Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 198 | 3rd Waning of Thadingyut 1366 ME | Sunday, 31 October, 2004

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

Indian President hosts dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing

Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at dinner hosted by Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at Reshtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.— MNA

YANGON, 30 Oct — Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam hosted a dinner in honour of visiting State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at the Presidential Residence in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 25 October.

Before the dinner, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam accorded a warm welcome to State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at the special hall.

Present on the occasion together with Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, and Director-General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Thaung Tun.

The Indian President was accompanied by Indian Deputy Minister of External Affairs Mr E Ahamed, Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Mr Shyam Saran, Joint Secretary Mrs Mitra Vasisht, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia.

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Speech by Senior General Than Shwe

The following is the speech delivered by Senior General Than Shwe at the dinner at Presidential Residence in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on October 25, 2004.

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to express my sincere thanks to your Excellency for the warm and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in New Delhi — a city which blends so well the old and the new; a city which has a rich cultural heritage and which at the same time symbolizes modern India.

It is an honour and a privilege to be in India. Myanmar and India have enjoyed close and cordial relations since time immemorial. Our two countries share common historical, geographical, cultural and religious backgrounds that have enriched the lives of our peoples and enhanced friendship and mutual

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Speech by President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

The following is the speech delivered by President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at the dinner at Presidential Residence in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on October 25, 2004.

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and to your distinguished delegation a very warm and cordial welcome to India.

This State visit from Myanmar to India takes place after nearly twenty-four years and is thus a truly historic occasion. It is always a matter of joy and satisfaction when friends come calling.

Mr Chairman, geography destined that we live as neighbours. History took us through similar experiences. Strong bonds of mutual sympathy and support developed as we struggled against the colonial yoke. We rejoiced when Myanmar attained independence. It was, as Prime Minister Nehru aptly put it,

(See page 6)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 31 October, 2004

Myanmar, India to promote regional cooperation in various fields

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, at the invitation of President of the Republic of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, paid a State Visit to India from 25 to 29 October.

Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party were accorded warm welcome by the Indian President, Government and people.

During the visit, the Senior General held discussions with the Indian President, Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh and Leader of the Opposition Mr LK Advani. The Senior General and the Indian President exchanged views on bilateral relations alongside regional and international affairs in connection with the concerns of the two nations. The meeting enabled better understanding and appreciation of each other's concerns and perspective and enhanced closer understanding at the political level.

The Senior General informed the Indian leaders about the implementation of countrywide all-round development tasks undertaken in Myanmar by SPDC. The Myanmar side reiterated its strong commitment to building a discipline-flourishing modern developed democratic nation suited to Myanmar's needs and conditions. The Myanmar side briefed the Indian leadership on the process of national reconciliation and reconvening of and deliberations in the National Convention in accordance with the seven-step Road Map elaborated by the Government of the Union of Myanmar in August 2003.

The Indian side noted the resolve of the Myanmar leadership to build an enduring democratic system in Myanmar and expressed support for national reconciliation and early transition to democracy in Myanmar. The Indian side stressed that it wished to see stable, peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar and was ready to assist the government and people of Myanmar on their path to further political and economic progress.

Both sides noted that India-Myanmar relations were an important factor in enabling regional cooperation. The two sides agreed that regional initiatives such as the Indian-ASEAN partnership and BIMST-EC had assumed concrete form and content.

On the whole, we believe that the State Visit of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing to India will help further fortify amicable relations between the two nations and step up cooperation in various sectors between the two sides and in the region.

Jade lots sold through tender system

YANGON, 30 Oct — Patron of the Central Committee for Myanma Gems Emporium, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint visited the on-going Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium 2004 at Myanma Gems Mart here this morning.

The minister inspected jade lots displayed on the ground floor at the mart and cordially conversed with local and foreign gem merchants examining the jade lots. Next, the minister watched the sale of jade lots through tender system and left the mart in the afternoon.

A total of 215 jade lots were sold today through tender system at the emporium, which attracted 819 gem merchants — 167 locals and 652 foreigners. The sale of jade lots will continue tomorrow through tender system and competitive bidding system. More local and foreign gem merchants will arrive tomorrow and on 1st November. — *MNA*

People's Desire

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

Performing arts competitions go on

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe enjoys higher education level men's solo orchestra contest. ˚— MNA

YANGON, 30 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at designated venues here today.

Among the audience were members of the Panel of Patrons Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chairman of the Work Committee for organizing the competitions Col Tint Hsan, literati, musicians, and tourists.

The song contests took place at the National Museum this morning. Chairperson of the Panel of Judges, Assistant Director (Music) of MRTV Daw Tin Tin Mya, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khine and members supervised the contest and assessed the performance of the contestants.

Maung Mya Moe of Magway Division takes part in basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' mandolin contest. ˚— MNA

A total of twelve contestants joined the men's religious song contest at the professional level, while a total of 16 contestants took part in the girls' (aged 10-15) oldies and modern song contest at basic education level.

The music contests were held at Padonma Theatre in Sangyoung Township this morning. A total of six participants competed in the men's' solo orchestra contest at higher education level and twelve in the men's amateur level solo orchestra contest.

The music contests were supervised by U Sein Hla Myaing, Leader of the Central Panel of Judges, and members. The boys' and girls' (aged 5-10) harp contest at basic education level and the mens' and womens' harp contest at amateur level will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

The xylophone contests took place at Kambawza Theatre in Bahan Township this morning. Ten contestants participated in the mens' xylophone contest and four in the womens' xylophone contest at professional level. U Yi Nwe, Chairman of the Panel of Judges, and members supervised the contests and assessed the performance.

The men's violin contest at amateur level and the boys' and girls' (aged 10-15) violin contest at basic education level will take place at the same venue tomorrow.

The mandolin contests in which U Nyo Gyi, Chairman of the Panel of Judges, and members assessed the performance took place at the National Theatre in Dagon Township this morning. Two participants took part in the boys' (aged 5-10) mandolin contest at basic education level and three in the girls' (aged 5-10) mandolin contest.

At amateur level, a total of 14 contestants participated in the mens' mandolin contest.

MNA

Appointment of Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

YANGON, 30 Oct — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr T Jasudasen as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to the Union of Myanmar.

Born in Malaysia on 20 June 1952, Mr Jasudasen graduated with an Honours degree in Law from the University of Singapore in 1977. He was the first Singapore student at the Ecole Nationale d' Administration, France in 1983/84 on a Singapore/French Government Scholarship. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Foreign Service Officer in 1977.

His first overseas posting was at the Singapore's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from 1979 to 1981. He served in various capacities at Singapore Embassy in Manila, Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore from 1988 to 1997. Currently, he is Singapore's Ambassador to France in Paris. He is married with three children.

MNA

Chit Su Yi (Myanmar) and Noordin (Malaysia) celebrate their success in women's double event in 1st Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament Grade-5. ˚— NLM

British Black Watch soldier killed after Iraq troop move

BAGHDAD, 29 Oct—A British soldier from the Black Watch Regiment has been killed and three others injured in a vehicle accident in Iraq's Babil Province, where they had just moved from southern Iraq.

"We can confirm that a vehicle accident, not involving hostile action, occurred today with the Black Watch battle group in northern Babil Province," a military spokesman said.

"Sadly one soldier from the Black Watch has died and a further three have suffered minor injuries and shock."

It was the first fatality from the contingent of around 850 soldiers of the Black Watch regiment and support personnel who began a dangerous move closer to Baghdad midweek.

They had moved from their previous base in the relative calm of southern Iraq, following a request from Washington, which wanted to free up US troops to fight in other hotspots.

The first troops had arrived at a new base, southwest of the Iraqi capital, called Camp Dogwood, the Ministry of Defence said in London, refusing to give the exact location of the camp beyond that it was in Babil Province.

A newspaper reporter travelling with the convoy for the British media said that Camp Dogwood was west of Mahmudiyah, a restive town just south of Baghdad.

