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Saturday, 29 November, 2003

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Republic of Albania

YANGON, 29 Nov — 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 Alfred Moisiu, President of the Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Albania which falls on 29 November 2003. — MNA

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of French Republic

YANGON, 28 Nov — Mr Jean-Michel Lacombe, newly accredited Ambassador of the French Republic to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. —MNA



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of newly accredited French Ambassador Mr Jean-Michel Lacombe. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited French Ambassador Mr Jean-Michel Lacombe. — MNA

Work coordination meeting for implementation of economic cooperation strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand held

YANGON, 28 Nov—The work coordination meeting for implementation of the economic cooperation strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand was held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta here this afternoon with an address by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, deputy min-

isters, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said that as is known to all the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand had been successfully held. The prime ministers of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand praised the successful holding of the meet-

ing without any difficulties and hindrances and thanked Myanmar for her kind hospitality.

The three prime ministers also expressed their pleasure for having the rare opportunities of visiting marvellous Bagan that is the first Myanmar kingdom and full of ancient Myanmar cultural heritage.

The Prime Minister of Thailand proposed the programme for cooperation after laying down Economic Cooperation Strategy among

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand and the remaining three prime ministers supported the cooperation unanimously. Thus, the meeting was successfully held.

In addition, the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand can be assumed as a historic one as it is the first of its kind held between leaders of the four countries.

Myanmar, the host coun-

try for holding the meeting, will have to put on record the successful holding of an important international meeting for the first time and especially, it has been able to hold the meeting in historic Bagan, ancient Myanmar

cultural zone as a success.

Since the meeting amounts to the rehearsal for ASEAN Summit to be held in Myanmar in 2006, it will contribute to successful holding of the ASEAN Summit.

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23,653

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 29 November, 2003

For perpetuation of sovereignty and national development

The Government is striving day in, day out for bringing equitable development to all the regions in the country.

Chin State lagged behind in development as it was difficult of access. Therefore, in taking measures for regional development in Chin State, the Government gives priority to better transportation.

Due to the geographical condition of the region, paddy cultivation cannot be conducted there, and thus steps are being taken on a gradual basis to extend the highland paddy cultivation suited to the region.

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.

In meeting with local authorities, departmental personnel, officials of social organizations, national race leaders and townsenders at Thazin Hall of the Nurses Training School in Falam, Chin State, on 25 November, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the country did not gain any development when it was under the servitude of colonialists, who exploited the country's valuable resources, for over a century; and that the collapse of national unity 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 amid a mountain of conflicts.

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

Starting from the parliamentary era, national unity had weakened, followed by numerous problems. Therefore, it is important not to be duped by fabrications to cause the disintegration of national unity.

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 brethren are urged to be on alert to the ill-intentioned attempts of external elements and to strive for national development by taking the non-disintegration of national solidarity, non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy.



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura exchange gifts at the dinner. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Republic of Albania

YANGON, 29 Nov — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Fatos Nano, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Albania which falls on 29 November 2003. — MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Republic of Albania

YANGON, 29 Nov — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Marko Bello, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Albania which falls on 29 November 2003. — MNA

Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party offer gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

MNA



Thai Defence Minister and party conclude visit

YANGON, 28 Nov — Visiting Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party, accompanied by Brig-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Military Attaché of Myanmar to Thailand Col Ko Ko Maung, Military Attaché of Thailand to Myanmar Col Kasem Nakpun and officials, left Yangon by special flight yesterday morning and arrived at Bagan-Nyaung U Airport in Mandalay Division at 8.50 am.

The Thai Defence Minister and party were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, Nyaung U District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Oo and senior military officers and departmental officials.

Next, the guests visited Shwezigon pagoda. Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyau of the Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar) and members of the pagoda board of trustees welcomed and conducted them round the pagoda.

