Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**General Bank Service course concludes**

YANGON, 3 Dec — The concluding ceremony of No 4 Course on General Bank Service (Office Level) was held this morning at the meeting hall of Central Bank of Myanmar with an address by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe.

It was also attended by Chairman of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, members of Banks Supervising Committee, the directors-general and the managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, CEC members of Myanmar Banks Association, course instructors and trainees.

On the occasion, the Deputy Minister and the Chairman of Central Bank of Myanmar presented prizes to the outstanding trainees. Altogether 41 officers of the state-owned and private banks attended the 8-week course. — MNA

**14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop continues**

YANGON, 3 Dec — The 14th IFNGO ASEAN NGOs Workshop on Prevention of Drug and Substances Abuse co-organized by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association continued today as the second day at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alantuya Pagoda Road here this morning.

The 122 delegates from ASEAN member nations, the People’s Republic of China, Mauritius and Australia presented the topic, “Strive for New Destiny: ASEAN Drug Free 2015” at the workshop. At 8.30 am, the discussionsEducative programmes on drugs abuse control for the youths with the topic “Threats of Gateway Drugs - Alcohol and Tabacco” and the topic “I Love You Darling”, Radio Programme to Prevent Drug and Substance Abuse.

In the evening, group-wise discussions were held.

The workshop continues tomorrow.

Yesterday morning, the topic, “Strive for New Destiny: ASEAN Drug Free 2015” was presented by 122 delegates of ASEAN member nations, the People’s Republic of China, Mauritius and Australia at the workshop, it is learnt. — MNA
Hu calls for consolidating achievements of macro-control next year

BEIJING, 2 Dec—Chinese President has called for efforts to consolidate and develop what has been achieved by implementing the macro-economic control policy in the nation’s economic work next year, according to a release reaching here on Wednesday.

The Chinese economy is on a new round of growth and the national ability for further economic development independently has been strengthened, creating favourable conditions for the country’s overall development, Hu said at a recent workshop.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, which Hu serves as general secretary, held the workshop on November 8 to solicit opinions and suggestions from leaders of non-Communist parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce as well as personalities without party affiliation, on the economic work. Premier Wen Jiabao informed the participants of the current economic situation and the central authorities’ consideration for the economic work next year.

The participants spoke highly of the central authorities’ decision to strengthen and improve macro-control in time, which resulted in a sustained, steady and rapid economic growth. They described the central authorities’ consideration for next year’s economic work as “comprehensive and practical”.

They also aired their views and suggestions on macro-control, agriculture, rural development, farmers’ income, coordinated economic and social development, resources, the work to guard against financial and economic risks, the development of Chinese companies, their innovating ability, the development of the small and medium-sized enterprises and the land management system.

Hu presided over the meeting and made a keynote speech. He said that to accomplish the economic work next year, it is imperative to “unservingly advocate and implement the scientific concept of development for an overall, coordinated and sustainable economic and social development.” — MNA/Xinhua

Japan mulls visa waiver for South Korean tourists

TOKYO, 2 Dec — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is expected to announce a government plan to waive visas for South Korean tourists when he meets South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun on December 17-18 in Japan. According to NHK’s news channel, the waiver is due to take effect from the fall of next year. South Korea will become the fourth in Asia with which Japan has regular visa waiver arrangements, following Brunei, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Overall, Japan waives tourist visas for residents of 58 countries and regions, the TV report said.

The envisioned announcement is planned to have the visa waiver coincide with the 40th anniversary next year of Japan-South Korea normalizing bilateral ties, it said. — MNA/Xinhua

India finalizes co-production treaty with Italy

NEW DELHI, 2 Dec — India had finalized a co-production treaty with Italy for films and had received a proposal from a US-based financial firm for underwriting of loans for Indian film makers, the Press Trust of India quoted a union minister as saying on Wednesday.

Addressing reporters on the second day of the International Film Festival of India in Panaji in Goa State, on the west coast of India, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Jaipal Reddy said the treaty would be signed shortly after an approval by the both governments. The Indian Government was also considering signing similar treaties with France, Germany, Canada and Britain.

“Such treaties would enable film makers to avail of concessions extended to them in those countries, besides boosting the film making process,” he added.

We had also received a proposal from Richard Soames of Film Finances Incorporation to underwrite loans for Indian films. The firm had earlier underwritten loans to the tune of 1 billion US dollars for US films, he said.

“The proposal will be taken up for consideration and examined in depth. A decision will be taken after due consultations with public financial institutions like Industrial Development Bank of India,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to increase oil price in 2005

JAKARTA, 2 Dec — Indonesian Vice-President Yusuf Kalla said on Tuesday that the government would increase oil price in 2005 by 40 percent, aiming at declining oil subsidies. “In 2005, the target is to decrease the subsidy from some 7.8 billion US dollars to 25 trillion rupiah,” he told reporters here. The Vice-President Kalla said that the rise would be on the oil commodities which indirectly link with the poor people, and the government would subsidize on the commodity which directly link with the poor people. “They (the price would be increased) include gasoline, oil for industry, but we subsidize on kerosene,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

1, 263 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec—As of Thursday, 2 Dec, 2004, at least 1,263 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 998 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Thursday.

