Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**Families of PBANRDA Ministry offer ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha**

**YANGON, 8 NOV—**
Families of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs offered ‘soon’ to members of Sangha led by the Rector Sayadaw of the State Pariyatti Sasana University at Mogok refectory on Kaba Aye Hill here at 10 am today.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thwin Myaung, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, OSD Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials and staff families.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from the Rector Sayadaw and Minister Col Thwin Nyunt and wife Daw Kyun Khine, the deputy ministers and departmental heads presented offerings to members of the Sangha.

Next, Director-General of Education and Training Department Col Than Win presented K200,000 donated by the ministry for the university. Deputy Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Tun Myaung accepted the donation. Afterwards, the Rector Sayadaw delivered a sermon, following by sharing of merits gained. After that, families of the ministry led by Minister Col Thwin Nyunt and wife Daw Kyun Khine offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.

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**Basic courses for seafarers opened**

**YANGON, 8 NOV—**
Basic course No 2/2004 for seafarers (deck) and basic course No 1/2004 for seafarers (engine) of Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport were opened at Myathada Thetkadan training school at Botataung Wharf this morning.

Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung said the courses are conducted with the aims of ensuring worksite safety and work efficiency. He urged the trainees to apply the knowledge gained at the course in practical work and to try to be good service personnel on whom IWT relies.

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**Books for libraries**

**YANGON, 8 NOV—**
Well-wishers presented books worth K779,000 for libraries in PyinOoLwin district on 2 November, Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Myint and officials accepted the books in PyinOoLwin.

Lt-Col Myo Myint and U Ngwe Tun, Head of District Information and Public Relations Department, made speeches.

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**Tasks for ‘Education for All’ discussed**

**YANGON, 8 NOV—**
A coordination meeting on ‘Education for All’ was held at the meeting hall of the No 1 Basic Education Department in Bahan Township here this morning, with an address delivered by Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min.

Present at the meeting were directors-general of departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, advisors, departmental personnel, officials of related task forces and social organizations, and education officers.

Institute of Education Rector U Thaung Tut (Retd) and Myanmar Education Research Bureau Chairman Dr Khin Maung Kywe presided over the meeting.

On the occasion, No 1 BED Director-General U Tin Nyo gave a brief account of his experience of international meetings on the theme. Those who attended the Regional Level ‘Education for All’ Seminar held in Bangkok, Thailand, also recounted what they had learned from it. It was followed by a general round of discussions.
21 shot dead in Iraq police station massacre, two US soldiers killed

RAMADI, 7 Nov—Gunmen rounded up and killed 21 policemen and two US soldiers died in separate attacks in Iraq Sunday, one day after car bombs and clashes killed 36 people in the restive Sunni heartland.

The renewed violence against symbols of Iraq’s US-backed government came as Prime Minister Iyad Allawi looked set to mount an offensive on rebel-held Fallujah, in Al-Anbar province, where the police massacre occurred.

Dozens of gunmen, some 200 according to one estimate, ambushed the main police station in Haditha and another smaller station in the nearby village of Haqlaniya, said local police.

“The attackers disarmed the police, gathered them together and then shot them dead,” he said of the raid in Haditha, a town 200 kilometres (120 miles) west ofBaghdad.

A similar execution-style massacre took place at dawn in Haqlaniya, he said, adding that the combined death toll was 21.

Policemen found their murdered colleagues with their hands tied behind their backs, while the gunmen escaped with weapons and vehicles.

As collaborating with the US-led military, Iraq’s fledging security forces are a top target for an insurgency that has raged in the aftermath of last year’s invasion. They are much easier to hit than their American counterparts.

A curfew imposed during a barrage of bloody attacks on police stations and public buildings in the Sunni Muslim bastion of Samarra on Saturday remained in place as US troops conducted search operations, local police said.

An Iraqi police spokesman said US troops told residents to stay at home or risk being shot, leaving the dead unburied in the hospital morgue, while public buildings remained shuttered.

British contractor killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov—A British contractor has been killed in a roadside bomb attack in Zubayr, south Iraq, an Army spokesman has said.

The Foreign Office confirmed a Briton had died in an incident, but gave no further details.

The Army spokesman in Basra said there were two civilian casualties from the bomb on Sunday morning.

“I can confirm there was a car bomb this morning. I believe they were two civilians, they were definitely not military,” he said. The incident happened in Zubayr, just south of Basra.

Danish television reported that the Briton was a civilian security employee, and the second casualty was a South African colleague.

Danish troops from a nearby military camp rushed to the scene, Associated Press reported, but the Briton was killed instantly and the South African died later in hospital.

Iraq declares 60-day state of emergency

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov—Iraq’s government last night declared a state of emergency and nationwide curfews for 60 days as the widely expected assault on the rebel stronghold of Fallujah drew closer.

US jets launched their heaviest bombing raids yet in Fallujah at the weekend, dropping several 500lb bombs, and American troops blocked off all roads into the city. The long anticipated assault is expected to begin this week. But still the rebel bombing campaign continues, claiming at least another 60 lives across Iraq at the weekend.

 Guerrillas attacked three police stations in the Sunni belt north and west of the capital, killing at least 22 people. South of Baghdad, 12 Iraqi national guardsmen were murdered as they drove home to the holy Shia city of Najaf. Outside Fallujah, the US Marines appeared in the final stages of preparation for the assault. The commander of the US 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, which will lead the attack, gave a rallying speech to 3,000 of his troops at their base outside the city.

“This is America’s fight,” said Lt Gen John Sattler.

“What we’ve added to it is our Iraqi partners. They want to go in and liberate Fallujah. They feel this town’s being held hostage by mugs, thugs, murderers and terrorists. God bless you, each and every one. You know what your mission is. Go out there and get it done.”

Reports from inside the city suggest that rebels have dug in and have hidden roadside bombs. Many car bombs have apparently been prepared and, while most families have fled, hundreds of fighters remain waiting for battle.

 visions of future “electronic cities” discussed in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 7 Nov—Experts from around the world described their visions of the “electronic cities” of the future at an information technology forum here Friday.

E-government and e-city programmes were initiated by the United States, said Barry Lunt, a Ph D of Information Technology from the School of Technology of Brigham Young University, said at the forum, part of the 2004 World Engineers Convention.

E-cities will be much more efficient than regular cities, Lunt said. He argued that once e-government and e-city programmes started, information might flow and transfer and be copied in vast quantity via the Internet, smashing barriers between governments. The process would become more and more transparent too, he added. The difficulty, he said, is how to promote progress of information technology and to integrate different information more efficiently.

Science and technology will serve as the core of any future e-city or e-government, he said.
Aid agencies abandon dangerous work in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov— Giving aid to people in Iraq has become a virtual “suicide mission” that few relief workers are willing to take, prompting most international agencies to pull their foreign staff out or shut down operations completely.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) this week became the latest in a long line of humanitarian organizations to decide that the risk of kidnapping or bombing in Iraq outweighs the benefits it brings to the population.

