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, 23 Nov — The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee held a coordination meeting in Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghshapin Camp, Hmaubby Township, Yangon Division, at 3 pm today.

Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that the Road Map or the seven-point future policy programme of the State is not laid down by an individual person but by the Government, that is the State Peace and Development Council itself, as its policy. It does not concern only single individual, he reiterated.

Thus, the State Peace and Development Council will continue to work step by step in accord with the Road Map, without making any changes, for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, he asserted.

Concerning the armed groups, which have negotiated and reached agreement with the Government to return to the legal fold, the Secretary-1 made it clear that they have not reached an understanding and agreement with any individual alone, but only with the Government to do so.

As the armed groups have trust in and supported the Road Map, they have already made a pledge during their talks with the Government that they will attend the National Convention till its successful conclusion, he noted.

The Government on its part will continue to convene the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map as well as the most important part, without fail, he vowed.

(See page 8)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the meeting of NCC Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

Dignitaries at the meeting of National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strengthen transport infrastructure for ensuring secure transport

For parallel development of all states and divisions and higher living standard of the entire national people, development tasks are being carried out systematically in the Union of Myanmar. In doing so, networks of roads and bridges that will contribute to regional development are being constructed and many plans for the construction of new roads and bridges are also under way. With a view to serving the long-term interests of various national races living in different parts of the Union the government is building roads and bridges essential for regional development and higher socio-economic status of the people.

The opening ceremony of the Pathein Bridge was held near Mayangchaung village in Pathein Township on 22 November and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of Central Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport.

In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that it is very important to make special efforts to boost the all-round production of Ayeyawady Division by making effective use of favourable conditions created by the government and it is necessary for the people in the region to safeguard sovereignty of the State with patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

The newly-built bridge is the 176th in the entire nation and the 40th in Ayeyawady Division built since 1988 and it is 2,140 feet long. The bridge will help contribute to higher living standards of the people. The bridge will help连接 Pathein and Ngapudaw Townships. People living on the west bank of the Ngawun river and Thabaung and Ngapudaw Townships. People living on the west bank of the river can now easily go to downtown Pathein and do the shopping and trading. Moreover, holidaymakers can reach such beach resorts as Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung in a short time.

The government has been spending large sums of money on transport infrastructure for socio-economic development of various regions across the nation. Therefore, the people, on their part, are required to strive for the sake of regional and national development and their own interests by making effective use of development infrastructures built by the government.
APEC leaders promise to revive world trade talks

SANTIAGO (Chile), 22 Nov — Asia-Pacific leaders promised on Sunday to try to revive world trade talks and fight terrorism.

The leaders of 21 Pacific Rim states from China to Canada, gathered in Chile, said they would try to push forward with ambitious free trade talks that began in Doha in 2001 but broke down two years later in a dispute over farm subsidies.

The 21 leaders to pose for pictures with brightly coloured ponchos draped over their suits. An appearance in local costume is an APEC tradition.

“We welcomed the new momentum acquired by the Doha Development Agenda negotiations,” the APEC leaders said in a final communique. “We pledged to provide leadership to continuing this momentum.”

The final declaration also called for “substantially greater market access and fewer distortions” in agriculture, which is heavily subsidized in industrial nations such as those of the European Union, Japan and the United States.

Leaders also promised to consider standardizing bilateral free-trade pacts among the European Union, Japan and the United States.

Consultations such as those of the European Union, Japan and the United States.

Bilateral free-trade pacts are also an important tool in Asia, as China’s bat population shrank drastically in the past 30 years, causing serious problems in environmental protection, said the CAS expert.

Hisham Yusuf, a senior adviser to Arab League chief Amr Musa, said many delegations had raised the question: “We would prefer inclusiveness by giving them more time rather than exclusiveness and on time,” he told Reuters.

But a senior US official travelling with Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Sharm al-Shaikh conference said Washington believed the 30 January deadline was “very feasible” and was working to help Iraqi leaders meet their goal.

S Korea to host red cross officials’ meeting with North

SEOUL, 22 Nov — South Korea said on Saturday it has agreed to host a meeting of Red Cross officials with North Korea this month to discuss building a centre to organize and hold the reunions of families separated by the Korean war. Seoul sent a telegram to the Communist North and relayed its acceptance of talks to be held from November 25 to 27 in the Mount Kumgang resort, the South’s Red Cross said in a statement.

The North’s offer came on Friday, two days after South Korea had sent the first shipment of a promised 100,000 tons of fertilizer to the impoverished North on humanitarian grounds and in the hope it would help restart stalled inter-Korean talks.

1,228 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov—As of Monday, 22 November, 2004, at least 1,228 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 955 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,090 US military members have died, according to AP’s count.

That includes at least 846 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A US soldier died Monday of wounds suffered in an attack in Baghdad the night before.
China, Belgium hold seminars to enhance trade ties

BEIJING, 23 Nov—China and Belgium started series of seminars in downtown Beijing on Monday to enhance trade and economic ties. Belgian Prince Philippe addressed the opening ceremony, vowing to further bilateral commercial cooperation, especially between small enterprises.

Leading Belgium’s largest-ever business delegation, Prince Philippe said that the two countries should promote cooperation between small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the Belgium-China equity investment fund will spur such cooperation.

“As the location of the European Union headquarters, Belgium enjoys good geographic advantage and hopes to see more Chinese companies go to Belgium for investment. “We are important partners not only in commercial sector, but also in science, technology, education, research and culture,” he said, noting Belgian enterprises hope to contribute to the Olympic Games 2008 to be held in Beijing.

Belgium is one of the first developed countries investing in China. The number of its invested projects in China reached nearly 500 by September this year, with a contractual investment of 1.16 billion US dollars, according to Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Zhang Zhigang.

Those projects range from telecommunication, medicine and bio-technology to printing, beer, textile machinery and steel. Zhang said, adding there is huge potential for further cooperation thanks to mutually complementary economies.

China has become Belgium’s second largest trade partner and import source, as well as fourth largest export market besides EU members. The two countries’ annual trade volume has surged by 300 times since they forged diplomatic ties in 1971.

In the first nine months of this year, China-Belgium trade hit 6.6 billion US dollars, up 36 per cent year-on-year and was close to the trade volume last year, according to Chinese statistics.

During the seminars, the participants will discuss issues related to the sustainable development of forestry, transportation, Chinese trade laws and two-way investment.

The 500-member delegation is composed of representatives from the financial sector, ports and airports, universities, industrial and service companies and government officials. After their two-day stay in Beijing, they will also visit Shanghai, China’s economic hub. — MNA/Xinhua

US death toll in Iraq for Nov tops 100

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov—Three Marines who were wounded in action during the Fallujah offensive later died at American hospitals in Germany and the United States, the Pentagon said Monday, raising the US military death toll in Iraq for November to at least 101.

