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Friday, 28 November, 2003

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Islamic Republic of Mauritania

YANGON, 28 Nov — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt converses with trainee nurses at Thazin Hall of Falam Nurses Training School in Chin State on 25 November. — MNA

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

Government has to carry out herculean tasks to re-establish the country which lagged behind in development in every sphere

Relying on those who are not our brethren will put the country under subjugation of others

Prime Minister inspects development measures in Chin State

YANGON, 27 Nov — Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy minister, personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, accompanied by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Tin Hla, arrived at the People's Hospital in Tiddim, Chin State, on 25 November morning.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed there by medical superintendent Dr Myint Oo, doctors and nurses.

The Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the operation theatre,

intensive care unit, patient wards, X-ray room, delivery room, and the plot chosen for construction of new hospital buildings.

The Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party left Tiddim for Falam by Tatmadaw helicopter. On

arrival, they were welcomed by local authorities, departmental personnel, officials of social organizations, members of cultural troupes, leaders of local national race, and the people.

Next, Prime Minister

General Khin Nyunt met with local authorities, departmental personnel, officials of social organizations, leaders of national race and townselders at Thazin Hall of the nurses training school in Falam.

At the meeting, local

authorities reported on measures for local rice sufficiency and the extension of highland cultivation, arrangements for use of high-yielding strains, the extension of sown acreage, the raising of domesticated wild oxen, the undertakings of

regional development including education, health, water supply and communication, and requirements in the implementation of those tasks. Col Tin Hla also gave supplementary reports on the occasion.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt poses for a documentary photo together with district and township level officials and national race leaders at Thazin Hall of Falam Nurses Training School in Chin State on 25 November. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 28 November, 2003

Ye river-crossing bridge for regional development

It goes without saying that the transport sector plays an important role in regional development. Therefore, the Government is building more and more roads and bridges, including Union Highways, as well as bus terminals, railway stations, modern ports and airports. It is also taking all the necessary measures to extend transport services.

The Ye river-crossing bridge constructed by the Ministry of Rail Transportation was opened in Ye township on the morning of 25 November and the opening ceremony was attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander of the South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

The Ye river-crossing bridge is situated on the Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei railroad and it links Mon State and Taninthayi Division. The bridge was built in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe for the development of transport and economy and for cementing the friendship between the national brethren. It is a rail-cum-road bridge and it is 857 feet and six inches long and 24 feet wide. The Ministry of Rail Transportation started building it on 12 July, 2001, and finished it on 21 October, 2003.

Before 1988, there were only 1976.35 miles of railroad but now there is a total of 2998.36 miles. Not only that, 145 miles of railroads are being currently built and it has been planned to construct another 515.05 miles. Moreover, there were 3,435 bridges built on the railway lines. On the Pakkoku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad, a tunnel was successfully constructed through the Ponnya mountain range. It was something for Myanma Railways to be proud of.

As the Ye river-crossing bridge has been opened, there will be direct train services between Mawlamyine in Mon State and Dawei in Taninthayi Division. As a result, we believe, social and economic status of the people living in these regions will become higher and development of these regions will contribute a lot towards the national development.

Development tasks inspected

YANGON, 27 NOV — Deputy Director-General of the Development Affairs Department Thura U Soe Aung and officials met with the staff of the department in Waingmaw, Kachin State on 23 November and inspected roads in the town. He also inspected roads and a garden in Myitkyina, roads in Namti Village, Manywet-Kyawgon inter-village road, and met

with the staff of the department in Mogaung.

On 25 November, the deputy director-general attended the work coordination meeting of Kachin State Development Affairs Department held at the City Hall in Myitkyina. After hearing reports, he gave instructions on undertaking regional development tasks.

MNA

SINGING CONTEST: The 2003 International Day for the Disabled commemorative singing contest was held at the Kyimyindine School for the Blind on 27-11-2003. Photo shows members of the working committee for organizing the contest enjoy the performance of contestants. — H



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Islamic Republic of Mauritania

YANGON, 28 NOV — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr S'Ghair Ould M'Bareck, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. — MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Islamic Republic of Mauritania

YANGON, 28 NOV — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Vall Ould Bellal, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. — MNA

Visiting Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party donate cash to the Shwedagon Pagoda funds through members of the pagoda board of trustees. (News page 16)

MNA



Information Minister receives guests

YANGON, 27 NOV — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received President of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand Dr Nongluck Phinaitisart and party at the former's office at 4.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

They discussed matters relating to cooperation in broadcasting of MRTV programmes.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Dr Nongluck Phinaitisart and party. — MNA

Myanmar PGA & MGF President's Cup golf continues

YANGON, 27 NOV — The fourth leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003, the Myanmar PGA & Myanmar Golf Federation President's Cup golf tour, jointly organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, continued at Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club in Bago Township this morning.

After the third day match, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan West) and Myint Shwe (Wilson) led the tour with 214 strokes each in the professional golfers division, followed by Aung Win (YCDC) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan West) with 217 each and Than Naing (Bago) with 220. Zaw Zin Win stood first in the men's amateur division with 215, Aung Aung Kyaw second with 216 and Thein Zaw Myint third with 222.

In the women's scratch event, Khin Thu Thu stood first with 155, KhinMarNyunt second with 167 and Ma Htay Htay third with 178.

The tour was mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall



Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Musing Wear), Loi Hein (Alpine), KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Wilson, Canon, UPG, San Far Travels and Tour, Pan West and Eastern Pro Enterprise Ltd and organized by Han Event Management.

The tour continues tomorrow. — MNA

Third day leader defending champion Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan West). — MGF



Why anti-US attacks have spread to Iraq's north

MOSUL (Iraq), 27 Nov — Orange flames hissing in the winter drizzle and a plume of thick black smoke coiling up from a shattered oil pipeline mark the latest hit-and-run raid by Iraqi armed men around this once calm city in northern Iraq.

In recent weeks, Mosul has witnessed a spate of roadside bombings, assassinations, and rocket attacks against American troops and their Iraqi allies.

The recent violence plaguing Iraq's third-largest city comes in marked contrast to the relatively peaceful months immediately after the war, when American troops were greeted with smiles.

According to Iraqi authorities in Mosul, the upsurge in attacks is part of a deliberate strategy by the armed men to expand guerrilla operations northward from the so-called Sunni triangle, until now the focus of most anti-coalition violence.

"Members of the former regime are working with Islamists in Mosul and from elsewhere, including from outside the country, and they are being paid by Saddam [Hussein] and Izzat Ibrahim [al-Duri]," says Mohammed al-Kaki, who heads the military wing

of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) here. Mr. Duri was vice president of the Baath Party's Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest governing body, and Mr. Hussein's closest confidant. He is the Coalition's second-most wanted man.

Coalition forces say that Duri is directing much of the insurgency campaign. Senior Iraqi security officials are linking the beginning of the anti-coalition attacks with Duri's arrival three months ago in a small village east of Mosul.

"He stayed for a short period and paid people to cause trouble," says Gen. Zaid Awani, a senior Iraqi policeman here. "The Americans went to catch him but he had gone." On Wednesday, Coalition forces detained Duri's wife and daughter.

General Awani says that there is no

shortage of anti-US volunteers. "All the high-ranking Baathists in the security and intelligence services no longer receive their salaries, and most of them are from Mosul. They have reason to be angry and are willing to accept money to fight the Americans," he says.

Adding to the instability are common criminals taking advantage of a weak police force, and the softer rule of law brought in by the Americans, who replaced the often brutal justice system dispensed by the former regime. Then there are the daily frustrations of intermittent electricity and fuel shortages.

"The economic situation has to improve," says Hamid Ibrahim, owner of a clothing store. "The opposition are hiring poor people because there are no jobs. A poor person will do anything to feed his family. Democracy is fine, but you can't eat ideas." —*Internet*

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Report says missile strikes Italian Embassy in Baghdad

ROME, 27 Nov — A rocket or mortar round struck the Italian Embassy in Baghdad late on Wednesday causing structural damage but no injuries, Italian news agency ANSA reported.

The missile hit the second floor of the building at around 11.30 pm (2000 GMT), ANSA said, adding that very few people had been in the embassy at the time of the attack.

Italian forces and officials have been on high alert in Iraq since a suicide attack killed 19 Italians in the southern city of Nassiriya earlier this month.

Wednesday's strike came just a day after rockets hit the sprawling compound of the US-British administration in Baghdad. A US spokesman said no-one was injured in that attack.

Last week US military said they found several rockets stashed in a street close to Italy's Baghdad Embassy.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers and a member of Iraq's Civil Defence Corps (R) cross a hill during a patrol in Baghdad's southern suburb of Owerij. —INTERNET

Iraqi Kurds to host meeting on Iraq's development

LONDON, 27 Nov — Iraqi Kurdish authorities will host a meeting in December on Iraq's future development involving members of the US-backed Iraqi Governing Council and other leading figures, officials said on Wednesday.

"The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has called an urgent summit on December 8-10 in the safe and stable area of Iraqi Kurdistan," Kurdistan Development Corporation spokesman Michael Bland told Reuters.

London-based Bland said the meeting would discuss development needs, investment criteria and a blueprint for the rebuilding of Iraq.

The Kurdish region in the north could serve as a catalyst as it had "developed a very stable and really quite advanced economy with a stable currency and high employment," said Bland.

Iraqi Kurds acquired de facto autonomy from Saddam Hussein's rule in Baghdad

thanks to US and British air cover after the 1991 Gulf War. Iraq's four million Kurds make up 16 percent of the predominantly Arab population.

"Regional development is the way ahead — highly autonomous regions all working harmoniously together," said Bland.

KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani would host the meeting and those attending would include Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, leaders of the Shammar tribe and the regions of Mosul, Kirkuk and Basra's governor and selected businessmen.

Andy Bearpark, director of operations for the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority, would also be at the meeting.

Internet

Australia boosts fines for illegal foreign fishers

CANBERRA, 27 Nov — Foreign vessels caught fishing illegally in Australian waters will face heftier fines and have to pay the costs of any pursuit under new laws being introduced to the Australian Parliament this week.

The crackdown comes after Australian authorities spent 21 days in August chasing a Uruguayan-flagged boat suspected of poaching rare patagonian toothfish through Antarctic seas. The chase, which ended off South Africa, cost about 5 million Australian dollars.

Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald said the conservative government wanted to increase fines for foreign crew caught fishing illegally on vessels larger than 25 metres to 835,000 Australian dollars (\$94,000 US dollars) from 550,000 Australian dollars.

The proposed new laws would also allow the Australian government to recover the cost of pursuit and apprehension of foreign illegal fishing vessels. "That will be a very extended deterrent to those who would fish illegally in Australian waters," Macdonald told reporters.

Macdonald said this would enable the government to look more closely at the corporate structures behind organized fleets of illegal fishing vessels and take civil proceedings around the world to recover the money.

"We hope in this way we may put some of them out of business and send a very strong message to others that Australia will simply not tolerate illegal fishing in its waters," he said.

The 3,900-nautical mile chase after for the Uruguayan-flagged *Viarsa* in August highlighted the plight of the increasingly rare toothfish, a delicacy prized in Asia and the United States, but also the declining state of the world's over-exploited fisheries.

