Shahrukh Khan celebrates 39th birthday

MUMBAI, 4 Nov — Bollywood star Shahrukh Khan turned 39 Tuesday and it was a quiet celebration by the actor with his family members and close friends, actor by doing roles in serials like “Fauji” and “Circus”, Shahrukh has come a long way and has given industry some of biggest hits like “Baazigar”, “Darr”, “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge”, “Kuch Kuch Hota Hai”, “Kal Ho Na Ho”. Two of his films Yasho Chopra-made “Veer Zaara” and “Swades” from Atushosh Gowchar of “Lagaan” fame are likely to be released this year.

Paramount Pictures chairwoman to depart when contract expires

LOS ANGELES, 4 Nov — Sherry Lansing, chairwoman of the Hollywood studio Paramount Pictures, will leave her post at the end of next year when her contract expires, she announced Tuesday.

Her announcement came after several management shakeups at the studio’s parent company Viacom, including the departure of Jonathan Dolgen, who had shared power with Lansing at Paramount and left shortly after Tom Freston and Les Moonves were made co-presidents of Viacom in June.

It was also regarded as part of efforts by Preston and Viacom chairman Sumner Redstone to revitalize the ailing studio after several years of lackluster performance. Paramount has seen a series of box office disappointments in recent years, including “The Stepford Wives”. Lansing, 60, said she plans to leave her high-profile Hollywood job when her contract expires on December 31, 2005, and that she will help find a successor.

Lansing, a former actress and model, was the first female president of a Hollywood studio in 1980 when she was named to that job at 20th Century Fox Productions. — MNA/Reuters

Jackie Chan to make more action movies in Hollywood, Asia

SINGAPORE, 4 Nov — Hong Kong film legend Jackie Chan will perform martial arts stunts as long as he can and has no plans to retire after turning 50 this year, but he said on Wednesday he might like to direct a film.

Chan performs much of his own gravity-defying stunts and came close to death in 1985 after falling from a tree and splitting open his skull, saying he would like to make more action movies both in Hollywood and Asia.

“I don’t know how far I can go, but I’ll just keep going. I feel I still can do it.” Chan told a news conference in Singapore, where he is promoting the share market listing of Hong Kong-based film company Media Asia Entertainment Group Ltd.

“Movies are my business and movies are my life... but if I am not in front of the screen then I would become a director or producer,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Archaeologists find Iron Age hut in Czechoslovakia

PRAGUE, 4 Nov — Archaeologists have discovered remains of a nearly 3,000 years old hut from the Iron Age with extraordinary well preserved facilities during the excavations in Prague-Liboc, research head Michal Bures from the Archia organization said on Tuesday.

“The places where the inhabitants prepared and ate meat, where they ground wheat and where they stored it are recognizable in the hut’s interior,” Bures said.

The archaeologists have revealed a fireplace, a ceramic water container and a small oven. Two containers for valuables were found under the floor, but they were empty. The excavations started last autumn and have brought other discoveries as well, including about twenty 7,000 years old tombs.

“One of the buried individuals has a sharpened axe and a marble weapon, another one was buried with several necklaces from bone beads and small shells,” Bures said.

He added it is a unique discovery.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam exports more fragrant rice

HANOI, 4 Nov — Vietnam exported over 100,000 tons of fragrant and glutinous rice in the first 10 months this year, up by 15,000 tons in the whole 2003, said the Vietnam Food Association Wednesday.

Among fragrant and glutinous rice strains, Khawdakamali has the highest export price at 450 US dollars per ton, followed by sticky rice with 240-250 dollars, and Jasmine with 240 dollars, which are comparatively high compared to prices of 5 per cent broken normal rice at 220-225 dollars, according to the association.

Main importers of Vietnamese fragrant rice are Southeast Asian countries, it said.

The association has proposed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development that more rice, especially the Jasmine strain, should be grown for export. Vietnam currently has some 115,000 hectares of fragrant and glutinous rice.

The country shipped abroad nearly 3.5 million tons of rice of all kinds totalling 817 million dollars in the first 10 months this year, down 5.4 per cent in volume but up 17.9 per cent in value over the same period last year.

