Senior General Than Shwe attends coordination meeting (1/2008) of Special Projects Implementation Committee

The number of dams and reservoirs has reached 216 and the number of riverwater pumping projects 322 across the country.

Normally, the ministry concerned is to implement the projects with the approval of the government. However, in the time of our government it would not be appropriate to do things in an ordinary way in building the nation which had lagged behind in development. It needs speedy implementation of the special projects beneficial to the State. As a lot of funds are being involved due the nature of such projects, the Special Projects Implementation Committee comprising members of the SPDC and ministers has been formed in order to implement the special projects with its permission.

(See page 8)

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

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

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
FOOTBALL: Players of Ulsan Hyundai Club of the Republic of Korea and Malaysian National Team tussling the ball in the match of Group (B) in Third Grand Royal Challenge Cup 2008 at Youth Training Centre (Thuwanna), on 14 November evening. The football match ended in a 1-1 draw.

NLM

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 15 November, 2008

Build biogas digesters for rural development

In an effort to bring about rural development, the government is striving for better transport, development of health and education sectors and acquisition of potable water, thereby contributing to enhancing the living standard of rural people.

Nowadays, some villages are generating electricity with the use of biogas digesters. Biogas is being produced through processing of organic matters.

Biogas is used in cooking, storm-lantern and power generation. It is learnt that biogas can be produced by using animal dump such as cow dung, pig and poultry droppings as well as leaves, straws, maize stalks and sesame stalks as raw materials after putting them into digesters.

At present, biogas digesters are being built by the Technological University (Kyaukse). As a result, altogether 130 villages of Mandalay Division, Sagaing Division, Magway Division and Shan State are generating electricity with the use of biogas digesters.

Firewood, charcoal, fuel and electricity can be saved by using biogas. Moreover, bio-overflows can be used extensively in the agriculture. Therefore, biogas digesters contribute a lot to improvement of the socio-economic life of rural people.

SHINE to hold seminars and workshops

YANGON, 14 Nov — The SHINE Universal Services, an educational service organization, will hold seminars and workshops of some educational institutions of Singapore in November.

The SHINE and SAA training school of Singapore will jointly organize the seminar on CAT, ACCA and accounting subjects on 19 November. Moreover, another seminar on engineering, electrical, electronic, mechatronic and MBA subjects will be jointly conducted on 22 November by the SHINE and Tyndale Educational Group of Singapore.

The SHINE is making arrangements for the workshop entitled “Excel in Your Job Interview” to be held by Mr Ong of Singapore on 29 and 30 November. — MNA

Special weather report

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov — The cyclonic storm over the Southwest Bay of Bengal has further intensified and continued to move slowly North-westwards. According to the observation at (4.30 p.m.) MST today, it is centered at about (240) miles Northeast of Chennai at East Coast of the Republic of India and forecast to move slowly North-westwards and cross Pechoa Coast of East of the Republic of India next 24 hours.

MNA

Directorate of Trade to organize Export/Import Procedures Course No. 34

YANGON, 14 Nov – Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce will organize Export/Import Procedures Course No. 34 at Directorate of Trade (Yangon Office) on Strand Road in December.

Those wishing to take the course may enroll at the administration division of the Directorate of Trade (Yangon Office) and the opening date will be announced soon. — MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov – The two-member Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing arrived back here by air yesterday after attending the 5th China-ASEAN Prosecutors General Conference held in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines from 11 to 13 November.
Civilian cargo aircraft crashes in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Nov — A cargo plane chartered by FedEx crashed Thursday west of Baghdad after reporting a malfunction, the US military said. It ruled out hostile fire and said the crew was presumed dead.

The Russian-made An-12 plane with up to seven crew members—none of them American—was flying from al-Asad air base to Baghdad International Airport when it lost radio contact and crashed around 11:35 am, the military said.

The crash happened south of Fallujah, where insurgents once held sway. The military said mechanical failure or pilot error was the likely cause, but declined to elaborate. The military also secured the crash site.

“It looks like everybody was lost but I can’t confirm that. The investigation will determine that,” US military spokesman Capt Charles Calio said.

In a statement, FedEx said it was aware that an aircraft operated by one of its contractors to carry FedEx Express cargo could not be located on radar and had been out of radio contact since 10:45 am.

Up to 12 die as US drone fires missiles into Pakistan

MIRANSHAH (Pakistan), 14 Nov — US drones fired at least three missiles into Pakistan’s Waziristan tribal region on Friday, killing up to 12 people including five foreigners, government and paramilitary officials said.

The attack targeted a remote village on the border between North and South Waziristan in an area known as a hotbed of al Qaeda and Taliban support.

“We have reports that 12 people were killed, including five foreigners,” a paramilitary official told Reuters by telephone from the area.

Kurd-Arab tensions may threaten Iraq calm

MOSSUL, 14 Nov — In battle-scarred Mosul, Kurds and Arabs trade accusations rooted in ethnic rivalry and a battle for oil and power that many fear threaten security in Iraq.

Kurds make up about a quarter of Mosul’s residents and represent a powerful minority in this northern Iraqi city still shaken by car bombs and assassinations.

The army in Mosul is mainly Kurdish, which angers Kurds make up about a quarter of Mosul’s residents and represent a powerful minority in this northern Iraqi city still shaken by car bombs and assassinations.