But some international non-governmental organizations are standing firm, though they admit that their work is hugely curtailed by the security factor.

Women for Women International, a Washington-based advocacy group that promotes women’s issues in countries scarred by war, is one of the few agencies still operating in a limited manner—on the ground.

The US Institute for Peace is another agency that opted to stay the course for now, though one foreign employee admitted that it was virtually impossible to check first hand on the projects it funded to promote peace and conflict resolution.

“It is a real downer for the international staff and it makes it harder to assess and evaluate the work we are doing,” Heather Coyne said. To lessen the risk of attack, USIP is based inside the fortress-like Green Zone in the centre of Baghdad that also houses the main Iraqi government buildings as well as the US and other embassies.—Internet

Nigeria to invite bids for 27 oil blocks in 2005

LAGOS, 7 Nov — Nigeria will put on offer a total of 27 oil blocks at the opening of a new bidding round scheduled for the first quarter of 2005, the country’s This Day newspaper reported Friday.

The blocks are located in the deepwater, continental shelf of the Niger Delta and Chad Basins, Edmund Daukoru, presidential adviser on petroleum and energy matters, was quoted as saying. Daukoru said in a statement released by the Ministry of Petroleum Resources that “no limit would be placed on the number of blocks a participant company could apply for” in the impending bidding round. “A company can undertake solo-bidding or take part in partnership with other companies,” he added.

Nigeria previously conducted an open bidding round for oil block licensing in 2000. At that time, 22 blocks were put on offer, out of which 11 were offered. Through the awards of more acreage, Nigeria plans to raise the country’s oil reserves to 40 billion barrels from the current 33 billion barrels by 2010, as well as achieve a production capacity of four million barrels per day (BPD) by the same year from the current 2.5 million BPD.

Nigeria is Africa’s top oil producer and the world’s sixth largest oil exporter. MNA/Xinhua

Syrians reinforce security at Iraq border

AL-HUH, 7 Nov — Bulldozers shove sand into a 12-foot-high barrier along Syria’s remote border with Iraq, where authorities say round-the-clock patrols and new observation posts are stopping foreign fighters flowing into Iraq.

At another section of the border, American soldiers stand 50 yards away on the Iraqi side, watching as Arab journalists are taken on a tour of the border organized by the Syrian government to show how Syria is responding to US and Iraqi demands it stop infiltrators.

“Be careful, they will shoot!” Lt.Col Ali Ahmed al-Shummari joked, referring to the Americans on the Iraqi side.

The colonel — who is in charge of the Abu Kamal border crossing area facing Qaim, Iraq — was smiling. But tensions have been high since American troops moved next door and US-Syrian relations have undergone a chill.

Still, Syrian and US forces standing yards apart at the border, don’t interact, a Syrian security official said.

Washington and Damascus have long differed over the Arab-Israeli conflict and US accusations Syria supports terrorism.—Internet

African countries urged to train more trade negotiators

HARARE, 7 Nov— African countries were urged Thursday in Zimbabwe to invest more resources in building institutional and human resources capacity to effectively negotiate on world trade issues.

The call was made in a two-day consultative meeting on trade, investment and capacity building interventions in sub-Saharan Africa, which started in Harare on Thursday.

“We don’t have academic institutions dealing specifically with trade and investment issues in Africa,” said United Nations Development Programme deputy resident representative in Zimbabwe, Bernard Mokam.

“An institutional framework to help trade negotiators in doing their work is lacking in Africa and we need to improve on this,” said Mokam, Director for international trade in Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Industry and International Trade, Beatrice Mutetwa.

said Africa should continuously train its trade negotiators because trade negotiations will not stop. MNA/Xinhua

Shoulder-fired missiles missing in Iraq, says paper

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov— Bush Administration officials fear as many as 4000 shoulder-fired missiles could be missing from Iraq, the Washington Post reported.

The missiles, which can be used to down aircraft, had been under the control of Saddam Hussein’s Government.

The newspaper quoted a senior US defence official as saying it was difficult to estimate how many of the portable missiles were missing and how many would have been in working order.

US officials fear that failure to secure the weapons means they may have been sold to terrorists. Internet

Filipino still hostage in Iraq

MANILA, 8 Nov— Hopes fell yesterday for Filipino accountant Robert Tarongoy, held hostage in Iraq, but rose for compatriot and diplomat Angelo Nayan, held captive in Afghanistan.

The Arab Al-Jazeera television network retracted its earlier report that Tarongoy had been freed and said that his fate was now unknown. The Qatar-based news channel had said on Friday that Tarongoy had been released after his wife appealed for his freedom.

Tarongoy’s whereabouts “remain unknown following reports that he was released along with a Nepalese hostage. It later turned out that only the Nepalese captive was released,” Al-Jazeera said yesterday.

Nepal confirmed the release of its national who, like Tarongoy, was among a group snatched by masked gunmen who stormed their Baghdad offices on 6 Nov. The group included an American and three Iraqis, two of whom were later released.—Internet

Two British soldiers look at a map in the operations room of the 1st Battalion Black Watch at Camp Dogwood, Iraq on 6 Nov, 2004.—Internet
Greece says first foreign policy decision by Bush wrong

ATHENS, 7 NOV — Greece said on Friday the first foreign policy decision by the reelected Bush administration was wrong after Washington recognized the neighboring Balkan state by the disputed name of Macedonia.

After President George W. Bush’s reelection on Tuesday, his administration disregarded UN-led talks to find a compromise and recognized the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) by the name Macedonia, which is rejected by Greece.

“I made it clear that I consider this US move to be wrong … it is off-target and unfortunate,” Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis told reporters in Brussels. “The United States with their move are not helping towards a solution.”

The row has damaged relations between the Balkan neighbours since 1991 when the republic broke away from Yugoslavia. Athens opposes the name “Macedonia,” saying it could imply territorial claims against its own northern province of Macedonia.

Karamanlis also said the dispute could hurt the chances of the land-locked state of 2.1 million people joining the European Union, of which Greece is a member.

It is known by most international groups, and seated at the United Nations, as “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” while UN-led talks seek to find a compromise name.

“The European Union position remains clear that if FYROM wants to have any hopes of joining the EU they must have accepted a commonly acceptable solution,” Karamanlis said.

The EU will issue a report in the first half of 2005 on the country’s bid to join the 25-nation bloc.

Karamanlis said he raised the dispute over the name, which has also hurt Greece’s relations with several EU partners, with Britain’s Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told Greece this week the move was not aimed at undermining the fellow NATO member but rewarding Macedonia.

He said recognition as Macedonia was intended to weaken the chances of a nationalist-inspired referendum on Sunday reducing the rights of Macedonia’s large ethnic Albanian minority.

