Kataññuta, gratitude towards the grateful; this is the way to auspiciousness.

City Housing Project Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 22 Nov—The City Housing Project Supervisory Committee held its meeting No 6/2003 at the meeting hall of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, the deputy attorney-general, members of the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee, officials of the State Peace Development Council Office, heads of department and officials.

First, Prime Minister made a speech on the occasion. He said that the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee is engaged in upgrading of roads and amusement parks while supervising the housing projects to enable the Yangon City to possess the characteristics of a city of international level.

In an effort to turn the Yangon City into a city of international level, the High-rise Buildings Construction Project Inspection Group was formed with a view to ensuring the durability of the buildings and systematic, construction tasks meeting the set standard. The group is supervising the weakness and strength in construction of high-rise buildings in Yangon City keeping pace with changes.

As the construction of high-rise buildings have just initiated, it is required to obtain technology and methods and have experiences abroad for durability and grandeur of the buildings in the city. In upgrading Yangon City into a city of international level, the high-rise buildings are needed to have the characteristics of modern and advanced buildings.

Some housing projects are being implemented with proper foundation and some housing projects without proper foundation. Therefore, priority will have to be given to meeting the set standard in construction of a building.

There are many qualified engineers in the country with the formation of Myanmar Engineering Society. The association was formed with engineers in service, retired engineers and engineers who are engaged in private sectors.

MES is a member of the ASEAN Engineering Federation and was awarded the prizes and medals by the federation. Myanmar engineers have been able to construct giant bridges and dams and reservoirs countable by the hundred in a decade. This being the case, efforts are to be made to ensure Myanmar engineering to keep abreast of those in South East Asia and Asian nations.

Carrying out efforts for regional development, basic economic foundations and raising of living standard is building basic foundations needed for democracy

First day session of annual general meeting of USDA for 2003 held

YANGON, 22 Nov—The first day session of the annual general meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association for 2003 was held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of central training school of the USDA in Hnawby Township on 19 November.

Present were member of Panel of Patrons of the USDA Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-General of the USDA I Huy Oo, members of the Secretariat, CEC members, secretaries of State and Division USDAs and delegates from State, Division, District and Township USDAs.

The annual general meeting was opened with the songs “Psi-Myanmar” and “Yathet-pan Pyidaungsu” sung by member of USDA students from No 1 Basic Education High School, Dagon Township, No 1 BEHS, Kamayut Township, No 6 BEHS, Botataung Township and No 5 BEHS.

Chairman of CHPSC Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Meeting 6/2003. — MNA

Next, master of ceremonies Daw Esta Lang Ewai and member of Kengtung Township USDA opened the ceremony open.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Sarsodaw Day commemorative Book Fair and Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show opened

YANGON, 22 Nov — The Book Fair to mark the 1365 Sarsodaw Day was opened in conjunction with the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show at the building, No 379-383 on Bo Aung Kyaw Street here this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials. Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hlaing), the Vice-Chairman, the Secretaries, the Joint-Secretaries, the CEC members, the MWJA members and guests.

The ceremony was opened in front of the building and MWJA Joint-Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) acted as master of ceremonies. Next, Chairman of the Book Fair Organizing Committee Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprises U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Kywe) explained the purpose of the Book Fair while Chair- man of the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) explained the purpose of organizing the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hlaing) formally opened the Book Fair and the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show. Afterwards, Granddaughter of Myanmar Novels Show included Maung Yin Maung-Ma Me Ma, to Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hlaing). Next, the minister, the deputy ministers, the chairman and guests viewed the displays at the Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show and book shops at the Book Fair.

The Book Fair is opened yearly as part of the Sarsodaw Day. In this year’s book fair there are 58 book shops selling various kinds of books at reasonable price. The Book Fair will continue until 30 November. — MNA

International Fair 2003 held

YANGON, 22 Nov — Organized by Myanmar ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association-MAWFA, a ceremony to open Interna- tional Fair was held in the compound of Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel, Bahan Township, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife Daw San Yon, member of panel of patrons of the MAWFA, ministers and wives, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and wife Daw Khin Swe Soe, member of panel of patrons of the MAWFA, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and wife, Daw Le Le Kyi, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials, President of Zagabara Co Ltd and Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel Dr Khin Shwe, the Chairperson of the MAWFA and members, ambassadors of ASEAN member countries and other foreign emb- assies in Yangon and their wives, wives of diplomats and guests. Under the program, Chairperson of the MAWFA Daw Khin Nyin Nyunt extended greetings.

Next, Daw San Yon, member of panel of patrons of the MAWFA and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, wife of Singapore ambassador, Vice-President of the MAWFA Mme. Poh Choo de Cruz formally opened the fair. Afterwards, the minister, deputy minister and members of panel of patrons of the MAWFA and guests viewed round the fair. There was a performance for the visitors. The fair displayed handicrafts of international and various kinds of products and food stalls and it was teeming with the visitors.

The earnings from the fair will be donated to social or- ganizations by the MAWFA and foreign embassies.
Bush leaves Blair empty handed

LONDON, 22 Nov — British Prime Minister Tony Blair has obtained little from US President George Bush’s state visit this week, apart from words of solidarity after attacks on British targets in Istanbul.

As normal business was continued in the US, Blair and Bush were hard pressed to see how Blair’s staunch support of Bush’s unpopular war in Iraq had gained the British PM any political capital at all.

The president flew out of the UK on Friday afternoon after a highly choreographed day of leisure in Blair’s northern constituency.

“I can’t see what Blair has got,” Lord William Wallace, a proponent of international relations at the London School of Economics, told AFP.

He pointed at Bush’s failure to budge on such tough issues as the fate of nine Britons held by the US, or the looming US-EU trade war over Bush’s tariffs on imported steel.

“Bush does not appear to care that he needs to give Blair some evident concessions in order to make Blair’s position more defensible within Britain,” said Wallace, who is also the opposition Liberal Democrats’ foreign

100 kilos of ivory discovered in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM, 22 Nov — Tanzanian police have discovered 100 kilos of ivory and arrested two police at the spot in connection with the case, according to a police spokesperson on Wednesday here. Dar es Salaam Regional Police Commander Alfred Tibaigana said that the ivory, whose value is valued more than 55,000 US dollars.

He said that under the assistance of a tip-off, policemen had found 47 elephant tusks in a resident house.

The two arrested police were charged for illegal preserving ivory.

Asian cities to strengthen cooperation on SARS prevention

HONG KONG, 22 Nov — At the third plenary meeting of the Asian network of major cities 21 (ANMC 21), delegates agreed to form a stronger network in severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) prevention.

“Promoting cooperation in the fields of sharing information and experiences on SARS prevention is very important to Asian major cities,” the vice-mayor of the Government of Beijing Municipality of China, Zhang Miao, told Xinhua on the sidelines of the meeting which opened on Wednesday.

Representatives of India’s Delhi City said all SARS-related information should be posted on a website so that not only cities in the network but others can access it.

Other proposals such as setting up a hotline on SARS, minimizing the number of people coming in and out of SARS-hit regions, and establishing SARS surveillance centres are also introduced at the meeting.

Delegates also shared experiences in SARS prevention. The ANMC 21 now has 12 members, including Beijing, Bangkok, Delhi, Hanoi, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur and Manila.

Chinese experts honoured for contribution to manned space project

BEIJING, 22 Nov — Twelve Chinese space experts were honoured here for their outstanding contributions to China’s first manned space flight on October 15-16.

The experts included Huang Chuanming, chief commander of the launch vehicle system, Liu Zhisheng, chief designer of the launch vehicle, known as the Long March 2 F, and Qi Feng, chief designer of the space craft system. Six deputy chief commanders or designers of the rocket and spacecraft systems and two leading experts in charge of propulsion the system of the spacecraft and its command system were also honoured.