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The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

British reaches 300 after two Marines die in blast

LONDON, 14 Nov — Two Royal Marines whose deaths brought the number of British servicemen and women killed in Afghanistan and Iraq to 300 were victims of an explosion that hit their new Jackal armoured vehicle, defence sources said yesterday.

The marines died in a roadside bomb blast on Wednesday evening when they were patrolling with Afghan soldiers in the Garmsir district of Helmand Province. The area is often described as the gateway to the Pakistan border.

In further violence yesterday a suicide bomber attacked a US military convoy in a crowded market in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least seven civilians and an American soldier.
Four Al-Qaeda militants killed in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 Nov—The US-led Coalition forces on Thursday killed four Al-Qaeda associated militants in an operation to thwart the foreign fighter network in eastern Afghan province of Paktia, said a network in eastern Afghan theatre.

The railway system has two parts, linking Puerto Cabello to Barquisimeto and Yaritagua to Acarigua, with a total length of some 240 km. Low speed and lack of care had forced the aged railway system to stop operation. After the modernization process, the system will be put into use again and can ferry 70,000 people daily.

The Venezuelan government said the rejuvenated railway will contribute to the economic and social development of the region and improve the people's quality of life.
The presidential elections of the United States of America have been over in which its citizens have expressed their wishes. All the citizens are looking forward to positive developments.

The multicultural country is constituted with 50 states and is home to diverse national races from various countries around the world. A person of any other country can enjoy the rights and is responsible for shouldering the duties and paying taxes prescribed by the US if he is naturalized. Although they are naturalized in the US, they do not disregard own people, customs, traditions, culture, motherland and their parents and relatives. That is to say any Myanmar citizen who has been naturalized in the US does not discard Myanmar spirit and concept because they are descendants of Myanmar citizens.

So, Myanmar citizens as well as Indians and Chinese who left the country hold Thingyan Festival (Water Festival) in commemoration in the Thingyan period. Similarly, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese and Thai in foreign countries celebrate their traditional festivals, and they would not discard their mother countries, relatives, traditions and customs.

Here, it is supported by some sayings that go “Blood is thicker than water” and “The preference is given where blood is thick”.

Surely, people have been predominated by spirit of cherishing the motherland and the people concerned, wherever they are. It is believed that there might be difference between the views and concepts of Myanmar people at home and that of Myanmar people in foreign countries, but they are all equipped with patriotic spirit. I hope Myanmar will become more pleasant with a prosperous future if the people do their bit in nation-building tasks, being inspired by patriotic fervour.

Now, certain Myanmar expatriates living in foreign countries should have stopped harshly criticizing their mother country and the people. They should not forget where they came from, whatever country they are in currently. If they feel heartrending to note poverty-stricken people in their native country, they should extend a helping hand with patriotic spirit, instead of putting blame on others. And they should provide assistance to enable needy children pursue basic education and survive. I wish they would contribute towards tasks for national development, instead of giving excuse: a frivolous thing will not produce a great result. I would say it is time to sharpen the abilities of the nation's younger generations so that they will become reliable and responsible citizens.

Instead of building castle in the air without taking the nation's prevailing conditions into consideration, they should play a role in nation-building tasks to create a promising future of the nation. Moreover, they should have made contributions instead of talking big words that do not reflect the prevailing situations of the nation.

Myanmar people by nature are kind-hearted. They preserve a lovely tradition of helping the needy. Therefore, they should make self-criticism to realize what they are doing now, and what they have done in the national interests, instead of simply echoing others' demand for democracy. All Myanmar people at home and abroad should notice this point.

A youth in the nation, for instance, should study hard to pass matriculation exam because the matriculation exam serves as a turning point for him to shoulder his family duties. Every youth should have realized that point. In addition, parents should not think they are not in a position to help their children pass their matriculation examinations due to their illiteracy, and the children should not give up their goal in life due to their parents' lack of knowledge. Both the parents and the children should begin what should be done first in that regard. It is not very difficult for a student to pass the matriculation examination. If they study hard they can get at least 40 marks in each subject, and their teachers can give help to them. It is not so difficult for the majority of the students to pass the matriculation examination. They should realize to pass the matriculation examination is a must for them, and should try their best to achieve the goal. Nothing is impossible. They should be determined to do so, and I believe they will be able to meet the goal, if they work hard, as the newly-elected US President Obama said, "We can, we can". If they have strong desire, they will be able to surmount all forms of difficulties.

Myanmar had to rise from the ashes after the World War II. It made self-reliant efforts to regain the independence. In the post-independence period, multi-coloured insurgent groups launched armed revolts, however, in the end the nation was able to surmount the hardships. In the 1990s, it had fully recuperated from the nightmare of the 1988 anarchic unrest, and the whole nation started to make a good headway in the economic sector. Now, the people are working together in harmony to help the nation recover from the dire straits triggered by the cyclone "Nargis". Myanmar has risen from various crises with self-help basis many times, whether it receives external assistance or not.

It is required to choose the right path in a bid to achieve a goal. Iraq and some countries in Africa, for instance, are still going through very hard times, stemming from wrong views. The people had better work hard together with a sense of duty, exercising their correct views, knowledge, reasoning power, cohesion and nationalistic fervour, instead of harbouring hatred for each other.

The entire people are not even in a momentary hesitation to provide help to the victims, in the face of a fire, floods and storms, and in times of emergency. It has been a fine tradition that the people, young or old, and members of the Sangha make contribution as much as they can with a sense of obligation in such situations.