Armed fisheries officers stormed the *Viarsa* and escorted the vessel back to Australia where five crew members have been charged with illegal fishing and face fines of up to 550,000 Australian dollars. — MNA/Reuters

434 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov — As of Wednesday, 26 Nov, 434 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 298 died as a result of hostile action and 136 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy, 17; Denmark, Spain, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 296 US soldiers have died 184 as a result of hostile action and 112 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,094 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 350. The latest death reported by US Central Command:

A 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldier died Wednesday from a non-combat related gunshot wound in Mosul, Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defence:

Army Spc David J Goldberg, 20, Layton, Utah; died Wednesday of a non-combat related injury in Qayyarah, Iraq; assigned to C Company, 52nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), US Army Reserve, 43rd Area Support Group, Fort Carson, Colo.

Internet



US soldiers examine the crater left by a US air strike on the outskirts of Kirkuk, Iraq, on 25 Nov, 2003.

INTERNET

Garner says US made mistakes in Iraq

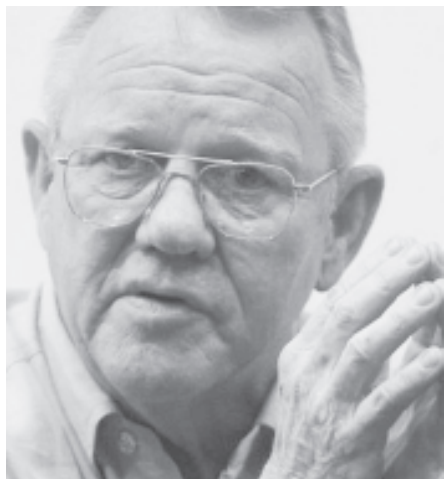
LONDON, 27 Nov — The retired American general who headed the first occupation government in Iraq says the decision to disband the Iraqi army was one of several major mistakes Washington has made in Iraq.

The United States should also have put more more troops into Baghdad after the fall of Saddam Hussein and done a better job of winning support from the Iraqi people, Jay Garner said in a radio interview aired Wednesday.

"I think there was a lot of thought ... on how to do postwar Iraq. I just don't think that it unfolded the way everybody expected it to unfold," Garner told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Garner arrived in Baghdad on April 21, shortly after Saddam's fall. He was replaced by L. Paul Bremer on May 12, after less than a month as Iraq's civilian administrator. At the time he was criticized for not doing enough to stop the lawlessness in Baghdad.

Garner, a former lieutenant general who ran the relief



US administrator Jay Garner, then in charge of post war Iraq, speaks to the media at a news conference in Baghdad, Iraq in this 24 April, 2003 file photo.—INTERNET

mission for Kurdish refugees after the 1991 Gulf War, claimed he was undermined by interagency rivalry and said the military did not act quickly enough to restore law and order and key services in the city.

After the collapse of the Baath regime, looters rampaged for days, sacking businesses and government buildings. The chaos shocked many Baghdad residents, and crime remains a problem in the capital.

"If we did it over again, we probably would have put more dismounted infantrymen in Baghdad and maybe more troops there," Garner said, speaking to the BBC from his home in Florida.

He also criticized Bremer for disbanding the Iraqi army at a time when manpower was needed for rebuilding. The original plan had been to pay the army to take part in reconstruction work.

A mistake

"I think it was a mistake," Garner said. "We planned ... on bringing the Iraqi army back and using them in reconstruction."

Bremer's decision threw hundreds of thousands of breadwinners out of work and provided potential recruits for insurgency, he said.

"You're talking about around a million or more people ... that are suffering because the head of the household's out of work," said Garner.

"And we had budgeted to pay the Iraqi army. But part of our plans said, you know, they'll surrender like they did in the first Gulf War. Well, hell, they didn't surrender, they just evaporated," Garner said.

In defence of his decision, Bremer has said the army had already dissipated during the last days of the war, military facilities were heavily damaged and stripped by looters and it was necessary to rid the military of Saddam's supporters.

Garner admitted some mistakes of his own. In hindsight, he said, he would have done a better job communicating with the Iraqi people and restoring electricity supplies.—Internet

ဝက်ဟွန်းအား ခေါ်ကျော်လွှား

Cleric says Iraq's top Shiite criticizes US plans

NAJAF (Iraq), 27 Nov — Iraq's top Shiite religious authority has criticized US plans for transferring sovereignty to Iraqis as incomplete and insufficiently Islamic, a leading Shiite politician said here.

Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) which is represented on the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, said Sayyid Ali al-Sistani, widely revered as Iraq's most influential Islamic leader, had expressed misgivings about the plan.

Sistani rarely makes public pronouncements on politics but his status means that any criticism of the timetable for the transfer of power could mean many Shiites reject the plan.

"He expressed concern about real gaps, which must be dealt with or the plan will lack the ability to meet the hopes of the Iraqi people. It diminishes the role of the Iraqi people in the process of transferring authority to Iraqis," Hakim told a news conference in the holy city of Najaf.

"He didn't find anything that assures Islamic identity... there should have been a stipulation which prevents legislating anything that contradicts Islam in the new Iraq, in either the interim or permanent phase."

Shiite Muslims make up 60 per cent of Iraq's population and their leaders have largely sidestepped conflict with the US Administration, in the hope of playing a leading political role in Iraq's next government.

According to the new plans unveiled earlier this month by Washington and the Governing Council, regional caucuses will select a national assembly by the end of May, and this will pick a transitional government by the end of June.

The government would take over sovereignty from occupying powers in July, and a Constitution would be written and democratic elections held by the end of 2005.

MNA/Reuters

Three rockets hit residential neighbourhood in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov — Three rockets hit a residential neighbourhood in central Baghdad late Tuesday and caused some material damages, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported.

Earlier, the US military confirmed that three explosions occurred at 8:15 pm (1715 GMT) outside the US-led coalition headquarters but hit in the vicinity of a police station, a bus station and an unknown building.

"The casualty figures are unknown at this point," said a US military spokeswoman.

She said the coalition forces have secured the area and the investigation of the source of attack and weapons used was underway.

Witnesses said a projectile exploded near the Foreign Ministry, 200 metres away from the so-called Green Zone on west bank of the Tigris River.

The heavily fortified compound has become a target of frequent rocket and mortar attacks by guerilla forces in the past weeks.

However, the resistance bombardments were rare after the US 1st Armoured Division launched the anti-insurgent Operation Iron Hammer in the capital.

Tuesday's attack came after US Central Command chief John Abizaid and US civil administrator Paul Bremer vowed to continue to fight the guerillas despite that Sunni clerics called for a truce between the two sides during the Eid al-Fitr, a festival marking the end of Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.—MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier from the 82nd Airborne Division searches bags in a farm in Baghdad's southern suburb of Owerij. Some two thousand soldiers conducted a massive weapon search as part of operation Iron Hammer.—INTERNET

UN chief to consult advisors on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will hold consultations on Iraq with representatives of the country's neighbours, Egypt and selected members of the Security Council, a UN spokesman said here Wednesday.

Spokesman Fred Eckhard told reporters at a Press briefing that the meeting will be held at UN Headquarters in New York on Monday.—Internet

WHO warns climate of fear encouraging spread of HIV/"AIDS"

MANILA, 27 Nov — The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that ignorance, denial, fear and intolerance of HIV/AIDS in Asia is creating an environment where the disease can easily spread.

"The lesson for public health from AIDS is to think beyond medicine," Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific was quoted as saying in a statement released by the regional office.

He stressed the need to address related social problems to strengthen care for those infected and to prevent the infection of many more. "Prejudice, rejection, hurt and ostracism are some of the most painful parts of HIV infection which even a miracle drug may not overcome," said Omi.

"Blaming people and making moral judgments do not help stop the disease from spreading," said Omi. "In fact, the disease can spread further because stigmatized groups tend to become more hidden and opportunities for giving them information

and treatment are lost."

To raise public awareness, World AIDS Day 2003, to fall on December 1, will focus on the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome), the statement said.

Stigma is often linked to cultural or religious beliefs or a lack of education, WHO said. For example, drug users have been tagged as social outcasts in some parts of Asia.

Because of these attitudes, the existence of the problem is sometimes denied, heightening the risk of the disease spreading further into the community, said the statement.—MNA/Xinhua

Experts say climate change to affect mankind negatively

BEIJING, 27 Nov — Climate changes featuring global warming will have more negative effects on human society, according to experts at an ongoing seminar on climate changes and ecological environment here.

In addition, the average global temperature will increase by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius by 2100 up from 1990, and the average sea level worldwide will increase by 0.09 to 0.88 metres, according to the third assessment report issued in 2001 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes.

Based on this report, the experts predicted the output changes of global wheat, corn and rice in years 2020, 2050 and 2080, only to find that crop output in most developing countries will shrink, while that in developed countries in the Northern Hemisphere will increase.

Owing to global warming, China's crop output will shrink, while farming costs will increase, said Qin Dahe, director of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

Climate changes will also affect river routes, the frequency of droughts and floods, and the quality of underground water, plunging many countries into water supply difficulties.

MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Seen through a cracked window, US soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division patrol at a coalition checkpoint in Fallujah, 65 kilometres west of Baghdad, on 20 November, 2003. Tension remains high in this Iraqi town as Fallujah has been the most dangerous place for US troops. —INTERNET



Iraqis look at a hole on the roof damaged by mortars in an overnight attack in central Baghdad, on Wednesday, 26 Nov, 2003. Large explosions were heard after sundown on Tuesday in central Baghdad, near the US headquarters compound, known as the 'green zone'. —INTERNET



An Iraqi tribesman passes US soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division searching his farm in Baghdad's southern suburb of Owerij. Some two thousand soldiers conducted a massive weapons search as part of operation Iron Hammer—INTERNET

An Iraqi boy looks at a hole on the roof damaged in last night's attack in central Baghdad, on 26 November, 2003. Guerillas fired rockets at the headquarters of the US-led administration in central Baghdad on Tuesday and loudspeakers ordered personnel in the compound to take cover as explosions echoed across the Iraqi capital. —INTERNET



US soldiers and members of the Iraqi police secure the perimeter of the Palestine(rear) and the Sheraton hotels in Baghdad, on 25 November.

INTERNET



An Iraqi woman gestures after the car park of her house was hit by mortars in an overnight attack in central Baghdad, on Wednesday, 26 Nov, 2003. Large explosions were heard after sundown on Tuesday in central Baghdad, near the US headquarters compound, known as the 'green zone'. —INTERNET

Halliburton in Iraq fuel row

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov—Halliburton, the Houston-based oil services and construction group once headed by US Vice President Dick Cheney, is again under fire.

The energy giant and its subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root have been accused by three US lawmakers of fleecing ordinary American taxpayers by charging "inflated prices" for selling petrol to US troops in Iraq.

Senator Joseph Lieberman and Representatives John Dingell and Henry Waxman on Tuesday called for a US Defence Department investigation of the company.

They said Halliburton was charging US taxpayers \$2.65 per gallon to transport gasoline from Kuwait to Iraq, while the Iraqi state oil company paid only 96 cents per gallon.

The Defence Department's own fuel distribution centre also paid considerably less, between \$1.08 dollars and \$1.19 per gallon.