At a rally held by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CAST), the maker of the rocket and spacecraft, 20 diversions and 100 employees from the corporation were also commended for their performance in the country’s manned space programme, which was launched in 1992.

Addressing the rally, Zhang Qianwei, general manager of the corporation and deputy chief commander of the programme, said the country’s successful manned space flight was the result of the endeavours of all researchers and engineers involved in the programme and their predecessors. Chinese space experts have solved technical problems successfully acknowledged by the international aerospace community as the most sophisticated one after another in the past decade, scoring many technological breakthroughs, and acquiring some core technologies of its own, said Zhang, a 42-year-old rocket expert.

About 10,000 space experts and engineers from the corporation have been involved in the space programme. With 103,000 employees, the corporation is specialized in research and development of spacecraft, satellites, carrier rockets, strategic missiles, and some civilian goods.

424 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Nov — As of Friday, Nov, 21, 424 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defense of the US.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy: 17; Denmark, Spain, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 286 US soldiers have died —180 as a result of hostile action and 106 of non-hostile causes, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,054 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 347.

The latest deaths reported by the US military:

- Sixteen soldiers were killed in an explosion in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, Iraq.

- Eight soldiers were killed in clashes with insurgents in the western city of Ramadi, Iraq.

- One soldier was killed in an attack in the southern city of Basra, Iraq.

US says missiles hits plane in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Nov — The latest series of audacious attacks in Iraq has continued with a missile attack on a transport plane and deadly bombings on two police stations, the US military said.

Nine Iraqis were killed Saturday on Kham Bani Sa’ad, about 12 miles (20 km) north of Baghdad, when a suicide bomber drove a car into a police station, Captain Ryan McCormick said. The bomber also died.

As he sped into the station shortly before 8 am, Iraq police fired AK-47 at his vehicle and the car — laden with explosives — detonated, McCormick said. Six Iraqi police, three civilians and the driver died in the attack, he said.

There is a huge crater in front of the police station and full damage is still being assessed. There are reports of a live grenade inside the police compound and no one is allowed inside, McCormick said.

At about the same time, a car bomb hit the Baquba police station about 50 miles (80 km) north of Baghdad, the officials said. The US military reported 15-25 civilian casualties. CNN’s Jane Arf said some civilians died in the attack but it is not yet clear how many. No coalition soldiers were injured in the attack.

Also on Saturday morning, a DHL courier plane safely landed at Baghdad International Airport after a heat-seeking, surface-to-air missile hit one of its engines, according to military sources at the airport. No one was injured.

The aircraft had just taken off when it was hit by the SAM-7, sources said. One of the engines was set on fire, which was extinguished after the plane landed, the sources said. Missiles have been fired several times at planes approaching the airport, Arf said but Saturday’s incident was the first time a fixed-wing aircraft had been hit.

The US military has stepped up its offensive against the anti-coalition insurgency throughout central Iraq, hammering guerrilla targets in Baghdad, Baquba and other towns in the region where opposition to the US-led occupation of Iraq runs high.

Study finds men-women pay gap persists in US

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — Despite a sense of progress in workplace equality, women in the United States earn an average of 80 cents for every dollar paid to men, roughly the same as 20 years ago, according to a congressional study released on Thursday.

The study by the General Accounting Office found the gap persisted even when accounting for such factors as occupation, industry, race, marital status and job tenure.

The wage gap was attributed partly to differing work patterns between the sexes, with women being penalized for their frequent dual roles as wage earners while caring for home and family. — MINA/Reuters

No rewards for being Bush’s staunchest ally —INTERNET

The Space Shuttle Enterprise taxis to a hanger at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, Virginia, on 20 Nov, 2003. The Enterprise was the first Space Shuttle built and was used for approach and landing tests but never made the journey to orbit. The Enterprise will be on display when the museum opens to the public in December of this year.—INTERNET
Two Baghdad hotels, oil ministry hit by rockets

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov—Rockets on Friday slammed into the Iraqi oil ministry and two central Baghdad hotels used by Western contractors and journalists, wounding several people, police and witnesses said.

Three rockets had hit the oil ministry, which was ablaze, police said.

Guests evacuated the Sheraton and Palestine hotels, located in a fortified compound near the Tigris River, after the buildings were hit by rockets. Guests saw shards of glass and fragments of plaster and concrete scattered across the floors.

Witnesses at the hotels said they had seen several people with at least light wounds. A security guard said two people had been taken to hospital. Police officers near the scene said a man had fired rockets from a launcher hidden on a donkey cart. A US soldier at the scene said the rockets were RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades.

US destroying Iraqi homes in violation of Geneva Convention

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov—US forces are destroying houses in Iraq as retribution for attacks on their soldiers, according to Amnesty International, in violation of the Geneva Convention.

The report was hotly denied by the Pentagon.

The human rights group said it sent a letter to US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld demanding he clarify whether the demolitions as a form of collective punishment or detention was officially permitted. “If such proved to be the case, it would constitute a clear violation of international humanitarian law,” the group said in the letter, according to AFP.

The Pentagon whilst acknowledging US forces had destroyed “facilities”, including houses, during recent military operations rejected the allegation that the demolitions were intended as retaliation for attacks.

We have destroyed facilities that were being used by former regime loyalists or terrorists either as a place from which to stage attacks, or as a safe house to avoid capture, or as a facility from which to construct improvised explosive devices,” Lieutenant Colonel Jim Cassella told the French news agency.

“The idea that this is some type of collective punishment is just absolutely without merit,” he added.

He claimed that some houses were razed after opposition groups to the US occupation used them as bases. Families living in the houses were immediately relocated, he added.

“We are doing here is attacking the terrorist infrastructure to deny them the ability to plan, organize and initiate attacks,” he said. Amnesty cited reports that 15 houses had been destroyed in the area around Tikrit since 16 November. It added that in one case a family in the village of al-Hawa was given five minutes to evacuate their house before it was demolished by tank and helicopter fire.

“Any destruction by the occupying power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited” the organization also said it had received reports of a 10 November incident in which US soldiers gave people living in a farmhouse near the town of al-Mamuya south of Baghdad 30 minutes to vacate their property.

The farmhouse was bombed and destroyed later in the day by F-16 fighters.

It said the bombing appeared to have been carried out in retaliation for an attack several days earlier on a convoy in which a US officer was killed. Amnesty quoted Article 33 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which states that “Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited.”

Article 53 states: “Any destruction by the occupying power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.”

Malaysia, S’pore to appoint panel on land reclamation investigation

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Nov—Senior Malaysian and Singaporean officials began a meeting here to appoint an independent panel of experts to investigate the public’s two land reclamation works in the Johore Straits.

The three-day closed-door meeting is held between the Malaysian delegation led by its Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Ahmad Fuzi Razak and the Singapore delegation headed by its ambassador-at-large Tommy Koh.

A statement is expected to be issued at the end of the meeting on Saturday.

The meeting is being convened following the order of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany, after hearing a case filed by Malaysia against Singapore’s reclamation projects in Pulau Tekong and Tuas in the Johore Straits.

The tribunal had directed Singapore not to carry out its reclamation work that would cause irreparable prejudice to Malaysia’s rights or serious harm to the marine environment. It also directed the two countries to set up an independent panel to investigate the reclamation works.

Malaysia has opted for arbitration to resolve the land reclamation issue with Singapore after several rounds of bilateral negotiations failed.

The reclamation activities in Singapore waters bordering Malaysia’s south state of Johore have caused quite a stir here.

Malaysia feels it will affect shipping lanes at the Pasir Gudang and Tanjung Pelepas ports in Johore State, which in recent years have managed to attract large shipping companies. However, Singapore claims that it has the right to do so.

BMW sales up 16.3% in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Nov—Auto giant BMW enjoyed a sales growth of 16.3 per cent in Indonesia in the January-September period of 2003, during which the sales increased to 1,984 units, the Bisnis Indonesia newspaper reported recently.