The decision to shift the troops from Basra Province, where Britain's 8500-strong Iraq force is based, prompted concern at home that they could face casualties in the violence-hit area around Baghdad.

Internet

Roadside bomb wounds 7 Iraqi policemen in Basra

BAGHDAD, 28 Oct—A remote-controlled roadside bomb went off as a bus carrying Iraqi policemen drove through the southern Iraqi city of Basra early Thursday. Seven policemen were injured, two of them in are in intensive care.

The explosion took place near a police station in the Al-Jamiyah district.

Eyewitnesses said the bomb exploded just as the bus passed by.

Following the explosion, Basra police conducted a large-scale operation to seize the perpetrators.

Internet

British soldier, Craig Jones (L), checks a machine gun with Graham Lusty, at Shaibah Logistical Base with members of 40 Commando as they prepare to move out to Camp Dogwood, 20 miles west of Baghdad on 29 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

Report: Columbus contractor killed in Iraq

COLUMBUS, 29 Oct — A contract worker from Columbus has been killed in a car bomb attack in Iraq, the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* reported Friday.

Travis Schnoor, 39, was killed Wednesday when the vehicle he was riding in flipped over after hitting an improvised explosive device, according to the report, which cited Columbus police officials.

Schnoor's wife, Alyce, and 9-year-old son were notified Wednesday night by Muscogee County sheriff's deputies. Schnoor was a former sheriff's deputy.

"It's a major loss," said Capt Rick Kelly.

The report did not say what company Schnoor worked for or what he was doing in Iraq, apparently living near Abu Ghraib about 20 miles west of Baghdad.

"He felt there was a need to make a difference for the people in Iraq," Kelly said.

Schnoor was a bomb technician for the sheriff's department and before that was a US Army Ranger at Fort Benning, Kelly said.

Schnoor is the third Georgia civilian worker killed in recent months in Iraq.

In September, Marietta construction worker Jack Hensley was abducted and executed by an Islamic militant group. And earlier this month, Kennesaw native Steve Osborne was killed when two suicide bombers entered Baghdad's Green Zone and blew themselves up at a bazaar close to the US Embassy.—*Internet*

US forces clash with Iraqi guerillas in Ramadi

RAMADI (Iraq), 29 Oct — Fierce clashes broke out between US forces and Iraqi guerillas on Thursday at several spots in Ramadi, a rebel hotbed west of Baghdad, US Army and witnesses said.

The battle first started in small hours inside the city as US troops advanced to some neighbourhoods to search foreign fighters, said local residents.

Abdul Rahman Aysawi, one of the residents, told *Xinhua* that he saw a Humvee set ablaze "with all the crew inside", after it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Iraqi police said guerillas also fired three rocket-propelled grenades at a US base that houses government offices in the city.

The US military earlier said it launched a cordon and search in Ramadi and arrested a house owner after discovering caches at his residence. Some others were also arrested.

It was hard to know the casualties in Thursday's skirmishes as it was difficult even for ambulances to travel freely in the streets due to the tension.

Ramadi, 100 kilometres west of Baghdad, was another guerillas' bastion other than flashpoint city of Fallujah in the Anbar Province. It remained on the top list of restive cities to be retaken before the national elections slated for January.

MNA/Xinhua

US Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment return fire on enemy positions after guerillas launched an attack in Ramadi, Iraq, on 29 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

Two killed in US airstrike on Fallujah

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 29 Oct — The US military launched airstrikes on the restive city of Fallujah overnight, killing two people and injuring one, witnesses said on Thursday.

The strike flattened a house in Jolan neighbourhood, and the owner of the house said that the two victims were his brothers, a local resident told *Xinhua.*

US forces have stormed the city almost daily to hunt Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordan-born militant whose Tawhid and Jihad (Unity and Holy War) group has claimed some of the deadliest attacks in the country since the US-led invasion of Iraq last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq militants abduct Polish woman, claim killing of soldiers

BAGHDAD, 29 Oct — Islamic militants claimed three more hostages in Iraq and the deaths of 11 Iraqi soldiers, as US researchers said 100,000 Iraqis have died since the US-led invasion.

The latest hostage drama unfolded as fighting flared between US Marines and rebels in the restive city of Ramadi and US warplanes bombed the neighbouring guerilla hub of Fallujah amid growing expectations of an all-out military assault.

Adding to pressure on US allies in the violence-torn country, militants seized a Polish woman and demanded that Warsaw withdraw its 2,500 troops from the country, prompting an immediate refusal from Poland.

A group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq announced it was holding two truck drivers working for a Kuwaiti company, one from Bangladesh and the other from Sri Lanka.

The Bangladeshi government said Friday it was checking the report.—*Internet*

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing meet Indian President Mr APJ Abdul Kalam at Rashtropoti Bhavan in New Delhi before attending the dinner.—MNA

Indian President hosts dinner…

(from page 1)

Speaking on the occasion, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said that it gave him great pleasure to extend a very warm and cordial welcome to the Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe to India, adding that that State visit from Myanmar to India was the one that took place only after nearly 24 years.

He continued that India and Myanmar had had a long tradition of bilateral relations and expressed his belief saying that the State visit by Senior General Than Shwe would open a new chapter on the pages of friendly ties between the two countries.

He also said that he had a vision to transform his country into a developed one by 2020. He identified five areas to which India has given a core priority such as agriculture and food processing, education and health care, infrastructure development, information and communication technology, and self-sufficiency in critical technologies.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe, in his speech, expressed his thanks to the government of India for their warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Myanmar delegation. In giving a brief account of Myanmar, Senior General Than Shwe said Myanmar is rich in natural resources, of which oil and gas exploitations are being conducted in cooperation with foreign countries on a profit-sharing basis. He also expressed his belief that India will take interest in the oil and gas exploitation in cooperation with Myanmar.

As Myanmar lies in the heart of South Asia and Southeast Asia, Myanmar is a transit for India to do business with the People's Republic of China, Thailand, and other Southeast Asian nations.

India has given a core priority such as agriculture and food processing, education and health care, infrastructure development, information and communication technology, and self-sufficiency in critical technologies.

Senior General Than Shwe also expressed his belief that India will succeed in its drive to have turned itself into a developed country by 2020, adding that Myanmar government and the people are delighted at the achievements of its neighbour, India.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources, of which oil and gas exploitations are being conducted in cooperation with foreign countries on a profit-sharing basis.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe invited the Indian President for a State Visit to Myanmar.

Later, Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam accepted the invitation with pleasure saying that he had been interested in a visit to Myanmar as a student, and that he would visit if the occasion arises.

The military band played the National Anthems of Myanmar and India before officials present on the occasion greeted Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, and Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Later, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam were greeted by Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Former Indian President Kocheril Raman Narayanan and wife Usha Narayanan, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and wife SMT Gursharan Kaur, ministers, deputy ministers, and high-ranking officials.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing presented Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann's wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Yangon Division PDC Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe's wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Military Assistant Maj-Gen Nay Win to the State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Than Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and wife Daw Mar Mar Shein, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and departmental heads.

Later, the Indian President delivered an address at the dinner and proposed a toast. *(The Indian President's address is reported separately.)*

Next, Senior General Than Shwe also delivered an address at the dinner and proposed a toast. *(The Senior General's address is reported separately.)*

Later, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and party enjoyed the dinner together.

After dinner, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and delegation members left the Presidential Residence for the Oberoi Hotel, where they put up. — *MNA*

Senior General Than Shwe addresses the dinner at Rashtropoti Bhavan in New Delhi.
MNA

Indian President Mr APJ Abdul Kalam delivers an address at the dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing at Rashtropoti Bhavan in New Delhi.— MNA

A democratic nation cannot be established overnight

Opposition leader of Republic of India calls on Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 30 Oct — Leader of the Opposition of the Republic of India HE Shri LK Advani called on Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe at Room-816 of the Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi on 26 October.