Since the initial US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the only other month in which US deaths exceeded 100 was last April, when insurgent violence flared and Marines fought fierce battles in Fallujah and Ramadi.

The Pentagon said two Marines died Saturday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany. Cpl Joseph J Heredia, 22, of Santa Maria, Calif, was wounded in action 10 November in Fallujah, and Lance Cpl Joseph T Welke, 20, of Rapid City, SD, was wounded there 19 November, officials said.

Landstuhl is a hub for seriously wounded US soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, and officials last week said the flow of injured to the hospital jumped to about twice the normal rate after the battle for Fallujah began.

The Marines have suffered most of the Fallujah battle casualties. An exact number is not available because the Marines usually do not specify the city in which a casualty happened. Since 1 Nov., the Marines have had at least 69 deaths throughout Iraq — mostly in Fallujah. That is by far the deadliest month of the war for the Marines; their previous high was 52 last April. — Internet

Vietnam to post bigger rubber export earnings in 2004

HANOI, 23 Nov — Vietnam’s rubber export turnover this year will surpass last year’s figure of 383 million US dollars due to price increases, the Trade Ministry said on Monday.

The export price of SVR 3L, Vietnam’s main rubber item, stood at 1,288 US dollars per ton last week, up 25 dollars compared to late last month, said the ministry, adding prices of other rubber items increased by three to 22 dollars per ton.

Vietnam exported 301,000 tons of rubber worth 346 million dollars in the first 10 months of this year, down 14.4 per cent in volume, but up 17.8 per cent in value against the same period of last year. Its biggest markets were China, the United States and Singapore.

Prices of Vietnamese rubber in China surged in the 10-month period due to rising demand for the product of Chinese tyre producers. The prices, however, are likely to decline in the market in the coming time, the ministry predicted.

Vietnam cultivates 460,800 hectares of rubber trees with an estimated output of 404,800 tons of rubber this year, posting year-on-year rises of 4.5 per cent and 11.3 per cent respectively. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Peruvian presidents meet to further ties

SANTIAGO, 22 Nov—Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo Manrique said here Saturday that Peru recognizes China’s full market economy status and is ready to further develop bilateral cooperation in investment, economic and trade.

The Peruvian President made the remarks when meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the 12th Economic Leaders’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in the Chilean capital, according to a Press release caused by the Chinese delegation. Both China and Peru are members of the forum.

Toledo said Peru encouraged more Chinese business investment in the South American country. He also reiterated Peru’s one-China policy. — MNA/Xinhua

70 antiques returned to Iraq’s Nasiriayah museum

BAGHDAD, 23 Nov—Police in Iraq’s southern city of Nasiriayah, some 350 km south of Baghdad, retrieved 70 stolen antiques and gave them back to the city’s museum, local newspaper Al Sahab reported on Monday.

Nasiriayah’s antiquity protection police force, which was estab-

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Pinyi Charusombat, right, gestures during his meeting with Miss Universe 2004 Jennifer Hawkins of Australia, second right, Henning, second left, at the government house in Bangkok on, 22 Nov, 2004. — Internet

BAGHDAD, 23 Nov—Police in Iraq’s southern city of Nasiriayah, some 350 km south of Baghdad, retrieved 70 stolen antiques and gave them back to the city’s museum, local newspaper Al Sahab reported on Monday.

Nasiriayah’s antiquity protection police force, which was established to prevent the smuggling of the ruins and antiques, managed to seize 70 stolen antiques of the ancient times in the regions of Oma and Jokha with the help of the Italian police, said the report.

The Nasiriayah antiquity inspection committee received these antiques from the police and restored them to the museum, added the report.

Museums throughout Iraq, especially the Iraqi National Museum located in Baghdad, witnessed a wave of rampant robberies and lootings shortly after the US-led coalition forces launched the war on Iraq in March, and thousands of antiques have been stolen and smuggled out of the country.

Although great efforts are being made to retrieve these valuable antiques, a large number of them are still missing. — Internet

US soldiers force their way into a house in the Iraqi flashpoint city of Ramadi, 100 kms west of Baghdad on 21 Nov, 2004. — Internet

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China’s cotton information market draws investors

BEIJING, 23 Nov — China’s fledgling but growing cotton information market is attracting attention from international investors, with two of the world’s leading information firms rolling out plans to increase their presence in China.

Globecot Inc, a US-based cotton information provider, plans to launch a web site by the end of this year or early next year to offer Chinese and international cotton information in both English and Chinese, Monday’s China Daily quoted Gong Wenlong, chief executive officer of China Cotton Information Centre (CNICC), as saying.

CNICC is Globecot’s Chinese partner. They entered a strategic partnership in July and vowed to form a 50-50 joint venture.

“There is no question that free trade will have to be implemented. The opportunities presented are immense,” Aburizal was quoted on Monday by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

“The Bogor Goals for free trade and investment in the Asia Pacific Region remain in place,” Aburizal said, referring to the phrase now widely used to denote the campaign to turn the huge region into one giant free trade zone.

US announces death of six troops from Iraq force

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — The US Defence Department announced the recent deaths of a soldier and five Marines from its forces in Iraq, including three who died after being transferred out of the country for treatment.

All had been on duty in Al-Anbar Province which includes the city of Fallujah, where US forces say they are completing a major operation to eject insurgents, said a Pentagon statement. Two Marines, identified as Corporal Bradley Arms, 20, and Lance Corporal Demarkus Brown, 22, died Friday in Al-Anbar.

The others died in US military hospitals in Germany and Washington.

Bomb found on commercial flight in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov — A homemade bomb was found Monday on a commercial flight inside Iraq, prompting additional screening measures to go into effect at Baghdad International Airport, the US Embassy said.

No further details were released and the statement did not say whether the affected flight had arrived or was preparing to depart.

“American citizens are encouraged to review their travel plans to determine whether travel on commercial carriers servicing Iraq is necessary at this time,” the embassy said.

25th annual senior citizens’ week starts in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 23 Nov — The 25th annual Senior Citizens’ Week, with the theme of “stay active and involved”, was launched here on Sunday.

Speaking in a hospital to celebrate the beginning of the event, Dr Balaji Sadasivan, Senior Minister of State for Information, Communications and the Arts and Health, encouraged all Singaporeans to plan for their golden years so that they can continue to live healthy lives, be financially stable and have fulfilling lives as grandparent and active senior citizens in the community.

He announced that the Ministry of Health has launched a web site to pass useful information to older adults and their families to help them plan for their care in their old age.

“This web site has health information on the effects of aging, the actions that one can do to cope with aging, and the long-term health services that are available to the older adults,” said Balaji, adding that it is part of the e-citizen government web site.