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

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,125 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 880 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

One US soldier died Wednesday in western Baghdad in a vehicle accident.

One US soldier was killed Thursday while on patrol in Mosul.

Eight killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec—At least eight people were killed in violence across Iraq on Thursday, including a regional criminal investigations chief and two other police officers in an ambulance north of Baghdad, security sources said.

“Lt Col Hussein Ismail was killed around midday along with two of his guards as they were driving in the centre of Baladruz,” east of Baquba, said a national guard officer. In Baquba itself, two Khalas town council members were killed in a gun attack while a national guard captain died in a car bomb attack in the same area.

Two others were wounded whengun men stormed the home of Iyad Ibrahim al-Karawi, an ex-general in the disbanded army of ousted President Saddam Hussein, his son said. — Internet

US Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment soldiers search for guerrillas in Mosul, Iraq, on 2 Dec, 2004. — Internet

China Federation of Industry and Commerce as well as the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is ready to enhance exchanges and cooperation with the National Council of the Slovenian Assembly, said Wang Zhengyu, Vice-Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, here Wednesday. Wang made the remarks in his talks with Janez Susnik, chairperson of the National Council of the Slovenian Assembly, who was here on a six-day visit to China at the invitation of the CPPCC National Committee. — MNA/Xinhua

Contestants wearing Chinese dresses pose on the stage during a dress rehearsal of the Olay Elite Model Look 2004 International on 1 Dec, 2004, in Shanghai, China. — Internet

Chinese CPPCC Vice-Chairman talks with Slovenian guest

2 Dec—The People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is ready to enhance exchanges and cooperation with the National Council of the Slovenian Assembly, said Wang Zhengyu, Vice-Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, here Wednesday. Wang made the remarks in his talks with Janez Susnik, chairperson of the National Council of the Slovenian Assembly, who was here on a six-day visit to China at the invitation of the CPPCC National Committee. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, left, talks with Slovenian guest Istvan Gravenda, right, in Beijing, China, 2 Dec. — Internet

Eight killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec—At least eight people were killed in violence across Iraq on Thursday, including a regional criminal investigations chief and two other police officers in an ambulance north of Baghdad, security sources said.

“Lt Col Hussein Ismail was killed around midday along with two of his guards as they were driving in the centre of Baladruz,” east of Baquba, said a national guard officer. In Baquba itself, two Khalas town council members were killed in a gun attack while a national guard captain died in a car bomb attack in the same area.

Two others were wounded when gun men stormed the home of Iyad Ibrahim al-Karawi, an ex-general in the disbanded army of ousted President Saddam Hussein, his son said. — Internet
The World Buddhists Summit

Preparations have almost been completed for holding the World Buddhist Summit from 9 to 11 December 2004 at the Mahapasana Cave on Sri Mingala Hill, which was the historically significant venue of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, Yangon. Forty-eight years ago, at the 5th Theravada countries — Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia — gathered in this historic cave and held the Sixth Buddhist Synod, which lasted for two years. The prime ministers from the five Theravada countries honored this great event with their presence. The synod was separated into five sessions—Myanmar, Ayam (Thai), Lawa (Lao), Cambodia (Cambodian) and Lankadipa (Sri Lankan) Sessions, presided over by the heads of the respective Sanghas from the five Theravada countries. The vesak day of 1318 Myanmar Era (1958), when the Synod in which the Tipitaka texts were edited and recited in one accord was completed successfully, marked the 2500th Anniversary of the Buddha Sasana (i.e. 2500 years after the Buddha's death).

In the Same year, the Nenbutsushu sect held a historic cave and held the Sixth Buddhist Synod, Yangon. Forty-eight years ago, at the 5th Theravada countries — Myanmar, Indonesia (Sri Lankan) Sessions, presided over by the heads of the respective Sanghas from the five Theravada countries. The vesak day of 1318 Myanmar Era (1958), when the Synod in which the Tipitaka texts were edited and recited in one accord was completed successfully, marked the 2500th Anniversary of the Buddha Sasana (i.e. 2500 years after the Buddha's death).

Now, the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar is ready to hold the World Buddhist Summit which undoubtedly will be another landmark in the history of Buddhism, at the same historic cave. Top Buddhist leaders from thirty-seven countries of the four continents—Asia, Europe, America and Australia—have been invited. The World Buddhist Summit will be held at Lumbini, the Buddha's birthplace in Nepal, with the leading role of the Lumbini Development Committee. In the Same year, the Nenbutsushu sect held a rival Buddhist Conference in Kyoto, Japan, and the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand and Dr. Revata also attended as a Myanmar delegate.