In a letter to the Inspector General of the Defence Department, the three lawmakers have insisted "transparency and accountability are essential if the efforts to recon-

struct Iraq are to succeed".

"We hope you will help restore transparency and accountability to this process by undertaking the important investigations described in this letter"

"We hope you will help restore transparency and accountability to this process by undertaking the important investigations described in this letter," the trio said.

But Halliburton is no stranger to controversy and has had its share of the spotlight even in the past.

Alarmed that the company had cornered Iraqi reconstruction contracts worth \$500 million, other congressmen have questioned why so much work had been given to Halliburton's subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) without any competition.

Instead of asking for fresh bids, the Pentagon awarded Halliburton new contracts based on a 2001 contract it had won for supplies to US troops.

Internet

Uruguayan President stresses economic cooperation with China

MONTEVIDEO, 27 Nov — Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle said Monday that his country would make every effort to promote trade and economic cooperation with China on the basis of mutual benefit.

Batlle made the remarks at a meeting with Cheng Siwei, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, who is visiting here on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

Speaking highly of the successful development of relations between China and Uruguay in the past 15 years, Batlle said Uruguay attaches great

significance to developing political, trade and economic ties with China.

As a window of the South American Common Market, Uruguay has advantages in the industries of agriculture, stock raising, food and feed processing as well as software development, said the President.

He expressed his hope that Chinese entrepreneurs will increase investment in Uruguay to broaden trade and economic

cooperation.

Cheng, also head of the Sino-Latin American Friendship Association, appreciated Uruguay's adherence to the "one-China" policy and its support for China's accession to the World Trade Organization. China also attaches much importance to bilateral ties and the two countries share common stands on many international issues, Cheng said

MNA/Xinhua

Zambia, Angola satisfied with improved security along borders

LUSAKA, 27 Nov — The Angola-Zambia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security has expressed satisfaction over the improved security situation along the borders between the two countries, local newspaper *Times of Zambia* reported Tuesday.

In a communique issued here Monday, the two African countries reiterated the call for continued cooperation on issues of cross-border crime.

The communique said efforts by the security agencies to enhance cooperation in various fields such as training and exchange of information, were commendable and of great benefit to both countries.

It said the commission was happy with

the on-going repatriation of Angolan refugees, and urged both governments and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to facilitate smooth completion of the exercise.

The commission expressed concern over the HIV/AIDS pandemic that had continued to take a large toll on the productive human resource.

MNA/Xinhua



The doors are closed on the last British Airways Concorde, after it was manoeuvred into a hanger, its final home at Airbus UK's Filton airfield, Bristol, England, on 26 Nov, 2003, after a special flight from Heathrow Airport to the site where the supersonic plane was made. Thousands of aviation fans and aerospace workers braved showers to see Concorde 216 fly overhead at 2000ft and then land.—INTERNET

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The company is accused of overcharging for its oil supplies

INTERNET

Khamenei says US sinking in Iraq's swamp

TEHERAN, 27 Nov — Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said here the United States was sinking deeper into a quagmire in Iraq and warned that Middle Eastern nations would not tolerate being occupied.

"The American nation should know that Iraq is America's quagmire and America is sinking deeper into it by staying longer in Iraq," Khamenei said in a sermon broadcast live on state media to mark the official end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in Iran.

"The Americans are so desperate that they are bombing an occupied country...

this (Middle East) region does not tolerate occupation," the conservative cleric said. Iran has repeatedly called for the acceleration of a power transfer in Iraq and the formation of an independent Iraqi Government.

Last week, Iran's moderate President Mohammad Khatami officially recognized the Iraqi Governing Council, a mainly advisory group of 25 people selected

by the United States.

"The Americans should know that any imposed government, Constitution and elections would face resistance from the people in Iraq," said Khamenei, who wields ultimate authority in Iran.

"In free elections the majority of the Iraqi people will choose those who will not allow the Americans to stay one more day in Iraq," he said.—MNA/Reuters

Euro zone finance ministers break free of budget pact

BRUSSELS, 27 Nov — Euro zone finance ministers freed themselves from the constraints of EU budget rules on Tuesday by suspending disciplinary action against Germany and France in defiance of an angry European Commission.

Berlin and Paris will be asked for no more than a political commitment to cutting deficits that are set to break EU limits for the third year in a row in 2004, rather than being pushed along a disciplinary process whose ultimate sanction is a fine.

At a time of nascent economic recovery, both will also be urged to cut deficits by less than the Commission recommended, under an accord struck after nearly 10 hours of talks and which will be put to a formal vote by EU ministers later on Tuesday.

Italian Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti said the deal was in line with the spirit and letter of EU budget rules but Spain, the Netherlands, Finland, and Austria did not back it and the Commission immediately went on the warpath.

The EU executive said ministers were entering uncharted territory that would

make it harder to enforce the budget discipline rules that were drawn up before monetary union and were designed to underpin the euro.

"The Commission deeply regrets that these proposals are not following the spirit and the rules of the (EU) treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact (on budget discipline)," European Monetary Affairs Commissioner Pedro Solbes said.

The EU executive, which is responsible for enforcing the pact, declined to spell out its next move but dropped hints that it may mount a legal challenge.

"The Commission, while continuing to apply the treaty, will reserve the right to examine the implication of these conclusions, if they are finally accepted, and decide on possible subsequent actions," Solbes added.

MNA/Reuters

Banana disease spreads to 10 districts in Uganda

KAMPALA, 27 Nov — The Uganda National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) has asked for 6 billion shillings (about 3 million US dollars) to fight banana wilt which has spread to 10 districts in the east African country.

Fred Ssekiwoko from the NARO were quoted by *The Monitor* as saying on Tuesday that the disease which reduces the yield of banana was first identified in 2000 in the country.

The disease has since spread to ten more districts in the country starting in Mukono and has posed a big threat to the country's banana crop. "We need a maximum of 6 billion shillings to exhaust our searches and find means of resisting its spread," said Ssekiwoko, an assistant research officer for national banana programme.

He said part of the money can be used to sensitize farmers as to how the disease spreads and how they can both prevent and fight it.

MNA/Xinhua

Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy

Hla Tun (Twantay)

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand successfully concluded recently. Myanmar hosted the summit. Prime Ministers, a deputy prime minister, ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials of the four countries attended the meeting.

It was Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra who proposed, during the ASEAN Summit on SARS held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 29 April 2003, to hold the summit of the four countries.

Senior officials' meeting concerning the matters to be discussed at the summit of the four countries was held in Vientiane, Laos, on 15-7-2003 and the ministerial meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1-8-2003.

Before the summit, the second senior officials' meeting and the ministerial meeting were separately held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 10 November 2003 morning and afternoon. The summit was held at the Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan Archaeological Zone, Mandalay Division, on 11 and 12 November 2003.

It is the first summit meeting on economic cooperation strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. It can be said that holding of the summit at the capital of the first Myanmar empire as well as a site of historical heritage is a milestone in history.

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Somkid Jatusripitak, ministers, deputy ministers, and senior officials of the four countries attended the summit.

I would like to underscore the discussions of the prime ministers.

Chairman of the summit Prime Minister of the host General Khin Nyunt expressed his appreciation of the proposal of the Prime Minister of Thailand to hold the summit and thanked the prime ministers of Laos and Cambodia who supported the proposal. It was the ripe time to implement the economic cooperation and was also in accord with the development of the region, ASEAN Vision 2002 and Bali Declaration, General Khin Nyunt said.

He asserted that Myanmar would implement the objectives and goals of economic cooperation strategy and Myanmar proposed that Mandalay and Luang Prabang, Yangon and Bangkok, Mandalay and Chiang Mai, Myawady and Maesot, and Tachilek and Maesai be designated as Sister Cities. Myanmar would establish an industrial zone in Myawady and export products and promote trade and investment. Myanmar supported the establishment of industrial zones in border regions and it would carry out the tasks for gaining trade and investment opportunities. He said Myanmar wished to undertake cooperation in hydro electric power generation, tourism and human resources development sector.

Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra said that Thailand supported the future programmes proposed at the summit and held frank discussions on trade, investment, loan and assistance, promotion of tourism industry, and sources of income.

Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen said he would like to thank Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt for their generous hospitality. It was a historic agreement to designate Bagan and Siem Reap as Sister Cities. He also thanked the Prime Minister of Thailand who proposed to hold the summit. The four countries, all Buddhist countries, have the same new year days. Participation of the private sector is an important factor in economic cooperation, he pointed out. Cambodia supported the designation of Sister Cities and was fully committed to the programmes for designation of sister cities and cooperation in the tourism industry. There were financial problems in implementation of economic cooperation and loans should be granted for them. He also supported the holding of summits and meetings on economic cooperation among the four countries. He also supported the introduction of a single visa for the four countries proposed by Dr Thaksin.

The Laotian Prime Minister said he would like to

thank Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt for the proper arrangements for the summits. Myanmar made the best arrangements for holding the summit of the four Buddhist countries in Bagan, he said. He said Laos wished to build roads along the borders sharing with neighbours and seek ways and means to construct roads there. He pointed out the need to cooperate in narcotic drug elimination tasks as proposed by the Prime Minister of Thailand and stressed the need to promote the market for products of Laos. He said, being a land-locked country, Laos had to export its products through a third country. He said taxes levied by Thailand on Laos products exported through the country were high and proposed to lower them. Laos and Thailand would sign an agreement for generation of electric power, he disclosed. He expressed his thanks to the Prime Minister of Thailand for the programme for the prosperity of neighbouring countries.

The discussions of the Prime Ministers were frank. They were anxious to implement the economic cooperation programmes. It indicated the certainty of success of the programmes.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt explained matters related to the Bagan Declaration drafted at the second Senior Officials' Meeting and Ministerial Meeting and future tasks. All the Prime Ministers unanimously approved the declaration at the summit on 12 November in Bagan.

Bagan Declaration dated 12 November was issued at the end of the summit.

It stated objectives of economic cooperation strategy and implementation tasks of the strategy.

Besides, it expressed facilitation of trade and investment, agricultural and industrial cooperation, transport linkages, tourism cooperation and human resources development.

The four prime ministers unanimously agreed to task the Ministers to implement the Plan of Action and common and bilateral projects, encourage the private sector to fully participate in the implementation of the economic cooperation process, promote investment in border regions, make arrangements for lowest interest loans and assistance, convene Summit Meeting of the Heads of Government biennially, and Meetings for the Ministers and the Senior Officials annually for the success of the economic cooperation strategy, and call the agreement Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS.

At the end of the summit, Chairman of the summit Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt issued a press statement. The statement contains 14 points and described the summit fruitful as the leaders of the four countries had held frank discussions based on friendship.

Besides the Bagan Declaration, six bilateral agreements were signed at the summit. The agreements related to Myanmar are Production Sharing Contracts for the Exploration and Production of Petroleum to be implemented in blocks M 7 and M 9 in Mottama offshore area and MoU on the Development of Industrial Estates/Special Economic Zones in Myanmar.

In conclusion, the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand hosted by Myanmar concluded successfully in the ancient capital of Myanmar, Bagan. Success of the summit is sure to increase by implementing the economic cooperation strategy among the four countries.