Also present on the occasion together with Senior General Than Shwe were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of India U Kyi Thein and Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun, and HE Shri LK Advani was accompanied by Joint Secretary Mrs Mitra Vasisht.

At the meeting, Senior General Than Shwe explained the latest developments in politic and economy sectors of the State, saying that national solidarity and peace and stability of the State are imperative for Myanmar as it is home to various national races; that peace and stability prevailed across the nation including border areas as a result of relentless efforts of the government for national development; that the government has made peace with 17 national race armed groups and is in the process of discussion with the KNU; that Myanmar has been making all-out efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation after laying down a seven-point future political programme of the State; that the government has endeavoured to hold the National Convention, which is the cardinal point in the seven-point future political agenda and it has been possible to successfully convene part of the crucial chapter of it from 17 May to 9 July 2004; that the National Convention will resume in the open season; and that systematic measures are being taken for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

In his discussion, HE Shri LK Advani, leader of the Opposition said that India maintains friendly relations with Myanmar; that he welcomed the State Visit of Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing to India; that India has realised the Myanmar's systematic efforts for transition to a democratic nation; that India is also home to various national races like Myanmar; that it took time to transform India into the democratic nation.

A democratic nation cannot be established overnight; that one nation will differ from another in establishing a democratic nation; that he expressed his thanks to Myanmar for not accepting the groups opposing India while he was assigned duties as the Minister of Home Affairs; that he expressed his belief that Myanmar will continue to cooperate with India; and that he expressed thanks to Myanmar for its support for India's effort to become a permanent member of UN Security Council.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Leader of the Opposition of India Shri LK Advani at the Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi on 26-10-2004.— MNA

*** National solidarity and peace and stability of the State are imperative for Myanmar as it is home to various national races.**

*** Peace and stability prevailed across the nation including border areas as a result of relentless efforts of the government for national development.**

Senior General Than Shwe

Leader of the Opposition of India Shri LK Advani greets Senior General Than Shwe at the Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi on 26-10-2004.— MNA

*** Government has made peace with 17 national race armed groups and is in the process of discussion with the KNU.**

*** Myanmar has been making all-out efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation after laying down a seven-point future political programme of the State.**

Senior General Than Shwe

*** India maintains friendly relations with Myanmar.**

*** India has realised Myanmar's systematic efforts for transition to a democratic nation.**

HE Shri LK Advani

*** One nation will differ from another in establishing a democratic nation.**

*** I believe Myanmar will continue to cooperate with India.**

HE Shri LK Advani

Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam cordially greets Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing before the dinner.— MNA

Speech by Senior General Than Shwe

(from page 1)

understanding. Above all, the legacy of Buddhism has left a special mark on the relationship between our two countries.

The exchange of visits between the leaders of our two countries in recent years has contributed to strengthening these ties that bind us.

We recall with pleasure the successful visit to India in 2000 of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and the visit to Myanmar last year of Vice-President of India His Excellency Shri Bhairon Singh Shekawat.

These high-level visits have ushered in a new era of friendship and cooperation between our two countries in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

We are pleased to note that trade between our two countries is growing steadily. However, there is room for further expansion as what has been achieved so far is quite modest when compared to the immense potential that exists for both border and normal trade.

In this age of globalization, Myanmar considers that closer cooperation among neighbouring countries is essential to meet the new challenges we face.

In this regard, Myanmar welcomes India's "Look East" policy and its commitment to strengthen economic linkages and developmental cooperation with the ASEAN countries.

Myanmar takes pride that we are regarded as your gateway to ASEAN. We will continue to work closely with India, both bilaterally and in the framework of regional groupings, such as BIMST-EC, ASEAN, ACD and the Ganga-Mekong cooperation to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

I come here at a time when tremendous transformations are taking place in both our countries. I am convinced that the changes will be beneficial to our peoples and strengthen traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

I am gratified that I shall have the opportunity to observe first hand the immense transformations taking place in India.

The progress that India has achieved in agriculture and food processing, power, education and healthcare, information technology and strategic sectors is indeed remarkable.

In view of the large strides taken by India in recent years, we have no doubt that it will achieve its goal of joining the ranks of developed nations by the year 2020. As an immediate neighbour of your great country, we take pride in your achievements and rejoice with you. We welcome India's willingness to share its expertise in a number of areas, including science and technology and the IT sector.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency and the Government of India every success in your development endeavours.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I now invite you to join me in a toast:-

— to continued progress and prosperity of the Republic of India;
— to lasting friendship between the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India;
— to the good health and personal well-being of His Excellency President Dr Kalam; and
— to the good health and personal well-being of all the distinguished guests and friends present here.—*MNA*

Speech by President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

(from page 1)

"an event of significance to the whole of Asia." Tradition believes that Emperor Ashoka sent two Buddhist monks, Sona and Uttara, to Suvarnabhumi, the golden land of Myanmar. They went as messengers of peace, friendship and goodwill. They brought our countries together, religiously and culturally.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Hu Shih, the famous Chinese philosopher who said that India had strongly influenced China culturally for two thousand years without ever having to send a single soldier across the border. That is what Buddhism has helped us achieve. It has brought people together, it has brought nations together and has brought peace at no cost. This is a religion that has grown in stature to be the messiah of God and the advocate of the spiritual role of religion. When the spiritual role of a religion is compromised, it becomes a weapon of destruction and a divider of people.

Indeed, the legacy of Buddhism has bequeathed to us a common heritage. In its multiple dimensions it has imparted to our interaction an enduring quality. Culture, civilisation and education accompanied the spread of Buddhism and introduced a unique richness to ties between our two peoples.

I have a vision to transform Indian into a developed nation by the year 2020. I have identified five areas where India has a core competence viz, Agriculture and Food Processing, Education and Healthcare, Infrastructure Development, Information and Communication Technology, and self-sufficiency in critical technologies. Indeed, today India is already in a position to share its expertise in a number of areas, including Agriculture, Science and Technology, Healthcare, Industry, Human Resource Development, Defence, and, of course, Information Technology with developing countries.

In the preceding decade, India has pursued a 'Look East' policy. In practical terms, this policy has been a voyage of rediscovery. We are engaged in rejuvenating the historical, cultural and commercial links between India and Southeast Asia. Our efforts have begun to bear fruit. Trade links between India and Southeast Asia, buttressed by cross border investments have received a new impetus. Cultural ties have been reinforced. Regional connectivity has become an important consideration. It is with this in mind that we are committed to the early implementation of the Trilateral Road Project, which will connect India, Myanmar and Thailand. You would agree that early completion of this road would give a boost to our trade relations.

When we look eastwards, Myanmar emerges as our gateway to ASEAN. You occupy a central place in our vision and approach. Besides the India-ASEAN Summit-Level relationship, we are both partners in BIMST-EC and the Mekong-Ganga cooperation process. Our bilateral relationship is a factor of peace and stability for the region and has an important bearing on regional cooperation initiatives. In the bilateral as well as the wider regional context, it is of utmost importance that we assign special attention to economic progress of the border areas common to us. While we are pleased that trade between our two countries has registered a steady increase, it is necessary for both Governments to take measures to remove impediments to border trade and promote cross-border connectivity. We would like to see our trade reach a figure of at least one billion US Dollars by the year 2006. The accelerated development of border areas will be to our common advantage. This must be our joint endeavour. At the same time, our efforts cannot be successful unless peace, stability and security in the border areas are ensured.

Some fifty years ago our leaders affirmed the principles of Panchsheel, which allowed for the possibility of peaceful co-existence between peoples. Genuine multilateralism and a just and equitable world order is the key to overcoming common challenges confronting mankind. The world has changed a great deal. Existing global realities need to be recognised and accepted. We are convinced that reform and restructuring of the United Nations should not be postponed any further. A more representative United Nations Security Council will provide the basis for genuine multilateralism and allow for more effective global cooperation.

