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

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

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

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

Khaing Khaing Maw bags one gold
YANGON, 24 Nov—Selected Myanmar Wushu athlete Khaing Khaing Maw won a gold medal in the women’s Taijiquan event of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 hosted by Myanmar at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded the first prize to Khaing Khaing Maw and second and third to other winners.

Later, President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay presented the flower bunches to them.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and guests enjoy skill demonstration of Chinese Wushu athletes.—NLM

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends opening ceremony of 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004

YANGON, 24 Nov—A ceremony to open the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 hosted by Myanmar was held on a grand scale in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council the Commander of Yangon Command, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, heads of department, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Presidents and officials of Myanmar Sports Federations, officials of World Wushu Federation, Chairman of WFA Minister of Sports Mr Li Zhijian of the People’s Republic of China, President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay and officials, Ambassadors of foreign embassies in Myanmar, international Wushu referees, athletes, students, guests and fans.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address. In his speech he said that he was honoured to address the opening ceremony of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 on behalf of the Union of Myanmar and the Myanmar Olympic Committee. He added that Myanmar is proud of being able to host the 6th AWC in which some 500 athletes of 25 Wushu Federations in Asia are taking part.

He congratulated the Asia Wushu Federation and the Myanmar Wushu Federation for holding the Wushu event in Myanmar.

He expressed his thanks to officials who made all-out efforts for successful holding of the event and said he believed that there will be good prospects for more development of the Wushu sports (See page 8)

Some 500 athletes of 25 Wushu Federations of Asia are taking part in the Asian Wushu Championships 2004.
Work in concert for emergence of peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy

The Union of Myanmar is home to various national races and all those residing in it are making concerted efforts for the emergence of a peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy with national unity as its foundation.

Therefore, the State Peace and Development Council has adopted the seven-point policy Road Map and has been implementing it step by step with enthusiastic support of the entire national people.

The coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee was held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 23 November and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission.

In his address at the meeting, the Secretary-1 said that the seven-point policy, widely known as the Road Map to the nation’s future, had been adopted by the State Peace and Development Council, not by any individual person alone, and that the State Peace and Development Council was determined to carry on with it till the emergence of a peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy. Now, the National Convention, the first and very important step of the seven-point policy, is well under way.

The National Convention started on 17 May, 2004, and it was adjourned on 9 July, 2004. It will resume in February, 2005, and preparations are now being made by various committees of the National Convention Convening Commission.

National races make up over sixty per cent of the delegates to the National Convention and more than 100 delegates belong to peace groups. Armed groups that have returned to the legal fold have pledged that they believe in the seven-point policy and support it and that they will attend the National Convention till it comes to a successful end.

We would like to call on the entire national people to cooperate with all the delegates to the National Convention for its total success. Only then will the emergence of a peaceful and discipline-flourishing democracy be ensured.

Geospatial IT Conference launched

YANGON, 24 Nov — The Geospatial IT Conference, organized by Myanmar Credent Technology, began today.

The conference was opened with the addresses by President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Thein Oo and Vice-Chairman of Credent Technology Asia Mr Pagadala Vijay.

General Manager of Myanmar Credent Technology U Zaw Naing also extended greetings.

At the opening ceremony of the conference, Mr Pagadala Vijay and party donated GIS softwares.

Minister for Mines tours Mandalay mines

YANGON, 24 Nov — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected Kyawdwinay Mine of No 3 Mining Enterprise in PyinUluwin on 20 November morning.

In the afternoon, the minister proceeded to No 1 Iron and Steel Plant and inspected the production process.

Next, he met with officials of PyinUluwin Sub-Power Station of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise and gave necessary instructions to staff of the station.

On 21 November, the minister visited the work site of Tagaungtaung nickel mine in Thabeikkyin Township. The mine is being operated as a joint venture by No 3 Mining Enterprise and China Non-Ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Group Co Ltd (CNMC).

After hearing the reports on the mine, the minister instructed the officials to implement the plan on mining works.

He inspected test pits in the mine and sampled metal. In Mogok, the minister met with employees of the enterprise under the ministry.

On 22 November, the minister made an overall inspection of mining tasks at Koelan, Kyaukpyok and Bawbadan gem mining plots and Shwepyaiyae Gems Camp of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd.

Accompanied by Managing Director U Hla Thein of No 2 Mining Enterprise, the minister met with gold entrepreneurs at the hall of the local battalion in Thabeikkyin Township and discussed salient points and gave instructions to fulfill their requirements. Later, he inspected Sharchet and Shwepyitha gold mines.

On 23 November morning, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party inspected tasks of Myauk Kyunthu Ma Ma Co and Eternal Mining Co in the gold mining plots.

In Pathein(T) Township, they inspected the Gold Production Plant being jointly operated by No 2 Mining Enterprise and Myanmar Golden Point Firm Mali Company. — MNA

Myanmar-Qatar air services agreement inked

YANGON, 24 Nov — An air services agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the bilateral air services agreement and exchanged documents in the presence of Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Thaung getting approval of the respective governments for the promotion of tourism, trade and investment between the two countries.

The agreement is based on the drafted agreement initiated by the representatives of the two countries as a result of consultation for the conclusion of Air Services Agreement between the government of the two countries and signed upon presenting their respective countries to operate air services between the two countries for specified routes and the designated airlines of each country can enjoy 14 weekly services between the two countries.

The designated air-line of the State of Qatar is planning to operate four weekly services between Doha and Yangon in the early 2005 and Myanmar Airways International and the designated airline of the Union of Myanmar is also planning to operate passenger transportation as a marketing carriers for the route of Yangon-Doha—some Europe destinations, under airlines cooperation arrangement with Qatar Airways.

Director-General Brig-Gen Myo Tin and Qatar Managing Director Mr Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Noaimi sign the agreement. — TRANSPORT

According to the agreement, one or more airlines can be designated representing their respective countries to operate air services between the two countries for specified routes and the designated airlines of each country can enjoy 14 weekly services between the two countries.

The second best time is now.
Cambodian PM appeals to enhance ASEAN traffic safety

PHNOM PENH, 24 Nov — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday appealed to all ASEAN member countries to make efforts to reduce traffic accidents.

Hun Sen made the appeal at the opening ceremony of the 10th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting held here on Tuesday.

Transport Ministers of ASEAN member countries and ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong attended the meeting.

Calling it (traffic accidents) the second secret murderer followed HIV/AIDS, the Premier called the ministers to accelerate their efforts to prepare and implement action plans for traffic safety in ASEAN region, so as to reduce accidents and keep a safe environment for ASEAN road networks in the ASEAN member countries.

Since roads are being improved and transportation goes up, traffic accidents are unfortunately also on the rise every year in ASEAN countries.

The figures from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday showed that some 75,000 persons were killed and more than 4.7 million were injured in road crashes in South-East Asian countries during 2003.

At the same time, the annual economic losses from road accidents are estimated at around 15 billion US dollars or 2.2 per cent of the region’s total gross domestic product.

ADB warned that “if South-East Asian nations do not start taking road safety seriously, there will be 385,000 road deaths and 24 million injuries in the next five years, incurring more than 88 billion dollars in economic losses”.

Cambodia also witnessed more traffic accidents and more people killed and injured in recent years causing more than 116 million dollars of losses annually, accounting for three per cent of the nation’s GDP (gross domestic product).

At Tuesday’s meeting, ministers will consider and adopt the final drafts of the ASEAN Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan and the Phnom Penh Ministerial Declaration on ASEAN Road Safety.

ASEAN consists of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Singapore hosts 1st Int'l Crime Prevention Conference

SINGAPORE, 23 Nov — The first International Crime Prevention Conference (ICPC) opened here on Monday with the participation of over 300 law enforcement officials from 30 countries.

The four-day conference is aimed to provide an opportunity for crime prevention practitioners to exchange their experience and enhance crime prevention strategies. Issues to be discussed include youth crime, security for the elderly and the fight against terrorism.

