### Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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

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**YANGON, 28 Nov —** A coordination meeting on the holding of the 22nd Conference on ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22) took place at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyintha here this morning, with an address by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, the chairman and the vice-chairman of the MES, the secretary and officials.

In his speech, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said concerted efforts to be made in unison for the success of infrastructures for development, economy and urbanization with the help of Myanmar engineers and architects, the Secretary-1 said, adding that had produced more than 7,000 engineers, architects and construction contractors in addition to engineering students, the Secretary-1 praised.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at coordination meeting to hold 22nd Conference on ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22).—MNA

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Success achieved in government’s endeavours to establish much-needed infrastructures with help of Myanmar engineers, architects

Secretary-1 addresses coord meeting on CAFEO-22

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The Myanmar Engineering Society comes into existence with encouragement of government

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
ASEAN-India Car Rally boosts Myanmar’s image

The Union of Myanmar has been fostering friendly ties with neighbouring nations, ASEAN nations and those in the region.

To further cement friendly ties with other nations and ensure development in trade, tourism and transport, it is taking part in the international sports meets.

With the aim of further strengthening friendly ties between ASEAN nations and India, the first ASEAN-India Car Rally organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry was opened in Guwahati, India on 22 November 2004.

Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh formally opened the car rally. Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and party.

Alongside 60 cars from ten nations—India and ASEAN nations (exclusive of the Philippines)—with 240 drivers are participating in it.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on 23 November 2004 greeted drivers of Myanmar, who were to start the car rally at Guwahati, India.

The distance of the car rally is 7,869 kilometres—690 km in India, 439 km in Myanmar, 661 km in Vietnam, 642 km in Cambodia, 853 km in Thailand, 1,312 km in Myanmar, 1,028 km in Laos, 1,052 km in Cambodia, 583 km in Malaysia and 50 km in Singapore.

All the participants will arrive at the finishing point in Battam, Indonesia, on 11 December 2004.

The rally will take 19 days including pilgrimage in Cambodia. The caravan of the cars arrived in Tamu of Myanmar on 24 November, in Mandalay on 25 November, in Loilem on 26 November, in Kengtung on 27 November, where they spent the night. On 28 November, the caravan was scheduled to enter Thailand through Kengtung-Tachileik.

As the caravan passed through Myanmar, the car rally was to contribute much to further cementing friendly ties between Myanmar and neighbouring nations and development of tourism and transport sectors of Myanmar.

Thanks to the car rally that passed through Myanmar and with the participation of drivers from Myanmar, it is believed that the riches and development of Myanmar will be better known to the world.

Dried Day inspection teams discharge duties

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and party supervise functions of dried day inspection teams. — MNA

AWF President and party return home

YANGON, 28 Nov — Minister of Sports of the People’s Republic of China President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian and party, who attended the meeting of the 6th Asian Wushu Championships and International Wushu Federation Executive Committee Meeting, were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and party this afternoon.

They were also seen off at the airport by General U Khin Maung, directors U Myo Nyunt and Major Zaw Win Shwe and Secretary Deputy Director-General of the Government Office U Sein Hla supervised dried day inspection teams which were checking the running of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles at the main points of Yangon City today.

The inspection teams also checked dried day pass, driver’s licence, wheel tax, and wearing of departmental uniforms and the violation of traffic rules and regulations. — MNA

Health Deputy Minister returns from Thailand

YANGON, 28 Nov — The health delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the meeting on bird flu prevention and treatment of WHO member countries of SEA region held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 26 November.

The delegation was welcomed back by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, the Directors-General of the departments under the Ministry and officials of WHO.

Director Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein of Health Planning Department, Director (Research) Dr Kyaw Moe of Medical Research Department (Yangon) and Director U Than Hla of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries also returned home on the same flight. — MNA
ASEAN, South Korean officials finalize cooperation document

VIENLAS (LAOS), 27 Nov — Senior officials from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Korea here on Friday finalized the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership between ASEAN and South Korea to be adopted by their leaders.

The declaration covers political and security cooperation, closer economic relations, including the establishment of an ASEAN-South Korea Free Trade Area, cooperation to narrow the development gap within ASEAN, and education and science and technology cooperation, said spokesman of the 10th ASEAN summit Yong Changthalangy. This is a follow-up to the decision of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit in 2003 during which the leaders agreed to launch an Experts Group Joint Study of ASEAN-South Korea economic cooperation, including the possibility of establishing a free trade agreement, Yong, who is also director of the Press Department of the Lao Foreign Ministry, told a news conference.

He also said the ASEAN+South Korea Senior Officials Meeting held here Friday agreed on the arrangements for the signing ceremony of the South Korea’s accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on Saturday. —MNA/Xinhua

Japan eyes closer cooperation with ASEAN in destroying WMD

VIENLAS (LAOS), 27 Nov — Japan said here Friday that the two issues in which it wanted to advance cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the reduction of tension in the Korean Peninsula.

Japan made the remarks at the ASEAN+Japan Senior Officials Meeting held here Friday.

The meeting finalized the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism, which will be adopted at the ASEAN+Japan Summit on November 30.

The declaration will include such activities as information exchange, intelligence sharing and capacity building, law enforcement cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters including extradition.

The meeting recalled that the ASEAN+Japan Economic Ministers Meeting agreed in September 2004 that negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership would commence in April 2005 to be completed within two years.

Japan invited ASEAN members to participate in the Asia Non-Proliferation Meeting in February 2005.

—MNA/Xinhua

Singapore’s manufacturing output up 2.4% in October

SINGAPORE, 27 Nov — Singapore’s manufacturing output rose 2.4 percent in October as compared with the same period of last year, official statistics indicated.

According to figures released by the Economic Development Board (EDB) on Friday, for the first ten months of this year, Singapore’s total manufacturing output registered an increase of 13 per cent over last year.

The growth in some clusters was moderated by the decline in the biomedical manufacturing cluster, which fell 19.6 per cent in October. The electronics cluster grew 11.4 per cent in October and the semiconductor cluster grew 31.1 per cent.

According to the government’s estimation, typhoon Violeta has caused damage of 281.15 million pesos on property, and 65 million pesos on crops, mostly rice and corn, while Unding caused damaged of some 131.7 million pesos on agriculture and fisheries and 65 million pesos on property. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese textile industry opposes US limits on fabric imports

BEIJING, 27 Nov — The Chinese textile industry issued a statement on Thursday, opposing a US Government agency’s acceptance of an industry appeal to limit imports of Chinese fabric products.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile Products said in the statement that the US Government has “trumped the principle of free trade” as well as the spirit of the Agreement on Textile and Clothing.