So, the entire people should move forward with correct views and concepts, take into consideration the interests of future generations, and fulfil their basic needs such as food, shelter, agricultural farms, forests and factories. It is bounden duty of present generations of middle and old age around the world to take measures in advance for younger generations, the future of the nation concerned, to pursue education and vocational education as well as for development of human resources. Now, certain persons should have stopped sowing discord and hatred among the people of their own race and making the nation's goal divert from its route, and exacerbating the situations of the nation. They should stand on the bright side in the interests of the nation.

**What are you planning to do?**

**Mi Pyi Chit**

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They should show positive attitude and correct views and do prudent work if they want to enjoy fruits. Let's work together to create a promising future of younger generations, sidelining self-interests, and recognize the warm welcome.

"We can, we can, we can."

Translation: MS
Establishment of FTA can facilitate high regional efficiency...

He said changes in energy prices and high food prices are a direct threat to the economic growth of developing countries. As climate changes are directly associated with energy and food security, such problems cannot be addressed by an individual nation alone. And they can be solved only through the cooperation of the regional countries.

Myanmar is pleased to be a sector-wise leading nation in the energy sector. As a consequence of the global warming that can cause severe tropical storms, Myanmar also had to suffer the cyclone Nargis in early May this year experiencing great loss of lives and property. This was the result of climate change. However, the situation has returned to normal thanks to the cooperation of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. Preventive and preparedness measures can be taken against natural disasters by exchanging meteorological facts and data between the BIMSTEC member countries, noted the Prime Minister.

Myanmar is also a sector-wise leading nation in the agricultural sector. So it will make more efforts to achieve progress. Myanmar supports the efforts for the emergence of BIMSTEC Free Trade Area for the development of trade and investment. Moreover, the establishment of FTA can facilitate high regional efficiency and more economic cooperation between the BIMSTEC member countries.

As terrorist attacks continue to occur in most of global nations threatening public security and the rule of law, the international community on its part should cooperate to address the issue.

The Prime Minister said during the meeting with Heads of Government of the BIMSTEC member countries, Myanmar reaffirmed that it will accept the chairmanship of BIMSTEC next year. The summit held now will facilitate more cooperation in work frame of BIMSTEC. In conclusion, he said, more efforts are to be made for economic and social progress of the peoples in the BIMSTEC region.

Next, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa and Thai Prime Minister Mr. Somchai Wongsawat made speeches.

Then, the summit approved the ministerial level meeting report and the declaration of the Second BIMSTEC Summit. Later, the Indian Prime Minister delivered a closing speech and the summit came to a close at 11.35 a.m. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives in New Delhi

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein left here by special aircraft at 10 a.m. on 12 November to attend the 2nd Summit on the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to be held in New Delhi of the Republic of India and arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport at 2 p.m. Indian Standard Time in New Delhi of India.

Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and Head of Protocol Division of the External Affairs Ministry of India Mr Marjeen Singh Puri boarded the plane and welcomed Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

The Myanmar delegation led by the Prime Minister was welcomed by Indian Vice-Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Ashwani Kumar and officials.

A Myanmar young girl presented a bouquet to Prime Minister General Thein Sein. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Daw Mar Mar Shein, wife of the Myanmar Ambassador, Military Attaché Col Nay Win and wife Daw Nwe Nwe Khin, Consul-General U Soe Paing of the Myanmar Consulate-General and staff families of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché Office.

Next, the Prime Minister and party left the airport in a motorcade and arrived at Shangri-La Hotel. — MNA
Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh of the Republic of India

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in New Delhi.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. — MNA

NAY PI TAW, 14 Nov — Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar met with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh of the Republic of India at the latter’s residence in New Delhi at 5 p.m. IST on 12 November.

Present together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and Director-General U Thant Kyaw of International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh were Minister of External Affairs Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Foreign Secretary Mr Shivshankar Menon and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.

At the call, both prime ministers cordially exchanged views on friendly relation and intensification of cooperation between the two countries and more cooperation in economic sector, information and technology sectors, energy sector and cooperation sector under BIMSTEC. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by Indian Prime Minister

NAY PI TAW, 14 Nov — Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended a dinner hosted in honour of the Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at Hotel ITC Maurya in New Delhi of India at 8 p.m. IST on 12 November.

Also present at the dinner were Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchenh Jigmi Thinley, Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, departmental heads, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors and high ranking officials of the BIMSTEC member countries.

First, the Indian Prime Minister cordially welcomed the Heads of Government of the BIMSTEC countries to the dinner.

Next, a dinner was served to the guests.

The Indian traditional music was presented at the dinner.

—— MNA

Air Bagan Open Golf Championships continues

YANGON, 14 Nov — The Air Bagan Open Golf Championships, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and MyanmarPGA, continued at Bagan Golf Resort in Bagan this morning.

After the second round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) led the professional golfers division by firing a three-under-par 141, Bo Bo Lay stood second by shooting two-under-par 142 and Yan Myo Aye followed him with 145.

In the men’s amateur golfers division, Nay Bala Win Myint led by firing a three-under-par 141, Bo Bo Lay stood second by shooting two-under-par 142 and Yan Myo Aye followed him with 145.

The third round of the championships continues tomorrow. — MNA

Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) who leads professional golfers division in the second round by firing a two-under-par. — MGF

L&F Minister inspects Breeding Zone (1) in Nay Pi Taw Takton

NAY PI TAW, 14 Nov — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected milch cow farm of U Win Shwe at Breeding Zone (1) in Kangyi village of Nay Pi Taw Takton on 12 November and gave instructions on boosting production of milk and dairy products.

