Established 1914

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Pakistani Defence Attachés

YANGON, 25 Nov — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Defence Attaché Colonel Ihsan Ul Haq of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan who had completed his tour of duty and his successor Colonel Zafar Jamil at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha, here, at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Fullmoon day of Tazaungmon: a day for doing meritorious deeds

Today is the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon, the eighth month of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is the month when the rains are out and the cold season is in.

As trees and plants have had enough rain water, they are lush and green and in full blossom. With no more rain, strong wind and rough seas and rivers, the environment is at its best and the weather neither too cold nor too hot. It can be said that Tazaungmon is the best and most pleasant of all months in Myanmar.

Myanmar is a nation where Theravada Buddhism flourishes. It is also known as a land of festivals and there is no month in Myanmar when a festival of one kind or another is not held.

And most of the festivals are religious ones. The Kathina robe offering festival is one of the significant religious events in Myanmar.

Kathina thingan (robe) offering ceremonies can be held beginning from the first waning day of Thadingyut, the seventh month of the Myanmar calendar, to the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon.

It is in this period, especially on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon, that ministries, departments and enterprises, wards and villages, schools and markets and other social organizations offer Kathina robes to the monks residing at various monasteries in their locality. Kathina is derivative of a Pali word Kathina and means ‘firmness and durability’.

Therefore, those who offer Kathina robes will be able to enjoy five benefits in the circles of lives.

These rewards or benefits are that no untoward accidents or dangers befall them wherever they go, that they can succeed in whatever they do, that they can have plenty of good clothes, that they need not be worried about food or food poisoning and that their possessions cannot be destroyed by any kind of enemy.

On the night of the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon, there are sermon-giving ceremonies in villages and wards in towns and cities and many devotees come these ceremonies to listen to the teachings of Lord Buddha expounded by learned Buddhist monks. Moreover, Buddhists do meritorious deeds, keep sabbath and meditate.

We believe that Buddhists will always stick to the traditions of their religion and practise such good deeds dana (giving), sīla (precepts) and bhavana (meditation) on such an auspicious day.

People’s Desire

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

Myanmar finance delegation leaves for PRC

Yangon, 25 Nov — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe left here by air for the People’s Republic of China yesterday evening to attend the Sixth Informal Meeting of Deputy Heads of Finance and Central Bank ASEAN+3 to be held in Hainan Province on 27 November this year.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, departmental heads and families. The deputy minister was accompanied by Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyun. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to YCH

Yangon, 25 Nov — Wellwishers Daw Kyn Paing and son Dr Kyaw Tun and family donated medicines worth K 500,000 and cash K 500,000 in memory of the late U Mya Maung, and U Aung Moe Kyaw and wife Daw Mar Mar Tun and family, ten oxygen cylinders worth K 800,000 to Yangon Children’s Hospital this afternoon.

First, the wellwishers explained purpose of the donation. Next, they presented cash and kind to medical superintendent Dr Chit Ko Tin. After presenting certificates of honour, he expressed his thanks.—MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses concluding ceremony of special course for health staff. — MNA

Special course for health staff concludes

Yangon, 25 Nov — A closing ceremony of special course for health staff 2004, jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and the Civil Service Selection and Training Board was held at the hall of the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech on the occasion. Later, the minister, Chairman of the CSSTB Dr Than Nyun, members U Nyunt Swe, U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo presented certificates to the trainees respectively. — MNA

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun sees off Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe at the airport. — MNA

Workshop on Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service continues

Yangon, 25 Nov — The Workshop on Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service-2004 organized by the Civil Service Selection and Training Board and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, continued for the third day at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning.

Present were Chairmen of CSSTB DrThan Nyun, members U Nyunt Swe, U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo, officials of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, directors-general and rectors of departments and institutes under CSSTB, resource persons and senior officers.

The resource persons explained matters concerning notes of group discussions on papers of Dr Charas Suwannala of Chulalongkorn University of Thailand, Pro-Rector Dr Kan Sheen of Central Institute of Civil Service Training (Phaunggyi), Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department and Associate Professor Phighat Thaizarry of Chulalongkorn University of Thailand. Next, Mr Shankaran Nambiar of Malaysian of Economic Research, Associate Professor Dr Jin-Young Chung of Kyunghee University of ROK submitted their papers. Later, the participants took part in the group discussions.

MNA
Romania welcomes Chinese tourists

BEIJING, 24 Nov.— The Romanian Embassy in Beijing plans to issue tourist visa to Chinese citizens beginning in January, 2005, Romanian Ambassador to China Viorel Istitioaia Budura announced here Tuesday.

The move will carry out relevant tourism agreements signed between Romania and China in Bucharest, capital of Romania in June this year, Istitioaia said.

During the state visit to Romania in June, Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Romanian counterpart, Ion Iliescu, signed a statement, pledging to establish an “all-round friendly and cooperative partnership” between the two countries.

In the statement, China agreed to designate Romania as the tourist destination for Chinese citizens and welcomes Romanian to open tourists office in Beijing.

In addition, the two sides signed four bilateral documents that will expand their cooperation in the fields of culture, tourism, economic cooperation and overall relations.

During the talks with Iliescu, Hu said the two countries should expand tourism cooperation because Romania has become a tourism destination of China.

To implement these agreements, Istitioaia said Tuesday that Romania and China are also planning to set up a joint-venture youth travel agency to advance the tourism cooperation between the two countries.

As one of celebration events to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the China-Romania diplomatic ties, 55 young Romanians came to visit China in May this year as guests of the All-China Youth Federation. In return, 55 Chinese young people visited Romania in late October.

“The young people has played an important role in expanding and enhancing the exchanges and cooperation between Romania and China,” Istitioaia said: “We can see that there is no lack of successors to carry forward the friendship between the two countries.”

Meanwhile, Romania and China are speeding up efforts to broaden exchanges and cooperation in culture area, he said. A Romanian culture centre will be established in Beijing next year to help Chinese people learn better Romanian culture.

“In addition, the culture ministries of the two countries will launch a ‘Chinese Culture Year’ in Romania next year and a ‘Romanian Culture Year’ in Beijing in 2006, if conditions permitted,” Istitioaia said.

China becomes largest business partner of Sweden in Asia

SHENYANG, 24 Nov.— Dr Borje Ljunggren, Swedish Ambassador to China, said here Tuesday that China has replaced Japan as Sweden’s largest business partner in Asia.

The economic exchanges between two nations have developed quickly in these years and so far about 250 Swedish companies have invested in China, said the ambassador at the opening ceremony of “Sweden Day” in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

Because many of the Swedish investments were implemented through overseas subsidiary companies, it is difficult to calculate the exact number in China, but it should be more than 10 billion US dollars, said foreign trade experts.

Telecommunications and auto manufacture are the most vigorous parts in the bilateral economic cooperation. Ericsson and Volvo have achieved noticeable results on Chinese market, said experts.

UK politicians start bid to impeach Blair on Iraq

LONDON, 24 Nov.—Parliamentarians and celebrity campaigners launched a bid on Wednesday to impeach Tony Blair for “gross misconduct” over his justification for the Iraq war.

The impeachment move, a symbolic parliamentary process rather than a realistic proposition in Blair’s case, is the first since the mid-19th century.

Its supporters, including well-known figures like novelist Frederick Forsyth and actor Corin Redgrave, want to punish Blair for allegedly misleading the country over the threat from Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction.