Excellency, your visit to India comes during our festive season. May I take this opportunity to convey my good wishes to you and to the people of Myanmar. The full-moon day is an auspicious day in the Buddhist calendar as it is in the Vikram Samvat calendar. I am particularly happy that on the full-moon day this month, you and your delegation will be at the most sacred of Buddhist sites.

We are confident and optimistic that your visit will open a new and more dynamic chapter in our bilateral ties. Our vision is of a long-term bilateral partnership with Myanmar, a partnership based on mutually beneficial cooperation, trust and understanding.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in a toast to the:

— health and happiness of His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe and Madam Kyaing Kyaing,
— continuing friendship and cooperation between India and Myanmar, and
— the progress and prosperity of our two peoples and countries.—*MNA*

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visit Taj Mahal in Agra.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, Daw Kyaing Kyaing visit Taj Mahal in Agra

Governor of Karnataka State hosts dinner in honour of Myanmar goodwill delegation

YANGON, 30 Oct — The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw and wife, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Myar Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and wife, arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport from the Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi to visit Agra, on 10.45 am on 26 October. The Senior General, wife and party were seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister of External Affairs Mr E Ahamed, Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Mr Shyam Saran, Joint Secretary Mrs Mitra Vasisht and officials.

The special aircraft of Indian Airlines carrying the Senior General, wife and party arrived at the airport in Agra where they were welcomed by Agra District Commissioner Dr Ashok Kumar and officials.

Next, the Senior General and party proceeded to Taj Mahal in a motorcade. Officials of the Taj Mahal Maintenance Committee welcomed and conducted them round the main gate, the entrance road and the park in the Taj Mahal compound.

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party observed Taj Mahal built by Emperor Shah Jahan. Officials explained maintenance of 350 years old Taj Mahal. The Senior General, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party posed for group photos at Taj Mahal. The Senior General signed in the visitors' book and presented a souvenir to an official.

At 2 pm, the Senior General, wife and party flew to Bangalore of Karnataka State from Agra by special aircraft and arrived there at 4 pm. They were welcomed by Governor of Karnataka State Shri TN Chaturvedi and officials.

At Infosys Computer Co Ltd Office in Bangalore, members of the board of directors explained matters related to computers and accessories, products of the company. Next, documentary video tapes on the company were presented. And, officials explained international awards won for products of the company.

Senior General Than Shwe signs in the Visitors' Book of Taj Mahal in Agra. MNA

Marketing Manager Mr Aditya Nath Jho reported on establishment of Infosys Co Ltd, uplift of the company standard, efforts for meeting computer parts of the company at international level and opening of branches in India and other countries.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphas Brig-Gen Thein Zaw asked questions to which Director Mr Dinesh K and Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia replied .

Next, Senior General Than Shwe planted a commemorative tree in the company compound and presented a souvenir to Director Mr Dinesh K. The Senior General and party posed for documentary photos with officials of the company. Next, officials conducted the Senior General and party round the tasks of the company. The Senior General signed in the visitors' book. Director Mr Dinesh K presented a gift to the Senior General.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party arrived at the Grand Ashok Hotel. In the evening, the Governor of Karnataka State hosted a dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and party at Raj Bhavan in Bangalore. At 7 pm, when Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at the dinner, Governor Shri TN Chaturvedi warmly welcomed them.

Also present at the dinner were Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint,

(See page 10)

Karnataka State Governor cordially converses with Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing. MNA

Myanmar and India have enjoyed close and cordial relations since time immemorial. Our two countries share common historical, geographical, cultural and religious background that have enriched the lives of our peoples and enhanced friendship and mutual understanding. Above all, the legacy of Buddhism has left a special mark on the relationship between our two countries.

Senior General Than Shwe

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Indian Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Culture Shri Jaipal Reddy signing MoU on exchange of culture in the presence of Senior General Than Shwe and Indian Prime Minister on 25-10-2004.—MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Indian Minister of External Shri K Natwar Singh sign MoU in the presence of Senior General Than Shwe and Indian Prime Minister on 25-10-2004.— MNA

We are pleased to note that trade between our two countries is growing steadily. However, there is room for further expansion as what has been achieved so far is quite modest when compared to the immense potential that exists for both border and normal trade.

Senior General Than Shwe

In this age of globalization, Myanmar considers that closer cooperation among neighbouring countries is essential to meet the new challenges we face. In this regard, Myanmar welcomes India's "Look East" policy and its commitment to strengthen economic linkages and developmental cooperation with the ASEAN countries.

Senior General Than Shwe

Senior General Than Shwe signs in Visitors' Book of Infosys Computer Co Ltd in Bangalore.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for group photo together with officials of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in Bangalore.— MNA

I come here at a time when tremendous transformations are taking place in both our countries. I am convinced that the changes will be beneficial to our peoples and strengthen traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Senior General Than Shwe

Geography destined that we live as neighbours. History took us through similar experiences. Strong bonds of mutual sympathy and support developed as we struggled against the colonial yoke. We rejoiced when Myanmar attained independence.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party being welcomed by Agra District Commissioner Dr Ashok Kumar and officials at Agra Airport.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe being welcomed by Karnataka State Governor and officials at Bangalore Airport.— MNA

In the preceding decade, India has pursued a 'Look East' policy. In practical terms, this policy has been a voyage of rediscovery. We are engaged in rejuvenating the historical, cultural and commercial links between India and Southeast Asia. Our efforts have begun to bear fruit.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

When we look eastwards, Myanmar emerges as our gateway to ASEAN. You occupy a central place in our vision and approach. Besides the India-ASEAN Summit-Level relationship, we are both partners in BIMST-EC and the Mekong-Ganga cooperation process.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

HAL Chairman Shri NR Mohanty presents scale model helicopter as souvenir to Senior General Than Shwe.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party together with officials of Infosys Computer Co Ltd pose for documentary photo in Bangalore.— MNA

We are confident and optimistic that your visit will open a new and more dynamic chapter in our bilateralities. Our vision is of a long-term bilateral partnership with Myanmar, a partnership based on mutually beneficial cooperation, trust and understanding.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

Senior General Than Shwe and party hear reports on functions of Infosys Computer Co Ltd in Bangalore by the Marketing Manager.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, Daw Kyaing Kyaing …

(from page 7)

Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Than Aung, Myanmar Ambassador U Kyi Thein and wife, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

On 27 October morning, Senior General Than Shwe and party planted a sandalwood tree in the compound of the Grand Ashok Hotel. Next, the Senior General signed in the visitors' book and accepted a gift presented by Vice-Chairman of the hotel Mr Jag Mohan Mishra.

At 9.15 am, the Senior General and party arrived at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in Bangalore. Chairman Shri NR Mohanty of HAL explained manufacturing of fighter jets, light training planes and helicopters at HAL and their capabilities with the use of video tapes. The Senior General asked questions.

Next, the Senior General and party viewed a Jaguar fighter jet manufactured by the company. After viewing a light plane, they had documentary photos taken with company officials. At the helicopter manufacturing branch of the company, the Senior General and party enjoyed a demonstration flight of three helicopters of HAL. The Senior General greeted the pilot and viewed the helicopter. Next, the Senior General and party posed for documentary photos with officials and the pilot. Later, the Senior General and the chairman of HAl exchanged souvenirs.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe plants a commemorative tree in the compound of Infosys Computer Co Ltd in Bangalore.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe plants a sandalwood tree in the compound of the Grand Ashoke Hotel in Bangalore on 27-10-2004.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party visit Taj Mahal in Agra.— MNA

MoU on Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking in Mekong region signed

YANGON, 30 Oct—The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) continued at Sedona Hotel yesterday morning.