Addressing the conference, Singapore’s Minister for Education Tharman Shanmugaratnam introduced two fundamental factors in crime prevention in the city-state, which have proved effective in Singapore’s low crime rate of less than 1 per cent.

“First has to do with upstream interventions and the second, the adoption of a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approach. Besides an effective criminal justice system, both these factors have been fundamental to Singapore’s strategies to minimize crime,” Tharman said.

He further explained that Singapore endeavours to locate the principal causes of crime and correct behaviour that leads to crime, adding that many approaches, resources and social interventions are needed to tackle crime or the factors leading to crime.

Arab states not ready to forgive Iraq debt

DUBAI, 23 Nov — Arab countries made clear Tuesday they are far from ready to commit to a deal to forgive more than $30 billion owed them by Iraq, despite US pressure and a recent debt-relief package by other major countries.

The hesitance on the part of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, both strong US allies, could have wide-spread ramifications for the effort to help Iraq get back on its feet economically.

A weekend deal by Russia, Japan, Europe and the United States to forgive 80 percent of their portion of Iraq’s debt hinges on Arab countries going along.

Both Kuwait, Iraq’s largest single creditor and Saudi Arabia have said no debt-relief commitments are possible until after Iraq has an elected and internationally recognized government.

Iraq takes the first step in that process in January, when it plans to hold elections for a National Assembly that is to draft a new constitution. If that is ratified, an election to choose a national government will be held in December 2005.

It remains unclear at what point in that lengthy process the Arab countries would view a debt-relief deal as possible.

Viramity, China to work for closer parliamentary ties

HANOI, 23 Nov — Vietnam and China will strengthen exchanges of parliamentary delegations to share experience and step up the overall relations between the two countries, Vietnamese Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly said on Monday.

He made the statement when receiving at the 10th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, the visiting Chinese Vice-Chairman of the National People’s Congress (NPC)’s Foreign Affairs Committee — Li Chongmin.

“More and more delegations from the Vietnamese people and the assembly are visiting China to learn things and exchange experience,” Duong said, expressing his thanks for Chinese assistance in helping Vietnam in various fields, including industry and culture.

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1,229 members of US milily killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov — As of Tuesday, 23 November, 2004, at least 1,229 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 957 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department’s tally, which was last updated Tuesday at 10 am EDT. 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, 1,091 US military members have died, according to AP’s count.

That includes at least 848 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 9,326 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department’s weekly tally.
NZ researchers develop new device to stop drivers falling asleep

WELLINGTON, 24 Nov—An alertness monitor which can detect when a driver is at risk of falling asleep is being developed by health researchers in Christchurch of New Zealand.

The project, based at Christchurch’s new Van der Veer Institute for Parkinson’s and brain research, follows mounting national concern over the dangers of driving while tired. Christchurch-based daily The Press reported Wednesday.

Last week a Massey University research magazine published a study showing driver fatigue was a factor in one in six truck crashes - three times earlier estimates.

Also, in September Christchurch researchers published a study showing three out of four healthy men asked to perform a monotonous task for one hour actually fell asleep at least once.

Neurotechnology research Director Associate Professor Richard Jones, one of the authors of the Christchurch study, is now helping develop an alertness monitor. It would measure a person’s brainwaves and eye movements while they were driving and would give them a ‘wake-up call’ if needed.

“It has colossal potential,” Jones was quoted as saying. “Cases of tired drivers falling asleep aren’t uncommon. A system which could monitor a person and detect lapses of consciousness would be of considerable value in helping to prevent serious accidents.”

It would not just be useful for the likes of long-distance truck drivers but for anyone who needed sustained alertness such as pilots and air traffic controllers. “Diminished alertness levels in these occupations can lead to disastrous consequences,” Jones said. His research group, part of the Canterbury District Health Board, has a three-year contract with Canterbury University’s Canterprise Ltd, to work together on commercializing a number of technologies, including the alertness monitor.

The alertness monitor is at least two years away from commercial release, Jones said. — MNA/Xinhua

Number of China's mobile phone users hits record high

BEIJING, 23 Nov—The number of mobile phone subscribers in China reached a record 320 million at the end of October, said the Ministry of Information Industry on Monday.

This is a rise of 55.081 million over the end of last year. On the average, China has 5.5 million new mobile phone subscribers a month in the first ten months this year, said the ministry in its Press release. At the end of October, there were 24.8 million phones for every one hundred Chinese.

Along with the increase of mobile phone subscribers, the business of short message also witnessed a sharp rise of 62 per cent year-on-year to more than 176.06 billion messages in first ten months, said the ministry.

Though facing heated competition brought by mobile communications, the number of fixed-line subscribers rose 47.94 million over the end of last year to 310 million by the end of October. By then, there were 24.5 fixed-line subscribers every one hundred Chinese, the ministry said.

Statistics with the ministry show the total number of telephone users in China, including both mobile phone users and fixed-line users, reached 635.72 million by the end of October.

The ministry also said that in the first ten months China’s total revenue of post and telecommunications reached 477.14 billion yuan (57.7 billion US dollars), up 12.2 per cent over the same period last year.

The postal revenue in the period was 45.46 billion yuan (about 5.3 billion US dollars), a rise of 2.3 per cent year-on-year, and the revenue of telecommunications hit 431.68 billion yuan (about 52.2 billion US dollars), up 13.3 per cent year-on-year.

The ministry said that in the ten months China’s mobile telephone subscriptions hit 155.62 billion yuan (18.8 billion US dollars) by the end of October, up 9.6 per cent year-on-year.

China’s mobile phone users outnumbered fixed-line phone subscribers in October 2003. China imported its first mobile phone telecommunication facilities in 1987, and it took a decade for its number of subscribers to jump to 10 million.

Philippine Govt urges return of over staying workers in Japan

MANILA, 24 Nov—The Philippine Government Tuesday called for immediate return of overseas Filipino workers, who have overstayed in Japan, before a new immigration law takes effect in the country on Saturday.

Labour and Employment Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said in a radio interview that overstaying aliens face a maximum fine of three million yen, deportation and a 10-year ban from entering Japan, according to the law. An alien who repeatedly overstays will be regarded as an illegal alien and will face a maximum fine of 10 million yen, deportation and a 10-year ban from entering the country.

Since the Fallujah offensive began 7 November has surpassed 850, and the wounded total for the entire war has topped 9,000, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, 23 Nov—The number of US troops wounded throughout Iraq since the Fallujah offensive began 7 November has surpassed 850, and the wounded total for the entire war has topped 9,000, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

The trophy, based on the New York Times, said he was concerned that Bush’s electoral victory over Senator John Kerry earlier this month would only reinforce the Administration’s eagerness to promote the second installment of his latest project — economics textbooks aimed at making the science more accessible to college students. In the meantime, however, he worries the Bush Administration’s fiscal policies are going to push the world’s largest economy into a rut.

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Vietnam facilitates technology market

HANOI, 24 Nov — Vietnam is enhancing quality and commercialization of scientific and technological products by developing its technology market and perfecting legal documents on technology transfer.

The country will develop technology mediation establishments by setting up market promotion agencies, regularly holding equipment markets and exhibitions, and encouraging all economic sectors to participate in the activities, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times said on Tuesday.

To ensure smooth operation of technology markets, Vietnam is perfecting its legal system, especially in the fields of intellectual property and technology transfer. It is offering financial assistance for transferring technologies between departments of science and technologies nationwide, among localities, and from research establishments to enterprises and farmers, the report said.

The country will set aside a larger part of the state budget for assisting the commercialization of research products, the paper said, adding it is encouraging locals to join hands in scientific research and technology transfer.

Vietnam’s investment in scientific research and technological development is still modest, but the commercialization of its research results has recently shown encouraging signs. Statistics has it than 20 technologies and agriculture universities in the country signed 13,000 contracts totalling more than 1.1 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 70.1 million US dollars) between 1996 and 2000.

— MNA/Xinhua

Iran joins outcry against ‘excessive force’ in Iraq

BAHRAIM, 23 Nov — The Iranian, Egyptian and Syrian governments accused the US yesterday of using excessive force to quell rebels in Iraq.

The Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, said at an international conference in Sharm el-Sheikh that although condemning terrorism, “we cannot overemphasise the need to refrain from shelling civilians, destroying cities and killing innocent people”.

More than 20 countries and organizations, including the US, Britain, the UN, and Iraq’s neighbours took part in the one-day meeting on the future of Iraq at the Egyptian Red Sea resort.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrazi, criticized “the use of excessive force and bombing of towns” but also condemned the insurgents for kidnappings and other acts of violence, saying: “Such acts will help prolong the presence of foreign troops in Iraq.” — Internet

US, Syria quarrel over Iraq border

SHARM EL SHEIK (Egypt), 23 Nov — The United States and Syria exchanged sharp words yesterday over what the Bush administration says is Damascus’ failure to fully honour its commitment to prevent terrorists, weapons and financing from crossing its border into Iraq.

The terse exchange came during a meeting between Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa, both of whom attended the major international conference on Iraq’s political future at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheik.

Washington and Iraq’s interim government reached an agreement with Damascus last month on ways to patrol the porous Iraqi-Syrian border, which is a major entry point for militants and money headed for the Iraqi guerrillas.

“We discussed that rather directly,” Mr Powell told reporters shortly after the conference concluded, using diplomatic speak for a tense and argumentative, though respectful, conversation.

“The Syrians have taken some steps recently, but we think there is a lot they can do, and we are looking for greater opportunities to work with the Syrians,” he said.

“We’ll try to provide as much information to the Syrians about the activity that is taking place in Syria that they really need to get on top of and do something about,” he said.

The meeting yesterday was in stark contrast with Mr Powell’s encounter with Mr Sharaa at the United Nations in September, when the secretary said he sensed “a new attitude from the Syrians.”

Scientists say oceans turning up new species of fish

REYKJAVIK, 23 Nov — A survey of the world’s oceans is turning up more than two new species of fish a week and revealing huge trans-ocean migration routes by creatures from turtles to tuna, scientists say.

“We’re finding new marine species almost everywhere,” said Ron O’Dor, senior scientist of the Census of Marine Life, a 10-year project running until 2010 by hundreds of scientists in 70 nations.

Even in well-studied waters like off Europe, the number of species is still growing. The census will aid understanding of the oceans, the least-known part of the planet’s surface, and help in monitoring threats including over-fishing and global warming.

For fish alone, the census has turned up 106 new species so far in 2004, or more than two a week, according to a 2004 report to be released on Tuesday.

The finds bring the known total of fish species to 15,482.

Among fish, new species found in 2004 include a type of striped goby that lives off Guan in the Pacific. Other finds in 2004 included two types of octopus in chilly waters off Antarctica and a burrowing 20-cm (eight-inch) worm, dubbed a “purple orchid,” in the depths of the mid-Atlantic.

The census estimates that there are about 230,000 known species of marine life, mostly tiny microbes and ranging up to blue whales, but that the real number may top two million.

“Below 3,000 metres (yards) there is a 50-50 chance that any species we find is new to science,” O’Dor, a Canadian, told Reuters.

Some of the 2004 surprises were in the growing understanding of vast distances travelled by creatures from seals to fish tracked by tiny electronic tags. “It seems that these huge migrations are much more common than we believed,” O’Dor said.

“Bluefin tuna tagged in California turned up off Japan and then swim back to California,” O’Dor said. “It’s been known that tuna swim across the Atlantic but the Pacific is three times broader.”

“And green turtles tagged near the Equator go in huge loops around the Pacific, may be three times in a lifetime of almost perpetual movement,” he said.

And off western Canada rare green sturgeon were also found 620 miles north of their normal spawning grounds in California.

— MNA/Reuters

China, Switzerland reconstruct historical site

KUNMING, 23 Nov — China is working with Switzerland to reconstruct an ancient bazaar in the Shaxi Town, Jianchuan County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, which was among the world’s most endangered sites released by the World Monuments Fund (WMF).

The first phase of the reconstruction project has been finished and the ancient bazaar is ready to open to tourists, said the project authorities.

With intact theaters, inns, temples and gates, the bazaar, dating from the Qin and Han dynasties (BC 221 AD 220), is the only well-preserved example of its kind along a famous ancient tea trade route that connects the region with Tibet and south-east Asia.

To better protect the site, the government of Jianchuan signed a memorandum on the 23,000-year-old construction with the Switzerland Technological University in 2002, aiming to recover the prosperity of the ancient bazaar.

According to the memorandum, both sides will jointly invest 27 million yuan (about 3.26 million US dollars) to protect the bazaar and develop villages around it, help the town shake off poverty and protect the local cultural heritages.

— MNA/Xinhua

Models display the 71-inch PDP television of LG Electronics in Seoul on 22 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET

A US soldier in his Humvee patrols the highway between the Iraqi Sunni cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, west of Baghdad on 21 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET
Roads in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand deadliest in SEA

MANILA, 23 Nov — Roads in Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand are the deadliest in Southeast Asia but accidents will cost the entire region $385,000 lives and $88 billion dollars in the next five years without a concerted plan for traffic safety, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Monday.

The Asia-Pacific region racks up 44 per cent of the world’s road deaths each year, despite having just 14 per cent of its vehicles, the Manila-based Bank said in a report to be discussed by transport ministers’ meeting in Cambodia this week.

Motorcycles figured prominently in crashes last year that killed 75,000 people, injured 4.7 million people and cost Southeast Asia about $15 billion dollars in economic losses, or 2.2 per cent of the region’s total gross domestic product.

“Official statistics grossly underestimate the actual numbers of persons killed or injured in road accidents,” the ADB said in a statement.

“Such huge recurring losses are not sustainable and action has to be taken to implement a regional strategy and action plan to promote road safety.”

The ADB said it had helped the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations to draft a five-year programme, based on successful road safety schemes from around the world. Implementing the plan — which calls for better analysis, a multi-sector approach and adequate resources — would save 42,000 lives and $10.6 billion dollars in the region over the next five years, the ADB said.

The biggest discrepancies between police reports and ADB research on the number of road deaths and injuries were in Indonesia and the Philippines, the Bank said.

Singapore fares best, losing 0.5 per cent of its GDP to road accidents each year. Cambodia suffers the most, at 3.21 per cent.

Indonesia lost the most last year in economic terms at more than six billion dollars from its estimated 30.464 traffic deaths.

Vietnam was second with 13,186 deaths last year, followed by Thailand at 13,116, the Philippines at 9,000 and Malaysia at 6,282. Singapore was the safest place with 211 fatalities. — MNA/Reuters

Philippines says no outbreak of Meningococccemia

MANILA, 23 Nov — The Philippine Palace officials on Monday declared that there is no outbreak of meningococccemia, saying the reported cases of the disease have been contained.

The Department of Health (DoH) has already submitted its report, stating that it can handle the spread of the disease, said Presidential Palace communications director Silvestre Afable.

The DoH report considered as sporadic incidents the cases in the northern city of Baguio and San Lazaro Hospital in Manila.

Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez said meningococccemia is treatable, with cases being reported worldwide every year.

“There is a higher chance that you can get well from meningococccemia because the drugs needed to fight the sickness is not very sophisticated,” he told the local DZMM radio station. He also said meningococccemia bacteria can be transferred through respiratory droplets by spitting or sneezing.

Meanwhile, Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon said news reports of a possible outbreak of meningococccemia in Baguio has affected tourism in the city.

“It is inevitable that tourism is affected, especially with these kinds of reports (but I can assure that) there is no outbreak,” he said.

Yaranon said influx of tourists into Baguio City has decreased since Friday after initial reports of the cases broke out in news reports.

Likewise, Yaranon said the meningococccemia cases have remained isolated and sporadic, adding that all of the cases can be traced to one area in the northern province of Benguet.

The DoH on Sunday denied an outbreak of meningococccemia in the country amid reports that three people have already died of the disease since last week and at least eight since October, the ADB said.