But most Greek media saw the US decision to accept the disputed name, weeks after US special envoy Matthew Nimetz met Greek officials to discuss the issue, as a betrayal. “Bush ignores the UN and strikes (Athens) early in the morning,” the daily Eleftherotypia said in its front page. The name is highly sensitive in Greece, partly because Macedonia was the birthplace of Alexander the Great.

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Iraq to spend $90m to let citizens living abroad vote

Baghdad, 7 Nov — Iraq will spend 90 million US dollars to let citizens living abroad vote in elections, the government said on Saturday, despite UN concerns organizing overseas voting would be too costly.

The United Nations, which is advising on the January 27 national and provincial elections, opposed allowing expatriates to vote saying it was expensive, difficult to organize and open to fraud.

The government has allocated 90 million US dollars for overseas voting from the 340 million US dollars set aside for the elections, a statement from interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi’s office said.

“The government expects the independent High Election Commission and the United Nations to do their best to make the elections a success … and allow all Iraqis inside and outside the country to participate in the democratic process,” the statement said.

“This financial support removed a main obstacle against conducting elections outside Iraq. The elections will choose a 275-member assembly that will select a Cabinet and draw up a Constitution. The United States, which also opposes non-resident Iraqis voting, says it has allocated $71 million US dollars for democracy in Iraq, including 60 million US dollars for elections and 30 million US dollars to support political parties it sees as moderate. UN officials say it will cost about 90 million US dollars a head for expatriates to register and vote, compared with 24 US dollars for each voter in Iraq. Iraq has a population of 26 million US dollars. There are an estimated 3-4 million Iraqis living mainly in Jordan, Iran, Syria, Europe, Brazil and the United States.

Allawi appeals for help from European leaders

Brussels (Belgium), 7 Nov — Iraq’s US-backed leader has made an impassioned plea for European nations divided by the war to reunite to help stabilize and rebuild his country.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi appealed to the European Union to build a “close and strategic partnership” with the new Iraq, and he urged NATO to accelerate plans to train 1,000 officers a year for the fledgling Iraqi military.

“Iraq is your best ally in the Middle East,” Allawi told EU leaders Friday. “We need your help to succeed in building the freedom and democracy for which we are fighting.”

The EU leaders responded with strong words of support and a $38.6-million US-dollar offer to fund elections scheduled in January, including training for Iraqi vote monitors.

In their first meeting since US President George W Bush won re-election on Tuesday, many European leaders stressed the need to overcome past differences over Iraq and strengthen the trans-Atlantic partnership.

“Our deep political, economic and cultural ties make us each other’s natural and indispensable partners,” EU leaders said in a statement.

However, French President Jacques Chirac—who clashed with Bush over Iraq — stressed the need for Europe to boost its standing to balance Washington’s clout.

“It is evident that Europe, now more than ever, must strengthen its unity and dynamism when faced with this great world power,” Chirac said at the end of a two-day summit. “More than ever, we must reinforce Europe politically and economically.”

In a statement on Iraq, all 25 EU leaders pledged to “support the brave and difficult course the people of Iraq are steering toward the restoration of security, democracy and the rule of law”.

However, many saw a French snub when Chirac left the summit early, skipping the meeting with Allawi.

Two UK soldiers injured in Iraq

Baghdad, 7 Nov — Two British soldiers have been seriously injured in a suicide attack in Iraq, the Ministry of Defence said.

The troops were part of the Black Watch battle group stationed at Camp Dogwood 20 miles (32km) from Baghdad, having been re-deployed from Basra.

The MoD said the pair were treated at a US field hospital before being flown to a military hospital in Germany.

The ministry said a third soldier was killed in a suicide bomb attack at a checkpoint near Fallujah on Thursday.

The two soldiers suffered serious injuries to their lower legs, and were said to be in a stable condition.

Georgia, South Ossetia agree to withdraw troops from conflict zone

MOSCOW, 7 Nov — Georgia and its pro-independence region of South Ossetia Friday agreed to withdraw troops from conflict areas at a bilateral meeting held in Russia’s Black Sea resort of Sochi, said reports reaching here.

Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania and South Ossetian leader Eduard Kokoty agreed that all the Armed Forces, but the peacekeepers by the two sides and Russia and some police, would be pulled out of the conflict zone.

The agreement was reached under the mediation of the Russian Foreign Ministry. Topics discussed during the meeting also included resuming rail transportation between Georgian capital Tbilisi and South Ossetian capital Tskhinvali.

A wounded boy is carried off after he was shot in the leg by American forces in the Sade City neighbourhood of Baghdad, Iraq recently.—INTERNET

UNSC demands immediate halt to all milry action in Ivory Coast

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Nov — The UN Security Council on Saturday demanded an immediate halt to all military action in Ivory Coast and confirmed that UN peacekeepers and French forces are authorized to use “all necessary means” to carry out their jobs.

At an emergency meeting, the Council also authorized UN and French troops patrolling a zone divided by the rebel-held north from the government-controlled south “to prevent any hostile action,” and condemned any attempt by either side to send forces through the zone.

The Council said it “intends to examine rapidly further actions, including individual measures, to be taken.”

France’s UN Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said he would draft a resolution imposing an arms embargo on Ivory Coast. “The Security Council is impatient,” he said. “What is happening now is very serious in Ivory Coast and I hope that the Council in the coming days will be able to adopt a resolution.”

Presidential statements such as the one the Council issued Saturday became part of the Council’s record, but resolutions are legally binding. Council members agreed on the statement after a closed-door briefing on the latest developments in Ivory Coast, including an attack on a French base that killed nine French troops and an American civilian, and wounded over 20 French soldiers. — MNA/AP
Paunglaung Hydropower project to fulfil electricity requirements

The State has implemented 28 new hydropower projects and six gas-fired power projects to generate more electricity. Eleven power projects including Paunglaung Hydropower project and Ye Ywa Hydropower Project are being implemented. On completion of these projects, additional 1,949 megawatts of electricity will be generated.

Location — On Paunglaung Creek in Pyinmana Township, Mandalay Division.

Number of Turbines installed — Four Turbines

Generating Capacity — 280 megawatts
Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Cambodia

YANGON, 9 Nov — On the occasion of the 51st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia which falls on 9 November 2004, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. — MNA

Malaysian guests call on Commerce Minister

YANGON, 8 Nov — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein received Tan Sri Dato’ Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of the Myanma General U Nay Win of the Border Trade Department, U Nyunt Aye of the Directorate of Trade, Director-General of Commerce Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Malaysia and party at his office this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director-General U Nyunt Aye of the Directorate of Trade, Director-General U Nay Win of the Border Trade Department, Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and officials. — MNA

Kachin State USDA holds annual general meeting

YANGON, 8 Nov — The annual general meeting for 2004 of Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association was held in Myitkyina on 6 November.