According to local Press reports on Sunday, more than 50 different activities will be taking place all over the island state during the coming week.

Indonesia committed to free trade under WTO

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — Indonesia remains committed to the goals of free trade but it will also exercise its right to protect its industries and workers as far as allowed under the World Trade Organization (WTO), Chief Economic Minister Aburizal Bakrie has said.

“There is no question that free trade will have to be implemented. The opportunities presented are immense,” Aburizal was quoted on Monday by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

The need for information is all the more pressing since China’s cotton industry has been greatly integrated into the global market, and domestic cotton prices are subject to the market instead of State direction or instruction.

Bulgarians visit the ‘Snailart’ exhibition in central Sofia, on 18 Nov 2004. Some 30 snails designed by local artists will be displayed around key areas of the Bulgarian capital to illustrate the country’s slow but sure progress to the European Union.—INTERNET

Bangkok ranks best Asian city tourism destination

BANGKOK, 22 Nov — Bangkok and the northern capital of Chiang Mai have been ranked by a popular magazine the Conde Nast Traveller the 1st and 4th respectively best tourism destinations in Asia, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Los Angeles was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying on Sunday.

The magazine has made a survey for the 17th consecutive year in its “Top 100 Best in the World 2004” in which frequent travellers were asked about their favourite cities, resorts, islands, hotels and luxury liners, the report said. In the category of favourite islands, Phuket and Samui were ranked second and fifth respectively out of the 10 most popular islands in Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Eight deluxe hotels in Bangkok were ranked among the top of 50 hotels in the region. The Peninsula Hotel was chosen as the number one on the list, the report added.

Mind:Register
China to work with Egypt to promote bilateral relations

CAIRO, 22 Nov— China will work with Egypt to promote the development of bilateral strategic and cooperative relations, said Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju at a meeting here on Sunday with Egyptian President Muhammed Hosni Mubarak.

Huang said Egypt is an important cooperative partner of China among Arab and African countries, and bilateral relations, especially economic and trade cooperation, have witnessed positive progress with efforts from both sides under the direction in the new century mapped out by heads of the two countries.

Mubarak said Egypt and China boast sound political relations and there are vast potentials for bilateral economic and trade cooperation. He said Egypt is building its Suez economic zone and it hopes to learn from China’s experiences and strengthen cooperation with China. He said the Egyptian Government and he himself attach great importance to the strategic and cooperative relations with China, and are full of confidence in the prospects for bilateral ties.

In the talks here on Sunday with Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazief, Huang made a four-point proposal for the further development of bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The first is to enhance contacts between enterprises of the two sides and strengthen trade relations in their complementary fields.

The second is to expand bilateral cooperation in telecommunications, aviation and other high-tech areas, push forward energy cooperation, and encourage joint investment in other countries.

Mubarak said China will work with Egypt to promote bilateral relations and cooperative relations with China are of the two countries.

Huang said a drop in cocoa production as a consequence of a drought would boost the price of the commodity. When El Nino hit the region in 1997, cocoa prices soared to 2,000 US dollars a ton from 1,000 dollars a ton.

Cocoa prices hovered at about 1,400 dollars per ton throughout the year until early this month, when unrest in the Ivory Coast drove up prices to about 1,800 dollars. With the situation in Ivory Coast apparently improving, Zulhefy projected price would return to 1,400 dollars by January next year.

Indonesian cocoa output expected to drop

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — Indonesia expects to see lower cocoa output this year and next year as unfavourable weather and widespread pest infestation continue to suppress productivity, an industry association has said.

Indonesian Cocoa Association Chairman Zulhefy Sukambang said that a possible severe drought could further drag down cocoa production already hurt by an attack of cocoa pod borers. “Cocoa is very sensitive to rainfall levels. A severe drought would certainly cut our production,” Zulhefy was quoted on Monday by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

He said this year’s production could be as low as 385,000 tons, down from last year’s 390,000 tons because of a longer-than expected dry season.

“Rain just started falling in November, delaying our harvest from the expected September to this month,” he said.

A severe drought next year might further cut production to no more than 375,000 tons, according to the chairman.

There is a growing fear that a long drought, possibly caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, could occur next year.

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Indonesia, now the third largest cocoa exporter after Ivory Coast and Ghana, accounts for about 11 percent of global supplies, which stand at 3 million tons per annum, the newspaper said.

In 2002, Indonesia’s cocoa output reached its peak at 433,411 tons.

Chinese President says development top priority for HK

SANTIAGO, 22 Nov— Chinese President Hu Jintao told the chief executive of Hong Kong on Sunday that development is the top priority for the special administrative region.

Hu and Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa had breakfast together on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting.

The President said Hong Kong now enjoys social stability, economic recovery and the main consensus in Hong Kong is seeking development and harmony. Hu hoped that Hong Kong would continue to remain prosperous and stable and put development at top priority so that people in Hong Kong can have concrete benefit.

He promised that the Central Government will continue to be concerned about and support the socio-economic development of Hong Kong. Tung Chee-hwa thanked the Central Government’s support and said the special administrative government will continue to operate according to law, and unite all Hong Kong citizens to for a better performance of Hong Kong.

The chief executive said Hong Kong will further develop its economy through seeking new growth areas. The special administrative government will improve the livelihood of people and help those in need.

WHO calls for closer ties against epidemics

KAMPALA, 22 Nov— The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for close inter-country cooperation in the fight against anthrax, cholera and other epidemics along common-borders of the Great Lakes region countries. WHO inter-country epidemiologist for the Great Lakes Region Dr Nestor Ndayimirje was quoted Saturday by local Press as saying that inter-border cooperation was vital in disease control, prevention and response.

Chinese’s native tiger in wild reduced to less than 30

GUANGZHOU, 22 Nov— The results of a recent survey show that number of south China tigers living in the wild is now less than 30.

The conclusion was based on scientific analysis made by a joint survey team consisting of scientists from the State Forestry Administration of China and the World Nature Fund. It was released at a national symposium on South China Tiger held in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province.

Many of the tigers in the wild are scattered throughout Mount Luxuoxiao and Mount Luoxiu located on the borders of Jiangxi, Hunan and Guangdong provinces in south China.

In addition, China has 66 South China Tigers raised in 19 zoos. The 38 males and 28 females are all offspring of six wild tigers seized in 1956. South China tiger, also known as the Chinese Tiger, is an endangered animal native to southern China. The tiger used to roam around mountain forests in south, east, central and southwest China. Due to war, hunting and environmental deterioration over the past century, the species is on the verge of extinction. The species has been listed as one of the world’s ten most endangered animal species. International experts predict tigers will disappear by 2010 if they are not well and meticulously protected.