Translation: MWT

ကမ္ဘာ့အညံ့ဆုံးနေ့သို့ ဆန္ဒပြုလုပ်နေကြကြောင်း သတိပေးရန်

(၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၃)

World AIDS Day

အိမ်ထောင်ရေး၊ ကျန်းမာရေး၊ ကြည့်ရှုစားနပ်ာ လက်တွဲမှု

Live and Let Live

ကုန်သွယ်ရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး

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

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရနှင့်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နေ့နှင့် နိုင်ငံတော်ဆုပတ်တန်နေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှ အပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) (၃၀-၁၁-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်

(၁၄-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့

နှင့်

(၂၈-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့

နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့်
စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets local farmers, attends opening of multimedia classrooms in Mon State

YANGON, 27 NOV—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials of the SPDC Office, on 23 November, arrived at Sittaung Bridge where they were welcomed by Mon State PDC Chairman Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of No 44 LID Col Thet Naing Oo and officials.

On 24 November morning, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials arrived at Kyauktalon village in Mudon Township, Mon State, where a demonstration of cultivation of beans and sunflower was given. Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected *Arhman* compound fertilizer produced by the Prisons Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs, *Phupwint* fertilizer produced by the Mawlamyine industrial zone and organic fertilizer

produced by Central Agriculture Research (Yezin). Officials reported to Lt-Gen Maung Bo on distribution of the fertilizers.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed the harvesting of monsoon paddy in a farmers field. The average yield stood at 83.56 baskets per acre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with farmers who will be engaged in cultivation of mixed crops for the year 2003-2004 in Mudon Township. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the State Peace and Development Council is implementing border areas and national races development projects, projects in 24 Development Regions and the five rural development tasks for ensuring equitable development among regions in the country. Lt-Gen Maung Bo spoke of the need for growing the ten major crops and three new items of crops suitable to the region. Afterwards, he cordially greeted the farmers.

Altogether 674, 063 acres of land were put under monsoon paddy in Mon State in 2003-2004. Of



Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets with departmental officials and members of social organizations in Ye. — MNA

them, 111,673 acres have been harvested to this date and per acre yield is 65.91 baskets. It is targeted to put 140,000 acres of land under summer paddy this year and up to this date 12, 370 acres have been put under summer paddy.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party also attended the opening of multi-media classrooms in Kamawet Basic Education High School in Mudon Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented teaching aids to the headmaster. Commander Maj-Gen Thura

Myint Aung spoke on the occasion.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo made a speech saying that today is the knowledge age and thus the State Peace and Development Council is laying emphasis on producing highly qualified human resources. In this process, computer studies play an important role.

As the special four-year plan is being implemented in basic and higher education sectors, measures are being taken to upgrade the curriculum of the basic education sector, establish

e-Education Learning Centres in various towns and give lectures through Data Broadcasting System.

For the emergence of outstanding students, faculty members of universities give lectures to outstanding students of basic education sector in cities. At the same time, efforts are being made to promote rural education.

By combining formal and non-formal education, arrangements are being made to produce human resources with high qualification. Therefore, it is required to apply multi-media electronic teaching aids.

It is heartening to note that Mon State PDC is providing multi-media electronic devices worth over 800 million to schools. In building the nation to become a modern and devel-

oped one, it cannot be carried out individually.

As regards the agriculture sector, farmers who have applied scientific methods are more profitable than those who have applied conventional ones.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged the local people to make efforts in the interests of themselves, the region and the State.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presented K 200,000 for the school to the chairman of SBT. They proceeded to Ye and met with departmental officials.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Brig-Gen Ohn Myint delivered speeches. After fulfilling the requirements, Lt-Gen Maung Bo greeted those present.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects...

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canal No 2 to grow summer paddy near Natkyoai and Kanpauk villages.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the concrete water tank built for storing water from the tributary canal No 2 for local people.

They proceeded to the main building of Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project and inspected the lake and main canal and the pumping of water from the Ayeyawady River into the lake.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at

Bagan Archaeological Zone, where they were welcomed by Deputy Director-General of Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar) U Aung Kyaing and officials. The officials reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on construction of the palace of King Anawrahta. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

They proceeded to the construction site of Kyaukku River Water Pumping Project. The person in charge of the project reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on progress in building the main

canal and tributary canals and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected the digging of the main canal at Auknyi (Thugaungti) river water pumping project in Auknyi village.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected water supply from Letpanchepaw river water pumping project, thriving monsoon paddy grown with water from Ngathayauk river water pumping project and cultivation of long staple cotton.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected Ngathayauk and Lawkananda river water pumping projects

in Nyaung U. They arrived in Pakokku, Magway Division, at 1 pm.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with officers, other ranks and their families at Yedagun Hall of Pakokku Station and gave instructions on extension of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale, extended cultivation of perennial crops for greening of environs and participation in regional development tasks.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the agriculture and livestock breeding tasks carried out by local battalion on a manageable scale. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and MBF Patron U Maung Maung Swe watch the first day matches. — NLM



The opening of the Thamada Buddha Statues & Monk's Requisites Centre in progress. — MNA

Armed Forces Day TV quiz to be held

YANGON, 27 Nov — The Work Committee for Holding TV Quiz to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 will hold TV quiz.

The basic education level TV quiz for the eighth, ninth and tenth graders will take place on 15-1-2004; and the higher education level for the students of universities, degree colleges and institutes on 16-1-2004.

The history of the Tatmadaw volumes 1 to 4 is

prescribed for the basic education level and volumes 5 to 8 for the higher education level. Phwintphyo Wesi Myanmarpyi published by the Ministry of Information, and news, songs, TV plays and special programmes broadcast by Myanna Television are also prescribed for both levels.

Interested students are to submit their names to the principals and rectors concerned.

MNA

ISD badminton starts

YANGON, 27 Nov — The 35th inter-state/division badminton tournament for 2003 was opened this morning at Aung San Gymnasium.

At the opening ceremony, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen

Thura Aye Myint made an address.

A total of 12 badminton teams participate in the tournament. The competitions of the tournament will start at 9 am daily and continue till 2 December.

NLM

"Thamada" Thingantaik launches its branch

YANGON, 27 Nov — The opening ceremony of a branch of "Thamada" Buddha Statues & Monk's Requisites Centre was held in conjunction with the cash donation for the Ministry of Religious Affairs at the branch at No 156 on Shwegondaing Road in Bahan Township this morning. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attended the ceremony. Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint,

Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and owner Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Than Naing formally opened the branch. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung unveiled the signboard of the branch. Afterwards, the minister and officials viewed round the branch. Later, wellwishers presented cash donation to the minister and officials.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt holds a meeting with local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations, national race leaders and townselders in Falam on 25-11-2003. — MNA

Government has to carry out herculean...

(from page 1)

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended to the needs for education and health sectors and gave instructions. He said that the leadership of the State and departmental heads tour Chin State to render necessary assistance to the development of the region.

The region lagged behind in development as it was difficult of access.

The Government therefore gives priority to the betterment of transport sector in taking measures for regional development in Chin State.

Arrangements are under way to upgrade Falam-Tiddim motor road and Falam-Haka motor road.

Moreover, the Government spends a huge sum of money annually on the maintenance and upgrading of roads in the region. However, the maintenance of roads is top priority in preventing the blockage caused by landslides in the rainy season as roads in the region are built in mountain areas. This being so, tasks to upgrade the roads can only be carried out gradually and phase by phase.

Moreover, paddy cultivation cannot be conducted in the region, given the geographical condition of the region. Therefore, steps are being taken on a gradual basis to extend the highland paddy cultivation suited to the region.

Similarly, as the crop cultivation fails in the region, the Government is giving encouragement and rendering assistance to the cultivation of tea, which is suited to the geographical condition and most beneficial to the region.

As for the livestock breeding sector, the Government also offers assistance to the raising of domesticated wild oxen, the livelihood which is consistent with the region and can promise the economic boost to the most possible degree.

Besides, the Government is making systematic arrangements to ensure development of border trade.

At a time when the Government is giving assistance to the regional development in every approach, it is incumbent upon departmental officials discharging their duties assigned to work hard with great vigour to achieve the goal by making the most of the Government's assistance.

The people, on their part, should also cooperate with local authorities to ensure regional development as well as their own benefit.

The concerted efforts made by the three forces — the Government's assistance, systematic management of departmental officials and public cooperation — will enable the region to undergo rapid development.

The flourishing of national solidarity is necessary

in the Union, where a diversity of national races reside in unison.

The country did not gain any development as it had lived under the servitude of colonialists, who exploited the country's valuable resources, for over a century.

The collapse of national solidarity in the wake of independence owing to the attempt of the colonialists to drive a wedge between one national race and another left the country facing an unstable state to re-establish itself amid a mountain of conflicts.

Taking the enormous responsibilities of the State unavoidably, the Tatmadaw Government makes strenuous efforts to restore the national unity and the stability and tranquillity of the State. At the same time, the Government has to carry out the herculean tasks to re-establish the country which lagged behind in development in every sphere.

Although success was achieved in the effort to end armed struggles and bring peace and prosperity to the country, a small number of armed insurgencies with the involvement of foreign nations still exist and are attempting to hinder measures being taken for stability and development of the State.

Since the previous parliamentary era, national solidarity had weakened, followed by numerous problems. And lessons have been drawn from those consequences. Therefore, it is important not to be duped by

fabrications to cause the disintegration of national solidarity. The entire national races need to be well aware of such acts being committed with ill intentions to cripple the strength of the Union.

Relying on those who are not our own brethren will put the country under the subjugation of others. Moreover, the same thing can be said of living under the influence of others.

Therefore, all the national races are to be on alert to the ill-intentioned attempts of external elements and should strive for national development by taking as a national policy the non-disintegration of national solidarity, non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty, he said.

Next, the Prime Minister provided the Falam Nos 1 and 2 BEHSs with a set of computer, television, video cassette player and inverter through the school heads, and local people with clothes through a local authority.

Later, the Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party posed for a group photo together with local authorities and leaders of national races.

The Prime Minister also greeted the trainees of the nurses training school.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to the Falam General Hospital, where they were welcomed by the medical superintendent and officials conducted the Prime Minister and party round the hospital. After inspecting the hospital, the Prime Minister gave instructions on renovation of the hospital.

Next, the Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Thantlang. Members of the Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, members of social organizations, teachers, students and the local people welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

First, the Prime Minister and party inspected round the tea plantations there and met with members of the Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, members

of social organizations and townselders at the hall of the township.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Sai Lu Tin reported to the Prime Minister and party on area and location, population, cultivated acreage and crops, breeding of domesticated wild oxen, education, health, communication and water supply tasks of the township and upgrading of roads in the township. Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions. The Prime Minister said there are prospects for development of the township as it has more favourable land and conditions for cultivation than the other regions in Chin State. Moreover, it is accessible from other states and divisions via Thantlang-Haka and Haka-Gangaw roads and situated on the border trade route. So, the transportation sector of the township contributes towards the economic development of the region, he added.

So, the local people are to concertedly strive for the further development of the township, the Prime Minister said. Besides undertaking the tasks for local rice sufficiency, cultivation of tea and breeding of domesticated wild oxen must be carried out with the encouragement of the Government. The State is rendering assistance for the development of transport sector, which plays a vital role in regional development, he added.

The Prime Minister urged the departmental personnel to effectively use the assistance offered by the State and implement the plans laid down by the Government for the success of the regional development tasks.