Seven people are confined at the San Lazaro Hospital for treatment of meningococccemia, said Lunニングing Villa, DoH spokesperson for infectious disease. She said none of those patients comes from Baguio.

China, Albania hail 55th anniversary of establishing ties

BEIJING, 23 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao and Albanian President Alfred Moisiu exchanged congratulatory messages Tuesday to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

“Albania was among the earliest to establish diplomatic relations with People’s Republic of China and has made historic contributions to the restoration of China’s legitimate seat at the United Nations,” Hu said in his message to Moisiu.

Over the past 55 years, Hu said, Sino-Albanian relations have developed smoothly through mutual understanding, equal treatment and close cooperation. “Facts have shown that the furtherance of our friendly relations and cooperation in all fields, based on the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit as well as non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, serves the fundamental interests of our two nations and peoples,” he said.

“China values its relations with Albania and stands ready to join Albania in working on the opportunities of the 55th anniversary of our diplomatic relations to build an even better future for our bilateral relationship,” Hu said. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia, Chile agree on planned LNG supply deal

JAKARTA, 24 Nov — Indonesia has reached initial agreement with Chile on the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the latter, which needs up to four million tons of LNG a year, a local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The agreement was signed between Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro and Chilean Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy Jorge Rodriguez Grossi in Chile over the weekend, Bisnis Indonesia said.

The preliminary agreement does not mention the agreed supply volume and LNG tariff.

“We will have further talks on this. We will send a team (to Chile) to discuss the matter because the key issue remains on price,” Purnomo was quoted as saying.

Indonesia sees no trouble to meet the delivery volume of LNG demanded by Chile with domestic gas reserves reaching 150 trillion cubic feet, 90 trillion of which already under sale contract, Purnomo said.

“We have remaining reserves of 60 trillion cubic feet, enough to meet domestic and export market demand,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese President begins state visit to Cuba

HAVANA, 23 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived here Monday to begin a two-day state visit to Cuba.

Hu is expected to meet with Fidel Castro, President of the Council of State and other Cuban leaders to exchange views on bilateral relations and major international issues.

“I believe that the visit will deepen our friendship and cooperation,” Hu said in a written speech upon arrival at the airport. “We hope to work with Cuba for a better future of our friendly cooperation.”

Cuba was the first Latin American country that established full diplomatic relations with China in 1960. Hu previously visited Cuba in 1997.

Two-way trade between China and Cuba has been about $400 million US dollars annually over the past three years. The trade volume reached 401 million US dollars from January to September this year, up 36.7 per cent.

China mainly imports sugar and nickel from Cuba and exports machinery and electronic products to Cuba. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi families look back at a US Army soldier from the 1st Battalion, 24 Infantry Regiment during a mission searching for guerrillas in Mosul, Iraq, on 22 Nov, 2004. — INTERNET
The ship, Shwe Keinneri 1, started its journey from Gawwein jetty in Mandalay at 6 am in the morning. Ayeyawady branch of the Inland Water Transport launched the Shwe Keinneri’s special Mandalay-Bagan cruise in 1996. Three ships, christened, Shwe Keinneri 1, Shwe Keinneri 2 and Shwe Keinneri 3, are sailing up and down the Ayeyawady between the two destinations.

They are all double-deckers transporting passengers in their cozy air-conditioned first deck, and housing a restaurant on the upper deck from which passengers can enjoy the scenic beauty of the river and the landscape on both banks.

They can marvel at the mountain ranges under the changing colours of the sky above them, and touch the sincerity of the Myanmar people. Actually, the tour programme aims at attracting foreign tourists. The Shwe Kenneri service runs every day except on Sunday and Wednesday, starting its trip at 6 am to sail downstream the river.

The Mandalay City ring road, the Mandalayon Shipyard, built during the Mandalayon period, the bluish Minwnun hill or Sagaing Mountain range, and the new Ayeyawady Bridge Project after passing Shwekyeteyet and Shwekyetkyeya, are all the attractive scenes tourists will see soon after the ship leaves the jetty. After sailing under the Sagaing Bridge, they can see the historic Thabyedan Fort, the Doktabwady River or the Mytinge River flowing gently into the Ayeyawady, Maimi Brick Monastery, old Inwa town and ancient Hsinkyone Fort on the west bank, and on the east bank is the historic Asiyin Fort south of Sagaing.

After a two-hour sail, the ship arrives at a place where the river flows between a long reef on the east bank and Ywathitgyi on the west bank, 25 miles from the starting point. Ywathitkyi houses a garment factory, and the University for Development of National Races that is producing valuable human resources for the nation in the future. An island also lies in the river near Ywathitkyi. There is an overhead power cable crossing the river. After passing the Phu River mouth, the ship enters the danger zone where three or four reefs are lying in the river. After sailing for another one and a half hour, the ship makes its first stopover at Myinmu jetty, which is 39 miles from Mandalay.

Banana is the main product of Myinmu in Sagaing Division. At the jetty, large shipments of banana await transport downstream or upstream. Some tourists travel to the town by car from Mandalay to catch the ship, and some tourists after visiting Monywa, also continue their journey to Bagan on board the Shwe Kenneri. Further downstream the river awaits the Rekkhadipa, Linkadipa, Ngannnya, Myitha and Nyaungbintha villages on the east bank to catch tourist eyes. Linkadipa, with thriving crops fields, lies in the middle of the river. Tranquil villages such as Wettow, Hspangpon, Kyweyaka lie peacefully on the west bank at the place. After about five hours have passed, the ship anchors at Hsimigon village, 58 miles from Mandalay.

The Shwe Keinneri passes a number of peaceful and tranquil villages on both banks before making its third stopover at Ginteh jetty, 64 miles from Gawwein jetty. After sailing down the river for ten minutes from the jetty, the ship arrives at Randabo, where Randabo Treaty was signed to end the First Anglo-Myanmar War, which broke out in 1824. A stone pillar still stands at the village, 69 miles from Mandalay. Its main and famous product is earthen pots. On the opposite bank lies Pale village, the birth place of Yaw Atnwunw U Po Hlaing, who had helped develop treatises on various fields including medicine, religion and administration, during the Yadanabon period.

Beyond Randabo are Incaung and Myingyan. The latter was once a busy port. But now it is located far from the river due to changes in river’s direction. Ships can moor at its jetty only in the rainy season when the water level is high. After sailing from Mandalay for 87 miles, the ship reaches the most breath-taking point of the journey, the place where Chindwin, the largest tributary, meets mother Ayeyawady. Except in the rainy season, the colour of the Ayeyawady is blue or green, sparkling under the shining sun in the day time. But at the convergence, the muddy waters of Chindwin mix with the clear waters of the mother river. A long sand dune in the river is enhancing the enchanted beauty of the convergence, located in the place where Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions meet. On the east bank is Myinchi and on the west bank, Chaydawya.

Sailing down the convergence, tourists see more villages lying peacefully on both banks, some agricultural islands and tributaries till reaching Pakokku, a major town on the west bank, at 3 pm. Pakokku transports its products to Letpantshepaw on the opposite bank which serves as a transit centre for the goods to reach various parts of the country by railroad or by car. Pakokku is famous for its large paryatti schools for Buddhist monks, leather slippers and garments. It takes about nine hours to reach the town that is 103 miles from Mandalay. In summer, boats have to anchor at Yelemyin and Kokkohla islands seven miles from the town as the water is too shallow to reach its jetty. Urbanization is under way in Pakokku to develop it into the capital of the west bank in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

(To be continued)
Minister for Sports enjoys Asian Wushu C’ships

Yangon, 24 Nov — The 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004, hosted by Myanmar, started its events at the National Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna this morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chinese Minister of Sports President Mr Li Zhijian, President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian and officials of World Wushu Federation, President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay and executives.