Next, the minister looked into goat and sheep farms and stressed the need for preventive measures against anthrax and foot and mouth disease of cattle.

The minister also visited CP goat farm at the zone. — MNA
The committee has implemented the special projects, the basic infrastructures, which are conducive to the development of the State, the respective regions as well as the posterity. Nowadays, a large number of special projects have been completed and the people have witnessed and enjoyed the benefits of the projects.

At the time when the State Peace and Development Council took the responsibilities of the State, there were only a few projects which can benefit the people and a few projects of irrigation in upper Myanmar and lower Myanmar. In the time of the present government, implemented the irrigation projects have been implemented in upper and lower Myanmar and the number of dams and reservoirs has reached 216 and the number of river water pumping projects 322 across the country. Therefore, farmers are able to engage in double and triple cropping and their socio-economic status has improved.

In the industrial sector, 18 industrial zones have been established in an attempt to encourage the private industrial sector.

Thanks to the implementation of hydel power projects which underpin the development of the country, the amount of power output has increased from 200 megawatt to about 900 megawatt.

Similarly, for smooth transportation and for strengthening the friendship among the national races, rail and road networks and bridges have been constructed. Universities and colleges have also been established at strategic places to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia for human resource development.

The committee for implementation of special projects implemented those projects and that could lead to the improvement of the living standard of the people.

The required infrastructures have been built for future generation so that they can carry on contributing to the development of the country.

Only when there are continued efforts, will the living standard of the people be improved and the country will keep abreast of other developed nations.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo submitted reports on construction of Daungmyu Dam Project and Kantdaunt Dam project, extension of North Yama irrigated area, implementation of Kyaukchat Dam Project, Yebokgyi Dam Project and Thari Dam Project, repair of damaged dams due to storm Nargis, implementation of Naungkala Sluice Gate and Paguawgat Sluice Gate, maintenance of small-scale dams and lakes in Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Meiktila townships of Mandalay Division and undertaking of underground water tapping for cultivation of monsoon paddy, long staple cotton and other crops all the year round in Meiktila and Thazi region.

The Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will implement earthen type Daungmyu Dam Project as the first project on Daungmyu Creek near LeU Village in Wuntho Township. On completion, the dam can irrigate about 6,300 acres of farmlands and contribute to greening of the region.

Earthen type Kantdaunt Dam Project as the second project will be implemented on Kyaukbyok Creek near Kantdaunt Village in Pale Township to supply water to 200 acres of cultivable lands.

A supporting dam has been built to control the surplus water from North Yama Dam built on North Yama Creek of Pale Township. As the third project, the irrigated area of North Yama Dam will be undertaken for adding 10,000 acres more irrigated farmlands to 12,000 acres of the farmlands.

For the fourth project, earthen type Kyaukchat Dam will be built on Chaukchat Creek near Lema Village of Pwintbyu Township to benefit 1,000 acres farmlands.

Thanks to the implementation of hydel power projects which underpin the development of the country, the amount of power output has increased from 200 megawatt to about 900 megawatt.
In the late-monsoon season, fresh water can be stored at creeks and drains by sluice gates for adequate supply of water to monsoon plantations. In summer, summer paddy and other crops can be grown with the use of irrigation facilities for development of the State and the respective regions. Naungkala Sluice Gate will be built on Naungkala Creek near Pyinmana Township for prevention against floods on over 20,000 acres of farmlands in Thaton Township and for contribution to cultivation of double cropping with the use of fresh water. It will be concrete sluice gate with 21 outlets that measure 6 feet by 12 feet. Another one is Pagaingar Sluice Gate Project. The project will be implemented on the tributary canal of Pagaung Creek near Layemyar Village of Waw Township with the aim of controlling surplus water from Kawliya, Baingda and Bawnyi dams at Nagapauk Sluice Gate for supplying it to Bago-Sittoung Canal through Pagaingar Sluice Gate, draining out the water from Bago-Sittoung Canal in the rainy season, preventing the floods on 17,000 acres of farmlands and irrigating the double cropping in the summer. The sluice gate will have 60 RC outlets that measure 6 feet by 4 feet.

In Yamethin District, 10 of 62 small-scale dams and lakes will be repaired to benefit over 5,300 acres of land in the township and generate hydropower to be supplied to the township. Moreover, 41 damaged embankments, 674 miles long in total, hit by storm Nargis will be repaired in their original designs in Nagapudaw, Labutta, Bogale, Pyapon, Dedaye, Kyakial, Kungyangon, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa townships. On completion, the dams can irrigate 3,000 acres of land in the township and generate hydropower to be supplied to the township.

In the township and generating hydropower for the township, 800 tube-wells will be sunk for the purpose. A total of 400 tube-wells will be sunk in Meiktila and Thazi townships for agricultural purposes. A total of 400 tube-wells will be sunk for the first phase and 400 more tube-wells for the second phase to benefit about 11,000 acres of cultivable lands. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on implementation of Heavy Turbo Truck Assembly & Component Parts Factory project, Transmission System Factory project, Heavy Turbo Truck Assembly & Component Part Factory project in Nay Pyi Taw Brick Factory Project (Panin) that can produce 50,000 bricks each day will be built near Pantin Village beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township.