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation of Cambodia Mr Ith Sam Heng , Minister and Vice-Chairperson of National Working Committee for Children and Women of the People's Republic of China Madame Huang Qingyi, Minister for Labour and Social Welfare of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Somphanh Phengkhammy, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand Mr Wanlop Polytabtim, Vice-Minister for Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Lt-Gen Dr Le The Tiem, senior officials, Coordinator on UN Agencies Mr Charles James Petrie and delegates from UN Agencies, officials of UNIAP and observers.

Minister Col Tin Hlaing presided over the meeting and delivered an address.

Next, officials discussed the report of senior officials of COMMIT and the main points included in the Memorandum of Understanding of Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The ministers and the deputy ministers of Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar reported in control of cooperation in control of human trafficking in the region.

The Signing ceremony of MoU on cooperation in control of human trafficking in the region in progress on 29-10-2004.— MNA

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Col Tin Hlaing.

Next, the ministers and the deputy ministers, signed the MoU on combating trafficking in Mekong region.

In the evening, Minister Col Tin Hlaing hosted dinner in honour of the ministers and the deputy ministers, senior officials, observers and guests at Karaweik Palace.

MNA

Press conference on COMMIT

YANGON, 30 Oct— A press conference on the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) was held at Sedona Hotel yesterday evening.

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, the ministers and deputy ministers of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, senior officials, the director-general and the deputy director-general of Myanmar Police Force, heads of departments, the director (News) of News and Periodicals Enterprise, chief editors, Coordinator on UN Agencies and delegates from UN Agencies, officials of UNIAP and observers, Patron and president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and its members and media personnel.

Officials of the UN and UNIAP and Minister Col Tin Hlaing explained the objectives of COMMIT and signing of MoU on cooperation by the ministers and the deputy ministers from six nations in Mekong region. Next, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials replied to the questions raised by the journalists.—*MNA*

Press conference on Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) held at Sedona Hotel on 29-10-2004.— MNA

Participants attend Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) at Sedona Hotel on 29-10-2004.— MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- **In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.**
- **The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.**
- **Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.**
- **Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.**
- **Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.**

Two sumo wrestlers pose with a Toyota car in Hong Kong. Toyota is to raise its global production target for 2006 in a move that could push the Japanese firm ahead of General Motors as the world's largest automaker by units, a report said.—INTERNET

Indian Minister favours free movement of scribes in South Asia

NEW DELHI, 29 Oct — Observing that politicians were "incapable" of changing mindsets, India's Information and Broadcasting Minister S Jaipal Reddy on Thursday said journalists, poets and writers can do a "better job" in fostering goodwill and understanding among the countries of South Asia.

Addressing the Second Conference of Editors and Working Journalists of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries here, he also blamed "professional, diplomatic strategists" for hindering regional cooperation and advocated free movement of journalists in all South Asian countries to generate goodwill.

Recalling that he has fought ten general elections, Reddy said, "in my experience, we politicians are incapable of changing mindsets. Journalists, writers and poets can do it better". Regretting that the countries of the region have not been able to tap their collective potential, he said: "We are home to over one-fifth of humanity. We are the most backward part of the world and we have the opportunity to abolish poverty altogether."

Citing the examples of European Union and Association of South-East Asian Nations, he said: "We seem to be wedded to poverty and burdened by negative historical baggage and memories. Many regional blocks are operating so well. What is true of the Asia-Pacific rim can be true for South Asia as well."

Stressing on the need to rise above "narrow national identities", he said, "I find a lot of professional and diplomatic strategists in Delhi. They seem to be causing more problems than anybody else".

MNA/PTI

China hails Russian State Duma's approval of Kyoto Protocol

BEIJING, 29 Oct — Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue Thursday applauded the approval of the Kyoto Protocol by the Lower House of Russian State Duma.

At a regular Press conference in Beijing, Zhang called the ratification by Russian Parliament "an important first step" for Russia to become a signatory country of the protocol.

It also signalled that the protocol, initiated in 1997, may soon be put to effect, she said. The Kyoto Protocol will not go into effect until 55 countries representing 55 per cent of industrial countries' carbon dioxide emissions in 1990 have approved it.

Analysts said the Russian Duma's ratification is essential for pushing the number of industrialized signatories over the threshold to activate the international treaty, as the country is responsible for 17 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. The protocol still needs the approval of the Upper House of the Russian Parliament and the signature of Russian President Putin to go into effect.

To quicken protocol's going into effect and curb greenhouse gas emissions as fast as possible, Zhang called on countries having not approved the document to make active efforts to work together with the international community to protect the global environment.

Calling climate changes "a long-term challenge to humanity", Zhang said that China would like to team up with other countries and actively explore methods able to reverse the trend of global warming.—*MNA/Xinhua*

China-ASEAN Expo to attract 800-odd businesses

NANNING, 29 Oct — More than 800 businesses are expected to attend the upcoming China-ASEAN Expo in early November, organizers said Thursday.

The expo of China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will be held in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from November 3 to 6.

In addition to some 550 businesses in the Chinese Mainland, the expo will also attract about 250 purchasers from ASEAN countries, the United States, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan regions, organizers said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Royal coronation of new Cambodian King begins

PHNOM PENH, 29 Oct — The three-day royal coronation of Cambodia's new King began here Thursday with traditional religious rituals being held inside the golden-roofed Royal Palace where King Norodom Sihamoni will be crowned Friday evening.

Prince Sihamoni was chosen as Cambodia's new monarch by the nine-member Throne Council on 14 October, following his father King Norodom Sihanouk abdicated a week earlier in Beijing for fragile health.

Sihamoni is the second King for the Cambodian nation in over 60 years. According to Royal Palace Minister Kong Sam Ol, as the retired King Sihanouk asked the coronation ceremony to be held in a modest way, no foreign heads of states, special envoys and royal families were invited to the event, nor traditional mass celebrations and parade planned.

He said, King Sihamoni will be crowned only in the presence of about 40 royal family members, hundreds of government officials and lawmakers and dozens of foreign diplomats in Phnom Penh.

Thursday's royal coronation includes traditional Buddhist and Brahmanic rites and ceremonies designed to bring divine blessings upon the new monarch in the Royal Palace.

King Sihamoni will be officially crowned and seated in the throne Friday evening to be followed by a state banquet.

According to a statement from the country's celebration committee, King Sihamoni is expected to announce royal pardons to scores of prisoners at his coronation.

The capital city Phnom Penh is in a festive mood with national flags festooned along the city's leading boulevards and portraits of the new monarch and banners wearing congratulation messages can be seen on government, school, factory and hotel buildings.

To let the whole country join in the jubilation, people will enjoy one day off on 29 October and fireworks displays were arranged for three evenings along with song and dancing performance at public locations in Phnom Penh.

The 51-year-old unmarried King's coronation ceremony will be broadcast live on radio and TV across the country.

Cambodia's monarchy dates back as early as to the world-famous Angkor Period around the 10th Century. The current Constitution, adopted in 1993, restricts the sphere of action of the monarchy which is non-hereditary. The monarchy reigns, but does not rule, nor does the King choose his successor.

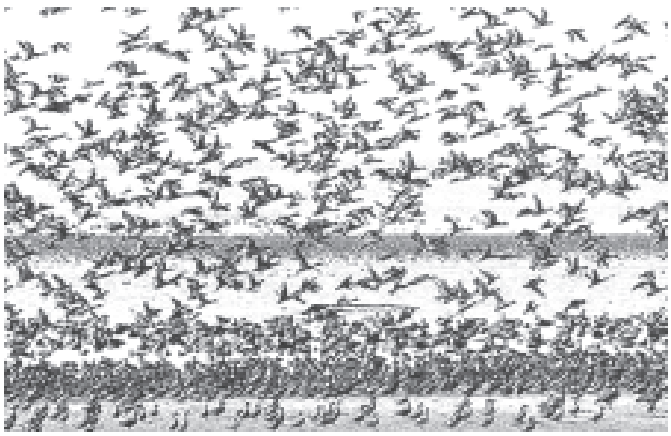
MNA/Xinhua

Thailand, Australia join hands in medical research

BANGKOK, 29 Oct — Thailand's Ministry of Public Health is cooperating with the University of Queensland in Australia in conducting a five-year study into five major medical issues.

