**Scientist Stephen Hawking decries Iraq war**

**London, 2 Nov—**Britain’s most famous scientist, Stephen Hawking, condemned the US-led invasion of Iraq as a “war crime” and said Tuesday it was based on lies.

The physicist spoke at an anti-war demonstration in London’s Trafalgar Square timed to coincide with the US election. Protesters read out the names of thousands of Iraqis and coalition troops killed since the March 2003 invasion.

“The war was based on two lies,” said Hawking. “The first was we were in danger of weapons of mass destruction and the second was that Iraq was somehow to blame for September 11.

“It has been a tragedy for all the families that have lost members. As many as 100,000 people have died, half of them women and children. If that is not a war crime, what is?”

Hawking, the best-selling author of “A Brief History Of Time,” was joined by other public figures. Similar events were being held in Spain, Italy, Australia, the United States and Iraq.

“Our message to the US is that the war is illegal and unnecessary, and we want our troops to come home,” said Andrew Burgin, a spokesman for demonstration organizer Stop the War Coalition. “We also want to highlight the enormous number of Iraqis killed in this conflict who are so often ignored.”

In Trafalgar Square, hundreds of spectators holding candles or placards opposing President Bush listened as speakers read the names of the dead while their images were projected onto a large screen.

One group of students from London’s Imperial College waved anti-Bush signs, hoping to send a message to US voters.

“If enough people show up tonight at the demonstration, I think a few more voters might notice what we’re saying,” said Emma Thomson, a student from Scotland who said she was able to cast a vote in Pennsylvania because she was born there. — Internet

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**Iraqi cameraman killed in Ramadi**

BAGHDAD, 2 Nov — An Iraqi television cameraman working for Reuters was killed on Monday during heavy fighting between US forces and guerrillas in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, police and witnesses said.

Dhiaa Najem was shot in the head and the back as he was filming the fierce fighting in a street near his house, the police said. Najem in his 40s was a freelance cameraman, who leaves his wife and three daughters and a son, local residents said.

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**India’s telephone density reaches 8%**

**New Delhi, 3 Nov —** India’s telephone density reached 8 per cent in September as against 7 per cent in March and 6 per cent a year ago, the Indo-Asian News Service reported Monday.

Over 10 million phones were added to the network, taking the subscriber base to 86.8 million, the news service quoted official data as saying, adding more than 90 per cent of the new connections were accounted for by mobile phones during the year.

The number of mobile phones — including wireless in local loop or fixed mobile connections — as on 30 September was estimated at 42.98 million, just marginally short of the fixed-line base of 43.8 million.

The private sector plays a major role in improving the telecom density, accounting for over 75 per cent of the expansion, the report said.

In mobile telephony, the private sector accounts for 80 per cent of the country’s total. While the private sector has an installed base of 34.45 million mobile phones, the state accounts for 8.53 million. — MNA/Xinhua

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**China-ASEAN Expo opens for further cooperation**

NANNING, 3 Nov — The four-day China-ASEAN Expo opened here on Wednesday in Nanning, capital city of southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, attracting more than 1,500 companies from China, ASEAN member nations and other countries, including 19 companies from world’s top 500.

More than 250 categories of products from 11 industries were presented at the exhibition, including machinery, household electric appliances, electronic and IT products, automobile and spare parts, hardware and construction materials, pharmaceutical and chemical products, and textile and light industrial products.

About 30 per cent of the 2,506 exhibition stalls are set up by companies from outside China. On the sidelines of the exhibition, Chinese and ASEAN businessmen, scholars and officials will also attend the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

ASEAN countries are close neighbours to China. In recent years, the two sides have achieved smooth development of political ties and made big progress in bilateral trade, two-way investment, project contracting and labour service.

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**Japan to tighten security at its military camp in Iraq**

**Tokyo, 3 Nov —** Japan is to tighten security at its military camp in Iraq after a rocket shell landed inside the facility, the latest sign of a worsening security situation that is fuelling demands in Japan that the troops be pulled out.

A shell landed inside the Japanese camp in Samawa, 170 miles south of Baghdad, late on Sunday, piercing a metal container and prompting troops to evacuate to bunkers for safety, Japanese officials said. No one was hurt and it was unclear who was responsible.