Next, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein reported on implementation of Heavy Turbo Truck Assembly & Component Parts Factory project, Technical Training School (Thagaya) project, Technical Training School (Pakokku) project and Transmission System Factory project.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun.

Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein.

Photo shows heavy machinery manufactured by Bulldozer and Excavator Factory in Thagaya Industrial Region. —MNA
Senior General Than Shwe attends coordination meeting (1/2008)...

Concretex Highway, there will be only eight hours drive thereby contributing to the speedy flow of commodities.

A total of 72 180-foot above bridges, 214 under 180-foot bridges and 174 under 50-foot bridges and 114 pass totaling 574 bridges and 962 box culverts will be built on Yangon Mandalay Highway.

Moreover, the Ministry of Construction will undertake five road projects, part of the development project for a network of roads in Ayeyawady Delta region - 43-mile-5-furlong-long Maubin-Yayegalay, Shwetaungma Maungmyaung road project, 52-mile-long Mawlamyineguyun road project, 52-mile-long Mawlamyineguyun, Hlinebon-Thitpok, Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu road project, 33-mile-5-furlong-long Labutta-Thonegwa, Oaktwin-Hteikson road project and 39-mile-long Bogale-Mayinechung-Kadon Kani road project.

On completion of the projects, coastal regions can be reached through those roads and one can take shelter at the embankments in the time of floods and storms or in an event of natural disaster.

The bridge construction projects to be implemented by the Ministry of Construction are the bridge across Myinkakon River and the bridge across Razudaing River to link Maubin and Ma w l a m y i n e g y u n . Myinkakon Bridge is 540 feet long and 16 feet wide and can withstand 60 tons of loads. Razudaing Bridge is 1824.5 feet long and 16 feet wide. It has 3-feet-wide pedestrian lanes on both sides and can withstand 60 tons of loads. On completion of the two bridges, rice and marine and local products of Ayeyawady Division can be transported to other states and divisions in a short time, thereby contributing to economic, social and education progress of the local national people.

Then, Ministry of Electric Power No 1, Ministry of Electric Power No 2, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Rail Transportation reported their  tasks to the Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

The reports of respective ministries will be presented. — MNA

Universities and colleges have also been established at strategic places to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia for human resource development.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Manuchehr Motakbi. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Manuchehr Motakbi at Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein speaks with Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Manuchehr Motakbi. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Manuchehr Motakbi at Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Nav Pyi Taw, 14 Nov—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Manuchehr Motakbi and party of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Government Office, here at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director-General U Kyaw Tin of the Political Department.

The Iranian Minister was accompanied by Iranian Ambassador-designate to Myanmar Mr Madjid Bizarmak.

FETP course for health staff

Yangon, 14 Nov—Training for Trainers on Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) was opened at Health Department of Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November, with an address by Deputy Minister of Health Dr Mya Oo.

Prof. Adik Wirbo, resident representative of WHO, explained facts about the training programme and the ceremony came to an end.

Trainees from State and Division Health Departments, wha/health care centres are attending the course which will be conducted till 21 November.
**Blast flattens Colo restaurant; one dead, seven hurt**

**PUEBLO, 14 Nov**—An explosion laid waste to a restaurant and a shop Thursday in downtown Pueblo, killing one person, injuring at least seven and forcing several blocks to evacuate. Crews pulled a survivor from the rubble more than four hours after the blast.

The cause of the blast was being investigated. At least one witness said she smelled gas, and buildings for several blocks in all directions were evacuated.

The person who died was one of two women rescued from a shop next to the Branch Inn restaurant, said Fire Chief Chris Riley. Firefighters dug a man out of the rubble of the restaurant around 6:30 p.m. Riley said he was conscious and talking.

A total of seven people, including the woman who died, were transported to the hospital. An eighth person went unassisted later, Fire Department spokesman Woody Percival said. He didn’t know the conditions of the patients.

Authorities did not know whether the restaurant was open when the explosion occurred or how many people were inside. Crews were searching the buildings for anyone else who might be trapped inside. Percival said.—INTERNET

**Children separated from parents by Congo violence**

**KIBATI (Congo), 14 Nov**—Rebecca Nyiringindi scanned the sprawling refugee camp in eastern Congo, searching for just one person among the thousands of hungry and homeless.

“`My mother’s name is Alphonsine,’” the 10-year-old said softly, sucking her thumb. “She’s short. She’s very dark.”

Rebecca was among more than 130 children searching for their parents Thursday in a camp in Kibati, just miles from where soldiers and Tutsi rebels guarded a tense front line, raising fears that fighting would resume in this mineral-rich region.

Some 70,000 refugees have fled to Kibati since fighting intensified in eastern Congo in August, displacing at least 250,000 people despite the presence of the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world.

Aid agencies took advantage of a lull in fighting this week to return to camps near the front line and resume registering children who were separated from their parents during the conflict in Congo’s North Kivu Province.

Some were clearly traumatized. Zawadi Bunziyiga, 6, stared down at her grubby blue dress and said, in a voice barely above a whisper, “I’m afraid of bullets.”—INTERNET

**Calif dirty air kills more than car crashes**

**FRESNO, 14 Nov**—Lowering air pollution in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley would save more lives annually than ending all motor vehicle fatalities in the two regions, according to a new study.