In the championships, the Women’s Taijiquan event, the Men’s Qiangshu event, the Men’s Daoshu event, the Men’s Gunshu event and the Men’s Taijiquan event were held. After the matches, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chinese Minister of Sports President of AWF Mr Li Zhijian, the secretary of WWF and President of MWF U Khin Maung Lay presented prizes and the bunches of flowers to the winners.

The championships will continue up to 27 November.— MNA

Successful candidates announced

Yangon, 24 Nov — The Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport and the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University under the Ministry of Science and Technology are going to launch their classes for 2004-2005 academic year on 1 December 2004.

The list of successful candidates of the universities is available beginning on 25 November at the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) on Thaton Street, Kamayut Township, Myanmar Maritime University in Thilawa, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Technological University in Gyoogon, Insein Township, and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in Mekila.

The successful candidates are to register at respective universities from 29 November until 15 December.— MNA

Roads in Taunggyi renovated

Yangon, 24 Nov — Repair work of the roads in Taunggyi are being carried out in the opening season by the township Development Affairs Department.

Officials led by U Myat Thaung of the township Development Department (DAD) on 1 November supervised the tarring of road near Sao San Tun Market in Taunggyi.— MNA

CECs meet USDA members

Yangon, 24 Nov — Two Central Executive Committee members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association met with executives of USDA in Pyay yesterday.

The CEC members, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay explained the political, economic and social developments of the nation and the seven-point Road Map, which must be materialized with the participation of the entire people of the country.

Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and secretaries, joint secretaries and executives of the division, Pyay District and eight township USDA attended the meeting.

The CEC members also met with USDA secretaries, joint secretaries and executives of Thayawady District and six townships in Thayawady.— MNA

Course on Practical Aspects of Exploration in Myanmar concludes

Yangon, 24 Nov — The concluding of Course on Practical Aspects of Exploration in Myanmar (professional level) organized by the Myanmar Geological Science Association was held at the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Head Office) on 18 November.

President of the association Dr U Thein presented completion certificates to the trainees.— MNA
First India-ASEAN Car Rally…

(from page 16)
Next, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong and delegates of ASEAN discussed tourism in ASEAN-India region and development of border trade. ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong also discussed border trade on ASEAN-India, transport, development of tourism and promotion of information technology.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the first India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off ceremony in Nehru Stadium. Eleven parachuters representing ASEAN+1 jumped down from the plane and speeches. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh greeted drivers and flagged off the car rally.

Two hundred and forty drivers of India and ASEAN (the Philippines not included) participated party visited Myanmar drivers and watched the rally.

The distance of the car rally is 7,869 kilometres — 690 km in India, 439 km in Myanmar, 2,230 km in Thailand, 642 km in Laos, 1,312 km in Vietnam, 642 km in Cambodia, 853 km in Malaysia and 50 km in Singapore. All participants will arrive at the finishing point in Battambang, Cambodia.

It will take the rally 19 days including pilgrimage in Cambodia. The caravan of the cars will arrive in Tamu on 24 November, in Mandalay on 25 November, in Loilem on 26 November and in Kengtung on 27 November.

(See page 10)
Disciples and lay persons pay homage to remains of the late Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita. — MNA

First India-ASEAN Car Rally

Yangon, 24 Nov — The remains of Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Chief of Pakokku Maha Visutarama Nikaya Presiding Nayaka of Myingyan Koehsaung Monastery and Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery from Dagon Myothit (South) Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera is being kept at the temporary building in the precinct of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery. Lay persons and members of the Sangha paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw this morning and evening. The religious associations and the music troupes recited religious verses and songs. At night, Wakhinkon Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bahujana Hitadhara Bhaddanta Tikkha administered Desanas. Tomorrow night, Agga Maha Pandita Thegon Sayadaw Dr Nānissara (Sitagu) will administer Dhamma Desana. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attend 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off Ceremony. — MNA

Myanmar fashion designers leave for KL

Yangon, 24 Nov — Chief-editors of two fashion magazines and fashion designers on 20 November left for Malaysia to attend the Asia Fashion Week 2004 which will be held in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysian hotels and tourism companies will organize the fashion week from 21 to 29 November. The Myanmar delegation comprises Chief-Editor of Empress Akari Magazine U Kyi Win, Emperor Akari Magazine U Hla Phone Aung, Daw Tin Moe Lwin of T & M and seven fashion designers. — H

A ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong extends greetings at the 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off Ceremony. — MNA

Myanmar athletes seen at the 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-off Ceremony. — MNA

Commander...

Foundation. At the briefing hall of Irrigation Department, Director U Kyaw Thein reported on Progress of construction of the Ngamoyeik sluice gate project to the commander. The commander said that the number of sown acreage will rise and income of local people will increase after Ngamoyeik Sluice Gate. The commander gave instructions on cultivation of the summer paddy on both sides of the Ngamoyeik Creek in time, arrangements for greening 30 miles radius of Yangon City all the year round and completion of the tasks on time meeting the set standard. The Ngamoyeik sluice gate is 12 feet high and eight feet wide with 1,200-feet length including 26 valves for channels. On completion of the project, flow of salty water into the farmlands along the Ngamoyeik creek in the rainy season can be prevented and water supply also provided for over 5,000 acres of summer paddy cultivation. — MNA
A & I Minister visits sugar mills

YANGON, 24 Nov—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo held meeting with the officials of Nos 2 and 3 Sugar Mills on 22 November. In his discussions, the Minister gave instructions on production of quality sugar in this season, and ensuring purchase of targeted amount of sugarcane. He said that it is needed to meet the targeted sow acreage of cultivation of sugarcane this cultivation season, calling for cooperation of related departments for sufficient water supply, timely ploughing and boosting per acre yield.

Yesterday, the Minister inspected Sugar Mill Nos 3 and 2. Attending the opening of the Dhammayan to mark golden jubilee of the Institute of Agriculture and the planting of saplings, the Minister formally opened the Dhammayan. Next, the Minister visited the golden jubilee hall of the Institute of Agriculture. Upon arrival at Yayzin University of Agriculture, Pro-rector (Admin) U Hla Tun reported on academic matters. The minister said that Myanmar is producing human resources capable of raising the nation’s economy based on agriculture. In this regard, the institute is to contribute towards progress of the agricultural sector by producing a number of agricultural experts. He said. The Minister also inspected the library and computer room of the educational facility. — MNA

Great Wall oil designated as official lubricant for 2008 Olympic

BEIJING, 24 Nov — The Great Wall lubricating oil has been designated as the official lubricant for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Chinese oil producer Sinopec Corporation announced here on Tuesday.

Sinopec, China’s largest oil refining and petrochemical company, signed a deal with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics (BOCOG) last month, becoming an official partner of the games. According to the deal, Sinopec will provide funds and other forms of support for the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics, BOCOG, the Chinese Olympic Committee, as well as Chinese sports delegations for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin and 2008 Summer Olympics.

Song Yunchang, general manager of Sinopec’s Lubricant Company, said the 2008 Games provides an extensive platform for Sinopec to promote its brand and products. “As the world’s premier sporting event, the Olympic Games will help Sinopec present its excellent products and services to the world,” Song told a Press conference. Yuan Bin, deputy director of BOCOG’s Marketing Department, was upbeat about the marketing prospects of the 2008 Games. “We’re much delighted to see that so many enterprises, from home and abroad, show keen interest in sponsoring the Games,” said Yuan. — MNA/Xinhua

Hyflux: Sinopec to promote its brand and products

SINGAPORE, 24 Nov — Singapore aims to build itself into a global hydro hub by growing its water industry to share 3 to 5 per cent in the global water market.

Speaking at the opening of Hyflux’s Membrane Technology Research & Development (R&D) Centre here on Tuesday, Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, said that the well-developed R&D infrastructure is one of the advantages the city state enjoys to achieve this goal. “Apart from R&D infrastructure, our strategic location also makes us an excellent knowledge hub for the testing and application of new environmental technology solutions developed for Asian conditions,” Yaacob said.