With only 23 lawmakers backing an impeachment motion in parliament, Blair can rest assured he will not face the ultimate sanction of removal from office, but it could embarrass a prime minister who remains vulnerable to events in Iraq.
Tourists bringing wealth to China

BEIJING, 24 Nov—China’s tourism industry enjoyed robust growth in the first 10 months this year, Beijing-based English newspaper China Daily reported on Tuesday.

According to statistics from the National Tourism Administration, China received 89.79 million tourists in the Mainland areas in the first 10 months this year, up 20.34 per cent year-on-year, an 11.09 per cent increase over the same period in 2002. Among tourists, 13.84 million were from overseas countries, up 52.66 per cent year-on-year; 55.03 million were from Hong Kong, up 14.68 per cent; 17.83 million from Macao, up 15.63 per cent; and 3.08 million from Taiwan, up 39.41 per cent.

The top five countries on a list of those that witnessed the fastest growth in tourists entering China in the same 10-month period included India, Russia, South Korea, Australia and Singapore with growth rates of 45.32, 40.96, 31.93, 27.28 and 27.16 per cent, respectively.

The administration said foreign currency income from the tourism sector in the surveyed time period was estimated at 19.26 billion US dollars, which rose 37.45 per cent and represented 14.08 per cent in additional income over the same period in 2002.

And 49.79 per cent of the tourism exchange revenue came from overseas tourists, 26.89 per cent from Hong Kong, 9.81 per cent from Macao and 14.01 per cent from Taiwan.

China’s inbound tourist arrivals set a record in 2002, when China ranked fifth in the world in terms of both overnight tourist arrivals and tourism income in foreign exchange.

Vietnamese President highlights ties with Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 24 Nov—Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong highlighted Tuesday the “special sentiments of solidarity and friendship” shared by Argentina and his country and the common will for bilateral cooperation.

The Vietnamese head of state made the remarks here when addressing the Argentine Congress.

Luong told the legislators that the two sides should promote cooperation and friendship between the two countries, not only in trade but also in culture, tourism and friendly exchanges.

He thanked the government and people of Argentina for their solidarity with and support for Vietnam’s past struggle for independence and national sovereignty.

Philips to offer over 1,000 jobs in China

BEIJING, 24 Nov—Electronic giant Philips planned to recruit 1,000 to 1,500 people in China in 2005, which could be 120 per cent more than its China recruitment in 2003, according to sources with the company.

Xu Chengkai, vice-president with the human resource department of Philips Electronics China Group, said the company also aimed to employ 100 more senior Chinese executives by 2007, which observers see as the company’s latest effort for localizing human resources in China.

Currently, Chinese only account for some 30 per cent of the country’s total number of senior executives, because of a shortage in qualified Chinese personnel, and Philips intended to raise the proportion to 50 per cent in five years, said Xu.

Philips also planned to recruit 150 graduates mainly majoring in semiconductor and medical systems from 15 top-notch Chinese universities in 2005, an increase of 120 per cent over 2004. The company has applied to its headquarters for funds to send the new recruits for training in Europe or other Asian countries, he said.

“We’ll focus on the recruitment and training of personnel and senior executives who are specialized in medical treatment, technological development, and mobile telecommunications,” said Xu, “and we are in dire need of personnel and managerial staff in the semiconductor field.”

Vietnam loses $37m due to drought

HANOI, 24 Nov—An ongoing severe drought in Vietnam is estimated to incur losses of 36.9 million US dollars, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said on Tuesday.

The drought has already destroyed some 100,000 hectares of rice and other cereal and cash crops in the central region and Tay Nguyen (the central highlands region), said the ministry, adding another some 67,000 hectares of cultivated land in the two regions are in dire need of water.

‘No RP troops to Iraq for polls’

LOS ANGELES, 24 Nov—The Philippines will not send any new peacekeeping troops to war-torn Iraq when it holds its first democratic elections in January, President Arroyo said here Tuesday.

She emphasized that the country would not shy away from its international obligations to help preserve world peace, but she said it would have to be under the aegis of the United Nations.

At a press conference at the Marriott Hotel Airport here before she took a commercial flight back to Manila last night, the President was asked if the Philippines would send troops to Iraq for the elections.

“I don’t foresee that because first of all, the coalition in Iraq was called ‘coalition of the willing,’ because it was not a UN coalition mandate,” the President replied.

“We support the leadership of (United States) President Bush in the overall anti-terrorism campaign. Now each country in the coalition gets engaged where we can, the way we can, and we sent troops to Iraq who served very well for 18 months,” she explained.

Mrs Arroyo obviously referred to the 51-man Philippine humanitarian contingent which she withdrew from Iraq in August this year to save the life of a Filipino truck driver held hostage by militants.

Halliburton Iraq payments should be cut, says auditor

WASHINGTON, 24 Nov—The U.S. Army should withhold payment of 15 percent of Halliburton Co.’s future invoices in Iraq due to billing problems, said the chief auditor for U.S.-funded work in Iraq on Wednesday.

Stuart Bowen, Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, said in a memorandum to Army auditors and commanders he believes US contract laws requiring a withholding when conditions are not met should be imposed on Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root.

US Marines provide security while others conduct a search on houses in al-Quaim, near the Syria border, western Iraq, on 24 Nov, 2004.
Honda improves sale ranking, Toyota leads market in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Nov — The launching of new, cheap models has helped Toyota maintain its lead in Indonesian car market and Honda improve its sale ranking from fifth to fourth in the first 10 months of 2004, a local newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Honda surpassed Daihatsu to rank fourth in an Indonesian car market by selling 39,317 units in the January-October period, with newly-launched mini sedan Honda Jazz making up of 20,337 units, reported Bisnis Indonesia.

The achievement is the first in Honda’s history in Indonesia.

The soaring demand for Honda Jazz prompted PT Honda Prospect Motor (HPM), the local partner of Japan-based Honda Motor Co, to procure components from neighbouring Thailand to meet around a half of national demand in Indonesia, HPM marketing manager Jonfis Fandy was quoted as saying. Over the same period, Toyota reported a sharp rise of 32.3 per cent to 115,048 units when compared to the same period a year earlier, making it the top car seller in Indonesia.

Mitsubishi and Suzuki trailed behind with 75,684 units and 66,962 units, respectively.—MNA/Xinhua

Sales of digital cameras soar on Chinese market

BEIJING, 24 Nov — The total number of digital cameras sold on Chinese market hit a new record of 684,200 in the third quarter, up 117.1 per cent year-on-year, official statistics showed here Tuesday.

In the first half of this year, 1.27 million digital cameras were sold in China, up 235.7 per cent year-on-year, sources said. Imports of digital cameras have risen markedly since China cancelled quotas on imported cameras in early 2003.

For example, imported 174,000 digital cameras last year, 480 per cent more than the previous year. The value of imported cameras totalled 30.84 million US dollars, up 2,230 per cent, local Customs statistics show. Experts had predicted imports of medium and low-price digital cameras would have a larger market share in 2004, posing a threat to domestic brands. In 2004, among the one million digital cameras sold in China; the domestic brands accounted for less than 10,000, sources said.

However, the homemade digital cameras such as Legend and Aigo have ranked among the top ten in sales volume, according to statistics of the CCCI Consulting Company Ltd.—MNA/Xinhua

GMOs release blocked at World Conservation Congress

BANGKOK, 24 Nov — The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has agreed to impose a moratorium on the further release of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) in a bid to guard against its possible adverse effect on biological resources, local Press reported here on Tuesday.

