Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, deputy ministers, senior military officers, departmental heads, departmental officials, social organizations and town elders.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech on the occasion. He said that they were there to find out regional development to and efforts for ensuring self-sufficiency in rice and to fulfil the requirements.

It is encouraging to witness the development of Kengtung. However, the region still lags behind in development when compared with that of neighbouring nations and it is therefore required to make efforts more and more to keep pace with them.

In the past, the region lagged behind in development in the absence of peace and stability. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, project for development of border areas and national races, the 24 development zone project and the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented. As a result, unprecedented progress has been made across the nation including border areas.

With the regional development, efforts are to be made for further development of administrative, economic, health and education sectors. In the process, service personnel of the respective regions play a pivotal role. Accordingly, they are to work hard to be qualified and dutiful in implementing the State policies and national objectives. It is incumbent upon the service personnel to take part in the drive for successful realization of the seven-point future policy programme of the State for ensuring the emergence of a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation by doing their bit. Afterwards, the Secretary-2 cordially greeted those present.

The Secretary-2 and party left Kengtung for Heho by air. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials.

Present were Chairman of Agricultural Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint arrived at Heho farm and hybrid plantations. The Secretary-2 cordially greeted local farmers and inspected paddy plantations. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and officials reported on Shweyinaye paddy suitable for the region and plantations of other kinds of paddy.

The Secretary-2 inspected experimental plantation with the use of fertilizer where he was briefed by Assistant Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service Daw Thuza Myint. He gave instructions on establishment of various kinds of paddy plantations and keeping records on plantations. The Secretary-2 and party arrived at agriculture and livestock breeding farm in Heho. Brig-Gen Thet Oo of regional station reported on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. The Secretary-2 then gave instructions.

The Secretary-2 and party inspected livestock farms where Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials reported on the farms.

They went to Heho Central Farm and inspected wheat and paddy plantations. The commander, the deputy minister and officials reported on works.

The Secretary-2 gave instructions on availability of water and efforts for cultivation of high quality paddy suitable for the region. Altogether 514304 acres of paddy have been cultivated in monsoon in 2004-2005. The Secretary-2 and party arrived back here later in the evening.
Traditional Cultural Performing Arts...

(from page 16) contest and four contestants in the basic education level (aged 5-10) oboe contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Mya Gyi and party supervised the contest.

Tomorrow morning, the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ Saing contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ saxophone contest will be held.

At Kanbawza Theatre, five men took part in the professional level guitar contest, two boys in the basic education level boys’ guitar contest, four contestants in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ guitar contest, two girls in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ guitar, four boys in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ guitar contest and two girls in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ guitar contest.

The basic education level girls’ xylophone contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ xylophone contest will be held tomorrow.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung watches performance of Maung Min Phone Pyae of Kayin State in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boy’s classical song contest. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presents a computer and accessories for BEHSs in Hinthada Township to an official. — MNA

Secretariat member attends USDA meeting

YANGON, 18 Oct — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut attended the annual meeting of Hinthada District USDA held in Hinthada Township yesterday and delivered an address.

The headmasters from the four BEHSs of the township and secretary of district USDA accepted computers and related accessories worth K 15.3 million donated by wellwishers.

The minister and officials presented prizes to the outstanding persons in education and sports.

Later, secretary of district USDA gave away books and journals to officials of the townships.

The minister, In-charge of the Hinthada Industrial Zone, met with supervisory committees of the Industrial Zone and entrepreneurs, gave necessary instructions and attended to their needs.

MNA

Han Golf Masters new generation golf on 27 Oct

YANGON, 18 Oct — Myanmar Golf Federation will sponsor the Han Golf Masters new generation golf tournament comprising five different age-wise divisions at Yangon Golf Club at 9th-mile here on 27 October.

The tournament will include 8-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-17 events for boys and 18 and under event for girls.

