously, without proper international support."

In many ways, the public has now returned to its pre-war skepticism about going to war in the first place. Until the eve of the March 20 invasion, majorities of the public consistently favored giving more time to UN arms inspectors to find whether ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and to the effort to marshal more support from US allies, according to numerous polls. Once the war was launched, however, strong majorities rallied behind the decision to go to war and told pollsters that Bush had waited long enough for a diplomatic solution.

Some 61 percent of respondents in the latest PIPA poll now say that the US should have taken more time to find out about Iraq's alleged WMD program, and 59 percent say it should have taken more time to build international backing.

The poll also found that a majority of Americans now believe that the evidence that the US had on Iraq did not meet appropriate international standards for going to war without the approval of the UN Security Council.

US civilian killed in northern Iraq

BUKHUR (Iraq), 15 Nov — An American civilian working for the US army was killed and another wounded when assailants opened fire on them as they were travelling north of Baghdad, a military spokeswoman said.

"Yesterday (Thursday) at approximately 1:00 pm (1000 GMT) two civilian vehicles were travelling north near Balad when attackers drove up from behind and fixed automatic weapons at them," said Major Josslyn Aberle. "One civilian was killed and the other was wounded," said Aberle, a spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division in Tikrit.

She said the two were Americans working for the US army in Iraq. Balad is located 70 kilometers (45 miles) north of the capital.

China draws on global wisdom in sci-tech planning

Beijing, 15 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Thursday that China is open to the advice of overseas experts in the process of drafting a medium and long-term plan for the advancement of science and technology.

Wen said China adopts an open approach in drafting a plan that is oriented to the world and the future.

Wen made the remarks in a meeting with overseas experts attending a forum on science and technology development planning for the coming two decades in Beijing.

Wen said that in the new situation of rapidly advancing science and technology, drafting the national plan requires a strategic study that focuses on the overall situation, strategic priorities and long-term prospects.

He said the forum has been designed to solicit the opinions and advice of Chinese and international experts who specialize in different areas. He called for the experts attending the meeting to continue to contribute their wisdom to the advancement of science and technology in China.

Noting that scientific and technological advances have become a powerful driving force of China’s social and economic development, Wen said the country must pursue a science-driven approach and build a well-off society. To this end, China is drafting a long-term plan of scientific and technological development so as to enhance the nation’s innovative capacity and competitiveness.

Among the attendees of the meeting are State Councillor Chen Zhili, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Xu Kuangdi and Minister of Science and Technology Xu Guanhua.

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The poll also found that a majority of Americans now believe that the evidence that the US had on Iraq did not meet appropriate international standards for going to war without the approval of the UN Security Council.

Findings dampen hope of water on dark side of Moon

LONDON, 15 Nov — Scientists dampened hopes of finding large amounts of water on the dark side of the Moon on Wednesday with new evidence showing that if any deposits existed, they are in short supply.

Data from the Clementine and Lunar Prospector space missions in the 1990s had suggested there could be significant supplies of water, vital to support life and human colonies on the Moon, stashed in the craters near the poles. But after conducting a radar survey of craters consistently in shadow at the lunar poles, Bruce Campbell of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC and his colleagues said they did not uncover any evidence of thick ice deposits.

"Any lunar ice present in regions visible to the Arecibo radar must therefore be in the form of distributed grain or thin layers," Campbell said in a report in the science journal Nature.

The wavelengths from the radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico that can penetrate deep into the craters would probably have been evaporated into space but some may have collected in the shadowed craters at the lunar poles.

"The presence of water on the Moon is also important because it could also be used for rocket fuel and to establish refuelling stations on the Moon for solar exploration trips."

Campbell and his team believe their findings suggest either fewer comets collided with the Moon than with other planets or that there was a rapid loss of ice on the lunar surface. — MNA/Reuters

Malaysian PM urges civil servants to fight graft

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Nov — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday urged civil servants to make a pledge not to be involved in corruption as one of initiate measures to fight the menace.

Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister, said the fast-est way in doing so was not to accept or be involved in corruption.

"If we pledge to ourselves, understand (our) responsibility, we will not want to be involved in corruption and corruption will not occur," he said when opening the Home Ministry’s Qual- ity Day 2003 in Putrajaya near here.

Abdullah hoped that corruption would no longer exist among civil servants after they made the pledge.

Abdullah also called on the ministry’s departments and agencies to be the role model for other government bodies in improving services to the public.

A bomb which detonated as a US convoy passed killed two American soldiers and wounded three on 13 November, the US Army says. A military spokesman said the attack happened near the town of Samarra at around 4:30 pm on Thursday. US Army troops are pictured in a file photo. — INTERNET

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WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE AND PROTESTS AGAINST OCCUPATION FORCES IN IRAQ

An injured Italian soldier is carried onto a plane by colleagues to be evacuated to Italy at a military airbase in Nassiriya, southern Iraq on 14 November, 2003. Eighteen Italians were killed by suicide bombers at a military police base in southern Iraq. — INTERNET

South Korean demonstrators hold banners during a protest against US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s visit to Seoul on 15 November, 2003. About 3,000 South Koreans staged a noisy protest in central Seoul on Saturday, a day before Rumsfeld’s visits to Seoul, to reverse a controversial decision to send more troops to help post-war reconstruction in Iraq. — INTERNET

Pakistanis burn a US flag in Lahore on 14 November, 2003. The group was protesting against the killing of civilians in Iraq and demanded the withdrawal of US-led forces from Iraq. — INTERNET

Troops of US Army’s 4th Infantry Division run with their weapons at ready as they search around the Diala river where Iraqi militants hide outside Baquba early on 13 November 2003. — INTERNET

Iraqi boys with their father watch an US Army soldier securing an area of Baghdad after a roadside bomb blast injured two soldiers, on 14 Nov, 2003. US troops blocked the road for about an hour and called residents through loudspeaker to help them capture those who planted the bomb. — INTERNET

US Army soldiers stand next to paramedics truck in Baghdad, Saturday on 15 Nov, 2003, as they evacuated at least four soldiers wounded when a roadside explosive device went off. — INTERNET
Portuguese journalist abducted in Iraq, another wounded

BAZRA, 15 Nov—The US-led coalition launched an investigation into the abduction of a Portuguese journalist in war-torn southern Iraq in an ambush that left another reporter wounded.

“We are still trying to locate him. We haven’t got any update,” said Allison Simmonds, a spokeswoman for the British forces leading the multinational troops in southern Iraq. “We always take these things seriously.”

An Egyptian reporter with pan-European EuroNews TV network told Portuguese private television SIC he had spoken to the kidnappers via mobile phone and they were demanding 50,000 dollars (42.550 euros) for the release of the journalist.

A number of foreign reporters have been killed covering the US-led invasion of Iraq and its aftermath, but this is the first kidnapping of a journalist since the conflict began in March.