Australia ratifies tobacco control treaty

MELBOURNE, 4 Nov — Australia has ratified the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), which is designed to reduce the devastating health and economic impact of cigarette smoking.

Australia ratified the treaty on October 27, becoming the 34th country to do so, it said.

“Almost all of fifth of all Australians aged 14 and above smoke. Smoking is the single greatest cause of death and disease in Australia, causing an estimated 19,000 deaths each year, the statement said.

Tobacco is responsible for an estimated 3000 deaths per day in the Western Pacific Region. As a risk to health, it ranks first among developed countries; it is a contributor to five of the top 10 diseases and injuries. Worldwide, tobacco now accounts for 9 per cent of all deaths, it added. — MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely
AS Roma draw 1-1 with Bayer Leverkusen

ROME, 4 Nov — An injury-time equalizer by striker Vincenzo Montella threw AS Roma a Champions League lifeline when they drew 1-1 with Bayer Leverkusen in a Group B match played behind closed doors at the Olympic Stadium on Wednesday.

An earlier goal by Dimitar Berbatov had seemed to condemn Roma to their fourth successive defeat and elimination, but two minutes into injury time Montella latched on to a Francesco Totti pass before firing past Jorg Butt to rekindle his side's faint hopes of progressing. Leverkusen remain locked together with Real Madrid and Dynamo Kiev on seven points after their rivals drew 2-2 in Ukraine, while Roma remain in with the slenderest of a chance on one point.

UEFA ordered the match to be played behind closed doors after Swiss referee Anders Frisk was injured by a coin thrown from the away section in Roma's 4-0 triumph over Dynamo Kiev in September. To the strains of the Champions League anthem, the players trooped out to the unusual sight of rows of empty seats in a stadium that holds 75,000 spectators.

MANCHESTER United demolished Sparta Prague 4-1

MANCHESTER (England), 4 Nov — Ruud van Nistelrooy struck four times as Manchester United demolished Sparta Prague 4-1 in a lively Champions League Group D match at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Van Nistelrooy, recalled after missing the 2-0 defeat at Portsmouth on Saturday through suspension, responded in style to manager Alex Ferguson's criticism of his expensive strike force by going one better than his partner Wayne Rooney.

Rooney scored a hat-trick on his United debut in their last home Champions League game against Fenerbahce. Wednesday's victory lifted the English side into second place with eight points from four matches, two behind leaders Olympique Lyon.

United went ahead on 14 minutes when van Nistelrooy latched on to a poor back pass by defender Jiri Homola and coolly rounded keeper Jaromir Blazek before rolling the ball into an empty net.

The hosts had already struck the Sparta woodwork through a rasping shot from defender Gabriel Heinze and should have doubled their lead when Paul Scholes headed wide of a gaping goal from close range.

The Czechs' reprieve was short-lived, however, Scholes earning a 25-minute penalty after being upended as he surged into the area and van Nistelrooy calmly converted the spot-kick.

Sparta also had momentous, Roy Carroll making a fine save to deny Lukas Zelenka, but United should have added a third just before the interval when Cristiano Ronaldo failed to beat Blazek after being released by Rooney's pass.

The Portuguese winger's profligacy looked worse eight minutes into the second half when Zelenka pulled a goal back for Sparta.

The lively forward tricked a static United defence with a dummy and ran on to a precise through ball before lifting the ball neatly over Carroll from 10 metres.

United looked rattled but van Nistelrooy was on hand to settle their nerves on the hour.

The Dutchman was again the beneficiary of sloppy defending as he capitalised on a weak header back to stretch out a leg and lift the ball over Blazek.

The Czech goalkeeper made a diving save to keep out Ronaldo's blistering 30-metre free kick and the winger was substituted soon afterwards, along with Scholes, as Ferguson turned his attention to Sunday's Manchester derby against City.— MNA/Reuters

Liverpool earn valuable 1-0 win over Deportivo Coruna

LA CORUNA (Spain), 4 Nov — An own goal by defender Jorge Andrade gave Liverpool a valuable 1-0 win over a toothless Deportivo Coruna at the Riazor in a Champions League Group A match on Wednesday.