Thai Deputy Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenrattanachai was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Wednesday that information from the study, funded by the British Wellcome Trust, would be used by the government in helping determine public health policies.

The research will look at AIDS, heart disease, traffic accidents, mental health and drug abuse. Research will be focused on the costs involved in treatment, the effectiveness of preventative measures, and existing healthcare systems. Over the past two decades, 74,801 people in Thailand have died from AIDS, while the year 2000 saw 12,811 deaths from traffic accidents and two million cases of mental health treatment. To date this year over 555,000 Thais have received treatment for drug abuse, the report said.—*MNA/Xinhua*



A massive flock of wild ducks in Seosan, 130 kilometres (78 miles) southwest of Seoul, on 20 Oct, 2004. The World Health Organization will meet chief executives from top pharmaceutical firms in Geneva on 11 November to press more companies to get involved in developing human vaccines against bird flu, a senior official said.—INTERNET

Myanmar commited to…

(from page 16)

Indian Prime Minister were External Affairs Minister Shri K Natwar Singh, Secretary of the the External Affairs Ministry Mr Shyam Saran, Joint-Secretary Mrs Mitra Vasisht, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and senior officials.

On the occasion, the Indian Prime Minister said that the visit of Senior General Than Shwe was the first that a head of state from Myanmar had visited India in 24 years. He expressed his belief that the visit was a new page of relations between the two nations and it would boost bilateral cooperation.

Myanmar will continue to practise the policy that the area bordering both countries must be the one enjoying peace and harmony and Myanmar supported India's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

India would provide Myanmar with assistance comprising technology and experiences. Senior General Than Shwe dealt with the sectors in which Myanmar and India could cooperate for mutual interests.

Next, the Senior General and the Indian Prime Minister held a meeting at Conference Room. At the meeting, the Senior General was accompanied by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Member of SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affiars U Nyan Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Military Assistant to SPDC Chairman Maj-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Than Aung, Ambassador U Kyi Thein, Director-General of SPDC Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General U Thaung Tun.

The Indian Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of Defence Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Internal Affairs Shri Shivraj Patil, External Affairs Minister Shri K Natwar Singh, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Information Technology and Communications Shri Dayanidhi Maran, deputy ministers, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and senior officials.

The cordial meeting discussed matters on mutual interests.

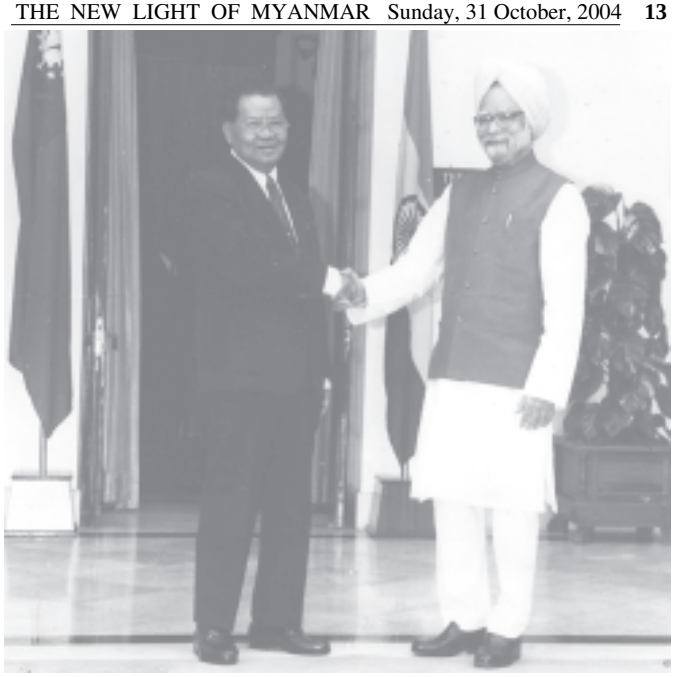
Speaking on the occasion, Senior General Than Shwe expressed thanks for warm welcome to Myanmar goodwill delegation, adding that it reflected the friendly relations between the two sides. The visit would represent a force to further enhance amicable relations and cooperation between the two nations. Myanmar had been making efforts for development of the nation based on its own capital and the assistance of friendly neighbouring countries like India.

He said Myanmar will continue to make efforts on further strengthening of relationship expanding cooperation between the two countries.

Traditionally, Myanmar and India are neighbouring countries of friendship and cooperation. Any difficulties between the two countries could be solved based on goodwill and mutual understanding. Myanmar will continue to practise the policy that the area bordering both countries must be the one enjoying peace and harmony, Senior General Than Shwe said.

He said he supported India's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In his discussions, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh said the two governments promoted cooperation between the two countries and regional issues. The Highway Construction Project linking India and Thailand via Myanmar can be seen as the token of cooperation. India is implementing the tasks in other sectors of mutual interest.



Senior General Than Shwe greets Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at Deccan Suite of Hyderabad House on 25-10-2004.— MNA

He said both countries are actively participating in the framework of regional groups such as BIMST-EC, Ganga-Mekong Cooperation to promote peace and stability and prosperity and ASEAN. Such cooperation contributes to intergration, security and stability in the region. He also said India was determined to exist as a lasting partner of Myanmar for development, peace and stability.

The Highway Construction Project linking India and Thailand via Myanmar can be seen as the token of cooperation. India is implementing the tasks in other sectors of mutual interest.

After the discussions, a ceremony was held at the Hyderabad House to sign MoUs between the two countries. Present on the occasion were SPDC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, and member Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, the ministers, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director General of the SPDC Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the ministers, the deputy ministers and the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and senior officials. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister of External Affairs Shri K Natwar Singh inked the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues and the MoU on implementation of Htamanthi Hydro-electric Power Project, and exchanged the documents. Next, Minister U Nyan Win and Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture Shri Jaipal Reddy signed the Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India, 2004-2006, and they exchanged the documents. — *MNA*

New page of Myanmar-India…

(from page 16)

The Senior General said he believed strengthening of mutual cooperation would continue in political, economic and social sectors between the two countries.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and the Indian Vice-President had documentary photos taken. Next, the Senior General, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and families, Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and families posed for documentary photos.

Next, the Indian Vice-President hosted a luncheon in honour of Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and members of the Myanmar delegation.

Before the luncheon, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greeted Indian ministers and deputy ministers to attend the luncheon.

The Indian Vice-President cordially greeted members of the goodwill delegation — Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, the Myanmar Ambassador to India, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

Next, the Senior General and wife and party had the luncheon together with the Indian Vice-President and party.

After the luncheon, the Senior General and wife and members of the goodwill delegation went back to the Oberoi Hotel. *MNA*

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family pose for documentary photo with Indian Vice-President and family.— MNA

SPORTS

Barcelona, Valencia, holder Zaragoza exit from King's Cup

MADRID, 29 Oct — First Division leaders Barcelona, unbeaten in eight games, crashed out of the King's Cup soccer tournament on Wednesday after losing 1-0 to Third Division side Gramanet.

Midfielder Olles pounced on a defensive lapse to snatch the winner in the 98th minute. Former Chelsea manager Cluadio Ranieri's Valencia lost their third match in a row as they went out 1-0 to Second Division Lleida. Albert Crusat scored the winner 16 minutes from time against a second-string Valencia team.

Espanyol Barcelona, fourth in the league, lost a penalty shoot-out 5-3 to Second Division Terrassa. Cup holders Real Zaragoza, with two men sent off, went down 2-1 to Second Division Nastic.