Earlier the kidnapped reporter, Carlos Raleiras, managed to get in touch with the radio station he works for in Lisbon via his mobile phone and issue a plea for help.

“I am waiting for someone who speaks Arabic to please call me. I have to stop talking. OK?” he told private radio TSF as voices could be heard in the background.

Two cars carrying armed men pulled up beside the convoy of three jeeps carrying Raleiras and other Portuguese journalists to Basra just ten minutes after they crossed the border from Kuwait, SIC reported.

The gunmen shot at the tires of the first jeep which Raleiras was driving, striking one of the two other occupants of the car, SIC television reporter Maria Joao Ruela, in the leg.

When Ruela and the other passenger got out of the car, the attackers climbed in and made off with Raleiras still inside, the wounded reporter told SIC from Basra where she underwent surgery at a British military hospital.

The ambush was the second in two days on Portuguese correspondents in southern Iraq.

On Thursday two reporters and a photographer working for the Diario de Noticias newspaper and RDP radio were ambushed on the road between Nasiriyah and Basra by armed men who stole one of their jeeps.

The three escaped unharmed. —Internet

Report says Singapore, China in talks on FTA

SINGAPORE, 15 Nov—Singapore and China have started working-level talks on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), local Press reported on Friday.

Singapore Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo made the remark in an interview with the Japanese business daily Nikkei Keizai Shimbun in Singapore on Thursday, said Channelnewsasia, a bilingual English-language television, on its website.

Yeo was quoted as saying the Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong may propose launching formal negotiations on the FTA when he visits Beijing next week. If the two countries agree to sign a free trade agreement, Singapore will be the first member country of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to have such a pact with China.

said the television report

WHO says developed world faces mounting diabetes risk

GENEVA, 15 Nov—An explosion in diabetes cases over coming decades could compound the problems of health care in the developing world, already battling killer diseases such as AIDS, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

Population growth and changing diets could cause the number of sufferers in the developed world to more than double in 30 years to around 285 million from 115 million at present, the United Nations agency said.

“Even as these countries are struggling to address the problems of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, they must also prepare to deal with the onslaught of diabetes that come with changes in lifestyle and aging,” said Dr. Catherine Le Gales-Camus, WHO assistant director-general.

Diabetes, which is caused by too much glucose in the blood, can lead to kidney failure, blindness and problems of circulation that can result in the amputation of limbs. In a statement marking World Diabetes Day, the WHO said it was stepping up efforts to help developing countries tackle the increased risk of diabetes through information programmes to raise awareness of the importance of diet and exercise.

Much of the projected increase is preventable through attention to diet and physical activity in the population,” Le Gales-Camus added.

The number of diabetes cases around the world has jumped to some 170 million from little over 30 million 20 years ago, largely due to unhealthy diets, obesity and lack of exercise. The WHO estimates that it kills 800,000 people a year.

While most diabetics in developed countries will be 65 or over in 2030, in an developing countries it continues to be the 45-65 age range when they should still be able to work, the WHO added.—MNA/Reuters

UN says full return to Iraq still uncertain

NECOSA, 15 Nov—A top UN official involved in deciding when staff should fully return to Iraq said Friday it was hard to envision such a move until security improved. It is “too dangerous to envision we would be able to carry out the full range of activities we would like to do ... until security improves,” Kevin Kennedy, chief of the Humanitarian Emergency Branch of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, told Reuters.

Kennedy and other top UN officials were meeting in Cyprus to make a recommendation to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the return of staff to Iraq.

Most staff were pulled out after an August 19 attack on the organization’s headquarters in Baghdad killed 22 staff and visitors, including the head of the operation, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Kennedy said the discussions would end at the weekend when a recommendation would be made to Annan.

“The security situation is not uniform throughout the country and there are places where we can work — more secure and safe than other parts,” Kennedy said.

“It is not a uniform picture and we’ll adjust operations region by region.”

After the August attack, Annan drastically reduced staff in Iraq and earlier this month withdrew the last 20 from Baghdad after a week of violence that included the bombing of the Baghdad headquarters of the International Committee for the Red Cross.

Annan also put two security officials on leave after an independent panel issued a scathing report on safety precautions before the August bombing of the Baghdad UN offices.

“Everybody is concerned about their security...I think people are also frustrated because there is important work to do and (we) are unable to do it to the extent we would like to do at the moment,” said Kennedy.

About 4,000 foreign staff remain in northern Iraq where it is safer. Some 4,000 Iraqi staff are still on the UN payroll throughout Iraq.

Asked if it was unlikely there would be a full return of international staff, Kennedy replied: “I wouldn’t say it’s unlikely and there are a variety of ways to go back — longer leave, shorter term or visits. We hope to be back as soon as we possibly can.”

US Internet giant giant to enter online music market

LOS ANGELES, 15 Nov—US Internet giant CNET Networks announced Friday that it is acquiring the assets of online music distributor MP3.com, a step to enter the online music market.

News of the deal first surfaced in an e-mail sent by MP3.com to its customers and posted to its site late Thursday. In the e-mail, MP3.com informed users that its web site would no longer be accessible in its current form and that CNET Networks planned to reintroduce the music site with new features and services.

San Francisco-based CNET Networks operates an array of technology-oriented web sites including CNET.com, Builder.com, GameSpot, mySimon.com and News.com.

CNET Networks representatives said the company aims to augment its position as a provider of interactive content through the acquisition, with plans to enter the online music market through MP3.com. However, revamped site would not compete with music download services such as Napster. Instead, the company plans to turn MP3.com into a source of information for digital music.

MP3.com was once the standard-bearer for digital music, looking to the Internet to undermine the power of the traditional music business.

Volkswagen AG Chairman Bernd Pischetsrieder (foreground) poses for photographers with the 2004 prototype of a Golf 5 car with Executive Vice President Delphi Wittig (behind Pischetsrieder) and Wiegfried Bockelmann (far left), R&D board member, at a press preview of the Tokyo Motor Show in Makuhari, east of Tokyo. The Tokyo Motor Show opens to the general public on 25 Oct. —Internet

US Army troops secure an area of Baghdad after a roadside bomb blast injured two soldiers on 14 November, 2003. — Interpress

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WHO says developing world faces mounting diabetes risk

GENEVA, 15 Nov—An explosion in diabetes cases over coming decades could compound the problems of health care in the developing world, already battling killer diseases such as AIDS, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

Population growth and changing diets could cause the number of sufferers in the developing world to more than double in 30 years to around 285 million from 115 million at present, the United Nations agency said.

“Even as these countries are struggling to address the problems of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, they must also prepare to deal with the onslaught of diabetes that come with changes in lifestyle and ageing,” said Dr. Catherine Le Gales-Camus, WHO assistant director-general.

Diabetes, which is caused by too much glucose in the blood, can lead to kidney failure, blindness and problems of circulation that can result in the amputation of limbs. In a statement marking World Diabetes Day, the WHO said it was stepping up efforts to help developing countries tackle the increased risk of diabetes through information programmes to raise awareness of the importance of diet and exercise.

