True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation wherever he lives to cultivate and possess strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to uphold and safeguard.

44th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament commences

YANGON, 17 Nov — A ceremony to open the 44th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament was held at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, here, at 3 pm today.

On behalf of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Administrative Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Assistant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an opening address at the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, Military Attachés of foreign missions in Myanmar, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Tatmadawmen and their families, guests and football fans.

The Secretary-1 declared the tournament open.

After the opening ceremony, Central Command team played against Tatmadaw (Navy), and the match ended with a goalless draw.

In the round robin series, Group A matches will be held in South-East Command Zone (Mawlamyine), Group B in South-West Command Zone (Pathein), Group C in North-West Command Zone (Monywa), Group D in Central Command Zone (Mandalay), and Group E in Southern Command Zone (Toungoo) from 21 to 30 November.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Actively take part in rural development tasks

Now is the time when the entire national people, under the correct leadership of the gov-
ernment, are striving for national development based on regional development. In doing so,
special priority is being given to construction of new roads and bridges to improve transport
infrastructure as development of the transport infrastructure is necessary for regional devel-
opment. Only with transport infrastructure development will education, health, social and
economic status of local people in each and every region be feasible.

The Langkho detour (Dahseik) in Langkho Township in Shan State (South) was
inaugurated on 5 November in Dahseik village. The Langkho detour is a major road that links Shan State (South) and Shan State (East). It is a macadam road six miles long and constructed at a cost of K 5.8 million. In addition to building the Langkho detour, the gov-
ernment has upgraded the 290-foot-long Dahseik suspension bridge into a reinforced concrete bridge. Therefore, it will facilitate transport and trade in the region.

To contribute to the agricultural work in Langkho Township and its surrounding areas, the Dahseik river water pumping sta-
tion has also been built. As a result, 136 acres of monsoon paddy were irrigated in the 2005-2006 cultivation season and plans are being made to be able to irrigate 3,400 acres of paddy in the 2006-2007 cultivation season.

Langkho Township can produce rice as well as such edible oil crops as groundnut, sesame oil and sunflower oil and its local consumption. Moreover, pigeon pea, cotton and sugar cane are thriving in the areas around the river water pumping station of Dahseik Model Village and the Namthig Creek. Langkho Township has favourable conditions for agriculture. And Langkho Township has a self-reliance hydroelectric power station, Dahseik Model Village, Namthok and Namthung villages are now electrified.

We would like to call on regional au-
thorities and local people not only of Langkho region as well as others to actively lend them-
selves to rural development tasks so that rural people can enjoy higher socio-economic status.

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Minister U Aung Thaung receives Malaysian,
Chinese guests

YANGON, 17 Nov — Minister for Industry-
U Aung Thaung received Senior Vice Presi-
dent Mr Jesper B Madsen and party of Malaysia-
based Carlsberg Breweries A/S, and General
Manager Mr LI Min and party of China
Texwatech Co Ltd at the hall of the ministry at 5 pm and 5.30 pm yester-
day separately.

They discussed matters related to the projects for textile mills at Pyaywwe and
Myittha in Mandalay Division.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Min-
ister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, directors-general
and managing directors of departments and enter-
prises.

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Peers of PERSPECTIVES

Actively take part in rural development tasks

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Lecture on AIDS preventive measures given

YANGON, 17 Nov — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held the talks on preventive measures against AIDS contagious disease at Thiri Okatha Hall in Bago on 13 November morning with an opening speech by Patron of Bago Division Organization for women’s Affairs Daw Sao Nwan Khon Sam.

Afterwards, officials from the health and education departments of Bago Division Organization for women’s Affairs gave a lecture on AIDS preventive measures.

Next, those present viewed the documentary photos on activities of di-
vision, districts and town-
ships organizations for women’s affairs.

The talks continued at No 5 Bago BEHS on 14 November.

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ships organizations for women’s affairs.

The talks continued at No 5 Bago BEHS on 14 November.
China, Germany vow to enhance judicial cooperation

BEIJING, 16 Nov — Chinese judicial branch will enhance its exchanges and cooperation with German counterparts in an effort to improve efficiency and promote Sino-German relations.

Luo Gan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, gave this remark in his meeting with Hans-Juergen Papier, president of the German Federal Constitutional Court here on Tuesday. Luo said Sino-German relations witnessed a sound development momentum along with expanding bilateral cooperation in political, economic and culture sectors.

“Such cooperation also exists between the judicial branches of the two countries, which has contributed to the growth of bilateral ties,” Luo acknowledged. China attaches importance to the vital role of law played in the economic development and social progress and will further increase the efficiency and fairness of judicial work, he said. Apart from basing itself on its own specific national conditions and experience, China will also absorb and learn from judicial experience of other countries, including Germany, Luo said.

Papier, who had come to visit China as guest of the Chinese Supreme People’s Court, agreed with Luo on his remarks concerning Germany-China relations, saying that the Federal Constitutional Court will step up its cooperation with Chinese judicial sector.

Afghan roadside bomb kills US soldier

KABUL, 16 Nov — One American soldier was killed and another wounded on Tuesday when their armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in southeastern Afghanistan, the US military said in a statement.

Two Afghan security men and a civilian were also wounded in the blast in Paktika Province, near the border with Pakistan, the statement said.

The wounded were in a stable condition, it said.

The explosion occurred while American troops were conducting an offensive operation against the militants, it added. More than 50 US soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan so far in 2005, one of the bloodiest years in an insurgency that has raged since US-led forces overthrew the Taliban government in 2001 for refusing to surrender al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Suicide bomb attack kills three Iraqi soldiers south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Nov — A suicide bomber attacked a military checkpoint south of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least three National Guards, a police source told Xinhua.

“Three National Guards were killed in the attack in the town of Mahmoudiya, some 30 kilometres south of Baghdad,” the source said, adding that seven people, including four National Guards and three civilians were injured. — MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu threat largely “exaggerated”

BUSAAN (South Korea), 16 Nov — As countries throughout the world are taking increasing measures to combat avian influenza, some South Korean scientists are arguing that the global leaders are too anxious about the disease, which is largely “exaggerated” by Western medical scientists.

Some pharmacologists in South Korea claim that all the threats of bird flu are “spurious” and that the world leaders’ efforts to contain the virus are stemming from lobbies of international drug manufacturers, The Korea Times newspaper reported Tuesday.

“Avian flu has developed into a big issue because Western drug makers are blackmailing for their own profits,” the newspaper quoted Ryu Kyo-hwan, professor of Chungbuk National University’s pharmaceutical college, as saying in a telephone interview.