After discussion among 1,000 plus IUCN members, the congress approved the proposed resolution, which demanded a moratorium on further release of GMOs until it can be demonstrated posing no threat to biodiversity and human and animal health.

According to the resolution, GMO products have been introduced and promoted across the world, especially in developing countries, with inadequate control on their entry into national or regional markets.

By far, the potential role of GMOs in achieving global food security has not been adequately defined.

The resolution set one-year deadline for the director-general of IUCN to compile a report on GMOs’ impacts on biodiversity and human health.

Although the IUCN resolution was not legally binding, it is expected that the member countries would be motivated to carry out the adopted items, Schwann Tunhikorn, of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants, was quoted by Bangkok Post newspaper as saying.

The assembly on Monday approved another motion calling on the Association of South-East Asian Nations and Mekong River riparian states to crack down on illegal wildlife trade by making related law enforcement more effective and reinforcing controls on airport and land borders.—MNA/Xinhua

State Department official dies in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 24 Nov — Secretary of State Colin Powell announced on Wednesday that a State Department education specialist was killed in Iraq.

James Mollen, who had spent a year in Iraq, was killed outside the “green zone,” the special high security area to which Iraqi officials and US diplomats normally are confined, US officials said.

Powell said in a statement that Mollen was a consultant to Iraq’s Ministry of Education and the Minister of Higher Education.

“Jim dedicated his life to a noble cause: improving the quality of education for thousands of Iraqis,” Powell said.

In October, a State Department security officer, Ed Seitz, was killed during an attack at a U.S. base near Baghdad International Airport.

UAE sends relief supplies to Iraq

ABU DHABI, 24 Nov — The Red Crescent Society (RCS) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday sent a plane loaded with relief supplies to Iraq’s capital of Baghdad, the official WAM news agency reported. It is the 32nd plane with relief supplies that the UAE has sent to the war-torn country, according to the report.

The relief supplies to Iraq included food and clothing, which would be distributed to the people of Fallujah displaced by the US-Iraqi military offensive that led to a serious humanitarian crisis in and around the war-devastated town. According to UAE’s RCS Secretary-General Sanaa Dawish Al Kubi, the aid organization would continue with its relief assistance programme in Iraq in order to help the Iraqi people overcome their predicaments.—MNA/Xinhua

China invests $500m in Cuban nickel industry

HAVANA, 24 Nov — China and Cuba affirmed their growing economic partnership on Tuesday with a 500-million-US-dollar Chinese investment in the Cuban nickel industry.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Cubans have turned to China for trade, credit and investment, and China is now its third trading partner after Venezuela and Spain.

Capping off a two-day state visit to Cuba, China’s President Hu Jintao received Cuba’s highest decoration from Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

“Each nation must adapt its revolutionary strategy and objectives to its own specific conditions — no two revolutionary processes are absolutely the same,” said Castro.

Castro praised China as the best hope for Third World countries as it becomes “the main motor of the world economy.”

“We share common ideals and convictions, and the resolve to follow our own development paths, adapted to our own national realities,” Hu said in a speech opening an investment seminar with Castro’s younger brother and designated successor, Raul.

The Chinese leader, who was accompanied by 200 Chinese businessmen, said strong political ties between the two countries’ ruling Communist parties would ensure growing trade with Cuba. China is particularly interested in Cuba’s nickel reserves, the third largest in the world.

Since 2000, half of China’s nickel, used to make stainless steel, has come from Cuba.—MNA/Reuters

Robbers in Iraq kill three, wound six

BAQUBA (Iraq), 24 Nov — Robbers in Iraq killed three people, wounded six and made off with half a million dollars in cash on Tuesday after attacking a group of workers after they had picked up their firm’s payroll money from a bank.

Survivors said the gunmen trailed the employees of state-run Diyala Company for Electrical Industries from a Baquba bank in three cars, cut them off in the street and opened fire.

They grabbed several sacks packed with 700 million dinars and made their getaway.

Armed robbers and kidnappings for ransom have become increasingly common in Iraq in the past year as embattled police and Iraqi security services struggle to maintain law and order.—MNA/Reuters

China's Hu praises Fidel Castro's revolutionary strategy

Havana, 24 Nov — China's President Hu Jintao expressed his gratitude to Cuban leader Fidel Castro during their meeting on Tuesday.

“Each nation must adapt its revolutionary strategy and objectives to its own specific conditions — no two revolutionary processes are absolutely the same,” said Castro.

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Since 2000, half of China’s nickel, used to make stainless steel, has come from Cuba.—MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi man loads humanitarian aid into a truck in Baghdad's Sadr City, collected by Shiite clerics, on 24 Nov, 2004 and bound for Fallujah, Iraq.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 26 November, 2004 5
China seeks practical cooperation, common prosperity with ASEAN

PINOM PENH, 25 Nov—China and the ASEAN have played increasingly important role in regional economic cooperation through a partnership of mutual trust and practical cooperation, said a Chinese minister here on Wednesday.

Zhang Chunxian, China’s Communications Minister, who is here attending the 3rd ASEAN-China Transport Minister’s Meeting, praised the cooperation and efforts made by both sides in a speech titled “Taking a Practical Approach for Cooperation and Seeking Common Prosperity for Future”.

He said that the ASEAN-China transport cooperation is becoming more consolidated with every step forward and has constituted an essential part in building up a partnership of mutual trust and practical cooperation between the two sides.

“Its increasingly important role in regional economic cooperation is demonstrating to the world the strong aspirations of the people of ASEAN and China in seeking cooperation for a win-win result,” he said.

Zhang put forward proposals to further enhance the transport cooperation.

“A result-and action-oriented principle should be observed and more attention focused on promoting the specific projects while harmonizing the development of different modes of transport so as to deliver more benefit to the people,” Zhang said.

Moreover, he noted that “while relying on our own, we may also consider the possibility of enlarging the channels for project financing from the international financial institutions.”

At the meeting, ministers approved a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) on transport cooperation between China and ASEAN member countries, which, Zhang said, will become a legally based medium-to-long term cooperation partnership between the two sides.

The ASEAN ministers highly evaluated the progress made by ASEAN and China since the 2nd ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar, citing the construction of the Laos section of the Kunming-Bangkok Highway; the navigation channel improvement project on the upper Mekong River; the pre-feasibility study of the missing link of the Trans-Asian Railway inside Cambodia, and the fact that direct flights have been in service linking major cities of China and ASEAN countries.

They also praised China’s active role in supporting the capacity building projects in the region.

Worldwide city development strategies discussed in Vietnam

HANOI, 25 Nov—Delegates from 25 countries and regions are to touch pressing urban issues at the 3rd International City Development Strategies (CDS) Conference which opened here on Wednesday.

“Let’s jointly assess advantages and disadvantages of as well as share experience on city development, especially urbanization all over the world, to seek best models and solutions to planning and poverty in urban areas,” Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung addressed the 3-day conference.

Attaching urban development to sustainable development and poverty reduction is a strategy of cities in many countries, including Vietnam, he noted.

“A new decision-making in managing urban growth is not yet commonly practiced in many developing countries’ cities. The Cities Alliance has sought to promote CDS as a collaborative decision-making process designed to help reduce urban poverty and provide the basis for sustainable urban development,” he added.

They will also touch other specific issues such as urbanization trends, municipal finance, urban employment and international donors.