Antonio Pinilla opened the score for Nastic in the second minute and his second half substitute Fernando made it 2-0 before Zaragoza centre backs Alvaro and Gabriel Milito were ordered off after picking up second bookings.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Brazilian soccer in mourning after death of Serginho

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Oct — Brazilian soccer was in mourning on Thursday after the death of Sao Caetano defender Serginho, who collapsed during the previous night's match against Sao Paulo after suffering an apparent heart attack.

The 30-year-old, full name Paulo Sergio de Oliveira, collapsed in his own penalty area early in the second half. He died 40 minutes after arriving at hospital.

The match was abandoned as players and officials from both teams joined arms, formed a circle and prayed.

Television pictures on Thursday showed his body being transferred to an aircraft to be taken to the small town of Coronel Fabriciano in the state of Minas Gerais, where he began his career.

Serginho, married with a four-year-old son, was expected to be buried on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

News programmes repeated the moment at which he fell to the ground while a rival player, unaware of what was happening, tripped over him. Sao Caetano were preparing to take a goal kick at the time.

The club's supporters, waiting outside the hospital, applauded as the vehicle carrying his body left the building.

Former opponents paid tribute to a player known as a rugged, uncompromising defender.

"He was a friend who will always be in our hearts," said midfielder Renato, who plays for Sao Caetano's neighbours Corinthians.

"He was an exceptional person," said Palmeiras midfielder Claudecir.

The front page of the sports daily Lance was black with a small photograph of the player in the middle.

"Everything which has happened in the Brazilian championship lost its meaning in the face of the sudden death of Serginho," wrote columnist Juca Kfouri in the same newspaper.

Sao Caetano goalkeeper Silvio Luiz had told reporters on the field that routine tests in January had shown that Serginho had a heart condition.

"We understood there was a one per cent chance of anything happening," he said.

One media report said his family had been pressing for him to abandon his career at the end of the season.—*MNA/Reuters*

Sacramento Kings forward Darius Songaila of Lithuania, left, goes up for a shot against Phoenix Suns guard Joe Johnson during the third quarter of a preseason game in Sacramento, Calif, on Friday, 29 Oct, 2004. The Suns beat the Kings 124-96.
INTERNET

Brussels quits bid for 2009 world athletics championships

BRUSSELS, 29 Oct — Brussels has withdrawn from the race to host the 2009 world athletics championships because of financial difficulties, officials said Thursday.

The withdrawal leaves the International Association of Athletic Federations to choose between Berlin of Germany, Valencia of Spain and Split of Croatia when it meets in Helsinki, Finland, on December 4-5.

Candidate cities that had already withdrawn their bids included Brisbane of Australia, Casablanca of Morocco, Daegu of South Korea and New Delhi of India.

Belgian organizers were unable to obtain financial guarantees from the national and regional authorities to back up their bid in due time, Phillipe Housiaux, the co-president of the Belgian track federation, told newspapers Thursday. After the championships in Helsinki next summer, the 2007 event is scheduled for Osaka, Japan. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Porto eliminated from Portugal Cup

LISBON, 29 Oct — Portuguese club Porto, the current European champion, was eliminated in the first round of the Cup of Portugal, after a 2-1 defeat by Vitoria de Guimaraes.

The protagonist of the Wednesday match was the midfielder of local team Nuno Assis, who scored twice for the team coached by Victor Fernandez.

The result was also the first defeat of Porto as visitor in the past seven years (only in the Cup of Portugal).

Three other First Division teams are also about to be eliminated in the competition: Estoril, Gil Vicente and Beira Mar.

MNA/Xinhua

FA investigate Stamford bridge crowd chaos

LONDON, 29 Oct — England's Football Association (FA) is investigating the second outbreak of crowd trouble at a London match within 24 hours after Chelsea striker Mateja Kezman was hit in the face by a coin thrown during a League Cup tie.

Police in riot gear struggled to contain West Ham fans at the end of the all-London tie at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, won 1-0 by Chelsea thanks to Kezman's first goal for the club.

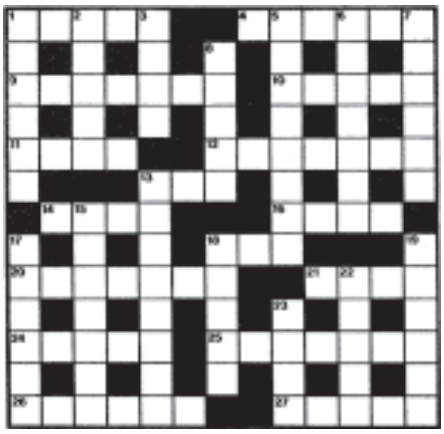
Serbian Kezman needed treatment, but no stitches, to a cut above his left eye after being hit. The FA said on Thursday it would ask for reports from both clubs and the police, and review video evidence and the referee's report, before deciding whether to take action.

On Tuesday, Liverpool fans ripped up seats and threw them on to the pitch during their 3-0 third round win over London-based Millwall. The FA is also investigating these incidents.

Hooliganism at English soccer games dropped significantly last season, according to government figures released at the weekend, particularly at matches involving the national team.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Consumed
4 Ill humour
9 Drinking vessel
10 Lasso
11 Boast
12 Transit
13 Flying mammal
14 Accurate
16 Fashion
18 Diocese
20 Propriety
21 Western isle
24 Prison (slang)
25 County town
26 Adage
27 Part of a play

DOWN
1 Lure
2 Dance
3 Tidy
5 Good-looking
6 Old rate (anag.)
7 Staggered
8 Skilled
13 Guards' headgear
15 Set right
17 Decrees
18 Clever
19 Small hound
22 Cutting instrument
23 Girl

Stockholm Open tennis tourney

STOCKHOLM,29 Oct — Andre Agassi brushed past Jonas Bjorkman 6-3, 6-4 at the Stockholm Open on Thursday to set up a quarterfinal meeting with Spanish sixth seed Fernando Verdasco. "It's much more difficult playing someone who is over 30 (years-old) ... much more pressure for me because it's important that I'm the best over-30 player," joked the 34-year-old top seed.

"It was very important for me today to make sure he wasn't getting the confidence because when has a litle bit of confidence he plays unbelievable, so I felt good about everything I did today."

The American top seed never allowed 32-year-old doubles specialist Bjorkman to find his rhythm in the opening set as he dictated the basline rallies, rarely allowing the Swede to apporach the net.

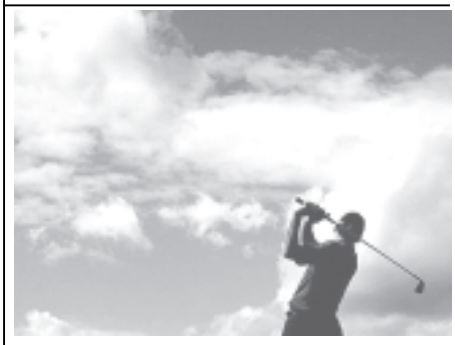
He broke Bjorkman's opening serve game for 2-0 and then broke to love for 5-1. Some careless play by the American allowed Bjorkman back to 5-3 but Agassi made no mistake in his next service game and he clinched the set 6-3.

Bjorkman looked like he had found his groove in the beginning of the next set as he became more agressive and lifted his serving, but Agassi improved too and broke him in the fifth game and again in the seventh with some powerful returns to make it 5-2.

Bjorkman clawed his way back to 5-4 but Agassi clinched the match 6-4 on his first match point.

"Jonas is going to get his breaks of serve because he returns so well, I was just fortunate to be up two breaks of serve when I lost my serve in both sets. That made for a much easier day," said Agassi.

MNA/Reuters



Valderrama swing : Spanish golfer Sergio Garcia in action on the 7th hole during the first round at the Valderrama Golf Club in the Volvo Masters Andalucia Championship in San Roque, Spain.—INTERNET

LatAm culture festival opens in HK

HONG KONG, 30 Oct—With the romantic and exciting Latin American Tango music, an exciting mega Latin-American culture event, Latin-American 2004 Festival, opened Thursday in Hong Kong.

