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

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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

YANGON, 7 Nov — A work coordination meeting on sugarcane cultivation and boosting production of sugar mills was held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, the directors-general, officials and entrepreneurs.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo spoke of the need to coordinate with the sugar mills for acquiring raw materials and to make arrangements for sugarcane growers to enjoy profits.

He also said the ministry would provide necessary assistance to sugarcane entrepreneurs. He called for collecting correct data of sugarcane acreage at grassroots levels and giving encouragement to the sugarcane entrepreneurs.

Afterwards, the directors-general reported to the minister on reclama-
tion of land, sugarcane cultivation, water supply and the use of machines. The private entrepreneurs also reported on the requirements of sugarcane cultivation. The minister attended to the needs.

On 6 November, the minister hoisted the Htidaws of two ancient TadaU pagodas near Myitnge Bridge, Amarapura, Mandalay Division.

Next, the minister and party arrived at construction site of Kyaukse town hall and inspected progress of work.

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Economic development through ASEAN-China regional cooperation

The opening of China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People’s Republic of China, on 3 November afternoon, and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address.

Prime Minister Li-Qen Soe Win said that in the rapidly-changing world, regional cooperation is the only thing that can promise economic growth, attract foreign investment and create job opportunities. Integration is essential for the East Asia so as to secure a position in the world market. Although it is said that developed countries are in support of free trade, it is regional solidarity that matters as protectionism is still in practice. ASEAN and China should make greater cooperation to overcome challenges, he said.

China’s economic growth will lead to creating opportunities for ASEAN nations. Likewise, the Chinese practice of the open-door economic policy has provided a huge market for ASEAN products.

With economic development between ASEAN and China, the commercial and trade links between them will become broader.

There has been a gradual increase in the economy and trade between ASEAN and China in the past years with 15 per cent growth in annual trade.

The trade between the two regions reached US$ 45.8 million in 2002 and US$ 78.2 million in 2003, an increase by 42.9 per cent. By means of ASEAN-China integration, there will emerge a market for 1,700 million consumers, one third of the world population. The prospect of economic growth in Myanmar which is in the process of transition to the market-oriented economic system is encouraging.

As for foreign investment, altogether 27 countries have invested US$ 7.6 billion in Myanmar. The bilateral trade between Myanmar and China is growing steadily. An agreement has been reached between the two countries to raise the trade value to US$ 1.5 billion by 2005.

Systematic steps are to be taken to improve the bilateral trade by sea and by land.

Therefore, we believe that the creation of a huge market for ASEAN products through the ASEAN-China regional cooperation will contribute much to development of economy in the entire region.

Flag handed over to mountaineering team

Yangon, 7 Nov — Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint presented a flag on 5 November morning to a mountaineering team which will climb up Madwe glacier in PutaO District, Kachin State.

Present on the occasion were Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of the Supreme Court (Upper Myanmar), Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Thein and officials, Rector of the Institute of Medicine (Mandalay) Dr Soe Tun, Deputy Director U Soe Nyunt of the Division Sports and Physical Education Department, President of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Prof Dr Paing Soe and wellwishers.

First, the commander handed over the flag to Dr Paing Soe who accepted it on behalf of the team. Next, the Mandalay Division PDC, the MCDC, the Division SPED, Mandalay Division Women’s Sports Association and wellwishers donated K 1.45 million and packets of MB biscuits worth K 60,000 to the mountaineering association. In Mandalay the activities of hiking and mountaineering started in July 2001 and mountaineering teams climbed up the 11500-foot Phangnan glacier, the 13369-foot Mt Mawbun, the 12553 Mt Saramayti, and the 14085-foot Mt Phangaran in a matter of three years.

At the ceremony, Maj-Gen Ye Myint presented a flag and said that in the highest altitude above sea level, is the one which no one has been able to climb up as yet. The mountaineering team comprises 19 men and 11 women including President of MHMF Prof Dr Paing Soe, Vice-President Major Kango Khan Hnon, Secretary Dr Khin Maung and coach U Thein Tun. They will start to climb up the glacier on 11 November.

In the afternoon, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint watched the final match of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Trophy men’s inter-township open football tournament, in which Pyinmana township played against PyinOoLwin Township. After the match, the commander presented the trophy and cash awards to the winning team of Pyinmana township.

MNA

Myanmar to host 6th Asian Wushu C’ship

Yangon, 7 Nov — Myanmar will host the Sixth Asian Wushu Championship from 20 to 28 November this year. The hosts Myanmar Wushu team will comprise 24 athletes: 12 in the Taolu event and another 12 in the Sanshou event. Now, the athletes are undergoing training under the close supervision of Chinese instructors.

The Taolu event will fall into 12 categories, and the Sanshou event into 16 categories. The championship will attract 480 athletes from 23 wushu teams of Yemen Republic, Turkmenistan, Malaysia, Japan, China (Taipe), Vietnam, Macao, Singapore, South Korea, Brunei, China, Honk Kong, Mongolia, the Philippines, Iran, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Veterans assisted with cash

Yangon, 7 Nov — Myanmar War Veterans Organization provided war veterans aged 75 and above with cash assistance in PyinOoLwin District on 31 October morning.

The ceremony took place at the meeting hall of the PyinOoLwin District Peace and Development Council Office.

It was attended by Supervisory Committee for PyinOoLwin District WO Chairman Lt-Col Myo Myint, Secretary Major Zaw Nyunt and members, departmental officials and others.

Cash assistance was presented to 14 veterans. After the ceremony, Capt Tun Kyang (Reid) expressed thanks on behalf of the veterans.

MNA
Convoy attack wounds 20 US Marines in Iraq

Iraqi police spokesman said.

He gave no details of the incident in the Sunni Muslim city of Ramadi, 68 miles west of Baghdad for security reasons but said all the injured were from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. The spokesman could not confirm reports a suicide bomber had attacked a Marine convoy near Ramadi, one of two rebel-held cities US forces hope to capture in a military offensive expected soon.

A police source in Ramadi told Reuters a car bomb had exploded near a US military convoy at 2 pm on the main road east from the city. The source said a truck carrying troops was damaged in the blast.

US soldier seized in Samarra

BAGHDAD, 2 Oct—Anti-US forces in Samarra have captured a US soldier, an Iraqi police spokesman said.

Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ahmad of Samarra police told reporters the soldier was taken captive on Monday night by fighters in two Opel cars.

He said US troops were out in force in the streets of the city on Tuesday. A US military spokesman said he had no information on the incident.

Ahmad said the Americans had alerted Iraq security forces and asked them to look out for the missing soldier.

The relatively modest attack comes amid an apparently growing insurgency involving the circulation of death threats and the capture of US soldiers as a way to make the US presence more visible.

Dead Iraqi interpreter friend to soldiers

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — An Iraqi interpreter who died in a suicide attack against British troops had been due to marry just a few hours later, after delaying the ceremony to redepoly with his unit to a dangerous area near Baghdad. The interpreter has been with the Black Watch since our arrival in Iraq and has become a friend to the soldiers,” the Commanding Officer of the Scottish-based regiment said in a statement on Friday, a day after the attack.

“Resolution 1546 set the stage for developing the criminal justice system and the prospect of help for a United Nations protection force for the elections,” Chirac meanwhile said France remained convinced a political solution was needed in Iraq, and that deadlines set out in a UN resolution on Iraq must be met.

Dead Iraqi interpreter friend to soldiers

Nepali hostage in Iraq released

KATHMANDU, 6 Nov — The Nepali citizen taken hostage by a militant group in Iraq has been released, a Nepali Government official said here Friday. The abducted Nepali national, Inus Kawarsee, was released unconditionally on Thursday and the HBC FM quoted Foreign Secretary Madhusudhan Acharya as saying.