Since the launching of BMW financial services which provide auto loans with competitive rate for BMW brand, the sales have increased, Helena Abidin, the spokesperson for PT BMW Indonesia, was quoted as saying. Helena said that BMW so far has expanded its showroom to 23 across Indonesia.

She claimed that BMW took the lead in the Indonesian market among five European auto brands by grabbing 48 per cent of premium car market.

The sale of European premium cars in Indonesia rose by 6.6 per cent to 3,915 units in the same period, she said.

Asian cities to focus on joint projects, disaster management

HANOI, 22 Nov—Major cities in Asia will bolster multilateral collaboration and cooperation in social, economic and cultural fields and will jointly carry out projects and informing one another about disasters in the region.

The statement was made by leaders of Asian major cities after signing the Hanoi Declaration under the third plenary of the Asian Network of Major Cities-21 (ANMC21) which concluded here on Thursday.

“ANMC21 is an action-oriented network. We reaffirm that we shall make steady progress implementing 17 joint projects,” says the document.

The meeting discussed ways of speeding up implementation of the 17 existing joint projects which were initiated in Japan in 2001 and in India in 2002. The projects are of economy, transport, education, culture, tourism, environment, healthcare and gender.

In addition to working on the projects, the cities will further exchange experience and information about crisis management in natural disasters, epidemics and terrorism.

They established two hotlines, one for natural disasters and serious accidents, and the other for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) or other deadly diseases.

“We shall continue to strengthen ties among the member cities of ANMC21 and take initiatives in promoting comprehensive crisis management, including immediate notification to all the other member cities of any outbreak,” the declaration says.

The next meeting of ANMC21 will be held in Jakarta next year. The current meeting was attended by leaders from 11 cities, including Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok and Hanoi.

Internet

A sea anemone shares its ocean floor neighbourhood with the reddish finger coral in Cozumel, Mexico. An inspection of deeper-water Caribbean coral reefs found them healthier than previously believed, scientists said this week.

Internet
Dollar loses gains as rockets hit Iraq ministry

**Tokyo, 22 Nov** — The dollar failed to hold on to gains on Friday as rockets slammed into the Iraqi Oil Ministry and two Baghdad hotels, highlighting the global security risks that have undermined the currency in recent months.

“Given the current situation it’s hard for the dollar to turn around,” a senior foreign exchange trader at a US bank said. “And incidents like these centring on Iraq are just going to instill more fear into the markets.”

Three rockets hit the oil ministry, setting it ablaze, while hotels used by Western contractors and journalists were evacuated after being hit.

But Tokyo traders were not willing to sell the dollar aggressively as they were on the lookout for possible intervention by the Japanese authorities following the greenback’s recent drop to three-year lows.

At 0600 GMT, the dollar was hovering at 108.97/9.02 yen losing earlier gains that came after the greenback’s recent drop to three-year lows.

Japanese authorities following the surprise by having a donkey cart,” said Shinsei Bank. The euro was at 1.1894/99 versus $1.1910 in late US trade. It rose as high as $1.1975 on Thursday, near a record high of $1.1978 hit on Wednesday.

The British pound was at $1.7008/13 well off its five-year high of $1.7090 hit on Thursday. The Australian dollar was also off Thursday’s six-year high of $0.7267 quoted at $0.7223/28.Copyright 2003, Reuters News Service

Newest threat in Iraq
donkey cart rockets

**Baghdad, 22 Nov** — US forces now have a new low-tech threat to worry about—donkey carts. Guerrillas fired rockets from donkey carts at Iraq’s Oil Ministry and two large hotels here Friday in a symbolic strike on two well-fortified targets.

US officials dismissed the attacks as militarily insignificant, but they showed a continuing ingenuity by the shadowy guerrillas battling US troops.

“They would certainly have an element of surprise by having a donkey cart,” said Col Brad May, commander of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which controls the area near the Oil Ministry.

“Most people would not think of a donkey cart being used to fire rockets from. They try and continue to get one step ahead of us. They’re going to use varying techniques.”

At least a dozen rockets were fired in the donkey-cart offensive, eight of the Oil Ministry and four at the Palestine and Sheraton hotels along the Tigris River in central Baghdad. Two people were reported injured in the hotels, one of them critically.

After the two attacks, which occurred around 7:15 am, US military commanders ordered American soldiers and Iraqi police to stop and search all donkey carts, which they suspect were being used to fire rockets from. They are concerned the rockets might be used to carry explosives into the Iraqi Oil Ministry and two Baghdad hotels.

**They certainly have an element of surprise by having a donkey cart**

“Two rockets were parked between 200 yards and 300 yards away, beyond the security perimeters at both targets. The insurgents tied the donkeys to trees, positioned the launcher, triggered the rockets and fled before they could be apprehended, military officials said.

The carts were outfitted with homemade rocket launchers whose steel tubes contained Soviet-made 107mm Katyusha rockets, which have a range of 10 miles.

The donkey carts were parked between 200 yards and 300 yards away, beyond the security perimeters at both targets. The insurgents tied the donkeys to trees, positioned the launcher, triggered the rockets and fled before they could be apprehended, military officials said.

The outfits were outfitted with homemade rocket launchers whose steel tubes contained Soviet-made 107mm Katyusha rockets, which have a range of 10 miles.

The Iraqi army had thousands of such rockets.

The donkey cart ruse was just the latest of many deceptive methods insurgents have used to conceal weapons. On roads outside Baghdad, they’ve hidden bombs in animal carcasses and piles of trash.

Roadside bombs also continue to take their toll on US troops. The military said Friday that two soldiers were killed in attacks by roadside bombs - one victim was from the 82nd Airborne Division and another from the 4th Infantry Division. At least 424 US soldiers have died since American-led forces invaded Iraq in March, 294 of them from hostile fire. — Internet

Suicide attack kills six cops in Iraqi town

**Khan Bani Saad, 22 Nov** — Six Iraqi police were killed when a suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a police station in this town just north of Baghdad, police chief Ismail Kano al-Askari told AFP.

Thirteen people were also wounded - 10 police and three Iraqi civilians — when the bomber struck around 7:30 am (1000 GMT, 1 IST), Askari said. The Chevrolet car came very fast at the station. Police opened fire but it didn’t stop,” he said.

An AFP correspondent saw a large hole in the wall of the station and body parts strewn on the ground.

Hong Kong conducts anti-SARS exercise

**Hong Kong, 22 Nov** — Hong Kong Government departments and agencies tested their preparedness Thursday in a drill involving a fictitious case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in an elderly home.

The exercise was organized by the Health, Welfare & Food Bureau in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority. Joining the drill were a home for the elderly and the Social Welfare, Food & Environmental Hygiene, Buildings, Home Affairs, and Information Services Departments and the Education & Manpower Bureau.

The exercise scenario involved an elderly resident of a residential care home for the elderly who came down with a respiratory tract infection after returning to Hong Kong from overseas. The resident was subsequently found to be a laboratory-confirmed SARS case, triggering a Level One Response under the government’s overall emergency mechanism on SARS.

According to the emergency mechanism, the Home Affairs, Health and Social Welfare Departments should react swiftly to enhance surveillance, carry out contact-tracing and epidemiological investigations, and enhance their capacity to cope with a potential outbreak.

In today’s drill, the regional office of the Department of Health, upon receiving hospital notification of the fictitious SARS case, started epidemiological investigations and contact-tracing. It visited the home and made sure the necessary precautionary measures were in place. — MNA/Xinhua

Aid agencies alarmed over funds

**London, 22 Nov** — US and UK aid agencies are alarmed about what they say is the diversion of over $1bn in foreign aid funds.

They are concerned the funds might be used to pay for the War on Terror and the re-building of Iraq.