Patron of Kachin State USDA Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife Daw Tin Tin Nwe, member of Secretariat of USDA Kachin State in-charge Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein Zaw, Secretary of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Lt- Col Maung Myo and departmental officials.

Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and member of the Secretariat of USDA Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein Zaw spoke on the occasion. The commander, the minister and officials presented prizes to outstanding students and personnel for their excellent performance.

Next, Secretary of Kachin State USDA U Rawan Jone accepted cash donated for USDA. He also presented K 1.5 million for construction of Thahtaygon-Namti suspension bridge and equipment worth K 1.7 million for language lab to officials concerned. In the evening, a dinner to mark the annual general meeting of Kachin State USDA was held.

MMCTWA Central Council meets

YANGON, 8 Nov — The Central Council of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the multipurpose building in South Okkalapa Township here this evening, with an address delivered by MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win.

It was attended by MMCWA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and members of the Central Council.

In her speech, Daw Khin Khin Win said as a permanent member, she has devoted herself in the association to participate in its activities in person. She also said that in line with the goals of the association, she would go hand in hand with all the members in carrying out the tasks to uplift public health, education and social status.

MMCWA is serving public interests with full sense of volunteer spirit, and at the same time, it is taking measures to ensure the uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation; one of the four social objectives of the State, she continued.

Correct leadership and close supervision are very instrumental for the association to implementing effectively its tasks. In this context, the onus is on all the members to carry out matters related to current amendments, laws, rules and regulations as directed by the Secretary-1 and the health minister, she said.

As a social volunteering organization, MMCWA comprising volunteers and departmental personnel also stands as a national force, she added. Later, she called for sellless contributions of the members.

Next, Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint briefed on measures to be taken for five tasks such as health, education, economy, social affairs and international relations.

Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha reported on the future plans of the association, which was followed by a general round of discussions. — MNA

Upgrading of Bagan-NyaungU Airport, rural development tasks inspected

YANGON, 8 Nov — Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, together with officials, inspected the upgrading of the buildings at Bagan-NyaungU Airport on 4 November morning. Officials of the Civil Aviation Department reported on construction tasks to the deputy minister, who gave instructions on timely completion of the project and meeting the set standard. Next, he oversaw the scanning of passengers’ bags and luggage by X-ray machines, and the passengers’ lounge.

Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, attended the concluding of the basic USDA organizing multiplier course conducted by the Kunsak Village USDA in Myingyan Township, and inspected the running of ‘Moon’ brand paper factory.

On the morning of 5 November, the deputy minister and wife Daw Wai Wai presented offerings to the Presiding Sayadaw and 120 members of Sangha at Lonedaw Village Monastery in Natogyi Township. Afterwards, the deputy minister met the people of Lonedaw Village and explained rural development works. The Township Peace and Development Council Chairman and officials reported on the construction of Dankhaung-Loneda, Ramandaw Road.

The deputy minister and wife on 6 November morning attended the stake-driving ceremony for construction of the Dhammayon of Lonedaw Monastery. The deputy minister next met the people of Dainglai Village, urging them to actively participate in the rural development tasks, and inspected the site chosen for construction of Dainglai Bridge.

In Phayagyi model village, the deputy minister met with local people and inspected production process of Wadee beads, works of Pyu Period. Later, the deputy minister and party went to Magyikan village where he inspected the generating of electricity through biogas and met with the village people. Then, he donated 50 bags of cement for construction of Magyidaw primary school.

In the evening, the deputy minister and officials met members of the USDA and War Veterans Organization from Natogyi Township and Myingyan District.

On 7 November morning, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung inspected Shwekeinnayi-2 watercraft owned by Inland Water Transport at the port of Bagan-NyaungU. Later, he greeted tourists and passengers from the craft and gave necessary instructions to the crew members. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects religious books and papers and commemorative badges which will be used at Fourth World Buddhist Summit. (News on page 1) — MNA
YangPu-KatTaik Bridge in eastern Shan State opens

Yangon, 8 Nov — YangPu-KatTaik Bridge in Kengtung Township, eastern Shan State, was inaugurated this morning. The bridge was built under the sponsorship of East Union Solidarity and Development Association. The bridge is located on a rural roadway linking Kengtung and KatTaik village.

The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the local public also rendered assistance for the project. It was built at a cost of K 2.51 million, to which the State provided K 1.6 million and the local public, contribute the remaining K 0.91 million.

The bridge helps facilitate transport in YangPu and KatTaik village-tracts, where over 10,000 people live, leading to the development of economic and social sectors.

Secretary of Shan State USDA Dr Sai Hae Kawk and Director of Development Affairs Department U Tin Soe formally opened the facility.

Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, USDA Central Executive Committee member Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and local people also attended the opening ceremony.

The commander and the minister also inspected the opening of a new rural health care centre in KatTaik village.

Officials explained efforts to implement the bridge and the rural health centre projects.

U Sai Toam and his elder sister Daw Nang Hsam Tif of the village donated their 40-foot-by-40-foot land to build the 30-foot-by-20-foot CI-roofed brick building. It was built at a cost of K 2.1 million.

The Government provided K 1.5 million, the public, K 600,000.

MNA

Future tasks on women’s affairs of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation explained

Yangon, 8 Nov — The future tasks on women’s affairs of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation were clarified at the meeting hall of MWAF on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Present were the President of MWAF, the Vice-President, general secretary, the joint general secretary, members of the secretariat, heads of departments, leaders of work groups, regional organizers, deputy leaders, intellectuals and intelligentsia and officials of support groups.

President of MWAF Daw Than Thow Nwe said she would report on formation and the future tasks of MWAF. The federation was formed systematically in accord with the fundamental rules.

There are over 1.3 million members in one year.

The tasks are to be implemented according to its objectives. The federation will carry on its tasks mainly on safeguarding of women, providing assistance to them and educational and organizational matters in accord with the objectives of the federation, she said.

She said the federation will also participate in the endeavours for emergence of a new modern developed nation organizing the women, 50.3% of population of Myanmar.

She said as the federation was consolidated at the central level, concerted efforts are to be made for consolidation of State/Division, District/ Township and Ward/ Village Women Organizations and for increasing of members from quantitative ones through assistance, educational and organizational ways and means.

She spoke of the need for members of the federations at different levels to make endeavours to stand as a support federation in cooperation with other partners such as social organizations in the interests of the State and the people. She said Myanmar will host the third meeting of ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) in the last week of November. Therefore, preparations are being made for the meeting in cooperation with Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs. Those who will be participating in the meeting are to continue their tasks as scheduled, she added. She spoke at length on prevention of trafficking in person and preventing violence against women, nurturing young girls, preserving culture and making efforts to become the federation that supports the development of women and arrangements for needy women to receive education and vocational education.

Next, General Secretary of MWAF Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win reported on tasks needed. A general round of discussions then followed. Next, President Daw Than Thow Nwe said the federation and its members at different levels are to discharge their duties for all-round development of women and their security of life in accord with the rules and regulations.