To prevent the species from extinction, China will send five to 10 Chinese tigers to South Africa for wilderness survival training. These Chinese tigers and their offspring will be sent back to China in 2005, according with the Olympics Games in Beijing.

Filipino health workers wear face masks at San Lazaro hospital in Manila on 22 November, 2004. —INTERNET

US troops secure part of a highway in western Baghdad, on 21 Nov, 2004 after a car bomb exploded next to US military convoy wounding five soldiers, according to the military. —INTERNET
Successful goodwill visit to Nanning, PRC

A Myanmar delegation headed by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the first China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Autonomous Region, the People’s Republic of China, to further enhance friendship and cooperation in the region. Myanmar, a member of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), has stood as a Paupkhaw nation maintaining friendly ties with the PRC.

During his tour of the PRC, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win was accompanied by Minister for National Planning & Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and heads of department.

The China-ASEAN Expo 2004 is the product of the meeting between leaders of the PRC and ASEAN nations, held in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Autonomous Region, and in Nanning on 3 November morning, and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit continued in the evening. The summit was held with the aim of establishing the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA) and promoting mutual understanding, mutual investment and exchange of knowledge between one region and another. Exchange of views through the China-ASEAN Expo has contributed much to further strengthening cooperation between the PRC and the ASEAN region.

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win, General Secretary of the PRC’s State Council U Win Myint attended the Expo; that their counterparts participated in it. It is learnt that altogether 231 contracts on marketing were signed. As a result, trade and business in the region could be created.

It is sure that the Expo held in Nanning, the green city of China, will contribute much to ensuring mutual understanding, cooperation and bilateral trade between China and ASEAN nations. It is safe to say that the trade volume between China and ASEAN nations will increase up to US$ 100 billion in 2005 as expected, from US$ 78.2 billion.

On 3 November evening, together with the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, the Cambodian Prime Minister, the Laotian Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers of Thailand and Vietnam, the commerce ministers from respective ASEAN nations, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials and entrepreneurs, who had been invited by Vice-President of the State Council of the PRC Madame Wu Yi and leaders of ASEAN nations, who were on the stage. Next, the leaders poured water from the jugs at the designated places and there has emerged a beautiful fountain. The meeting of water from China and ASEAN nations means the integration of China and ASEAN nations in fostering friendship and understanding and bilateral trade. The performance of Chinese cultural troupes made the ceremony alive all the more.

The opening ceremony with a wide range of items on display could reflect the integration of China and ASEAN nations. Altogether 516 foreign companies including those from Myanmar along with their Chinese counterparts participated in it. It is learnt that altogether 231 contracts on marketing were signed. As a result, trade and business in the region could be created.

U Zaw

The opening ceremony of the Expo at Nanning on 3 November 2004.
It has already been announced that the National Convention will resume in the open season, when the work of the harvesting and winnowing of paddy is completed, he said. The National Convention was adjourned on 9 July 2004.

The National Convention will resume in February 2005, he declared, urging the respective committees to make preparations for completion of their work programmes.

YANGON, 23 Nov—Artistes from Mandalay Division who won prizes at the 12th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions were honoured at the National Theatre in Aungmye Thazan Township, Mandalay, on 13 November.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and wife, Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt and wife, Deputy Attorney-General of Attorney-General’s Office Branch (Mandalay) U Han Shein and guests.

After making speeches on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and officials presented gifts and certificates of honour to artistes who won prizes at the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions.
Minister U Than Aung donates stationery to monastic education students

YANGON, 23 NOV — Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, today arrived at Naga Cave Kalewa Monastery in Mayangon Township and provided stationery to the students of monastic school through Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa.

First, the minister and party paid obeisance to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa of the monastery and discussed matters on monastic education. — MNA

Yangon, 23 Nov — The work coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Management Committee was held at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this evening.

Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung made a speech.

Present were members of Management Committee, chairmen of various sub-committees and officials.

Chairmen and officials of decoration sub-committee, invitation and accommodation sub-committee, reception sub-committee, entertainment and welfare sub-committee, transport sub-committee, information sub-committee, finance sub-committee, security sub-committee and furniture sub-committee.

After providing necessary assistance, the minister and party inspected upgrading of the Strand Road which links MyinttaiU bridge of Pathein Township and the approach road to Pathein bridge. Next, they looked into construction of concrete road and tarring of road and gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on measures taken for upgrading of the Strand Road of Pathein Township and its arrangements presented by the executive officer and engineer in-charge of Pathein Township Development Affairs Committee with the help of charts.

At the meeting, the minister and party paid obeisance to Sayadaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa of the monastery and discussed matters on monastic education.

NCC Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung gives a speech at the meeting of National Convention Convening Management Committee. — MNA

Next, those present made suggestions on general matters. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects upgrading of Yuzana-Khwayno Road in Pantanaw Township. — MNA

Minister U Than Aung donates stationery to monastic education students

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Present were members of Management Committee, chairmen of various sub-committees and officials.

Chairmen and officials of decoration sub-committee, invitation and accommodation sub-committee, reception sub-committee, entertainment and welfare sub-committee, transport sub-committee, information sub-committee, finance sub-committee, security sub-committee and furniture sub-committee.

After providing necessary assistance, the minister and party inspected upgrading of the Strand Road which links MyinttaiU bridge of Pathein Township and the approach road to Pathein bridge. Next, they looked into construction of concrete road and tarring of road and gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on measures taken for upgrading of the Strand Road of Pathein Township and its arrangements presented by the executive officer and engineer in-charge of Pathein Township Development Affairs Committee with the help of charts.

At the meeting, the minister and party paid obeisance to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa of the monastery and discussed matters on monastic education.

— MNA

National Convention Convening Management Committee meets

Yangon, 23 Nov — The work coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Management Committee was held at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this evening.

Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung made a speech.

Present were members of Management Committee, chairmen of various sub-committees and officials.

Chairmen and officials of decoration sub-committee, invitation and accommodation sub-committee, reception sub-committee, entertainment and welfare sub-committee, transport sub-committee, information sub-committee, finance sub-committee, security sub-committee and furniture sub-committee.

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— MNA

Interview with National Literary...

(from page 16)

creation is to enrich knowledge of the youths and to help them emulate unprecedented and great advancements in the science world” he said.

He said it seemed that the space science was beyond the reach of normal people, yet he took great interest in science, which was directly useful to man, and international affairs and he happened to put his wish into reality.

We write Maung Su San and writer Mya Thet, he shared the work Iraq Assy Shudantu Aliphonophy Myintkwinson (Points of views about Iraq affairs) in 2002 and it was his first one. His second work was Iraq Myintkwin Kye (Wider views about Iraq affairs), and his prize-winning work was the third, he said.