First, the defence minister and party paid homage and offered flowers to the standing Buddha image in the prayer hall of the eastern stairway. The visiting defence minister signed in the visitors' book of the pagoda and donated cash to the funds of the pagoda. Members of the pagoda board of trustees accepted the cash donation and presented a photograph of the pagoda to the

defence minister.

Afterwards, they visited Ananda pagoda and paid homage to Buddha images. The defence minister signed in the visitors' book of the pagoda and donated cash to the pagoda's funds. Members of the pagoda board of trustees accepted the cash donation.

Later, the guests visited Bagan Archaeology Museum. Curator U Myint Soe Aung welcomed and conducted them round the museum. The Thai defence minister and party, together with Chairman Col Zaw Min of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, posed for a documentary photo in front of the painting depicting the scene of Bagan in the museum. The visiting defence minister signed in the visitors' book of the museum.

Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min hosted a luncheon in honour of the Thai defence minister and party at the Bagan Hotel.

Next, the guests left Bagan for Mandalay by special flight. The guests were seen off at the airport by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and officials. The visiting defence minister and party arrived at Mandalay International Airport at 1.50 pm. They were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Man-

dalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and senior military officers.

The visiting defence minister and party, accompanied by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and officials, visited Maha Muni pagoda at 2.40 pm. Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees Secretary of MCDC Lt-Col Maung Pu and members welcomed the guests. First, the visiting defence minister and party paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha image and offered flowers, water, light, incense and gold foils. The Thai defence minister signed in the visitors' book and donated cash to the funds of the pagoda.

The chairman of the pagoda board of trustees accepted the cash donation. Afterwards, the defence minister viewed the Tabintaing bell at north-east of the image.

Afterwards, the guests visited Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace. Director U Hla Gyi Maung Maung of the Archaeology Department briefed them on history of the palace at Myaynan Sanu Hall. Afterwards, the visiting defence minister and party viewed Thihathana throne, documentary photos of the palace, and buildings decorated with Myanmar cultural handicraft. The defence minister and party had a documentary photo taken in front of the building of the palace.

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Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint greets Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party at Mandalay International Airport. — MNA

Fort Carson soldier killed in non-combat accident in Iraq

FORT CRASON, (Colo), 28 Nov— A Utah soldier assigned to a Fort Carson-based Army Reserve unit died Wednesday from a non-combat injury in Iraq, the military said.

Spc. David J. Goldberg, 20, of Layton, Utah, was the 32nd soldier attached to Fort Carson to die in Iraq.

He was killed in Qayyarah. No details were released and the accident was under investigation.

Goldberg was assigned to C Company, 52nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), US Army Reserve, 43rd Area Support Group.

Internet

Bullets warn Iraqis against working with US forces

KHIRNABAAT (Iraq), 28 Nov—Amaar Farman ignored the death threats and the grenade that exploded on his doorstep. Then guerrillas, angered by his cooperation with US forces, riddled the policeman with bullets.

"Three men drove up one night in a black BMW and opened fire on him while he was chatting with his friend. They shot him in the heart, they hit him in the legs, everywhere," said his brother Hissein, sitting beside Farman's three young sons.

"He just wanted to help rebuild the new Iraq. He didn't like or dislike the Americans. Amaar was just doing his job."

Guerrillas who have killed Americans and their allies in high-profile attacks, are also waging psychological warfare in the dusty streets of villages like Khirnabaat to try to undermine U.S. efforts to win over the local population.

If their tactics succeed, it could deal a blow to American efforts to secure badly needed intelligence from Iraqi civilians on guerrillas who have killed 184 US troops since major combat was declared

over on 1 May.

News of Farman's death two weeks ago spread quickly through towns in the "Sunni triangle," the area of central Iraq that was Saddam Hussein's powerbase before he was toppled in April.

Villagers in Khirnabaat are especially alarmed because guerrillas handed out leaflets there warning that others who cooperate with US forces will share Farman's fate.

The leaflets from a group calling itself the National Front for the Liberation of Iraq also listed "spies" it has uncovered. A translator for U.S. troops was named along with his relatives.