The study, which examined the costs of air pollution in two areas with the worst levels in the country, also said meeting federal ozone and fine particulate standards could save $28 billion annually in health care costs, school absences, missed work and lost income potential from premature deaths. The price tag amounts to $1,600 annually per person in the San Joaquin Valley and $1,250 in the South Coast Air Basin.

Researchers at California State University-Fullerton sought to assess the potential economic benefits that could be achieved by reducing air pollution to levels within federal standards.

“For decades there has been a tug of war over what to do about air pollution,” said June Hall, lead author of the study at Cal State Fullerton. “We are paying now for not having done enough.”—INTERNET

**Crime reporter killed in Mexican border city**

**CIUDAD JUAREZ, 14 Nov**—A crime reporter in the violent Mexican border city of Juarez was killed Thursday, adding to dozens of journalist deaths in a country where newspapers are so fearful, many refuse to cover drug violence.

Armando Rodriguez had covered crime for 10 years in Ciudad Juarez, working for El Diario newspaper. He was shot several times as he sat warming up his car outside his home.

A special federal prosecutor in charge of journalist killings will investigate. Officials did not immediately have any suspects or motive.

Rodriguez had received death threats in recent months, including one on his cell phone in January, according to a statement from the Attorney General’s Office.

For his safety, El Diario sent him to work across the border in El Paso, Texas, but he returned after two months, the office said. He had declined a state government offer for protection, the statement added.

Mexico has become one of the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists, in part because drug gangs target reporters whose stories detail their activities. Many reporters refuse to put their bylines on stories, and many newspapers have stopped covering the drug gangs altogether.

**15 feared dead in Indonesian landslide**

**JAKARTA, 14 Nov**—Rescuers searched for survivors Friday after a landslide crashed into a village in central Indonesia, killing two people and burying at least 13 others, a disaster official said.

 Mud came tumbling down from hills surrounding Nyalindung, a village in West Java province, following days of torrential rain that inundated more than 50 homes, said Rustam Pakaya of the Disaster Crisis Center.

So far, two bodies were recovered, he said, but 13 others were missing and feared dead. Many are children.

Residents have joined rescuers in searching for survivors, most digging with their bare hands or using farm tools, Pakaya said. The mud blocked many roads, making it hard for heavy machinery to reach the disaster area.

Seasonal downpours cause dozens of landslides and flash floods each year in Indonesia, a vast chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains.—INTERNET
China’s ethnic Mongolians hang on to identity by a thread

HOBRO, 14 Nov — As the capital of a sprawling frontier region that was once in Mongol leader Genghis Khan’s vast domain, Hohhot has many ethnic Mongol flourishes. Streets signs are in Mongolian, yurt-themed architecture graces the city and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel has a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel graces the city and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel graces the city and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel graces the city and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel graces the city and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel graces the city and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif. At least one television channel graces the city and some park benches have a Mongol saddle motif.

India’s ethnic Mongolians are part of the surrounding grasslands. — Internet

Vietnam to grow genetically modified crops: reports

HANOI, 14 Nov — Vietnam plans to test genetically modified (GM) crops from now until 2010 and then grow them on a large scale, media reports in the communist country said on Thursday.

Agriculture Minister Cao Duc Phat announced the plan in a National Assembly session this week, said the Vietnam News Agency.

Under the government plan, Vietnam would from

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Pakistan Army chief to raise US missile strikes with NATO

ISLAMABAD, 14 Nov — Pakistan’s Army chief will visit Brussels next week for talks with senior NATO officials about US missile strikes on Pakistani soil near the Afghanistan border, the military said.

The missile attacks by US drones in Pakistan’s northwest tribal areas, which US and NATO officials describe as a safe haven for Taliban and Al-Qaeda, have sharply raised tensions between Washington and nuclear-armed Pakistan.

“Army chief Ashfaq Kayani will discuss the complexities of security issues and the need for a comprehensive approach, while fully addressing Pakistan’s interest,” the military said in a statement. Kayani will undertake the three-day visit from Tuesday after receiving a special invitation from chief of the NATO military committee admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, it said. The military committee is the highest forum of NATO, which meets regularly to discuss various strategic issues concerning the organization.

Gaza City, 14 Nov — Israeli aircraft have fired missiles at a target in northern Gaza as a five-month truce between Israel and Gaza’s Hamas rulers continues to unravel.

Israel’s military says the strike targeted rocket launchers, a Hamas radio station is reporting that two militants from the Islamic Jihad organization were wounded.

Dr. Moiaya Hassanain of the Gaza Health Ministry says Friday’s strike was aimed at a Hamas police installation.

The cease-fire began disintegrating last week when Israeli forces entered Gaza to try destroy what the military said was a tunnel dug by militants.

Eleven militants have been killed in more than a week of fighting, and more than 130 rockets and mortars have been fired from Gaza at Israel. — Internet

Wakoo destroys homes near Santa Barbara, Calif

SANTA BARBARA (Calif.), 14 Nov — A brush fire destroyed an unknown number of homes on Thursday in the tony enclave of Montecito, forcing residents to evacuate what has long been a hideaway for the rich and famous.

It was not immediately clear if anyone was injured or exactly how many homes had burned in the community of 10,000.

Television images showed one destroyed house that appeared to have a turret. Flames had engulfed several multimillion-dollar homes and widespread power outages were reported in the area.

The fire broke out shortly before 6 pm and strong winds quickly spread the flames through 300 acres — about half a square mile — in the foothills five miles south of Santa Barbara.