“The Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the whole Chinese textile industry, expresses strong protest and firm opposition,” it said.

The US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements announced on November 17 that it has accepted an appeal from domestic industry on import limitations of 301 kinds of Chinese cotton yarn.

According to the statement, US industrial organizations have also

1,236 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov — As of Saturday, 27 November, 2004, at least 1,236 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 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defence Department’s tally, which was last updated Wednesday 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 May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,098 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Iraqi national guardsmen secure area of al-Yarmouk hotel in the southern city of Basra, on 26 Nov, 2004.——INTERNET

China donates for Filipino typhoon victims

MANILA, 27 Nov — The Philippine Government on Friday received a donation of 50,000 US dollars from the Chinese Government for the flood victims left by two tropical storms that hit the northern islands this week.

Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Franklin M. Ebdalin, who received the donation from Chinese ambassador to the country Wu Hongbo, said that his government is most appreciative of this generous donation for the victims.

“The affected families will be most grateful for this assistance from the Chinese Government and people,” he said.

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South Korea’s President Roh Moo-hyun waves upon his arrival in Vientiane before the 10th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Laos, on 28 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

The New Light of Myanmar Monday, 29 November, 2004 3

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 29 November, 2004 3
Malaysia offers to host East Asia Summit in 2005

VIENNA (Laos), 27 Nov — Malaysia has offered to host an East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2005 if there is a consensus among the relevant countries, spokesman of the 10th ASEAN Summit Yong Chanthalangsy said at a Press briefing here Friday.

The spokesman said the ASEAN + 3 Senior Officials Meeting held here Friday discussed the issue on the EAS proposed by the East Asian Vision Group and recognized the potential value of the EAS at an appropriate time.

Yong also said the issue remains a subject of further consideration by the ASEAN + 3 Foreign Ministers Meeting.

He said the Senior Officials Meeting discussed the need to undertake stock-taking exercise, including on the concept, modality and future direction for the EAS.

Japan has offered to host a meeting of ASEAN + 3 foreign ministers in Kyoto in May 2005 for this purpose, he added.

On the establishment of East Asia Community, the Senior Officials Meeting reiterated the view that it is a long-term objective that would be achieved through a building bloc and step by step approach. The meeting reiterated support for ASEAN’s leading role in this process.

On the East Asian Free Trade Area (EFTA), the meeting continued to deliberate on this matter. The ASEAN + 3 Economic Ministers Meeting in Jakarta on September 4, 2004 endorsed China’s proposal to set up an expert group comprising scholars from research and academic organizations to study the feasibility of establishing an EFTA starting in 2005.

Friday’s senior officials meeting was held to prepare for the ASEAN + 3, ASEAN + China, ASEAN + Japan and ASEAN + South Korea summits, which will be held here on November 29-30.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Maldives keen to expand cooperation with Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Nov — Maldives is keen to expand bilateral cooperation with Malaysia, especially in information and media exchange, a visiting Maldives’ minister said here Friday.

The cooperation could be in the area of training to improve the capacity and quality of its television and radio programmes, Maldives’ Minister of Information, Cultural and Arts Ahmed Abdullah told reporters after meeting with Malaysian Information Minister Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

“The media in our country has become a huge challenge especially in the globalized system. Our media has to become more vigilant, approachable and responsive to the aspirations of the people of Maldives,” he said.

“Our President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has a very close relationship with Malaysian leaders and we are very grateful of the friendship and cooperation with Maldives. We are also very thankful to Malaysia for providing us continuous support and cooperation,” he said.

Mainland, Hong Kong join hands to protect insurance market

BEIJING, 27 Nov — The insurance regulatory authorities of the Chinese Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region have joined hands to fight illegal insurance policies, according to a senior Chinese insurance official.

Li Kemu, vice-chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, signed an insurance regulatory cooperative agreement here Friday with Richard Yuen, Hong Kong’s Commissioner of Insurance.

Li said that the agreement marks a new stage of cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the insurance industry.

The agreement covers broad areas of insurance regulation that will effectively promote mutual understanding of regulatory practices, exchange regulatory experience and timely sharing of regulatory information.

Vietnam’s Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, centre, smiles as he is greeted on 27 Nov, 2004, in Vientiane, Laos, on his arrival for the 10th ASEAN summit.

Iraq’s security forces are target of increasing campaigns by guerrillas

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov — The warning left in the garage of Omar Hameed, Iraqi National Guardsman, showed two bloody swords and a message: “If you don’t quit your job in three days, you will be killed.”

The next day, Hameed, still recovering from a leg injury after gunmen attacked his patrol, gave his reply in signs he hung in the market of his hometown of Mahmoudiya and on the street leading to his home: “I wash my hands of the Iraqi National Guard.” He said the decision to give up his job, which paid a relatively hefty $190 a month, was easy because he knew the alternative. “They have killed many people,” Hameed said. “They can reach you anywhere. They can easily break into homes to kidnap or kill you.”

As the 30 January election approaches, guerrillas are targeting Iraq’s democratic transformation and planning to raise the question of whether guerrillas’ presence is needed. Car bombings, mortar attacks and drive-by shootings have been followed by kidnappings, ambushes, executions and beheadings, with corpses dumped in orchards and on roadsides, sometimes laid out in rows.

The operations show enough sophistication and planning to raise the question of whether guerrillas’ presence is needed. Such attacks also continue to undermine efforts to build strong security forces key to the exit strategy of foreign troops and have cast doubt on the Iraqis’ ability to protect themselves, let alone the country.

CPC initiates education campaign

BEIJING, 27 Nov—The Communist Party of China (CPC) has decided to launch a mass internal educational campaign from January next year to prevent its members from wavering in their convictions.

The decision, aiming to keep the nature of the Party members intact, was made at the meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on this October 21, the CPC’s top power organ.

“It is the first time that the Party linked the internal education with its ruling principle and governance capability,” said Ye Dachu, Professor of the Party School of the CPC.

The campaign was initiated after an internal survey involving 300,000 Party members in 2000, which showed some of them had begun to waver in their conviction on the Party’s principles and disciplines, according to the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee.

The Party’s leaders have realized that under the new conditions, maintaining the advanced nature of the Party affects the Party’s governance capability, prosperity of the causes of the Party and the country’s lasting peace and stability.

The survey recently held in Southwestern China’s Sichuan Province showed that about one-third of Party cadres were most focused on the will and interests of their superiors, not their service to the people. About 32 per cent of Party’s cadres at or above county levels chose “realizing individual’s value” and “build well-off families” as their life purposes, not service to the people.

Experts here said the wavering convictions of the Party members, a major source of corruption in some regions, has seriously eroded the consolidation of the Party’s governing status.