Bus for disabled begins operation in Beijing

BEIJING, 24 Nov—The first bus service catering to handicapped and senior citizens in Beijing began operation Tuesday.

As the one-step bus boarding platform is low enough to be level roughly with raised sidewalk roadbed, handicapped people will no longer have to worry about lifting their wheelchairs onto the bus without help of others.

As there are no barriers within the 12-metre-long bus, it is convenient for people in wheelchairs to move around in the bus and get on and off from three doors. Moreover, wheelchairs can be parked at a multi-function zone in the centre and be fixed with hooks.

Philippines President Gloria Arroyo (R) visits previous disaster victims in the city of Pampanga, northern Philippines recently. One thousand people were displaced and three killed as Typhoon Muifa hit.—INTERNET

Typhoon “Muifa” expected to skirt Vietnam

HANOI, 25 Nov—Typhoon Muifa is expected to skirt Vietnam’s southern coast though rains are likely to pound the area with strong winds later on Wednesday as the storm moves into the Gulf of Thailand, weather forecasters said.

Ahead of the storm’s approach, the government issued protective orders, including asking state oil monopoly Petrovietnam to guard oil drilling facilities. Operators said the oil rigs were fixed so they can withstand the typhoon.

Most of the workers on the oil facilities have been evacuated, state media reported.

Authorities urged boats to return to shore or seek cover, and dozens of military helicopters and high-speed boats were used to help direct fisher-
From Mandalay to Bagan on board the Shwe Keinnari

(Continued from yesterday)

Downstream the town, Pakokku, the Ayeyawady is dotted with islands that are far from the waterway on which the Shwe Keinnari sails. After passing the four-mile-long Natthami bank, NyaungU comes into view. Of the villages lying on both banks, timber rafts can be seen at Palin village, and the Pakokku Textile Factory Project is in Shwetatit. Near the Kyaukphu Pagoda on the river bank is a large natural cave. The legend has it that the cave reaches Shwezigon Pagoda and Ananda Temple in Bagan, Pindaya Cave in Shan State and old Inwa town in Mandalay Division. There is a boat service for tourists who want to visit the cave and its surrounding areas. Near the opposite bank of NyaungU’s Yonhlat Island, Nyaung U Oo Phyi, one of the four heroes of King Anawrahta swam from Natthami bank to the island and then back to the bank during the Bagan era. The ship has to cruise 10 hours to reach NyaungU that is 119 miles from Mandalay.

As soon as Shwe Keinnari passes NyaungU, Shwezigon comes into view like a gold hill. The Bagan period lasted for over 300 years from 10th to 13th century. Till now, the ancient religious edifices stand witness to the glory the ancient Bagan had enjoyed during the period. The Archaeology Department is carrying out the excavation work of ancient Bagan in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. On the opposite bank of Bagan lies the Tankyi mountain range on which the famous Swedaw (tooth relic) Pagoda is located. Bagan can be said the soul of Myanmar, as a large number of ancient religious structures there testify its past glory, the high standard of Myanmar culture and architecture and the ability and might of the rulers like King Anawrahta and King Kyansittha. Bagan is 129 miles from Mandalay and the cruising time between the two destinations is 10.5 hours. Shwe Keinnari arrives at Bagan port at 4.30 pm. In addition to its archaeological riches and beautiful scenery, the sunset and the dawn in Bagan and the hospitality of the local people also attract a large number of tourists from abroad.

Shwe Keinnari after sailing downstream the Ayeyawady and showing tourists the beautiful landscape and culture of Myanmar people reaches Bagan. Bagan can be said the soul of Myanmar, as a large number of ancient religious structure there testify its past glory, the high standard of Myanmar culture and architecture and the ability and might of the rulers like King Anawrahta and King Kyansittha.

After an overnight stay at the old city, tourists travel upstream the river back to Mandalay on board the Shwe Keinnari again.

The travel time for the boat is from 5.30 am to 6.30 pm. The breakfast on board the ship is cheaper than that served at by hotels. The tourists on board the Shwe Keinnari like to dine at the ship’s restaurant, while enjoying the surrounding view, want the ship staff to explain the salient points of the places they have seen along the route and the local products, wish to breathe fresh air rather than staying in the air-conditioned rooms, and prefer enjoying the scenic natural beauty to watching local or foreign video plays and musical programmes.

Usually tourist season in the country starts in August, and majority of guests who arrive Myanmar during September are Spanish, Westerners and Japanese visit Myanmar in package tours in September, October, November and December.

The Shwe Keinnari staff at all levels of Inland Water Transport are doing their best to ensure every satisfaction and convenience of tourists. Shwe Keinnari I was launched on 29 January 1996, and Shwe Keinnari 2 and 3 on 23 September the same year.

The annual income of the Shwe Keinnari services and the number of passengers are stated in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of tourists</th>
<th>Income (US $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995-1996</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>10889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-1997</td>
<td>4872</td>
<td>76497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>9682</td>
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<td>14707</td>
<td>234649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>14805</td>
<td>236881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the IWT is not a foreign exchange earning body, it is playing its own role to earn more and more foreign currency for the nation.

(Translation: TMT)


ASEAN to formalize regional integration of priority sectors

MANILA, 25 Nov — The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is scheduled to formalize its bid to integrate the economies of its 10 member countries with the signing next week of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for the integration of priority sectors.

ASEAN countries will sign the agreement in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic on November 29 during the 10th ASEAN Summit to mark the formal commencement of economic integration in Southeast Asia which regional leaders are seeking to transform into the ASEAN Economic Community by 2020, the Philippines News Agency reported on Wednesday.

To achieve this goal, leaders in the region decided to implement economic integration in 11 priority sectors through eliminating tariff on products and services under such sectors by 2010.

These sectors are wood-based products, automotive, rubber-based products, textile and apparel, agro-based products, fisheries, electronics, e-ASEAN, health care, air travel and tourism, the report said. MNA/Xinhua

Environment risks killing 2.5m people per year in Asia, Pacific

MANILA, 25 Nov — Over 2.5 million people were killed per year in the Asia and Pacific region due to environmental risks, such as exposure to urban and indoor air pollution, unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene, and climate change.

The warning was issued at a special meeting which was jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) here on Wednesday.

The high-level three-day meeting on health and environment at ADB’s Headquarters in Manila, brings together representatives of ministries of health and environment of and other key institutions from the 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), People’s Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, and Mongolia. The meeting aims to develop a better understanding of the linkages between poverty, health, and environment. MNA/Xinhua
In his address, the Prime Minister said that now the preparations tasks are nearing completion as systematic measures have been taken for some time after forming the Leading Committee and respective sub-committees.

The Prime Minister called on the committee and sub-committees to continue to work together until successful completion of the Summit.

The chairman and officials of the Leading Committee and subcommittees reported on work progress. Respective ministers gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Soe Win gave closing remarks. After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected religious books and treatises, commemorative badges and samples of souvenirs. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects sample stationery and souvenirs to be used at World Buddhist Summit.— MNA

YANGON, 25 Nov — The chamber of the Buddha’s Tooth Relic of the Layhsu Datpyaw Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Pyay, Bago Division (West), was opened temporarily for the 105th successive year for public obeisance on 22 November.

Presiding Nayaka of SanNanOo Monastery in Pyay Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Indavudha and members of the Sangha graced the occasion by their presence.

Also present were Chairman of Bago Division (West) Brag-Gen Hla Min, officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees, wellwishers and local people.