I believe that only the delegate appointed by the government or by an official organization can represent a country. Therefore, it cannot be regarded that a delegate appointed by Myanmar attended the First World Buddhist Propagation Conference. Myanmar is a unique Buddhist nation with about 400,000 monks within nine sects, which have been unified at different levels under the leadership of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. The Ministry of Religious Affairs in conjunction with the committee and with allotted budgets look after the welfare of the Sangha. Most of the countries have only one or two directors responsible for religious affairs who are either under the Ministry of Culture or of Education. Knowing this, the Nenbutsushu sect cannot harm the summit in any way.

Following the change of Prime Minister in Myanmar, the leaders of the Nenbutsushu sect breached the MoU by announcing that the Fourth World Buddhist Summit was cancelled. They also informed the delegates who had already been invited to the summit that the summit is cancelled and illegal for the Myanmar side to hold, as the Nenbutsushu sect is just a small organization. On the Myanmar side, the government itself took the leading role. Such a small country cannot declare the MoU void without negotiating with the Myanmar government. If Myanmar does not withdraw its commitment to hold the summit even though the Nenbutsushu sect has withdrawn, what can the Nenbutsushu sect do? What can the Nenbutsushu sect do if Myanmar government defray the expenses of the delegations from the seventeen countries that the Nenbutsushu sect is responsible to invite? Does it have the right to object? The name “World Buddhist Summit” is not a trademark that the Nenbutsushu sect has registered. It is a phrase that anybody can use. The conference that has already started from 30 November onwards at Lumbini is titled “World Buddhist Summit” too, and a Myanmar delegation is attending it, the Nenbutsushu sect does not have the right to say anything.

World Buddhist Summit In Myanmar

Now, the World Buddhist Summit is going to be held ceremoniously in Myanmar and it will be solely sponsored by the Myanmar government. Date, venue and policy will not be changed. Even though the Nenbutsushu sect declined to attend, the delegates from other Japanese Buddhist organizations have been invited and will be attending the Summit. The seventeen countries that the Nenbutsushu sect cancelled after sending invitation have also been invited, and they will be attending the summit too. The Buddhist leaders from Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Romania, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America, Mexico, Jamaica, Indonesia and Australia are ready to attend the summit. At this World Buddhist Summit, Heads of State and Sangha Rajas (Supreme Patriarchs) from all Buddhist Countries have been invited and are preparing to attend the summit. World leaders such as the President of the Republic of India and Prime Ministers of India and Japan will also send congratulatory messages. All the Myanmar missionary monks abroad have been invited. There are more than one hundred and fifty Myanmar monasteries abroad. The teachers (lecturers) and students from four Sasana Universities, the monks from Central Sangha Committee, the member Sayadaws of State and Divisional Sangha Nayaka Committees, and the members of well-established religious organizations in Myanmar have also been invited. The opening ceremony of the summit at Maha Pasana Cave will be broadcast live by MRTV. Sayagi (Mentor) S.N. Goenka, the well-known guru together with more than one hundred yogis, who are practising under him, will be attending the summit and delivering a lecture.

The Buddhist Summit will last for three days.

Day 1 - Opening Ceremony

At the Opening Ceremony in the morning, Supreme Patriarchs and World Leaders will deliver speeches. In the afternoon, Buddhist Leaders from all over the world will present the papers.

Buddhist Leaders including Mr. S.N. Goenka, Venerable Dr. Sri Dhamamanda, Ven. Dr. Gunayatana, Ven. Dr. Rivinda Panthi, will present papers. In the afternoon, Buddhist Leaders will discuss simultaneously in four groups.

Day 2 - Round-table conference

A Round-table conference will be held in the morning. The World Buddhist Summit joint communiqué will be adopted in the afternoon. A speech will be delivered by the Chairman of the Central Executive Committee, a note of thanks by Buddhist Leaders, and the closing statement by the Chairman. Group photo session and the presentation of gifts session.

The recitation of the prayer: Ciram tithatho lokasmin, sanna sambuddha sasanas tasmim sagaravanciam, honti sabbapepi panino.

(Translation: May the teaching of the enlightened One (the Buddha) last long in the world. May all beings pay their due respect to it always.)

Myanmar Alin, Kyemon: 3-12-2004

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YANGON, 3 Dec — A ceremony to inaugurate the bus line of Thandwe-Taungup-An-Maei-An was held at highway bus terminal in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, senior military officials, local authorities, officials, local authorities, and people. The commander delivered an address on the occasion. Later, the commander formally opened the bus line. Likewise, An-Maei-Taungup-Thandwe bus line was inaugurated at highway bus terminal in An Township on the same day. The deputy commander formally opened the bus line. A total of 29 vehicles in Thandwe and 6 vehicles in An are to be run everyday at the bus line.

Thanks to the opening of the bus line, local people in Rakhine State are convenient to make a safety trip to the various regions in the country through Thandwe and An Townships.

**Objectives of the 84th Anniversary National Day**

(a) Keeping national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
(b) Uplift of national education
(c) Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
(d) Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State.

**Publications donated to rural self-reliant libraries**

YANGON, 3 Dec — The Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information held its fourth donation of publications to rural self-reliant libraries at the Ministry on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon. It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads, social organizations, wellwishers and doyen writers.