He argued that bird flu occurs mostly at breeding farms where chickens and ducks have weak immune systems because they are always confined in a small space.

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APEC ministers meet on free trade, human security

BUSAN (South Korea), 16 Nov — The foreign and trade ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies met in South Korea’s southeastern port city of Busan on Tuesday, focusing on issues of pushing forward global free trade talks, anti-terrorism, measures against bird flu pandemic, and high oil prices.

During the two-day gathering, the APEC ministers will finalize the wording of statements to be submitted to APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting scheduled on 18-19 November. The statements were prepared by APEC senior officials at their two-day working-level meeting on 12-13 November.

On trade liberalization, the APEC leaders are expected to announce a statement promoting acceleration of the World Trade Organization’s Doha Development Agenda.

The Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, first introduced at the fourth WTO biannual ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar in 2001, have been stalled due to deep differences between the developed and developing members on market access, agriculture subsidies and tariff structures. The push by APEC leaders to keep the momentum going is seen as important because the region represents nearly half of the world trade. A WTO ministerial meeting will be held in Hong Kong next month.

UNSG rescinds decision to fire UN official over oil-food scandal

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Tuesday reversed his earlier decision to fire a UN official over the oil-food scandal programme after an internal disciplinary body ruled that the official did nothing wrong.

UN deputy spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters that a letter for this effect was sent to Josef Stephumont, who was the only UN employee fired outright for actions linked to the oil-food programme.

Okabe said the letter was signed by UN Under-Secretary-General for Management Christopher Burnham in the morning on behalf of Annan, who is presently at a UN Information Conference in Tunisia. — MNA/Xinhua

US mily refuses to probe into lion-cage abuse allegations in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 16 Nov — The US military said Tuesday that it will not formally probe into the allegations by two former Iraqi detainees that they were once thrust by US soldiers into a cage of lions in Baghdad.

US Army spokesman Paul Boyce said there will be no formal investigation, adding that he has never heard of lions being used in any detainee operations.

The two former detainees, Thabe Mohammed Sabbar, 37, and Sherzad Kamal Khalid, 35, are in the United States this week to talk about the lawsuit that the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights First filed on their behalf against Rumsfeld and other military officials. The two described a day in July 2003, when they were arrested by US troops with guns and armoured vehicles. They said they were covered with plastic hoods and repeatedly struck by soldiers using the butt of their guns.

They both described standing in front of a lion cage, and said they could hear other prisoners screaming as the metal cage door creaked open and slammed shut.

“They threatened that if I did not confess they would put me in the cage,” said Khalid, adding that US soldiers kept asking him where Saddam Hussein was.

Failing to give an answer, he was then pushed into the cage three times, but were pulled out as the lions moved toward him. Sabbar said he was also pushed into the cage. “The lions came running toward me and they (US soldiers) pulled me out and shut the door. I completely lost consciousness,” Boyce said.

They suffer continuing physical and psychological trauma, such as pain, ulcers, nightmares and insomnia. After the incident, Sabbar was held by US forces for six months, while Khalid was held for about two months.

Los Angeles once again dirty air capital in US

LOS ANGELES, 16 Nov — Los Angeles is once again the dirty air capital in the United States, a report said.

The second biggest US city actually has had fewer smoggy days this year than last, continuing a relatively steady three-decade trend toward cleaner air, the Los Angeles Times reported.

But Houston and the San Joaquin Valley of California, which in recent years rivaled and even surpassed Los Angeles as the smoggiest areas in the country, experienced exceptionally clean air this year.

As a result, the Greater Los Angeles region is again home to the worst smog in the United States, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s latest barometer for measuring air quality.

Air quality in Los Angeles and nearbycounties has exceeded the federal health standard for more than two and a half months this year, according to the Times report.

“It’s a tough job cleaning up the ozone at this point because there are not a lot of easy solutions to target,” Joe Cassmassi, an official of the region’s smog-fighting agency, was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Six more US service members die in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov — Five US Marines were killed in fighting with al-Qaeda-led insurgents near the Syrian border and an Army soldier died of wounds suffered in Baghdad, making Wednesday the second deadliest day for American forces in Iraq this month.

Eleven other Marines were wounded Wednesday in Obdek, 185 miles northwest of Baghdad, according to a New York Times reporter traveling with US forces.

A US Marine statement confirmed the five deaths but made no mention of wounded. The statement also said 16 insurgents were confirmed killed in the fighting. Elsewhere, a soldier from the Army’s Task Force Baghdad died Wednesday of wounds suffered the day before when a roadside bomb exploded northwest of the capital on the previous day, the US command said.

Three other soldiers were killed Tuesday in a roadside bombing in the same area. But it was unclear if the soldier who died Wednesday was injured in the same attack.

The six deaths made Wednesday the deadliest day for American forces in Iraq since 2 Nov, when seven service members died in four separate attacks. At least 51 US service members have already died in Iraq this month. — Internet

An Iraqi woman and a girl look out from a damaged house which was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Baquba on 16 Nov, 2005. — Internet
Bill Clinton calls Iraq ‘big mistake’

DUBAI, (United Arab Emirates) 16 Nov — Former President Clinton told Arab students Wednesday the United States made a “big mistake” when it invaded Iraq, stoking the partisan debate back home over with what was done,”

Clinton cited the lack of planning for what would happen after Saddam Hussein was overthrown.

“Saddam is gone. It’s a good thing, but I don’t agree Hussein was overthrown.

The American government made several errors ... one of which is how easy it would be to get rid of Saddam and how hard it would be to unite the country.” Clinton’s remarks came when he was taking questions about the US invasion, which began in 2003. His response drew cheers and a standing ovation at the end of the hour-long session.

Clinton said the United States had done some good things in Iraq: “We never sent enough troops and didn’t have enough troops to control or seal the borders.” Clinton said.

As the borders were sealed, “the terrorists came in,” he said. Clinton said it would have been better if the United States had left Iraq’s “fundamental military and social and police structure intact.”

Democrats are accusing President Bush of having misled the American public about the urgency of the Iraqi threat before his order to invade.

China, Spain agree to build comprehensive strategic partnership

MAWUN, 16 Nov — China and Spain have agreed to build a comprehensive strategic partnership to benefit the two nations and promote peace and development in the world, said a joint communiqué issued on Tuesday.

During his state visit to Spain on 13-15 November, Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with King Juan Carlos I and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on bilateral relations and international issues, reaching broad consensus.

China and Spain agreed that they should further strengthen ties of mutual trust, promote understanding and boost cooperation as international relations face profound changes and new challenges.

The bilateral ties have witnessed positive progress with broad prospects for cooperation in various fields since the two countries established diplomatic relations 32 years ago, said the communiqué.