Kawarsee, working as a waiter for a Saudi Arabian company based in Baghdad, was abducted Monday along with five others including an American and a Filipino. — MNA/Xinhua
Bush Iraq adviser Blackwill to step down

WASHINGTON, 6 Nov — The Bush administration's lead official on Iraq policy has told the White House he plans to leave in the coming weeks, US officials said on Saturday, ahead of Iraq's planned elections.

Robert Blackwill had been mentioned in speculation about President Bush's second-term foreign policy team, with some observers pegging him as a possible successor to national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Blackwill told Rice several weeks ago he would leave soon after the US election, said a White House official who declined to be identified. His departure was first reported by The Washington Post.

Blackwill, a former US ambassador to India, was tapped by the White House in August 2003 to be coordinator for strategic planning to Rice and manage the administration's Iraq policy.

He was widely credited with reshaping the administration's policy by focusing on ending American control of Iraq and establishing the temporary government. Blackwill was closely involved in selecting the Iraqi interim leadership.

Elections to select Iraq's new government are set for 27 Jan. But there have been doubts about them because of the continuing battle with insurgents there.

Before becoming ambassador to India in 2001, Blackwill taught at Harvard University's John F Kennedy School of Government. He also held various other government and diplomatic positions.

News of Blackwill's departure coincides with the resignation of another key administration official. Cofer Black, who was Bush's point man for international terrorism policy, has quit after a botched terrorism report.— Internet

Sudanese hostage released in Iraq

KHARTOUM (Sudan), 6 Nov — Sudan said Saturday a Sudanese hostage abducted in Iraq on 1 Nov was released Friday night.

The Foreign Ministry in Khartoum said Noureddine Zakaria was in good health, but gave no further details.

But it thanked “all the Sudanese parties that dealt wisely with the incident, and which led to containing it in the proper way.”

The government renewed its warning to all its citizens abroad, especially those in Iraq, to “avoid all that could lead to a similar situation or pose a threat to their safety.”

It asked Sudanese to stay away from conflict areas, “where it is difficult to guarantee their life or personal safety.”

Police targeted in deadly Samarra attacks

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — Four car bombs and attacks on three police stations in the central Iraqi town of Samarra have left at least 37 people dead and 62 wounded.

A health official said 23 people, including nine policemen, were killed and 40 wounded, among them 17 policemen, in the first three bomb explosions on Saturday in the town of Baghdad.

The fourth blast occurred at 12:30 pm (0930 GMT) when a bomber rammed a car into a police station, killing 10 Iraqi police officers and wounding five, police said.

The local commander of the Iraqi rapid reaction force, Brigadier Abd al-Razzaq al-Jarmin, was among the dead in the first two blasts near the town hall and a nearby checkpoint.

Samarra’s mayor, Major General Tariq Uwaid, was wounded. “I saw a car trying to reach the town hall,” bookshop owner Muhammad Ahmad said. “When police stopped it, it exploded.”

US forces carried out simultaneous explosions on three police stations in Samarra, north of Baghdad, killing four policemen, wounding 17 and capturing 10.

Another car bomb exploded later, targeting a US convoy that was trying to reach the scene of the first two bombings, police said. They had no word on casualties in that attack.

Witnesses said US troops opened fire amid chaotic scenes in the city centre, hitting some cars. Rescue services could not immediately reach them to evacuate any casualties.

Turkey, Iraq sign document to improve economic ties

ANKARA, 6 Nov — Turkey and Iraq agreed Friday to proceed with their 15th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting and sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on improvement of bilateral economic relations.

Turkish State Minister Kursad Tuzmen and visiting Iraqi Oil Minister Thamir Ghadhban signed the document.

Tuzmen noted that “this is the first JEC meeting which Iraq attended after the Iraqi war. Decisions which were taken in this meeting will accelerate bilateral commercial and economic relations.”

Cyprus uses planes to destroy locusts

NICOSIA, 6 Nov — Cyprus on Friday started a massive aerial spraying campaign to kill millions of locusts invasion earlier this week, local Press reported.

The campaign broke a ban on use of aircraft in eradication programme, which was issued several years ago on health grounds. After lengthy discussions, the Agriculture Ministry has resolved to using aircraft to extend the eradication.

Concerned officials said they took the decision reluctantly but faced with the size of the locust cloud and how fast it was moving, they had no choice.

Swarms of the rare desert locust began arriving in the Paphos region on the island at the weekend, threatening entire potato crops. It is the first time since World War II that swarms of desert locusts have been sighted in Cyprus, experts said. — MNA/xinhua

adding trade volume between the two sides is increasing. "We have reached consensus with Iraq on security, Customs, banking, bilateral cooperation and energy issues," said Tuzmen.

For his part, Ghadhban said that "the memorandum of understanding will be reflected on economic and commercial cooperation of two countries in coming days and it will also trigger cooperation." "We have many projects in areas of transportation, service, infrastructure and industry. We will be very pleased to work with Turkish businessmen on these projects," he added.

MNA/xinhua
Two US Army soldiers face murder charges in Baghdad

**Los Angeles, 6 Nov —** Two US Army soldiers face murder charges in a military trial in Baghdad for shooting and killing a badly wounded Iraqi teenager mistaken for a guerrilla by US troops, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Thursday on its web site.

The newspaper quoted the two Army staff sergeants as saying they shot and killed the Iraqi boy in a “mercy killing” as he lay moaning on the ground in an August incident in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City.

The two soldiers told US officials that they killed the teenager in order to “put him out of his misery”, the newspaper said.

But Iraqi witnesses, including a relative of the dead boy who had pleaded

for US troops to help him, were enraged by the killing, which seemed certain to reignite a debate about the conduct of US troops in Iraq in the wake of the Abu Ghraib Prison abuses.

The boy was shot as US medics rushed to treat a half dozen or so of those wounded when US troops opened fire on a garbage truck after mistakenly concluding that it was planting roadside bombs, the newspaper said, quoting Iraqi witnesses and US military officials.

The truck exploded into flames and about seven Iraqis were killed in the August 18 incident, including the boy shot on the ground, the newspaper said.

Staff Sergeant Cardenas Alban, 29, of Carson, California and Staff Sergeant Johnny Horne Jr., 30, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina announced their jurisdiction decree on Thursday its withdrawal from Iraq due to mounting security risks facing its personnel.

British troops stop to detonate a roadside bomb they found near their base in Basra, Iraq, on 5 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

Iran reiterates disinterest in nuclear weapons

**Teheran, 6 Nov —** seinem Supreme Leader Seyed Ali Khamenei on Friday reiterated that Iran is not intended to seek any military use of nuclear technology, the official IRNA news agency said.

“As we have often said, and even announced our jurisdiction decree on the issue, we are not after manufacturing, stock piling, or taking practical advantage of any type of nuclear weapons,” Khamenei was quoted as saying at a fasting worship ceremony.

“We strongly believe that a solid and strong nation and government relying on a huge pious youth power is basically needless of nuclear weapons,” Khamenei said.

He further owed the US accusation

on Teheran’s nuclear programme to Washington’s unwillingness to accept its failure on the sanction against Iran.

“The main reason behind the US irrational hue and cry over Iran’s nuclear projects is Iran’s advancement despite all sanctions, plots, and enmities,” Khamenei said. “Young Iranian scientists’ success in making nuclear fuel production quite indigenous in Iran has outraged the Americans and other enemies of the Islamic Republic,” he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi FM to visit Egypt for talks on international conference

**Caio, 6 Nov —** Iraq’s interim Foreign Minister Hoshair Zibari is scheduled to arrive in Cairo next Tuesday for talks with Egyptian officials on preparations for the expected international conference on Iraq, the official MNA news agency reported on Friday.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying that Zibari will meet with his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Abul Gheit to talk about the forthcoming conference on Iraq due on November 22-23 in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday started a two-day preparatory meeting on a final communiqué of the international conference.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors and representatives of countries and organizations that will take part in the conference.