Insurance.

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ASEAN leaders to sign peace action plan

MANILA, 27 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other leaders of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are set to sign and adapt next week an action plan to increase peace and security cooperation efforts in the region.

Signing of the ASEAN Security Community (ASC) Plan of Action will be held during the organization’s 10th summit in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines News Agency quoted the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs as saying.

The signing of the proposed ASC Plan of Action will complement the ASC framework which ASEAN member-countries established to ensure stability of security conditions in South-East Asia, the report said.

Under the ASC framework, ASEAN leaders acknowledged there are broad and cultural aspects associated with comprehensive cooperation efforts in the region.

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) will complement the ASC framework which ASEAN leaders acknowledged there are broad and cultural aspects associated with comprehensive cooperation efforts in the region.

The UN Committee Against Torture, reviewing British compliance with an international treaty outlawing inhuman and degrading treatment, also expressed concern at parts of an anti-terrorism law which allows “potentially indefinite detention” of foreign fighters, including “substantial numbers of deaths in custody, prisoner violence, overcrowding.”

The committee of 10 experts said there were reports of “unsatisfactory conditions” in British prisons, including “substantial numbers of deaths in custody, prisoner violence, overcrowding.”

Carrying the torches: Two Turkish women hold torches during a demonstration on 26 Nov, 2004 in a downtown Istanbul street against US politics in the Middle-East and the attack on Fallujah, Iraq. —Internet

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing (C) listens to a speech at a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Vientiane on 27 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

12 die as guerrillas intensify Iraq raids

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov— Violence continued unabated in Iraq as guerrillas stepped up attacks, blasting US patrols in Baghdad and killing a US soldier north of the capital.

A car bomb exploded on the dangerous road to the Baghdad airport, targeting an armoured vehicle generally used to transport VIPs, an AFP photographer reported.

There were no reports of any casualties and no details immediately available on who might have been inside the truck.

A US soldier was killed early yesterday when a roadside bomb hit his vehicle in the Sunni town of Dhuluiyah, north of Baghdad.

Three bodyguards of Iraq’s deputy governor of Diwila province were killed when clashes broke out between national guardsmen and guerrillas at a checkpoint, the provincial police chief said.

INTERNET

Greater anti-HIV/AIDS efforts urged for women

HANOI, 27 Nov— Women and girls should be the focal point of the global war against HIV/AIDS, UN experts said here on Friday.

“One of the objects most affected by HIV/AIDS is women and children,” Ha Thi Khiem, chairwoman of the Vietnam Women’s Union, said at a Press conference to introduce this year’s global advocacy campaign with the theme “Women, Girls, HIV/AIDS”. She called for an urgent action to minimize the number of people, especially women, living with HIV via a focus on women and girls — preventing new infections, promoting gender equality and equitable development. — MNA/Xinhua

12 die as guerillas intensify Iraq raids

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov— Fighters in Fallujah resume attacks against US forces

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov— Fighters in Iraq’s battle-torn Fallujah City said Friday they have resumed attacks against US forces and their Iraqi allies since Wednesday after they had reorganized their groups in the city.

The fighters made the remarks in a statement signed by Mujahedeen Council on Islamic website.

The statement said “the Mujahedeen (fighters) launched Wednesday many well organized attacks, aimed at destroying the myth of the coalition forces, and the traitors and collaborators who work for Allawi and Naqib,” referring to Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and Interior Minister Falah Naqib.

The former Iraqi Army forces are “participating in fighting and supporting efforts in the battles of Fallujah’s northern districts, Jolan, Mualemeen, Shurta, Jughaf and the Askari District,” said the statement.

It added that “the Mujahedeen will teach a memorable lesson to the collaborators who sold Iraq and prove to Arab regimes in Sherm al-Sheikh, who gave Allawi’s government a false legitimacy, that only the language of guns and martyrs makes a difference.” — MNA/Xinhua

**UN criticizes Britain for unsatisfactory conditions in prisons**

GENEVA, 27 Nov — A United Nations anti-torture body criticized Britain on Friday for the “unsatisfactory” conditions in its prisons, including a “substantial number of deaths in custody”, and urged it to act at once to improve them.

The UN Committee Against Torture, reviewing British compliance with an international treaty outlawing inhuman and degrading treatment, also expressed concern at parts of an anti-terrorism law which allows “potentially indefinite detention” of foreign fighters, including “substantial numbers of deaths in custody, prisoner violence, overcrowding.”

The committee of 10 experts said there were reports of “unsatisfactory conditions” in British prisons, including “substantial numbers of deaths in custody, prisoner violence, overcrowding.”

It was the fourth time the Geneva-based committee had focused on Britain as part of its regular scrutiny of the 138 states to have ratified the 1984 treaty.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
WTO approves trade sanctions on US over illegal law

GENEVA, 27 Nov — The World Trade Organization (WTO) gave final approval on Friday to the European Union, Japan and others to hit the United States with an initial 150 million US dollars in trade sanctions in a row over an illegal anti-dumping law.

“They’ve got the go-ahead,” said Kenyan Ambassador Amina Mohamed, chairman of the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body.

The opening round of punitive duties — which will be reviewed each year — is relativity modest, when compared, for example, with the 4.0 billion US dollars the EU was awarded in a case over corporate tax breaks. But the figure could soar in coming years.

The Administration of US President George W Bush has called on Congress to drop the law. But it enjoys wide support among legislators, who see it as a way of punishing foreign companies accused of dumping, or exporting goods at below the cost of production.

The Lion’s share of the right to retaliate goes to the European Union and Japan, because their companies are the most affected. Brussels has warned it could slap additional duties on US goods early in 2005 if Washington does not repeal the law. “We are delighted that the authorities confirmed our case... We hope that the US will bring the legislation as soon as possible into conformity with (international rules),”

Trade spokesman Claude Veron-Reville said in Brussels.

The green light for sanctions was automatic because the case has exhausted all the WTO steps for settling disputes, including appeals and arbitration. Only a unanimous decision by all 148 WTO member states, including those seeking the sanctions, could have blocked it.

Both the EU and Japan, given the right to additional levies of 50 million US dollars and 80 million US dollars, respectively, by arbitrators, have presented the WTO with a list of products they plan to hit — ranging from sweetcorn to metals and textiles.

Canada, which along with Brazil, South Korea, India, Mexico and Chile is also involved in the complaint, has said that it is studying whether to impose sanctions and/or what the US amendment has been applied to billions of dollars of imports of Canadian softwood, the subject of a separate dispute between the two North American neighbours.

Malaysia to keep stability of currency

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Nov — A Malaysian minister has reiterated that the government has already mentioned the country has to have stability in its currency.