Both sides hold that the international community should respond to threats and challenges within the framework of the United Nations and seek political solution to international disputes through negotiations and consultations.

A closer Sino-Spanish relationship should promote multilateralism to make it play an effective role in preserving world peace, security and stability, and ensuring a more just international order. Handling global issues including the fight against terrorism bilaterally and within the framework of the United Nations should also be promoted by the relationship.

Three US Marines killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Nov — Three US Marines were killed in separate attacks during combat actions of the ongoing Operation Steel Curtain in western Iraq near the Syrian border, the US military said on Tuesday.

Some 20 kilometres from the Syrian border on the banks of Euphrates River, “Approximately 50 terrorists are estimated to have been killed in sporadic but heavy fighting,” the statement said.

The statement said that the troops have cleared the nearby towns of Husaybah and Karabilah in earlier phases of the operation and permanent Iraqi-US presence has been established.

About 3,500 US and Iraqi soldiers participated in the Operation Steel Curtain, which began on 5 November, in the western al-Anbar Province, according to the US military.

Eight die in Nigeria’s stampede caused by fire

LAGOS, 16 Nov — Eight were killed and many others injured in a school stampede caused by a nearby carpenter workshop fire in the northern city of Kaduna, a government official told Xinhua on Tuesday.

The stampede occurred on Monday morning in the All Saints International College of the city while the school was in session, said the official from the State Information Ministry who requested anonymity.

“Unfortunately, the smoke (by the fire) got into the school,” the official said. “The students panicked and rushed out of the classrooms, some of them coming down using the stairs, some of them jumping out of the window,” he added.

Typhoon “Pepeng” to enter Philippines

MANILA, 16 Nov — The Philippine state weather bureau PAGASA on Tuesday said Typhoon Pepeng has entered the Philippine area and is threatening to bring rains over Surigao del Norte in Mindanao.

The typhoon was located at 330 kilometres south-southeast of Tokyo. — MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake hits Japan

HONG KONG, 16 Nov — An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale rocked east coast of Honshu of Japan at 3:26 am local time Wednesday, according to the Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicentre was initially determined to be 33.4 north Latitude, 141.3 east Longitude, about 300 kilometres south-southeast of Tokyo. — MNA/Xinhua

Eight were killed in separate attacks during combat actions of the ongoing Operation Steel Curtain in western Iraq near the Syrian border, the US military said on Tuesday.

Two US soldiers assigned to 2nd Marine Division were killed separately on Monday in action from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against guerrillas in Ubaydi, the military said in a statement. Another Marine from the same division died of wounds sustained from small arms fire during combat operations against guerrillas also on Monday, the military said in another statement.

The death toll has brought to about 2,070 the number of US military personnel who have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media reports.

US and Iraqi troops carried on their latest phase of a major offensive Operation Steel Curtain designed to uproot insurgents and establish a permanent security presence along the Syrian border, the US military said earlier. Early on Monday, US and Iraqi soldiers overran Ubaydi Town.

A German soldier from the NATO-led international peacekeepers keeps watch, along the road where two suicide attacks took place on Monday, in Kabul on 17 Nov, 2005. — Internet

This photo taken recently shows B-2 Stealth Bomber in flight. Australian authorities are investigating reports linking an Australian defence official with a US spy scandal involving the alleged sale of top-secret US stealth bomber technology to foreign powers... — Internet

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Goodwill that helps the blind recover sight

The photo shows eye patients in Kawkareik.

As a gesture of hailing the World Sight Day, a team from Yangon Eye Hospital, under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health, made a threeday trip to Kawkareik in Kayin State from 10 to 12 October to give free treatments to local people with eye problems. The team comprised Dr Aye Aye Khang, Dr Nilar Thein, Dr Hla Kathy, Dr Kathy Myint, Dr Saw Thwin Mon Thein, nurses and opticians led by Deputy Director (Treatment) Dr Kyee Myint of the Health Department and Professor Dr Kan Nyunt.

Everybody wants to have good sight. According to the experts, all over the world there are about 45 million blind people, and about 180 million people with poor eyesight. The number of the blind in the world is increasing by two million annually. So, the number of the blind will double by 2020. The World Sight Day is observed in world nations every year to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020. The Ministry of Health has been making all-out efforts to provide health care for the persons who look after the patients, and absence of persons on whom patients can rely. In order to solve all those problems at one stroke, ophthalmologists equipped with loving-kindness and compassion went to the places of eye patients, and collected the patients. And with the assistance and services contributed by wellwishers, the team members could do the job successfully.

The team arrived in Kawkareik, Kayin State, at about 4 pm on 10 October 2005. We members have made trips to many regions such as Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Magway Divisions. The Union of Myanmar is a diverse nation that has a fine tradition that all the national races have been living together. Now, many wellwishers and companies are donating cash and kind to the trips for free medical treatments. We thank all who have contributed towards our trip especially Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials who made arrangements for the trip.

With sufficient number of specialists, Kawkareik Hospital (100-bed) can provide health care for local people well. Thanks to necessary assistance provided by local authorities and Medical Superintendents Dr Win Zaw, we could start our operation early. We gave medical check-ups to 504 people, and performed free operations on 80 — 69 for cataract and 11 for minor operations. Among 504 people, 400 needed to wear eyeglasses.

The talks being given to eye patients in Kawkareik.

Despise the announcement offering free treatments, only about 100 people came for treatments the first day. However, the followings the first day.

Now, many wellwishers and companies are donating cash and kind to the trips for free medical treatments. We thank all who have contributed towards our trip especially Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials who made arrangements for the trip.

Dr Nilar Thein (Lin Yang Thit)

An eye specialist performs medical check-up on a patient.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin:

21-10-2005

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Township but also from nearby villages came to the camp to have their eyes checked. We were very happy to give medical treatments to local people. Some volunteers interpreted for us and local Kayin nationals. Our target was to perform operations on 100 people with cataract. Dr U Nyunt Maung of the trachoma and blindness control project and Medical Superintendent of Yangon Eye Hospital M Gaya Naw contributed medical equipment.

On 12 October, we cleaned the eyes of 80 operated patients, conducted eye tests, and provided them with sunglasses and eyedrop tubes. And we gave educative talks on Dos and Don’ts to them. They were very happy because they regained their sight.

Now, many wellwishers and companies are donating cash and kind to the trips for free medical treatments. We thank all who have contributed towards our trip especially Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials who made arrangements for the trip.

We team members pledge to step up our efforts to provide health care for the people in accordance with the three objectives of the World Sight Day.
Education sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of science and technology in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

The constant emergence of intellectuals and intelligentsia produced from the respective universities throughout the nation is a proof that there are newly emerged national strength which will serve the interests of the nation.