The Minister delivered an address, saying that knowledge is dominating any other spheres as today is knowledge age, adding that with less development in knowledge and technology in various fields, a nation and its people will lag behind in development.

That was why the Head of State had given guidance on establishment of a constant learning society in the nation. As it is known to all, the State is taking all possible measures for development of human resources in the nation, he said.

So far, the Department has established rural self-reliant libraries in 10,410 out of more than 60,000 villages across the nation. Plans are under way to open rural self-reliant libraries in the remaining villages by 2005-2006.

The target will be put into reality by combining cash assistance of the State, donations of wellwishers and contributions of local people.

The Minister called for maintenance of the safe trip to the various regions in the country through Thandwe and An Townships.

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The Minister called for maintenance of the safe trip to the various regions in the country through Thandwe and An Townships.
Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win attends the luncheon hosted by Laostian President Khamtay Siphandone. — MNA

Myanmar, India focus on trade development

YANGON, 3 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win met with Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh at Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 10.15 am on 30 November.

The discussions of the two Prime Ministers centred on matters of common interest covering economic development of both nations, cementing of bilateral friendship, and boosting of trade. — MNA

Prime Minister concludes Lao visit

YANGON, 3 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win held talks with his Thai counterpart Dr Thaksin Shinawatra in Thai Hall of Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 7.15 am on 30 November.

Lt-Gen Soe Win explained the latest developments in Myanmar. The two Prime Ministers cordially discussed matters on bilateral friendship, and cooperation in economic, transport, agricultural and technological sectors.

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra shake hands in a friendly atmosphere. — MNA

Myanmar, Thailand discuss economic, transport, agricultural, technological cooperation

YANGON, 3 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win held talks with his Thai counterpart Dr Thaksin Shinawatra in Thai Hall of Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 7.15 am on 30 November.

Lt-Gen Soe Win explained the latest developments in Myanmar. The two Prime Ministers cordially discussed matters on bilateral friendship, and cooperation in economic, transport, agricultural and technological sectors.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, and Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thu Aung Htet and Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun of Myanmar, and Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Surakirti.
No foreign nation has the right to interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs.

King of Brunei

Prime Minister plants commemorative tree

Yangon, 3 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win planted a commemorative padauk tree in the compound of Villa Dongpasak, where he was staying, in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 9 am on 1 December.

Present at the ceremony were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, heads of department, Military Attaché Col Hla Myint, staff of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office, Lao Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Puek Laopasak, and members of Myanmar’s diplomatic missions in Vientiane.

Other heads of governments and states who attended the 10th ASEAN Summit also planted commemorative trees before their departure for home.

MNA

THAI KING’S BIRTHDAY: Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife being welcomed by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakoshol and wife at the reception to mark birthday of the Thai King on 5-12-2004.

MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win plants a commemorative tree at Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, LPDR. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win pays a courtesy call on King of Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win and Indonesian President Mr Susilo Bambang Yadhoyono shake hands. — MNA

Prime Minister plants commemorative tree

Yangon, 3 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Li-Gen Soe Win called on King of Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah in Room No 3 of Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 4.30 pm on 30 November.

At the meeting, the Myanmar Prime Minister said that Myanmar has been endeavouring to materialize her transition to democracy in a gentle way, while striving to achieve progress. The National Convention will resume in February 2005. A total of 1,088 delegates of all strata of life including those from townships, national races and armed groups which have returned to the legal fold, have been taking part in the National Convention. The discussions of the National Convention have reached the important part of sharing of Legislative, Judicial and Executive powers. The Government will continue to make endeavours till successful realization of the Road Map.

The Prime Minister, on behalf of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, invited the Sultan to visit Myanmar at an appropriate time. The Sultan thanked the Prime Minister for his comprehensive explanation on Myanmar, expressing belief that Myanmar leaders will shape a better future for the nation. No foreign nation has the right to interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs, he said. He thanked Myanmar for the invitation, saying that he would visit the country at an appropriate time. Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo and directors-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and high level officials. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win and Indonesian President Mr Susilo Bambang Yadhoyono shake hands.

Myanmar, Indonesia express wish to further cement ties

Yangon, 3 Dec — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Li-Gen Soe Win met President of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Susilo Bambang Yadhoyono at Friendship House of Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at 7.20 pm on 30 November.

During the meeting, the Myanmar Prime Minister expressed that the Government has restored national unity to an unprecedented degree. The nation has laid down the Road Map for transition to democracy, and is now in the process of convening the National Convention, which is the first step of the Road Map. The National Convention has reached the delicate part of discussions on the Legislative, Judiciary and Executive powers. Myanmar has wish to further cement friendly relations with Indonesia, as the two countries have similar historical backgrounds.

The Indonesian President said that he hopes to see continuous progress in all the political, economic and social sectors of Myanmar. Concerning his nation’s experiences, the president said that Indonesia has given priority to national unity and reforms. As Indonesia and Myanmar have extended government-to-government and people-to-people relations in a cordial atmosphere, the two countries will continue to maintain their fraternal relations and cooperate each other in all aspects, he asserted.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Tin Oo, and heads of the Prime Minister’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win plants a commemorative tree at Villa Dongpasak in Vientiane, LPDR. — MNA
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win attends...