MNA

Commander inspects upgrading tasks of Mandalay Industry Zone-2

Yangon, 8 Nov — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Committee Maj-Gen Ye Myint on 5 November went to Mandalay Industrial Zone-2 in Pyigyitagon Township in Mandalay and discussed upgrading tasks of the Zone.

The commander inspected the progress of the construction of the factories and sub-power stations and machinery at the zone.

At the briefing hall, responsible officials briefed the commander on progress of work, installation of cables, training, import machinery for factories and storage of raw materials. After hearing reports, the commander urged the officials to strive for timely completion of construction work and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the com-commander went to UD Group workshop on 59th Street and inspected the devices such as conversion kits and regulators produced by the UD Group for CNCG gas used vehicles.

MNA

USDA Secretariat Member inspects development works in Kachin State

Yangon, 8 Nov — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw went on inspection tour of 100-acre mixed crops plantation of Kachin State USDA USDA U Rawanjon presented reports to the minister on mixed crops plantations with the help of charts.

After inspecting around there, the minister instructed officials to make efforts for successful cultivation of crops and to utilize water from Namkwe Creek.

Next, Patron of Kachin State USDA Commissioner Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met officials of Myikyina Kayin Baptist Mission Society and presented rice, edible oil and bags of gram to them. An official of the society expressed his thanks.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Myikyina Wuntho Kyantback and paid homage to Myikyina Wuntho Kyantaung President Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jortikadhaja Bhadanta Silavamsa and supplicated on religious affairs.

After that, they met Christian priests, officials and reverends of Christian associations in Myikyina and donated rice and gram to them.

Later, they went to Thameikdawdaya nunnery and donated provisions to nuns.

And the minister met the secretary and executives of state, district and township level and members on November 7 and instructed them to speed up momentum in implementing future tasks of the association.

MNA

One-year traditional medicine practitioners course concludes

Yangon, 8 Nov — The one-year Traditional Medicine Practitioners Course No 3 (Yangon), conducted by the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health, concluded at the Institute of Nursing in Lanmadaw Township here this morning.

To present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, rectors, members of the Traditional Medicine Council, hospital superintendents, and officials.

During addressing the closing ceremony of the course, the deputy director presented awards to three trainees who stood first, second and third in the course. Afterwards, he presented the certificates to two trainees, who accepted them on behalf of all trainees.

MNA
Kayan Sluice Gate to benefit 30,000 acres

In its drive to develop the nation in all spheres, the Government has been implementing the 12 objectives. In the process, it is constantly conducting feasibility surveys to exploit terrestrial and marine resources for promoting the agricultural sector and developing the respective regions in line with one of the four economic objectives — development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

Development of agriculture is a fundamental component of the strategy aiming to increase food production and make Myanmar self-sufficient in food. The Kayan Sluice Gate Project will help raise the agriculture sector and the transport sector significantly, serving the interests of the nation and of the people.

So, the Kayan Sluice Gate Project will help raise the agriculture sector and the transport sector significantly, serving the interests of the nation and of the people.

(Translation: MS)

Myanma Alin: 8-11-2004
Robert Blackwill may leave White House

WASHINGTON, 8 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 George W. 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.

NEW DELHI, 8 Nov — A “more effective” vaccine for Japanese encephalitis has been developed by the scientists at the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and National Institute of Immunology offers effective prevention of the disease as compared to other ones available in the market,” DBT Secretary MK Bhan told PTI.

The vaccine would soon be available in the market as the technology has already been transferred to the industry after successful clinical trials, he said.

The development assumes significance as the chances of death due to Japanese encephalitis are high and the vaccines currently available are not very effective, he said.

Since no treatment was available, symptomatic treatment is being given to patients, Bhan said.

The disease, transmitted by culex mosquito, has claimed over 1,300 lives in as many as 16 states including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal during 2000 to 2003, a release from the department said.

The vector-borne disease causes inflammation around the brain and is characterized by high fever, headache, disorientation and spastic paralysis, it said.

Meanwhile, the Department has also developed a kit to test the disease, official spokesman of the department said.

“The kit — X cytone — which is already available in the market, would help detect the disease within no time,” the spokesman added.

Bangladesh expects over $80m FDI in November

Dhaka, 7 Nov — The foreign investment inflow into the country may experience a huge jump in November with an expected cash investment of over 80 million US dollars.

The cash inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI), as expected, will be the highest in a month and will exceed the amount the country attracted in a single year before 2003, the New Age reported Saturday.


Bangladesh, in its own survey, however, claims the figure to be higher.

Lafarge Surma Cement Company Limited, now at the final stage of going into production, is expected to spearhead the enhanced FDI inflow this month with a big chunk.

The French company is set to bring in 54 million dollars this month with 24 million dollars already in the process, the government’s investment promotion agency sources said.

A few other companies will also make investment in the country.

Foreign translation software giants vie for Chinese market

BEIJING, 8 Nov — Foreign language translation software producers have made headway into China in a bid to cash in on its growing translation market, which has been fuelled by the country’s recent acceptance into the World Trade Organization and the opening up of its markets to foreign competition.

SDL International, one of the 750 tradable software providers, has successfully landed its Trados multilingual translation solutions in China. Trados provides software to several well-known Chinese companies, including Hua Wei, Sina.com and State Patent Office.

Huang Youyi, deputy director-general with the China Foreign Languages Publishing and Distribution Administration, said use of the Internet is extensive in translation, while the number of CAT software users is small.

Research on translation software in China was launched in the mid-1990s. China currently has more than 10 established domestic translation software companies, including China National Computer Software and Technology Service Co., Huajian Machine Translation Co. and SITU Sunway Information Technology Co.

Their products are not mature enough to compete with their foreign counterparts for computer translation is still a fledgling industry in China, according to Huang.

China’s fast economic growth and increased international communication with other economies of the world have driven the demand for translation.

Researches complete investigation into Tibetan folk art

LHASA, 8 Nov — Experts have completed a comprehensive investigation on the folk art in China’s Tibet Autonomous Region after more than 20 years of painstaking efforts, according to the researchers.

Artists and Tibetologists have traced Tibetan folk art in more than 70 counties during the past two decades and collected numerous written materials, some 5,000 pictures, 1,000 hours of audio records and 700 hours of video tapes, said Gaeqoe, deputy head of Lhasa-based Institute on Tibetan Folk Art, who has led the investigation for 10 years.

The investigation, the largest over the past 40 years, provides critical information on the folk art and artists in the region and paves the way for further academic research on the treasures, Gaeqoe said.

In some remote villages, experts also found a handful of valuable artistic styles and forms that academics believed had perished long ago.

He added that it will take time for scholars to categorize and analyse the materials, although some research achievements have already been published.