Much of the projected increase is preventable through attention to diet and physical activity in the population,” Le Gales-Camus added.

The number of diabetes cases around the world has jumped to some 170 million from little over 30 million 20 years ago, largely due to unhealthy diets, obesity and lack of exercise. The WHO estimates that it kills 800,000 people a year.

While most diabetics in developed countries will be 65 or over in 2030, in developing countries it continues to be the 45-65 age range when they should still be able to work, the WHO added.—MNA/Reuters

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US Internet giant giant to enter online music market

LOS ANGELES, 15 Nov—US Internet giant CNET Networks announced Friday that it is acquiring the assets of online music distributor MP3.com, a step to enter the online music market.

News of the deal first surfaced in an e-mail sent by MP3.com to its customers and posted to its site late Thursday. In the e-mail, MP3.com informed users that its web site would no longer be accessible in its current form and that CNET Networks plans to reintroduce the music site with new features and services.

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MP3.com was once the standard-bearer for digital music, looking to the Internet to undermine the power of the traditional music business.
Dear Little Sister, they are so admirable

Khitin Myanmar

Oh, Dear Little Sister, the Government formed the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation on 21 March 1991, with the aim of promoting the health and fitness and the sports of women to bring out brilliant new generation athletes, transforming the activity of small groups into the mass activity for physical, mental and moral development and better health and fitness of women leading to strengthening the national defence force, and raising the women’s status.

The Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation held a national level: women and sports at International Business Centre from 28 to 29 September 2003. At the opening of the conference, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address, saying, “At present, the Government is accelerating its efforts in multi sectors for development of the Myanmar women and enlisting them to stand shoulder to shoulder with their counterparts of the world. In striving for the nation to catch up with the world countries, the Government has upheld the conviction — the rise in the national sports standard will help raise the national dignity. Thus, it is trying to promote sports as a national task.

The Government’s efforts in implementing the task are for physical, spiritual and moral development of women and promoting of the women’s sports to reach the world level. Now outstanding women athletes are continuously emerging in the nation. Women are now taking part energetically in the sports federations, sports management activities and health sector for their long term development. As the Myanmar women have been enjoying equal rights with men throughout history, they have been able to show their ability together with the latter in all sectors. Outstanding athletes are continuously emerging in the women’s sports sector.”

In 1924, Myanmar women played a fund-raising soccer match for cyclone victims. But there were criticisms those days that playing football was against the traditions and culture of Myanmar women. Myanmar women started to take part in the weighting in 1936. After 50 years, Myanmar women were able to play a role in weighting.

Due to the encouragement of the Government, women athletes, who have won the admiration of not only the nation, but also the world, are emerging. In addition to regional sports events, they are also winning medals in the international competitions within a short span of time. The Myanmar women athletes even won the Women and Sports Trophy for Asia of the International Olympic Committee.

Many outstanding women athletes have brought honour to the nation. In the XVIII Southeast Asian Games, Myanmar women won one gold, three silver, and four bronze in weightlifting; four bronze in taekwondo; one silver in traditional martial arts; two bronze in traditional and modern rowing; one silver and four bronze in judo; a bronze medal in soccer; two gold; one silver and five bronze in track and field. In the XIX SEA Games, they won one gold and four bronze in judo; one silver in sepak takraw; three gold and one silver in weightlifting; one gold, two silver and one bronze in traditional martial arts; one silver and five bronze in track and field; one silver in soccer; one silver in shooting; one silver in swimming; one silver and one bronze in taekwondo; one silver and one bronze in wushu; and one bronze in yachting. In the XIII Asian Games, they won one silver in sepak takraw; one gold and one silver in 1998 can ball contest; and three silver in weightlifting. In the XXI SEA Games, the Myanmar women won three gold, one silver in traditional rowing; two silver in track and field; one silver in karatedo; two bronze in traditional martial arts; and two bronze in swimming. In the XXI SEA Games, they won two gold and two bronze in traditional martial arts; and two bronze in swimming. In the XXI SEA Games, they won two gold and two bronze in traditional martial arts; and two bronze in swimming.

The State honoured the victorious athletes on grand occasions. At the World Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, wushu gold medalist Ma Khaing Maw and victorious disabled athlete Ma Nyunt Nyunt Win were honoured at a grand ceremony. At the XV Asian Games in Manila, the Philippines, Ma Yin Yin Khaing won two gold, one in 400-metre race and another in 800-metre event. The State honoured her at Mya Yeik Nyo (Royal) Hotel on 27 September 2003 evening and presented her a prize of US $ 600 and K 2.3 million. Ma Yin Yin Khaing who is a staff of Yangon City Development Committee was promoted from assistant supervisor to deputy supervisor. You should emulate her, Dear Little Sister.

At present, the Government is making efforts to raise the standard of Myanmar sports till reaching the international level. Thus, Dear Little Sister, I wish you to strive to become an outstanding athlete who brings honour to the nation.

*****
(Translation: TMT) Myanmar Alin: 18 October 2003

The meeting continues tomorrow Wellwishers Ma joy Aung Kyaw Myo-Daw May Kyu Kyu Khaing of Yawmyintyi Yezikha in Dagon Township, Daw Mya Mya family of Phonegyi Street, Daw Shwe Mya of Alyusieda and Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation read out the Saraninya Ovadakatha of the SSMNC chairman Sayadaw. — MNA

First day session of ninth 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee commences

YANGON, 15 Nov — The first day session of the ninth 47-member plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at the Vijaya Mingalar Dhammamathin Hall, Aye Aye Hill here this morning. — MNA

Chairman of ninth 47-member plenary meeting of Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC Dawei Sayadaw read out the Saraninya Ovadakatha of the SSMNC chairman Sayadaw. — MNA

The meeting continues tomorrow Wellwishers Ma joy Aung Kyaw Myo-Daw May Kyu Kyu Khaing of Yawmyintyi Yezikha in Dagon Township, Daw Mya Mya family of Phonegyi Street, Daw Shwe Mya of Alyusieda and Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation read out the Saraninya Ovadakatha of the SSMNC chairman Sayadaw. — MNA

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

People’s Desire
Prime Minister …
(from page 1)
The cornerstone laying ceremony of the building was held at the pandal in the monastery. First, the Prime Minister inspected the scale model of the building.

Next, Chairman U Aye Pe of Upalatta Committee (Main) explained the purpose of construction of the building. Preceded by the Sayadaws led by Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee the Magway Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party took the respective positions at the sites for the building. The cornerstone laying ceremony commenced with three-time recitation of Namotassa, and State Calendar Adviser U Kyaw read out the stone inscriptions.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister placed the silver casket at the centre of the foundation of the building.