The international conference on Iraq is expected to be attended by Iraq and its neighbours, Egypt, the G-8, China, the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union.

Egyptian officials said earlier that a meeting of foreign ministers of Iraq’s neighbouring countries would be held on November 22 in Sharm El-Sheikh, one day ahead of the international conference. Egypt, a major political entity in the Middle East, hopes the gathering will hammer out a unified international stance on Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Doctors without borders withdraw from Iraq

**Madrid, 6 Nov —** The non-governmental organization Doctors Without Borders (DWB) announced Thursday its withdrawal from Iraq due to mounting security risks facing its personnel.

DWB’s General Director in Spain, Rafael Vilasansuan, said it was very difficult to make the decision because there are important medical and humanitarian needs among the civil population.

“At this point, it is impossible for the DWB to guarantee the security of its personnel, be it international or Iraqi,” Vilasansuan told reporters in the northeastern city of Barcelona.

Tens of foreign citizens have been kidnapped and assassinated by armed groups in Iraq fighting the US and British troops. — MNA/Xinhua

China to make more input in health care in rural areas

**Beijing, 7 Nov —** The Chinese Government has decided to increase expenditure on health care, with most of the increase going to rural areas, said Vice-Minister of Health Zhu Qingsheng here Friday.

Zhu made the remark at a press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council.

This year the Ministry of Health added 4 billion yuan (482 million US dollars) to its total medical budget expenditure, and 70 to 80 per cent of the added money went to rural areas, he said.

The ministry aims to narrow the gap between city and countryside in health care. Zhu noted that in recent years only 30 per cent of the total governmental expenditure on health care has been used for rural areas, where about 70 per cent of the total Chinese population live. — MNA/Xinhua

British house prices lose impetus in October

**London, 6 Nov —** British house prices fell 1.1 per cent in October compared with the previous month as successive hikes of interest rates continued to bite, showing a steepest fall in four years, Halifax bank said on Thursday.

The country’s largest mortgage lender said this is the steepest rate of decline since October 2000, but after a revised 1.3 per cent gain in the month before. It said that on a quarterly basis, prices fell by 0.4 per cent between July and October, the first three-month fall since the last quarter of 2000. But it said the annual rate is still at 18.5 per cent than a year earlier although below 20 per cent for the first time in six months.

The average price of a house in Britain now stands at 160,857 pounds or 289,542 US dollars, down from 162,911 pounds or 292,239 US dollars in September.

The bank said recent rate rises had raised mortgage payments as a percentage of earnings, from 14 per cent to 19 per cent for new borrowers over the past year.

“The housing market seems to be moving into a slowdown following the period of strong growth in 2003 and early 2004,” said Martin Ellis, Halifax chief economist.

“We expect house price growth to continue to moderate into 2005 as the Bank of England’s rate increase and first-time buyer affordability constraints dampen demand,” he added. — MNA/Xinhua
UNSG warns assault on Fallujah could further anger Iraqis

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has warned the United States, Britain and Iraq that an assault on Fallujah could further anger Iraqis and undermine planned January elections, UN officials said on Friday.

Annan’s warning on the guerrilla-held city came in letters to US President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi sent last weekend, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A UN spokesman said the world body would have no comment on the letters.

“We have nothing to say about private communications between the Secretary-General and Heads of State,” the spokesman said.

Word of the warning surfaced as US troops urged civilians to flee Fallujah and launched airstrikes on the guerrilla city in preparation for an assault to cripple the insurgency before the elections. Iraqis will vote in national elections on January 27, Vice-President Ibrahim al-Jaafari told Reuters on Friday.

A spokesman for Iraq’s UN mission said Ambassador Samir Simal had requested an appointment with Annan “to express the Iraqi point of view on the letter.” But Iraq’s first post-Saddam ambassador would not comment until after the meeting with the Secretary-General, the spokesman added.

Annan’s warning reflects long-standing differences with Washington over how to best bring security to the country torn by insurgency since the invasion launched in March 2003.

The US-led multinational force in Iraq is for now focused on retaking guerrilla strongholds by force while UN officials have stressed that military might runs the risk of killing civilians and further alienating ordinary Iraqis.

In his letter, according to the Los Angeles Times, Annan acknowledged the need to restore security but said a broad political process that included groups not represented in the interim government would best lead to stability.

“The threat or actual use of force not only risks deepening the sense of alienation of certain communities, but would also reinforce perceptions among the Iraqi population of a continued military occupation,” he wrote, according to a copy of the letter obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

British soldiers ride in their armoured vehicle as they patrol the streets of Basra on 5 Nov, 2004. The British regiment suffered its first combat deaths on a US-requested mission to hostile terrain near Baghdad. — INTERNET

Chinese, US presidents to meet in San Diego

BEIJING, 6 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his US counterpart George W. Bush will meet during the upcoming 12th Informal Leadership Meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in San Diego, Chile. Vice-Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong told a Press conference here Friday.

This will be their first meeting after George W. Bush won his second term as US President, which is of great significance to the development of the China-US relations, he noted.

During the meeting, Zhou said, President Hu will elucidate China’s principles and stand on how to maintain and advance the constructive relationship between the two countries and exchange views with Bush on issues of common concern.

China hopes this meeting will review and consolidate progress the two countries have achieved in promoting their relationship and bring new thoughts into their future development, Zhou said.

Currently, the relevant departments of the two sides are making preparations for the upcoming meeting in a detailed way, he said.

18 in links with human smuggling arrested

LONDON, 6 Nov — British police arrested 18 people who are suspected to be members of a gang smuggling hundreds of people from Turkey to Britain, Scotland Yard said on Thursday.

Ten men were arrested at business premises across south London Thursday afternoon while seven men and one woman were detained after dawn raids in nearby Surrey, south, west and southeast London. They all are suspected of conspiring to facilitate human trafficking and money laundering.

The raids were part of a yearlong probe in Britain, Germany and some other places in Europe, police said, adding that a further five people were arrested by immigration officials in Hamburg and Cologne in Germany on the same day.

The alleged ringleader, among those arrested, is believed to own 10 fast-food restaurants employing illegal Turkish immigrants in and around London, police said.

The illegal immigrants, thought to have been brought in by air, road and sea, were exploited as cheap labour in cafes and takeaways in London and elsewhere.

Three civilians killed as US seals of Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — The US military sealed off Fallujah on Friday and launched a night of airstrikes on the rebel city ahead of an assault seen as critical to the interim government’s attempt to pacify Iraq before January polls. A spokesman for Iraq’s UN mission said Ambassador Samir Simal had requested an appointment with Annan “to express the Iraqi point of view on the letter.” But Iraq’s first post-Saddam ambassador would not comment until after the meeting with the Secretary-General, the spokesman added.

Annan’s warning reflects long-standing differences with Washington over how to best bring security to the country torn by insurgency since the invasion launched in March 2003.

The US-led multinational force in Iraq is for now focused on retaking guerrilla strongholds by force while UN officials have stressed that military might runs the risk of killing civilians and further alienating ordinary Iraqis.

In his letter, according to the Los Angeles Times, Annan acknowledged the need to restore security but said a broad political process that included groups not represented in the interim government would best lead to stability.

“The threat or actual use of force not only risks deepening the sense of alienation of certain communities, but would also reinforce perceptions among the Iraqi population of a continued military occupation,” he wrote, according to a copy of the letter obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

But even politicians within his government say they fear any offensive on Fallujah could produce more civilian casualties and a political backlash that might lead to a Sunni Muslim boycott of the elections, uplifting their legitimacy.

“Using force that kills civilians on a large scale is a mistake. The logic of occupation must end,” Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid al-Bayati, a Shiite, told Reuters.