Staff who are discharging duties in border areas are required to concertedly strive for the economic development of the region and promotion of the living standards of local people.

The Prime Minister also urged the local people to participate conscientiously in the regional development tasks laid down by the government and being implemented by departmental per-

sonnel.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged those present to strive for the equitable development of the Union, perpetuation of the Union and consolidation of national solidarity.

Next, the Prime Minister presented a computer set, television, video cassette player and an inverter for the basic education high school of the town to the headmaster, and clothes for local people to the chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the school and viewed round the language lab, computer aided instruction room, computer skill room and learning activities of students. Next, the Prime Minister met with the headmaster and teachers and gave instructions on taking measures for nurturing successful candidates in the matriculation exams.

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the Township People's Hospital. The medical superintendent and staff welcomed the Prime Minister and conducted him round the wards, operation theatre, medical store, laboratory and X-ray room. The Prime Minister gave instructions on taking measures for possessing the characteristics of a hospital and providing systematic health care services to the public.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Haka. Members of Chin State, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and cultural troupes, national race leaders and the local people were on hand to welcome them.

Next, the Prime Minister met with them in the City Hall in Haka.

First, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Khun Hle Htan reported to the Prime Minister on location, area, cultivated acreage, crops, tea cultivated acreage, arrangement for extended cultivation of tea, breeding of domesticated wild oxen, education and health conditions of the township. Next, Chairman of Chin State Peace and

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a computer set, a TV set, a video cassette player and an inverter to the principal of Haka BEHS 2 on 25-11-2003. — MNA

Government has to carry out herculean...

(from page 9)

Development Council Col Tin Hla reported to the Prime Minister on cultivation of double and mixed crops for local rice sufficiency, distribution of tea seeds in townships, cultivation of tea in the state, arrangements for cultivation of 10,000 acres of tea in the state in 2006, breeding of domesticated wild oxen, health and education conditions, power supply tasks and transportation condition of the state. Afterwards, townsmen U Shan Oak reported to the Prime Minister on regional development tasks.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and made a speech, saying that with a view to fulfilling the development requirements of Chin State, they made a special programme to tour the region. They had been to Tonzang, Kyikha, Gokhawdar and Tiddim the previous day and to Falam and Thantlang that morning and had attended to all the needs especially transport, education, health, communication and electric power requirements in response to the reports presented by the local people, he said.

The government had been taking measures for narrowing the development gap among the States and Divisions. In the process, it had been constructing such economic, education, health and social infrastructures as roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, colleges and hospitals nationwide, he added.

The government put great emphasis on development of Chin State, and for the time being it had not met the target yet. But, the region before long could keep abreast with the development of other parts of the nation. In implementing the development projects in Chin State, the government paid priority to betterment of the transport sector, the costliest

one for the region, he noted.

With the improvement of the transport sector, there would be cumulative development of the region along with its economic as well as human resource development. So, the local people, on their part, are to make concerted efforts for construction of such basic foundations one after another in upgrading the region.

The more collective and united efforts the people make, the sooner Chin State will catch up with the other parts of the nation through the assistance of the State and supervision of respective departments, he noted.

With the equitable development of the States and Divisions, it will enhance national solidarity more, leading to the perpetuation of the nation as long as the world exists.

The brethren have been living in the Union for years countable by the thousand keeping eggs and nest intact and so the people are to be equipped with Union Spirit and to be vigilant of the instigations of external destructive elements for ensuring perpetuation of national solidarity, he pointed out.

Being fully equipped with the spirit that we shall remain united whoever attempt to divide us, the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit, the people need to unitedly safeguard the nation for its perpetual existence.

The State's seven-point policy programme being translated by the government can ensure the emergence of a proper government capable of perpetual existence of the nation, he said.

If a weak party following the dictates of other nations is elected, the Union will surely break up. So, the entire people are to collectively participate in the tasks for accomplishment of the Seven-point roadmap emer-

gence of a government that can persistently brave and overcome interference of other nations in the internal affairs, he remarked.

In conclusion, the General called on the entire people to safeguard and defend the Union collectively and unitedly for ensuring perpetuation of the nation's independence and sovereignty, strengthening of national solidarity and perpetual existence of the Union.

Next, the General presented a computer a TV set and a video cassette player and an inverter each to Haka BEHS Nos 1 and 2 through the principals, and clothes to local people and gifts to Haka Social Welfare Department pre-primary school through respective officials.

Leader of Loi ethnic group U Shan Oak presented a gift to the General.

On arrival at Haka People's Hospital, they were welcomed by Head of Chin State Health Department Dr Khin Maung Tun, medical superintendent Dr Daw Tin Nyo, specialists and medical staff. The Prime Minister chose the site for construction of an annex to the hospital.

The Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Yayzwa, where they were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Hsan Aung, local authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.

The Prime Minister held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local residents at the assembly hall of Yayzwa BEHS. At the meeting, the chairman of Matupi Township Peace and Development Council reported on matters on regional development tasks including transport, education and health sectors. Col Tin Hla gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister ful-

U Ohn Thwin accredited to South Africa

YANGON, 28 Nov — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ohn Thwin,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as Ambassador Ex-

traordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party offer "soon" to members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon). — MNA

Information Ministry offers 'soon' to monks

YANGON, 27 Nov — Under the patronage of the Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, the staff families of the Ministry of Information offered 'soon' to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok refectory on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Informa-

tion Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, deputy director-general, directors and officials.

First, the minister and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Rector Sayadaw of the university Agga Maha Pandita

Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa. The minister then presented K 180,000 for 'soon' offering to Director of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana U Khaing Aung who presented certificate of honour to the minister.

After delivering a sermon by the Sayadaw, 'soon' was offered to members of the Sangha.

MNA

filled the requirements, calling for united and collective efforts of respective departments for accomplishing the projects. The General presented a computer set, a TV set and a video cassette player and an inverter to the school and clothes to local people. Local national races presented a gift to the Prime Minister, who next greeted local national peoples.

They headed for Yayzwa Station Hospital and left instructions on construction of an annexe to the hospital.

In the evening, they arrived at Nyaung U Township

in Mandalay Division and visited the Shwezigon Pagoda and circled it clockwise. The General made cash donations to the pagoda.

They also visited the Dhamma Rajaka Pagoda in Bagan. They paid reverence to the Buddha Image. The

General donated cash to the pagoda. They spent the night at the guest house in Bagan.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party arrived back here yesterday morning.

MNA

210 drug cases exposed, 289 culprits arrested in October

YANGON, 27 Nov — The Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 210 drug related cases in October 2003.

Seizures made by them were 19,315 kilos of opium in 30 cases, 4,481 kilos of heroin in 54 cases, 10,254 kilos of opium oil in four cases, 0.9788 kilo of low grade opium in 17 cases, 5,6341 kilos of marijuana in 15 cases, 13 litre of Phensedyl in two cases, 61,068 stimulant tablets in 50 cases, 0.0882 kilo of stimulant powder in 50 cases, 0.0882 kilo of speciosa in two cases, 20 bottles of Byuprenophine injection in one case, 136.382 litre of chemical liquid in one case, 27 cases for failure to register, and seven other cases.

Seizures made by the Tatmadaw battalions and units were 1.45 kilos of opium in one case, 0.9 kilo of heroin in one case, six litre of Phensedyl in one case, and 136.382 litre of chemical liquid in one case.

Seizure made by MPF were 17,8658 kilos of opium in 29 cases, 3,5816 kilos of heroin in 53 cases, 10,2546 kilos of opium oil in four

cases, 0.9788 kilo of low grade opium in 17 cases, 5,6341 kilos of marijuana in 15 cases, seven litre of Phensedyl in one case, 61,068 stimulant tablets in 50 cases, 0.0721 kilo of stimulant powder, 0.0882 kilo of speciosa in two cases, 20 bottles of Byuprenophine injection in one case, 27 cases for failure to register, and seven other cases.

Action was taken against 289 culprits— 234 men and 55 women— in 210 drug cases in October, 2003.

On 25 October, local anti-narcotic drug squad, acting on a tip-off, searched the house of Hongze of Homon Ward, Muse, and discovered 16,000 stimulant tablets. Muse police station filed him under the Narcotic Drugs Law.

Similarly, the anti-narcotic drug squad on 31 October seized 10.2 kg of opium oil and 0.0012 kg of heroin in Lashio. In connection with the case, action is being taken against Twan Sein Htan of No 52, Dhammayektha Road, Region-19, Ward-5, Lashio, and his brother Twan Sein Su by No 1 Lashio Police Station. — MNA

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills concludes

YANGON, 27 Nov — The graduation ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS 9/

2003) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzin Minyazar Hall of the ministry at 7.30 am

today. Present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, departmental officials, Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats, rector and professors of universities and institutes concerned and train-

ees. Minister U Win Aung delivered a statement and presented certificates to graduating trainees. Altogether 160 trainees interested in international affairs, businessmen dealing with foreign firms, management officials of companies and service personnel attended the 12-week course.

MNA



MIFFA TO ATTEND FORUM: Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association Vice-Chairman U Tint Wai Oo and Vocational Director U Aung Khin Myint left for Thailand by air on 26-11-2003 to attend UNESCAP Regional Forum of Freight Forwarders and Multimodal Transport Operators and ICC Asia Regional Conference on Transport Facilitation and Trade Growth in Asia to be held on 27 and 28 November. Photo shows the delegates being seen off at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



PRIZES PRESENTED: The prize-presentation ceremony for the painting contest to mark Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003 was held at Yangon Trade Centre on 27-11-2003. Photo shows Mr Kojo Takase of Pentel Co Ltd presenting a prize to a winner. — MNA

Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

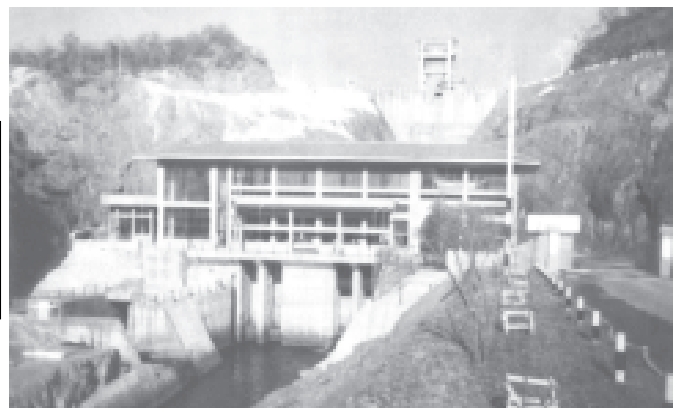


Increased use of electricity will be surely beneficial to uplift of the socio-economic life of the people. Therefore, various ways and means are sought to fulfil the electricity needs of the people. The photo shows the dam site (DS view) of the Yeywa Hydro-power Project. —PHOTO: MNA



Shweli Hydel Power Project located 17 miles from Namkham in northern Shan State.