Members of the pagoda board of trustees conveyed the ruby ceti, the diamond ceti, and Shwekalat out of the chamber.

And the members handed over the ruby ceti to the Commander, who then placed it onto the temporary throne.

U Tin Lay-Daw Ruby Kyawng and family of No-451 on Aungthitsar Street, Dagon Myothit (North), donated K 2.05 million; and Karaweik Thanttaik family, a gold tray with stem weighing more than 17 ticals to funds of the pagoda.

The Commander and officials presented alms to the Sayadaws. — MNA

Competitors of India-ASEAN Car Rally stop over in Mandalay

YANGON, 25 Nov — A ceremony to mark the 1st India-Myanmar Car Rally to pass through Myanmar was held at Mahuya Road in Tamu, Sagaing Division, at the border of Myanmar and India at 6 am today.

The rally is organized by Confederation of Indian Industry with the aims of raising the level of public consciousness of India-ASEAN relations, enhancing trade, investment, tourism and people to people links between India and ASEAN and road connectivity.

Present on the occasion were Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, Director-General U Thaung Huak of Sports and Physical Education Department, Deputy Director-General U Tin Maung Shwe of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, local authorities, officials of the Indian Embassy, managers and contestents of Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia and India, students, social organizations and local people.

Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye flagged off the competitors to pass through Myanmar. The competitors stopped over at Myitha Bridge in Kalewa along Tamu-Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa-Sagaing-Mandalay Road.

On arrival at Monywa, the competitors were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials, students, social organizations and local people.

Similarly, they were welcomed in Mandalay in the evening by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, departmental officials, students and local people. The drivers spent the night in Mandalay.

The 1st India-ASEAN Car Rally was flagged off in Guwahati, the city of northeast region of India, on 23 November. On 24 November evening, when they arrived at Tamu of Sagaing Division through Moreh, the border of India and Myanmar, they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, Director-General U Thaung Huak of SPED, Deputy Director-General U Tin Maung Shwe of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Chairman of Tamu District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Zaw, officials of the Indian Embassy, departmental officials, students and local people. — MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint reports on health matters for World Buddhist Summit. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein reports on information matters for World Buddhist Summit. — MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thmaw Zaw submits reports on communications matters. — MNA

Chamber of Buddha Tooth Relic of Shwehsandaw Pagoda temporarily opened for public obeisance

Chamber of Buddha Tooth Relic of Shwehsandaw Pagoda temporarily opened for public obeisance
Minister for Education Umand Maj-Gen Myint Swe, superintendent of Yangon Command Peace and Developmental Affairs Department under the Ministry of Education was held in Aung San Stadium this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Developmental Affairs Department U Khin Aung Tun, Deputy Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu, Director General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu, and other officials.

Ministers for Education U Thant Aung, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general of the departments, heads of department and officials concerned.

First, the participating athletes took their designated places. Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu briefed on the holding of inter-school sports and formally opened the competitions.

After reciting sports oaths, the athletes left the sports grounds. Next, schoolgirls demonstrated callisthenics and the band played music.

After the ceremony, inter-school U-13 (Men) football match took place. Yangon East District (A) team played against Yangon West District (B).

The inter-school sports events which include 12 games will continue at the designated places till 3rd December.

Development of townships in Bago Division inspected

YANGON, 25 Nov — Director-General Col Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department and officials inspected beautifying of townships and rural and urban development works in Bago Division on 24 November.

In Yeddase, the director-general inspected Sagaing-Mawlamyine rural gravel road and Aung Myanmar Road. He proceeded to Toungoo and made overall inspection of Banyadala rural laterite road and Kandawgyi Nursery.

In Ottin and Pya, the director-general inspected construction of Inwa Road, Pya-Banlaung Road, Nyaungshinta-Zeyathiri Road. After inspecting construction of Kanyutkwin-Meikhalin gravel road and repair of bridges, Col Myo Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the construction tasks and minimizing loss and wastage.

Bago Division DAD built four miles and 3.63 furlongs long urban road, 21 miles and seven furlongs long rural roads and 11 bridges in 2004-2005 financial year. In Kyaukdaga, the director-general heard reports on containing of arsenic in drinking water. Out of 485 wells in Kyaukdaga, DaikU and Waw townships, 369 wells have been tested containing of arsenic.

Korean Products Show 2004 starts

Myanmar-Korean Friendship Association Chairman Dr Khin Shee, Chief of Asia Regional KOTRA HQ, Singapore, Mr Lee Chae Kyung, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo and UMFCCI Adviser U Khin Maung Yi formally open Korean Products Show-2004.

Village gets tube-well

YANGON, 25 Nov — Under the programme for supplying sufficient clean water for rural areas where the water is scarce, Director of Mandalay Division Development Affairs Department U Kan Hla and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Myint Oo inspected progress in sinking a tube-well in Khabat Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, on 4 November.

They also inspected supply of water to the villagers. — MNA

Armed Forces Day colour photo contest to be held

YANGON, 25 Nov — The Work Committee for Organizing 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 Commemorative Literary and Colour Photo Competition will hold the Colour Photo Contest. Photo enthusiasts can send up to four entries for each title. The size of the print photo entry should measure 10” by 12” and above. As those who won first, second and third prizes in the previous contests will be categorized into separate groups, it means that there are many chances of winning prizes for those who have not yet won any prizes.

Data and caption regarding the photo should be provided on a separate sheet of paper and enclosed. If there are any models in the photo, their consent will be needed.

The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize-winning work in local and foreign photo competitions. The entry photos taken by digital camera will not be considered. Winners standing first, second and third will be awarded in Yangon on 27 March 2005, when the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day will be observed.

Consolation prizes will also be presented to winners at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremonies to be held at the respective military commands and LIDs concerned. The entry photos should be sent to U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, No 22/24, Pansodan Street, here, not later than 14 February 2005.

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and party visit Korean Products Show-2004.

Minister for Commerce and Industry, 2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads and officials, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyung Woo and wife, foreign ambassadors and diplomats, foreign correspondents, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the chairman of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association and members, and guests. At the outset, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo delivered an opening speech.

Minister Col Zaw Min, Mr Lee Kyung Woo, Chief of Asia Regional KOTRA Mr Lee Chae Kyung, UMFCCI Adviser U Khin Maung Yi, and UMFCCI Adviser U Khin Maung Yi formally open Korean Products Show-2004.
**Chairman Sayadaw’s remains offered by four white umbrellas**

Yangon, 25 Nov — A ceremony to convey the remains of Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Mahā Raththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera was held in the precinct of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery on Pale Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township this afternoon. Present were Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Mahā Raththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera and the Sayadaw. — MNA

**Dirge for remains of Chairman Sayadaw on 26-27 November**

Yangon, 25 Nov — Artists will sing a dirge for Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Raththa in the precinct of Sankyaungdaw pandal in Dagon Myothit (South) Township at 8 am on 26 November. Phan Khwet Sein Drama Troupe will participate in the dirge for the Sayadaw at 3 pm on that day and disci- plines of the Sayadaw at 3 pm.

At night, Sein Sten and Mandalay Pho Tha Aung Mingala Orchestra troupe will perform entertainment.

Similarly, Shwe-chanthu Thida Win and troupe will participate in the dirge for the Sayadaw at 8 am on 27 November and Sein Sten and Mandalay Pho Tha Aung Mingala Monastery Orchestra troupe will perform entertainment.