US soldier killed in bomb attack north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 6 Nov — One US soldier was killed and another wounded in a roadside bomb attack north of Baghdad on Thursday night, the US military said Friday. “One 1st Infantry Division soldier died and one was wounded when their vehicle was struck with an improvised explosive device near Balad at about 10:38 p.m. (1938 GMT),” it said in a statement.

Balad, some 80 kilometres north of Baghdad, is dominated by Shi'ite Muslims, but surrounded with Sunni villages. Over 1,120 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since last year’s invasion.

Nepal sets up first DNA lab

KATHMANDU, 6 Nov — The National Forensic Science Laboratory of Nepal has set up the country’s first deoxynucleobasic acid (DNA) laboratory near the capital, a government official told Xinhua on Friday.

The laboratory located in Kathmandu, south of Kathmandu, will analyse body fluids, blood and hair samples from the crime scene and try to match the DNA with that of the suspect, said Pratibha Rana, Minister of State for Science and Technology.

“We hope the lab will help control crime, provide justice to rape victims and help in verifying the DNA of parents and child in controversial cases,” Rana said.

“We will also conduct DNA sequencing to find hereditary diseases,” he noted, adding that the ministry will provide training to scientists for efficient services in the laboratory. DNA is the genetic blueprint that determines a person’s biological characteristics.

Iraqi Children throw stones at an American armoured vehicle in the Sadr City neighbourhood of Baghdad, Iraq on 6 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Ye Ywa Hydropower Project being implemented on Dokhtawady River at a place 31 miles south-east of Mandalay has a generating capacity of 790 megawatts.

Location — On Dokhtawady River in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division.

Installed Capacity — Four Turbines

Generating Capacity — 790 megawatts
(The highest in Myanmar)

On one occasion, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance saying that in the Third Five-year Plan, efforts were to be made to generate additional 2,000 megawatts of electricity utilizing abundant water resource and in accordance with this guidance hydropower projects are being implemented.
**Culture Minister inspects archaeological works**

**YANGON, 7 NOV —** Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by Director-General of the Department of Archaeology U Nyunt Han on November 5, went to Pyay Township and inspected the construction of Thayakhitaya Archaeological Training School.

At the briefing hall, Engineer U Than Aye reported to the minister on progress in construction works of the buildings, Principal U Hla Gyi Maung Maung in curriculum compilation and Head of Course Affairs Department U Naing Win on growing flowery plants and road construction, followed the supplementary report by the director-general.

After hearing the reports, the minister inspected classrooms, the laboratory, store room, hostels for teachers and guest house, and gave necessary instructions.

**On 6th November, the minister attended a ceremony to hoist Shwehtitaw atop the ancient Maha Aungsaikya Pagoda together with Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and hoisted the diamond bud, Hgetmyatnadaw and Shwehtitaw atop the pagoda.**

Next, the minister, accompanied by officials, proceeded to the construction site of repairing Mahay Brick Wall of ancient Theintawgyi coordination hall and the images of 80 Arahats near Photheintan Village in Shwedaung Township. Engineer U Tin Soe of Department of Archaeology explained the model designs of ancient Theintawgyi to be renovated. Next, the minister gave instructions and inspected the repairing and maintaining of arahat images.

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**Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells**

**YANGON, 7 NOV —** The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-21364) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

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**Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced**

**YANGON, 7 NOV —** Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, announced today to hold the Poem Contest to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The contestants can present objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, matters related to fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, historic events occurred in the periods of Konbaung Era (AD 1824), Independency Era (1948-1988) and the State Peace and Development Council, endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council in religious affairs, construction, peace negotiation and drug elimination sectors.

The entries will be scrutinized with three sectors—theme style, presentation and composing. The poem contest will be divided into two categories. Those who have won first second or third prizes in the Poem Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Contest and the poem contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and the National Literary Award winners may participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event. The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas.

The entries must be written in the entry. There will be two events at the level-1—the long poem and the short poem. The contestant can participate in both or one of them. However, it must be one entry for one event. The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas.

The entries must be in line with the rules. The free verse and modern poems will not be accepted.

The poem must be written on one side of paper and the two copies of the entry must be submitted. And, the entry must be attached with the name of the contestant, pen-name, names of parents, education, occupation and address together with three 2” x 2.5” size colour photos. The entry must be own creation and has not featured in any publication yet. The State has authority to use the prize-winning works.

The entries are to be sent to Li-Col Oma Muang (Redd) (Myinn Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Naingngan Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 531 Merchant Street, here, Tel: 374532, not later than 31-1-2005.

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The building of City Hall in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division, nearing completion.—MNA
Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun on inspection at Pincha Bridge construction project site. (News on page 1) — MNA

Minister inspects construction …
(from page 1) After that, they proceeded to construction site of Pincha bridge at the mile post No 409/5 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on progress of work of construction of the bridge and construction requirements presented by Senior Engineer U Maung Maung Lwin of Kyaukse District Public Works.

On arrival at Mandalay bank of Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon) construction project, they heard reports on progress being made for construction of the bridge and future tasks to be carried out presented by Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Hay Myint.

After hearing the reports, the minister instructed officials to step up construction of bridge systematically and worksite safety and gave suggestions to fulfill the requirements.

MNA

Annan opposes US Plans for major military assault on Fallujah

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has strongly opposed US plans for a major military assault on the Iraqi city of Fallujah, warning that it could further divide Iraqi people and affect the January polls in the war-ravaged country.

“I have in mind not only the risk of increased insurgent violence but reports of major military offensive in key localities such as Fallujah,” Annan said.

Urging the US-led coalition forces to give more time to dialogue to succeed, he said any major assault “in which the main burden seems bound to be borne by American forces” may discourage Iraqis from voting.

He also stressed that the United Nations wants to help in the organization of the election but that would need a conducive environment. “I, and all my colleagues at the United Nations Secretariat, want to help. But we need a conducive environment if elections are to produce a positive effect.”

MNA/PTI

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

Shwenyaung-Namhsan railroad construction project inspected

YANGON, 7 Nov — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than arrived in Taunggyi on 3 November and met officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry and instructed them to complete tasks in time meeting the set standards. Next, the deputy minister together with officials inspected construction of the railway, earth work and paving of road between Htoo Kyint and Heinsaung villages on Saikhaung-Ponchaung railroad section.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and officials of Myanmar Railways on 4 November met officials engaged in Shwenyaung-Namhsan railroad construction project and instructed them to complete the tasks in time.

The deputy minister together with officials on 5 November inspected construction of the railway, earth work and paving the gravel in the Ponchaung-Htinsminse railroad section between Htilohto and Htinsminse. And the deputy minister left Saikhaung and met staff of MR and instructed them to send sleepers, rails and related materials to respective worksites. On 6 November, he met officials of Taunggyi and gave instructions on systematic registration, collecting of tax according to law and minimizing of railroad accidents. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 8 November, 2004
The development of industrial sector plays a vital role in national development and modernization drive. Myanmar is an agrarian nation, where industrialists are striving to manufacture farm machinery. Besides, the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee has been formed to render all-round assistance to the industrial sector.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe has visited industrial zones and given guidance on their development. The Head of State visited Monywa Industrial Zone on 19 September 1999, and Mandalay Industrial Zone two days later.

“Just as adequate amount of financial resources and raw materials and advanced techniques are needed to set up advanced private industries, markets for their products are also a requisite. As conventional methods alone cannot build an industrialized nation, industrialists will have to strive to acquire advanced techniques and technologies”, the Senior General gave guidance during the visits.

Industrial zones have been set up to relocate numerous industries in large collections in single places for rapid progress of the industrial sector. And the sector will achieve progress only if the industrialists make utmost efforts.