"We are afraid to walk the streets," said Abu Sabah, 60.

Just across the street, graffiti scribbled on the wall of a building vows: "Death to spies."—Internet

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Roadside bomb hits convoy outside Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 28 Nov—A roadside bomb Thursday hit three trucks affiliated with the US military as they traveled on the western outskirts of Baghdad, sources within the Coalition Provisional Authority told CNN.

There were no injuries.

The improvised explosive device (IED) detonated around 10:15 am (2:15 am ET) in Abu Ghraib. Two contractor trucks and a military truck were engulfed in flames, causing authorities to temporarily close Highway 3.

Late Wednesday, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Italian Embassy in Baghdad, causing minor damage to the building's second floor, according to Italian officials.

No one was inside the building at the time of the attack, which happened around 11:30 pm (3:30 pm ET).

Earlier this month, Italy's military police headquarters in southern Iraq was targeted by a vehicle bomb. Nineteen Italians and nine Iraqis were killed in the November 12 attack in Nasiriya.—Internet

China says dialogue key to solution of Iran's nuclear issue

VIENNA, 28 Nov—China stressed here Wednesday that Iran's nuclear issue should be settled through dialogue and consultations.

Speaking after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopted a resolution over nuclear activities of Iran, Zhang Yan, the Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, said China supports further inspections in Iran by the IAEA within its authorization, and encourages Iran to clarify its nuclear activities by cooperating with the IAEA.

Zhang also said the justifiable right of the involved country to peacefully use nuclear power should be maintained when seeking solutions within the framework of the IAEA.

Zhang expressed pleasure in his speech with the resolution by the IAEA, saying that the resolution, which was finally adopted after wide and constructive consultations, is commonly acceptable to concerning parties. It proved that through equal dialogue and sincere cooperation, a satisfactory solution to Iran's nuclear issue could be reached, Zhang pointed out.

Zhang expressed the hope that the adoption of the resolution would be conducive to the continuation of dialogue, consultations and cooperation between the involved parties, and would enable a final solution to Iran's nuclear issue.

The IAEA adopted the resolution by consensus on Wednesday, censuring Iran for its covert nuclear activities in the past 18 years. However, it did not make the decision to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions.—MNA/Xinhua



Italians guard their base in Nasiriya after an attack by two suicide bombers.

INTERNET

Vietnam to cut tariffs on exports to China

HANOI, 28 Nov— Vietnam will slash tariffs imposed on nearly all farm produce and seafood for export to China from next year, according to the country's Finance Ministry on Thursday.

Under a tariff reduction list compiled by the ministry, Vietnamese goods exported to China with current tax rates of over 30-45 per cent will bear a new rate of 20 per cent, and those with tariffs of 15-30 per cent are to enjoy a new rate of 10 per cent from January 2004.

By 2008, Vietnam will lower tariffs imposed on 484 exports to China to zero per cent to fulfil its full commitment to the Early Harvest Programme (EHP), part of an agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation between China and the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam lacks professional staff in tourism

HANOI, 28 Nov— Vietnam's tourism sector has faced a serious shortage of professional employees, especially qualified guides, and hotel and marketing staff.

Of 670,000 employees of the sector, just 42 per cent have undergone full tourism training, while 20 per cent have not yet received any training course, according to a report of the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism. About 47 per cent of the sector's staff do not master any foreign language. Only 52 per cent have a good command of English, 3.3 per cent French, and 3.6 per cent Chinese. One of the reasons for the shortage is that students at over 20 universities and colleges having tourism departments across the country often focus on theory, not on practice due to limited training expenditures.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Cambodia sign agreements on eco, technical cooperation

PHNOM PENH, 28 Nov— Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Ning Fukui, on behalf of the Chinese Government, signed two agreements with the royal government of Cambodia on economic and technical cooperation on Thursday.