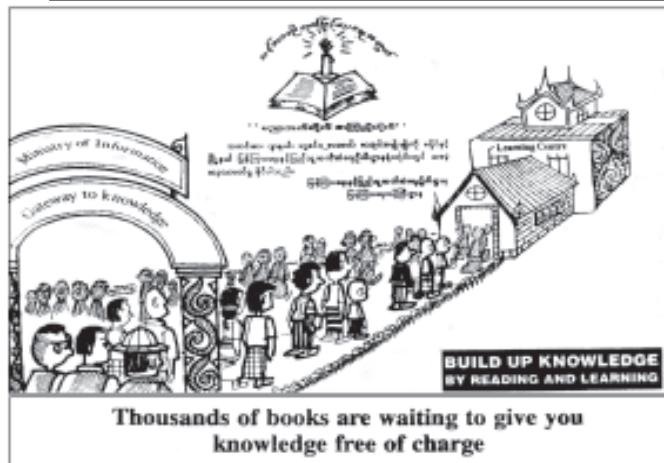
PHOTO: MNA



With the aim of supplying electricity to Taunggyi District in Shan State, the Ministry of Electric Power built Hydel Power Plant across Zawgyi River in Yaksauk Township. —PHOTO: MNA



Department of Electric Power under the Ministry of Electric Power is implementing the hydel power project using the water of Kengtawang Waterfalls, on Nanttain Creek in Mongnai Township in Loilem District, Shan State (South). It will supply 472 million kwh per year. —PHOTO: MNA



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TIN OHNMAR TUN
B.A.(LAW) LL.B.L.L.M.
(UK)
P.O. Box 109, Ph: 248108/
723043
(For: Domnarn Somgiat & Boonma
Attorneys at Law Thailand).
Dated: 28 November, 2003

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"Apparatus, equipment products and traps of all kinds and descriptions for the trapping and catching of insects, cockroaches and flies, pest control products including small cardboard house coated with special glue and food bait for domestic use"—in Class: 21

アース

(Reg: No. IV/3622/2003)

In respect of:-
"Apparatus, equipment products and traps of all kinds and descriptions for the trapping and catching of insects, cockroaches and flies, pest control products including small cardboard house coated with special glue and food bait for domestic use"—in Class: 21

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U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.L.
for **EARTH CHEMICAL COMPANY LIMITED**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 28th November 2003

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OMEGA

Reg. No. 4285/1998

TIGRA

Reg. No. 4286/1998

VECTRA

Reg. No. 4287/1998

in respect of "Motor vehicles and parts thereof"

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Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **ADAM OPEL AG**
P.O. Box 60, Yangon:
Dated: 28 November, 2003

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In respect of:-
"Insecticides, products for destroying acarids"—International Class 5

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U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.L.
for **LABORATOIRES PHARMYGIENE—S.C.A.T**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Dated: 28th November 2003

Beijing's exports up in first 10 months

BEIJING, 27 NOV—The national capital Beijing registered 5.83 billion US dollars in exports in the first 10 months this year, up 26.7 per cent over the same period of last year, the latest statistics show.

According to Beijing Customs, electro-mechanical products, high-tech products, clothing and farm produce were the major export commodities of Beijing.

Beijing exported electro-mechanical products worth 3.77 billion US dollars in the January-October period, a rise of 32.1 per cent on a yearly basis. The city's exports of high-tech products was valued at 2.63 billion US dollars, up 35 per cent over last year's corresponding period.

Beijing exported 2.41 billion US dollars of IT products, such as mobile phones, software and integrated circuits, in the first 10 months, an increase of 37.7 per cent year on year.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (341)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (341) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-11-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

FAO reports setback in war on hunger

ROME, 27 NOV—The United Nations food body on Tuesday announced a serious blow to the war on world hunger, saying the number of undernourished had risen and that a goal to halve hunger by 2015 looked increasingly remote.

The number of hungry people around the world increased by 18 million to 842 million in the latest reporting period 1999-2001 from 1995-1997, the Rome-based UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in its annual hunger report.

"FAO's latest estimates signal a setback in the war against hunger," the food agency said in the report entitled "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2003".

FAO said the total of 842 million people included 798 million in developing countries, 10 million in industrialized countries and 34 million in countries in transition.

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said the number of hungry people in the developing world appeared to be climbing.

"We must ask ourselves

why this has happened," Diouf said in a foreword to the report.

"Countries that succeeded in reducing hunger were characterized by more rapid economic growth and specifically by more rapid growth in their agricultural sectors," he wrote.

"They also exhibited slower population growth and lower levels of HIV infection."

In Washington, Hartwig de Haen, FAO assistant director-general, economic and social department, said developed countries must provide more investment in the agriculture sectors of developing countries.

"The role of capital is decisive. Investment in agriculture is a precondition for growth in incomes of the poor and the food supply," he told Reuters.

Noting that such investment has been declining, De Haen said rich countries should "go back to the level where it was in the early '90s if we still want to reach our target of halving the number of hungry by 2015."

MNA/Reuters

UN warns "AIDS" epidemic still worsening

GENEVA, 27 NOV—The global AIDS epidemic shows no sign of abating, with 5 million people becoming infected with HIV worldwide and 3 million dying this year alone, according to a UN report released Tuesday.

The report by UNAIDS, the UN agency responsible for coordinating global efforts to fight the disease, and the World Health Organization, said an estimated 40 million people are living with HIV worldwide, including 2.5 million children under the age of 15.

Globally, an estimated 5 million people were newly

infected and 3 million people died of AIDS in 2003. Sub-Saharan Africa, the most severely affected region of the world, accounted for over 3 million of these new infections and 2.3 million AIDS deaths.

Every day in 2003, an estimated 14,000 people were newly infected with HIV. More than 95 per cent of those live in low- and middle-income countries. The report said the epidemic is rampant in sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 26.6 million of the continent's people are living with HIV, and a new wave of the disease is

threatening China, Indonesia and Russia because of transmissions through drug use and unsafe sex.

There was some positive news in the report, with several countries making progress in combating the spread of the disease. Uganda was considered one success story, marking its 12th consecutive year of reduced HIV infections.

UNAIDS also said the global response to the crisis had expanded significantly in the past two to three years, with spending on anti-retroviral medication and education increasing in many

countries.

"However, it is quite clear that our current global efforts remain entirely inadequate for an epidemic that is continuing to spiral out of control," said Dr. Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director. "AIDS is tightening its grip on southern Africa and threatening other regions of the world," he added. The report said anti-retroviral treatment coverage remains dismal in sub-Saharan Africa, and basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS is disturbingly low in many countries, especially among women.

MNA/Xinhua

"Concorde" sails to new home at New York museum

NEW YORK, 27 NOV—A supersonic Concorde jet sailed up the Hudson River Tuesday to its final resting place: the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum in Manhattan, New York. The plane left JFK Airport on a barge Tuesday morning after its engines were removed and the remaining fuel was drained to

prepare it for the public display. When the 62.2-meter-long, 88-ton jet whisked passengers across the Atlantic Ocean in just three hours, round-trip tickets cost over 10,000 dollars. Visitors, however, will soon be able to climb aboard for the price of admission to the museum.

MNA/Xinhua

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Hundreds of people gather in central Frankfurt, Germany, on 26 Nov, 2003 for the official opening of the traditional Christmas market.—INTERNET

CPPCC leader sends congratulations to seminar on climate change

BEIJING, 27 Nov— Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), sent a congratulatory message to a seminar on climate change and ecological environment, encouraging meteorologists to do more research on climate change.

The seminar, held on November 24-25, was jointly organized by the Committee of Population, Resources and Environment of the CPPCC National Committee and the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

Climate change is closely related to the environmental quality, energy and water resources, as well as food security and human health, and may cause great influence on the sustainable development of the society, Jia said. To promote a harmonious relationship between man and nature and ensure a sustainable development has been a basic guideline for China's modernization drive, and more efforts should be made to enhance the re-

search on climate change so as to reduce the damage it may cause to natural environment and economic development, Jia said.

The seminar organized a series of discussions on the climate change's influences on ecology, agriculture, water resources, energy and human health, and has come up with many good suggestions on how to prevent the climate from getting warmer.

Qin Dahe, director of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), said at the seminar that China's climate will continue to warm if the atmospheric density of carbon dioxide remains at the current level or increases in the coming 50 years.—MNA/Xinhua

4th session of Vietnamese National Assembly concludes

HANOI, 27 Nov— The 4th session of the 11th National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam closed on Wednesday after approving nine bills and targets of socio economic development for 2004.

The Parliament passed six amended bills, including the Law on the Organization of People's Council and People's Committee, the Law on the Election of Members of People's Council, the Criminal Procedures Codes, Cooperative Law, the Law on State Enterprises and the Land Law, said NA Chairman Nguyen Van An.

It also approved three new bills, namely, the Construction Law, the Law on Maritime and Aqua-cultural Products, and the Law on Emulation and Commendation.

Additionally, the legislature passed a resolution on state-managed housing and land use and assigned the NA Standing Committee to handle a number of specific land management cases.

It also ratified budget estimates and budget allocations for 2004, marking the first time that the allocation of central budget funding to localities has been done by the NA rather than the government.

Besides, the NA deputies approved socio economic targets set for 2004. The tasks include developing economy in a fast and sustainable way, actively integrating in international economy, better implementing poverty reduction programmes, and accelerating administrative reforms, An noted. Vietnam will strive to obtain increases of 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent in gross domestic product (GDP); 12 per cent in export turnovers; 4.6 per cent in production of agriculture, forestry and fishery; 15 per cent in industry, and 8 per cent in services next year.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine manufacturing output falls in September

MANILA, 27 Nov— The Philippine manufacturing output fell 3.7 per cent in September year-on-year, the National Statistics Office said here.

The 3.7-per-cent decline in volume terms was caused by the lower output of leather products, tobacco, footwear, electrical machinery, metal products, metallic mineral products, as well as beverage and processed food, the office said in a statement.

Output was also down 2.6 per cent from the previous month, the statement said.

Factories ran at an average 77.5 per cent capacity for the month, down slightly from 78.6 per cent in the same period last year.

In August, manufacturing output rose 7 per cent year-on-year.

MNA/Xinhua

Too much Vitamin C may cause leukoderma

XINING, 27 Nov— Excessive intake of Vitamin C, which is widely used to enhance immunity and postpone aging of the skin, could lead to leukoderma, experts warn.

Liu, a young lady in Xining City, capital of the northwestern Qinghai Province, used to drink 1,000 milligrammes of Vitamin C enhanced juices a day in order to keep fit, a face-lifting recipe recommended by her colleagues.

In four months, Liu found her skin started to fall in patches and was diagnosed with leukoderma.

The disease has long been associated with excessive Vitamin C intake, said Jia Hongkui, a dermatologist with the Qinghai Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Altogether 11, or 2.3 per cent, of the 479 leukoderma patients Jia received over the past months had been Vitamin C addicts, he found in his research.

With a dose of one to three grammes of Vitamin C per day, one may suffer from leukoderma in one to six months, he said.

"Too much Vitamin C would reduce the copper ion in the human body, and lack of copper ion is widely believed to cause leukoderma," he said.

For most people, a balanced diet with fresh fruits and vegetables could provide enough Vitamin C, said Jia. "So do not take Vitamin C enhanced drinks or pills unless they are prescribed by your physician." — MNA/Xinhua

About 120 whales, dolphins die in Australia

CANBERRA, 27 Nov— About 110 long-finned pilot whales and 10 bottle-nosed dolphins have died stranded on the remote western coast of the southern island state of Tasmania.