Young golfers may contact HGM (Pro-shop) at YCDC (Ph 641341), MGC (Ph 661702) and Han Event Management Office at 15/A, Kanbawza Street, Bahan Township, (Ph 542989, 706788 and 723221) at 2 pm on 26 October the latest. — MNA
Central China medical school marks 90th anniversary

CHANGSHA, 18 Oct—A medical school founded in central China’s Hunan Province in 1914 with the participation of the United States’ Yale Association commemorated its 90th founding anniversary on Saturday.

Nearly 10,000 alumni of Xiangya School of Medical Science gathered to celebrate the occasion in Changsha, the provincial capital of Hunan in central-south China.

The local government of Hunan and the Yale Association signed a contract to set up a medical school in Changsha on July 21, 1914. But the preparatory work by Edward H. Hume, a noted American doctor, and Dr. Yan Fuqing, a Chinese educated in Yale University, began in 1910.

Xiangya means Hunan (xiang) and Yale (ya).

Hu Dongxu, the school’s secretary said at the celebration that Xiangya has made great contributions to the development of the country’s medical science over the past 90 years.

Xiangya once enjoyed being a leading medical school in China.

The celebration was also attended by former and present leaders of Hunan Province and the city of Changsha.

Chinese scientist wins first prize from FAO

KONING, 18 Oct—Professor Zhu Youyong, president of Yunnan Agriculture University in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, has won the first prize in the Global Scientific Contest of the International Year of Rice 2004.

Zhu was given the prize by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

FAO held that Zhu’s essay “Genetic Diversity and Disease Control in Rice” will contribute greatly to rice production in China and in the world, adding that his findings are of high scientific value. 

More than 800 scientists around the world participated in the contest.

In 2002, the United Nations Assembly named the Year 2004 the International Year of Rice, as sponsored by the International Rice Research Institute and FAO.

Indian anti-cholesterol herb interferes with drugs

NEW DELHI, 18 Oct—A traditional Indian herb, long believed to lower cholesterol levels, may interfere with nearly 60 per cent of prescription drugs, including the popular anti-cholesterol drugs Statins, according to recent research.

In a preliminary study, researchers at the University of Kansas, US, found that guggulsterone, the active ingredient in the herbal remedy gugulipid, caused changes in the cells that induce the body to break down many drugs, including cancer and AIDS medications.

The study was published in The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

To investigate whether it was safe to take guggulsterone with prescription medicines, scientists led by Dr. Jeff Staudinger examined the effects of guggulsterone on liver cells.

Staudinger suggested that guggulsterone interacts with drugs by binding to a protein called pregnane X receptor (PXR).

This then induces the body to “turn on” a gene that encodes another protein that breaks down many different types of drugs, thereby reducing their levels in the body.

Moreover, guggulsterone appears to also turn some other drugs, such as acetaminophen, into toxic compounds.

However, Staudinger noted that guggulsterone has been used for years, and is probably safe for those not taking prescription medications. The herbal remedy was discovered by scientists at the Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow.

Need to exploit trade potential between India and Vietnam

HANOI, 18 Oct—Veteran Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap on Sunday said there was a need to exploit the immense potential in trade between India and Vietnam as successfully as the two had achieved in the political arena.

“Our political relations are excellent and will continue because of the firm foundation. But there is need to exploit our potential in the field of trade just like we have achieved in the political field,” the 93-year-old General told External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh, who called on him.

“I want to see our countries cooperate in economy and culture,” Ho said.

The General said political relations between India and Vietnam would continue to remain excellent because of the solid foundation provided by India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Vietnamese Liberation leader Ho Chi Minh.

During the 40-minute meeting, the General quoted Ho Chi Minh as having said that a human being is the most important element on earth and India was a country which gave value to this aspect.

The general, dressed smartly in his military fatigues, recalled his numerous visits to India where he had gone to many scientific and industrial institutions and thanked India for extending scholarships to Vietnamese students.

India annually sponsors 200-300 students to study in India.

Vo also conveyed his greetings to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

Later, Natwar Singh, at a dinner hosted in his honour by Indian envoy to Hanoi N. Ravi, said he did not see any differences between India and Vietnam in the next 100 years.

Singh said “I am a great devotee of Nehru and a great admirer of Ho Chi Minh.”