(from page 1)

nations and Japan, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong and officials attended the Summit as observers from the Room B-2 of the Lao ITECC.

Afterwards, the Summit of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and Republic of Korea took place at the Room B-2 of the Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre (Lao ITECC) at 10.15 am.

It was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and ROK President Mr Roh Moo Hyn.

Next, a ceremony to sign the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership Between ASEAN and ROK was held at Hall-B of Theatre-1.

The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and ROK President Mr Roh Moo Hyn signed the signed the Joint Declaration.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials from ASEAN nations and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong.

Next, the Summit of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and India took place at the Room B-2 at 2.30 pm.

First, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations and the Indian Prime Minister signed the ASEAN-India Partnership of Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity at the Hall-B of Theatre-1.

Also present on the occasion were Ministers for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officials from ASEAN nations and India and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

The Summit of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and Australia and New Zealand was held at the Room B-2 at 4.50 pm.

First, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN had a documentary photo taken together with the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand.

This was followed by the Summit.

Next, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN, Prime Minister of Australia Mr John Howard and Prime Minister of New Zealand Mrs Helen Clark signed the Joint Declaration of the Leaders at the ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand Commemorative Summit at the Room B of Theatre-1.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials from ASEAN nations, Australia and New Zealand and the ASEAN Secretary-General. — MNA

Laos welcomes

ASEAN-India...

(from page 1)

Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Philippine President Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and ministers, deputy ministers, senior officials of the Republic of India, ASEAN secretary-general, officials and others.

Laotian Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh spoke on the occasion.

Later, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong formally opened the ceremony. Next, the Laotian Prime Minister and the Indian Prime Minister flagged off the caravan.— MNA
Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for a documentary photo at the ASEAN + India Summit together with heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win signs the ASEAN-India Partnership of Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity together with heads of State/Government of ASEAN member nations and the Indian Prime Minister. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for documentary photo at the ASEAN - Australia and New Zealand Commemorative Summit together with heads of State/Government of ASEAN members and Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets staff of Myanmar Embassy in Vientiane

Yangon, 3 Dec—Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and officials, on 30 November evening, arrived at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador to Lao People’s Democratic Republic in Vientiane, where they were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Oo and wife Daw Thida Htay, Military Attaché Col Hla Myint and wife Daw Theingi Soe, staff of Myanmar Embassy and families.

Next, the Myanmar Ambassador and wife, the Military Attaché and wife, and staff of Myanmar Embassy paid homage to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, who gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Myanmar Ambassador and wife hosted a dinner to Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party.—MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives the Myanmar Ambassador to Laos, Military Attaché and Embassy staff and family members. — MNA
First CLMTV-ECS …

officers, diplomats and charges d’affaires at of foreign embassies in Yangon, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, members of the central committee and the work committee for organizing the Trade Fair, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and economic organizations, the president and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, members of social organizations, business entrepreneurs and cultural troupe members of the five nations, guests, band troupes and students of No 2 BEHS, Latha Township, and No 3 BEHS, Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

On arrival at the Convention Centre, the Prime Minister and officials of the SPDC Office were welcomed by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers and central committee members. First, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the ministers and leading representatives and diplomats.

Next, the Prime Minister formally unveiled the signboard to open the Trade Fair. The Prime Minister and party and the guests viewed the pavilions of the respective countries displayed on the ground floor and the booth of Myanmar pearls, gems and jewelry and the booth of Thai silk. Next, they also inspected preparations made at the seminar room of the work committee. After viewing the booths of ministries, cooperative societies and private entrepreneurs of Myanmar, the Prime Minister left the centre.

At the opening ceremony of the Trade Fair, Patron of the central committee Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein delivered a speech.

In his introductory speech, Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein said that Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) Plan of Action was indeed one of the best ideas for smooth trade and investment in the region by combining the prospects and resources of the five neighbouring nations.

Such cooperation helps develop trade and investment and enhance close relations and mutual understanding among the five nations, he said.

The trade fair will be able to create great opportunities to lay down the strategy “Towards Prosperity of Five Nations”.

Secretary of State Mr Kuoch Ky of the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia, Minister of Commerce of LPDR Mr Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce of Thailand Mr Watana Muangsook, leading representative of Vietnam Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Quang Khon delivered speeches.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein presented souvenirs to the leading representatives of the participating countries. Next, cultural troupes of Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand entertained those present with varieties of dances.

The officials and the guests viewed the booths and shops being opened at the Fair. A total of 135 booths are being displayed at the Fair.

They include the booths of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministries of Industry-1 & 2, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, and the Ministry of Forestry, sale centres of Thai companies, sale centres of the companies of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association, industrial zone committees and companies of Myanmar Industrialists Association, other various companies of traditional medicines, musical instruments, jade and jewelry, weaving, personal goods, farm equipment and the sale rooms of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association and Myanmar Beans and Pulses and Sesamum Merchants Association.