Tourists and residents make their way through a flooded St. Mark’s Square in Venice, northern Italy, Sunday, Oct. 31, 2004. An exceptional 137-centimeter (54 inch) high tide flooded eighty per cent of the town disrupting public transportation and flooding shops. — Internet
MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT

The Department of Development and Reform of the Committee on Planning and Finance, the government of the People’s Republic of China, invites all qualified bidders to submit sealed bids for the purpose of obtaining earth-moving equipment, for the purchase of four Excavators and two Bulldozers for the Sabetavung open-pit mine operations, at the S & K Mine Site, west bank of Myonya, Myanmar.

1. FOUR TRACKED EXCAVATORS

Specifications:
- Caterpillar 345B Series II or equivalent
- Heavy duty wide undercarriage with a 18m² bucket
- Low ground pressure tracks (Ground pressure ~ 53 KPa)
- Light duty bucket with a width of ~ 1820mm
- Low ground pressure tracks (Ground pressure ~ 46 KPa)

All equipments must be new and under full manufacturer’s warranty. Availability of finance terms from vender will be considered in determining the most suitable bid. Lowest price may not necessarily be the bid accepted.

Bidding documents will be available on payment of US$200 (in FEC) from the following address during office hours from 10 am to 5 pm from 15 November 2004. Tenders closing date is 29th November 2004 at 4 pm.

Tender application for the purchase S&K earthmoving equipment 701, Bo Chien Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon (Phone: 951-51494 to 951-514197. Fax: 951-514208)

General Manager,
Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited.

Private sector drives Beijing’s development

BEIJING, 8 Nov — The private sector now produces 41.87 per cent of Beijing’s total GDP (gross domestic product), playing an important role in pushing forward local economic development, according to Beijing’s Municipal Statistical Bureau.

The capital registered a GDP of 296.95 billion yuan (35.9 billion US dollars) in 2004’s first three quarters, a year-on-year rise of 13 per cent.

Private businesses employed 58.54 per cent of Beijing’s total working force at the end of June this year, about 6.6 million in urban areas.

There are nearly 690,000 private businesses in Beijing, according to statistics released recently by the Municipal Development and Reform Commission.

According to the commission, the private sector now contributes 52.6 per cent of Beijing’s total fixed asset investment and 43.13 per cent of tax revenue.

Chinese private businesses still often face difficulties in obtaining access to the market, unequal taxation, difficulties in obtaining bank loans and lack of legal assistance services, all of which may hold back their further development.

Officials disclosed that the city is drafting regulations on promoting the healthy development of private businesses.

The regulations will cover the promotion of fair competition, improving financial services for private businesses, standardizing operation and protecting the legitimate rights of private businesses and creating a sound environment for the development of the private sector.

According to the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, the number of private enterprises in China totaled three million by the end of last year, employing 40.88 million people and boasting a combined registered capital of 3.5 trillion yuan (423.2 billion US dollars).

Four of the figures are from 1999.

Government officials have repeatedly signaled that they will give full consideration to the interests of the private sector.

China will benefit from technological cooperation with Russia

MOSCOW, 7 Nov — Georgia is willing to establish good neighborly relations of friendship and cooperation with Russia in the field of security and the fight against terrorism, President Mikhail Saakashvili said in Tbilisi on Friday.

Georgia will continue to hold open talks with Russia to strengthen bilateral cooperation, Saakashvili was quoted by Russia’s Sputnik News agency as saying at a Press conference in the Georgian capital.

He said Georgian Parliament Speaker Nino Burdzhanadze’s talks with Russian officials several days ago in Moscow were “significant” and “beneficial.”

Chinese, Malaysian universities to cooperate in strengthening cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Nov — China’s Xiamen University and the University of Malaya (UM) Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to undertake joint research and exchange of students and staff.

The memorandum was signed by President of Xiamen University Professor Zhu Chong Shi and UM’s vice-chancellor Professor Hashim Yaacob, who is the Malaysian Higher Education Minister.

Zulfiqar Shafie witnessed the event.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Hashim said UM’s staff could utilize Xiamen University and visit to China.

On the same occasion, Professor Zhu said Xiamen University has, since 1990, enrolled 1,015 students from Malaysia in its bachelor’s degree courses.

Bahrain starts constructing World Trade Center

ABU DHABI, 8 Nov — Bahrain has started constructing Bahrain World Trade Center (BWTC) worth 150 million US dollars, a shining example of the region’s economy and Bahrain’s achievements, the Gulf News reported on Saturday.

Funded through private investment, the 240-metre twin towers will be completed in June 2006 and will be the tallest buildings in central Manama, said Claire Hughes of DTZ Bahrain, the property management company which is the constructor of BWTC.

The BWTC is a member of the World Trade Center Group and intends to support Bahrain’s trade by providing information to businesses. — MNA/Xinhua

Spanish PM hints US should change its approach to EU

BERLIN, 7 Nov — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero hinted the United States should change its approach to European allies, German media reported Saturday.

The reelection of US President George W. Bush marks a “new phase” in US-EU relations, Zapatero told German weekly news magazine Der Spiegel.

“He demands honesty and respect of our principles and ideals,” he said.

Zapatero showed his big confidence over EU’s future. “European must believe that it will become the world’s leading economic and political power within the next 20 years,” Zapatero said.

The interview came before a Monday’s meeting between Zapatero and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Madrid.

Zapatero won the general elections on March 14 and ordered on his first day in office the withdrawal of Spanish troops deployed in Iraq.

Miss Chinese Cosmos 2004 chosen

HONG KONG, 7 Nov — The 19-year-old Lee Sze Kei from Malaysia won the title of the Miss Chinese Cosmos 2004 here Saturday night. The contest, undertaken by the Hong Kong Phoenix TV, also selected 22-year-old Yang Jie from Beijing and 20-year-old Yin Yue from Canada as the first and second runners-up respectively.

This year’s pageant received 9,336 entries, a rise of 30 per cent over the first Miss Chinese Cosmos last year. Among them, 20 contestants took part in the final. Of the twenty, 13 came from the Chinese Mainland, while the others came from the United States, England, Germany, Canada, Malaysia and Hong Kong. — MNA/Xinhua

Drive with care
**India, Oman review bilateral ties**

**Dubai, 8 Nov** — India and Oman on Saturday reviewed bilateral ties and expressed satisfaction that the one-billion-dollar Indo-Oman Fertilizer Project (Omifco) and Krishak Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (Kribhco). The Omifco is a 2:1:1 Indo-Oman joint venture firm formed with a total equity of $240 million dollars by Oman Oil Company SAOC, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (Iffco) and Krishak Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (Kribhco).

Ahamed, who is on a three-day visit to Oman, also had a fruitful interaction with Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq Al Said, Minister for Heritage and Culture of Oman, and Juma bin Ali bin Juma Al Jula, the Minister of Manpower, on a host of bilateral issues.