Thakayta Industrial Zone is included in the 19 industrial zones established by the Government. The Human Settlement and Housing Development Department designated the Thakayta industrial ward as an industrial zone on 5 February 1999. Included in the Yangon East Industrial Zone area, the Thakayta Industrial Zone is surrounded by Mya-khwa-nyo Industrial Zone in the south, Min-nanda Road in the west, Aye-yawon Yeik-mon housing estate and Pazun-daung Creek in the east. The Industrial Zone is included in the 19 industrial zones established by the Government. The Human Settlement and Housing Development Department designated the Thakayta industrial ward as an industrial zone on 5 February 1999. The Industrial Zone is included in the 19 industrial zones established by the Government. The Human Settlement and Housing Development Department designated the Thakayta industrial ward as an industrial zone on 5 February 1999. Included in the Yangon East Industrial Zone area, the Thakayta Industrial Zone is surrounded by Mya-khwa-nyo Industrial Zone in the south, Min-nanda Road in the west, Aye-yawon Yeik-mon housing estate and Pazun-daung Creek in the east.

The area of the zone is about 200 acres, and it is divided into 250-foot by 150-foot plots and 39 40-foot by 60-foot plots. It houses nine State-owned factories and 110 private industries, running 10 different kinds of operations.

The private factories and enterprises are: nine garment and weaving factories; 17 foodstuff industries; 11 personal goods industries; 11 cold storages; nine stationery and packaging industries; eight chemical and pharmaceutical industries; 12 machine and machine tool industries; eight finished-wood product industries; nine construction and heavy machinery services; and 16 warehouses. The total investment amount of the zone is K 128.13 million, and its production value is K 2,096.16 million. It has generated about 2,860 jobs.

As the zone is located near downtown Yangon, it is easily accessible. Its 11 cold storages are producing and exporting a large amount of fish and prawn, thereby earning foreign exchange for the nation, in addition to producing food for local consumer market.

Century Furniture Enterprise of the zone is trying to produce rattanware of fine quality for export. Nibban Electric and Electronics, another enterprise which is running an industry in the zone, won the international certificate (ISC 9001:2000) on quality control. A ceremony was held at Traders Hotel in Yangon to present the certificate to the company. Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, in-charge of the Thakayta Industrial Zone Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Zone, officials, sales agents and others attended the ceremony.

Ministers U Aung Thaung and Brig-Gen Pyi Zone made speeches, General Manager of the company Dr Aung Thein explained the company’s efforts to win the certificate. The company is manufacturing and distributing quality electrical apparatus. With the aim of penetrating the global market in the long run, the company has been trying to produce quality goods to win the satisfaction of consumers, to manufacture goods of international standard, to take part as a force in the State’s economic and social sectors and to benefit the whole nation. Timely distribution of goods to fulfill market demands, production of quality goods, and ensuring consumer satisfaction are its three basic policies.

As the company has continued to manufacture TV antennas and accessories, boosters, safeguards, inverters, voltage regulators, battery chargers and other electronic apparatus of high quality, it won the ISC 9001:2000 certificate on 13 August 2004.

The Thakayta Industrial Zone is striving to reduce reliance on foreign countries, to stand on its own feet, and to set up industries manufacturing import-substitute goods with the aim of contributing to the Government’s national industrialization drive.

YYYY

(Translation: TMT)

Military and marching song competitions to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day to be held

YANGON, 7 Nov — As a gesture of hailng the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2005, the subcommittee for holding the military and marching song competition of the winning games and arts competitions chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced that military and marching song competitions will be held.

There will be only one category, the level 1 and level 2. First, second, and third prizes as well as consolation ones will be awarded in every level. Rules and regulations of the competition are as follows:

In military marching song competition, songs must be composed and based on the twelve objectives of the State, the military directives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Composers and vocalists are not permitted to compete at level 2 of the military song competition nor those who stood first second or third at level 2 of the last year’s military song competition. They are to enter the level 1. Only one song is allowed for individuals or groups.

Entry songs must be in accord with military songs composing methods. In Military songs must be in melody and modes as well as in own tune.

The time taken for the song must be between 4 and 6 minutes. There will be a preliminary contact for entry songs with strong vocal and suitable music.

Only a song must be recorded on the entry cassette or reel. A suitable title may be given. Words of the entry song together with its typed copies and an original of its music notes must be attached to the entry song. The brief autograph of the entrant and the singers together with three passport size colour photos must be sent. Those tentatively selected will be informed.

The tentatively selected songs must be re-recorded and are to give final performance. Entry songs should be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary, Sub-committee for the military and marching song competitions, Myanma Radio and Television, Pyay Road, Yangon, not later than 31st December, 2004.

MNA
More tourists flock to Middle East

Arab Daily, 7 Nov — The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has said that international tourism arrivals in the Middle East increased by 24 per cent in the first eight months of 2004, the Gulf News daily reported Saturday.

The WTO projections from January to August this year are over 23 million more international arrivals, compared to 18 million over the same period of 2003, and the number is expected to be much higher by the end of this year.

The Middle East has overcome the disruption caused by the Iraq conflict and is reckoned to have recorded almost a quarter more international arrivals up to August, said the WTO’s bulletin for the third quarter.

During the first eight months, most destinations in the Middle East with monthly data available continued the good performance, based on the continued strong development of the intra-regional tourist market. Various destinations in the Mediterranean area continued the positive trend of the last quarter of 2003, attracting largely from the European market, especially Russia.

Meanwhile, Egypt, where the largest market share belongs to Western and Northern Europe, saw visitors increasing by 49 per cent up to August, while receipts increased by 52 per cent in the first half of the year.

The figures make the Middle East the second highest growth region in tourism this year after the Far East, which recorded a 37-per-cent growth and whose tourism industry was badly affected by SARS last year.

Cambodian PM praises China-ASEAN Expo

Phnom Penh, 7 Nov — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Friday described the first China-ASEAN Expo as very successful, saying it is very important for the establishment of a free trade area (FTA) between China and ASEAN in 2010.

The Premier made the remarks upon his return from the annual expo held in Nanning, China.

He said that ASEAN members paid great attention to the event, expressing belief that the FTA of China-ASEAN will be established on schedule, which will further promote the trade and economic ties between the two sides.

Hun Sen said Cambodia will be greatly benefited from the expo, which will help attract more tourists and enterprises from China and other countries to his country.

While in Nanning, Hun Sen met with Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi and took part in a series of activities.

Three-nation forces conduct joint operation against Taleban

KABUL, 7 Nov — Troops of the United States and its two frontline allies in war on terror have conducted a joint operation in a militant-plaguing border town in southeast Afghanistan, US military spokesman said Saturday.

“Soldiers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States conducted a coordinated attack against militant forces in the border region between Shakan and Wana on Wednesday,” Scott Nelson told reporters here at a news briefing.

The operation was launched after Shakan was attacked by anti- Coalition Force elements operating near the border region, he added, mentioning no casualties and damages on both sides.

“The operation demonstrates the commitment of Pakistan to fight terrorism as well as the strong ties between neighbouring countries in the region,” Mr. Walt said.

Wana, a main town in the insurgency-hit south Waziristan tribal area has been the scene of increasing militancy. Over the last year more than 50 civilians, militiamen and military personnel have been killed.

In a separate operation conducted by the coalition soldiers in the troubled Deh Rahwod District of southern Urugun Province Thursday, four suspected Taleban were killed and another one captured, the spokesman said.

Philippine President visits Iloilo Province

Manila, 7 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Friday made an unprecedented visit to a former rebel stronghold in Leon, Iloilo Province in central Philippines, as part of her visit to the poverty-stricken region.

Leon’s surrounding rural areas were a former stronghold of the rebel Revolutionary Proletarian Army, who struck a peace agreement with President Arroyo in 2000.

Arroyo handed over a 400,000-peso (about 7,000 US dollars) cheque to the local village chief as government contribution for pumping potable water to local villagers, whose main livelihood is cattle raising.