The agencies told the BBC that if a trend of this kind continues, the UN’s aim of halving extreme pov-

ety by 2015 is unlikely to be met.

The target was agreed by all member states and represents the UN’s central Millennium Goal.

Two recent moves over the allocation of funds have alarmed development econo-

mists.

First was the scaling down by US congress of an aid pack-

age of $1.6bn to just $65m.

This was described by the largest consortium of aid agencies in America, known as InterAction, as a trade-off caused by demands on US money from Iraq.

The second was the di-

version of about $150m- worth of British develop-

ment aid to the re-building of Iraq.

The UK-based charity Christian Aid expressed “anger” at this move.

An economist represent-

ing a group of British agen-

ties, Audrey Gauchran, said some rich countries’ develop-

ment budgets, including those of Japan and Australia, were being re-defined to include items like counter-terrorism training, which was limiting the money left for poverty reduction programmes.
Hungarian volunteer shot dead by US soldiers in Iraq

BUDAPEST, 22 Nov — A Hungarian student carrying out humanitarian work in Iraq has been shot dead by US soldiers in an incident at a checkpoint, the Hungarian foreign ministry announced.

“Péter Varga-Balazs was stationed in Iraq on humanitarian duties as a volunteer,” a ministry spokesman said.

“According to information obtained from the Americans in Iraq the young man was driving a vehicle which approached a US checkpoint 130 kilometres (80 miles) west of Baghdad at high speed,” spokesman Tamás Toth said.

“He failed to slow down both after warnings to do so by the Americans and after shots were fired in the air,” Toth said, referring to the US source.

Heavy snowstorm hits northern China grazing areas

HARBIN, 22 Nov — A heavy snowstorm is threatening the grazing areas and livelihoods of more than 50,000 herdsmen on the Hulun Buir Plain, north China’s Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

So far, there have been no reports of human or livestock casualties.

From 8 pm Wednesday to 8 am Friday, moderate snow, along with strong winds of force 5 to 6, hit pasture and forest areas in Hulun Buir City, meteorologists reported.

Some areas, including 6.4 million hectares of grazing grounds, were covered in 15 to 25 centimetres of snow, said meteorologists, forecasting that the snowstorm would continue until Saturday night.

The Hulun Buir Plain has 8.4 million hectares of pasture lands, but most only began to grow grass from late July due to severe drought and insect attacks earlier this year. As a result, grass growth on the plain fell by 50 per cent this year.

The snowstorm has led to a shortage of 110,000 tons by 50 per cent this year.

Queen Elizabeth in legal steps against “Bush scare” reporter

LONDON, 22 Nov — Queen Elizabeth is taking legal steps against a journalist and his newspaper after this week’s security scare in which the reporter got a job as a Buckingham Palace servant ahead of the visit of President George W Bush.

For the past two days, the Daily Mirror has been printing titbits about life in the royal household as told by a man below stairs, reporter Ryan Parry.

“We can confirm that the Royal Household is taking legal proceedings against the Daily Mirror and its reporter Ryan Parry for breach of confidence,” a palace spokeswoman said.

“We will be asking the High Court to restrain the newspaper and Mr Parry from publication of information in breach of the duty of confidence Mr Parry owes to his former employer,” she added.

In an embarrassing blow for the security forces mounting the capital’s biggest ever security operation, Parry said he had access to the suite of rooms being used by Bush during his stay at the palace at the invitation of the Queen.

Cartoonists have had a field day with Parry’s scoop. The Times showed two footmen carrying the emirine-lined train of the monarch as she swept along in her royal robes.

One footman asks the other: “Which newspaper do you work for?”

Fire bomb thrown at British Embassy in Iran

TEHERAN, 22 Nov — A fire bomb was thrown at the British Embassy compound in central Teheran on Friday afternoon, but no one was hurt and little damage was caused, a British diplomat said.

The attack, which followed suicide bomb attacks against British targets in Is- tanbul on Thursday that killed 27 people, was not preceded by any warnings and there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

“We’re in touch with the Iranian authorities and we’re reviewing our security ar- rangements,” the British diplo- mat told Reuters.

The incident occurred at 3:30 pm (1200 GMT) at the back gate of the embassy’s large walled compound in central Teheran.

“The incendiary device was thrown by an individual who was in a Peykan,” the diplomat said referring to the ubiquitous car based on the Hillman Hunter which is by far the most common vehicle on Iran’s roads. “It struck the gate and caused a small fire on both sides of the gate,” the diplomat said. Iran is generally consid- ered to be a low security risk in the Middle East and at- tacks against Western embassies, businesses or indi- viduals are extremely rare.

But the British Embassy has been the object of a number of attacks this year, including four shooting inci- dents in August and Septem- ber following the arrest by Britain of a former Iranian diplomat wanted by Argen- tine authorities.

Two leading iron, steel companies in W China merge

CHENGDU, 22 Nov — A grand ceremony here Thursday marked the merger of Panzhihua Iron and Steel Group Company and the Great Wall Special Iron and Steel (Group) Co Ltd.

Panzhihua Iron and Steel, based in Panzhihua City of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, ranks sixth in the coun- try and is the largest and most competi- tive iron and steel company in west China.

The Panzhihua company, with 30 bil- lion yuan (about 3.62 billion US dollars) in total assets, produces 5.3 million tons of steel a year, and is also one of the world’s major producers of vanadium and tita- nium.

Annual pre-tax profits exceed two bil- lion yuan (about 241 million US dollars), according to Hong Jibi, chairman of the board of the group company.

Great Wall Special Iron and Steel (Group) Co Ltd., founded in 1965, is the biggest special steel and steel maker in west China. Great Wall Special Iron and Steel Co Ltd, a subsidiary of the company, went public in 1994.

The Great Wall Special Iron and Steel group is capable of annually producing over 400,000 tons of special steel in 350 specifications which are used in aviation, aerospace, nuclear industry, electronics and telecommunications, petrochemical industry, energy and transportation sectors.

However, the company has long suf- fered economic losses. By late July this year, the group company’s net assets tot- taled 3.5 billion yuan (some 639 million US dollars), but its debts made up about 2.5 billion yuan (about 301 million US dollars), with the debt equity ratio standing at 46.32 per cent.

At Thursday’s function, both Panzhihua chairman Hong Jibi and Ren Yong, chair- man of the board of the Great Wall Special Iron and Steel (Group) Co Ltd, said the merger was fully out of their own will.

“Via the merger, the Great Wall con- glomerate can bid farewell to loss-making and walk out of the financial difficulty in three years at most,” said Ren.

Ren said the reorganized Great Wall company has a total stock of 1.62 billion yuan (about 195 million US dollars), of which, the Panzhihua group company takes 41 per cent, or 671 million yuan (about 808,434 US dollars), and six other institu- tions take the rest.

Industry experts said that through the reorganization, both partners will improve ways to utilize resources and the move will help Panzhihua become stronger while Great Wall will hopefully step out of its economic hardship.

Steel (Group) Co Ltd.

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The attack, which fol- lowed suicide bomb attacks against British targets in Is- tanbul on Thursday that killed 27 people, was not preceded by any warnings and there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

“We’re in touch with the Iranian authorities and we’re reviewing our security ar- rangements,” the British diplo- mat told Reuters.

The incident occurred at 3:30 pm (1200 GMT) at the back gate of the embassy’s large walled compound in central Teheran.

“The incendiary device was thrown by an individual who was in a Peykan,” the diplomat said referring to the ubiquitous car based on the Hillman Hunter which is by far the most common vehicle on Iran’s roads. “It struck the gate and caused a small fire on both sides of the gate,” the diplomat said.

Iran is generally consid- ered to be a low security risk in the Middle East and at- tacks against Western embassies, businesses or indi- viduals are extremely rare.