He briefed the Omani ministers on the thrust of the Indian Government to develop with West Asia and the Gulf in this context informed them of the forthcoming visit of Minister of External Affairs K Natwar Singh to Oman.

The Omani Industry Minister welcomed the interest shown by several Indian companies in investment in Oman, including the oil sector and Information Technology. He conveyed appreciation to National Council for Applied Economic Research for helping Oman to set up institutional facilities for research in the economic sphere.

**Study shows mental training can alter brain**

**Washington, 8 Nov** — Neuroscientists have discovered that brain, like the rest of the body, can be altered intentionally by strengthening circuits used regularly and weakening those engaged rarely.

After studying the brain projections of hundreds of Tibetan monks, the scientists concluded that just as aerobics sculpt the muscles, mental training sculpts the gray matter, a media report said.

The scientists, in their experiment, compared brain activity in volunteers who were novice meditators to those of Buddhist monks in Dharamsala, who had spent more than ten thousand hours in meditation.

The novice meditators showed a slight increase in high-frequency brain activity or gamma waves, but most monks showed extremely large increases of a sort that has never been reported before in the neuroscience literature, said Richard Davidson of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who led the research.

The study suggests that mental training can bring the brain to a greater level of consciousness.

“If all the concepts in modern neuroscience, it is neuroplasticity that has the greatest potential for interaction with Buddhism,” The Wall Street Journal quoted Davidson as saying.

Neuroplasticity, one of the hottest topics in brain science, refers to the brain’s ability to change its structure and function.

**House explosion kills four in Baku**

**Moscow, 7 Nov** — Four people died and several injured in a building explosion in Baku, Georgia, on Friday night to Saturday, ITAR-TASS quoted the Defence Ministry’s civil defence department as reporting on Saturday.

One victim was found in Saturday morning, three others — two women and one man — were recovered from under the rubble in the evening. One female victim has not been identified yet, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

**US claims possessing fastest supercomputer**

**Washington, 7 Nov** — A supercomputer developed in the United States to ensure the safety of its nuclear weapons attained a record-breaking performance of 70.72 teraflops (trillion floating operations per second), making it the fastest computer in the world, a senior US official has announced.

Though the supercomputer is running at one-quarter its final size for the Department of Energy, the BlueGene/L, (BG/L) beta System is already asserting US leadership in supercomputing, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said.

“BG/L will reduce the time-to-solution for many computational problems, allowing DOE scientists to explore larger, longer, and more complex problems than ever before.” — MNA/PTI

**Cambodia’s population growth rate declines**

**Pnom Penh, 8 Nov** — Cambodia’s population growth rate has declined by nearly one-third since 1998, local media reported on Friday.

According to a new survey released by the government on Thursday, Cambodia’s population has grown at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent since 1998 to a projected total of 13.6 million in 2004. The population was 11.4 million, 1998, with a recorded annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent.

The current rate is also far lower than the 2.9 per cent estimated rate projected for the five years following the last census.

“The decrease in population growth is because of birth spacing and people enjoying small families,” The Cambodia Daily quoted Hang Lina, deputy secretary-general of the National Institute of Statistics, as saying on Friday.

Cambodia held its national census in 1998, the first conducted in Cambodia since 1962.

Some officials greeted the news of the apparent slowdown as a sign that more couples are choosing to have fewer children.

Fifty per cent of the population is between the ages of 15 and 49, according to the Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey 2004 General Report, with another 38.8 per cent under the age of 15.

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**Drive safely**

A Boeing Delta II lifts off from Cape Canaveral, Florida on 6 November, 2004. — INTERNET
**Inter Milan rescued by Adriano’s equalizer**

**MILAN, 8 Nov——** Inter Milan drew their eighth game in 10 matches on Sunday as they had to settle for a 1-1 draw at much-improved Fiorentina.

Inter’s Brazilian striker Adriano equalized in the 80th minute after Dario Dainelli had given Fiorentina a first-half lead.

Leaders Juventus, who on Saturday fell to their first defeat of the season with a 2-1 loss at Reggina, have a five-point advantage over rivals AC Milan who play Roma at the San Siro later on Sunday.

Third-placed Lecce are now 10 points behind the leaders after suffering their first home defeat of the season, an injury-time penalty from Greek midfielder Marek Jankulovski earning Udinese a thrilling 4-3 win.

The win allowed Udinese to climb to fourth place joining Lecce on 15 points. Messina, who drew 2-2 at Bologna, are fifth with the same number of points.

**After Juve’s defeat, Inter are the only unbeaten side in Serie A but they will be frustrated not to have closed the gap on the leaders.**

Francesco Toldo was recalled to the Inter goal, to face his former club, after a month on the bench but had no chance of stopping Dainelli’s superb header from a Fabrizio Miccoli corner in the 26th minute.

Fiorentina were on top for most of the first half but Inter fought back after the break with Dejan Stankovic forcing a fine save from Cristian Lupatelli while Toldo, at the other end, produced a brilliant save to keep out the impressive Miccoli.

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**Reports of Serie A matches**

**ROME, 8 Nov——** Reports of Serie A matches played at the weekend:

- **Atalanta 0 Sampdoria 0**
  - Atalanta’s quest for their first win of the season continues after this drab scoreless draw with Sampdoria. Both sides created their closest scoring chances in the first half, with the best failing to home striker Igor Budan who failed to connect with a loose ball in the area.

- **Cagliari 0 Livorno 0**
  - These two promoted sides produced a sterile stalemate until the 61st-minute dismissal of Livorno midfielder Giannobbardo. With a one-man advantage Cagliari belatedly went on the attack and striker Mauro Esposito was unfortunate to have a goal ruled out for offside deep into added time.

- **AC Milan 1 AS Roma 1**
  - Second-placed Milan seemed on course for a comfortable win when Andry Shevchenko rose unchallenged to head Cafu’s cross past goalkeeper Ivan Pelizzoli after just six minutes.

  Roma, however, came out more aggressively in the second half and in the 48th minute Mancini’s run into the box ended with the ball falling to Vincenzo Montella. The striker’s lob struck the bar but rebounded into his path to give him a simple tap-in.

- **Palermo 1 Parma 1**
  - Parma striker Alberto Gilardino’s neat turn and strike on the edge of the area put Parma ahead shortly before halftime but a second-half equalizer by Palermo midfielder Mariano Gonzalez left both sides struggling near the foot of the division.

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**Fulham shock Newcastle 4-1**

**LONDON, 8 Nov——** Midfielder Steed Malbranque scored twice as lowly Fulham shocked Newcastle United 4-1 in the Premier League on Sunday to hand manager Graeme Souness his first home defeat since taking charge two months ago.

In Sunday’s other early kickoff Dutchman George Boateng volleyed an equalizer two minutes into stoppage time to salvage a 1-1 draw for Middlesbrough against 10-man Bolton Wanderers at the Riverside.