“I was an engineer of Public Works, but I decided to live by my pen and so I left the department in 1990-1991. Then I established Parami Publishing House on 29th Street in Yangon and I have put myself into writing and publishing”.

(Translation: AMS+MS)

Commander meets athletes

Yangon, 23 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen MyinttaiU Swe met with athletes of the command who will participate in the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Championship trophy (Army, Navy and Air) sports meet today at the command.

At the meeting, the commander said that the command has been achieving victories again and again at the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s championship trophy (Army, Navy and Air) sports meets.

He made suggestions on general matters.

MNA

Third Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women

29 November - 1 December 2004

YANGON, MYANMAR
Ministry of Cooperatives holds 22th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 23 NOV — Under the patronage of Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and wife Daw Khin Mi Mi, and departmental heads presented Kathina robes and offerings to the members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw of Gandayon Monastery in North Okkalapa Township.

The congregation also offered soon (a day meal) to the members of the Sangha.

MNA

Ministry of Industry-1 holds 7th Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 23 NOV — Ministry of Industry-1 held its 7th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony this morning at the training hall of the ministry.

At the ceremony, the congregation led by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Kin Yee offered alms to a Sayadaw.

Minister U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Kin Yee offer alms to a Sayadaw.

Staff families of Ministry of Information offer Soon to monks

YANGON, 23 NOV — Staff families of the Ministry of Information had an offer a day’s Soon to members of Sangha residing at a certain place in State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) of Kaba Aye Hill at Moegok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present on the occasion were Rector Sayadaw of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panditabhiromsa and members of the Sangha, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, guests and staff families.

Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Rector Sayadaw. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan offered alms to the Sayadaw and presented cash donation for the day’s Soon to Deputy Minister of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Chit Aung.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents offertories to a Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the congregation followed the merits gained. After the ceremony, the Deputy Minister and heads of departments offered the day’s Soon to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Trainee members of the Sangha invited to WBS

YANGON, 23 NOV — The World Buddhist Summit will be held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, from 9 to 11 December 2004.

The Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana has invited all the trainee members of the Sangha for 1365-1366 academic year of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) to arrive at the university during the period from 6 to 7 December 2004 without fail, along with two passport-size photos, it is learnt.

MNA

MVA holds Annual General Meeting for 2004

YANGON, 20 NOV — The Annual General Meeting for 2004 of the Myanmar Veterinary Association was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here on 20 November morning with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Vice-Chairman of MVA Dr Than Hla formally opened the veterinary and medical equipment booth and viewed the booth.

In the afternoon, the paper reading session was held.

MNA

Disciples pay respects to remains of Myingyan Sayadaw

YANGON, 23 NOV — Members of the Sangha and lay disciples far and near paid reverence to the remains of Myingyan Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Suddhamajotiika Bhaddanta Sobhita today.

Religious associations of wards in Dagon Myothit (South) Town-ship took turns to recite parittas and religious verses in the temporary hall of Pitak Thonbon Nikaya Monastery on Pale Yadana Street in the township. — MNA
Gotami made a robe for Buddha his foster mother, this garment takes longer a monk’s garment made all at once within the period of the night.

Ma-tho thingan is a which if literally trans-
ing of Ma-tho thingan the festival of Kahtein origin.

Tazaungmon’s full moon night all over the night. Gotami her-
done at the Palace by cotton and skilfully wo-
sociated with the festival of Kahtein

To mention Buddhist festivals as-
associated with the festival of Kahtein robe offering is the weaving of Ma-tho thingan which if literally trans-
led means “non-stole” robe. Ma-tho thingan is a monk’s garment made all at once within the period of the night.

They are nearly extinct. In some remote rural areas they still per-
fected for heavens originated in pre-Bud-
dhist time. The first and foremost is the festival of constellations and planets known as Net-Khat Thabin. People attend on the guardian god of Me Zali tree (Cas-
sia Siamea). Another version says that it was on the full moon night of Tazaungmon that the guardian god of constellation Kyaatika which is also Fire god (Agni) used to come down to earth and stayed with the guardian god of Me Zali tree.

The name Tazaungmon is derived from the festival of constellations and planets. “Tazaung” means illumination by oil lamps and “Mon” means to embellish. So Tazaungmon is the month in which “Net Khat Thabin” (Festival of constellations and plan-
ets) is embellished with lights.

Natal of this month are other festivals held in this month. They are pre-
Buddhist, Buddhist and post-Buddha festivals in origin.

To mention Buddhist festivals associated with the festival of Kahtein robe offering is the weaving of Ma-tho thingan which if literally trans-
led means “non-stole” robe. Ma-tho thingan is a monk’s garment made all at once within the period of the night. It has to be woven on the night of the full moon of Tazaung-
mon. If the weaving of this garment takes longer than the allotted period the garment is regarded as “stale”.

In the lifetime of Lord Buddha, his foster mother Gotami made a robe for him. It was of the finest cotton and skillfully wo-

Festivals of Tazaungmon

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

"Old man bent and double, don’t die so soon for watch again the pwes (festivals) at next Tazaungmon’s full moon.”

The above Myanmar nursery rhyme bespeaks that Tazaungmon the 8th month of Myanmar cal-
endar has many festivals. Though Kahtein robe of-
fering festival is the tradi-
tionally designated fes-
tival of this month there are other festivals held in this month. They are pre-
Buddhist, Buddhist and post-Buddha festivals in origin.

To mention Buddhist festivals associated with the festival of Kahtein robe offering is the weaving of Ma-tho thingan which if literally trans-
led means “non-stole” robe. Ma-tho thingan is a monk’s garment made all at once within the period of the night. Gotami her-

of it to the Buddha im-
age the following morn-
ing. Myanmar kings held competitions of Ma-tho thingan weaving at the palace and winners were awarded prizes.

Two other types of robe offering either to Buddha images or monks in Tazaungmon are “Pant Thaku robe offering and Kya robe offering. “Pant Thaku” is a word derived from Pali, meaning cloth-
ing food, or anything dis-
carded on the ground for anyone to take. During the first twenty ordained years of Lord Buddha there was no donor of robe.

Lord Buddha and his disciples had to go round to collect cloths dis-
carded on the ground for making robes by them-

selves. Such robes were called Pant Thaku robes meaning robes made of cloths discarded on the ground.

Later Pant Thaku

robes are woven in Shan, Mon and Rakhine States for offering them to re-
picted learned head monks on the full moon day of Tazaungmon.

One religious festival used to be held in Tazaungmon is Shin Ma Lei festival which originated in post-Buddha time. There are refer-
ences in stone inscrip-
tions. Literature and old 
collections pertaining to the holding of Shin Ma

The name Tazaungmon is derived from the festival of constellations and planets. “Tazaung” means illumination by oil lamps and “Mon” means to embellish. So Tazaungmon is the month in which “Net Khat Thabin” (Festival of constellations and plan-
ets) is embellished with lights.