The minister, who is here for the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting between Jawaharlal Nehru and Ho Chi Minh, said the late Vietnamese president was remembered in India as a noble leader.

“People like Nehru and Ho Chi Minh are not born every day. We had great men like Nehru and Gandhi who laid the foundation of our secular democracy.”

The Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, who also attended the dinner, said there was no difference between Vietnam and India.

“We are one family and I hope the cooperation between the two nations will develop further.” — MNA/PDI
China to promote farming export

GUANGZHOU, 17 Oct — The expansion of farming products export will be a major target in China's foreign trade development in the future, said Vice-Minister of Commerce Yu Guangzhou Friday in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

The country will strive to boost its annual export of farming products to at least 30 billion US dollars in next four or five years, Yu said he expects the figure to reach or exceed 40 billion US dollars in 2013.

Yu acknowledged that the immediate situation for the country's agricultural export is not optimistic.

In the first eight months of 2004, the country saw exports of 14.02 billion US dollars in its farming sector. Though the figure rose 9.3 per cent from the previous year, it was 26.4 percentage points lower than the country's average export growth in the period.

The outbreak of bird flu earlier this year was partly blamed for the slow growth of agricultural export, Yu said.

Nepal celebrates Mt Cho-Oyu Golden Jubilee

KATHMANDU, 17 Oct — The Nepali Government has started a five-day expedition programme from Saturday to mark the first human ascent of Mount Cho-Oyu, the sixth highest peak in the world.

The government has also adopted a policy to celebrate Golden Jubilee Anniversary of ascent on the Himalayan peaks above 8,000 metres.

An expedition team of three Austrians with seven Sherpas first stepped on Mt Cho-Oyu (8,201 metres) on Octuber 19, 1954.

To mark 50 years of one of the greatest days in Nepali mountaineering history, distinguished guests including the only living member of the first expedition to Mt Cho-Oyu, Heuberge Helmut and legendary mountain-climber Reinhold Messner, who is also the first to scale 14 peaks above 8,000 metres and scaled the Mt Cho-Oyu in 1983, are here to attend the 50 anniversery programme.

Sino universities team up for cardiovascular diseases study

URUMQI, 17 Oct — Xinjiang Medical Science University and the United States' Harvard University have established a research centre for long-term cooperation in cardiovascular diseases studies.

The centre was inaugurated Wednesday in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygar Autonomous Region, by Xinjiang University and Harvard's international medical centre.

Health experts say Xinjiang reports a high incidence of cardiovascular diseases, very likely a result of its unique geographic environment and the locals' high-calorie, meat-based diet.

The two universities plan to co-sponsor more research and treatment facilities in the coming years as part of the Xinjiang cardiovascular diseases hospital for the Central Asia region and a tumour research centre.

Survey shows Chinese toy market promising

SHANGHAI, 17 Oct — With 286 million adolescents over 14, China claims a promising toy market, an industry survey shows.

Currently, the per capita annual toy consumption of this age group in China is 20 to 30 yuan (2.4 to 3.6 US dollars), a survey by the China Toy Association and the China Society Survey Office showed.

The figure is much lower than the average consumption level of adolescents in Asia and the world, which is 13 US dollars and 34 US dollars respectively.

Shi Xiangguan, chairman of the China Toy Association, said Saturday at a forum on the country's toy industry held in Shanghai that when Chinese young people's toy consumption can reach the average level of Asia, the country will see an annual market value of more than 30 billion US dollars.

"The potential of the Chinese toy market will show itself with the economic growth of the country and the increase in people's incomes," Shi said.

The survey shows that Chinese consumers care most about toys' design and performance. Price and brand also influence their choice.

Shi said that the Chinese toy market is attracting more attention from overseas producers. In the past two years, China saw an annual toy import increase of 30 per cent and the import last year was 292 million US dollars.

Chinese toy producers have not paid due attention to the domestic market, Shi said.

Professor Gu Guojian, a researcher of chain business operations based in Shanghai, said that it is high time for Chinese toy producers to shift their focus from overseas market to home market.

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