The Prime Minister, the commander, the ministers and the chairman of the Upalatta Committee laid the corner stones at the same time. Meanwhile, members of the Sangha recited paritas. Next, the Prime Minister laid the stone plaque in the middle of the foundation and sprinkled scented water on it.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

Later, a cash donations presentation ceremony for construction of the building was held at the monastery.

First, the Prime Minister and the congregation kept still and silent for one minute in memory of the fine practices, concentration, and wisdom of the Mingon Tri-pitaka Dhara Dhamma Bhandagarkita Sayadaw.

Next, the Prime Minister and the congregation took the Five Precepts from the pro-rector Sayadaw (Academic) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bhamo Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabivamsa (D-Litt). The Prime Minister presented offerings to the Magway Sayadaw, and the commander, ministers, mayor, and deputy minister to members of the Sangha.

Later, the commander and ministers accepted K 5,126,685,881 donated by 69 wellwishers including K 5,126,685,881 by U Chan Tun and daughter Daw Nyunt Yi of Sango Township, K 10 million by Daw Hse (Ngwe Hse, Ngwe Yadana Co), K 5 million by Dr U Win Myint, Daw Khng Khng Oo and family, K 5 million by U Win Hein, Daw Win Yin Myint and family, and K 2.5 million by Daw Shu Kyu of Dagon Township, K 2.5 million by Hsinmin Htein, Daw Win Yin Myint and family, K 2.5 million by Dass Shu Kyu of Dagon Township, K 2.5 million by Hsinmin U Tin Shwe, Dass Kyi Kyi and family, K 2 million by Architect U Zaw Win of EMS Management System Architectural Co Ltd, K 2 million by Dr Thein Tun, Dr Daw Than Toe and family, and K 2 million by U Hla Win Naing (a) U Kyaw Sein, wife Daw Tin Tin Khaing and family, and presented certificates of honour to them.

Next, the Magway Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony. — MNA

YANGON, 15 Nov—Members of Pyu Township Police Station, Bago Division, acting on information, searched Shwe Myitta Passenger Bus with number plate 5(Kha) 7016 at Pyu Highway Gate on 30 May, 2003 and seized 2,257 kilos of marijuana from passenger Ma Ei Hlaing aboard the vehicle.

In connection with the case, action was taken against Ma Ei Ei Hlaing daughter of U Soe Tint of Natayakan Ward, Pyu Township and the owner of marijuana, Ma Hla Hla Win (a) Le Le, daughter of U Soe Tint of the same ward and another culprit, Ma Thin Thin Khine, daughter of U Akhon of No 3 Battho Street, Theingonpaing Ward under Sections 15(1)(a)(2)(b) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Pyu Police Station.

Toungoo District Court on 8 October handed sentenced Ma Hal Hla Win to 15 years’ imprisonment under Section 19(1)(b) and Ma Thin Thin Khine to 5 years’ imprisonment under Section 15 and the court released Ma Ei Ei Hlaing from custody under Section 258(1). — MNA

Drug dealers sentenced

MYANMAR women, like men enjoy equal rights...
(from page 1)
Although the men and women have equal rights, every Myanmar woman always gives first priority to their husband. Those who do not understand such Myanmar noble practice make accusations on Myanmar women saying they do not enjoy equal rights like men, he added.

There are different practices such as women enjoying the first priority and the children not paying much respect to their parents do exist in some other countries that do not understand Myanmar noble traditions, he said.

In Myanmar society marital life of the husband, the head of the household and the wife, a life partner, came from the Buddhist customs and it is a Myanmar traditional custom preserved by ancestors, he said.

He said in the course of Myanmar history Myanmar women had never lost their rights. Brilliant and outstanding women entrepreneurs emerged and they discharged their duties in the respective roles.

As Myanmar women are respected deservedly, the men treat them with respect. There are women organizations such as MNCAW, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women’s Sport Federation and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association carrying out the tasks for development of the women sector, he said.

The women organizations led by women are discharging various duties voluntarily for development of the women sector, enjoyment of their rights and in order not to lose their rights.

They also care carrying out the tasks on prevention of violence against women and being ill-treated and trafficked.

He said the government is providing assistance continuously to social organizations related to women for success of their noble tasks. It is obvious that there is no loss of women’s rights and their role is also in the fore front. As they get rights and opportunities in all sectors, Myanmar women have more efficiency than men in some sectors including education, health, economy, culture and sports, he added.

This vividly shows that Myanmar women have equal rights like men and achieve success in Myanmar women sector, he said.

With the intention of imposing pressures politically on Myanmar, some Western powers have been manufacturing accusations as if Myanmar women were subjected to oppression, as if Myanmar women lost the rights, and as if Myanmar women were trafficked.

In addition, in an attempt to drive a wedge among the national races, the Western powers have been making fabrications to the effect that Shan women were sexually abused and trafficked.

The internal and external destructive elements have been making attempts for disintegration of the Union in collusion with some Western powers that opposed to the interests of Myanmar are making such accusations to tarnish the image of Myanmar and Myanmar women and harm national unity.

Those who opposed to the interests of Myanmar in collusion with the internal destructive elements are utilizing the media that are against Myanmar, to mislead the persons who do not know about Myanmar.

This being the case, the Myanmar National Commit-tee for Women’s Affairs is required to make strenuous efforts keeping pace with changes to be in line with the condition of political, economic and social objectives of the State for further improvement of Myanmar women’s rights and development of Myanmar wom- en’s sector.

In collaboration with the UN agencies which are co-operating with Myanmar out of goodwill and the NGOs which are providing assistance to Myanmar in social sector, it is required to make more efforts for development of Myanmar women’s sec-

That is why the MNCAW will have to be upgraded with the aim of enhancing the role of women in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation; of safeguarding against the women’s rights; of improving the economic, health and education sectors of women and safeguarding the security of women’s life; of nurturing the women to be imbued with a sense of cher-
Regional development projects inspected in Mon State

YANGON, 15 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at the Sittoung Bridge between Bago Division and Mon State on 13 November morning.

They were welcomed there by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman South-East Command Major Maj-Thura Myint Aung, Commanding Officer of local light infantry division Col Thet Naing Win and officials.

Together with the commander and officials, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Kyaukhto Township and viewed harvesting and threshing of Lonthwemhwe strain paddy on the 20-acre plot in Letpya Village. Officials, visited Kyaikto Township.

The headmistress and the chairman of the school board of trustees formally opened the centre. The commander unveiled the signboard of the centre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed the multimedia classrooms.

The headmistress reported on opening of the multimedia teaching centre: the chairman of the school board of trustees on sustained efforts for emergence of the teaching centre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented tapes for teaching aids to the principal.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Thura Myint Aung formally unveils the signboard of Multimedia Classrooms of Kyaukhami BEHS in Thanyuzyayat. — MNA

Children of Thayton-Mottama road section. They headed for Thayton-Mottama road section extension project. Officials reported on work progress and future tasks. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on meeting the set standard, timely completion of the project, and carrying out tasks with goodwill.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, together with the commander and officials, visited Kyaukhami Hsudawgyaye Yayel Hsandawshin Pagoda in Thanyuzyayat Township. They paid reverence to the pagoda and viewed progress in renovation of the pagoda and left instructions.