Tazaungmon for this month is derived from the festival of constellations and planets. “Tazaung” means illumination by oil lamps and “Mon” means to embellish. So Tazaungmon is the month in which “Net Khat Thabin” (Festival of constellations and plan-
ets) is embellished with lights. In Ommadanti festi-
vations and all kinds of celestial bodies are vis-

festival Kyattika which is foremost is the festival of Net-Khat Thabin. On the full moon night of Tazaungmon people worship Sulamani Pa-

goda in which the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha were enshrined. There at that pagoda he met a deva (god) who was the future Buddha. The deva requested Shin Ma Lei to preach to the peo-
ple Vessandara Jataka (the story of the last pe-

limate life of the fu-
ture Gotama Buddha, on every fullmoon day of Tazaungmon. The great

monk consented and when he returned to earth he preached the said Jataka with one thousand Pali poems to the people on every full moon day of Tazaungmon.

To commemorate this event, Shin Ma Lei festi-
val is held on Tazaungmon’s full moon night at which one thou-
sand fruits, one thousand lotus flowers, one thou-
sand fragrant herbs (soon) (cooked rice) and one 
thousand lights of oil 
lamps placed on a Hlawka boat are offered to Shin Ma Lei.

One thousand repre-
sent his one thousand Pali poems and the Hlawka boat represents the ferry 
boat (the Dhamma or the Bud-

thai festival of Net Khat Thabin. People pay respect to Kyattika god. So it is believed that on the fullmoon night all curative properties of herb flower are concen-
trated in Me Zali tree.

Me Zali tree grows in all part of Myanmar. Its tender leaves and flower buds are edible. Me Zali treatises on herbal medicine say that Me Zali is medicinal. That is the reason why Myanmar people are fond
Uganda to spend $5m for rural communication services

KAMPALA, 23 Nov — The Uganda government will spend five million US dollars to boost rural communication services in 154 sub-counties by the end of 2005, reported local Press on Monday.

Ugandan Minister of Works, Housing and Communications John Nasasira was quoted as saying the money would come from the energy for rural transformation project under the information and communication technology (ICT) component.

“We are consulting the World Bank to finance the second phase of this programme, which will involve expansion of the project to cover the whole country, address targets set in the millennium development goals and meet the objectives of the world summit of information society,” the minister said.

He said through the rural communications development fund, 20 Internet cafes have been set up in various districts. “Twenty-six district information web sites with various information including economic activities have been established. Thirty more will be completed by the end of this year,” Nasasira said.

He said Internet cafes and 33 ICT training centres would be established in most districts by the end of this year and another 23 by the end of 2005.

“When completed, the rural communications development projects will boost communications for the rural fork,” Nasasira added. — MNA/Xinhua

Galeras volcano in Colombia erupts, spraying rocks

BUCARAMANGA (Colombia), 22 Nov — The Galeras Volcano in southern Colombia erupted on Sunday, spraying rocks and starting short-lived forest fires, but no injuries were reported, the government said.

The mid-afternoon eruption of the 14,000-foot volcano, near the Ecuador border in the province of Narino, was felt 12 miles away, according to Colombia’s Institute of Geology and Mining.

“The Galeras Volcano erupted explosively, producing a ballistic expulsion of rocks in an eastward direction reaching about 1.8 miles,” a statement issued by the institute said.

The column of material belched out in the eruption rose nine to 6.2 miles into the air, the statement said.

More than 10 villages are near the volcano, which killed at least 10 people when it erupted in 1993. — MNA/Reuters

Zambian govt buys anti-retroviral drugs for “AIDS” patients

LUSAKA, 23 Nov — The Zambian government has purchased anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) worth four million US dollars for AIDS patients, local newspaper Daily Mail reported Monday.

Health Ministry Spokesman Victor Mukonda was quoted as saying the first consignment of drugs has arrived in the country and is being distributed to the health centres nationwide.

Mukonda was certain that the drugs that have been procured would not run out until the next consignment.

He explained that the drugs would be brought in batches so that they do not expire. — MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rains kills eight dozens missing in central Philippines

MANILA, 23 Nov — At least eight people were killed and dozens were missing in the central Philippines as heavy rains and giant waves whipped up by a tropical storm sank several boats, disaster officials said on Monday.

“The Coast Guard rushed search and rescue teams to waters around the coastal Mindoro and Romblon islands to look for about 40 fishing boats that have been reported missing since Saturday, when tropical storm Muifa pounded the southern region of the main Luzon Island.”

Apart from the missing vessels, three fishing boats with two barges had also capsized, said Neri Amparo of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDDC).

A passenger was knocked off the flight with an expired passport and his companion voluntarily decided not to continue travelling without him, said Barry Morrissey, spokesman for US Customs and Border Protection.

“The one individual that was the reason that the plane was diverted in the first place was found with an expired passport,” Morrissey said. “For that reason we deemed him inadmissible.”

The two men were held overnight in Bangor, Maine, and were being taken to Massachusetts to be processed for re-entry back to Paris, Morrissey said.

He said he could not identify the two men by name or nationality. — MNA/Reuters

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DATED: 24 November 2004

WADA expenditure rise by $1.47m in 2005

OTTAWA, 23 Nov — The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has approved a 1.47 million-US-dollar increase in its expenditure budget to lift the total to 21.7 million for next year, the Montreal-based agency said in a statement on Sunday.

WADA’s foundation board, which made the decision, considered the extra responsibilities it would have in 2005, including monitoring of compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code and implementation of a computer-based Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS). The budget increase was also needed to offset currency fluctuations, which had an negative effect on WADA’s budget, the statement said.

“I am very pleased the board saw the necessity in approving an increased budget for 2005,” said WADA president Dick Pound. — MNA/Reuters

PIF praises China for its support for Pacific legislatures

WELLINGTON, 23 Nov — Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretary-General Greg Urwin has praised China for providing new funds to support the work of Pacific legislatures.

“The 70,000-US-dollar donation by China will support the interim Secretariat of the Forum Presiding Officers Conference (FPPOC), which represents the Speakers of Parliament and Congress in the Pacific,” Urwin said in a statement reaching here from PIF Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, Monday.

“This will help Pacific legislatures to expand their work in the area of governance, in one of the most important institutions in the region,” he said.

The statement said the funding was handed over Monday by China’s Ambassador to Fiji Cai Jinbiao. Earlier, China provided 30,000 US dollars to assist a PFOC delegation visit to Nauru in July this year.