He added that Singapore is also a choice location for many water companies seeking listing, while the Public Utilities Board (PUB) is nurturing the growth of the local water industry by tapping on leading edge technologies and expertise available in the private sector. Hyflux, a water treatment specialist, has been playing a significant role in expanding Singapore’s water supply in the past 15 years. Its newly-opened R&D centre is the largest of its kind in Asia outside Japan with 130 researchers. — MNA/Xinhua

S Korean PM holds talks with Chinese senior official

SEOUL, 24 Nov — South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hai-chan held talks with Chinese State Councillor Chen Zhili on bilateral exchanges on Monday afternoon in the South Korean Government Complex Building.

Lee and Chen agreed on promoting cooperation and exchanges in science, technology and education fields. They also reached consensus on providing convenience for exchanges of personnel of the two countries.

The South Korean Premier highly appraised the rapid development of South Korea-China relations and the accomplishments China has achieved since it adopted the reform and open policy. During the meeting, Lee also hoped the two countries can expand cooperation in politics, economy and trade.

Chen said since China and South Korea established diplomatic ties in 1992, the Sino-South Korean relations have enjoyed rapid development and borne fruit. She also took note of the consolidation and development of the Sino-South Korean ties after the two countries announced to build the full cooperation partnership ties in July 2003.

Chen said ex-changes and cooperation in science, technology and education fields are important components of Sino-South Korean relations. She hoped the two neighbouring countries can make further progress on such exchanges and cooperation to attach new meaning to the full cooperation partnership ties.

Chen Zhili also met South Korean Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lee Byung-young earlier Monday. — MNA/Xinhua

No new bird flu case detected in Malaysia

KUALALUMPUR, 24 Nov — No new bird flu case has been detected nationwide recently, Director of Malaysia Veterinary Services, Dr Havari Husin, said Tuesday.

This means that all chicken and duck products, including eggs, sold in the market are safe for consumption, he said in a statement released here.

However, north state of Kelantan would be declared free of bird flu only after the H5N1 virus strain is no longer detected there, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Self-reliant libraries mushrooming nationwide

PALK, 8 Nov — An opening ceremony of a self-reliant library was held in Minnma Village-tract in Pale Township on 10 October.

The library was opened with the assistance of the township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD). At the opening ceremony, local bookworms provided a total of 375 books on general knowledge for the library. Head of Township IPRD handed over 53 books provided by IPRD. Similarly, a self-reliant library was opened in Saikkaung Village in Namtu Township. Namtu Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Nay Tun, Head of the township IPRD Daw Ei Phyu and Head of the village U San Pwint formally opened the library.

Daw Ei Phyu handed over 106 books provided by IPRD, and other wellwishers donated 71 books on general knowledge. Up to 16 November, altogether 10,139 self-reliant libraries have been opened all over the country. — KYEMON

A tar-road inaugurated in Muse Township

MUSE, 6 Nov — A tar road linking SwanSaw Ward and Khowein Village in Muse Township was commissioned into service on 6 November in Muse Township.

It is 3,200 feet long and 10 ft wide. Wellwisher U Yan Moe Ann donated K 7.5 million and Muse Township Development Affairs Department DAD provided K 1.5 million for construction of the tar road.

Director of Shan State (North) DAD U Kyi Myint, Secretary of Muse District Peace and Development Council Maj Tin Yu and U Yan Moe Ann formally opened the road. — KYEMON

Local in Natogyi Township get more drinking water

NATOGY, 10 Nov — With the aim of supplying drinking water to local people in Mokkan Village-tract in Natogyi Township, a tube-well was inaugurated on 27 October in Mokkan Village (East) in the township.

Under the arrangements of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, the tube-well was sunk by Natogyi Township Union Solidarity and Development Association at a cost of K 728,740. Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council also provided K 400,000 for the project. Similarly, local people and a wellwisher donated K 99,400 and K 229,340 respectively. — KYEMON

As a gesture of hailing the World AIDS Day which will falls on 1 December, a radio play is being recorded at Radio Myanmar. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 25 November, 2004 11
Over eight tons of drugs seized in northern Iran

Tehran, 23 Nov — Over eight tons of various narcotic drugs were seized in the northern Iranian Province of Mazandaran in the past week, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

The provincial police media centre was quoted as saying that the drugs, consisting of opium, heroin and hashish, were seized in separate operations conducted throughout the province.

Ten smugglers were arrested during the operations.

Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, which sits in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions.

According to the official statistics, there are at least two million drug addicts in Iran.

The country also accounts for 80 per cent of the poppy and 90 per cent of the morphine interception worldwide.

Iran spends five billion US dollars annually on anti-drug programmes, and over 31,000 police have lost their lives in conflict with drug smugglers during the past two decades.

MNA/Xinhua

Honeywell opens second R&D centre in China

Beijing, 23 Nov — Diversified US manufacturer Honeywell opened a new research and development (R&D) centre and Asia-Pacific headquarters in east China’s Shanghai, Monday’s China Daily reported.

“It is a move to consolidate our synergies in this region,” said Shane Tedjarati, president and CEO of Specialty Materials, Honeywell, who was quoted as saying.

Honeywell values two elements when locating facilities-close proximity to raw materials and customers, Tedjarati said. The new complex is expected to boost sales of bio-based products by 50 per cent.

The new complex, according to the company, is expected to add about 1,000 new employees to the workforce.

MNA/Xinhua
“Fahrenheit 9/11” director tops Hollywood’s least- intriguing celebrities

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov — Director Michael Moore, whose anti-Iraq war film “Fahrenheit 9/11” touched off a firestorm of controversy, topped an annual list on Monday of Hollywood’s least- intriguing celebrities.

The outspoken documentarian, who seemed to be everywhere during the 2004 US presidential campaign, urging defeat of President George W Bush, ranks No 1 on this year’s “Frigit 50” published by online movie magazine Film Threat.com.

The web site, known for an anti-establishment take on the entertainment industry, said its list names the stars it found to be the “least-inspiring, least- intriguing people in Hollywood”.

Ranked No 2 was actress Halle Berry, who followed up her Oscar-winning turn in “Monster’s Ball” with less critically lauded roles in such films as “Gothica” and “Catwoman”.

“The Frigit 50 ice pack have left audiences cold with their overbearing personalities, poor career choices and chronic inability to stop making fools of themselves,” the site said.

Moore qualified because of what the editors saw as an oversized ego. “Message to Michael: Remember, it’s not always about you. Lose the chip on your shoulder,” the editors said.

World milk production slows down in 2004

MELBOURNE, 24 Nov — World milk production is significantly slowing down in 2004, to only see an increase of three million tons, according to figures from the International Dairy Federation (IDF).

The world will have a total of 612 million tons of milk for this year, according to a report on the world dairy situation released by the IDF at the World Dairy Summit being held here.

The reduced growth is compared with an increase of 80 million tons of milk production over the decade since 1994.

The situation is attributed to the declining production of cow milk in Europe, North America and Oceania, despite a growing buffalo milk sector, whose production now reaches 15 per cent of the total milk production compared to 9 per cent ten years ago, said the report.

The buffalo milk production mainly concentrates on the Indian subcontinent, said Adriaan Krüger, chair of the standing committee on dairy policies and economics.

Together with the burgeoning of bovine cow milk production in China, additional milk supplies are all most production not needed where they are fully used to cover the domestic needs and will not become available to cover international demand, he said.

Zambia says conserving natural resources vital for poverty reduction

LUSAKA, 24 Nov — The Zambian Government has called for interventions that would stimulate sound management practices for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the country, local newspaper Daily Mail reported Tuesday.

Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary Lilian Kapulu was quoted as saying that Zambia’s bio-diversity was being lost due to human and livestock activities that have resulted in land degradation and other environmental disorders.

Kapulu said bio-diversity conservation was central to the development of the national environmental policy.

She said the policy related to poverty reduction through sustainable and judicious use of natural resources as the nation targeted the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of reducing biodiversity loss by the Year 2015.

Kapulu underscored the government’s commitment to the development of a national environmental policy within the context of the poverty reduction strategy paper.