But the British Embassy has been the object of a number of attacks this year, including four shooting inci- dents in August and Septem- ber following the arrest by Britain of a former Iranian diplomat wanted by Argen- tine authorities.

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Unforgettable summer nights

Ni Min Swe

(Continued from 20.11.2003)

The professor never looked at me while teaching lessons, for, he seemed to be worried that I might me scared away. The professor was very gentle, and his method of teaching was excellent.

The teacher has instilled in my mind with the will to love the linguistic subject and the art. Since then, I have been studying the linguistics very hard. For many times, I faced problems, difficulties or embarrassment because of my extreme desire and eagerness to learn the subject. And once, I was criticized and denounced by my friends for some extraordinary. But, I was driven by the teachings of the professor to continue my study of the subject.

At the seminar, delegates from some countries read their prepared papers. But I was speaking face to face with my counterparts from other nations through the screen. I had full confidence in my ability that they would be captivated by my words and my style of speaking. Some persons from some countries were trying to put all the blame on the Wa people. But, the delegates at the conference came to know the actual situation and they could see gold in the heart of the Wa people. All were silent after my discussion. I guessed that their sympathy for the Wa people was growing stronger.

I owed a great deal of gratitude to the professor for all the success I had achieved at the seminar. Had I not attended the three-a-week English classes of the professor at that time, I might be facing a lot of difficulties to present my discussion at the seminar. My words would be far from capturing the hearts of the participants.

I could see other high-rise buildings from my room at the hotel. But high above in the sky, I saw the image of the professor teaching English lessons to his pupils. My mind was filled with the strong wish to meet the professor and pay respects to him as soon as I arrived back home. But it was totally impossible, because the teacher was no more. Then, I came to remember that, let alone paying respects to him, I had not visited, not even once, the professor since completion of my studies at the University till his demise. “How stupid I was!” I cursed myself.

At that moment, I came to remember another teacher of mine. He was so handsome, but a bachelor. Only his students were his children and family members. He had an ardent wish for his students to become clever, good and outstanding. Tirelessly, he was teaching and encouraging his pupils. He never forgot the names of every student, even if he had not met with him for 20 years or more. It has been nearly 15 years since he had passed away. But I failed to pay respects to my teacher even once during his life time.

When I read the names of 132 old teachers of the Mandalay University, their images came into my mind. They were giving lectures to their students. And I felt as if I became many years younger. As they were aged persons, I was worried about their health. My friends told me that some of the old teachers had become feeble and were unable to walk. But I believed that a get-together with their old pupils at the respect-paying ceremony on 24 November 2003 would be a potence medicine for some of them to cure their ailments. I hoped, the students would also know this. And later, I came to realize that I should not sleep that night. So, I sat at the table, took sheets of papers and started to write the article — Unforgettable summer nights.

The Mandalay University has produced a large number of jewels. Many of the old students of the University are now holding high level official positions in the departments. Some are even discharging the important duties of the State. We can find the old students successful in various fields of profession. I am sure that the bond that was forged between the teachers and their pupils all over the country will benefit the State. A teacher’s duty is to teach his pupil the school lessons and to become a good and outstanding person.

I cannot forget the summer nights at the Mandalay University. And whenever I remember about them, I always become fresh and young again. But now, I have come to realize another important thing. That is to always remember the gratitude of my teachers who taught me to become an intellectual person.

(Continued)

(Translation: TMT)
(Myanmar Aline: 15 November 2003)

China’s major SOEs to improve quality of employees

SHANGHAI, 22 Nov — China’s watchdog of state-owned assets will encourage the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) under its supervision to initiate various training programmes for their staff beginning from 2004, so as to improve the workers’ educational level substantially and cultivate a group of skilled workers.

Wang Ruixiang, deputy director of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC), made the remarks Thursday at a mobilization conference aiming to spread the successful experience of some SOEs in this field.

“SASAC is drafting guidelines to help the SOEs to initiate training projects, and the document will be delivered to the SOEs in early 2004,” Wang said.

The SOEs should make the training project part of their development strategy on the basis of their actual situation, and try to establish an effective system for exploring human resources in two years, he said.

Adequate funding is of importance for the training programme, Wang said. According to the SOEs should use an equal amount of 1.5 per cent of the workers’ total salary for their further education, and personal ability and working performance should be stressed in the evaluation and promotion of the working staff. There are nearly 10 million people working in the SASAC-supervised SOEs, with about 80 per cent working in the front lines of manufacturing, trade or management. The SOEs as a whole, according to Wang, are still short of skilled workers and high-quality talents, and most workers are not well-educated.

WHO welcomes South Africa initiative to treat “AIDS”

GENEVA, 22 Nov — The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomes the decision by the South African Cabinet to approve a comprehensive HIV/AIDS treatment and care plan for the country.

WHO said in a statement Thursday, “this is a vital step towards tackling AIDS in South Africa.”

This decision is a key contribution toward saving human lives and achieving the “3 by 5” target of treating three million people living with AIDS in developing countries before the end of 2005, said WHO.

WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said, “WHO is ready to work closely with the government to support this effort.”

The plan approved by the South African Cabinet is a comprehensive and integrated plan linking anti-retroviral treatment with prevention of HIV infection and care for all those affected by HIV/AIDS.

UN repeats call for conf on peace in Great Lakes region

LUZERNE, 22 Nov — The United Nations Security Council on Thursday reiterated its call for holding an international conference on peace, security, democracy and development in the troubled Great Lakes Region of Africa.

In a statement, the 15-nation body welcomed the offer made by the Tanzanian Government to host a regional summit in June next year. "The Security Council considers that the holding of the proposed conference will help build on the progress made in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi peace processes to achieve lasting peace and promote the national reconciliation processes in all countries concerned in the region," it stated.

The statement was read out by Council President Gaspar Martins of Angola at the end of an open Council meeting, attended by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and senior officials from Mozambique and Tanzania.

(Continued from 19.11.2003)

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Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

UN repeats call for conf on peace in Great Lakes region

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(Continued from 19.11.2003)
Carrying out efforts for...
Carrying out efforts for ...

(from page 8)

Executive of Myingyan Township USDA in Mandalay Division Daw Wah Wah Soe acted as master of ceremonies.

The chairman of the seminar delivered an opening address. Representative representatives from States and Divisions discussed organizational matters.

The seminar chose a representative to deal with the sector on the second day. A group was formed to compile a paper on the sector for the second day. The seminar chairman made concluding remarks.

The management group held a seminar at Anawrahta Hall. USDA CEC member U Than Shwe chaired the seminar together with CEC member Thura U Aung Ko. Executive of Laukkai District USDA in Shan State (North) Daw Zin Mar Win acted as master of ceremonies.

The seminar chose a representative to discuss the sector on the second day. A group was formed to compile a paper on the sector for the second day. The seminar chairman made concluding remarks.

The seminar on the economic sector of the discussion group-3 was held at Myawady Thabin Hall. Central Executive Committee member U Ohn Myint of USDA presided over the seminar together with Central Executive Committee members U Maung Maung Than and U Khin Maung. Executive of Yathedaung Township USDA Daw Mya Thazin Nwe acted as master of ceremonies.

The chairman delivered an opening address on the occasion. Representative representatives from States and Divisions discussed matters on the management sector.

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The chairman of the seminar made an opening speech. Executive U Kyaw Thiya of Hlegu Township USDA, Secretary U Khin Than Tun of Hlegu Township USDA, Executive Daw San Hnyi of Momeik Township USDA, Secretary U Sai Tun Tun of Tachileik Township USDA, Secretary U Win Thein of Thaibaung Township USDA, Executive U Soe Min of Myitkyina District USDA, Executive Daw Hnin Moe Aye of Paung Township USDA, Executive U Soe Thein of Kyain Seikkyi Township USDA, Secretary U Pyay Lay of Paletwa Township USDA, Secretary U Kyaw Myint of Ayawad Township USDA, Secretary U Thein Oo of Dawei Township USDA, Secretary U Aung Naing Oo of Paungde Township USDA, Executive U Aung Naing of Bago District USDA, Executive U Win Tint of Yeangyoung Township USDA, Executive Daw Win Thidaof Mahlang Township USDA, Executive U Min Ye Tun of Mawlamyine District USDA, and Secretary U Tha Tun of Myebon Township USDA took part in the discussions.