The signing ceremony was held at the Foreign Ministry under the presidency of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Under the first agreement, China will grant of RMB 50 million yuan (6.1 million US dollars) to the Cambodian Government. This assistance gratis will be handed to the Cambodian Foreign Ministry for general use by the Cambodian Government, according to a news release from Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday.—MNA/Xinhua



A seller holds a yacon at a market in Lima, on 25 November, 2003. Peru, the land that gave the world potatoes, is home to yacon, a tasty root which scientists say is good for the gut, potentially safeguards against cancer, helps absorption of calcium and vitamins and can lessen the blood sugar peaks from eating sweet food that are a problem for diabetics.

INTERNET

Fewer malaria cases recorded in Cambodia in first 9 months

PHNOM PENH, 28 Nov — Cambodia's malaria cases in the first nine months of this year have decreased slightly compared with the same period last year, the Cambodia Daily reported on Thursday.

Quoting a report released by Cambodia's National Malaria Centre on November 22, the newspaper said that, between January and September 2002, 77,437 malaria cases were reported, while 76,912 have been reported in the first nine months of this year.

But malaria deaths for the first nine months of the two years have remained almost level, with 275 deaths in 2002 and 281 deaths in 2003.

Reported cases decreased significantly during the August and September malaria high season this year, compared with the same two months last year, the report said.—MNA/Xinhua

Anti-war lawyer questioned over Iraq connection

LONDON, 28 Nov—A human rights lawyer investigating reports of war crimes by US forces in Iraq has been arrested in London and accused of helping break sanctions against Saddam Hussein's regime in the 1990s.

Anti-war activists claimed yesterday that Dr Abdul Haq al-Ani, who is acting for the former Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, is the victim of a political prosecution.

Dr Ani, 59, a British citizen, was an active opponent of Saddam's regime who left Iraq in 1986 and qualified as a barrister in the UK. As a member of the campaign group Lawyers Against the War (LAW) he recently returned from Iraq where he had been gathering testimonies about alleged abuse of civil rights by the US military.

While in Iraq, Dr Ani, who has been retained by Tariq Aziz's family, attempted to see the former deputy prime minister, being held by US forces in Baghdad, but was denied permission.

LAW and Dr Ani are considering legal action against the Prime Minister and the Attorney General, Peter Goldsmith QC, on the basis that the Iraq war was illegal. They also want to take up the

case of the detainees being held by British and American forces in Iraq with the European Court of Human Rights.

Dr Ani was arrested by Customs and Excise on Tuesday. He had made himself available for questioning after hearing that officers had raided the homes of two of his friends and removed computers and documentation.

The friends, who are of Iraqi descent, were absent at the time of the searches and found notes from customs officers stating that they were seeking information about Dr Ani. On the day of his arrest, Dr Ani had received a letter from the Attorney General in relation to the legal actions being contemplated by LAW.

Dr Ani is believed to have been questioned about his brother, Tariq, who was arrested in January in Finland also in connection with the breaking of

UN sanctions against Iraq. He was released without charge.

After questioning, Dr Ani's home was searched, but nothing was taken away. He was released on bail and is due to return for questioning on 23 January.

Dr Ani said: "We have been collecting evidence in Iraq, as well as campaigning against the war in this country. The Americans were not very happy when I attempted to see Tariq Aziz in Baghdad. I suppose me and my colleagues are irritations for Tony Blair's government."

"I find it very odd that my friends' homes are raided the day before I get the letter from the Attorney General. We will co-operate with any investigation, we have nothing to hide. But neither are we going to be intimidated out of our activities over Iraq."

Internet

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: www.bbc.com

Iraq war reported to cost more than two billion pounds to Britain

LONDON, 28 Nov—The invasion and occupation of Iraq have cost Britain more than two billion pounds (\$3.4 billion), The Financial Times said on Friday.

The Treasury said the cost of fighting in Iraq was 850 million pounds in the year to the end of March, shortly after the US-led invasion to topple former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein began.

A further 1.23 billion has been spent in the current financial year, the newspaper reported.