She said at the core of the envisaged environmental policy was the need to ensure that Zambia maintained its biodiversity and ecosystem that were essential to the survival of people.

Kapulu stressed that conservation and sustainable use of natural resources was increasingly recognized as a component of global efforts to reduce poverty since the livelihoods of many people depended on the environment.

163 kilos of heroin seized in Istanbul

ANKARA, 24 Nov — Turkish security forces have seized 163 kilos of heroin in their recent operation on Esenler and Umraniye districts of Istanbul, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Concerned sources were quoted as saying that a total of eight people were taken into custody and the detainees confessed that they were planning to market the drugs in European countries. A full investigation into the drug trafficking is underway.

Painkillers should be used on short-term basis

LONDON, 24 Nov — Painkillers taken by millions of arthritis sufferers worldwide are actually limited in relieving symptoms, Norwegian scientists said on Tuesday.

Researchers from the University of Bergen said their findings suggested the drugs should be used only on a short-term basis and be prescribed much more critically in future.

Current guidelines in many countries recommend using non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including so-called COX-2 inhibitors, for treating patients with osteoarthritis.

But there are mounting concerns about their safety, following the withdrawal of Merck & Co Inc’s COX-2 drug Vioxx in September due to heart attack risk. At the same time, many older NSAIDs, such as Naproxen and Ibuprofen, can cause gastrointestinal problems.

Jan Magnus Bjordal and colleagues pooled the results of 23 previous clinical trials to find out just how useful all types of NSAIDs and COX-2 drugs were in relieving pain in patients with knee osteoarthritis, the most common form of the disease.

Their findings, published online by the British Medical Journal, showed that the drugs reduced pain in the short term only slightly better than placebo.

“We were surprised that the effects were so small. These drugs are very commonly used but their effect is below what many patients report as clinically relevant for them,” Bjordal told Reuters.

Honda recalling 257,616 of its Accord sedans

DETROIT, 24 Nov — Japan’s Honda Motor Co Ltd is recalling 257,616 of its Accord sedans from the 2004 and 2005 model years because of potentially faulty air bags, US federal safety regulators said on Monday.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said a tear may occur in the driver’s side front air bag of the Accords, increasing the risk of injury in a crash.

The recall is expected to begin on 6 December and owners of the vehicles affected should contact the US division of Honda.

A cheetah finds a dry spot to sit on after a snowfall on 23 Nov, 2004. A cheetah at a Czech zoo has become the first in the world to be fitted with an artificial hip, the zoo’s vet Vaclav Pozivil said.

INTERNET

Spanish actress Paz Vega arrives as a guest for the premiere of the new film ‘Closer’ in Los Angeles on 22 Nov, 2004.—INTERNET

Monday...
**Dynamo beat Roma 2-0**

KIEV, 24 Nov— Dynamo Kiev beat AS Roma 2-0 thanks to two late goals on Tuesday and need just a draw in their final Champions League group game at Bayer Leverkusen to make sure of reaching the first knockout round.

Dynamo picked up the tempo after an uneventful first half and they were rewarded late in the second period, which was played in a heavy snowstorm at Kiev's Olympic stadium. Greece defender Traianos Dellas put the Ukrainian champions ahead in the 73rd minute when he inadvertently headed into his own goal while trying to clear Tiberiu Ghiță's cross.

Substitute Maxim Shatskikh sealed victory for the home side nine minutes from time to the delight of some 55,000-strong home fans who had braved the foul weather to attend the match.

**Holyfield appeals suspension of NYSAC**

NEW YORK, 24 Nov— Former undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield has appealed the suspension handed down by the New York State Athletic Commission earlier this month.

Holyfield said he did not agree with the suspension and plans to continue his boxing career. Donald improved to 42-3-2 with 24 knockouts with the clear-cut victory for the NABC title. He won by scores of 119-109 on two cards, and 118-109 on the other.

The 42-year-old Holyfield looked like a shell of the boxer that tamed Mike Tyson and knocked out other heavyweight contenders. He fell to 38-8-2 with 25 knockouts over a career that has spanned 20 years.

It marked Holyfield's first bout since suffering a ninth-round TKO loss to James Toney, and need just a draw in their final Champions League group game at Bayer Leverkusen to make sure of reaching the first knockout round.

**Olympiakos edge Deportivo 1-0**

ATHENS, 24 Nov— Olympiakos Piraeus ground out a 1-0 win over Deportivo Coruna with a goal by captain Predrag Djordjevic on Tuesday that leaves them on the brink of reaching the Champions League knockout phase.

Olympiakos top Group A with 10 points with both Manchester United and Lyon on nine and Liverpool seven as they need a draw from their last two games at Anfield to be certain of qualifying for the knockout stage for only the second time.

Deportivo, who have failed to score in all five games and just points, are out of Europe this season since they can't claim even third place which brings a UEFA Cup spot.

Deportivo dominated the first half and should have scored twice as Yiannis Okkas, put through in space, fired at Jose Molina and then Pantelis Kafes hit the underside of the bar.

"There is an unwritten law that when you miss your record at the new Karaiskakis Stadium where they have beaten Liverpool, Monaco and Deportivo all by 1-0.

The Spaniards had their chances, notably in the second minute of added time at the end of the match when Olympiakos goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis dropped a floating free kick.

Changui, a late substitute for Fran, retrieved and knocked the ball towards goal but Giorgos Anotakakis cleared it off the line.

**Man United qualify for knockout phase**

MANCHESTER (England), 24 Nov— Manchester United qualified for the Champions League knockout phase on Tuesday with a 2-1 victory over Olympique Lyon in manager Alex Ferguson’s 1,000th game in charge.

Ruud van Nistelrooy’s 53rd-minute header saved the blushes of United goalkeeper Roy Carroll, who had gifted Lyon a first-half equalizer when he let Mahamadou Diarra’s long-range strike under his body.

Appropriately it was one of Ferguson’s longest-serving players Gary Neville who had given his team the lead after a goalmouth melee in the first half.

Lyon, who were previously unbeaten in Champions League and Ligue 1 action this season, had already secured qualification for the last 16 from Group D, United, who now top the group with 11 points to Lyon’s 10, started aggressively and their best chance came when Wayne Rooney hit the post with little more than five minutes gone.

After 19 minutes England defender Neville’s pass to the flank found Alan Smith, who put a perfect ball across the box which Lyon’s Anthony Reveillere had to intercept to prevent Van Nistelrooy scoring.

Reveillere had another go at clearing his lines but succeeded in pushing the ball out to Neville who lashed it into the net. It was only Neville’s seventh goal in a long career at his only club and his second in the Champions League.

United kept going forward but Lyon had probably the better chances through Pierre-Alain Frau and Essien before Carroll’s howler got them back into the match after 40 minutes.

Diarra’s shot was on target and Carroll had plenty of time to deal with it. Somehow the Irishman let it squirm under his body and into the net.

Neville, laid low by a virus, was substituted at halftime and his replacement Wes Brown nearly gave United the lead seconds after the restart but his shot flashed wide.

Eight minutes into the half United were back in front, however. A run and clipped cross from close in by England defender Rio Ferdinand reached the far post where Van Nistelrooy headed home his 45th goal in the Champions League.

Minutes later the Dutchman nearly got another but his delicate chip hit the outside of the post following great work by Rooney. —MNA/Reuters

**Kovac's own goal gives Fenerbahce win against Sparta**

PRAGUE, 24 Nov— Radoslav Kovac’s own goal in the 20th minute gave Fenerbahce a rare away win against Sparta Prague in Champions League Group D on Tuesday to guarantee them a consolation place in the UEFA Cup.

Fenerbahce made sure of finishing third in the group behind Manchester United and Olympique Lyon. Sparta finish bottom and are eliminated.

"Both teams had players missing, and that made it tough. We are still in Europe, that’s the main thing," said Fenerbahce coach Christo Daum.

Since their surprise victory over Manchester United in the 1996-97 season at Old Trafford, Fenerbahce had played 14 European away games without a single victory.