“This is the cheque that will help you to have clean drinking water as part of my 10-point legacy programme of providing clean water and sufficient power to waterless and powerless barangays (villages and neighbourhoods) in and outside Metro Manila,” said Arroyo.

The President also opened an “ADO” village for abandoned children in the town of Zaragoza near Iloilo City built with private donations from both at home and abroad.

US Warplanes, artillery blast targets in Fallujah

Naw Fallujah (Iraq), 7 Nov — US warplanes and artillery blasted rebel targets in Fallujah on Saturday after troops told civilians to flee an expected assault that Iraqi leaders hope will cripple an insurgency before national polls.

Two car bombs exploded in the town of Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, killing eight people and wounding at least 20, police said.

They said the blasts targeted the town hall and a nearby police checkpoint, and that most of the dead appeared to be Iraqi civilians. “I saw a dead (Iraqi) National Guard burning on the ground,” said one witness. “I saw people carrying away another corpse.”

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has warned that an offensive on Fallujah, a Sunni Muslim city west of Baghdad, could undermine planned January elections, but his comments drew a chilly response from interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

The US military said an airstrike after midnight smashed three “barricaded fighting positions” after a series of raids the previous day hit anti-aircraft weapons and an arms cache.

Continuous satellite launching successes fix China on top world level

Beijing, 7 Nov — With the third research satellite successfully entered into orbit on Saturday morning, China has continuously accomplished its 40th satellites launching tasks since October 1996, marking its space technology standing firmly on top world level.

Since October 1996, China has overall upgraded its space technology and had sent 45 satellites, five Shenzhou spacecrafts into space in 40 times.

China’s Long-March carrier rockets have conducted 82 launches since April 24, 1970, and more than 90 per cent have been successful. So far, the 12 types of Long-March carrier rockets can satisfy the needs for satellites on various orbits and spacecraft.

China’s space technology also started its industrialization course. Among 40 launches in the past eight years, China has sent applications satellites used for telecommunications, meteorological research, marine inspection, navigation, earth resources and scientific experiments, all of which are self-developed.

The three launch centres, Jiuquan in northwest China’s Gansu Province, Taiyuan in north China’s Shanxi Province and Xichang in southwestern Sichuan Province, can send spacecrafts onto various orbits and the time of sending cycle have been shortened evidently in the past few years.

Last October, China became only the third nation to successfully send a man into space.

And at the beginning of 2004, China claimed to launch 10 satellites within the year while preparing for its second manned space flight
India fixes star rating for hospitals

NEW DELHI, 6 Nov—Star ratings for hotels are commonplace, but now India is in the process of finalizing similar bandings for specialized hospitals as part of its effort to attract tourism and contract overseas patients, the Indian Asian News Service (IANS) reported on Friday.

“The government has tied up with the Confederation of Indian Industry for the purpose of star ratings for hospitals,” IANS quoted Tourism Minister Renuka Choudhury as saying here at the annual Social Editor’s Conference.

“Through star ratings we are trying to fix the price band to facilitate medical tourism,” Choudhury said.

The star rating or price band would help patients to know in advance the facilities to be expected and the expenses involved. The Tourism Ministry is working out the rating system with the Health Ministry and the private sector.

In the last three years, India has attracted 60,000 overseas patients, including Non-Resident Indians, who have come to the country for varied treatments like dental care, hip and knee replacement and bypass surgery.

India is an attractive option because it combines highly skilled medical care and facilities at a fraction of what it would cost elsewhere. It also cuts down on long waiting periods. In fact, patients could end up waiting for two to three years for treatment.

At the moment, 20 patients from Tanzania are in the country for treatment, Choudhury disclosed.

Building on the 23 per cent growth in foreign tourist arrivals in 2003, India is witnessing a 28-per-cent rise in international arrivals and a 41-per-cent rise in foreign exchange earnings this year. Government data indicates that from January-October India had received 2.62 million foreign visitors as against 2.12 million in the corresponding period last year.

Foreign exchange earnings through tourism have also risen from 2.8 billion US dollars during the ten-month period in 2003 to 3.85 billion US dollars in the corresponding period this year.

“Problems presently are non-availability of expertise, performance and service quality, and patients need more concern, said Christian Voumard, the representative with the WHO.

“Problems (PKI) to the security, physical and emotional care of these children who are normally in the care of their aging grand parents or relatives is becoming an increasing issue of concern.”—MNA/Chinhua

China provides more assistance to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Nov — The Government of the People’s Republic of China on Friday agreed to grant 3.6 million US dollars and provide 400 million US dollars as a soft loan to the Indonesian Government.

The 3.6 million-US-dollar assistance brought the total Chinese grants to Indonesia to 27.5 million US dollars, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda said in a joint Press briefing along with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Councillor Tang Jiaxuan.

The grant is to be used for enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries and the soft loan to finance the electrical and gas power plant at the Labuhan Angin, the building of a 158-kilometre double-track railway between Cirebon and Kroya, and the construction of the Surabaya-Madura island bridge, Wirajuda said.

Wirajuda and Tang Jiaxuan also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the two types of assistance.

Before the signing ceremony, Tang Jiaxuan said China was the second largest investor in Indonesia.

During the four days, noted the committee, participants from 32 countries and regions have signed contracts, agreements and letters of intent totally approximated 4.5 billion US dollars.

China is in need of 2,194 airplanes for the next two decades from 2004 to 2023 to cope with the growing demand of its aviation market, China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC I) predicted in its latest report.

The report acknowledged the rapidly growing tourism, fast expanding foreign trade, and ongoing, in-depth reform of China’s aviation industries will call for a continuously flourishing market for China’s air transporta.

More than 80,000 professionals from various aircraft companies, aeronautics universities, the Air Force units of the People’s Liberation Army, the PLA and media organizations at home and overseas have visited the exhibition in the first four days and in the ensuing three days, and the exhibition will be opened to the public, the committee said.

Five Air Force teams from Britain, France, Russia and China will give an air show. The stunt demonstration flights for the viewers in the three days, the committee added.

UNICEF says China’s "left-behind" children need more care

BEIJING, 7 Nov—Chinese children that are left home by their parents working at other places needs more concern, said Christian Voumard, the representative with the WHO.

“Problems presently are non-availability of expertise, performance and service quality, and patients need more concern, said Christian Voumard, the representative with the WHO.

Sihopec, BP set joint venture of gas station in Zhejiang

BEIJING, 6 Nov — China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) and British Petroleum (BP) announced the launch of a joint venture of a gasoline company in East China’s Zhejiang Province in Beijing.

The joint venture is expected to build and operate 500 gas stations in three years in Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shaoxing in Zhejiang, one of the most economically dynamic areas in China.

According to the agreement, Sinopec will be the exclusive supplier of oil products for the joint venture, which has a ten-year terms and registered capital of 800 million yuan (96.38 million US dollars) with 60 per cent from Sinopec and 40 per cent from BP. The joint venture will use the brand names of both companies.

Contracts valued $4.5b inked at China’s air show

ZHENGZHOU, 6 Nov — Contracts valued at some 4.5 billion US dollars have been inked in the first four days of the Fifth China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, the exhibition’s organizing committee said.

During the four days, noted the committee, participants from 32 countries and regions have signed contracts, agreements and letters of intent totally approximated 4.5 billion US dollars.

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Five Air Force teams from Britain, France, Russia and China will give an air show. The stunt demonstration flights for the viewers in the three days, the committee added.

Singaporeans urged to upgrade to stay ahead of competition

SINGAPORE, 6 Nov—Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday called on employers and workers to upgrade themselves to stay ahead of competition.

“I urge all employers and workers to see training and active lifelong learning as a way of life and build this into a distinct competitive advantage for the Singapore workforce,” Lee said while addressing this year’s Singapore learning festiva, which aims to put across a simple but important message: “you must upgrade to stay employed.”