The Portuguese centre-back turned the ball into his own net in the 44th minute under pressure from Liverpool striker Milan Baros after Norwegian midfielder John Arne Riise had swept in a low cross from the left.

Dепор, who had not scored in any of their previous group matches, threw men forward in search of the equaliser but were unable to break down the powerful Liverpool back four.

The result leaves Liverpool in second place in the group, level on seven points with leaders Olympiakos, who beat Monaco 1-0 at home.

Dепор, who reached the semi-finals last season, are rooted to the bottom of the table on two points and now have little chance of making it to the next phase.

Liverpool had a gilt-edged opportunity to snatch the lead straight from the kick-off when Milan Baros beat the offside trap and found himself alone in front of goal.

Real holds 2-2 draw with Dynamo Kiev

Kiev, 4 Nov — Real Madrid fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Dynamo Kiev in their Champions League match on Wednesday, leaving Group B wide open with two minutes to go.

Nigerian midfielder Ayila Yussuf, who turns 20 on Thursday, gave himself a birthday present with his first Champions League goal, firing home in the 13th minute after his shot deflected off Michael Owen and wrong-footed goalkeeper Casillas.

Latvia striker Maris Verpakovskis made it 2-0 minutes later with a solo effort and the Ukrainian champions looked posed to take control of the game.

But Real, who conceded three goals in each of their last two Champions League away games, fought back with a vengeance despite missing three key players including England captain David Beckham through injury.

Raul started the Spanish side's comeback in the 38th minute with his 18th Champions League goal—one behind former Real striker Alfredo Di Stefano's European scoring record.

Luis Figo, who turns 32 on Thursday, also had reason to celebrate a day early after threading a pass past Casillas, who gave Alexander Shovkovsky no chance as he slotted the ball into the corner with his left foot. Figo then silenced a capacity 83,000 home crowd at Kiev's Olympic stadium, levelling the score with a 44th-minute penalty after Ronaldo was tripped inside the box by Dynamo's Moroccan international Badr El Kaddouri.

Despite conceding four goals against them, Shovkovsky made several fine saves in a frantic first half. Dynamo captain Shovkovsky stopped Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo while at the other end, Casillas made a great diving save to deny Oleg Gusev from the edge of the box.— MNA/Reuters

Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o(L) celebrates with teammate Ronaldinho(R) after scoring a goal during a Champion League soccer match in Barcelona.

Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o&"t;/\"(L) celebrates with teammate Ronaldinho(R) after scoring a goal during a Champion League soccer match in Barcelona.
ASEAN Govt Heads arrive Nanning for China-ASEAN Expo

NANNING, 4 NOV — Government leaders from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) arrived in this capital city of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to attend the first China-ASEAN Expo.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said at the Nanning airport that the first China-ASEAN Expo is a historic event for cooperation between China and ASEAN. The fair will be conducive to the promotion of the process of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area in the future.

The government heads will also attend the first China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit that will be held on the sideline of the expo.

The first China-ASEAN Expo will be held in Nanning from November 3 to 6. About 1,500 enterprises from ASEAN, China and other countries will participate in the expo.

Engineers urged to contribute more to sustainable development

SHANGHAI, 4 NOV — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here Wednesday that worldwide engineers should cooperate with each to contribute more to sustained development of the human society.

At the opening ceremony of the 2004 World Engineers’ Convention (WEC), Huang said it is a common responsibility for engineers to create a better world for the people.

Combined with science, technology and other fruits resulting from human intelligence, engineering and technologies are playing a vital role in pushing forward economic and social advancement, Huang said.

Faced with new opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century, Huang said, engineers should shoulder more responsibility in safeguarding world peace and realizing common prosperity.

Developing countries need help to strengthen science, technology and engineering capability, Huang said. Continuous development of science and technology in developing countries will contribute to narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

Resources-saving and environment-friendly technologies are encouraged to realize harmonious coexistence between the nature and the human society, Huang said.