Nowadays, intellectuals and intelligentsia produced by over 150 undergraduate, postgraduate diploma, bachelor degree, masters degree and doctorate courses in the higher education, health and science and technology sectors are actively taking part in nation-building tasks.

Thanks to the endeavours made by these persons, 179 dams, 208 bridges with the length of 180 feet and above, 17 airports, over 1100 miles of railroad and over 45,000 factories have emerged.

Moreover, infrastructures in other sectors have also been built. These are the results achieved in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Awards presented by ASEAN Federation

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<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sector</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Bridge</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Architecture</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Individual/Organization</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Environment</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Individual/Organization</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Hydro power</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a gesture of honouring the endeavours made by Myanmar engineers who have been engaged in the national development tasks, the Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations presented outstanding awards to Myanmar.

The Conference of ASEAN Federation also presented awards to Myanmar for building dams and bridges magnificently, architectural triumph, excellence performance in the energy sector, implementing hydro power projects and preserving natural resources. Moreover, ASOClO summit presented awards and certificates of honour to individuals and organizations who dedicated themselves to development of ICT.

The table shows outstanding Myanmar engineers, awards presented by ASEAN Federation and participation of Myanmar intellectuals and intelligentsia in nation-building tasks in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Infrastructures built by Myanmar Engineers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dams</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dams for villages</td>
<td>771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>River water pumping station</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Power supply</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>16027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Railways</td>
<td>1159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>180-feet-above bridge</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Upgraded airport</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Basic education school</td>
<td>6778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>University, college</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Upgraded hospital</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awards and certificates of honour presented by ASOClO Summit.
**85th Anniversary National Day Objectives**

* To flourish and strengthen nationalist spirit and to ensure uplift of national prestige and integrity
* To promote national education
* Perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State
* To achieve success in realization of the seven-point Road Map

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**Sports Minister sees off Myanmar Football Team**

**Yangon, 17 Nov** — Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint saw off the Myanmar Football Team led by Deputy Leader of Myanmar Sports Contingent Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of Sports and Physical Education Department and Manager of the football team U Khin Maung Kyaw, who will participate in the XXIII SEA Games to be held in the Philippines, at the Yangon International Airport this morning.

The Myanmar Football Team comprises seven members of the management committee, 20 footballers, three observers, two media persons from sports journals and one medical officer from Myanmar Boxing Federation. — MNA

**Chinese goodwill delegation returns home**

**Yangon, 17 Nov** — The Visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and Vice-Chairman of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wang Zhaoguo, at the invitation of Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo, left here by air this morning.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, CEC member Thura U Aung Ko, officials of USDA Headquarters, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu and officials concerned. — MNA

**Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Meeting held**

**Yangon, 17 Nov** — The First Sub-group Meeting on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals commenced at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win presided over the meeting.

Participants took part in the discussions on cooperation in taking preventive measures of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals among BIMSTEC member countries.

Present at the meeting were 12 representatives from BIMSTEC member countries — Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The meeting continues tomorrow. — MNA

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**Education Minister receives Indian, Israeli Ambassadors**

**Yangon, 17 Nov** — Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and Israeli Ambassador Mrs Ruth Schatz called on Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyain at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road, here, at 9 am and 9.30 am separately today.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and Directors-General of departments under the ministry. — MNA

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**Donate blood**

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Yangon, 17 Nov — The coordination meeting on holding the 59th Anniversary Union Day took place at Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road here this evening, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were the deputy ministers, senior military officers, heads of department, and officials.

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe made a speech, saying that the State Peace and Development Council has set up the Central Committee and the Management Committee for holding the 59th Anniversary Union Day with political essence with a view to strengthening national consolidation. Arrangements should be made for holding the State flag hoisting ceremony, hosting the dinner, and presenting traditional dance. He stressed the needs for practising thrifty methods to minimize loss and wastage. In conclusion, the commander invited suggestions and discussions for organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day.

Next, the deputy ministers, senior military officials and heads of department joined in the discussions. The meeting ended with the closing remarks by Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe.

Yangon, 17 Nov — The coordination meeting on holding the 59th Anniversary Union Day was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road.

Yangon, 17 Nov — Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than inspected the repair to Min Ye Kyaw Thu Jetty yesterday morning. The deputy minister gave instructions on future plans. Next, he viewed the construction of a roll-off bridge at the jetty in Seikkyi Khaunagto. The managing director of the Myanmar Port Authority and the chief engineer (Civil) gave an account of work progress; and Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Ohn Han, with political essence with a view to strengthening national consolidation. Arrangements should be made for holding the State flag hoisting ceremony, hosting the dinner, and presenting traditional dance. He stressed the needs for practising thrifty methods to minimize loss and wastage. In conclusion, the commander invited suggestions and discussions for organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day.

Yangon, 17 Nov — A TV quiz will be held to commemorate the 58th Independence Day in conformity with the objectives of the 58th Independence Day on 28 and 29 December.

According to the sub-committee for organizing the 58th Independence Day Commemorative TV Quiz on 28 & 29 December, the quiz will be held on 28 December and the latter level TV quiz on 29 December. The winners will be awarded at the prize presentation ceremony to be held on 4 January, 2006.

Reference books for both levels are “Our heroic ancestors” (Volume I, II) by Emme Dainggya, “History of Burma Revolution” by Maj Ba Thaung (Maung Thuta) and “National development record during the Tatmadaw Government” (From 1988 to 12-2-2005) published by the Ministry of Information.

Yangon, 17 Nov — The second match in the Group J of the AFC Youth U-17 Championship Qualification Competition continued in Bangkok, Thailand, at 4 pm local time today.

Myanmar U-17 Football Team and host Thai U-17 Football Team played a 1-1 draw. In the 34th minute, Aung Kyaw Myo (8) scored the opening goal for Myanmar.

On 15 November, Myanmar youth team played against Maldives youth team in the first qualifier match. The former defeated the latter 12-0.

After the competition, Myanmar and Thai youth teams tied at equal points. Myanmar team could score 13 goals in two matches but Thai team netted 11 goals only. Due to difference in scoring the goals, Myanmar U-17 Team from the Group J was qualified for the championship.

The qualified Myanmar U-17 Team will arrive back here by air from Thailand at 9.15 pm tomorrow.

Yangon, 17 Nov — The opening of Myanmar branch of National Healthcare Group (Singapore) and Information Center in conjunction with the seminar on health took place at Sedona Hotel on 13 November, attended by Specialists, doctors and guests.