Gusts as high as 70 mph in Santa Barbara, said Friday, were recorded, according to the National Weather Service. Several fire departments were battling the flames as thick plumes of smoke hovered overhead. Evacuations were ordered for parts of the area, which one resident described as deserted. The fire knocked out power to more than 20,000 homes in Santa Barbara, said Southern California Edison spokesman Paul Klein. An emergency shelter was set up at a high school and students at Westmont College were told to gather in the school’s gym. — Internet

Ancient Phoenician pottery found in Lebanon

Archaeologists say they have unearthed pottery up to 3,000 years old in southern Lebanon that ancient Phoenicians used to bury the remains of the dead after cremation.

Archaeologist Ali Badawi tells The Associated Press that a team of Lebanese and Spanish experts discovered more than 100 earthen jars at an excavation site in the southern port city of Tyre.

The pottery dates to between 700 and 900 BC, when Phoenician traders flourished on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean. Badawi said Wednesday that such discoveries offer a rare window into Phoenician history and culture.

Originating from what is now Lebanon, the Phoenicians were early seafarers who spread their culture to other countries around the region.

Dutch man sentenced to 9 years for trying to pass HIV to others

A 49-year-old Dutch man was sentenced to nine years in jail Wednesday for trying to infect a number of men with the HIV virus at sex parties, Dutch media reported.

The Groningen district court in northern Netherlands found Peter Mulder guilty of causing grievous bodily harm to several men at sex parties held at his home by injecting them with HIV-infected blood taken from himself and others accused. Co-defendant Hans Jurgens, 39, was sentenced to five years in prison and a third one 18 months.

Ex-NBA Star now Sacramento’s first Black Mayor

To most of the country, Kevin Johnson is best known as a former All-Star point guard for the NBA’s Phoenix Suns. But in Sacramento, Calif, he is now known as mayor-elect.

The Sacramento native who founded a nonprofit organization working in one of the city’s poorest neighborhoods is also the city’s first black mayor.

He knocked off a two-term incumbent by 15 points and linked himself to another historic black candidate.

“Both Obama and myself, we ran on a promise and a theme of change. No more business as usual. Let’s buck the status quo — a different kind of government,” he says.
Juventus up to second in impressive style
Rome,14 Nov — Juventus moved into second place in Italy’s Serie A with a 4-1 win over Genoa at Turin’s Stadio Olimpico.
Claudio Ranieri’s team are now level on 24 points with Inter Milan, but have a worse goal difference and have played one match more.
Two first-half goals made the difference, the first from defender Zoltan Grygera and a second from Amauri, his sixth league goal of the season.
There was a disappointing showing from Genoa’s Diego Milito. The Argentine striker is the leading scorer with nine, but was unable to escape from Juventus and Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini.

Power struggle as Maradona snubbed over Ruggeri
Buenos Aires,14 Nov — Argentina coach Diego Maradona was Thursday embroiled in a power struggle with federation chairman Julio Grondona, who has turned down his choice of Oscar Ruggeri as assistant coach.
“I don’t want Ruggeri showing his face round here,” Argentine media reported Grondona as saying outside the federation headquarters amid reports that Maradona could resign if he cannot have his former teammate alongside him.
General manager Carlos Bilardo, who had Maradona and Ruggeri as pillars of his 1986 world champions and 1990 runners-up, insisted that the affair could be smoothed over and said he thought Maradona would stay put despite the apparent snub to his authority.
Bilardo said: “I don’t think he’ll resign. (But) the person who has the say-so is the chairman of the federation.”

Drogba in trouble over coin incident
London,14 Nov — Chelsea striker Didier Drogba (right) throws a coin back at the Burnley fans during their Carling Cup 4th round match against Burnley at Stamford Bridge, London. — Internet

Federer still tops for Davydenko
Russia’s Nikolay Davydenko, seen here, said that Roger Federer was still the player he feared the most, maintaining that the younger generation had yet to make their mark.

Beckham may not play for Milan
LONDON,14 Nov — AC Milan’s Clarence Seedorf believes it’s quite possible that new loan signing David Beckham won’t play a single match for the Italian giants.
Beckham, 33, due to arrive at the San Siro in January after agreeing a temporary move from LA Galaxy during Major League Soccer’s close season.
The former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder hopes this will keep in the thoughts of England manager Fabio Capello, who has made it clear he won’t pick players for February’s friendly against Spain unless they are actively involved with a club team.
However, Seedorf told Sky Sports here Thursday: “I don’t even know if he’ll be able to play for us.”

Real’s Van Nistelrooy out for season after knee surger
Real Madrid’s Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy. — Internet

Els takes 1-stroke lead in Singapore Open
SINGAPORE,14 Nov — Ernie Els birdied two of his final four holes in the first round for a 5-under 66 and a one-stroke lead on Friday in the Asian Tour’s Singapore Open.
“I putted nicely and hit the ball OK,” said Els, the South African star who played 14 holes Thursday before rain forced the suspension of play. “I felt comfortable with the swing and I’m pretty pleased with the start.”

Ochoa shoots 73 in hometown tournament
GUADALAJARA, Mexico, 14 Nov — Lorena Ochoa struggled Thursday in the first round in her own Lorena Ochoa Invitational, shooting a 1-over 73 on her home course to drop five strokes behind Annika Sorenstam and the other leaders.
“I can’t say I’m happy because I’m not, but I feel like I can get closer. I hope to do it tomorrow,” said Ochoa, who took up the game 21 years ago at Guadalajara Country Club. “It’s a good pressure to play here, to feel the good vibes, and the love of my fans.”