They next attended the opening of multimedia teaching centre of Kyaukhami BEHS in the township. The headmistress and the chairman of the school board of trustees formally opened the centre.

The commander pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the centre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed the skill demonstration of the students. The students presented gifts to Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented cash assistance to them.

At the opening ceremony, a teacher reported on opening of multimedia teaching classrooms; and the chairman of the school board of trustees on collection of donations for establishment of the centre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented teaching aids to the principal.

Afterwards, the cash donations presentation ceremony followed. Daw Yee Yee Win presented cash donation made by member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife Daw San San Yee for the classrooms; U Chan Sein, K 520,000: U Soe Win Daw Khaiing Wah Wah Lwin and family, K 200,000; townsenders, K 200,000: on behalf of the minister for Religious Affairs, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Tun Mya Aung, publications, through the commander. Deputy Director-General of No 1 BED (Lower Myanmar) U C Thaug Zaan Thaun reported on endeavours being made for opening of multimedia classrooms at all the high schools in Mon State and educational progress of the students. The commander delivered a speech, saying that in the knowledge age, education is better than any others. At a time when information and communication technology is making progress in the world, students are to be well rounded in information and communication technology at the multimedia teaching classrooms. He expressed thanks to the wellwishers.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the government has been taking measures to enable the nation to keep abreast with international level education standard through the multimedia teaching centres based on computers. With extended opening of the centres, the students will be able to polish their educational qualifications, he noted. He took pride in continuing donations made by local administrative bodies, various organizations and local people for extended opening of the centres at the basic education schools in Mon State.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander and party posed for documentary photos together with the teachers, members of the school board of trustees and students.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects a multimedia classroom in Kyaukhami BEHS, Thanyuzyayat Township. — MNA

U-14 tennis players to be selected

YANGON, 15 Nov — The Myanmar Tennis Federation will host the ITF 14 and Under ASIAN Championship 2004 Zone 2 tennis tournament including 14 countries on 5 January, 2004. Tennis players under 18 of the MTF to take part in the above tournament will be selected in advance at 8 am on 4 December, 2003. Those wishing to compete in the tournament may dial Tel-372260, Tel-381191 and Tel-381392 of the MTF (TheinbyuTennisCourt) during office hours for further information. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 16 November, 2003 9
Myanmar women…

(from page 8)
of implementing the tasks for prevention of violence against women and rehabilitation; of taking measures as a national task for reducing and eliminating the trafficking in women and children; of cooperating with the international organizations, regional bodies and organizations at home and abroad in taking measures for women’s rights in accord with the national culture and traditions.

The MNWC which is to be upgraded will have to take measures for development of the women’s sector, safeguarding of Myanmar traditional culture, customs and characters, non-disintegration of the Union and further strengthening of the national unity as well for the national development while discharging the national duties. The women’s sector is to participate in the five rural development tasks in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe for economic development in rural regions, alleviating poverty and creating job opportunities.

The women’s sector is also to take part in the tasks for development of Myanmar women’s life, social security and improvement of the living standard. The MNWC is an organization that is leading the women mass which are of great force is capable of improving the women’s sector and strengthening the national economy. It is also an organization that is of paramount importance for the State. Therefore, the officials concerned are to make concerted efforts in upgrading the MNWC.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted those present on the occasion. — MNA

YANGON, 15 Nov — The opening ceremony of Oakposu-Thilawa railroad section opened in Thanlyin Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Rail Transportation Mr Thura U Thaung Lwin and local authorities.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, departmental heads and local authorities, members of the Union Development Association, Wom-en’s Affairs Working Committee, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, Army Fire Brigade, pom pom troupes and bands, students and local people.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min made a speech. He said the railroad was constructed, in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, to transport import and export containers to and from Thilawa terminal. Myanmar Railways, in the interest of the people, extended 1021.10 miles of railways including Oakposu-Thilawa railroad, increasing the total length of railways from 1976.35 miles before 1980 to 2997.45 miles now. The minister urged the local people and staff of Myanmar Railways to maintain the railroad for its perpetuity.

After the ceremony, the commander, the minister and those present left for Yangon railway station by train and greeted the local people along the railroad. The railroad, which will cut the transport charges for containers, is 8.33 miles long, and a total of 25 large and small bridges were constructed on the railroad. The local people are pleased with the arrangements of the bridge.

MR for plying three up-trains and down-trains between Yangon Railway Station and Thilawa railway station daily. — MNA

Oakposu-Thilawa railroad section opened

Pathein Government Technical College

A nation must be economically strong and have a great deal of highly-qualified human resources in building up a modern developed nation. In the process, the government has been implementing national economic plans and national education promotion plans simultaneously.

With a view to producing more highly-qualified human resources, more and more universities, colleges and technical institutes are being constructed and the length and breadth of the nation.

Engineering college of the Myanma Aung Dala Daily interviewed Principal of Pathein Government Technical College Daw Yee Myint.

Myanmar Aung: Well, at first, we would like to know the establishment of the college.

Daw Yee Myint: The college was opened on 27 December 1999 and then it was shifted to Plot No 168, Apin Hsae Village, Kangyidaun Township I August 2001. Myanma Aung: We would also like to know the subjects prescribed and the number of the students.

Daw Yee Myint: This academic year, a total of 100 students are studying in Civil Engineering course, 102 in Electronic Engg course, 159 in Electrical Engg course, 98 in Mechanical Engg courses 12 in Machine & Tools Design course, 46 in Machtronics Engg, 75 in Information Technology course and 19 in Bio-Tech.

Myanma Aung: How many staff are there in the college? Daw Yee Myint: Altogether 108 staff — one administrative officer, 23 other ranks and 84 academic staff.

Myanma Aung: How many educational aids has the college? Daw Yee Myint: The college got from the Ministry of Science and Technology, 7 Tit. Daw Yee Myint: In 2000, 2001 academic year, the ministry imported teaching and learning aids and provided 17 kinds of aids to the college for Civil Engineering course, 10 for Electronic Engg course, nine for Electrical Engg course, 17 for Mechanical Engg course and eight for Information Technology course. And it also purchased pedagogical aids in the nation and provided 10 kinds of aids for Civil Engineering course, nine for Electrical Engg course, and a set of language lab and three sets of electronics library.

Myanma Aung: What are the arrangements for transport of the students to and from the college?

Daw Yee Myint: The college is under the programme of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, the Information and Thilawa railway stations daily. — MNA

Daw Yee Myint: There are two running some private bus lines to and from the college during the school hours. Myanma Aung: May we know the formation of the college?