Their Brazilian trio of Alex de Souza, Marco Aurelio and Marcio Nobre turned up the heat on a cold night at Sparta stadium, creating several chances in the first half.

However the only goal came when Sparta keeper Jaromir Blazek tried to punch away Kermal Aslan’s cross, only to see the ball glance off Kovac’s head and back behind the startled keeper into the open goal.

"I didn’t see him (Kovac) at all. It’s too bad. What can you say?” said Blazek who made several spectacular saves to keep his team in the match.

Sparta tried to fight back in the second half, but once again showed their lack of polished finishing as several chances went begging.

—MNA/Reuters
China, Cuba agree to expand cooperation

HAVANA, 24 Nov—Chinese President Hu Jintao and Fidel Castro, President of the Cuban Council of State, agreed here on Monday to ex-
pand bilateral cooperation in political, economic and other areas.
Hu Jintao arrived here Monday afternoon for a state visit. He met with Castro soon after his arrival and they agreed to work together to expand mutually-beneficial coop-
eration.
China and Cuba established full diplomatic relations in 1960.

Hu said in the meet-
ing with Castro that China-Cuba relationship has withstood the test of time and the change of interna-
tional situation.
“We have helped each other and treated each other with sincerity,” Hu said. “We are friends and brothers. A better relation-
ship between China and Cuba will serve not only interests of our two coun-
tries, but also world peace and common development”.

Hu proposed that China and Cuba increase exchange of visits by lead-
gers of the government, the Parliament, political par-
ties, and non-governmental institutions.
China and Cuba can also expand cooperation in areas of tourism, aquatic products and bio-tech-
ology, Hu said.

In addition, China and Cuba can strengthen cooperation in interna-
tional arenas to safeguard the interests of the develop-
ing nations and world peace, said the Chinese President.

Two-way trade be-
tween China and Cuba has been about 400 million US dol-
lar annually over the past three years. The trade volume reached 401 mil-
lion dollars from January to September this year, up 36.7 percent.

China mainly imports sugar and nickel from Cuba and exports manu-
facturing and electrical products to Cuba.

Castro told Hu that he has paid great attention to China’s de-
velopment and been read-
ing a lot about China lately.

—— MNA/Xinhua

Turky’s winter blast takes deadly toll

ANKARA, 24 Nov—Heavy snowfalls and icy conditions claimed the lives of at least 14 people on Monday on most of those killed in traffic accidents.

Turkish private NTV reported Tuesday.

Deteriorating driving conditions were blamed for accidents that left 13 dead and 121 injured in a spate of ac-
cidents across Turkey after many re-

regions in the northwest, north, east and central Anatolia were blanketed in snow, said the report.

At least one other person froze to death in bitter cold, the report added.

It said that in the day’s worst accident, four school children were killed and 42 other passengers injured

when a bus crashed off a bridge in the central Turkish city of Yozgat.

At one time Monday, more than 2,800 roads, mainly in rural Turkey, were blocked by snow and in the major cities of Ankara and Istanbul there were long delays for drivers due to congestion and accidents blocking traffic.

A new cold front, moving in from the Balkans, is expected to hit Turkey on Wednesday after a period of respite Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan PM says India-Pakistan relations improving

COLOMBO, 24 Nov—Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz hailed here Monday what he termed improving relations between Pakistan and India.

Aziz, who arrived here on Sunday for a two-day visit to Sri Lanka, told re-
porters that Pakistani Prime Minister Pervez Musharraf’s meeting with 

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has helped improve relations between the two countries. Musharraf and Singh met in New York during the UN General Assem-
bly sessions in September.

Aziz hoped that his Indian visit on Tuesday would help further the re-
lations between the two nations. Aziz, who arrived here in his capacity as the outgoing chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), held talks with 

Sri Lankan President

Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Aziz said Pakistan and Sri Lanka have al-
most finalized the work leading to the formal sign-
ing of the free trade agree-
ment between the two nations.

The Sri Lankan President has been invited to visit Pakistan in Janu-
ary and Aziz hoped that signing of the agreement could then take place.

“We are in the operationalizing stage and there are few issues to be sorted out,” Aziz said.

Sri Lanka is the first leg of his four-day visit to 
three South Asian coun-
tries, which will also take him to Maldives and Mal-
dia. Officials said Aziz has 
left here for Maldives.

—— MNA/Xinhua

Ugandan V-P urges NGOs to help address youth problems

KAMPALA, 24 Nov—Ugandan Vice-President Gilbert Bukeunya Tuesday appealed to nongovernmental organizations engaged in youth activities in the country to set up institutions offering psychotherapy to help address their socio-economic and emotional problems.

Bukeunya made the call when meeting with Dennis Deaze, president of St Thomas and Paul University of Minnesota in the United States at Parliamentary Building in Kampala, according to a Press release issued here by the Vice-President Office.

The vice-president said this will help reduce the current moral degener-
ation among the vulner-
able youth.

Bukeunya expressed gratitude to his guests for coming to the country and exploring avenues of putting in place infrastruc-
ture for social and eco-

nomical empowerment for Ugandans, who he em-
phasized are vital in pro-
viding incomes and end-
ing poverty in the coun-
try. — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Wednesday, 24 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, Lower Sajagin Divi-
sion, scattered in upper Sajagin and Mandaly Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Moekoe (0.79) inch. Night temperatures were (7°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin and Kayin States, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (4°C), Patua (5°C) and Mindat (8°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-11-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 24-11-2004 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs his MST on 24-11-2004 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 23-

24-11-2004 was (5.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 24-11-2004 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 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maxi-
mum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from East (14 (1.30) hours MST on 23-11-2004)

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in Southwest Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Special Features: According to the observations at 06:30 hours MST today, yesterday’s severe tropical storm ‘Maita’ over the South China Sea has centered at about (270)miles Southeast of Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam). It is forecast to make landfall during tonight.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-11-2004: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin, eastern Shan States, upper Sajagin and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Moderate to rough seas accompanied with strong easterly winds of (35) mph are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Seas will be high elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight change in the existing Southern and Northwesterly monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-11-

2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-

11-2004: Fair weather.
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh delivers an address at the opening ceremony of 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-Off. — MNA

Transport facilities inspected in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 24 Nov—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials of Public Works inspected bridge No 1/13 on Pathein-Monywa Road yesterday. He also inspected repair of sections of Pathein-Monywa Road.

On arrival at Ngawun Bridge, the Minister heard a report by the engineer of the Road Special Group 2 on progress of repair of Pathein-Monywa Road (Kankalay-Thongwa-Yekyi-Ngathaingchaung Section) and Betye-Yekyi-Ngathaingchaung-Gwa Road (Ayeyawady Division Section and Rakhine State Section). The Minister chose the site for construction of a bridge across Ngawun River and gave instructions on launching the project as soon as possible and cooperation with related departments for control of the waterway. In addition, the Minister inspected Hinthada-Myokwin-Kwinkauk Road, Pathein-Monywa Road and Pyay-Padaung-Taungup Road (Okshitpin-Pyay Section). — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint waves to the athletes at 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally Flag-Off. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects agricultural division level officials

YANGON, 24 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Commander of No 1 Military Region Lt-Col Nay Win, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and division level officials, made an inspection tour of Yangon East and North Districts today and attended to the needs of the tasks for regional development.

On arrival at Hlegu Township this afternoon, the commander and party proceeded to paddy field No 492A of Malit Village in Mawlamyine Township and inspected the site chosen for construction of the paddy station.

Next, the commander and party proceeded to paddy field No 3800-ft long canal on self-reliant basis, a seed nursery and winnowing of paddy. Division Manager of Yangon Agriculture Service U Aung San conducted them around the plot. The commander gave instructions, stressing the need to build the canal soonest, install pumps for irrigation, and distribute quality seeds to farmers. Afterwards, they arrived at the construction site of Ngamoyeik Sluice Gate in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and inspected the construction of a drain with the use of machinery, fixing of the frames of the sluice gate, erection of concreted piers and (See page 10)

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