**Swe Swe Thant wins gold medal**

Yangon, 25 Nov — Swe Swe Thant, a selected Myanmar Wushu athlete, today won the gold medal at the Nandao event on the second day of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships-2004 held at National Indoor Stadium.

Nguyen Thi Ngoc Oanh of Vietnam and Huang Yan Hui of Macao stood second and third in the same event respectively.

In Men’s Nangun event, Song Lin of the People’s Republic of China won a gold medal while Le Quang Huy of Vietnam and Zaw Zaw Moe of Myanmar obtained silver and bronze medals respectively. Member of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu awarded the winners and President of Myanamar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay presented the bouquet to them. — MNA

**Monks, lay persons pay homage to remains of Chairman Sayadaw**

Yangon, 25 Nov — Members of the Sangha and disciples from here and there paid homage to the remains of Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Chief of Pakokku Maha Vissutarama Nikaya Presiding Nayaka of Myingyan Koehsaung Monastery and Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery from Dagon Myothit (South) Township today. At 9 am, member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Ad- ministrator Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tilokabhav- sa supplicated on the paper to pardon their mistakes.

Next, members of the Sangha paid homage to the remains. Lay per- sons and associations recited religious verses in paying respects to the Sayadaw. — MNA

**Shwethingan weaving competition commences**

Yangon, 25 Nov — A ceremony to open the 13th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Myanmar Educa- tion Research Bureau was held at the department in Kamayut Township today. Wife of Minister for Education U Than Aung, wives of Deputy Minis- ter for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Chair- man of Pagoda Board of Trustees U Than Nwe formally opened the compe- tition.

The commander and party watched Shwethingan weaving competition.

The prize presenta- tion ceremony will be held at 4 am tomorrow. — MNA

**Education Research**

Bureau offers Kathina robes

Yangon, 25 Nov — The 13th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Myanmar Educa- tion Research Bureau was held at the department in Kamayut Township today. Wife of Minister for Education U Than Aung, wives of Deputy Minis- ter for Tourism U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, and departmental officials presented robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw of Bogalay Monastery Bhaddanta Naninda. — MNA
Bio gas-powered generator inaugurated in Wetlet

WETLET, 1 Nov — A bio gas-powered generator was inaugurated in Myindaw model village in Wetlet Township on 11 October.

It is the first of its kind in the township. Secretary of Wetlet Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Soe Aye and Chairman of the village Peace and Development Council U Nyunt Pai opened the generator by cutting a ribbon.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint who was also present on the occasion turned on the light to mark the inauguration of the facility. Before he left there, the minister also inspected it.

Aged veterans in Maubin District get cash assistance

MAUBIN, 3 Nov — War veterans in Maubin District aged 75 and above were provided with cash on 21 October.

At the ceremony to provide cash assistance held at Maubin District Peace and Development Council office, Chairman of Maubin District Peace and Development Council Chairman of the district War Veterans Organization supervisory committee Li-Coi Sein Maung presented K 10,000 each to the aged veterans in the district.

Locals in Nyaungdon receive free medical treatment

NYAUNGDON, 8 Nov — A group comprises officials of Nyaungdon Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, township Health Department and Traditional Medical Department on 27 October went on a trip to Wadawzun Village in Nyaungdon Township and carried out rural welfare services.

First, Secretary of the township USDA U Aung Mya Than met the local people and briefed on services.

Next, Dr May Khine Ye Naung of Nyaungdon Township Health Department gave talks on prevention of six infectious diseases.

Dr May Khine Ye Naung and an official of Township Traditional Medical Clinic made medical check-ups and gave free medical treatments to the locals.

Diarrhoea preventive measures carried out in Aungmyaythazan

MANDALAY, 3 Nov — Officials of Aungmyaythazan Township Health Department has carried out measures to prevent diarrhoea in the township.

On 18 October, Head of the health department Dr Daw Khin Mar Win gave talks on prevention against diarrhoea in AhNateDaw Ward in the township.

Afterwards, the officials joining hands with members of social organizations inspected the wells and lakes. Besides, they sprayed the fly-injected places with insecticide to get rid of flies in the township and gave necessary assistance to build fly-proof laterines.
Bank credits in Latin America “scarce, costly, volatile”

MEXICO CITY, 24 Nov—President of the Inter-American Development Bank Enrique Iglesias said Monday that bank credits are “scarce, costly and volatile” in Latin American countries, which has hindered the development in the region, according to reports from Guatemala City.

“Unfortunately, bank credits remain to be scarce, costly and extremely volatile,” which prevents local and foreign investors from taking advantage of banks to spur development and fight against poverty in the region said. Iglesias said at an annual convention of the Latin American Banking Federation in Guatemala City.

Guatemalan President Oscar Berger opened the meeting, which was attended by more than 1,000 bankers from 40 countries in Latin America, Europe, Africa and North America.

Iglesias noted that Latin America has performed poorly in credit lending, in comparison with other developing regions, like the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East and North Africa, which have grown faster because of active bank financing.

The average level of credit extended to the private sector in East Asia has increased from 15 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the 1970s to more than 70 per cent currently, while over the past 30 years in Latin America it has risen from 15 per cent to only 28 per cent, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Second black box of crashed plane found

BATAOY (Inner Mongolia), 25 Nov—The second black box of the crashed CRJ-200 plane was also found on Wednesday morning in Baotou City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The second black box, or the flight data recorder, was found at 8:21 am on Sunday, after it fell into the lake of Nanhai Park shortly after it took off.

All of the people aboard, together with at least one senior person on the ground, were killed.

MNA/Xinhua

Ministry of Construction Public Works

Announcement of Cancellation of Quotation

1. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit, hereby gives notice of the cancellation of the bid for the supply of Steel Truss for Ngalaik Chaung Bridge Stayed Bridge Project.

2. Refund of bid bonds would be made by the Public Works, one week after this announcement of cancellation and the bidders are requested to apply for refund, together with receipts previously issued, at the Accounts Section, Road Division, Public Works, Head Office, No.60, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, within one month from the date of this announcement of cancellation.

Managing Director Public Works

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. YANGON STAR VOY: NO (366)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. YANGON STAR VOY NO (366) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s expense and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S EAGLE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. SEA MERCHANT VOY: NO (535)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (535) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINERLINES
Phone No:256908/378316/376797

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil, Canada pledge to solve aviation disputes

BRASILIA, 24 Nov—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said here Tuesday that his country and Canada will try to reach an agreement “in the near future” on solving trade disputes over their aviation industries, which have strained the bilateral trade and political relations.

At a joint Press conference with visiting Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin after their meeting, Lula said that progress had been made in solving the disputes, in particular the “mutual understanding, the improvement of transparency and the creation of confidence”.

“We advance in bilateral conversations on the aeronautical industry. We are deepening the understanding and extending confidence for the conclusion of an agreement in the near future,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Trade mark caution notice

Reg. No. 2899/2001

Notice is hereby given that LivingWell Health and Leisure Limited, a company organised and existing under the laws of England and Wales, established at Maple Court, Central Park, Reeds Crescent, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 4QG, England are the sole proprietors and owners of the above trade mark which is used in connection with “Health club facilities, gymnasiums; health club services (exercise and fitness); provision of exercise facilities; exercise classes and instructions; educational services relating to exercise; sports instructions and training services; sports coaching; children’s activity centres; recreational services relating to sports and fitness; rental of sports equipment”.