Forum speakers now meet annually to discuss a range of capacity building activities and will hold their next meeting following April in Apia, Samoa. — MNA/Xinhua

Air France flight from Paris to Warsaw diverted to Maine

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — An Air France flight from Paris to Warsaw was diverted to Maine when authorities discovered the name of one of the passengers on a US no-fly list, a US Customs spokesman said on Sunday.

Air France Flight 026 was diverted to Maine on Saturday. One passenger who was on the flight with an expired passport and his companion voluntarily decided not to continue travelling without him, said Barry Morrissey, spokesman for US Customs and Border Protection.

“The one individual that was the reason that the plane was diverted in the first place was found with an expired passport,” Morrissey said. “For that reason we deemed him inadmissible.”

The two men were held overnight in Bangor, Maine, and were being taken to Massachusetts to be processed for re-entry back to Paris, Morrissey said.

He said he could not identify the two men by name or nationality. — MNA/Reuters
Japanse electronic firms to develop LSI chips for 3G phones

TOKYO, 23 Nov — NEC Corp and NEC Electronics Corp announced Monday that they will jointly develop large-scale integration (LSI) chips for 3G mobile terminal consoles to strengthen the competitiveness of NEC’s 3G mobile terminal platforms for the global market.

The two leading Japanese electronic companies have set up a joint project team and begun developing a dual-mode 3G baseband LSI chip that can deal with both 2G and 3G mobile phone consoles, the two companies said in a joint statement.

Under the joint development deal, NEC’s mobile terminals business unit will be responsible for defining basic LSI specifications and verifying the LSI to be embedded in the mobile terminals.

Meanwhile NEC Electronics, which holds the largest share of the domestic market for LSI chips for 3G mobile phone communications, will be responsible for the LSI circuit design, development and production.

The first mobile terminal to employ the LSI chip developed under the project will be introduced to the market in the second half of fiscal 2006. The two companies plan to launch the phones in overseas markets as well, and NEC Electronics plans to provide the LSI chips to other mobile phone console manufacturers.

Canada readies trade retaliation against US

OTTAWA, 23 Nov — The Canadian Government is considering trade retaliation against the United States over the Byrd Amendment, local Press reports reported Monday.

The Byrd Amendment is a controversial US law that allows Washington to funnel to American businesses the cash duties it extracts from foreign competitors, including those from Canada.

The Canadian Government is expected to consult Canadian businesses shortly on a proposed list of US targets for retaliation, according to official sources.

The World Trade Organization has ruled the Byrd Amendment is illegal and the United States has ignored a WTO order to scrap it. In late August, Canada and seven other jurisdictions were given the right under global trade rules to retaliate against Washington for its use of the controversial law.

The Canadian Government is said to release this week a list of about 125 product categories of US imports that may be targeted if Finance Minister Paul Martin’s Cabinet decides to proceed with retaliatory tariffs.

Possible US targets vary wildly, from Illinois air conditioners to Kentucky whisky to New York perfume to Californian beef.

Five Germans to be charged with stealing Algerian antiques

ALGERS, 22 Nov — Five German tourists reported missing in Algeria’s Sahara Desert have been found unharmed but will be charged with violating laws on the movement of tourists and stealing antiques, the Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

Their disappearance on Thursday night near the southern town of Illizi, raised speculation they could have been abducted.

“They have been found safe and sound on board of their vehicle last night at around 11 o’clock under the national park of Tassili 58 miles south of Djent in the Illizi Province,” a ministry statement said. It said the the Germans had sneaked away from guides and had stolen Tassili antiques.

“The five Germans have been found in possession of archaeological protected parts. Those concerned will face legal action for violating rules related to movement of tourists in the Algerian Sahara Desert, entry to the national park of Tassili as well as stealing archaeological artefacts,” it said.

Global fund approves new round of funding

DAE-E-SALAM, 22 Nov — The 23 executive board members of the Global Fund have unanimously approved a new round of funding, much to the delight of the world’s tallest tower.

The new design falls 66 feet short of Shanghai’s Jinmao Tower, the tallest in China at 1,378 feet, and is only slightly higher than Guangzhou’s CITIC Plaza, which stands 1,283 feet tall.

Instead, Guangzhou will now take up a design for a 1,312-foot tower, the Hong Kong government-funded radio station RTHK said on Sunday.

The new design falls 66 feet short of Shanghai’s Jinmao Tower, the tallest in China at 1,378 feet, and is only slightly higher than Guangzhou’s CITIC Plaza, which stands 1,283 feet tall and dominates the city’s skyline.

The world’s highest office tower is the World Financial Centre in Taipei, Taiwan, at a height of 1,667 feet.
First Asian PGA Tour to be opened in S Korea

SOUTH KOREA, 23 Nov—Top golfers in the PGA Tour will compete in the 2004 Shinhan Korea Golf Championship on the South Korean resort island of Jeju, tournament officials said Monday.

"We have invited 38 players from the PGA Tour and PGA European Tour," said officials from the tournament's organizer, the (South) Korea National Tourism Organization.

Fergurson enters debate over Glazer's pursuit of Man United

LONDON, 23 Nov—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has entered the debate over US tycoon Malcolm Glazer's pursuit of the club by saying: "We don't want the club in anyone else's hands".

"After the defeat by Rijeka, I spent the whole night thinking and decided the best thing to do was quit. I hope it will have the effect of a positive shock on players," Gracan told Hina.

A Brazilian player completes an overhead kick in a match against Australia at the FIFA Futsal World Championship in Taipei on November 22, 2004. Brazil won 10-0.—INTERNET

Villa climb to 5th in Premier League

LONDON, 23 Nov—Aston Villa climbed to fifth in the Premier League on Monday with a 1-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur — the London club's sixth straight league defeat.

FIFA President would support England walk-off

LONDON, 23 Nov—FIFA President Sepp Blatter said on Sunday he would have supported the England team if they had walked off the pitch in protest at the racial taunts during their friendly with Spain in Madrid last week.

Larsson may be out of action for up to 6 weeks

MADRID, 23 Nov—Barcelona striker Henrik Larsson is to undergo surgery after injuring his left knee during his club's 3-0 league win over Real Madrid on Saturday and is likely to be out of action for up to six weeks.

"We are investigating and are going to give out recommendations and instructions," said Beckham.

"There's a stronger rapport between us," said Beckham.

"They are playing very well in the league, and they have some of the best players in the world and they've got a strong togetherness as a team," said Beckham.

"They are playing very well in the league, and they have some of the best players in the world and they've got a strong togetherness as a team," said Beckham.
Successful goodwill visit to…

(from page 7)

Vietnam made opening speeches. Next, the ASEAN Secretariat, the ministers from the respective ASEAN nations including Minister for Commerce Briggs Tin Nang Thim, the governor of Guangxi Zhuang Region held discussions. The summit lasted two days.