Daw Yee Myint: The college compound has an area of 2.74 acres. It has six lecture rooms, four workshops, one recreation hall for the faculty members and one residence for the principal. The college is facilitated with a 1,200-foot 11 KV.A line, a sub-power station, a 440-Volt transformer, a 2,000-foot power line, a four-inch tube-well, a water pumping station, a 1,600-gallon water tower tank and a 3,200-gallon underground tank. And, now a three-storey building is under construction.

Myanma Aung: Is there anything else you would like to express?

Daw Yee Myint: Pathein Government Technical College has been making continuing efforts for bringing about highly-qualified human resources following the instructions of the ministry. Myanma Aung: Thank you. *****

(Translation: MS)

(Myanma Aung: 7-11-2003)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project is situated two miles north of Sedoktara in Minbu District, Magway Division. The project is being implemented to irrigate the farmland through Mezali Diversion Weir when there is not enough water for the farmland in the rainy season, to generate hydel power, and to prevent flooding of Mone Creek. — PHOTO: MNA

The Photo shows the Institute of Medicine in Magway. It is the symbol of endeavours made by the State Peace and Development Council for development of various sectors of the country. — PHOTO: MNA

The 8,989 feet long Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) links Magway and Minbu. The construction of the bridge started on 20 January 2000 and was commissioned into service on 24 November 2002. — PHOTO: MNA
Eight injured in quake in Gansu province
LANZHOU, 15 Nov — As of 2.30 pm Thursday, eight people were confirmed injured in the earthquake earlier in the day in northwest China’s Gansu Province with no deaths reported, according to local officials.

The eight injured, all from Zhonggaazi Township of Minxian County, have been hospitalized. Two of them, one old elderly and one child, were in a critical condition, said Wei Zhongrong, secretary of the county committee of Communist Party of China.

In England, according to the Gansu Provincial Seismological Bureau, more than 10 houses collapsed in the tremor and the bureau has dispatched work teams to the quake-hit areas for a further investigation.

The earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale hit the area between Minxian, Lintan and Jone counties in Gansu at 10.35 am (Beijing Time) Thursday.

According to the Chinese seismological monitoring network, the epicentre of the quake, 150 kilometres south of Lanzhou, capital of Gansu, is located at 34.7 degrees north Latitude, 103.9 degrees east Longitude. — MNA/Xinhua

World’s oldest person dies in Japan aged 114
TORU, 15 Nov — The oldest person in the world, Mitoyo Kawate, died in Japan on Thursday at the age of 114, two weeks after receiving the designation.

Kawate died of pneumonia in hospital in the southwestern city of Hiroshima, a Japanese Health Ministry official said.

The ministry official said that Japan’s oldest woman was now 113-year-old Ura Koyama, who lives in the southwestern city of Fukuoka.

According to the Gerontology Research Group, the oldest American, Charlotte Benkner of North Lima, Ohio, celebrates her 114th birthday on November 16.

Kawate became the oldest person after the death on October 31 of fellow Japanese Kanato Hongo at the age of 116 years and 45 days.

According to the website of the Guinness Book of World Records, Kawate, whose birthday was May 15, 1889, was born less than a month after Adolf Hitler and in the year the Eiffel Tower was completed.

It records the oldest man whose birth can be fully authenticated as Joan Rudavets Moll, a 113-year-old man in Menorca, Spain.

Arroyo leads crushing of pirated video materials
MANILA, 15 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Thursday led the crushing of some 15 million pieces of seized pirated optical discs at the Philippine National Police headquarters Camp Crame in Manila.

The pirated items, which 27.27 million US dollars, were confiscated by the Videogram Regulatory Board composite team from all over the country from February to October this year, bringing to some 90.91 million US dollars the overall value of confiscated discs since July 2002, the Philippine News Agency quoted Board Chairman Ramon Revilla as saying.

Revilla said over 3.64 million US dollars’ worth of pirated compact discs, video compact discs, and digital video discs were confiscated in just three months of coop- eration with the Bureau of Customs, the Philippine Postal Corp., and other law enforcement agencies. — MNA/Xinhua

Study shows Breakthrough made in early treatment of diabetes
BEIJING, 15 Nov — A team of international scientists have discovered a method for the early identification of people at risk of kidney disease, which could lead to better treatment of diabetes sufferers.

The study showed that microalbuminuria — or microscopic traces of albumen in urine — is a reliable indicator of the risk of diabeti- es and through early testing and proper treatment, diabetics can avoid the complica- tions of chronic nephritis, or kidney inflamma- tion.

Previous research has shown that one third of diabetes patients develop kidney diseases, one of the most common compli- cations of the disease.

The study, jointly sponsored by the Inter- national Diabetes Federation (IDF), the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and Sanofi-Synthelabo Pharmaceutical Group, is one of the main activities for this year’s World Diabetes Day, with the theme “Diabetes and Kidney Diseases”, which falls on November 14 each year.

The study was conducted simultaneously in 34 countries on 32,000 non-insulin depen- dant diabetes, or diabetes mellitus, suf- ferers, including 5,143 Chinese. It reported a slightly higher level of microalbuminuria in about 41 per cent of patients.

Kong Lingzhi, of the Disease Control Department of China’s Ministry of Health (MoH), said the results were significant in the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes.

“It provided a useful tool for identifying people at high risk of kidney disease in the early stage,” said Kong. “It is effective, easy and affordable.”

“China has seen an increase of diabetes cases in the past two decades,” said Profes- sor Chen Jialun, of the Ruijin Hospital at- tached to the Shanghai Second Medical Sci- ences University. “The country has 23.8 million diabetes patients now and the number is expected to reach 35 million by 2010.”

Nearly 200 million people around the world suffer from diabetes, statistics of the IDF show.

The World Health Organization (WHO) predicts the number may exceed 300 million in the next 25 years.

The MoH has composed and published a book regarding the prevention and treatment of diabetes to mark World Diabetes Day.

Vietnam’s automobile sales soar in first 10 months
HANOI, 15 Nov — Vietnam recorded au- tomobile sales of 30,105 units in the first 10 months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 46.5 per cent, the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association (VAMA) told Xinhua on Thursday.

Automobile firms in the country sold 19,458 passenger cars (PC), 8,322 commer- cial vehicles (CV) and 2,325 special utility vehicles (SUV) in the period. Their PC sales soared 118 per cent, but CV and SUV sales dropped 6.4 per cent and 14.9 per cent, respectively.

Le Ngoc Quang, salesman of Ford Viet- nam, said many wealthy people, mainly businessmen, rushed to purchase new PC models before the government increases spe- cial consumption tax on PC to 24 per cent from the current 5 per cent from January 2004.

Between January and October, Toyota Vietnam gained the biggest sales of 8,933 automobiles; followed by Vidamco, famous for Daewoo brand, with 3,955 vehicles; Ford Vietnam with 3,467; and Vinexport, famous for Mitsubishi brand, with 3,238, VAMA said.