The "Latin America in Hong Kong" festival is co-launched by GRULAC members, which comprise the consulates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela in Hong Kong.

The eight countries team up to bring their culture, traditions, and folklore to Asia through exhibitions, performances, cinema folkloric show, food tasting and open forums.

He said the GRULAC will make the show an annual event from 2004.

Ricardo Forrester, spokesman for the eight-member group of Latin America Consulates (GRULC) and consul general of Argentina in Hong Kong, said here Thursday that the sensational month-long line up of events celebrates all things in Latin America and is expected to take Hong Kong and Macao by storm.

He said at the festival's opening ceremony that the eight LatinAmerican countries feel proud of joining together in initiating the festival and that he expected the festival could make the Latin American culture more popular in Hong Kong.

In the extravaganza of music, dance, arts and food, the festival is about to bring people together and celebrate the breadth and depth of Latin American cultural diversity, Forrester added.

MNA/Xinhua

Two more South China tigers fly to S Africa for training

BEIJING, 30 Oct— Two South China Tiger cubs born in captivity Friday embarked on a flight to South Africa —becoming the second group of Chinese tigers to learn how to live in the wild in Africa.

One year ago, a female Chinese tiger named Guotai, or "peaceful country," and a male Chinese tiger named Xiwang, or "hope," flew to South Africa. The tigers now live on a 500-hectare wild zone called Makopani north of Pretoria, the capital of South Africa, for wilderness survival training.

Born in Shanghai Zoo early this year, the second group of two South China Tiger cubs are expected to reach a nature reserve in the Free State Province of South Africa on Saturday.

There they will then be taught wilderness survival skills, such as catching their prey. The female tiger cub is named "Madonna," and the male tiger is called "Tiger Woods."

The training constitutes part of an accord signed in 2002 by the State Forestry Administration (SFA), London-based Save China's Tigers, and Chinese Tigers South Africa of South Africa.

The South China Tiger (panthera tigris amoyensis), from which other sub-species such as the Siberian Tiger evolved, is a critically endangered tiger sub-species native to the south China region. It has been listed as one of the world's ten most endangered animal species.

MNA/Xinhua

Personal interview for MAEU announced

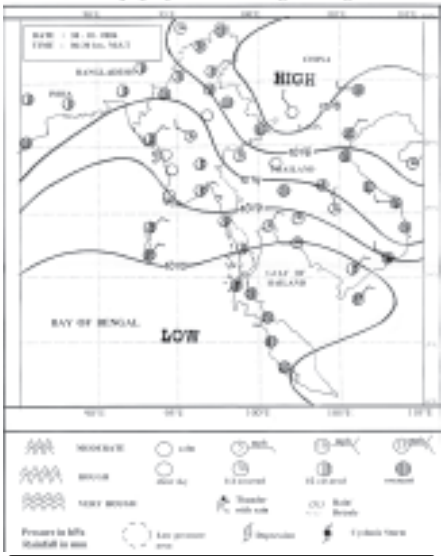
YANGON, 30 Oct—The 2004-2005 academic year of the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University under the Ministry of Science and Technology will commence on1 December 2004. Admission to BE degree course and diploma course for first year candidates has already been announced in the newspapers.

The list of those who are to appear for personal interview will be posted at the Board for Scrutinising University Candidates, the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Thaton Road on 3 November.

Those who are to appear for personal interview are to register in person at the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) from 3 to 7 November along with three passport size photos, the NRC card and other necessary documents.

Personal interview will be conducted from 8 to 12 November 2004 and programme of the interview will be posted at the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) on 3 November together with the list of those who are to sit for personal interview. — *MNA*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 30 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country.

Maximum temperature on 29-10-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 30-10-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-10-2004 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 29-10-2004 was (7.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 30-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (112.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.29 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Northeast at (08:55) hours MST on 30-10-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31-10-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-10-2004:** Fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-10-2004:** Fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Sunday, October 31
View on today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am
2. တိဝိဌကရေ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သိရိမ္ဘတိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြား-တော် မှအပ်သော ဥပဂှာတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
4. Morning news

7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ကြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:05 am
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am
8. ဟင်းရွက်ရေလှောင်တမ်

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10.Say it in English

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:10 am
2. Musical programme

11:25 am
3. Round-up of the week's TV international news

11:40 am
4. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာချစ်မန်း" (အပိုင်း-၄၀)

12:20 pm
5. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ် မြောက်ပိုင်းမှ ဘိန်းအစား-ထိုးပျိုးဥယျာဉ်

12:30 pm
6. Myanmar movie: "ရွှေမိုး" ရန်အောင်၊ ခိုင်ခိုမြင့်အောင် ဒါရိုက်တာ- ရွှေဝင်းလွင်

2:20 pm
7. Musical programme

2:35 pm
8. စလင်းရေလှောင်တမ်

2:45 pm
9. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use

4:40 pm
4. အလေးသင်တဏ္ဍသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား-သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တမေဒ အထူးမြှင့်) (သတ္တမေဒ)

4:55 pm
5. Song of national races

5:05 pm
6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတကား

5:15 pm
8. Musical programme

5:30 pm
8. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm
9. Evening news

7:00 pm
10. Weather report

7:05 pm
11. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ကြိုးသွယ်တဲ့လင်းပိုင်ငယ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၈)

7:35 pm
12. Agricultural source country's development

7:45 pm
13. Musical programme

8:00 pm
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. လပတ်မိုးလေဝသနှင့်စလေဒ ခန့်ခွန်းချက်
18. ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒွါဒသမအကြိမ် (၁၂ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မေတ္တာသည်ဆန်းကြယ်လှသည်" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
20. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, October 31
Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: -Love of my life
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: -Let's stay together
8.55 am National news/Slogan
9.05 am Music: -I gotta know
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Cultural images of Myanmar: -Show dexterity in performing Art
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Story for the children -Three stages of life
1:50 pm Songs for children
9.00 pm Weekly news review
9.10 pm Music
9:15 pm Article
9.25 pm Let's improve English through songs/Latest hits/Adapted originals -Making love out of nothing at all -Top of the world
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).

Myanmar commited to further strengthening of friendship and continued expansion of cooperation with India

Senior General Than Shwe

India determined to exist as lasting partner of Myanmar for development, peace and stability

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh

YANGON, 31 Oct— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe paid a call on Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh at the Deccan Suite of Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 25 October afternoon.

Also present at the call were Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun, and together with the

(See page 13)

Senior General Than Shwe and the Indian Prime Minister hold discussions at Conference Room of Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 25-10-2004.— MNA

New page of Myanmar-India friendly relationship could be opened by reciprocal visits of leaders of two neighbours

Indian Vice-President hosts luncheon in honour of Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party

YANGON, 30 Oct — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at the Deccan Suite of Hyderabad House in New Delhi at 2.10 pm on 25 October.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and Director-General U Thaung Tun of the Political Department.

The Indian Vice-President was accompanied by Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh, Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Mr Shyam Saran, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and senior officials. First, Senior General Than Shwe and the Indian Vice-President met in a cordial atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat said that he was glad to meet Senior General Than Shwe on his State Visit to India. India and Myanmar share similar religious and cultural traditions. He said he believed that today's mutual cooperation between the two countries could be carried to the future.

Similarly, Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the luncheon, saying that Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye had paid a goodwill visit to Indian in the year 2000. Similarly, he added, the Vice-President of the Republic of India, had visited the Union of Myanmar. Therefore, the new page of Myanmar-India friendly relationship could be opened by reciprocal goodwill visits of leaders of the two countries, he added.

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Senior General Than Shwe greets Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat the Deccan Suite of Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 25-10-2004.— MNA

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MoU on Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking in Mekong Region signed (page 11)