The UMFCCI will hold CLMTV-ECS Business & Investment Forum 2004 with the other participating countries on the first floor of the same venue from 3 to 5 December.

For the convenience of visitors to the Trade Fair, Yangon Division All Bus Lines Control Committee and other bus lines have arranged for shuttle services. The Fair continues till 7 December from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

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YANGON 3 Dec — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win received Vice Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wu Dawei and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun.

The meeting focused on mutual cooperation between the two countries. MNA

YANGON 3 Dec — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Vice Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wu Dawei at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun and Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. MNA
CLAMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (103)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V QING CHUN MEN Voy NO (103) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-12-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W. Pt. 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 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to 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.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
M.Y.A FOR AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR MS INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Derailment disrupts subway service at midtown Manhattan

New York, 2 Dec — A subway train derailed in midtown Manhattan Wednesday morning, with no injuries reported, but 57 passengers were evacuated from the train, transit officials said.

Subway service along Sixth Avenue in midtown Manhattan was disrupted for a while. An investigation is underway, but transit officials said it appears the train derailed on a section of track that was improperly secured in replacement.

Fire officials reported a small fire and soon brought it under control. They said the fire was probably caused by sparks.

Power was initially shut down on nearby tracks, and trains were rerouted.

Some safety experts blame transit workers and transit officials said they hope service will be completely normal by the evening commute.

MNA/Xinhua

Women carrying multiple foetuses risk death

TORONTO, 2 Dec — Women pregnant with twins, triplets or quadruplets are at greater risk of serious health complications than are women carrying just one foetus, according to a Canadian study published on Wednesday.

Researchers at the Universities of Ottawa and Toronto, who studied 4.4 million records for obstetric deliveries in Canada, found that women who carry two or more foetuses are almost 13 times more likely to experience heart failure and more than twice as likely to develop clotting in the legs and lungs — both leading causes of maternal death. The findings published in this month’s British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology surprised the study’s lead author, Dr. Mark Walker, a scientist with the Ottawa Health Research Institute.

“These are young healthy women in the reproductive age window of 16 to 44 where you wouldn’t expect to see these health problems,” Walker told reporters.

“And the implications of this are two-fold. With women who have multiple gestations, we need to counsel them about these risks and be vigilant for them,” he said. “So if the mother has leg pain, shortness of breath or chest pain, our urgency to look into other problems should be increased.”

One obvious example is to consider administering blood thinners to women carrying multiple foetuses who are admitted rest bed, he said.

Although the study did not distinguish between natural pregnancies and in vitro fertilization, Walker said he hopes his study will send a message to fertility clinics responsible for an explosion in multiple pregnancies in recent years.

MNA/Reuters

New drug Clolar likely to help children, adults with cancer

CINCINNATI, Dec. 2 — Silver Spring, Maryland’s 2 — A panel of medical experts on Wednesday said Ilex Oncology Inc. new drug Clolar was “reasonably likely” to help children and young adults with cancer called acute lymphocytic leukemia.

The panelists also told the US Food and Drug Administration — which usually takes their advice when considering drugs for approval — that trial data were not sufficient to show improvements in another type of disease, acute myeloid leukemia.

Ilex is seeking expedited approval for Clolar to treat severe childhood cases of both acute lymphocytic leukemia and acute myeloid leukemia. Leukemia is the most common childhood cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

If the FDA ultimately approved Clolar, it would be the first leukemia drug cleared initially for children’s use in more than a decade, the FDA said at the meeting.

In a 9-6 recommendation vote, the experts said studies showed children and young adults with acute lymphocytic leukemia responded well to the drug.

But for the acute myeloid type of leukemia, noted 14-1, the research did not show enough of a benefit to recommend approval.

In both cases, panelists said they were concerned the results may have been affected by bone marrow transplants. Some patients received bone marrow transplants before the trial, while others left the study early to receive them.

“I think transplants are confusing the whole story,” said panelist Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg, a pediatrics professor at Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina.

The panel’s findings come ahead of Ilex’s pending merger with Genzyme Corp. Ilex holds the North American rights to the drug from New York-based BioInvision. Shares of Ilex were down nine cents to 24.77 US dollars after trading as low as 23.92 US dollars earlier, while Genzyme shares were down 25 cents to 55.76 US dollars, after trading as low as 54.70 US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore hosts Transplant Asia 2004 Meeting

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec — A medical event named Transplant Asia 2004 opened here on Wednesday to discuss the latest developments and share the best practices in the field of organ transplantation.

More than 500 delegates from around 40 countries are attending the meeting.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Dr. Balaji Sadashivan, Senior Minister of State for Information, Communications and the Arts, noted that one of the greatest challenges facing organ transplantation is the shortage of organs.

“More recently, living donor organ transplantation has become an important alternative to cadaveric organ donation,” he said.

He advocated the transplant community and community organizations to promote living related donor transplantation by ways of informing the public, using dialysis service to reduce end-stage organ failure and focusing on research.