In the period, Vietnam imported 17,100 automobiles worth 221.4 million US dollars, down 22.9 per cent in volume and up 7.8 per cent in value, according to the General Sta- tistics Office. — MNA/Xinhua
China, India launch first ever joint naval exercise

BEIJING, 15 Nov — China and India launched their first joint naval exercise on Friday, just weeks after the Chinese Navy held a similar drill with Pakistan.

The drill comes as China has raised its profile on the world stage, putting a man in space. China is to host the Olympic Games in 2008, and India the Commonwealth Games two years later.

India is Pakistan's main supplier of military hardware and analysts believe Beijing also helped Islamabad in its nuclear weapons programme. The China-Pakistan exercises preceded a visit to Beijing by Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf.

The exercise was aimed at ensuring the safety of maritime trade and improving cooperation in search-and-rescue at sea, the Indian Defence Ministry said earlier this month.

A spokesman of the Chinese Defence Ministry confirmed the search-and-rescue exercise. "It's an expression of the healthy relations between the two countries," he said.

The Indian traditional ally Pakistan.

Friday's naval exercise also marked "big progress" for Sino-Indian ties, given the fact India first proposed similar exercises in the early 1990s, but China declined to engage, she added.

"It's an expression of the healthy relations between them." The exercise was aimed at ensuring the safety of maritime trade and improving cooperation in search-and-rescue at sea, the Indian Defence Ministry said earlier this month.

"The parties are still holding talks and if everything goes smoothly, we hope to open a Disney theme park around 2010," Li Wei, an official with the Shanghai Government's information office, told RIA Novosti.

"We haven't pinned down an investment figure yet. The project still needs approval from the central government," Li said, adding a special team had been set up to handle the proposal.

"We had a strategic dialogue with China, that's the Hong Kong Disneyland in 2005/2006," said Irene Chan, regional director for Disney's China operations. "We were to reach an arrangement in the second park in China, in all likelihood, it will not open before 2010. But we have an ongoing, continuous dialogue with China about a variety of initiatives," she said — MNA/Reuters

Shanghai hopeful of Disney theme park by 2010

SHANGHAI, 15 Nov — Shanghai is in talks with WaltDisney Co to bring a theme park to China's commercial hub by around 2010, but a Disney official said on Thursday the ongoing construction of its Hong Kong theme park was its first priority.

"Our current immediate focus right now is to open our first theme park in China, that's the Hong Kong Disney in 2005/2006," said Irene Chan, regional director for Disney's China operations. "We were to reach an arrangement in the second park in China, in all likelihood, it will not open before 2010. But we have an ongoing, continuous dialogue with China about a variety of initiatives," she said — MNA/Reuters

Chinese import growth exceeds exports in first 10 months

BEIJING, 15 Nov — China's trade volume hit 682.3 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, up 36.4 per cent, while the import growth rate of 40.4 per cent exceeded that of exports by 7.6 percentage points, official figures showed.

Statistics from Chinese Customs show that both import and export volumes surpassed that of 2002, and the trade surplus dropped by 40 per cent year-on-year.

China enjoyed a trade surplus of 14.87 billion US dollars during the 10-month period and the figure for last year was 30.4 billion US dollars. China bought 311 million tons of iron ore and 141,000 automobiles in the first 10 months, figures show.

May, July, and August are expected for half of China's total exports and imports of primary products or raw material witnessed a strong growth, figures show.

Spurred by the vigorous Chinese economy and huge domestic demand, imports of iron ore, crude oil and refined oil increased by 30 per cent to 49 per cent. China-Japan and China-US trade increased to 107.86 billion US dollars and 102.48 billion US dollars respectively in the January-October period, figures show.

China-EU trade increased by 42.3 per cent to reach 99.77 billion US dollars in the period, which makes the European Union China's third largest trade partner.

Trade growth with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Korea both exceeded 40 per cent, Customs figures indicated — MNA/Xinhua

Medical journal suggests stars should ban "junk food" promotion

LONDON, 15 Nov — Sports stars and other celebrities should be banned from advertising unhealthy food and legislation is needed to regulate the "junk food" industry, a leading medical journal said on Friday.

As British health experts warned that obesity among children is a time bomb waiting to explode, and with figures showing the number of obese 15-year-olds trebled in a decade, the Lancet said stars should be stopped from endorsing unhealthy food.

"Celebrity endorsement of junk food has to be banned," it said in an editorial.

The magazine slammed the British Broadcasting Corporation, which is funded by licence fees and taxes, for fractioning its Twenteen children's programme characters to fast food giant McDonald's.

"It also took offence with the government for allowing Cadbury Schweppes to market chocolate in its Get Active campaign in a scheme that allows children to exchange chocolate wrappers for sports equipment.

"It takes a lot of chocolate wrappers: a volleyball valued at about 18 pounds (30.34 US dollars) would cost around 320 chocolate bars (costing about 134 pounds)," it added.

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Brazilian soccer star Rivaldo waves to fans as his fellow countryman Cafu stands beside him on AC Milan’s substitute bench, is leaving the Italian soccer powerhouse, AC Milan. In September, the striker announced his departure from the club by mutual consent, but reconsidered after receiving a warm farewell from the fans and being told by Brazil coach Alberto Pereira that he would not be selected for international duty if he was not training with a club.—MNA/Reuters

Voeller says great teams come along like fine wines

BERLIN, 15 Nov.—Great national football sides come along like fine wines, Germany coach Rudi Voeller said on Thursday, suggesting luck played a large part in success as well as planning and youth development.

“Footballers are like wine. You get good years and less good ones. You can help with technical work and logistical support, but you cannot change the fundamentals,” Voeller said ahead of Germany’s friendly against France on Saturday.

In 1990, Germany had exceptional players and we won the World Cup. In 1998 and 2000, with Zidane and Co., France was on top. “Whenever the national side is successful its training system is automatically hailed throughout the world,” Voeller dismissed comments from German coach Christoph Daum, in an interview in a German newspaper, that Germany would not be among soccer’s elite until 2010.

Daum, who was set to become Germany’s coach until a cocaine scandal in 2000, described Germany’s youth development as piecemeal and a waste of money and urged that the system be replaced with elite schools as seen in France.

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Daum, who was set to become Germany’s coach until a cocaine scandal in 2000, described Germany’s youth development as piecemeal and a waste of money and urged that the system be replaced with elite schools as seen in France. Voeller said Germany’s youth coaching was not worse than that of France in every respect, arguing the national team was suffering because its top league was dominated by imports.

“When more than 60 per cent of the players on the pitch in the Bundesliga are foreigners, it can’t be good.”

“I have played in Germany, Italy and France, I’m married to an Italian so I can express this opinion vocally without being taken the wrong way,” Voeller said Germany should examine whether to introduce systems such as those in the Netherlands, where foreign players need a minimum salary to get a work permit, or in England, where foreigners must be national players.