Next, they selected and assigned duties to a representative to discuss economic matters at the second-day session of the annual general meeting.

After the formation of a team to compile the paper to be submitted at the second-day session, the chairman made conclusion remarks.

The seminar on the social and cultural sector of the discussion group-4 was held at Bagan Mass Hall. Secretary U Tin Htut of USDA presided over the seminar together with CEC member U Maung Pa. Executive Daw Thengi Win Shwe of Monyo Township USDA, Executive U Aung Naing of Bago District USDA, Executive U Win Tint of Yeangyoung Township USDA, Executive Daw Win Thidaof Mahlang Township USDA, Executive U Min Ye Tun of Mawlamyine District USDA, and Secretary U Tha Tun of Myebon Township USDA took part in the discussions.

Chairman of the seminar USDA Secretary U Tin Htut made an opening speech.

Executive Daw Kaytha Win of Kyauktan Township USDA, Secretary U Soe Nyunt Shwe of Nyaungshwe Township USDA, Secretary U Aung Hein Lin of Laukkai Township USDA, Executive U Tun Lwin of Moghaung District USDA, Secretary Dr Maung Maung Soe of Einme Township USDA, Executive Daw Lin Khine of M'jangyang Township USDA, member U Sein Pan of Meisai Township USDA, Executive Daw Khine Khine Win of Papan Township USDA, Executive U Ottwin of Mandalay District USDA, Secretary U Win Thein of Thaibaung Township USDA, Executive U U Min Ye Tun of Minbu Township USDA, Executive U Myint Kyaw of Pyinmana Township USDA, Executive Daw Yin Min Htaik of Bilin Township USDA, and Secretary U Than Wai Ko of Taungpyo Township USDA took part in the discussions.

Next, they selected and assigned duties to a representative to discuss social and cultural matters at the second-day session of the annual general meeting.

After the formation of a team to compile the paper to be submitted at the second-day session, the chairman made conclusion remarks.

The chairman of the seminar made an opening speech.

Executive Daw Mi Hay of Latha Township USDA, Executive U Khin Maung Myint of Yakawk Township USDA, Secretary Daw Nan Mo Kham of Mawlamyine Township USDA, Secretary U Than Win of Kyakkl Township USDA, Executive U Bom Yein of Waingmah Township USDA, Executive U Aung Tun Kyi of Loikaw Township USDA, Secretary U Maung Maung of Thandaung Township USDA, Executive Daw Nan Khan Kyin of Tiddin Township USDA, Secretary U Kyaw Min Tun of Kainglan Township USDA, Secretary U Pe Than of Yebyo Township USDA, Secretary U Nan Oo of Monyo Township USDA, Joint-Secretary U Kyi Soe of Pya Township USDA, Executive U Aung Naing Lin of Ngaphe Township USDA, Executive
City Housing Project...

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged Myanmar engineers to make strenuous efforts in equipping Yangon City with the characteristics of a modern city and implementing the high-rise buildings project meeting the set standard and ensuring timely completion and durability.

Next, members of the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee and officials reported on matters related to estate, housing and housing projects and work being carried out and future tasks for development of Yangon City.

After that, Chairman of High-rise Buildings Construction Project Inspection Group Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Ngwe reported on matters related to providing designs and advice in construction of high-rise buildings for durability.

Next, Director-General of DHSHD U Ant Kyaw reported on upgrading of the main roads in Yangon City and roads in Dagon Myothit, Shwegyin,  Hlaingtharyar, Mingaladon and North Okkalapa Townships, construction of new roads and bridges and extension of roads in Kyauktalon Industrial Zone.

This was followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.— MNA

Transport Minister inspects maintenance of waterways

YANGON, 22 Nov — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspected maintenance of the Setkot waterway. Director-General of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of Rivers Systems reported on measures being taken to the minister.

Next, the Deputy Minister inspected on measures to be taken for extension of original waterway up to 1500 feet.

Next, the minister and party inspected maintenance of banks and waterways.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspected the control tower, spillway and storage capacity of Ngamoeyek Dam in Hlegu Township this morning. He also inspected the herbal plantations being undertaken by the ministry near the dam.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the project site for construction of Paunglin (Ngamoeyek Supporting Dam) and looked into the flooring of the creek.

Officials reported on construction of the conduit of the main embankment and arrangements for construction of a control tower and a spillway. The minister gave instructions on collective efforts for holding the show and fulfilled the requirements, and inspected the spare parts.

He next inspected the main workshop of the MWVO.

Minister inspects Thakayta Industrial Zone

YANGON, 22 Nov — Member of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee in charge of Thakayta Industrial Zone Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone inspected Thakayta Township this morning. Officials reported on the work done, arrangements for Auto Parts Buyer’s Show to be organized by the committee, and progress in construction of the roads in the zone.

The minister gave instructions on collective efforts for holding the show and fulfilled the requirements, and inspected the spare parts.

Next, he inspected the main workshop of the MWVO.

Paunglin (Ngamoeyek Supporting Dam) Construction Project inspected

YANGON, 22 Nov — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspected the control tower, spillway and storage capacity of Ngamoeyek Dam in
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Myanmar ICT Development Corporation opened the MICT Park (Yangon) on 21 January 2002 with the aim of creating an ICT hub of the country to establish Myanmar as a software developer and exporter. The photo shows the Cyber Cafe at MICT Park in Hlme Township, Yangon.—Photo: Ko Ko Soe Nyunt

The government is trying its best for turning out human resources with high qualification. The photo shows the Government Computer College (Panglong) in Loilem, Shan State. —Photo: MNA

An MICT park of international standard has emerged in Mandalay, the capital of the upper Myanmar, on 16 August 2003. It can be considered as a significant achievement that has resulted from the efforts to build information and communication infrastructures of international standard.—Photo:MNA
China to become the world’s second largest oil importer next year

BEIJING, 22 Nov—China’s consumption of crude oil has seen rapid growth in recent years, and China will surpass Japan to become the second largest crude oil importing country in the coming year, said Wang Jiming, president of China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (CPCC).

Wang made the remarks at an international summit on mergers and acquisitions in Beijing. He also predicted that the total import volume of China’s crude oil this year will be over 80 million tons.

When asked to comment on CPCC’s risk management on the potential energy crisis, Wang said CPCC could secure the oil and gas supply by enlarging importation while actively seeking high-quality overseas resources.

Wang stressed that the Chinese oil giant would promote an integrated approach to secure the oil and gas supply.

“We will not put all our money in one basket,” Wang said, adding that the corporation would conduct oil purchases in north Africa and Southeast Asia besides the traditional Middle East region.

Wang said CPCC would boost cooperation with overseas partners by participating in the shareholding companies and providing technical services.

CPCC would also use trade advantages to promote cooperation with overseas oil companies on resource exploitation, Wang said, revealing that the corporation imports 60 to 70 million tons of crude oil per year.

CPCC is one of the biggest Chinese oil enterprises and is listed on the stock markets of Hong Kong, New York, London and Shanghai.—MNA/Xinhua

China Int’l Travel Mart opens in Kunming

KUNMING, 22 Nov—The China International Travel Mart 2003 (CITM) opened Kunming Thursday, aiming at promoting exchanges and cooperation between China’s tourism industry and overseas counterparts.