The re-pegging of the local currency ringgit should have got to do with Malaysia’s competitiveness, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz told reporters after addressing the Panasonic Scholarship Programme 2005 Award Ceremony here Thursday.

“The government would have to look at how the number in the system of pegging affect us a-vis the changes in other currencies. It has got to do with our competitiveness. It is not as simple as removing the peg,” she said.

Malaysian currency has been pegged at 3.8 ringgit to one US dollar since September 1998 when the country was hit by the Asian financial crisis.

She was asked about comments by some economists to review ringgit peg as it has outdated its usefulness and they are calling for re-pegging by June next year. “Malaysia cannot be subjected to observation and recommendation by others pertaining to the re-peg of the ringgit,” she said.

World Family Summit to be held in China next month

BEIJING, 27 Nov — The 2004 World Family Summit will be held in Sanya City of Hainan Province, south China, from December 6 to 9, marking the 10th anniversary of the International Family Year, said a Chinese family planning official here Friday.

More than 250 officials and experts from some 60 countries, non-governmental organizations and international institutions have applied to attend the meeting, co-sponsored by the World Family Organization, China’s State Population and Family Planning Commission and the All-China Women’s Federation, said Xi Xiaoping, director of the federation’s Press department.

Construction on Yangtze’s water diversion project approved

WUHAN, 27 Nov — Construction on a key section on the central route of the water diversion project from the Yangtze River and its tributaries to northern China has been approved by the State Council recently.

Construction will begin soon on the 1,427 kilometre long high-quality water to the arid areas in northern China, said experts.

Sources from the Yangtze River Water Resources Committee said that the total cost for the dam project will be comparatively large, about 246 million US dollars.

More than 2,000 local people who lived in villages in the construction site and dam area will soon be moved to other regions, said the committee.

Currently, the government of Danjiangkou is working on the issues of migration and protection of ancient cultural relics excavated in the dam area.

The massive south-to-north water diversion project, which began construction in December 2002, will divert water from the Yangtze, China’s longest river, to the country’s drought-affected north via eastern, central and western routes.

The central route project, with a total length of 1,427 kilometres, is designed to divert water from the Danjiangkou Reservoir on the upper reaches of the Hanjiang River right up to Beijing and other regions, said MNA/Reuters.

Malaysian crocodile keeper Sajjad Barfat feeding a crocodile at the 700-year-old Mango Pir Shrine, some 25 kms (15.5 miles) southwest of Karachi. — INTERNET

Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Alexander Grushko, in Moscow, 26 Nov — Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Alexander Grushko said on Tuesday that the UN Security Council will consider new resolutions to send armed forces to Georgia.

“Some members of the council and also of the European Union, not to mention of NATO, support our position,” Grushko said.

The resolution was adopted unanimously by UN Security Council.

Russia has repeatedly called for the military action to end the Georgian military offensive in the breakaway region of Abkhazia.

Nearly 3,000 Russian peacekeepers are serving in Georgia to help mediate the conflict.

Russian troops have been in Abkhazia since August when Georgia invaded the breakaway region.

The conflict began after Abkhaz separatists seized territory in the north of Georgia and declared an independent state.

Georgia, Russia, the United States and the European Union have backed Georgia in its war.

The UN Security Council meeting is expected to take place Wednesday.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called for a cessation of hostilities between Georgia and Abkhazia.

The meeting was expected to discuss the deployment of UN arms in Abkhazia.
Hein Myint

“Discussion of Pensioners

Almost all of my friends and I are in our sixties. We had experienced the colonial era in our childhood. And we had also seen the multi-party democracy system throughout our student life from the primary to the university. I had worked as a service personnel from the time of the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party to that of the current Tatmadaw government. We took retirement when we turned sixty.

Having lived different eras, all the friends may have a sense of scruple to weigh pros and cons. As we took full-age retirement as military and civilian service personnel, we still have to earn our living in retirement. This being the case, we can only meet just once or twice a month for a chat about the events of the past and the present. We have read in a supplement booklet of the daily full text of explanation given by State Peace and Development Council member General Thura Shwe Mann and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. Our conversation goes…

“The corruption in Muse was a spine-chilling story.”

“If the sum of money was that much even in two or three months, it is unthinkable how much it would be for years.”

“It should come as no surprise that the price does not drop since valuable items like houses, land and cars are in the hands of the heads of wealth. We couldn’t imagine to buy such expensive things let alone to afford it.”

“Because of that incident, 186 service personnel from three military and civil departments were charged. That was a terrible blow to the State.”

“The Tatmadaw must take all the powers that be to do abolish the National Intelligence Bureau. People everywhere had to live in fear of them.”

“They became selfish as they then were people in authority. The act of corruption grew worse in the absence of control and supervision. Not everyone was involved in it. The good and the bad by nature coexist.”

“A large number of illegally-imported cars can be seen in almost every town. It is heartening to hear the news that unlicensed cars which cause corruption are now being confiscated.”

“Making arrests on those committing the act of corruption and trafficking is in the interests of the country. In consequence of it, there are some who have remedied their misconduct. If they continue their act, they will have bad fortune.”

“By the way, I have heard so many times that some foreign media say that present Myanmar State leadership are hardliners. You are a war veteran pensioner and so I may know your opinion in this regard?”

“Of course, they say so because they don’t follow the guidance. They are not guided by the administrative principles of Myanmar Tatmadaw. And they are intentionally manufacturing fabrications to mislead the people.”

“Oh! Is that so? Would you please elaborate?”

“Tatmadaw is a tradition that it practises the policy of a single command. So, all the Tatmadaw members have to discharge their duties under the supervision of their superiors and the guidance of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. Since the Tatmadaw had assumed the State responsibilities, it formed the State Law and Order Restoration Council and then the State Peace and Development Council at present, and it has been adopting and implementing State policies under the guidance of the Chairman also the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and in coordination with the Vice-Chairman, who is the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and SPDC members taking effective responsibilities.”

“The Tatmadaw leaders have to take responsibilities individually in carrying out tasks, based on collective leadership.”

“The Government and the ministries have to carry out their tasks in consonance with the policy laid down by the SPDC.”

“Therefore, I’d say implementation of the State’s seven-point Road Map, carrying out nation-building tasks in cooperation with national armed groups after building up peace through talks with them, and the adopting of foreign policy are the works of by the State Peace and Development Council under the leadership of the Head of State, but not of an individual.”

“Overall, the State’s political, economic, social and nation-building tasks are being implemented in conformity with the policy laid down by the SPDC. So, one should not assume that some of the State leaders are flexible and some hardliners.”