On the first day session of the summit, leaders of the respective nations and ministers held discussions. On the second day, officials representing the respective nations exchanged views on the impact of the CAFTA and the establishment of the CAFTA.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Myanmar will cooperate with the ASEAN nations to realize the goal in which all the nations will be able to share the fruitful results; that the goal is to ensure the emergence of a region with higher economic and social status; that by means of ASEAN-China integration, there will emerge a market for 1.7 million consumers, one third of the world population; and that natural and human resources of China and ASEAN nations will be able to create a huge market for ASEAN products.

Hailing the establishment of the CAFTA, Prime Minister Li Gen Soe Win also dealt with matters related to improving the bilateral trade by land and by sea, and making more investment in the production sector of Myanmar by the PRC and ASEAN nations.

Moreover, Prime Minister Li Gen Soe Win met the respective leaders of the PRC, Laos and Cambodia, and discussed matters related to further strengthening friendly ties and cooperation in political, diplomatic, economic and social sectors among the nations and ensuring mutual understanding in the region.

Thus, Prime Minister Li Gen Soe Win’s good will visit to No. 2 of the PRC, has made great achievement.

(Translation : TS)

Myanmar Alm, Kyremon, 21-11-2004

China, Mexico pledge to push forward strategic partnership

SANTIAGO, 23 NOV— Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox, agreed in their talks Sunday to push forward the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The meeting took place here on the sidelines of the 12th Economic Leaders’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Both China and Mexico are members of the forum.

The Chinese President spoke highly of Sino-Mexican strategic partnership and appreciated Mexico’s support on Chinese issues, according to a press release issued by the Chinese delegation.

The meeting also focused on developing bilateral economic and trade ties.

Hu said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to strengthening economic and trade cooperation, seeking positive trade balance and achieving win-win results based on mutual benefit,” said the Chinese President.

Fox said Mexico is following with interest China’s economic development and its contribution to world trade, adding his country is looking forward to strengthening bilateral economic cooperation and trade.

GM of Fudan University changed tickets for jet that crashed

SHANGHAI, 23 NOV — The general manager of the main listed unit of Shanghai's Fudan University changed tickets at the last minute to board a commuter jet that crashed in north China killing 54 people, a source close to the company said on Monday.

Chen Suyang, 56, the number two man at Fudan Forward Science & Technology Co. Ltd., a software developer controlled by the university, was one of 55 people on board.

A man on the ground was also killed when the Canadian-made Bombardier CRJ200 plummeted into a frozen lake shortly after taking off from the industrial city of Baotou, nearly 370 miles west of Beijing, en route to eastern Shanghai.

Chen had flown to Baotou, Inner Mongolia, to survey a project with three other Forward executives.

Over 3,000 ducks die in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 NOV — Over 3,000 ducks have recently died in Vietnam's central Binh Thuan Province after showing symptoms of swollen heads, paralyzed legs, slow movement and exhaustion, local Press reported Monday.

Three owners of the ducks in the province's Tinh Lanh District abandoned their fowls in fields after seeing that they suffered from cholera and could not be cured, newspaper Vietnam Economic said.

“"We hope to work together with Mexico to expand the economic and trade cooperation, seek positive trade balance and achieve win-win results based on mutual benefit,” said the Chinese President.

Fox said Mexico is following with interest China’s economic development and its contribution to world trade, adding his country is looking forward to strengthening bilateral economic cooperation and trade.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 23 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, weather, has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Namsam and Minadat (0-10) inch each. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State, Magway, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (8°C), PinyOoLwin (9°C) and Moekok (10°C).

Maximum temperature on 22-11-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 23-11-2004 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-11-2004 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 22-11-2004 was (8:0) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport. Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.64 inches at central Yangon. Maxima wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from South (1040) hours MST on 23-11-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the West and Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Rakhine States, Ayeayawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan State and Mandalay Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Moderate to rough seas accompanied with wind speeds of (35) mph are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coast. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-11-2004:Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-11-2004: Partly cloudy.
National Convention Convening Commission meets

YANGON, 23 Nov—The National Convention Convening Commission held its 15/2004 meeting at Anawrahta Yeiktha in Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, this evening.

Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered a speech.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of the National Convention Convening Commission Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary of the Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members.

Joint Secretary-2 of the commission Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman of the Commission the Secretary-1 spoke on preparations by the Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee.

Next, Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, the secretary and members discussed matters relating to the National Convention, work to be done and requirements. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman of the Commission.—MNA

Minister inspects irrigation works

— Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected the spillway of a support dam of Bawbin Dam Project near Bawbin Village in Zigon Township, Bago Division (West) on 20 November.

At his meeting with engineers of Irrigation Department, the minister coordinated matters relating to progress in construction of feeder canals and related structures, and irrigation of crops.

The main dam of the project is located near Thakoppin village in Gyobingauk Township. The minister held a meeting with officials at the briefing hall of the project. The total irrigation capacity of the main dam and the support dam is 33,000 acres, and their storage capacity 97,700 acre-feet and 26,600 acre-feet respectively, the officials explained. The minister discussed crop irrigation of the two facilities and harvesting of paddy.

After the meeting, he inspected the main dam, outlet conduit, irrigation of crops, maintenance of irrigation works, and harvesting of paddy.

At his meeting with officials in Letpadan Township, he discussed the division weir, irrigation canals, and crop cultivation plan of Kantinbilin Dam.

In Thayawady, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo discussed with officials irrigation and crops cultivation plans of Thonze Dam and Kantinbilin Dam. The officials also presented future work programmes and requirements. The minister spoke of the need to strive for meeting the targets of the plans and laid down the future work programmes.—MNA

Interview with National Literary Award winners

Writer Daw Kyan won National Literary Award in 2003 for Knowledge (Arts) for her novel entitled “Maha WunShinDawMtinGyi”. It was her third literary award.

In 1978, she was awarded National Literary Award for the first time for her creation in which featured annexation of the British and condition of Myanmar.

In 2002, she received the literary award for the second time for her selected articles book.

In her third award-winning book, she wrote on administration, judicial system, taxation and centralized system under the British rule.

When interviewed, Writer Kyaw Oo said he was born of U Kyu Khaing and Daw Than Kyin in Dawei in 1948. When he was a university student in 1967, he started writing articles and he gained a farm foothold with his works published in Ngwetary Magazine, and Botahtaung, Kyemon and Loktha Dailies.

He won 2003 National Literary Award for Knowledge (Science) for his beautiful work Ananda Setkyawala Ei Anarsun Pawthou (Conquest of the Universe), which features milestones in the history of space travel during the 20th Century.

“The purpose of this literary award is to encourage writers to write on the progress in science and technology.”

— Writer Kyaw Oo.