“We must further tighten security,” Japan’s top government spokesman Hiroyuki Hosoda told a news conference on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, a close ally of US President George W Bush, has sent about 550 troops on a reconstruction mission to Samawa — their riskiest deployment since World War II — despite opposition from most voters.

The soldiers’ activities have been restricted by deteriorating security and some critics say the mission violates Japan’s pacifist Constitution.

Under a law allowing Japanese troops to be sent to Iraq, the soldiers can operate only in a “non-combat zone”, a concept critics have said from the start is meaningless in Iraq.

The main opposition Democratic Party, which opposes the mission in Iraq, has stepped up its calls for the deployment to end next month.

Democratic legislator Yukihisa Fujita grilled Koizumi and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura in Parliament on Tuesday on their handling of the hostage crisis and their refusal to pull out the troops.

He said the area where Japanese troops are stationed has fallen into the category of a “combat zone”.

“If enough people show up tonight at the demonstration, I think a few more voters might notice what we’re saying,” said Emma Thomson, a student from Scotland who said she was able to cast a vote in Pennsylvania because she was born there. — Internet

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**World Engineers Convention opens in Shanghai**

SHANGHAI, 3 Nov — More than 3,000 engineers from 58 countries and regions across the world gathered here for the 2004 World Engineers’ Convention, which opens on Wednesday in the Shanghai International Convention Centre.

Noted engineers will discuss frontier issues on engineering and related social issues with other participants during the three-day meeting under the theme of “Engineers shape the sustainable future.”

The organizers will arrange plenary lectures, parallel sessions on seven engineering subjects, exhibitions, forums and a closing gala named Engineers’ Evening during the meeting.

Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech, and Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan sent a letter of congratulations. — MNA/Xinhua

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**US Army soldiers survey a damaged car at the scene of a car bomb explosion outside a ministry in the capital Baghdad, on 2 Nov, 2004. — Internet**

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**A little girl holds her teddy bear as she wipes away her tears standing next to her mother at the gate of their home, metres away from a car bomb in the centre of Baghdad on 3 Nov, 2004. — Internet**
Indians warned against travelling to Iraq

**NEW DELHI, 2 NOV** — The Indian Government has again warned its nationals against travelling to Iraq, saying those who violate the travel advisory will be doing so at their own risk, the *Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)* reported Monday.

Indian nationals in Kuwait and other neighbouring countries of Iraq have been advised through the Indian missions not to travel to the war-torn nation because of the security situation there, quoted an official as saying.

"In fact, we have reiterated our advisory to all Indian nationals in Iraq to leave the country because of the risks being kidnapped and executed," the source said.

The source was commenting on the Kuwaiti Government's decision in late October to lift the ban on foreign workers travelling to Iraq for employment.

The government apparently does not want to find itself in a situation like the one following the kidnapping of three Indian truck drivers in Iraq in July. The three were finally released by their abductors after more than a month in captivity and protracted negotiations.

Uruguay to keep water, sanitation services under state control

**MONTEVIDEO, 2 NOV** — Uruguayans voted approved in a Sunday referendum a constitutional reform that will keep the supply of water and sanitation services under state control, the Electoral Court reported Monday.

As of now, the Uruguayan Constitution prevents the exploitation of surface and underground water by private firms within the Uruguayan territory.

However, around 14 private firms are now supplying potable water and sanitation services in the country. Moreover, he noted, there are 241 food companies from the US, nearly doubled the number of the previous exposition. He said, it was a clear evidence of rejection by the international community to the four-decade blockade policies imposed by the US on Cuba.

The exhibition, which took a total area of 11,000 square metres, will offer a good business opportunity to all participants, he added. Spain as usual is the most represented country, while China, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Italy, Russia, Panama and France remarkably increased their presence this year, said the minister.

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Thursday, 4 November, 2004

Shell hits facility inside Japan GSDF camp in Iraq

**TOKYO, 2 NOV** — A shell hit and damaged a facility inside the camp housing Japan's Ground Self-Defense Forces (GSDF) troops in the southern Iraqi city of Samawah on Sunday night local time, forcing the troops to cancel their Monday activities outside the camp.

Japanese Government also said earlier a large explosion was heard around 10.30 pm local time (4.30 am (1930 GMT) Monday Japan Time near the camp of Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force troops.