Professor Dr Saw Naing of Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon) presided over the seminar, and Dr Robert Lim of National University Hospital (NUH) Singapore and Dr Chia Kok Hoong of Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) Singapore gave talks on latest therapy.

General Manager Mr Kamalijeet Singh Gill of National Healthcare Group (Singapore) and Managing Director Dr Kyaw Win of Mascots Healthcare Co explained services for patients wishing to receive medical treatment in Singapore and replied queries raised by those present.

Ton Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), a second largest hospital in Singapore and National University Hospital (NUH) that links with medical institute are under the management of National Healthcare Group (Singapore).

Those wishing to receive medical treatment in these hospitals may contact Information Center No 33 B on Pyidaung Su Yeiktha Street in Dagon Township (Tel 09 99 70333). — H
Music industry launches new Internet piracy crackdown

STOCKHOLM, 17 Nov — The music industry’s top lobby group said on Tuesday it was launching new legal action against the sharing of files over the Internet, which it blames for hitting sales.

The International Federation for the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) said it was launching 2,100 legal cases and extending the action to five new countries in Europe, Asia and, for the first time, South America.

It said file-sharers in Sweden, Switzerland, Argentina, Hong Kong and Singapore faced prosecution for the first time.

“It’s the thinking of dinosaurs for anyone to believe that they can steal music after all the education and campaigns that we have had,” IFPI head John Kennedy told Reuters.

The group said it was taking further action against people who put music on the Internet, uploading, via peer-to-peer software, which allows others to download the files.

The group said actions, which are either civil complaints or criminal prosecutions, launched on Tuesday or brought recently took the total number of legal cases against uploaders to more than 3,800 in 16 nations outside the United States.

The legal action is part of a carrot-and-stick approach in the industry, which is promoting digital music services such as iTunes and Napster while prosecuting illegal file sharers.

Sales of digital music tripled in the first half of 2005, representing 6 per cent of the market, or about 790 million US dollars.

IFPI said actions so far had led to mostly young men between the ages of 20 and 30 paying fines of 3,000 US dollars or more.

The cases being launched in Sweden, Argentina, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore joined Austria, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Britain and the United States, it said.

IFPI said that in Argentina four out of 10 Internet users had unauthorized p2p services. In Singapore, the recording industry has filed 33 criminal complaints involving users of networks FastTrack and Gnutella, it said.— MNA/Reuters

Witness to be summoned to testify on US rape in Philippines

MANILA, 17 Nov — A key witness, the driver of the van where the alleged rape of a Filipina by six US Marines took place is set to be summoned on Thursday by Philippine authority to shed light on the incident in Suhic Bay, a former US naval base.

The driver named Timoteo Sariano, who has reportedly gone hiding after receiving threats to his life, will be summoned by the Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement, Xinhua learned from the senate on Wednesday.

In the hearing, the committee will review the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), particularly the criminal provisions on custody, preliminary investigation, bad and trial.

However, details about the testimony were not available immediately. The committee was co-chaired by senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago and representative Antonio Cuenco, specialized to monitor activities and legal affairs in the framework of VFA between the US and Philippine governments.

The alleged rape happened on 1 November has aroused anti-American sentiments in the Philippines and brought the VFA under fire for giving privileges to the US military conducting exercises in the country.

Soriano had modified his earlier statement that the victim was gang raped, denying that he never witnessed the supposed rape. Meanwhile, he said that he was forced by police investigators to sign the modified affidavit.

MNA/Xinhua

Boy dies on school caving trip in Yorkshire

LONDON, 17 Nov — A 14-year-old boy died on a school caving trip in North Yorkshire, a council spokesperson said.

The boy, from Todcaster Grammar School, was pronounced dead in Harrogate Hospital on Monday night after a rescue team had recovered him from a cave.

He had been with around 100 other pupils on the first day of a week-long stay at a council-run outdoor centre at Bewerley Park in the Yorkshire Dales.

During the afternoon the boy had gone with 10 others to a nearby cave known as Manchester Hole, where the spokesperson said was used as an introduction to caving.

“There was an incident in the cave”, he said, after which a local search and rescue team was alerted.

Harry Long of Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue said he was called at around 4:15 pm “I was told that one of the party had gone down this cave and failed to reappear and that floodwater had entered a part of the cave that they had been in,” he told BBC television.

“It was a case of locating this unfortunate lad and making certain we could do all we could for him before bringing him back to the surface.”— MNA/Reuters

Anti-tank mine blast kills 14 Cambodians

PISSEK PEOUH, 17 Nov — At least 14 Cambodian villagers were killed when the truck in which they were travelling hit an anti-tank mine left over from Cambodia’s civil war, police said on Wednesday.

The vehicle, which was ferrying villagers back from rice fields, hit the mine in the northern province of Oddar Meanchey — a former stronghold of Pol Pot’s ultra-Communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Thirteen of the villagers died instantly in the accident, which happened on Sunday. Another victim died later of his wounds.

“If they had gone home the same way, they would have been fine,” Oddar Meanchey deputy police chief Chhim Sothy told Reuters by telephone. “But they didn’t. They came home a different way.” Cambodia’s northern border regions are littered with millions of landmines, the legacy of nearly 30 years of fighting, which only came to an end with the final surrender of the remnants of Pol Pot’s forces in December 1998.— MNA/Reuters

Survey shows Dutch healthcare skilled but impersonal

BRUSSELS, 17 Nov — Most Dutch people believe the country’s healthcare is professional but also expensive and impersonal, showed a survey published recently.

The 1,300 people who took part in the Healthcare Monitor 2005, conducted by Newcom Research & Consultancy, gave Dutch healthcare an average score of 6.5 out of 10.

A slight majority, 52 per cent, expressed a lot or high confidence in the healthcare system, while 21 per cent had little or no faith in it.

Yet 91 per cent of the total said medical services in the Netherlands were reliable and 76 per cent felt the care afforded is of a high quality.

Only one third of the respondents said healthcare was affordable. Other negative aspects include impersonal service, 60 per cent, and lack of customer service, 57 per cent.— MNA/Xinhua
**S Korean, Russian FM’s discuss Putin’s upcoming visit to S Korea**

The right time when the Tanzanian people are highly in
Ministry, told Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Yu
permanent secretary of the Tanzania Agriculture
party, made a seminar on the occasion of the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, according to a Press release obtained Wednesday.
Both ministers were of the view that Putin’s visit to South Korea will contribute to deepening the mutually trustful and comprehensive partnership agreed between the two countries during South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun’s official visit to Russia last September. Both ministers also agreed to continue to closely cooperate.

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**Two rockets hit Kabul**

Two rockets exploded Tuesday night in the Afghan capital Kabul, but left no casualties, a local official said Wednesday.