Bolton held on to fourth spot with 22 points, three ahead of fifth-placed Boro after 12 matches, while Newcastle remained ninth with 13 points off the pace.

New leaders Chelsea, who beat Everton 1-0 at home on Saturday, are top on 29 points, two ahead of second-placed champions Arsenal, who were held 1-1 at Crystal Palace. Everton remain third with 23 points.

Eighteenth-placed Manchester United were at home to local rivals City in their derby at Old Trafford later on Sunday.

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**Manchester United hold to goalless draw by Man City**

**MANCHESTER (England), 8 Nov——** Manchester United’s title ambitions took a knock on Sunday when they were held to a goalless draw at home by derby rivals Manchester City and had Alan Smith sent off.

Alex Ferguson was hoping to celebrate his appointment as Manchester United manager 18 years ago this weekend with a derby win that would have closed the gap on leaders Chelsea to nine points.

However, United’s strikers failed to score for the second Premier League game in a row and the team have failed to capitalize on their 2-0 home victory over champions Arsenal two weeks ago.

To make matters worse for United, a frustrated Smith was dismissed for the 10th time in his career for two yellow cards after a late tackle on Dunne in the 89th minute. Kevin Keegan’s City side soaked up United’s attacks with defenders Richard Dunne and Sylvain Distin in defiant form.

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**Santos Robinho’s mother kidnapped**

**SAO PAULO, 8 Nov——** The mother of Santos forward Robinho, one of Brazil’s most exciting young players, has been kidnapped, police said on Sunday.

Marina de Souza, 43, was abducted by two armed men who invaded a barbecue in Praia Grande, near Santos, on Saturday night, detective Alberto Torrassa told reporters.

The pair locked the other guests in the bathroom before driving off.

Torrassa said that so far the kidnappers had not been in contact with the family.

“Our target at the moment is to bring back the victim in safety, that’s our only worry,” said Torrassa.

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**Shizuka Arakawa performs during the 2004 International Figure Skating Competition in Nagoya, West of Japan, Saturday, Nov 6, 2004. Arakawa won her singles program.** —INTERNET

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**PSG clinch seventh consecutive victory over Olympique Marseille**

**PARIS, 8 Nov——** Ten-man Paris St Germain clinched their seventh consecutive victory over arch-rivals Olympique Marseille with a 2-1 triumph in Ligue 1 on Sunday thanks to a second-half winner by substitute Edouard Cisse.

Santos’ midfield, which had to adapt to the absence of two of its best players injured, showed its potential by showing quality in the final third. Cisse, who replaced the injured Thiago Motta, scored the winner in the 77th minute.

New Marseille manager Bruno Labbadia failed to get his tactics right and was dropped by his players.

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**Manchester United’s Alan Smith (L) fights for the ball with Manchester City’s Sylvain Distin during their Premiership clash at Old Trafford, Manchester, Britain.** —INTERNET
China’s top legislator kicks off visit to Nigeria

ABUJA, 8 Nov — Wu Banggou, chairman of the Chinese National People’s Congress Standing Committee, flew into Nigeria’s capital Abuja from Lusaka on Saturday afternoon to start an official goodwill visit to the West African country.

Wu said in a written statement upon his arrival China is ready to work with Nigeria, in the spirit of sincere friendship, reciprocity, mutual support and orientation towards the future, to consolidate and deepen the mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and constantly push forward the China-Nigeria relationship.

In recent years, Wu said, under the leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo, the government and people of Nigeria have been actively facilitating national reconciliation, making efforts to maintain social stability, vigorously promoting social and economic reform, and have made great progress in all undertakings.

He noted Nigeria plays a unique and positive role in resolving African conflicts through mediation, promoting sustainable development and positive role in resolving African conflicts.

In recent years, Wu said, the two countries have continuously strengthened political mutual trust, enjoyed good momentum of economic cooperation and trade, and witnessed swift progress in their exchanges and cooperation in other fields, he said, adding the two countries have supported and cooperated closely with each other in international affairs.

During his visit in Nigeria, Wu is expected to meet and hold talks with the Nigerian leaders to exchange views on bilateral relations and other issues of common interest.

Wu is here as guest of Adolphus Wabara, President of the Senate, and Aminu Masari, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Wu was accorded a warm welcome by the Nigerian parliamentary leaders when he arrived at the airport in Abuja.

MINA/Xinhua

Cuba rejects US accusation of human rights violations

HAVANA, 8 Nov — Cuba on Saturday rejected US accusation of human rights violations and condemned Washington for absolute disrespect of human rights because of the four-decade-old blockade on Cuba.

The US State Department on Thursday demanded the release of Cuban dissidents arrested in a crackdown in March. In response, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said the detainees were mercenaries mobilized and paid by the White House.

“Let any country of the world, even in the United States, conspire with a foreign power constitutes a crime,” the ministry said in a statement carried by the Granma daily. After the exposure of human rights violations in Iraq prisons and Guantanamo, where al-Qaeda suspects are held, the international community expected Washington to take a more rational position, said the statement, however, Washington resumed attack on Cuba just two days after the presidential election.— MINA/Xinhua

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Energy Minister attends National Capacity Building Workshop

YANGON, 8 Nov — The Inaugural Ceremony of National Capacity Building Workshop on Integration of Energy in Rural Development Policies and Programmes jointly organised by the Ministry of Energy and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held at the Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, the Directors-General and the Managing Directors of Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry of Energy, the Director-General and responsible personnel of Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry of Electric Power, the Director and officials of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Department, the professors of the Institutes of Economics, delegates of NGOs, resource persons Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Charles James Petrie, Representative Mr Hongpeng Liu of ESCAP.

The Energy Minister delivered an address and Mr Charles James Petrie and Mr Hongpeng Liu spoke on the occasion.

The first day session then began and ended in the evening. The second day session will continue tomorrow.

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.

Prime MinisterLt-Gen Soe Win
inspects renovation of
Maha Pasana Cave
where Fourth World
Buddhist Summit is to
be held.
(News on page 1)

MNA

Development works inspected around Yangon

YANGON, 8 Nov — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) U Thaung Yin and Head of Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) U Bo Htay and officials inspected measures being taken for sanitation of Inya Lake and greening of its environs and upgrading roads and gave suggestions to fulfil the requirements.

During their inspections, the mayor looked into sanitation and greening works around Inya Lake and future tasks to be carried out and gave instructions to officials.

The mayor and party inspected progress in constructing No 4 Highway being implemented by Shwepyitha Township Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) Special Construction Group and entrance road to University of Computer Studies from Bogyoke Aung San Street and the upgrading of the tar road from Bayintnaung road to Shwepyitha bridge.

After inspecting measures being taken for upgrading of Khayebin road which will link Insein and Mingaladon townships, the mayor instructed officials to carry out tasks meeting the set standards and to continuously supervise their subordinates to make continued progress. — MNA

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