“I’m sure, it must be, in fact, certain schemers’ plot to mislead Myanmar people into thinking some State leaders as flexible-minded and pro-democracy persons and some, as hardliners. It is very clear present State leaders were not pro-democracy persons but hardliners, there would be no chance for the seven-point Road Map to come into existence. It is known all that Myanmar is now on the path towards discipline-flourishing democracy just because State leaders are really in favour of democracy.”

“As you know, the previous governments were not able at all to persuade any armed groups to return to the legal fold, but 17 armed groups had entered the legal fold during the time of the present government. And they are even cooperating with the government in nation-building tasks. This fulfills the genuine goodwill of the SPDC led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. According to the norms of foreign media, this should be described soft or flexible, isn’t it?”

“Moreover, Myanmar is cooperating with regional countries in regional affairs after her membership of the ASEAN and maintains friendly relations with her neighbours. That is another example reflecting her flexible-mindedness.”

“Personally, I say the SPDC is a government, so sometimes it must take a hardline stand and sometimes it has to be soft, as the case may be. I don’t think it is proper for the government to tolerate the facts.”
Success achieved in government’s endeavours...

(from page 1) organizations level, he continued. It is delightful to see the MES, like other social organizations engaged in their relevant fields, playing an active role in the AFEO, he said, pledging that the government on its part would render assistance for the successful holding of the conference in accord with its set aims

Next, MES Chairman Dr Sein Myint reported on the birth of the AFEO and its activities, and ar-

Committees for the upcoming conference, tasks being carried and those left to be done by respective committees, and the assistance required to be provided.

 Ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers and officials also reported on assistance to be rendered by their respective departments for the success of the conference.

After hearing the reports, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended to the needs through coordination with officials concerned.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
U Maung Myint. — MNA

Caravan of First India-ASEAN Car Rally arrives Kengtung

YANGON, 28 Nov— A ceremony to flag off competitors of First India-ASEAN Car Rally was held in Mandalay on 28 November morning. Among the spectators were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and the Indian Ambassador.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint flagged off the rally. The caravan of the rally arrived in Ywangan along Mandalay-Kyaukse-Ywangan-Aungban-Taunggyi Road. They were welcomed by Brig-Gen Thaung Htaik of Aungban Station and officials, local people and national races.

In the afternoon, the competitors stopped over at Ayethayar Golf Resort Hotel in Taunggyi. Next, they left Taunggyi.

On arrival at Loilem, they were welcomed by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials. The competitors spent the night in Loilem.

On 27 November, the competitors left Loilem and proceeded to Kengtung through Loilem-Kengtung Road. They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials, local people and national races.

The drivers stopped over in Kunhung. In Mongpyin, the competitors were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin, officials and local people.

At night, the caravan of the rally arrived in Kengtung where the participants were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, officials and local people. The drivers spent the night in Kengtung.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
U Maung Myint. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Information
Brig-Gen Aung Thein. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Transport
U Pe Than. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Health
Dr Mya Oo. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects samples of prizes, gifts, bags, souvenirs and pamphlets to mark the CAFE0-22. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Transport
U Pe Than. — MNA

Hotel here on 18-19 December this year. — MNA

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Deputy Minister for Transport
U Pe Than. — MNA

Hotel here on 18-19 December this year. — MNA
Ash of the remains of Myingyan Sayadaw... 
(from page 16)

...also inspected landscaping this morning.

Leikpyagan Ward, Bago, repaving of No 28th Street, of Border Areas and National Ash of the remains of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhandabhivamsa and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Brig-Gen Myo Maung scattered ash into Yangon River at 8.30 am.

COMMANDER, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY-1...

(from page 16)

Next, the commander, the minister and guests offered “Soo:n” to members of the Sangha.

At noon, Industry-1 Minister U Aung Thaung, accompanied by officials, went to Pynouwin Pharmaceutical Factory Project and inspected installation of machines in the Tablets & Capsules Production Unit and Water Distill Plant. He gave necessary instructions for the tasks. Next, the minister inspected completion of installation of machines at Damin Plant.

Afterwards, the minister inspected test-running of Tablet Press and Film Coating Machines and the machines in Dryer Oven FBD Units. The commander gave instructions on efforts to be made for arrival of the machinery as quickly as possible, running of the machines and making of systematic arrangements in accord with GMP system. Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries Managing Director U Myint Oo and officials conducted the minister around the sites chosen for constructing the factory, running the machines and greening around the factory.

On arrival at Mandalay Division USDA Office, Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung met with district and township USDA secretaries and fulfilled the requirements for the tasks of the association. Next, he instructed the officials to abide by the future programmes laid down by the USDA Annual Preliminary Meeting 2004, to implement the five rural development tasks and to play an active role in striving for the success of seven-point future policy Programme of the State.

Deputy Minister inspects construction of roads in Bago Division

YANGON, 28 Nov — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, Col Tin Nwe, inspected repaving of No 28th Street, and Bandooola Road in Leikpyagan Ward, Bago, this morning.

The deputy minister also inspected landscaping works of Bago Township Development Affairs Committee. In Thanyapin Township, the deputy minister looked into No 1 Tube-well sunk for supply of water to local people in Zoapung Ward, Thanyapin. He also inspected repaving of Zabuiyit Road.

Next, Col Tin Nwe proceeded to the construction site of the bridge at the entrance of Thakala Sanpya Village in Kawa Township. The deputy minister then inspected upgrading of Ngwora Road. After inspecting Paawkon-Zwakaik gravel road, the deputy minister gave instructions on maintenance tasks. — MNA

MYANMAR-THAI KATHINA ROBES OFFERING CEREMONY HELD

YANGON, 28 Nov — Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Mayangan Township Kalyaw Tawya Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dwipakadha Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa administered the precepts and delivered a sermon. Later, Myanmar and Thai disciples donated Kathina robes to Sadhhamma Joitikadha Maha Gantwawcaeka Pandita Bhaddanta Konndana of the monastery. — MNA

DINNER HOSTED IN HONOUR OF SPORTS TEAMS OF YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 28 Nov — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Major Col Maung Pa inspected agricultural tasks being undertaken by USDA (Central) in Sitpinkwin village-tract, Thanlyin Township, and Thai disciples donated Kathina robes to Sadhhamma Joitikadha Maha Gantwawcaeka Pandita Bhaddanta Konndana of the monast — MNA

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Dinner hosted in honour of sports teams of Yangon Command

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YANGON Command

Next, the commander gave a speech. Afterwards, the commander and wife hosted a dinner to those present.