"Two rockets exploded in area last night at about 9 pm but fortunately left no casualties," Interior Ministry spokesman Yusuf Stanikzai told Xinhua.
The first rocket slammed into a food selling shop at District 1 while the second rocket landed on Shashdarak area damaging slightly a mosque, he said. The strategically important Shashdarak, which houses several departments of National Security Directorate, is close to the Headquarters of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the fortified US Embassy as well as Presidential Palace. Both the rockets, the spokesman said, were fired from Sahak area southeast of the city. — MNA/Xinhua

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**China donates agricultural machinery to Tanzania**

The Chinese Government on Tuesday donated 141 million Tanzanian shillings (123,615 US dollars)’ worth of agricultural machinery to its Tanzanian counterpart.
The agricultural machinery included three heavy-duty tractors with their implements, seven power machinery also confirmed participating in such economic fields as natural resources and energy, and space technology.

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**Four killed, four injured in suicide attack in S Afghanistan**

A suicide attacker driving a Corolla car crashed against the convoy of US and Afghan National Army (ANA) and detonated the bomb in the car just now in the Dorah area of the city. The Corolla and one of the US land-cruiser were totally damaged," Asadullah Khalid, the provincial governor told Xinhua.

"The attacker and three construction workers nearby were killed, four other local persons were injured. Fortunately the land-cruiser was bullet-proof, so the US soldiers in the car were unhurt," Mohammad Nasim, the spokesperson of the governor of Kandahar told Xinhua.

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**Earthquake jolts Taiwan, no reports of damage**

An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale rocked eastern Taiwan on Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, officials said. The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 5.14 pm (0914 GMT), was about 26 kilometres (16 miles) east of Taitung County on the eastern coast at a depth of 125 kilometres, the Central Weather Bureau said in a statement.
Earthquakes occur frequently in Taiwan, which lies on a seismically active stretch of the Pacific Basin. One of Taiwan’s worst quakes occurred in September 1999. It measured 7.6 on the Richter Scale and killed more than 2,400 people. — MNA/Reuters

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**Two killed, 12 injured in Nepal’s road accident**

At least two people were killed and 12 others were injured Wednesday morning when a jeep met with an accident at Nepal’s Salyana Ghumi, a bordering area between western Palpa and Arghakhanchi districts, a local police office said in a statement. Driver of the jeep and a passenger of the jeep were killed in the accident, the statement said. The jeep which was carrying passengers more than its capacity, was on its way to Tansen of Palpa District, from Pokhara of Arghakhanchi District, when the incident occurred — MNA/Xinhua
Nepal herbs fair attracts many exhibitors

KATHMANDU, 16 Nov—As many as 7,000 people visited the three-day Nepal herbs fair which ended on Tuesday.

The first Nepal herbs fair has been organized with a view to introduce Nepal’s herbs at the national and international level while promoting their conservation.

During the three-day exhibition, herbs and herbal products from four countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) were on display.

The fair held between November 12-15 is a fresh attempt to raise awareness among people to preserve herbs, showcase latest development in herbal production as well as promote trade in the long run, Madhukar Thapa, general secretary of the Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association told reporters.

Though Nepal is considered to be one of the richest countries in biodiversity in the region, it lacks proper mechanism on herb research and development as well as conservation.

Nepal is blessed with a unique topographical status and its rich biodiversity is home for some of the world’s most endangered herb species. According to Nepal Overseas Trade Statistics Report, global trade of herbs is estimated at 420 million US dollars per year, whereas Nepal’s share is less than 1 per cent.

Nepal produces about 40 metric tons of herbs and peripheral products from 188 different species annually, but share of herbs in its total export is still very nominal, according to Thapa.

Lack of spares forces Iran Air to ground 5 planes

TEHRAN, 16 Nov—Iran’s national carrier, Iran Air, said on Tuesday it had been forced to ground almost one-third of its fleet of Airbus passenger planes because US sanctions had prevented it from securing spare parts.

Washington agreed in March to ease its tough sanctions and allow some civilian aircraft parts sales to the Islamic state in support of a European Union package of incentives aimed at persuading Teheran to abandon its atomic programme.

But the EU talks with Iran have since broken down and there have been no reports of any aircraft parts being sold to Iran under this case-by-case waiver.

“We have grounded five Airbus out of 16 because we are unable to purchase the engines,” said Malek Barzegar-Sedigh, Iran Air spokesman. Airbus engines are US-made.

He accused Washington of putting passenger safety at risk.

“The country which boasts more than any other country about human rights endangers many invaluable lives by resorting to such political measures.”

Unable to buy new aircraft or spares from the West, Iran has supplemented its fleet of Boeing Co and Airbus planes with aircraft from former Soviet Union countries.

Iran has a poor airline safety record, according to air safety experts. Some foreign companies operating in Iran discourage their employees from taking certain types of aircraft on internal routes or using Iran Air for international flights.

Barzegar-Sedigh said Iran Air had formed a Counter-Sanctions Committee charged with finding ways to get around the sanctions and obtain spare parts.

US sanctions on Iran do allow for the sale of spare parts related to the safety of civilian aircraft — but only if the aircraft themselves are of US origin. At the same time they bar the export of any US parts to Iran which would constitute more than 10 per cent of the value of the finished product.

Bangladesh police detain 10 for attack on judges

DHAKA, 16 Nov—Bangladesh police detained 10 more people on Tuesday, including a teacher in an Islamic school, on suspicion of involvement in the killing of two judges in a bomb blast, a police officer said on Tuesday.

Authorities believe Islamist militants, who have carried out a wave of bombings in the country this year, were behind the attack on the judges in the coastal town of Jhalakathi, 155 miles south of the capital Dhaka.

Two men were detained at the scene, including a dropout from a madrasa, or an Islamic religious school, who was wounded in the blast.

On Tuesday, police raided a house in Jhalakathi and seized explosives and bomb making materials. Ten people were detained from different parts of the town, including a teacher from the local madrasa.

“The house was used as a den of Islamist militants at Jhalakathi town,” the police officer said.

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Sewage pollutants cause male fishes to bear eggs

LOS ANGELES, 16 Nov—Male fish with ovary tissue and eggs have been found in the ocean water near Los Angeles, and scientists said on Monday that sewage released offshore with hormone-disrupting compounds are deforming the sex organs of marine life.

Eleven male bottom-dwelling fish out of 64 caught near Los Angeles County had ovary tissue in their testis. Two-thirds of male turbot and sole caught near Orange County’s sewage outfall had egg-producing proteins, according to three studies.