The announcement was made by Environment Minister Bryan Green in his speech to the Parliament here.

The whales and dolphins may have died several days ago at Point Hibbs, south of Strahan, said David Pemberton, curator of vertebrate zoology at the Tasmanian Museum.

Scientists are at the site to investigate the reason of the massive stranding, Pemberton was quoted by Australian Associated Press as saying.— MNA/Xinhua

Philippine Airlines posts net loss in second fiscal quarter

MANILA, 27 Nov— Philippine Airlines (PAL) said its net loss rose by nearly 10-fold to 6.9 million US dollars in the second fiscal quarter year-on-year due to low passenger loads.

The period under review is a traditionally lean season for passenger traffic, the national airlines said in a statement.

Passenger revenues "further decreased during the quarter mainly due to the lower number of passengers carried," it said.

The airlines posted a net loss of 670,622 US dollars for the same period last year.

Operating revenues for the three

months to September fell 8.1 per cent to 177.42 million US dollars while operating expenses fell to 163.58 million US dollars.

"While flying operations and depreciation expenses increased, maintenance and repairs and aircraft and traffic servicing, on the other hand, contributed to the decrease in operating expenses," it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico shuts four green-onion companies after hepatitis outbreak

MEXICO CITY, 27 Nov— Mexico has closed four questionable green onion-exporting companies after a hepatitis outbreak that is believed to be related to onion consumption in some US states, local media reported here.

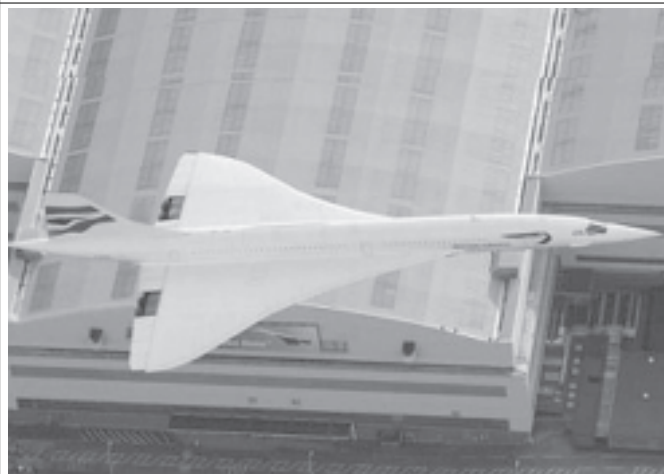
The Mexican Agriculture, Fishing, Rural Development and Feeding Ministry described the move as a preventive measure against hepatitis.

The companies were closed "as they did not have good agricultural and manufacturing practice" and did not comply with national hygiene standards, which affect the health of consumers, it said.

At least three people have died and more than 900 others suffered digestive problems in the United States recently after they ate green onions.

The four green-onion companies located near the US border in northwestern Mexico were first linked to the hepatitis outbreak by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). But it has not been proved that they were responsible.

MNA/Xinhua



The last British Airways Concorde flies over Airbus UK's Filton airfield, near Bristol, western England for the very last time, on 26 Nov, 2003, during a special flight from Heathrow Airport to the site where the supersonic plane was made. Thousands of aviation fans and aerospace workers braved the showers to see the Concorde fly overhead at 2,000 ft and then land. The Concorde will later be displayed at Filton.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Anderlecht edge Lyon to revive qualifying hopes

BRUSSELS, 27 Nov—Finn Hanu Tihinen made up for a glaring miss with a 70th-minute headed goal to give Anderlecht a 1-0 win over Olympique Lyon and keep their Champions League hopes alive on Tuesday.

Anderlecht, who started the match bottom of Group A, joined Lyon and Celtic, who were held 0-0 at home by Bayern Munich, on seven points with one game left. Bayern are bottom with six points.

Defender Tihinen side-footed over the bar from less than a metre when it was easier to score from Croatia striker Ivica Mornar's low cross in the 35th minute.

But the Finnish international made no mistake when Mornar crossed into the centre of the box and he headed the ball past flailing goalkeeper Nicolas Puydebois.

Lyon striker Peguy Luyindula came close twice in the first half. His sixth-minute shot towards the top far corner was well saved by diving goalkeeper Daniel Zitka and he hit the post with another effort in the 28th minute. Tihinen's goal was no more than Anderlecht, and particularly Mornar, deserved as they dominated the second half with their speedy attacks after Lyon had made the better start.—MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid players, from left, Zinedine Zidane, Raul, Esteban Matias Cambiasso and Ronaldo greet each other after Ronaldo scored the winning goal during their Champions League Group F soccer match against Marseille, on 26 Nov, 2003 in Marseille, southern France. Real Madrid defeated Marseille 2-1.—INTERNET

Shevchenko fires Milan into last 16

AMSTERDAM, 27 Nov—Holders AC Milan booked their place in the last 16 of the Champions League with a convincing 1-0 win at Ajax on Wednesday.

Andriy Shevchenko broke the deadlock after 51 minutes, chesting down Cafu's pinpoint cross before coolly shooting past Ajax goalkeeper Bogdan Lobont.

It was the Ukraine striker's 18th European goal for Milan, taking him just two behind the club's all-time leading European scorer Jose Altafini.

Milan, with 10 points, are guaranteed top spot in Group H with second-placed Ajax involved in a fight for the other qualification place with Celta Vigo and Club Brughe who drew 1-1 in the day's other game.

If Ajax beat Brughe in their final group game they will qualify for the last 16, but a draw will be enough if Celta fail to beat Milan. Ajax coach Ronald Koeman was forced to field an inexperienced side as he was without skipper Rafael van der Vaart and Czech defender Zdenek Grygera through suspension and the injured Wesley Sonck, Hatem Trabelsi and Steven Pienaar.

Milan brought in Alessandro Costacurta for Alessandro Nesta who was suspended following a red card in Bruges.

Despite missing so many regulars Ajax, with an average age of 22, pushed Milan close in an evenly-contested first half and could have taken the lead when Nigel de Jong missed the target with a close-range header. Filippo Inzaghi had earlier blazed a shot over the crossbar for Milan when Julien Escude failed to deal with a through pass from Clarence Seedorf.—MNA/Reuters

Forlan strike sends Man United through

ATHENS, 27 Nov—Diego Forlan continued his prolific scoring form for Manchester United as they booked their place in the last 16 of the Champions League with a routine 1-0 win at Panathinaikos on Wednesday.

The Uruguayan striker ploughed a lone furrow in attack for the Premier League champions in the absence of the rested Ruud van Nistelrooy but got his reward five minutes from time with the only goal of the game. Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said Forlan was now reaping the rewards of an extended run in the side.

"What's helping Diego is playing more often," Ferguson told a news conference. "He's establishing himself and with the form he's showing it's hard to leave him out."

The match had looked destined for a scoreless draw with both sides packing midfield and neither goalkeeper making a save in the first half.

Ferguson admitted that his team, featuring five changes from the team that beat Blackburn on Saturday, were "not great" but saluted their professionalism.

"We didn't make any big mistakes," he said. "Without the major mistakes Panathinaikos didn't get any encouragement that would have inspired them."

The Scot opted for a central midfielder trio of Kleberson, Darren Fletcher and Nicky Butt, supported by two wide men—Ryan Giggs and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The young Portuguese winger tormented Panathinaikos' German left back Markus Munch into getting booked but found no teammates to profit from a stream of testing crosses.—MNA/Reuters

Beckham, Ronaldo light up Zidane's homecoming

MARSEILLE (France), 27 Nov—A David Beckham free kick and a gem of a goal by Ronaldo propelled Real Madrid to a 2-1 Champions League win over Olympique Marseille on Wednesday on Zinedine Zidane's return to the city of his birth.

Because of Porto's 2-1 victory over Partizan Belgrade, Marseille would have been knocked out of the competition whatever the result on the Stade Velodrome.

But they were not disgraced against Los Galacticos—who had already qualified for the last 16—and matched their visitors in a rousing second half, highlighted by a fine performance from Marseille striker Didier Drogba.

Ahmed Mido brought Marseille level with a 63rd-minute header after Beckham, the man of the match with an all-action display including a yellow card, had opened the scoring in the 35th with a trademark setpiece from just outside the area.

Beckham then set up Ronaldo's 73rd-minute winner by racing back into the Real area to break up a Marseille attack.

He smacked the ball down the line to Luis Figo and it was fed through Raul in a blink of an eye before Ronaldo was released to prod the ball home from close range.

It was a goal fit to be set before Real great Alfredo di Stefano who was watching in the stands.

Zidane was one of the quietest performers for Real, particularly after Mido clattered him from behind shortly before halftime. Zidane was substituted before the

end to a standing ovation from the crowd.

Zidane still supports Marseille and last played against them in the 1993-94 season for Girondins Bordeaux—when he was sent off for elbowing Marcel Desailly.

Real started the game as if it was gala for Zidane, hardly breaking into a trot as they passed the ball around. But Marseille gave them two early shocks with Drogba putting a shot wide and Mido hitting the ball over the bar when clean through.

Figo and Beckham were the object of rugged Marseille tackles and the Marseille centre back pairing of Daniel van Buyten and Philippe Christen kept Ronaldo and Raul under control.

Referee Anders Frisk came in for harsh words from the Real players for letting the game flow too freely and not penalizing the Marseille tacklers.

But shortly after a Ronaldo header was cleared from under the bar, Frisk blew up when Beckham was clattered on the edge of the area as he controlled a Zidane pass.

There was an air of inevitability as the England captain ran at the ball from an angle of 90 degrees, and sure enough he planted it just inside Vedran Runje's left post.

MNA/Reuters

Monaco into last 16 after 1-1 draw with PSV

MONACO, 27 Nov—Monaco, down to nine men by the end of their Group C game, reached the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday thanks to a 1-1 draw against PSV Eindhoven.

PSV, whose qualification hopes are still alive after their 85th minute equalizer, also had a player sent off by Croatian referee Zeljko Sircic early in a bizarre second period.

Spanish striker Fernando Morientes scored with a fine header to put Monaco ahead after 34 minutes and the home side, who beat Deportivo Coruna 8-3 in their previous match, appeared to be cruising to their fourth win in five Champions League matches.

But PSV substitute Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink equalized with a header from a free kick given against Monaco's Andreas Zikos. He was sent off for a second yellow card for apparently picking the ball up because a team mate was injured.

Monaco captain Ludovic Giuly was then given a red card in the 88th minute for complaining about a bad tackle on a team mate and PSV could have stolen all three points but for a point blank save by Flavio Roma early in the six minutes of injury time.