MNA/Xinhua

Cingular to upgrade high-speed data network

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec — Cingular Wireless, the largest cellphone service provider in the United States, will upgrade its high-speed data network, allowing faster downloads than are now available on many home broadband connections, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

Cingular announced Tuesday that the upgrade will start at the end of 2005, and the network will be in place nationwide by 2006, according to the report.

The move will allow Cingular to keep pace with Verizon Wireless, the second-largest wireless phone company, which has the fastest data network, the report quoted industry analysts as saying.

Cingular did not say how much it would cost to upgrade its network. But industry executives said it could cost around one billion US dollars, though that figure did not include other enhancements to the underlying network that may cost the company significantly more.

In October, Cingular Wireless closed its acquisition of AT&T Wireless, creating the nation’s largest wireless company with 47 million subscribers.

Cingular said the acquisition gave it the additional radio spectrum necessary to deploy the high-speed network.

MNA/Xinhua

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 6th December (Monday) National Day 2004, and 7th December under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar
“Finding Neverland” named best film of 2004

New York, 2 Dec—“Finding Neverland”, a fictionalized account of the creation of children’s classic “Peter Pan”, was named best film of 2004 by The National Board of Review on Wednesday in the first major award of the Oscar season.

Oscar hopeful Jamie Foxx was named best actor for “Ray”, director Taylor Hackford’s film about legendary singer Ray Charles, while Annette Bening won the best actress award for her role as a 1930s stage diva in “Being Julia.”

The awards, voted on by about 150 members of a screening committee along with a 12-member board, were part of “a criminal smuggling disaster, which left 19 dead in a stifling truck trailer, were part of a wide network that abused illegal immigrants, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

“Finding Neverland” director Marc Forster, who was shopping in a supermarket store when he heard news of the award, said his film offered an optimistic tale of mortality and growing up.

“We live in very dark times right now,” he said, “and with sales figures of 176,090 registrations, the French Carmakers’ Committee (CCFA) announced in a statement on Wednesday.

New private car sales in France up 18% in November

PARIS, 2 Dec—New private car sales in France surged 18 per cent in November, with 176,090 registrations, the French Carmakers’ Committee (CCFA) announced in a statement on Wednesday.

The figure contrasts sharply with results from the latest three months when new private car sales increased only 2.2 per cent and with sales figures of last 11 months showing a decline of 0.4 per cent.

While sales of French-made cars increased 17.9 per cent with 101,406 registrations their market share to expect in the race for the Academy Awards in February, though frequently its choices are more esoteric than the Oscars.

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US film producer confirms making takeover bid for Liverpool

LONDON, 3 Dec—American-based film producer Mike Jefferies confirmed on Thursday that he may make a takeover bid for Liverpool football club.

L4 Group, a consortium led by Jefferies and lawyer Stuart Ford, said it had approached Hawkpoint, financial advisers to Liverpool, over a possible investment in or offer for the English Premier League club.

“These discussions are at an early stage and may or may not lead to an offer being made for Liverpool FC,” L4 Group said in a statement.

Jefferies, originally from Liverpool, has been working on a soccer film, “Goal!”, which is due to be released next year. This has prompted accusations that a bid for the club was just a publicity stunt to promote the movie.

But Jefferies, chairman of Milkshake Films, told the Daily Mirror newspaper on Saturday that his group was proposing a deal which could lead to as much as 100 million pounds (194 million US dollars) being invested in the soccer club.

“Liverpool have a good manager but they are failing behind,” Jefferies was quoted as saying.

Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United have taken a march on Liverpool in recent years and Jefferies thinks new manager Rafael Benitez needs extra funds to bridge the gap, while finance is also required to build a new stadium.

Jefferies’ bid to invest in Liverpool is the third this year after businessman Steve Morgan’s 70-million-pound offer was turned down and a bid from the Thai Government, which was later taken over by Thai media tycoon Paiboon Chatchaval, stalled.

L4 is being advised by Seymour Pierce. — MNA/Reuters

Trezeguet eager to start playing after 2-month absence

ROME, 2 Dec—Italian Serie A team Juventus striker David Trezeguet said on Wednesday that he was set to kick-start a ball after a two-month absence due to a shoulder injury, local media reported.

Speaking after completing rehabilitation on his left shoulder, Trezeguet said he was very well and keen to start playing with his teammates soon. The France striker, who has been out due to a shoulder injury, local media reported.

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Trezeguet’s return has been provisionally scheduled for the end of December. He is set to have a major check-up before Christmas.— MNA/Xinhua

Roddick may be key to US Davis Cup win

SEVILLE, 3 Dec—Three months ago, Andy Roddick swept Rafael Nadal 6-0, 6-3 in the second round of the US Open. Don’t expect it to be that easy when Roddick plays the 18-year-old Spaniard in the Davis Cup final Friday.

This time, the match is on clay. And Nadal will be cheered by an expected record crowd of 26,600 at Olympic Stadium.

“He has a lot of game,” Roddick said. “He hits the ball a ton, he’s very competitive, and in an atmosphere like this he is going to get the crowd going.”

Roddick and Nadal play the second singles match of the best-of-five series between Spain and the United States.