Other studies found more signs of feminized fish in the same ocean areas, scientists said. And when males were exposed in a laboratory to collected ocean sediment, all of them developed female egg proteins. Dan Schlenk, an aquatic ecotoxicologist at the University of California, Riverside, said it is clear that the ocean floor at the sewage outfalls is contaminated with estrogenic compounds that are feminizing fish. But effects on the overall health and abundance of fish populations and the rest of the marine ecosystem are unknown.

Schlenk, co-author of two studies, told the Los Angeles Times whether the estrogenic activity affects populations of the animals is “still a question to answer”.

Every day nearly 3.8 billion litres of treated wastewater from an area that includes about nine million people are discharged into deep waters off southern Californian coast via three long undersea pipelines. Sewage effluent contains dozens of natural and man-made chemicals that can alter animal hormones, scientists said.

The wastewater is filtered and processed, but many contaminants remain and settle into ocean sediment, where they are consumed by bottom-feeding organisms. Excessive amounts of estrogens or estrogen mimics can create so-called intersex animals with both male and female genitals. Previously, scientists have shown that some fish with the altered organs were infertile.

The effect on humans is largely unknown and unproven, though some studies have linked hormone-mimicking chemicals to reduced sperm counts, altered genitalia in baby boys and premature puberty in girls.

Southern Methodist University paleontologist Michael Polcyn, right, talks about Dallasaurus turneri, left front, at the Dallas Museum of Natural History, on 15 Nov, 2005, in Dallas. The prehistoric lizard in front is being described as an important link in the evolution of mosasaurs, background, what some call the T Rex of the ocean. — INTERNET

Birthplace of Chinese film seeks place in “Guinness Book”

BEIJING, 16 Nov—A century-old movie house in Beijing has filed documents to apply for listing in the Guinness Book of World Records for its pioneering film screening business.

One hundred years ago, Ren Jingfeng, owner of a photo shop shot and screened China’s first film, featuring performances of the Beijing Opera in the Daguanlou Theatre. In the last century, the movie house witnessed the earliest staging of Chinese silent films in 1905 and sound films in 1927. In 1960, Daguanlou was renovated into the first cinema in Beijing for wide-screen three-D films.

Wang Zhanyou, general manager of the cinema, said that Daguanlou sustaining business for a century was one of the world’s oldest cinemas, which has experienced different stages of development of the Chinese film industry. “The cinema has huge historical and commercial value,” he said.

Daguanlou is undergoing a thorough renovation to fully restore its original appearance featuring the architecture of Qing Dynasty (1368-1644), with indoor decoration being modern, he said.

China renovates world’s oldest irrigation project

CHENGDU, 16 Nov—China began renovating its 2,261-year-old irrigation system in Dujiangyan City in southwest China’s Sichuan Province on Tuesday, at a cost of 120 million yuan (14.8 million US dollars).

About 1,120 specific projects around the irrigation system will be finished during the renovation, the most in history, said Zhang Kaiyong, an official with the Dujiangyan Administration Bureau.

Built in 256 BC, the irrigation system has undergone annual dredging and maintenance, a rule established by its builder Li Bing, an official of the Qin Kingdom during the Warring States period (475 B.C.-221 BC).

At present, the system still irrigates 672,600 hectares of farmland and provides water for daily use and industrial purposes for people and enterprises in 50 large and medium-sized cities in Sichuan Province.

Officials from the local water resources bureau said annual renovation to the irrigation system has efficiently prolonged the life of the ancient system and also helped clean up the riverbed’s silt.

Dujiangyan was included on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2000.

Japanese princess weds govt employee

TOYOKO, 16 Nov—After a year of traditional preparations and rites, Japanese Princess Sayako and Tokyo metropolitan government employee Yoshiuki Kuroda married on Tuesday.

Through the wedding with Kuroda, 40, a commoner, the 36-year-old princess has to relinquish her royal title as stipulated by the Imperial House Law. It is the first wedding in 45 years for a reigning emperor’s daughter.

About 30 people from the both families attended the Shinto-style wedding ceremony at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, which has no relation to the imperial family. The princess, also a former part-time bird researcher, is the last of the emperor’s three children to marry.
**SPORTS**

**Baxter quits as S African coach**

**JOHANNESBURG, 17 Nov** — Briton Stuart Baxter has quit as coach of the South African national team on Tuesday after failing to steer his squad to the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Raymond Hack, chief executive of the South African Football Association (SAPA), confirmed Baxter’s resignation on Tuesday, the SAPA news agency reported.

The Englishman, whose contract had eight months to go, quit two months before South Africa are due to go to the 2006 World Cup finals in Egypt.

Hack said Baxter had handed in his letter of resignation while saying he was not happy with the environment in which he was working in.

“I can confirm that Stuart has resigned as the national team coach and will not be taking the squad to the African Cup of Nations next year,” he said.

Under Baxter, South Africa was winless in nine matches, and squandered a three-point lead with three matches to play to finish third in the group.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**Japan edge Angola 1-0 in friendly**

**TOKYO, 17 Nov** — Japan just managed to end their year on a winning note with a 1-0 victory over fellow World Cup qualifiers Angola at Tokyo’s National Stadium on Wednesday.

Substitute midfielder Daikuke Matsui helped coach Zico live up to his “lucky” tag with a headed goal in the 90th minute.

Japan got off to the brighter start with striker Naohiro Takahara going close with a chested shot down the line and volley in the sixth minute before hitting the bar twice.

In the 11th minute, Takahara rose well at the far post to head firmly against the woodwork and 16 minutes later some fine work by left wing back Alessandro Santos set up the striker for a sharp left-foot volley that also crashed against the bar.

The Angolans gained confidence as the game wore on with Figueredo pulling the strings alongside his Vazrim club teammate Mendonca, but they struggled to find the target.

Angola’s best chance came in the second minute of the second half when captain Akwa unleashed a powerful 25-metre shot that Japan goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi did well to turn away for a corner.

They could not match the Japanese for control of the ball and this greater possession paid off in the 90th minute.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Late Piechna strike earns Poland 3-1 win over Estonia**

**WARSAW, 17 Nov**— A debut goal from striker Grzegorz Piechna three minutes from time earned a second-string Poland side a 3-1 win over Estonia in a friendly on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Piechna, leading scorer in this season’s Polish championship, unleashed a powerful shot into the top corner to seal victory after earlier goals from freekicks by Mariusz Lewandowski and Sebastian Mila.

A defensive error by Arkadiusz Glowacki in the 68th minute proved Estonia to reduce the deficit but Poland were always in control as they continued preparations for next year’s World Cup finals. With most of his first-choice squad returning to their clubs after Sunday’s 3-0 win over Ecuador in Barcelona, coach Pawel Janas took the opportunity to try out players based in Poland and Russia.— **MNA/Reuters**

**Riquelme leads Argentina to 3-0 win over Qatar**

**DOHA, 17 Nov** — Argentina scored three goals in four minutes midway through the second half to beat Qatar 3-0 in a friendly international on Wednesday.