China’s Vice-Premier Wu Yi said at the opening ceremony that as a vital industry with huge potential, tourism plays an active role in promoting economic growth, social prosperity, maintaining world peace and development and promoting mutual understanding and friendship among different peoples.

She said tourism has become a new industry with high potential and well as a growth point in the national economy. In some areas, it even became the pillar industry of local economy.

Tourism has played a more and more important role in helping stimulate domestic demand, increase foreign currency income, improve industrial structure and alleviate poverty, Wu said, noting that tourism has also enhanced the friendly exchanges between China and the world.

She said that in the promising 21st Century, China will adopt a more open approach in enhancing the ties with the world, and the world will pay more attention to China with more expectant eyes.

CITM is an important window for China to demonstrate the new appearance of its tourism industry and also provides an excellent chance for the world to promote their tourism products.

It is expected to help promote the development of China’s inbound tourism, publicize China’s image to the world, as well as expand industrial exchanges and cooperation, according to organizers of the event.

The four-day CITM covering an area of 30,000 square metres with 1454 booths, has attracted nearly 200 enterprises from 49 nations and areas.—MNA/Xinhua

China to promote Internet standardization

BEIJING, 22 Nov—Chinese telecommunication operators and research institutes jointly launched an expertise team in Beijing Thursday, with a view to creating better order in the telecommunications industry and guarantee smooth operation of networks employing different technical standards.

Sources with the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) said Gong Shuangang, the minister of the MII, will chair the team to carry out research on technical standards of exchange and communication between different networks. They will also conduct standards plans and protocols on standards, and organize discussions and publicity.

Lu Yang, an MII official in charge of telecommunication, said Internet standardization was an important means to supervise the information industry. Currently, China is taking concrete measures to solve problems arising from different technical standards, such as regulating account settlement between different networks and monitoring the quality of exchange. Lu said research and launching telecommunication standardization should be far-sighted and the interests of customers and operators should also be taken into account.—MNA/Xinhua

Int’l forum on juvenile issues opens in Shanghai

SUZhou, 22 Nov—The fourth “For Children” international forum, featuring a theme of “children’s development and social responsibility”, opened in Shanghai on Thursday, with the attendance of specialists on juvenile issues from a dozen countries and regions. The opening of the forum coincided with the World Children’s Day.

During the three-day forum, participants will discuss subjects such as the responsibilities society should bear in the process of children’s development, creation of a safe social environment, offering of a quality education, implementation of a treaty on children’s rights and concern for special children groups, organizers said. The forum is jointly sponsored by the Shanghai Municipal Women’s Federation, the Shanghai Municipal Academy of Social Sciences and the Modern Family magazine.—MNA/Xinhua

16th Asia Int’l Stamp Exhibition

Mianyang (Sichuan), 22 Nov—An international stamp exhibition which displays elaborate stamps from 24 Asian countries and regions opened in Mianyang, in southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

The five-day China-Mianyang 2003 Asia International Stamp Exhibition has attracted more than 3,000 visitors who will enjoy 1,500 cases of valuable and unique Chinese and foreign stamps.

China put forward 567 cases of stamps and 78 documents on stamps. Other activities such as an international philatelic symposium, and an auction of elaborate stamps and philately will be staged during the exhibition period.

Wu Jichuan, chairman of the organizing committee, said the exhibition was designed to boost cultural and artistic exchanges between the members of the Inter-Asia Philatelic Federation, enhance the friendship between China and other countries and promote the development of philately. The exhibition was also held to mark the 125th anniversary of China’s first stamp—“Dalong” (Big Dragon).—MNA/Xinhua

Beijing Customs seize smuggled ivory

Beijing, 22 Nov—Beijing Customs announced here that they have seized six ivory tusks and another 387 ivory-based products since the beginning of this year.

A spokesman for Beijing Customs said that the contraband were found in six cases involving endangered species when they carried out routine checks on air passengers.

The Customs officers dealt with three such cases in November alone. In the most recent case, on November 18, a Liberian passenger was found carrying four elephant tusks in his luggage by the Customs officers. The four tusks were then confiscated.—MNA/Xinhua

Thailand Exhibition 2003


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Electricity line linking China, Thailand under construction

HANGZHOU, 22 Nov — China and Thailand have started to build a direct current line of 500 kilovolts linking Jinghong in southwest China’s Yunnan Province and Bangkok, according to a meeting on the Mekong sub-region power grids connection held here.

The 1,070-kilometre electricity line is expected to transmit 300 kilowatts of electricity from 2011 to 2014. The meeting, attended by China, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, was sponsored by the Asia Development Bank and China’s Southern Power Grid Co Ltd, one of China’s two power grid companies, which manages the southern Guangdong, Guangzhou, Hainan and Yunnan provinces and Guizhou Zunyi Autonomous Region.

Chinese Premier meets Swiss President

BEIJING, 22 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here Friday with visiting Swiss President Pascal Couchepin.

Since the establishment of bilateral relations some 50 years ago, Wen said, China and Switzerland had developed a stable relationship. China regarded Switzerland as an important partner in Central Europe.

China respects Switzerland’s neutral policy and is willing to play an active role, together with Switzerland, in safeguarding world peace and stability, Wen said.

From January to September 2003, Wen said, the bilateral trade volume had increased by 34 per cent on a year-by-year basis.

With a highly developed economy, advanced technologies and sufficient funds, Switzerland is very strong in finance, social security and environmental protection, Wen said.

Wen said he hoped the two sides could further enhance their trade cooperation.

Couchepin said that his country had highly valued the achievements made by the Chinese people in developing its economy.

China’s opening-up to the outside world had benefited world peace and stability, he said.

He also said that after its entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), China has strictly abided by WTO rules and fulfilled its obligations in protecting intellectual property and reducing trade tariffs.

He said Switzerland would be more active in cooperating with China in political, trade and scientific and technological fields.

Construction of Bangkok’s satellite city to start in 2004

BANGKOK, 22 Nov — Construction of Bangkok’s satellite city should begin next year on a 240-square kilometre land straddling three districts of Nakhon Nayok Province, 110 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, the Bangkok Post reported.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra revealed that the new city, tentatively called Muang Mai Nakhon Nayok (New Nakhon Nayok), could cost less than 2.5 trillion baht (US$69.26 billion).

He was quoted as saying that the new city, to be modelled on Japan’s Tama District, will be a modern city and provide good living, a clean environment, good health and good services to the residents.

There would have schools, hospitals and first-class hotels, but not too many government offices, and no industrial factories would be allowed, Thaksin said, adding that an electric train system and a highway could be built to link the city with Bangkok.

According to government spokesman Sita Divari, construction work would take six to eight years to complete. Land would be acquired through direct purchase, or by issuing to landowners government bonds commensurate with the real value of the plots, or by allowing landowners to exchange their plots with properties outside the area, he said, adding that construction of roads and infrastructural projects would be funded by the state.

India to undertake lunar mission in 4 years

NEW DELHI, 22 Nov — India will have its own pay- load going around the moon in another four years to study the lunar surface, which would throw light on the origin of the universe, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman G Madhavan Nair said.

“India will also help create a scientific temperament in students. Now it is for the space community to work and perform,” Nair said while inaugurating the 40th anniversary of launching of “Amaze” satellites from the Thumba Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala state of southern India.

Solar hurricane hits Earth in repeat of October storm

HELSEIKI, 22 Nov — Magnetic solar hurricanes those that wreaked havoc last month have hit Earth again, confusing satellites and causing aurora borealis displays as south as Florida, Finnish meteorologists said on Friday.

“The storm has already begun, and last night it grew incredibly strong,” said Heikki Nevanlinna, research manager at the Finnish Meteorological Institute told Reuters.

“There have been solar flares from the sun, and an estimate is that this weekend will see a lot of atmospheric disturbance,” he said.