Yangon Command has won championship shields in 10 sports events so far. — MNA

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Dinner hosted in honour of sports teams of Yangon Command
International-level Buddhist Pitakas (Treatises) Library soon to emerge

Yangon, 28 Nov — With the assistance rendered by the Central Universities Library of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Education, an e-library will be facilitated on the eighth floor of the Mahasantisukha Buddhist Missionary Centre in Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township. Thanks to the establishment of the library, Buddhist treatises all over the world can be studied at one stop. It is estimated that the establishment of the library will cost nearly K10.84 million.

They presented their donation before Sayadaw Agga Maha Gantavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Janita on the ninth floor of the BMBC.

Sub-printing House (Mandalay) offers Kathina robes to Sayadaws

Yangon, 28 Nov — The third communal Kathina robes offering ceremony was held at Myanmar Alin/Kyemon Sub-printing House (Mandalay) on 22 November.

Officials donated Kathina robes and alms to Thangdaw Meditation Centre Saya-daw Bhaddanta Varita of Patheingyi Township and members of the Sangha. Present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Editor U Nyunt Zaw and wife, assistant managers, staff members and guests.

Bangladesh makes law to stop waterways grabbing

Dhaka, 28 Nov — The Bangladesh Government will make a law banning the practice of filling water bodies and rivers banks and construction of structures on them in this most densely populated South Asian country, according to the official news agency BSS Saturday. The grabbing of both banks of the river Buriganga, which flows just south of Dhaka and once the lifeline of the capital, will make a law to stop waterways grabbing.

The Bangladeshi Government will make a law to stop waterways grabbing. The Bangladeshi Government will make a law to stop waterways grabbing.

Commander attends harvesting of Shweyinaye monsoon paddy in Yaksaw

Yangon, 28 Nov — A ceremony to harvest the model plot of Shweyinaye monsoon paddy was held in Htkham Village of Yaksaw Township on 23 November.

Present were Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Zaw Win of Bahtoo Station, local authorities and local farmers.

The commander inspected the harvest of the model plot and harvester of the model plot and harvester of the model plot.

CPC urged to lift advanced culture construction ability

Beijing, 28 Nov — Li Changchun, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said improving the Party’s ability to construct advanced socialist culture is of great importance for its governance in China. “The ability is well in alliance with the Party’s general governance targets,” said Li. “And it should be viewed as a major means in enhancing the Party’s governance capability.”

Major gap in China’s maternal mortality rates announced

Beijing, 28 Nov — The Chinese Ministry of Health said here Friday the rate of rural women dying in childbirth in 2003 was 2.4 times that of the urban women.

The maternal mortality rate for rural Chinese women in 2003 was 65.4 deaths for every 100,000 mothers, compared with the 27.6 per 100,000 for the urban women, according to the ministry. But overall, China’s infant mortality rate dropped to 2.55 per cent in 2003, compared with 3.22 per cent in 2000, according to the ministry.

The mortality rate for the children under 5 also fell, from 3.97 per cent to 2.99 per cent.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
ASEAN, China sign MoU

VIENTiane, 28 Nov— The 10-member ASEAN signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Transport Cooperation with China here on Saturday.

China’s Minister of Communications Zhang Chunxiang and ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) signed the MoU. Zhang said in an interview with Xinhua after the signing ceremony that with the signing, ASEAN and China will have a legally based medium-to-long-term cooperation partnership.

He said that the MoU covers ASEAN-China transport cooperation on infrastructure, transport facilitating, marine transport and marine affairs, capacity building and information sharing.

The minister said he believed that the MoU is a breakthrough for ASEAN-China transport cooperation as it not only lays down a legal base for launching future cooperative projects, but has a strong guiding role and high operationality.

He said, “The fundamental objective of the cooperation is to accelerate infrastructure links and enhance cross-border movement of goods and people, which in turn reinforces the establishment of an ASEAN-China free trade area as well as the synergy in seeking common prosperity for nearly 1.8 billion population with 1.2-trillion-US-dollar annual trade volume in the ASEAN countries and China.”

He said, “We feel so much assured that the ASEAN-China transport cooperation is becoming more consolidated with every step forward and has constituted an essential part in building a partnership of mutual trust and practical cooperation between ASEAN and China.”

The minister said it is the strong aspirations of the people of ASEAN and China in seeking cooperation for a win-win result.

He said China has over 100 land and river ports at different levels bordering with the ASEAN countries. The potential for further promoting transport cooperation is great.

Zhang said that the ASEAN-China cooperation has been fruitful in the past months.

He said the construction of Lao section of Kunming-Bangkok Highway started in April this year, with 30 million US dollars of investment from China.

He added that the Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network covering 32 countries was concluded in Shanghai in April this year, to which some of the ASEAN countries have become parties.

The minister said China’s linkage with this road network accumulates a mileage of 26,000 kilometres, accounting for 20 per cent of the total length of the network.

He added that China is also stepping up the construction of highways to connect with this network.

The minister said China has provided one million-US-dollar financial assistance for the feasibility study of the missing link of the Trans-Asian Railway inside Cambodia.

He believed that with the stable long-term cooperation framework and practical cooperative operations, ASEAN and China would surely have a great prospect for the future.

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

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the ROK’s cumulative investment in ASEAN has constituted an 11 billion US dollars as of the end of 2003, which accounted for 15.2 per cent of the ROK’s total FDI outflow, making the ROK the third largest investment destination for the ROK’s firms after the United States and China.

The spokesman said that to commemorate the 15th anniversary of ASEAN-ROK relations, the ROK will be launching two special projects, respectively, named, visit of ROK celebrities to ASEAN cities to promote greater cultural understanding and issuance of commemorative stamps which will be presented to the ASEAN-ROK Summit on November 30.
India test-fires “Akash” missile

NEW DELHI, 27 Nov— India successfully test-fired Friday the Akash surface-to-air missile from a range in Orissa State in east India, the Indo-Asian News Service quoted a local defence source as said. The home-grown multi-target missile was fired from the integrated test range at Chandipur at 12.30 pm, the source said. Akash, which has a 25-kilometre range, uses a ramjet propulsion system and is powered by an air breathing engine. The missile is deployed in tandem with the indigenous developed radar Rajendra, which can simultaneously track 64 aircraft within a range of 60 kilometres to 60 metres. Akash is one of the five missiles under various stages of development by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Philippines likely to keep 2004 budget deficit below ceiling

MANILA, 27 Nov—The Philippines is likely to keep well within the 2004 budget and consolidated public sector deficit targets due to improved revenue flows and increased electricity tariffs, officials said Friday. The budget deficit for the first 10 months this year fell 9.9 per cent year-on-year to 147.7 billion pesos (2.62 billion US dollars), while the deficit in October alone reached 5.8 billion pesos (1.09 billion US dollars), according to the government.