The said proprietors and owners claim the right to use the said trade mark in all colours, sizes and styles of type.

Any person who without the authority of the said LivingWell Health and Leisure Limited in Myanmar any such mark or any imitation thereof, or otherwise infringes their rights in respect of the said trade mark in Myanmar, will be prosecuted according to the Law.

Win Mu Tin,
for LivingWell Health and Leisure Limited
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 26 November 2004

Oil prices rise in US

NEW YORK, 24 Nov—Oil prices rose on Tuesday but retreated from an earlier high above 50 US dollars, as dealers awaited a US Government report that is expected to show a small increase in thin heating oil stocks ahead of winter.

US light crude rose 30 cents to 48.94 US dollars a barrel after hitting as high as 50.25 US dollars in open-call trade, adding to a more-than-3.50 US dollars rebound since last week on renewed supply jitters. London Brent rose 7 cents to 44.45 US dollars. “There is a stay of execution while the weather does not go cold, but I still think that distillates are a problem in the longer term,” said Geoff Pyne, analyst for Snpoma Energy. Traders who are short of heating oil futures contracts fear a repeat of the past two weeks when US distillates inventories, including heating oil and diesel, fell to levels expected in part due to soaring domestic consumption and ferocious competition for imports. US distillate demand has been running at 8 percent above last year on the back of strong trucking and manufacturing activity, pushing national stockpiles down for nine straight weeks to 15 percent below a year ago, according to the latest government data.—MNA/Reuters
Plant samples from Tennessee for Asian soybean rust

WASHINGTON, 25 Nov— Plant samples from Tennessee are being tested for the highly contagious Asian soybean rust, a withering disease that has rapidly marched throughout the US South, the US Agriculture Department said on Tuesday.

If confirmed, Tennessee would be the seventh state infected with the fungus since its initial discovery in the mainland United States two weeks ago. The yield-slashing disease has already been found in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Arkansas. Claude Knighten, spokesman for USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the Tennessee test results were expected on Wednesday.

The suspect field is in Cannon County, about 50 miles southeast of Nashville, according to the Tennessee Agriculture Department. Tennessee is a relatively small producer of soybeans and harvested about 47.2 million bushels this year.

Farmers fear the fungus will spread by next growing season to big soybean states such as Iowa and Illinois, which together harvested about 989 million bushels or one-third of this year’s US crop. Worries about the rapidly spreading disease have sent US soybean futures prices more than 50 cents a bushel higher since the first report of soyrust was confirmed on November 10.

Soybean futures at the Chicago Board of Trade rose again on Tuesday, with the January delivery contract settling at 5.61-1/4 US dollars per bushel, up 6-3/4 cents. MNA/Reuters

TV Al-Jazeera to spend $30m for English language news channel

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Nov — Arab satellite TV network Al-Jazeera plans to spend up to 30 million US dollars to launch an English-language news channel by the end of 2005, a spokesman for the network said on Tuesday.

The Qatar-based broadcaster will hire more than 300 people and operate out of three regional centres, including Kuala Lumpur as its Asian hub, Jihad Ballout said by telephone from Doha.

“We plan to spend 25 to 30 million US dollars initially,” Ballout said. “We hope to go on the air in November next year.”

Mainly Muslim Malaysia currently chairs both the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO), which groups 57 Muslim states, and the 116-member Non-Aligned Movement of developing nations.

The network has said that the new channel, to be called Al-Jazeera International, will try to counteract what it says unbalanced reporting from Western networks such as CNN and BBC.

“We believe there’s a market for it out there,” he said. “We hope to be a channel of choice about the developing world and the Middle East.”

Ballout said Kuala Lumpur was chosen over Hong Kong and Singapore as the Asian hub mainly due to economic factors.

“It was a very close decision, everything was taken into consideration — manpower costs, location and communication facilities,” he said.

The network, which has been heavily criticized by the US Government for its coverage of the war in Iraq, will also house regional hubs in London and Washington besides its headquarters in Doha. MNA/Reuters

Goldmine tunnel collapse in Hainan Province kills four

HAIKOU, 25 Nov— Four miners died in a tunnel collapse accident that happened Sunday afternoon in Ledong Li Autonomous County in China’s southernmost province of Hainan, local police confirmed on Wednesday.

At around 2:00 pm Sunday, a tunnel collapsed suddenly when seven miners were working 300 metres underground at the Baolith Goldmine in the county, killing four of them. — MNA/Xinhua

Milk drinking beneficial to cardiovascular health

MELBOURNE, 25 Nov— Milk drinking is not harmful to cardiovascular health as some people suggest and it may be beneficial, said a report released Tuesday at the World Dairy Summit held here.

The report, Milk and Cardiovascular Disease; A Review of the Epidemiological Evidence, said drinking milk may significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke.

The conclusion is based on 10 long-term studies into milk drinking and cardiovascular disease, according to the report by Peter Elwood of Great Britain’s Cardiff University.

The studies, involving 400,000 subjects, the equivalent of 8 million man-years of observation and 8,500 vascular disease events, provided no evidence of an increase risk of cardiovascular disease from drinking milk.

Instead, the studies found that the incidence of heart disease and stroke was lowered by about 16 per cent in people with the highest intake of milk.

More than 700 delegates from around 30 countries and regions attended the four-day annual summit meeting of the International Dairy Federation (IDF). The IDF is a century-old international industry body with over 40 member countries and regions around the world. It serves as a forum for discussion and exchange and a dairy information centre.

Number of people with HIV at record 39.4 million worldwide

TOKYO, 24 Nov— The number of people living with HIV has come to an estimated all-time record of 39.4 million worldwide, two UN agencies said in an annual report released Tuesday.

The death toll from the virus is expected to be 3.1 million this year, according to the AIDS Epidemiological Update 2004 report released by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization.

The report stressed the need for measures to protect women from selling sex for money or daily necessities, a practice it says is a major source of infection. Women constitute about a half of the estimated 37.2 million adults with HIV, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

A man and his Taser. Australian police say they may soon follow the United States’ lead and issue air marshals with electric stun guns after a trial of the weapons by an elite security unit. — INTERNET

Apple Store customers in San Francisco test the iPod on 24 Nov, 2004. The iPod is one of the hot electronic items on the Christmas list of many a holiday shopper. — INTERNET

Brazilian police seize 500 kilos of drugs in Sao Paulo

BRASILIA, 25 Nov— Brazilian police on Tuesday seized nearly 500 kilos of cocaine and arrested two drug suspects in Sao Paulo.

Machine guns and guns were also found. Police said the drugs belonged to the Red Command, one of the biggest criminal rings of the country.

“It is one of the most organized and dangerous rings of the Red Command. Some weapons even could be utilized to bring down helicopters,” said Inavey Cayres, director of Brazil’s anti-narcotics agency, DENARC.
Kariuki, Oswald, meet for super heavyweight title in China

KUNMING (Yunnan Province), 25 Nov—New Zealand’s Peter Kariuki and Dutchman Maneno Oswald will vie for the World Boxing Association Pan Asian and the Pacific super heavyweight title next month in the southern city of Kunming in China, organizers said Tuesday.

The champion’s belt was present in Kunming on Tuesday while the fight takes place on December 17, when another four WBA matches are also arranged featuring boxers from China, Thailand, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa and Iran, said Cao Zeyuan, secretary general of Kunming boxing association.