For the workforce in the island state to stay ahead of the competition, workers can not just rely on the skills they learnt in school to see them through their working lives, Lee said, adding that learning must go beyond schools, and take place at the work place, and even at home.

Lee noted that Singaporeans are now living in a very dynamic environment as more and more people, like China and India, are developing and upgrading their economies, altering the competitive landscape year by year.

The Premier stressed that Singapore’s fundamental strategy is to upgrade its capabilities to adapt to the changes, so that Singaporeans’ skills remain in demand, and they can earn a living for themselves.

HK police seize $641,000 worth of smuggled goods

HONG KONG, 6 Nov — The Marine Police and the Customs and Excise Department of Hong Kong announced Friday that five million Hong Kong dollars (641,000 US dollars) worth of suspected contraband was seized off Black Point in Tuen Mun in a joint operation mounted Thursday.

Police officers from the Small Boat Division and officers from the Customs and Excise Department Thursday afternoon found a suspicious Mainland container vessel, which was loaded in Hong Kong destined for the Mainland.

The vessel was intercepted by the police officers and it was then taken to the River Trade Terminal in Tuen Mun for a full search.

MNA/Chinhua
Putin approves Russia’s ratification of Kyoto protocol

MOSCOW, 6 Nov — President Vladimir Putin approved Russia’s ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, the Kremlin said on Friday, which will make the UN environment pact aimed at curbing global warming effective worldwide.

A Kremlin spokesman said Putin signed Parliament’s ratification of the protocol late on Thursday. It will come into law in Russia once Putin’s decision is officially published.

Both chambers of Russia’s Parliament approved ratification of the pact last month after Putin gave it his blessing.

The UN accord aimed at curbing global warming is already backed by 126 countries. But it needed Russia’s support to make it internationally binding after the United States, the world’s biggest polluter, pulled out in 2001.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol obliges rich nations to cut overall emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12 by curtailing coal, oil and natural gas, and shifting to cleaner energies like solar or wind power.

The report said, world’s population could top 1.3 trillion by 2200

NEW YORK, 6 Nov — The Earth may be home to 1.3 trillion people by 2200 if couples overlook the two-child norm, but world population could be around nine billion if they conform, a United Nations report said here.

The report said, world population would stabilise around nine billion, a best case scenario, if fertility level continues to decline and every woman in every country had two children.

Even small variations in these projections will have enormous impacts in the long term. As little as one-quarter of a child more than the two-child norm, or one-quarter of a child above it, would result in world populations ranging from 2.3 billion to 36.4 billion.

Given progress in extending life expectancy, the UN says, people could expect, on average, to live more than 95 years by 2200. Japan, which is the global leader in life expectancy, is projected to have a life expectancy of more than 106 years by 2200.

World’s most advanced milky powers using Internet to spy enemies

BARCELONA (Spain), 6 Nov — The world’s most advanced military powers are using the Internet to spy on their enemies and prepare digital attacks against rogue targets, a leading cyber security expert said on Friday.

“When there’s a major cyber incident it’s very difficult to prove most of the time who did it,” said Richard Clarke, former White House adviser on national security and cyber issues.

“There are incidents, I think, where government is involved, doing reconnaissance or testing out concepts, probing for weaknesses.”

Clarke said he suspects Russia and China are the most pervasive users of the Internet for intelligence-gathering on suspected enemy states and plotting ways to use the information for military purposes.

“Maybe the United States too,” he told Reuters at a security conference here.

Clarke worked for the last three US presidents as a White House national security adviser. He resigned after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on America and has been a vocal critic of the Bush Administration’s anti-terror and Iraq campaigns.

His latest comments come as network security experts report a growing sophistication of attacks on business and government web sites, either knocking them offline for long periods or cracking their defences to steal trade secrets.

With more and more of the world’s crucial national infrastructure from emergency police hotlines to power grids — connected, at times, to the public Internet, the risk of cyber attacks is growing.

In addition, a new crop of elaborate computer programs has been unleashed on the Internet, capable of snooping on security networks for top secret information.

Experts agree there is scant evidence so far of state-sponsored efforts to hack into military computer systems or compromise national security networks. — MNA/Reuters
Aston Villa trounce Portsmouth 3-0

LONDON, 7 Nov—Aston Villa romped to a 3-0 Premier League victory over Portsmouth on Saturday as their South American connection paid dividends at Villa Park. Villa killed the game before halftime with midfielder Peter Whittingham firing into an empty net after 18 minutes and Colombian striker Juan Pablo Angel finishing off a three-man move involving Peruvian Nelson Solano and Ecuador’s Ulises de la Cruz. Solano then rounded off the scoring five minutes before the break, pouncing on a loose ball in the area to fire home a rising shot. Villa manager David O’Leary told Sky Sports: “We thoroughly deserved it. We went out with the right attitude, we knew it was going to be a hard game but we stoped Portsmouth playing.” Villa could have added more against a disappointing Portsmout, unrecognizable from the side who beat Manchester United 2-0 last weekend. Victory moved Villa up to sixth place in the table before the rest of the weekend’s action, with 18 points from 12 games.

Juventus suffer first loss of season

MILAN, 7 Nov—Serie A leaders Juventus suffered their first loss of the season with a shock 3-2 defeat at lowly Reggina on Saturday. The result gives second-placed AC Milan, who host AS Roma on Sunday, a chance to close the gap on Juve to just two points. Juve have won eight and drawn one before the trip south and Fabio Capello’s side also had a 100 per cent record from four Champions League games. Reggina took the lead in the 12th minute with a freakish goal as Juve defender Fabio Cannavaro’s clearance hit the oncoming Giuseppe Colucci and looped over keeper Gianluigi Buffon. Juve drew level two minutes later when Reggina defender Gaetano De Rosa passed straight to Zlatan Ibrahimovic and the Swedish striker rocketed the ball, television replays showed Kapo was in an off-side position before he brought the ball down. “It went badly for us right from the outset,” said Juve coach Fabio Capello. “They got what were effective two own goals from us and some things went against us. But we approached the game right, the players gave their all but it didn’t go for us tonight,” he said.—MNA/Reuters

Celtic beat Kilmarnock 2-1

GLASGOW, 7 Nov—Midfielder Alan Thompson scored his third goal in as many games for Scottish champions Celtic in a 2-1 Premier League win over Kilmarnock on Saturday. Thompson, who netted in last week’s 3-2 league win at Motherwell and a 1-0 Champions League victory against Shakhtar Donetsk, converted in the 64th minute after Henri Camara was felled by Simon Lappin. Celtic, with 34 points from 13 games, moved seven points clear of Rangers at the top of the standings. Rangers visit Livingston on Sunday.

Olympique Lyon win 1-0 to RC Lens

PARIS, 7 Nov—French champions Olympique Lyon increased their lead in Ligue 1 with their fifth away victory of the season at RC Lens on Saturday. The only that remain unbeaten to reach 29 points, overnight leaders Monaco, took the lead from a dubious penalty converted by Mohammed Kallon in the 64th minute, but Ajaccio deserved their injury-time equalizer, scored by Benjamin Pavard in the 92nd. Lens were 2-0 down after the interval, having already lost 2-1 at Arsenal in the Champions League. Avram Grant’s side looked to have sealed the win with a 94th-minute goal from former Chelsea winger Arjen Robben, but the Dutchman was adjudged to have handled the ball before scoring. The Frenchman then stepped up to convert the resulting penalty to claim all three points for the Ligue 1 leaders.

Bayern bounce back from loss by crushing Hanover 9-6

BERLIN, 7 Nov—Bayern Munich bounced back from their bitter Champions League loss to Juventus with one of their best performances of the season on Saturday, crushing Hanover 9-6 to jump to second in the Bundesliga.