Voeller is keen to end a string of German failures against the world’s leading sides.

Since beating England at Wembley in October 2000, Germany’s run has included losses to Argentina, Brazil, England, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain, although they did reach the World Cup Final in 2002.

“I want to end this talk that we are incapable of defeating a major side,” he said.—MNA/Reuters

Wizards, shamans face off before Peru-Brazil qualifier

LIMA, 14 Nov.—Eager to qualify for the 2006 World Cup, Peruvian and Brazilian fans called on shamans and wizards on Thursday to endowed their national teams with victorious powers before Sunday’s clash in the Peruvian capital.

Dressed in brightly coloured ponchos, Peruvian shamans covered photos of Peru’s captain Claudio Pizarro and flamboyant striker Andres Mendoza with magical “Huarina” plants to bring good luck.

Brazilian wizards fought back with “Macumba” mystical wax dolls, while pouring beer on the photos of the Peruvian strikers, aiming to weaken the Peruvians and make them feel drunk on the pitch.

“We are dancing out the ‘Hatun Per’ ritual to give Peru a chance and hold back Brazil’s footballing powers,” shaman Juan Osco told Reuters outside Lima’s Monumental Stadium, where the match will be held.

Peru are desperate to put past failures behind them and qualify for their first World Cup finals since 1982. After a strong start in the qualifiers, beating Portugal 4-1, Peru lost 2-1 to Chile in Santiago in September.

Now the Andean nation faces the five-time World Cup winners and current holders of the European championship, with the Brazil team. “There is no doubt about it,” he added.

Peru, coached by Brazilian Paulo Autuori, have never beaten Brazil in a World Cup qualifier, while the Brazilians have six points from their opening two games and are the only country ever to have played at all 17 World Cups.—MNA/Reuters

Kasparov blunder gives “X3D Fritz” chess win

NEW YORK, 15 Nov.—A cold, calculating computer called “X3D Fritz” swiftly took advantage of all-too-human error by world No. 1 chess player Gary Kasparov on Thursday to win the second game of their four-match in New York.

At ease, evenly balanced struggle became a mismatch on Kasparov’s 32nd turn when the grandmaster blundered with a rook move that allowed the computer to penetrate his defenses with an unstoppable attack—a queen, a rook and a pawn marching down the board on its way to converting into another queen.

“I just blundered,” Kasparov, 40, who had far less time left than the computer, told reporters.

Kasparov, who played with the black pieces, resigned after white’s 39th move and three hours and 40 minutes play. His mistake was reminiscent of one he committed on January 30 in the third game of his six-game match against Israel’s-built world chess computer champion Deep Junior. That was also an error with a rook on the 32nd move.

The match ended in a 3-3 tie. In chess matches, one point is awarded for a win and a 1/2 point for a draw.—MNA/Reuters

**Crossword Puzzle**

Ferdinand denies misconduct charge, requests hearing

**ACROSS**

1 Narrow parts of bottles
2 More, modifier
3 Realm
4 Sharp pinch
5 Arouse
6 Astounding
7 Stage whisperer
8 From here
9 Smooth
10 Peculiar
11 Varlet
12 Bill of fare
13 Brief, comprehensive
15 Portent
16 One time
17 First class
18 Freight
19 Require
20 Train
21 Command
22 Weird
23 Weird
24 Ship’s cabin
26 Dapper
28 Fireplace
30 Moment
31 Remains
32 Viper

**DOWN**

1 Narrow parts of bottles
2 More, modifier
3 Realm
4 Sharp pinch
5 Arouse
6 Astounding
7 Stage whisperer
8 From here
9 Smooth
10 Peculiar
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18 Freight
19 Require
20 Train
21 Command
22 Weird
23 Weird
24 Ship’s cabin
26 Dapper
28 Fireplace
30 Moment
31 Remains
32 Viper

**Legend:** chess champion, Gary Kasparov, wears his X3D viewing glasses as he thinks of his next move against the X3D Fritz computer program in the ‘X3D Man vs. Machine’ world chess championship during the first day of competition in New York.—INTERNET

**MNA/Reuters**

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**MNA/ Reuters**
2.75 am
9:00 Signature Tune
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Asparagus with Fish Flakes)
17:00 Weekly News Highlights
17:05 Burma Bell
17:10 Myanmar Modern Songs: "Mingalabar"
17:20 Signature Tune
17:25 Signature Tune
17:30 Signature Tune
17:40 Beauty & Scenic Dishes (Fried Asparagus with Fish Flakes)
Prime Minister inspects upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and environs

**Yangon, 15 Nov** — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the all-round upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and its environs this morning. The Prime Minister, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the relaxation zone of the gardens at 10.45 am. The Prime Minister was welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the deputy ministers, departmental officials and members of the committee for all-round upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens.

First, the Prime Minister inspected the construction of a viewing plaza on pearl island and the bridge for the island of the zone. The commander and responsible officials conducted the Prime Minister round the construction site. Next, the Prime Minister inspected the construction of white elephants statues to be put up at the archway of the zone and gave necessary instructions to officials. Afterwards, the Prime Minister proceeded to the recreation zone of the gardens and inspected the landscaping and upgrading tasks on Karaweik island.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects upgrading tasks of the Kandawgyi Gardens and environs. — MNA

Secretary-2 meets MWVO members

**Yangon, 15 Nov** — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar War Veterans Organization Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein met with members of Meiktila District MWVO and township MWVOs in Meiktila District at Meiktila Flying Training Base yesterday afternoon. Chairman of Meiktila District War Veterans Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Myo Myint, Chairman of Meiktila Township MWVO Capt Tin Oo (Retd) and members reported to Lt-Gen Thein Sein on works undertaken by respective MWVOs.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects traditional medicine university and paramedical sciences institute construction projects (Mandalay)

**Yangon, 15 Nov** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officials, arrived at the traditional medicine university (Mandalay) construction project in Aungmyethazan Township yesterday morning.

Engineer-in-charge of the ACE Construction U Han Thein reported on progress in construction of the four-storey main building of the university. Rector Dr Mya Moe gave a supplementary report, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions and inspected the project site.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed the project site for construction of paramedical sciences institute (Mandalay) for the Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health in Patheingyi Township. Paramedical Sciences Institute Rector Dr Ye Hlaing and officials reported on future tasks and road construction. Institute of Medicine (Mandalay) Rector Dr Soe Tun gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into the work progress and left necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspects Traditional Medicine Institute and Paramedical Sciences Institute (Mandalay) construction projects. — MNA

Myanmar-China tennis friendly to be held

**Yangon, 15 Nov** — Organized by the Myanmar Tennis Federation, the Myanmar-China friendly tennis tournament will be held in Theinbyu Tennis Court from 24 to 26 November and fans may watch the tennis event free of charge.

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