Magnetic solar storms, caused by a burst of charged particles from the sun hitting the Earth’s magnetic field, caused technical glitches around the world at the end of October in some of the most intense storms ever detected.

The current storm stems from the same giant sunspots that caused last month’s solar flares, but is clearly weaker than the October storm, Nevanlinna said.

Nevertheless, Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) receivers have already experienced disturbances, as they have mobile phone networks, Nevanlinna said.

“(GPS) receivers may give bad coordinates or it may take them a long time to get data. This demonstrates that the intermediate substance in which the signals are travelling is in a very disturbed state,” he said.

Solar storms can interfere with satellite paths, causing them to fly off course.

They can also damage electricity grids, and last month a blackout that affected 50,000 people in Sweden was suspected to have been caused by these storms.

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US outplay Belgium 3-1 to reach Fed Cup final

MOSCOW, 22 Nov.—Lisa Raymond Thursday beat Belgium’s Elke Clijsters 6-2, 6-1, to lead the United States into the Fed Cup final.

With a 3-1 win over Belgium, the United States will next face the winners of the second semifinal between hosts Russia and France, who were level at 1-1 after the first day.

Belgium are missing their top two players, world numbers one and number two Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters.

Clijsters’ younger sister Elke, a late replacement for 17-year-old Kirsten Flipkens, could do nothing to in-form Raymond.

Raymond, who had little trouble on her own serve, broke 18-year-old Clijsters twice in each set before finishing the match in just 47 minutes.

Earlier, Callens rebounded with a solid effort against Shaughnessy, and number two Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters.

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15:30 Gold Honey, Honey Gold
15:40 Headlines News
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes
(Head of River Catfish and Indian Leek Soup)
15:45 National News
15:50 Aungpan Oranges
15:55 Saging Hill
16:00 National News
16:05 Nipa Palm Forest
16:10 Song “You can take me but not my love”
16:15 National News
16:20 Maui Gold Honey & Nuamgila Honey
16:25 Song of Myanmar Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment”
16:30 National News
16:35 Travel & Description (Yangon to Tharlang-
Kyaung Tan)
16:40 Maui Gold Honey & Nuamgila Honey
16:45 National News
16:50 Native home of the Kha
16:55 Watmyan Dance
16:57 Unique Style of Kachin Dress
17:00 National News
17:05 The Gold and Silver Smith of Inlay
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song “The Golden Honey Mandala”
17:15 National News
17:20 Myanmar Paintings of Successive Periods
17:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
17:30 Grand Programme
17:35 Burmese Traditional Songs
17:40 International news
17:45 National News
17:50 Myanmar Movies Impact “Lark’s Gift”
18:00 National News
18:05 Women with Remarkable
Nails
18:10 Song “Let go of me”
18:15 National News
18:20 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
18:25 Song “Our Cherryland”
18:30 National News
18:35 Travel & Description (Yangon to Tharlang-
Kyaung Tan)
18:40 Maui Gold Honey & Nuamgila Honey
18:45 National News
18:50 Native home of the Kha
18:55 Watmyan Dance
19:00 National News
19:05 Myanmar Modern Song “The Golden Honey Mandala”
19:10 National News
19:15 Headlines News
19:20 Maui Gold Honey & Nuamgila Honey
19:25 National News
19:30 Signature Tune
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment”
19:36 ASEAN Food Festival
19:40 Headlines News
19:42 Maui Gold Honey & Nuamgila Honey
19:45 National News
19:50 Naga Traditional Cultural
19:55 Sound of the horn attracting Love
20:00 National News
20:05 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina
(Kachin-Snack)
20:10 Song “Magnificent Milan & Barka Bridge”
20:15 National News
20:20 Telefood Project in Aungpan
20:25 Song “Sampuramb”
20:30 National News
20:35 Three Dimensional Gem Studded Paint-
ing
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine “Potato Pudding”
20:45 National News
20:50 Myanmar Movies Impact “Lark’s Gift”
21:00 National News
21:05 Women with Remarkable
Nails
21:10 Song “Let go of me”
Carrying out efforts for …

Member of Panel of Patrons of the USDA Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said the USDA was formed with five objectives of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty, promotion and safeguarding of national pride and emergence of a prosperous, peaceful modern nation and the association has now turned ten years. It has become a tradition to hold annual general meetings every year.

He said based on new generation youth who will be discharging national duties for emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation the association was established with five noble and correct objectives, five fundamental principles, four oaths, ten codes of conduct and 14 duties and responsibilities. Therefore, he said, members of the association should be ones who love and cherish the nation and its people and preserve and safeguard national prestige and integrity.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with national race leaders of Special Region-3

YANGON, 22 Nov—Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders U Hsu Htin and U Lwe Moung of Special Region 3, Shan State (North), at Zeyathiri Beikman, Kommyintha at 5 pm today. Present at the meeting were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Forest Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of USDA.

He said the membership of the association safeguarding the nation has increased. Efforts are being made for enhancement of qualification of its members, he said. Courses and workshops nurtured the members enhancing their thoughts and competence. The USDA members are assigned duties in practical and organizational fields in order to apply the knowledge and thoughts gained at the courses and workshops as work guidelines, he added.

Nurturing the members of the association based on new generation youths leads to uplift of national prestige and integrity and this int muj needs to be implemented on the objective of keeping patriotism alive and dynamic. Every citizen must have ability to defend the nation and uphold dignity of the nation and its people can be created, he said.

He said at present, some nations of the world were disintegrated in no time and their people are facing a lot of hardships. Unity and preservation of the Union of Myanmar are the most important factors. Only the union spirit that constituted national races to live together in the country can create non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty and emergence of a modern union.

Patron of USDA Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, “Union spirit is the spirit of national people to accept themselves as the Myanmar regardless of their native place and race.” Lack of unity will lead the nation to falling into the trap of the neocolonialists. The national brotherens are always in unity in times of emergency, and courageously ward off all dangers of the nation. He said after consolidating national solidarity, the government is making efforts for regional development. Basic economic foundations and raising of living standard. This means that the government is building basic foundations needed for democracy. National development is only for the people. Construction of dams and reservoirs, efforts for development of agriculture and improving the life of farmer's food are sufficiency programmes for posterity, he said.

Supply of clean water, construction of roads and bridges and promotion of education and health care service are for rural development and improvement of the life of rural people many of whom are poor. Establishment of industrial zones, factories and workshops is meant for possessing basic foundations of modern industrialized nation and creating job opportunities, he added In carrying out rural development tasks, USDA at different levels will have to win the loving-kindness of the people by organizing them and engaging in their welfare.

He said the members of the association have to carry out rural development tasks and organizational matters at the same time. He said efforts of the association are meant for prosperity of the people and regional development. It is necessary for USDA members to organize the local people patiently to make them accept and support the tasks of the association through participation in practical work, he said.

For emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation, the national goal, he said the USDA implemented the tasks for stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and prevalence law and order, national reconsolidation which include in four political objectives, four developmental objectives, four social objectives, and four cultural objectives. Therefore basic economic and social foundations have now been built, he added.

Grasping the nation’s development the USDA members are to actively work under the leadership of the government.

Despite difficulties and local and foreign hindrances the people had worked hard with patriotism. Therefore they can now enjoy fruitful results.

He said the tasks for emergence of a new enduring constitution and building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State constitution, the remaining two points of the four political objectives must be implemented.

(See page 8)

Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders U Hsu Htin, U Lwe Moung and party of Shan State (North) Special Region 3. — MNA

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 development 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

Four modern developed nations were discussed. — MNA

Seminar on cooperation sector of successful implementation of seven-point future policy programme of the State of discussion group-6 in progress at the first day session of USDA Annual General Meeting 2003. — MNA

Sunday, 23 November, 2003

15th Waning of Tazaungmon, 1365 ME Sunday, 23 November, 2003