Juventus’ forward Vincenzo Laquinta celebrates scoring against Genoa during their Italian Serie A football match at Olympic Stadium in Turin. Juventus won 4-1.— Internet

Chelsea striker Didier Drogba (right) throws a coin back at the Burnley fans during their Carling Cup 4th round match against Burnley at Stamford Bridge, London. — Internet

Mexico’s Lorena Ochoa gestures on the 6th hole during the first round of the LPGA Lorena Ochoa Invitational golf tournament in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 13 Nov, 2008. Internet

LPGA Lorena Ochoa shoots 73 in hometown tournament
Sarkozy says US missile system wouldn’t help security

BRUSSELS, 14 Nov—French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Friday that a planned US missile-defence system in Europe would do nothing to help European security.

US leaders have repeatedly insisted that the system is designed to protect the region from an Iranian threat.

Sarkozy, currently the EU president, has expressed doubt about the plans for a US missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. He spoke out strongly against it at a summit with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

“Deployment of a missile defence system would bring nothing to security in Europe, it would complicate things, and would make them move backward,” Sarkozy said.

Russia recently threatened to install short-range missiles close to EU borders in response to the US missile defence plans.

Medvedev argued against any “unilateral” moves such as the US plan.

“We all live in one house, let’s all get together and find a way to reach an agreement,” he said.

Sarkozy proposed a conference next year on pan-European security that would include Russia, possibly under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Eurozone sinks into recession for first time

BRUSSELS, 14 Nov—The economy of the 15 nations sharing the euro has slumped into recession for the first time ever, EU data released Friday revealed, with GDP sharing the euro has slumped into recession for the first time since its formation in 1999.

The 27-nation EU as a whole avoided the same fate as its economy also suffered a 0.2 percent contraction in the third quarter but had recorded zero growth in the second, according to the official initial estimates.

Seven consecutive quarters of falling gross domestic product (GDP) is the normal definition of recession.

The announcement in Brussels confirmed widely held fears that the eurozone had fallen into recession for the first time since its formation in 1999.

“Not only did the third quarter contraction in GDP confirm that the eurozone is now in recession, but latest data and survey evidence indicate that the fourth quarter is likely to see a sharper fall in GDP as the financial crisis bites harder,” said Howard Archer, chief European economist at Global Insight.

Explosion in US city kills one, injures five

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov—A massive explosion in downtown Pueblo, Colorado, demolished a restaurant and a shop, killing one person and injuring five others Thursday. Moody Per-cival, spokesman for the Pueblo Fire Department, said six people were hospitalized after the explosion and one of them has died.

The explosion occurred in Pueblo’s historic district, which is full of restaurants and boutiques.—MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Friday, 14 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy and moist in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Shan State. Sagaga, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below November average temperatures in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States. Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (7°C) below November average temperatures in Chin State and Magway Division and about November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Losolm (0°C) and Hakha (1°C).

Maximum temperature on 13-11-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 14-11-2008 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09-30) hours MST on 14-11-2008 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 13-11-2008 was (9.8) hrs approx. Rainfall on 14-11-2008 was (10) at Malingaloung, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-11-2008 was (110.31) inches at Malingaloung,(120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed in Yangon, (Kaba Aye) was 60 mph from Northern sector.

Bay inference: The tropical storm over Southwest Bay has further intensified into cyclonic storm and continue to move Northwest wards. According to the observations at 112.30 hrs MST today, it is centered at about 170 miles East of Chennai at East Coast of India and forecast to move North-west wards an cross Indradraposh coast (India) next 36 hours. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Special feature: According to the observations at 09-30 hrs MST today, the tropical depression over South China Sea is centered at about (140) miles Southeast of Phan Thiet.

Forecast valid until evening of 15th November 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (65%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-11-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-11-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-11-2008: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for third week of November 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Divisions.
NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 11 a.m. today.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrived back here by special flight after attending the 2nd Summit on the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held in New Delhi, the Republic of India.

Also present at the airport together with the Senior General were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Aung Htie and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Maj-Gen Maung Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Htun, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, senior military officers, heads of department, Charge d’Affaires ai of the Indian Embassy Ms Sripriya Ranganathan and officials.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein also arrived back here on the same flight.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and departmental heads who accompanied the Prime Minister also arrived back here on the same flight.

Establishment of FTA can facilitate high regional efficiency and more economic cooperation between BIMSTEC member countries

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends opening of Second BIMSTEC Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended the opening of the Second BIMSTEC Summit held at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi, the Republic of India, at 10.15 a.m. yesterday.

It was also attended by Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Mammoohan Singh, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Somchar Wongswat, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, departmental heads, ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officials of BIMSTEC member countries and guests.

Before the opening of the summit, Prime Minister General Thein Sein posed for a documentary photo together with the Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries. Next, the summit was opened at Durbar Hall of Hotel Taj Palace with an address by the Indian Prime Minister. Then, Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed and Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley delivered speeches.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said during the period of 11 years since the foundation of BIMSTEC, six cooperation sectors have been extended to thirteen and this indicates earnest cooperation between the BIMSTEC member countries.

Tourism and transport are also the sectors that need to be improved as a priority. The development of these sectors will further cement the amity and relations as well as close contacts between BIMSTEC member countries.