Chelsea go top of Premier League

LONDON, 7 Nov—Chelsea went two points clear at the top of the Premier League after they beat Everton 1-0 and struggling champions Arsenal were held to a surprise 1-1 draw by promoted Crystal Palace on Saturday. Chelsea are on top after 29 points, outright leaders Arsenal slapped to second on 27, the first time they are not top since January, with Everton still third on 23. Yet to recover from a 2-0 defeat by Manchester United two weeks ago, Arsenal showed none of the pace and confidence which had typified their record 49-match unbeaten league run. Charlton Athletic, a day after the abrupt resignation of Spurs’ French coach Jacques Santini. Chelsea are top on 29 points, overnight leaders

Answers for yesterday’s crossword puzzle

DC United’s Alecko Eskandarian, right, tries to get

Washington Post

Presence of mind

The Corsicans opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a header by Ser-

The New York Times

Bayern Munich bounced back from their bitter Champions League loss to Juventus with one of their best performances of the season on Saturday, crushing Hanover 9-6 to jump to second in the Bundesliga.

Bayern Munich have won their first five away games this season, a

The New York Times

They got what were effective two own goals from us and some things

MNA/Reuters

Juventus suffered their first loss of the season with a shock 3-2 defeat at lowly Reggina on Saturday. The result gives second-placed AC Milan, who host AS Roma on Sunday, a chance to close the gap on Juve to just two points. Juve have won eight and drawn one before the trip south and Fabio Capello’s side also had a 100 per cent record from four Champions League games. Reggina took the lead in the 12th minute with a freakish goal as Juve defender Fabio Cannavaro’s clearance hit the oncoming Giuseppe Colucci and looped over keeper Gianluigi Buffon. Juve drew level two minutes later when Reggina defender Gaetano De Rosa passed straight to Zlatan Ibrahimovic and the Swedish striker rocketed the ball, television replays showed Kapo was in an off-side position before he brought the ball down. “It went badly for us right from the outset,” said Juve coach Fabio Capello. “They got what were effective two own goals from us and some things went against us. But we approached the game right, the players gave their all but it didn’t go for us tonight,” he said.—MNA/Reuters

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Japan sees first crimes drop in 8 years

Tokyo, 7 Nov — Japan’s crime cases, except those involving traffic accidents, in 2003 dropped 2.2 per cent from the previous year to 2,790,444, declining for the first time in eight years, a Justice Ministry white paper said Friday. Thefts accounted for the bulk of the crimes at 2,235,844, down 60 per cent, the white paper said, attributing the decrease to reinforced measures against street crimes, such as purse snatching. However, frauds jumped up by 21.9 per cent. The so-called “It’s me” phone fraud cases took up around 10 per cent, involving some 4.3 billion yen (40 million US dollars).

Most of the victims in such kind of cases were the elderly, who fell for calls from swindlers claiming themselves as family members, relatives or acquaintances and asking for money transfer. Murders and robberies also grew by 40 per cent and 9.7 per cent respectively. The document also said that prison inmates reached to 61,534 people, not only exceeding 60,000 for the first time in 43 years, but also surpassing prisoners’ accommodation capabilities by 16 per cent, the worst since 1972.

Besides the growing number of the indicted, the situation has also been exacerbated by longer penalties against felons, the white paper said.

China will never seek hegemony

Beijing, 7 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has assured neighbouring countries that Beijing will never seek “hegemony” despite its fast-paced development and called for dialogue to ensure peace in the region.

“Despite fast-paced development, China does not, and will never, seek hegemony,” Wen told defence officials attending the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Security Policy Conference (ASPC) here Friday.

Peace, progress and cooperation have become the general course of development in the Asia-Pacific Region, he said, adding that with more opportunities than challenges, the situation in the area is stable.

“Progress needs peace and cooperation requires dialogue,” Wen was quoted as saying by the official Chinese media.

“Dialogue should be based on mutual respect, seeking common points while reserving differences and debate,” he said.

China, which is committed to economic development, is an important force to maintain stability and peace of the world, Wen said. For that purpose, China will work together, especially in security, and push forward regional peace and stability through dialogue and exchanges.

The three-day meeting, hosted by China and chaired by Indonesia, ASEAN’S current chair, was the highest level of its kind everheld within the framework of ARF.

During their meeting, representatives exchanged experiences in facing non-traditional security issues, which include fight against terrorism, transnational crime, weapons smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and money laundering, Major-General Sudrajat, chairman of the ASPC and head of Indonesian delegation, said.

China lowers culture industry threshold for private sector

Beijing, 7 Nov — China has lowered its threshold for private sector to invest in the country’s culture industry, said Ministry of Culture.

In a circular issued by the ministry on November 3, China encourages and supports private sector to invest in businesses including entertainment, tourism, the Internet, publishing, antique and artwork in the form of independent investment, joint venture, cooperation, shareholding or licensed operation.

The private sector has become an important part of the Chinese culture industry in the past few years.

The added value created by the private sector in the industry accounts for more than half of the total value.

Weather

Sunday, November 7, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated light rain in Shan State and Upper Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperature were (3°C) below normal in Chin and Kayin States and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions.

Maximum temperature on 6-11-2004 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 7-11-2004 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-11-2004 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 6-11-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (112.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.64 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southeast at 13:10 hours MST on 6-11-2004.

Inference: According to the observations at 09:30 hours MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over Southwest Myanmar will persist. Weather is cloudy in South and West Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-11-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent days: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-11-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-11-2004: Fair weather. 

The New Light of Myanmar
Yangon, 7 Nov — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Trophy men’s inter-township open football tournament was opened this afternoon on the football ground of Aung San Stadium.

Among the spectators were Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife Daw Aye Aye, Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, divisional departmental officials, Myanmar Football Federation President U Win Aung, Yangon Division Football Subcommittee Chairman Brig-Gen Myint Swe (Retd), Secretary of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aye Myint and others.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke on the occasion while 44 soccer teams took their positions on the ground. In the opening match, Hline Township team played against Mayangon Township team.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivers a speech at the founding day of General Administration Department. — MNA

Founding anniversary of General Administration Department observed

Yangon, 7 Nov — The founding anniversary of General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs was observed at the ministry this morning.

Present were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and wife, director-general of Myanmar Police Force, deputy director-general of MPF, advisers of GAD (Head Office), officials of Yangon Division GAD and outstanding service personnel in education and sport.

GAD was reconstituted on 7 November 1988 and family day is observed annually beginning 2003. By doing so, service personnel can discharge duties assigned by the State and the ministry in harmony.

He said the government is implementing the tasks for the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation upholding Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy. In order to do so, the government laid down the seven-point Road Map.

He urged personnel of GAD who play an important role in administrative machinery to strive for success of the National Convention, to try to become capable highly-qualified persons in order to run the administrative machinery of the State and to make efforts to be a department on which the State can rely.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe presented gifts to outstanding service personnel and athletes and their families.

Director-General of GAD U Myat Ko presented letters of appointment to 14 gazetted officers.

Inter-township open football tournament kicks off

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Minister U Aung Thaung explains rural development tasks to town elders and USDA members in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Member of Secretariat of USDA meets executives, organizers in NyaungU, Myingyan Districts

Yangon, 7 Nov — Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met local people, teachers and organizers of Village USDAs at Welaung Basic Education High School in Taungtha Township yesterday.

He went to the basic education middle school in Kyaukka Village and inspected repair of classrooms.

Yesterday, the member of the Secretariat of the USDA met Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Tin Maung Oo, secretaries of Myingyan, Taungtha, Ngazun and Natogyi Township USDAs, executives and rural organizers at Maha Bodhi Monastery in Kyaukka Village. He also met secretaries of NyaungU and Kyauk-padaung Township USDAs at NyaungU District USDA Office today. He discuss-ed continued implementation of rural development tasks and people’s active participation in the efforts for success of the seven-point Road Map. — MNA