The 27-year-old Kariuki, born in Nairobi, Kenya, has nine victories, six losses and two draws with eight knockouts. Former IBF African champion Oswald, 34, is 22-8-1 with 17 KOs.

Werder Bremen draw 1-1 with Inter Milan

BRESEN (Germany), 25 Nov—Werder Bremen had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Inter Milan on Wednesday despite dominating possession, leaving their Champions League hopes resting on their final match in Valencia.

The German champions and Cup holders went ahead with a Valerien Stankovic, Nigerian Obafemi Martins, Giuseppe Favalli, Dutch Edgar Davids, Argentinean Esteban Matias Cambiasso, Christian Vieri, left to right, celebrate during the UEFA Champions League group G soccer match between German Werder Bremen against Italian Inter Milan on Wednesday, 24 Nov, 2004. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. —INTERNET

Barca extends Larsson’s contract despite injury

MADRID, 25 Nov — Swedish Henrik Larsson has got a year’s extension on his contract on Tuesday although the Barcelona striker would miss the rest of the season due to a serious knee injury.

The 27-year-old Larsson, who has scored 32 goals in 200 appearances for Sweden, signed for Barcelona at the start of the season after spending seven highly successful years at Celtic.

The Swede is the fourth Barcelona player to be ruled out for the remainder of the season because of a serious injury.

Midfielder Thiago Motta and defender Edmilson and Gabi suffered almost identical injuries during the last two months. — MNA/Reuters

Two arrested over Blackburn racism allegations

LONDON, 24 Nov — Two men, suspected to committed a racist offense at Sunday’s Premier League match at Blackburn Rovers, have been arrested on Tuesday following a formal complaint by Birmingham City striker Dwight Yorke.

The men in their twenties voluntarily attended a police station where they were arrested. Lancashire police said in a statement on Tuesday.

Birmingham manager Steve Bruce said after Sunday’s match at Ewood Park that Yorke had suffered monkey chants similar to those faced by England players during last week’s 1-0 friendly defeat in Spain.

Police said two detectives met with former Blackburn forward Yorke and other Birmingham players on Tuesday at their training ground where they interviewed several people. — MNA/Xinhua
N America box office’s autumn sales fall short of past years

LOS ANGELES, 25 Nov — Overall box office sales and admissions for the fall this year plunged well below the levels of the previous two years despite the success of two animation hits, the Hollywood Reporter reported on Tuesday.

The total national box office for fall — the post-Labour Day to pre-Thanksgiving weeks — was 1.39 billion US dollars, down a steep 14 per cent from the record 1.63 billion US dollars racked up last year, and off 12 per cent from the 1.59 billion US dollars tallied in 2002, according to the Hollywood news magazine.

Admissions for the season were disappointing as well, slipping by a sharp 18 per cent from last year’s record tally and amounting to only the fourth best ever recorded for the fall, the report said.

Estimated number of tickets sold for the season was 219.9 million, compared with 268.3 million and 268.2 million in 2003 and 2002 respectively.

While this year’s results were less than sterling, the season still bore two marks of distinction, the animation hits “Shark Tale” and “The Incredibles”.

It was the first time that two ani- dated pictures held the top two spots, and it was the first time that one film, let alone two films, grossed more than 150 million US dollars during the fall.

With ‘The Grudge’ sitting in the third spot with more than 160 million US dollars, it was only the second time that

NY enacts law banning sales of products containing endangered species

NEW YORK, 25 Nov—New York City became the first city in the United States to approve a law on Tuesday making it illegal to buy or sell products containing or advertised as containing endangered species.

The law, passed by the City Council on Tues- day and awaiting the mayor’s signature, follows an undercover investigation in New York last spring by TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network of the World Wildlife Fund and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The investigation found illegal products widely available claiming to contain endangered species, including tigers, rhinos, leopards and musk deer.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Simon Habel, director of TRAFFIC, said his organization believes that New York City, being the first to pass this type of law at the city level, can lead by example other cities whose wildlife trade threatens endangered species.

“The new law would close local loopholes within New York City by making the sale of pro- ducts containing, or la- belled as containing, en- dangered species a viola- tion of city law and give New York City enforce- ment officials the author- ity to take action,” he said.

WEATHER

Thursday, 25 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kayin State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Bhamo (0.04) inch. Night temperatures were (7°C) above nor- mal in Rathitse State, (0°C) below normal in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State and Tanintharyi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (4°C), Mindat and Namsam (7°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 24-11-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 25-11-2004 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-11-2004 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 24- 11-2004 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 25-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-11-2004 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 5 mph from North- east at (18:30) hours MST on 24-11-2004.

Rain influence: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in South Andaman Island, South Bay and over the far offshore in the Bay of Bengal.

Special Features: According to the observations at (12:30) hours MST today, the tropical storm ‘Muifa’ in the Gulf of Thailand is centered at about (168) miles Southeast of Kawthoung, Myanmar and moving westwards. It is likely to cross South Thailand Coast and enter into the South Andaman Sea at tomorrow early morning.

Forecast valid until evening of 26-11-2004: Rain will be isolated in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, widespread in Mon, Kayin States, Tanintharyi Division and weather will be generally fair in the States and Divisions. Degree of certainty (90%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Martuma and off and along Mon-Tanintharyi-Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two weeks: Likelihood of widespread rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Rain forecast over Yangon and neighbourhood area for 26-11- 2004: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is 40%.


Storm News

Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 25-11-2004.

According to observations at (12:30) hours MST today, the tropical storm ‘Muifa’ in the Gulf of Thailand is centered at about (160) miles Southeast of Kawthoung, Myanmar and mov- ing westwards. It is likely to cross South Thailand Coast and enter into the South Andaman Sea at tomorrow early morning.

Under the influences of the storm, widespread rain, at times squalls and rough seas are likely off and along Tanintharyi Coast during the next (24) hours commencing this afternoon. Wind speed in squalls may at times reach (50) mph.
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

Measures for holding World Buddhist Summit coordinated

YANGON, 25 Nov—A meeting took place at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township here this afternoon to coordinate measures for holding the World Buddhist Summit. Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the Summit Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address at the meeting. Also present were Chairmen of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Division, SPDC deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, and officials of the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and subcommittees. (See page 8)

A & I Minister continues inspection tour of Bago Division

YANGON, 25 Nov—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected No 5 Sugar Mill (Myo Hla) in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, on 23 November. At the meeting with the manager and staff of the mill, and those in charge of the agricultural zones, the Minister dealt with cultivation of sugarcane and extended growing of sugarcane for strains for 2005-2006, and purchase of sugarcane and production of sugar this year.

Next, the Minister inspected paddy fields, supply of water, and Swa Creek Dam in Yedashe Township. Director of the Irrigation Department U Victor reported on annual irrigation and cultivation of crops. The Minister gave instructions on cultivation of paddy and sugarcane. — MNA

5,311 more prisoners to be released

YANGON, 25 Nov— The State Peace and Development Council had already dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau on 22 October, 2004. After due review of the cases, prison terms of 5,311 convicts have been suspended with effect from today, 25 November, 2004, and they will be released from the respective prisons. This is the second time the convicts are released and the number rises to 9,248 from 3,937, which was announced the first time.— MNA

Competitors of India-ASEAN Car Rally stop over in Mandalay

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses coordination meeting for organizing the World Buddhist Summit. — MNA

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects irrigation networks of Swa Creek Dam in Yedashe Township on 23-11-2004.— A&I