The attack came just a day after the decapitated body of a Japanese hostage was found in Baghdad and is likely to fuel renewed concerns in Japan.

Troops evacuated into the GSDF's camp since Japan deployed ground troops in Iraq in January. Attacks have taken place in the camp's vicinity on six other occasions since April.

Only one shell was fired in Sunday's attack. In accordance to the SDF troops, there is no problem with the SDF troops or diplomats there. According to the Japan Cabinet Secretary Hironobu Hoshoda a Press conference in Tokyo.

"Steps need to be taken to enhance safety at the camp," he said. "Adding the government sees a need to analyze the local security situation because attacks on the Japanese camp appear to be increasing accordingly accurate."

A dud rocket landed inside the camp on 22 October, the first time a shell had reached inside the camp since Japan deployed ground troops in Iraq. According to the Japanese Defence Forces dispatched to Iraq for reconstruction work are required under Japanese law to operate in a "noncombat" zone.

Iraqis urged to call anonymous anti-guerrilla hot line

**BAGHDAD, IRAQ, 2 NOV** — In its latest effort to throttle the tenacious guerrilla plaguing Baghdad, the US Army has set up a telephone hotline where Iraqis can phone in anonymous tips.

In two interviews with Arabic TV networks on Monday, Brigadier-General Hammond assumed the role of a big city American police chief, squinting into the camera and beseeching Iraqis to phone in anything they know about planned attacks.

"When you see this terrible guerilla about to do something, pick up your phone and call me. I'll do something about it," said Hammond, deputy commander of the 1st Cavalry Division. "We can fight this war together. You can help me fight — in secret."

In a series of messages, Hammond lambasted the guerrillas for killing women and children. He said Iraqis could put the brakes on the guerillas.

"The choice is simple," Hammond continued. "You can choose the choice of the guerillas, which is death. Or you can choose the path of the interim government, which is life. "I understand that you're scared. I'd be scared too," Hammond said. "But someone in Baghdad sees the guerillas, knows the guerillas. Tell me what it is you know."

The division has received as many as 30 calls per day since setting up the line two weeks ago. Not all phone callers are helpful. One bold caller last week declared he was a terrorist out to get Americans. — MNA/AP
Artiste are to expose and ... (from page 1) safeguarded for centuries, are being restored and promoted by the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at present.

Thus, I honour the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for they are helping materialize the significant and profound national objective and essence successfully.

As in all the previous competitions, we all have seen again with pride and pleasure the national spirit and efforts of all the participants to highlight the aesthetic profession and essence of the performing arts of Myanmar.

The style of dialogues, dances and acts of the epic Ramayana are flourishing in Myanmar with its own style, is different from those of other Myanmar drama. It is genuine Myanmar performing arts, that is endowed fully with the appearance, nature and essence of Myanmar theatrical art.

Arrangements are under way to include gradually all the scenes in presenting the epic Ramayana, with a wide array of structure, at the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, to make the audience understand well the intentions of the performance, and the artistes are requested: to strive with their talent to ensure the perpetual existence and grandeur of the Union of Myanmar amid the international competition.

As the Mahosadha drama of the marionette contest depicts the unfathomable knowledge and wisdom of the emraro Buddha, it highlights Myanmars’ confidence in and respect for the correct knowledge and wisdom. Although Mahosadha has already been staged in both the drama and the marionette contests at the Performing Arts Competitions, only some parts of the play having a large array of sectors in its structure, can be presented yet.

It is found that the artistic talent of the contestants resulted in a vivid presentation of the attitude of Myanmar people toward righteousness and justice, a theme attribute of Mahosadha drama, as well as that of social ethics born of the teachings of Theravada Buddhism, to which judiciary phenomena take root.

Moreover, it is also found that the marionette competition could succeed in clearly exposing the royal courtesy of Myanmar people, systematic governance and administration of justice of ancient Myanmar kings, high level of diplomatic practices, and sublime and alien culture as well as various forms of influence and interference.

With this end in mind, the government is making constant efforts to expose and promote national heritage including the performing arts competitions. In this way, the government raises the dignity of Myanmar society with a long tradition of fine history and higher cultural level.