US regulators do not ensure airlines comply with rules

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov—US regulators do not ensure that passenger and cargo airlines comply with rules for monitoring hazardous materials, a government audit showed on Friday. The audit found that enforcement actions take, on average, more than a year to complete, and are not pursued because the FAA does not move fast enough, “even though the FAA has established deadlines,” the audit said.

Pakistani President embarks on Latin America visit

ISLAMABAD, 27 Nov — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf embarked Friday on eight-day visit to three Latin American countries — Brazil, Argentina and Mexico, becoming the first Pakistani leader to visit the region.

“Our political relations are good with all of them but it needs to be consolidated through economic and trade relations,” Musharraf told reporters at the Chaklala military air base in Islamabad on his departure.

Musharraf will also visit the United States, Britain and France.

MNA/Reuters
Buckingham Palace terms “Time’s” Prince report “irresponsible”

LONDON, 27 Nov — Buckingham Palace on Friday termed “irresponsible” newspaper reports that a kidnap threat forced Britain’s Prince Harry to cut short a trip to a polo pony farm in Argentina.

A spokesman for Harry, son of heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles and the late princess Diana, played down front page reports in most British newspapers that armed police foiled a plot to kidnap the young prince.

“I have seen the headlines. It is just hugely irresponsible,” the royal spokesman said, declining to categorically deny the stories.

“We never comment on security matters,” he added.

Harry, third in line to the throne, arrived back in Britain early on Friday and made no comment to waiting reporters.

The Times reported the story on its front page with the banner headline: “Kidnap threat forces Prince Harry from the Argentine Government about a suspect in the local underworld tipped home”.

Citing the Argentine newspaper Página 12, the Times said a murder suspect in the local underworld tipped off the Argentine Government about a plot to kidnap the Prince.

Russia’s Duma passes stricter law on beer

MOSCOW, 27 Nov — Russia’s Lower House of Parliament unanimously passed a stricter law on beer sales and consumption on Friday that widened a proposed list of places where the amber liquid may not be drunk.

The bill now has to be approved by the Upper House, which rejected it earlier this month, and signed into law by the President.

The amended bill is even stiffer than the original, banning beer sales on public transport and in cultural and sports buildings in addition to a list of places including hospitals and schools and the land around them.

In the last five years, beer consumption has doubled in Russia, especially among the younger generation, making it the fastest growing beer market in the world after China.

Both the brewers and the government, which strongly opposes the bill, cause eating out is prohibitively expensive for most Russians.

The amended bill would come into force 30 days after its publication in the official gazette, instead of on April 1, 2005.

Deputies plan to speed up work on amendments to current legislation that would provide for a 100 rouble (3.50 US dollars) fine for drinking and selling beer in public.

In August, the Duma passed a law to strictly limit advertising.

The bill was also opposed by the government, and the Federation Council is preparing an amendment that would allow breweries to advertise at sports events.

Auto industry sees growth in Nepal


Data provided on Friday by the Nepali Department of Transport-Sanction Management said the popularity of cars has skyrocketed in the last couple of years, attesting to the expansion of a section of the society that can absorb the rising costs of vehicles and taxes on automobiles.

The average number of vehicles registered during the last five years stands around 4,500 per month. Only 2,029 vehicles were registered in the fiscal 2002-2003, but a whopping rise of over 143.5 per cent took place in 2003-2004 with 7,079 vehicles registered, according to the data.

The growth in Business-registration has led to a fierce competition, specially after the entry of car makers like Hyundai and Kia.

Although there is no official figure, Suzuki-Maruti is the acknowledged market leader in this segment with about 40 per cent of the market share.

Industry experts say Hyundai comes the second with around 35 per cent.

The introduction of Santro from Hyundai in 1998 by Avco International Pvt Ltd, distributor of Hyundai’s Santro in Nepal, brought a big change in the B-segment.

“After-sales relations with customers through services and customer-relations management has pushed us to this height. We sold more than 2,500 cars in six months,” said Sunil Shrestha, director at Avco International.

Serious abuse of int’l aid uncovered

BRUSSELS, 27 Nov — The European Union’s anti-fraud watchdog, OLAF, has uncovered serious abuse of international aid with major donors being overcharged for projects and money being siphoned off into secret private bank accounts.

The 25-nation bloc is one of the world’s largest aid donors and in its annual report, published on Friday, OLAF said the EU’s humanitarian and development aid to third countries was a victim of “complex and well-organized” financial fraud.

“Such fraud takes an advantage of the lack of coordination in the monitoring and auditing activities between the various international donors,” the OLAF report said.

“The combination of multiple sources of financing and other factors has increased the complexity of accounting and reporting requirements and so made it easier to divert funds from personal or criminal benefit,” it added.

In one case investigated by OLAF, an Italian non-profit organization that was not identified received 11 million euros (14.34 million US dollars) from the European Union and almost 17 million from Italy to finance 28 projects in the third world.

The probe showed the organization had sent fake or duplicate invoices and only part of the money had gone to projects.

UNSG’s son paid monthly payments from Swiss firm

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Nov — The son of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan got monthly payments more than four years longer than was previously known from a Swiss firm that won a lucrative contract under the scandal-ridden UN oil-for-food programme, the United Nations said on Friday.

Kojo Annan, the UN’s leader’s son, was paid 2,500 US dollars monthly — a total of 125,000 US dollars — by Geneva-based Cotecna from the beginning of 2000 through last February, as part of an agreement not to compete with Cotecna in West Africa after he left the firm, UN chief spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

There have been no specific charges of wrongdoing on the part of the Secretary-General in the body’s December 1998 award to Cotecna of a multimillion-dollar contract to monitor Iraq imports under the oil-for-food programme.

But the disclosure of the extra years of payments renewed questions about conflicts of interest and left Annan and his staff looking inept in their handling of the matter.

The programme, which let Iraq export oil and use the proceeds to buy food and other goods despite an UN ban on oil sales, was shut down after last year’s US-led invasion of Iraq.
Totti, Montella end Roma's run of defeats

MILAN, 28 Nov— AS Roma ended a run of four defeats with a 4-0 win at Siena in Serie A on Saturday with two goals each from Vincenzo Montella and Francesco Totti.

Udinese beat Livorno 2-1

MILAN, 28 Nov— Udinese took a firm grip on third place in Serie A by picking up their fourth successive away win with a 2-1 victory at Livorno on Saturday.

Barca hold on leadership of Primera Liga

MADRID, 28 Nov— Barcelona held off a spirited comeback by newcomers Getafe to claim a nervous 2-1 win and cement their hold on the leadership of the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Bayern Munich strengthen grip at top of Bundesliga

FRANKFURT, 28 Nov— Bayern Munich strengthened their grip at the top of the Bundesliga with a 4-2 victory at home to FSV Mainz on Saturday as faltering Wolfsburg went down 3-2 at home to Hertha Berlin.