China should revitalize the nation through science and technology and education, pay great attention to the shortage of natural resources and protect environment and ecology, and also train a good number of excellent engineers and technologists, Huang said.

Huang said China will constantly enhance exchange and cooperation with the international engineering community and try all out to keep up with the latest developments in world engineering.

Before the opening ceremony, Huang met with Lee Yee-Cheong, president of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEIO), and other leaders of international or foreign organizations.

About 3,000 engineers and representatives from international organizations participated in the three-day convention with a theme of “Engineers shape the sustainable future.”

Asphyxia accident claims 6 lives in N-W China county

XI’AN, 4 NOV — A gold mine asphyxia accident that happened in northwestern Shaanxi Province took the lives of six farmers, their bodies have been recovered, local sources said Wednesday.

The accident of suffocation occurred Monday night at Taoyuan gold mine located nearby Xuyu Village of Huaxian County, when nine peasant farmers were working in a shaft located at 200 metres underground where oxygen was thin and scarce, said local officials.

When the tragedy happened, three people managed to escape to the ground, while the six others were left behind. Local government officials organized an emergency rescue effort right after the accident, but repeated cave-in caused by the shortage of oxygen at the bottom of mine pit impaired the rescue move, and the bodies of those killed were brought out till Tuesday night.

The six dead were all farmers in adjacent rural areas, and the cause of the accident is still being investigated, said a local government official.

It is learned that the Taoyuan gold mine where asphyxia accident occurred, formerly owned by the county, was closed for months, but reopened Monday after its transfer to a private owner.

WEATHER

Thursday, November 4, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Shan State and Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Kachin State. (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions.

Maximum temperature on 3-11-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 4-11-2004 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-11-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 3-11-2004 was (8.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 4-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kabu-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-11-2004 was (112.24) inches at Yangon Airport, (106.77) inches at Kabu-Aye and (109.64) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabu-Aye) was 5 mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 3-11-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed over southwest Bay. Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-11-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-11-2004: Fair weather.

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**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

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**Doyen artistes disseminating invaluable art, knowledge and experiences to new generation**

Doyen artistes and judges of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions honoured

YANGON, 4 Nov — Doyen artistes and judges who rendered assistance for the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were honoured at the National Theatre in Dagon Township here this evening, with an address by Patron of the 12th MTCPAC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Chairman of the Leading Committee to Organize the 12th MTCPAC Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the chairman of Yangon City Development Committee the mayor, chairman and members of the respective committees and subcommittees, officials, others and guests.

The Secretary-1 said that the artistes themselves have already accepted the fact that the performing arts competitions play a key role in implementing a delicate national task of preserving and promoting Myanmar culture. The holding of the performing arts competitions on a grand scale annually, with the participation of artistes of all ages, is the implementation of the national task, with the harmonious efforts of the entire people. Thanks to the invaluable assistance of the doyen artistes, historians, literati and judges, the performing arts competitions and the national task of preserving and promoting national culture are flourishing with full artistic essence. The Government has been honouring them annually to acknowledge their assistance. The State Peace and Development Council has been striving in all sectors for the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with other nations around the world, and its goal is for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation that preserves the thousand-year-old traditions and culture of Myanmar. Thus, preservation of national value, traditions and culture and customs will be a priority task till the emergence of the future nation that serves the interest of people. Elders should teach youths to understand that the extinction of Myanmar’s traditions and culture will enjoy better income.

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**Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium concludes**

YANGON, 4 Nov — Patron of the Central Committee for Myanma Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint arrived at the Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium for 2004 held at the Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. The minister was welcomed there by Chairman of the Central Committee for Myanma Gems Emporium Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Managing Director U Khin Oo of the Myanma Gems Enterprise and members of CEC.

The minister viewed around the Mart, observed the sales and left it. Pearl lots were sold by tender system during the sales today. Merchants purchased 82 pearl lots this morning.

A total of 852 jade, gem and pearl lots were sold at the emporium. Altogether 173 local merchants from 109 companies and 658 foreign merchants from 228 companies of 12 countries attended the emporium. — MNA

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**Perspectives**

Prevent penetration of alien culture

(page 2)