Monaco have 10 points from five games,

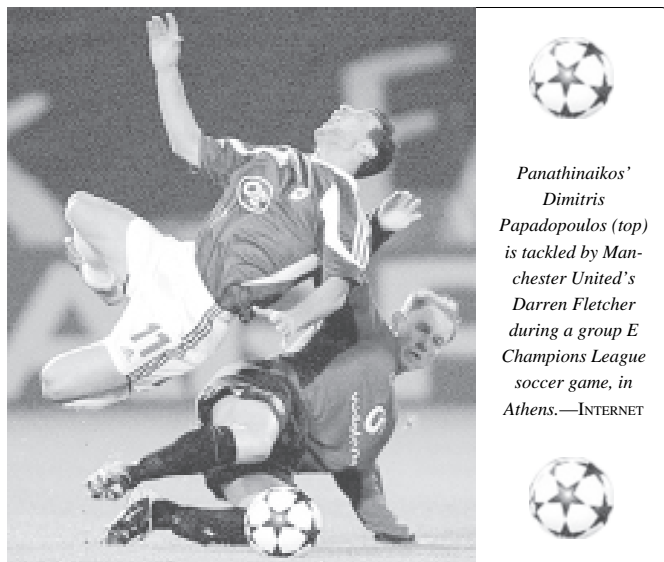
their only defeat coming last month at Deportivo, who beat AEK Athens 3-0 on Tuesday and also have 10 points.

PSV, who have seven points, must beat Deportivo 2-0 next month to become the other team to qualify from group C.

PSV started the brighter side and Roma punched a blistering shot by Arjen Robben over the bar in the seventh minute.

The home defence was stretched by Robben down the right and Park Ji-sung through the middle, but Monaco settled after 20 minutes and began to put together the sort of football that has taken them to the top of the French league. Midfielder Jerome Rothen was at the heart of most of their best moves and his free kick in the 33rd minute caused panic in the PSV penalty area before the danger was cleared.

Within a minute Monaco went ahead when defender Julien Rodriguez crossed from the right and Morientes rose to head the ball just inside Ronald Waterreus's left hand post.—MNA/Reuters



Panathinaikos' Dimitris Papadopoulos (top) is tackled by Manchester United's Darren Fletcher during a group E Champions League soccer game, in Athens.—INTERNET

28-11-2003 (Friday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune
 15:32 Meeting
 Song of Myanmar
 Beauty & Scenic
 Sights "Mingalabar"
 15:36 A Day's Work in Pearl
 Culture

15:40 Headline News
 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
 Dishes (Hot and Sour
 Fresh-Water Prawn
 Soup)

15:45 National News
 15:50 Ayeeyawady Dolphin
 Expedition (Part-V)
 15:55 The Theatrical Training
 School Which Nurtures
 the "Talented"

16:00 National News
 16:05 Breeding of Myithun
 16:10 Song "New Goal"
 16:12 Sittway with Magnificent
 Sight

16:15 National News
 16:20 Community Based



8. $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$ 8. $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$ 8. $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$ 8. $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$

Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)	
19:30	Signature Tune
	Greetings
19:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
19:36	Myanma Broom
19:40	Headline News
19:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Fermented Prawn)
19:45	National News
19:50	The Interesting Places of Kachin State
19:55	National Dance "A Dance to the Harvest"
20:00	National News
20:05	Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-IV)
20:10	Song "Shadow of Love"
20:15	National News
20:20	Myanma Ramayana (Human Weakness in the face of Temptation) (Part-XI) (Scene III)
20:25	Song "Beautiful Shan land, Hospitable People"
20:30	National News
20:35	Pakokku, the City on the Western Bank of the Ayeyawady River
20:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Traditional Moun bine daunt"
20:45	National News
20:50	The Natural Beauty of Inlay Lake Bird's Rest
20:55	Dance of the Maidens

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm
4. Musical programme

5:00 pm
5. အသေးသိင်္ကဏ်သီလိကဉာဏ်း
ရှင်မြင့်ကြီးသင်္ကဏ်းစာ
ဒုတိယပုဒ် (စာတေး၊ ရုပ်စာ၊
သတ္တဗေဒ အဋ္ဌပြုစာ၊
စာတေး)

5:15 pm
6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး

5:25 pm
7. Song of national races.

5:40 pm
8. Musical programme

5:55 pm
9. (၂၂) ကြိမ်မြောက် အရွှေကောင်
အားအေးကစားပြိုင်ပွဲအကြံပြု
ကော်မတီပေး (ရောဂါကူး)

21:00	National News
21:05	Travel & Description (Lashio to Muse)
21:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Welcome to Kachin State"
21:15	National News
21:20	Sri-Kestra Museum (Pyi Cultural Site)
21:30	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35	A Day's Work in Pearl Culture
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Hot and Sour Fresh-Water Prawn Soup)
21:45	National News
21:50	Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-V)
21:55	The Theatrical Training School Which Nurtures the Talented
22:00	National News
22:05	Breeding of Myithun
22:10	Song "New Goal"
22:12	Sittway with Magnificent Sight
22:15	National News
22:20	Community Based Drug Control Programme
22:25	Song "Myanmar"
22:30	National News
22:35	National Kandawgyi Gardens
22:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Cuc- umber Salad"
22:45	National News
22:50	Pickled Fish in Shwe Kyin
22:55	A Classical Male Dance
22:58	Tour in Myanmar "Mandalay"
23:00	National News
23:05	Myanmar Musical Or- chestra (Bwe Song)
23:10	Song "Flowers in Profusion"
23:15	National News
23:20	Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
23:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
28-11-2003(Friday) & 29-11-2003 (Saturday) Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 01:30)	
23:30	Signature Tune Greetings
23:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36	A Day's Work in Pearl Culture
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Hot and Sour Fresh-Water Prawn Soup)

6.00pm
10. Discovery
6.30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. Milo success in soccer
7:10 pm
14. Musical programme
7:25 pm
15. ဇော်ဝင်းထွန်း၊ မောင်မိုး၊ ယောကျ်ားသီချင်း
နဂါးငြိမ်း၊
7:40 pm
16. Song of yesteryears
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. “အဓမ္မပြောင်းလဲတဲ့ အိမ်ရာပင်ပိုင်ခြင်း”
(အမှိုင်း-၁)
(ကွေ့ရုံရံအောင်၊ ဇော်ဝင်း၊
အောင်စိုင်း၊ ဆုတံဆိပ်ထွေး၊ ပျိုမြသုဒ္ဓာထွန်း၊
မေတ္တာသီချင်း) (ခါရိုက်တာ-ရိုးရိုး)
21. The next day's programme.

23:45	National News
23:50	Ayeayawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-V)
23:55	The Theatrical Training School Which Nurtures the Talented
24:00	National news
00:05	Breeding of Mythun
00:10	Song "New Goal"
00:12	Sittwag with Magnificent Sight
00:15	National News
00:20	Community Based Drug Control Programme
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights/Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
00:30	National News
00:35	National Kandawgyi Gardens
00:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Cucumber Salad"
00:45	National News
00:50	Pickled Fish from Shwe Kyin
00:55	A Classical Male Dance
01:00	National News
01:05	Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)
01:10	Song "Flowers in Production"
01:15	National News
01:20	Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

29-11-2003 (Saturday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)

03:30 Signature Tune
 Greetings

03:32 Song of Myanmar
 Beauty & Scenic
 Sights "Myanmar Pano-
 rama & Myanma Sen-
 timent"

03:36 Myanmar Broom

03:40 **Headline News**

03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
 Dishes "Fried Fer-
 mented Prawn"

03:45 **National News**

03:50 The Interesting Places
 of Kachin State

03:55 National Dance "A
 Dance to the Harvest"

04:00 **National News**

04:05 Ayeeyawady Dolphin
 Expedition (Part-V)

04:10 Song "Shadow of
 Love"

04:12 Plaster Toys

04:15 **National News**

04:20 Myanma Ramayana
 (Human Weakness in
 the face of Temptation)
 (Part-XI) (Scene III)

04:25	Song "Beautiful Shan Land, Hospitable People"
04:30	National News
04:35	Pakokku, the City on the Western Bank of the Ayeyawady River
04:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Traditional Mountain daunt"
04:45	National News
04:50	The Natural Beauty of Inlay Lake Bird's Rest
04:55	Dance of the Maidens
05:00	National News
05:05	Travel & Description (Lashio to Muse)
05:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Welcome to Kachin State"
05:15	National News
05:20	Sri-Kestra Museum (Pyi Cultural Site)
05:30	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
05:35	A Day's Work in Pearl Culture
05:40	Headline News
05:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Hot and Sour Fresh-water Prawn Soup)
05:45	National News
05:50	Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-V)
05:55	The Theatrical Training School Which Nurtures the Talented

06:00	National News
06:10	Breeding of Mythun
06:10	Song "New Goal"
06:12	Sitway with Magnificent Sight
06:15	National News
06:20	Community Based Drug Control Pro- gramme
06:25	Song "Myanmar"
06:30	National News
06:35	National Kandawgyi Gardens
06:40	Myanmar Cuisine "Cucumber Salad"
06:45	National News
06:50	Pickled Fish in Shwe Kyun
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07:00	National News
07:05	Myanmar Musical Or- chestra (Bwe Song)
07:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
07:15	National News
07:20	Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

WEATHER

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Southwest Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of the 28-11-2003:** Generally fair weather in the whole country. **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-11-2003:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-11-2003:** Generally fair weather.

Thai Defence Minister leaves for Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay

YANGON, 27 NOV — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann paid a courtesy call on visiting Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party at Tatmadaw Guest House on Inya Road here this morning.

At the call, General Thura Shwe Mann presented documentary photo album and video tape to the Thai Defence Minister.

General Thura Shwe Mann saw off the Thai Defence Minister and party, who left here to pay a visit to Bagan-NyaungU and Mandalay, at Yangon International Airport at 7.30 am.

The Thai delegation was also seen off at the airport together with General Thura Shwe Mann by Commander-in-Chief

(Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Oum Maolanon and officials.

The Thai Defence Minister and party were accompanied by Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Col Ko Ko Maung, Thai Military Attaché to Myanmar Col Kasam Nakpun and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann sees off visiting Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Thai Defence Minister and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 27 NOV — Visiting Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party, together with senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday evening.

The Thai Defence Minister and party were briefed on history of the pagoda and facts about the religious buildings by officials of the pagoda board of trustees.

The guests offered flowers and lights at the prayer hall of the western archway of the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book.

They also made cash donations and paid homage to the pagoda. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects river water pumping projects in NyaungU Township

YANGON, 27 NOV — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Zaw Min, Chairman of NyaungU District PDCLt-Col Khin Maung Oo and officials of SPDC office, inspected river water pumping projects and thriving monsoon paddy fields in NyaungU Township yesterday. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected harvest of 100 acres of monsoon paddy and supplying water from Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project through

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into thriving of monsoon paddy in NyaungU Township on 26 November. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects Twinng-Momeik Road construction, gold mines in Momeik

YANGON, 27 NOV — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Min-

istry of Defence, accompanied by senior military officers, on 24 November morning arrived at Mandalay In-

ternational Airport where chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of the North-East Command

Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and senior military officers welcomed him. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party,

together with Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, proceeded to the road construction special group-14 of Public Works near Twinng Village in Thabeikkyin Township.

Deputy Superintending Engineer of the group U Win Maung reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and officials on matters relating to construction of Twinng-Momeik Road including progress of earth work, future tasks and plans for construction of wooden bridges on the road, and requirements.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on construction of the Twinng-Momeik

Road meeting the set standards and unblocking of drains.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the gold mine of Asia World Co Ltd in Momeik Township, Kyaukse District. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and an official of Asia World Co reported on matters on gold mining at the block. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the gold mine and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to the gold mine of Shweli-yadana Co Ltd and inspected gold mining works. — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects process in gold mining in Momeik. — MNA

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