Wiltord’s return to lead Olympique Lyon 2-1 over AJ Auxerre

PARIS, 28 Nov— Sylvain Wiltord scored one goal and made another as he returned to lead Olympique Lyon to a 2-1 victory over AJ Auxerre in a Ligue 1 game on Saturday.

Answers for yesterday’s crossword puzzle

Upper Gurne Tree

I d e n e o o r

V i r g o C e n t u r y

L a v i s h G e n t l e

A m e r i c a n

K e n n e d y T h o n g

O n g e l m a

D u t h
d

R o n v e

D i s a i n t w e d
Japan, ASEAN to outline anti-terrorism cooperation among police

TOKYO, 28 Nov — Top leaders of Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are set to adopt a statement next week in Laos outlining anti-terrorism cooperation among their police forces, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Japan and the 10 member states of ASEAN will finalize a joint declaration for international anti-terrorism cooperation at their annual summit meeting scheduled next Tuesday in the Laotian capital of Vientiane.

In a draft declaration obtained Saturday by Xinhua, the countries agree to launch an annual working-level conference among their police officials to review the results of their counterterrorism measures and to examine ways to eradicate the sources of funding for terrorists.

The document also points out that the countries reject attempts to link terrorism with specific religions, ethnic groups or nationalities, likely in consideration of the diverse ethnicities, religions and cultures represented in ASEAN countries.

The leaders are expected to agree to reinforce police cooperation and to call for the early conclusion of treaties aimed at preventing terrorism and for efforts to stop terrorists from taking advantage of charity organizations.

They will also promote cooperation with the Southeast Asian anti-terrorism centre operated by the Malaysian Government and seek to improve the abilities of staff at anti-terrorism organizations through training and other means, according to the draft.

China to establish 18-container distribution centres

NANNING, 28 Nov — China will establish 18-container distribution centres to form a cargo transport network composed of 16,000 kilometres of railways by 2020, an official said here Saturday.

Wang Zhaoceng, Vice-Minister of Railways, said the project would help the country meet the surging demand of freight transport in the railway sector.

According to Wang, the 18-containers distribution centres will be built in major coastal and inland cities, which will be linked by railways capable of handling double-decker container trains.

Construction on the first centre, based in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province in southwestern China, began in July this year.

It is expected to go into operation in two years at a cost of 500 million yuan (60 million US dollars).

Typhoon “Muifa” kills 11 in central Vietnam

HANOI, 28 Nov — Flash floods triggered by Typhoon Muifa have killed at least 11 people in central Vietnam, officials said on Saturday.

Rains started this week in the central region, wreaking havoc, but no damage has been reported to the harvest in the Central Highlands coffee belt.

“A red alert has been issued as floodwater is rising in all rivers in the area,” said a disaster management official from the provincial coast of Quang Ngai.

He said at least four people from the province had been swept away in flash floods.

Officials from neighbouring provinces including Quang Nam, Thu Thien Hue and Quang Tri said seven people had been killed.

State weather forecasters said floodwaters at the Thach Han River in Quang Tri Province, around 372 miles south of the capital Hanoi, had peaked at a year-high of 18.54 feet early on Saturday morning.

Weather forecasters reported only mild, occasional rains in the Central Highlands coffee belt.

“The sprinkles have not affected the coffee harvest yet. There might be some delay to the beans-drying process,” said a coffee trader in Daklak, Vietnam’s key coffee growing province.

The central region is incorporating the Central Highlands coffee belt is not a key area for rice.

Vietnam is the world’s second biggest exporter of the grain after Thailand, and the largest producer of robusta coffee.

Low-lying areas in Thua Thien Hue province were inundated.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Sunday, 28 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been scattered in Kachin and Rakhine State, Magway Division, isolated in Chin State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kyauktaw (0.55) inch. Night temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Magway, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Putao (8°C), Namsan (9°C) and Mindat (10°C).

Maximum temperature on 27-11-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 28-11-2004 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30hrs MST on 28-11-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 27-11-2004 was (6.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-11-2004 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. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northeast at (11-35) hours MST on 27-11-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at 09-30 hours MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over Andaman Sea and adjoining East Central Bay has become unimportant. Weather is partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and East Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Development of certain low pressure.

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperature in the remaining Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-11-2004: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

YANGON, 28 Nov — A ceremony to hold Puja for ash of the remains of Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chancellors of the State Parinyani Sasana Universities Chief of Pakokku Maha Withutarama Nikaya-Nayaka-Presiding Nayaka of Myingyan Kokhsang Monastery and Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (South) Township Nayaka-Xa-Nayaka Agga Maha Saddhammatojika Myingyan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhiya Mahathera was held at the pandal of the pyre in the Sports grounds on Pale Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township this morning.

Next, the ash of the Sayadaw were scattered into water at the confluence of Bago River and Yangon River.

Present on the occasion were Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammatojika Bhaddanta Kumara, Presiding Nayaka of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery Pitikadhasa Tipitaka Kovidika Bhaddanta Silakkhandha-hthivasamsayadhikaraya and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, local authorities, departmental officials, religious and social organization members, relatives of the Sayadaw and disciples.

The Sayadaw and members of the Sangha paid homage to the ash and conveyed the ash brought by members of the Sangha, Ministers for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials onto Bala Yaza Double Decker Vessel of Inland Water Transport. Next, Bala Yaza Vessel carrying members of the Sangha, officials and relatives of the Sayadaw and Bala Kyaw Khaung Vessel carrying ash of the remains of the Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw in progress. — MNA

All 9,248 prisoners released

YANGON, 28 Nov — The State Peace and Development Council had already dissolved the National Intelligence Bureau on 22 October 2004. It was observed that the NIB might have committed irregularities. According to the review of the irregularities, prison terms of 9,248 convicts in total had been suspended — 3,937 on 18 November 2004 and 5,311 on 25 November 2004. And it is learnt that all the 9,248 convicts have now been released from the respective prisons. — MNA

Dinner hosted in honour of athletes of Wushu C’ships 2004

YANGON, 28 Nov — Myanmar Wushu Federation hosted a dinner in honour of athletes of 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 at Sedona Hotel on 27 November evening.

Present at the dinner were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, MOC Member Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyaw, Chinese Minister of Sports President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian, officials of the Ministry of Sports, International Wushu Federation and AWF, the president, the vice-presidents and executives of MWF and athletes. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Minister Mr Li Zhijian delivered addresses. Next, those present were served with dinner. Before and during the dinner, artists from the hotel entertained variety of dances to the audience. — MNA