In other words, these measures will in fact pave the way for the emergence of a future nation consistent with the historical course of Myanmar culture, traditions, justice, ideology based on humanitarianism, righteousness, virtue and Myanmar social values and norms.

Thanks to concerted efforts and active participation of the entire people filled with nationalist sentiment, the Union of Myanmar is now on the right track to the realisation of intended society.

The State Peace and Development Council is implementing the Seven-point Political Road Map that can guarantee putting the motherland on the right track of nationalism.

This being the case, all the artistes are requested to expose and promote the heritage of Myanmar traditional and cultural performing arts, and to take line with the lofty aims of the performing arts competitions.

In conclusion, all the artistes are requested:

— to strive with their talent to ensure the perpetual existence and grandeur of the Union of Myanmar amid the international competition.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Huan presents first prize for basic education level boys’ (aged 5-10) song composing competition to Maung Phone Letyar of Yangon Division. — MNA

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Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung presents first prize for basic education level boys’ (aged 5-10) classical/modern song competition to Ma The Nu Aye of Kayin State. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Sein Htwa presents first prize for professional level women’s Dhamma song competition to Daw Yin Yin Tun of Yangon Division. — MNA

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Medals won by the States and Divisions at the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Division/State</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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<th>Remarks</th>
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Total: 194 Gold, 188 Silver, 167 Bronze, 20 Consonation Prize, 569 Total Medals

N.B. Medals for Outstanding performance in Acting and Singing are counted as golds.
Prize presentation ceremony …

(from page 16)

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented first prize for the professional level (women’s) Maha Gita song contest to Daw Thuza Aung of Yangon Division, second to Daw Wa Wa Shwe of Mandalay Division and third to Daw Tha Thar Than Nyein of Yangon Division; first prize for the amateur level (women’s) Maha Gita song contest to Daw Mu Mu Su of Yangon Division, second to Daw May Thet Shin of Mandalay Division and third to Daw Kyu Kyu Kyun Htair of Rakhine State. The first prize for basic education level (women’s, aged 15-20) Maha Gita song contest was presented to Daw Thu Moe of Yangon Division. The next ceremony was the prize presentation for the basic education level religious song contest. Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, Daw San Lwin and Daw Aye Hnin Khine of Rakhine State presented first prize in the basic education level religious song contest to Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State and Ma The Myat Soe of Yangon Division and third prize for Mr. Khin Thu Thu Win of Bago Division. The first prize for the higher education level religious song contest was presented to Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Yangon Division and third prize for Ms. Maung Zaw Win Naing of Yangon Division. The first prize for the basic education level religious song contest to Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State and third prize for Ms. Maung Zaw Win Naing of Yangon Division. The first prize for the basic education level religious song contest was presented to Daw Thu Moe of Yangon Division. The next ceremony was the prize presentation for the basic education level religious song contest. Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, Daw San Lwin and Daw Aye Hnin Khine of Rakhine State presented first prize in the basic education level religious song contest to Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State and Ma The Myat Soe of Yangon Division and third prize for Mr. Khin Thu Thu Win of Bago Division. The first prize for the higher education level religious song contest was presented to Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Yangon Division and third prize for Ms. Maung Zaw Win Naing of Yangon Division. The first prize for the basic education level religious song contest was presented to Daw Thu Moe of Yangon Division. The next ceremony was the prize presentation for the basic education level religious song contest. Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, Daw San Lwin and Daw Aye Hnin Khine of Rakhine State presented first prize in the basic education level religious song contest to Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State and Ma The Myat Soe of Yangon Division and third prize for Mr. Khin Thu Thu Win of Bago Division. The first prize for the higher education level religious song contest was presented to Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Yangon Division and third prize for Ms. Maung Zaw Win Naing of Yangon Division. The first prize for the basic education level religious song contest was presented to Daw Thu Moe of Yangon Division. The next ceremony was the prize presentation for the basic education level religious song contest. Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, Daw San Lwin and Daw Aye Hnin Khine of Rakhine State presented first prize in the basic education level religious song contest to Daw Thuzar Aung of Yangon Division, second prize for Ms. Myat Soe of Rakhine State and Ma The Myat Soe of Yangon Division and third prize for Mr. Khin Thu Thu Win of Bago Division.