The host’s top player, 1998 French Open champion Carlos Moya, faces Olympic silver medalist Mardy Fish in the opener Friday.

“Hopefully I am going to win my match and give (Nadal) confidence, going on the court leading 1-0,” Moya said.

In Saturday’s doubles, twins Bob and Mike Bryan should have the edge over Nadal and Tommy Robredo.

In Sunday’s reverse singles, Nadal is slated to face Roddick, followed by Nadal vs Fish. The lineups for Saturday and Sunday can be changed up until one hour before the matches.

Walter Smith appointed Scotland manager

GLASGOW, 3 Dec—Former Rangers and Everton boss Walter Smith was appointed Scotland manager on Thursday.

The 56-year-old will be presented to the media at a news conference at 1300 GMT, the Scottish Football Association said. He replaces German Berti Vogts who resigned on November 1 after a series of poor results.

Smith won 13 trophies during his time as Rangers manager but was unable to repeat that success at English club Everton, who sacked him in 2002.

Scotland have made a poor start to their World Cup qualifying campaign, earning only two points from their first three games to lie fifth in Group Five.

Smith, who worked alongside fellow Glaswegian Alex Ferguson when he was Scotland manager briefly in 1986, faces a difficult task reversing the decline in Scotland’s fortunes.

He inherits an inexperienced squad and an angry set of supporters. Vogts quit citing “disgraceful abuse” including being spat at by supporters as the reason for his departure.

Two weeks ago Scotland, under caretaker manager Tommy Burns, were thumped 4-1 at home by Sweden in a friendly and their chances of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup in Germany are slim.

They trail group leaders Italy by seven points and their next qualifier is away to the Italians on March 26.

The last major tournament Scotland qualified for was the 1998 World Cup.

A trained electrician, Smith played for Dundee United in the 1960s and ’70s before moving into management. He was assistant to Jim McLean during United’s success in the 1980s, when they won the Scottish title and reached the European Cup semifinals.— MNA/Reuters

IBF to move head office to Kuala Lumpur

LONDON, 3 Dec—The extraordinary general meeting of the International Badminton Federation (IBF) has given the go-ahead to a move of its central office away from Britain for the first time in the 70-year history of the sport’s world ruling body.

The new host city for the IBF headquarters will be Kuala Lumpur, which beat the other three candidate cities including Busan (South Korea), London (England) and Lausanne (Switzerland), according to a Press release by the IBF on Wednesday.

The extraordinary general meeting held in Kuala Lumpur ratified the relocation to the Malaysian capital, which is expected to save nearly seven million US dollars over an eight-year period.

The special meeting also decided that a smaller satellite office should be established in Lausanne, home of the International Olympic Committee.

The IBF’s current office is located in Cheltenham, England, where it will remain until at least October 1, 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Smooth start: Lindsay Alcock of Canada competes during the European championships of skeleton in Altenberg, eastern Germany. — Internet
Foreign Minister U Nyan Win receives visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister

YANGON, 3 Dec—
Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received Vice Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China Mr. Wu Dawei, at his office, at 12.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Directors-General and responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Jinjun.

The PRC delegation included Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu, responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Li Jinjun, and staff of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar. The Chinese Vice Minister was accompanied by Deputy Director General Mr. Guan Mu and Deputy Director Mr. Chen Dehai of the Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After the call, the two Deputy Ministers held a meeting and had a friendly discussion on matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation. Present on the occasion were Directors-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible officials and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Li Jinjun.

In the evening, Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu hosted a dinner in honour of the Chinese delegation at Sedona Hotel.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu meets visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister

YANGON, 3 Dec—
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu received Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China Mr. Wu Dawei and party at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning.

The call was Directors-General and responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Jinjun.

The PRC delegation included Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu, responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Li Jinjun, and staff of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar. The Chinese Vice Minister was accompanied by Deputy Director General Mr. Guan Mu and Deputy Director Mr. Chen Dehai of the Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sri Lanka hosts int’l “IT” conferences

Addressing the opening ceremony, Hydre Alalueden, chairman of Sri Lankan Information Technology Federation, said ASOCIO ICT is a regional, high level forum that provides a platform for government and industry to exchange information, develop closer relationships and above all, identify new business opportunities.

Weather

Friday, 3 December, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Rakhine States and Yangon Division, (3°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were PyinOoLwin (5°C), Putoa and Haikha (6°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 2-12-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 3-12-2004 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-12-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 2-12-2004 was (5.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 3-12-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 were (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 5 mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 2-12-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay in Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-12-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan States and fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperatures in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-12-2004: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-12-2004: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of December 2004: During the coming weekend, weather will be fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win presses the button to unveil the signboard to open the first CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win greets foreign ministers and delegates to the Trade Fair-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win received Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia Mr Kuoch Ky, Laotian Commerce Minister Mr Soulivong Daravong, and Vietnamese delegation leader Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Quang Khon and party who attended the First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here this afternoon.

Also present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. Matters related to boosting economic cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar were discussed. — MNA