The former world champions dominated possession but it took until the 70th minute for midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme to put them ahead. Substitute Julio Cruz doubled the lead a minute later and Roberto Ayala added a third.

For Argentina coach Jose Pekerman it was the ideal response to the 3-2 defeat by England in Geneva on Saturday, although he said he was impressed with the Qatari players.

Pekerman brought in Daniel Bilos and Barcelona’s Lionel Messi to the starting line-up, and both posed a constant threat in the first half as Qatar’s defence, marshalled by centre-back Bilal Mohamed and Abdulla Koom, held firm.

However, it was the introduction of Inter Milan striker Cruz, Real Zaragoza defender Gabriel Milito and Carlos Tevez in the second half that proved decisive.

Riquelme, who impressed against England, fired the first salvo before Cruz and Ayala knocked the stuffing out of the side who were eliminated in the first round of the Asian World Cup Qualifying campaign.

Qatar’s Bosnian coach Djemaludin Musovic said he was happy with his team’s performance.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Venables interested in Irish coaching post**

**LONDON, 17 Nov**— Terry Venables admitted on Tuesday he would be interested in taking over as manager of the Republic of Ireland.

The 62-year-old has emerged as the favourite to succeed Brian Kerr but has yet to hold talks with the Football Association of Ireland.

He said: “I’ve been offered quite a lot of positions. But if something came up that was special, like Ireland which is international, it may be interesting.”

A number of other high-profile names have been linked with the vacancy.

The FAI has been on the lookout for a new manager since deciding not to renew Kerr’s contract four weeks ago. Venables has the experience the FAI are looking for, having managed Spurs and Barcelona among others, although in the last four years his only time in football has been an ill-fated nine months with Leeds.— **MNA/Xinhua**

**Diana salvages draw for Italy against Ivory Coast**

**ROMA, 17 Nov** — A late goal by Aimo Diana salvaged a 1-1 draw for Italy in their friendly against the Ivory Coast in an international friendly in Geneva on Wednesday.

Italy looked on the verge of their first defeat in 15 matches after Chelsea striker Didier Drogba put the African side ahead in the 69th minute, bringing down a low ball before lashing it into the net.

With four minutes remaining a Gianluca Zambrotta cross bounced through the defence for Sampdoria midfielder Diana to poke in the equaliser at the far post.

Diana almost gave the Azzurri a dramatic late winner when he forced Ivory Coast keeper Barry Boubacar to scoop a shot off the line in stoppage time.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Greece edge Hungary 2-1 in lacklustre friendly**

**ATHENS, 17 Nov** — Greece beat Hungary 2-1 in a low-key friendly on Wednesday when most of the cheers were reserved for coach Otto Rehhagel who renewed his contract with the European champions earlier in the week.

Stelios Giannakopoulos put the Greeks ahead in the 31st minute, tapping in a perfect cross from Dimitris Salpingidis after a surging run down the left wing.

Hungary equalized through a Krzysztof Keneesi penalty in the 77th minute after Tamas Hajnal was felled by Sotiris Kyrgiakos but Pantelis Kafeas sealed the win for the hosts with a low drive shortly before the final whistle.— **MNA/Reuters**

**Fernando Gonzalez of Chile hits a shot to Mariano Puerta of Argentina in the Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai, China on 16 Nov, 2005; Gonzalez defeated Puerta 6-3 4-6 6-0.** — **INTERNET**

**Denmark’s Jonas Kamper (L) and Alexander Sheshukov of Russia battle for the ball during the second play-off match for the U-21 European Championships in Copenhagen on 16 Nov, 2005. Denmark won the first match 1-0.** — **INTERNET**
UNSC calls for strong global response to intolerance

United Nations, 17 Nov — The growing scourge of intolerance demands a global response based on mutual understanding and respect, United Nations officials said on Wednesday in commemoration of the International Day of Tolerance.

“In a world of intense economic competition, shifting populations and shrinking distances, the pressures of living together with people of different cultures and different beliefs from one’s own are very real,” UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in his commemorating message.

The resultant backlash is evident in the rise of xenophobia and extremism across the globe and demands our strongest response, Annan stated, asserting that the need for tolerance is greater today than at any time in the UN’s past.

He stressed the importance of individual initiative in building a culture of tolerance in addition to increase legal protection and education, and noted that tolerance cannot simply mean “passive acceptance of other peoples’ perceived peculiarities”.

Instead it must involve “an active effort by all of us to learn more about each other, to understand the wellsprings of each other’s differences, to discover what is best in each other’s beliefs and traditions. Only through such a process of discovery can we come to realize that what binds us as human beings is far stronger than what divides us men”, he said.

The director-general of the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO), Koichiro Matsuura, also issued a statement to mark the day. — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 17 November, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kayin State, isolated in Kachin and Shan States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (6°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan State, upper Sagra, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and (3°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (5°C) above normal in Mon State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (5°C) and Mindat (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hpa-an (0.67 inch).

Maximum temperature on 16-11-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 17-11-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-11-2005 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 16-11-2005 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-11-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (102.60) inches at Mingaladon, (101.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (106.46) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (13:15) hours MST on 16-11-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-11-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Rakhine States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of light rain in the extreme southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-11-2005: Partly cloudy.

**Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe opens Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Track & Field Competitions**

YANGON, 17 NOV — The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Track and Field Competitions was opened today at Aung San Stadium here.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe delivered an opening address.

In his address, he called on athletes to compete in the Track and Field Competitions with patriotic spirit to be able to raise standards of sports.

A high standard of sports is a national pride, he added. Therefore, in an effort to raise the standard of sports, the Government set up Ministry of Sports in 1996, Myanmar National Olympic Council in 1997 and Myanmar National Olympic Committee in 1999 and have been providing necessary assistance.

The outstanding athletes have been honoured with valuable prizes for their achievements in international competitions, and people have encouraged sportsmen.

The commander opened the competitions.

After the opening ceremony, the commander and guests enjoy competitions of athletes in the women’s 10,000-metre race event, the men’s pole-vault jumping event, the women’s long jump event, and the men’s 10,000-metre race event took place today.

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**Steel beam installed at Pyapon Bridge at final stage**

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**Weather forecast for 18-11-2005**

Isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

The Ministry of Health has been arranging trips of eye health care teams to far-flung areas to give free medical treatments to local people with eye problems.

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**INSIDE**

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