According to FT the three billion pounds set aside to cover the costs of fighting Iraq will, at this rate, run out in the first half of 2004.

It has been estimated that Britain's continuing peace-keeping presence in Iraq is costing between 100 and 200 million pounds a month, it said.

Britain still has about 10,000 troops in Iraq, most of them in the south of the country.—Internet



Impact marks are seen on the Italian embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 Nov, 2003 after the mission was hit and damaged by a rocket strike late Wednesday night. The head of the mission, Gianludovico de Martino di Montegiordano, was not inside at the time and there were no reports of injuries. —INTERNET

Thailand confident of eradicating poverty in six years

BANGKOK, 28 Nov — Secretary-General of Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) Chakramon Phasukvanich has said the board had already drawn up a "poverty map" and was confident of success in eradicating poverty within six years.

Speaking after a Press conference on Thailand's Country Development Partnership on Poverty Analysis and Monitoring (CDP-PAM), Chakramon said that a poverty map was drawn up, detailing obstacles, problems and strategies for eradicating poverty, the Thai News Agency reported Thursday.

If clear information is drawn up and if the approaches to eradicate poverty are effective, while all agencies concerned engage in sincere cooperation, it will be possible to eradicate poverty within this timeframe, Chakramon said.

The CDP-PAM project brings together the Thai Government, the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, with annual financial support of 920,000 US dollars from the Asia-Europe (ASEM) Trust Fund.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisang, meanwhile, noted that the government alone was not able to solve Thailand's poverty problems, as causes of poverty had many dimensions, and were concerned with a wide range of social groups.

This meant that all parties concerned had to work together, and that public participation was essential.

The latest figures show that around 6.2 million people, or 9.8 per cent of the population, live in poverty. —MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian King reaffirms one China Policy

PHNOM PENH, 28 Nov—Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk reaffirmed that Cambodia will continue to adhere to one-China Policy.

The King made the remarks when he granted a royal audience to the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Ning Fukui at the Royal Palace.

He said that "it is our determined policy to adhere to the one-China policy, and I always recognize that there is only one China in the world and that is the People's Republic of China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory".

"I am glad to see that the Royal Government of Cambodia headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen also sticks to the friendship policy with China," the King said, adding that he believes that the traditional friendship between Cambodia and China will never be changed with the change of world situation.

MNA/Xinhua

China lends Cambodia \$30m for roads, aid

PHNOM PENH, 28 Nov—China, seeking to increase its influence in Southeast Asia, granted impoverished Cambodia 30 million US dollars in aid on Thursday to renovate roads and help rebuild its economy, shattered by decades of war.

At a ceremony attended by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, China's Ambassador to Phnom Penh signed an agreement on a 24-million-US-dollar interest-free loan to rebuild a 125-mile stretch of road linking eastern Cambodia to its northern neighbour Laos.—MNA/Reuters

Compensation for people in flood deviation programmes urged

BEIJING, 28 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has urged local governments to guarantee the payment of compensation to people who lost their property when they helped the government in major flood deviation programmes this summer.

While reading a report on the issue, the Premier stressed the compensation must be distributed to these people under supervision by the public and the media.

The central government will pay a total of 403.41 million yuan (48.55 million US dollars) to Anhui and Hunan provinces, which is 70 per cent of the entire compensation to these who are to be paid for their sacrifice. The local governments will pay the other 30 per cent of the compensation. The state will also subsidize the construction of housing for the people relocated. The Ministry of Finance has urged provincial governments to ensure the timely and efficient payment of the compensation, and step up supervision of the payments. —MNA/Xinhua



Occupation troops on security duty in Kirkuk on 27 November.—INTERNET

Voith AG to expand investment in China

SHANGHAI, 28 Nov—German industrial conglomerate Voith AG has announced plans to expand its investment in China.

Voith president Hermut Korman said his company would make an additional investment of 15 million to 20 million euros annually in exploring the papermaking equipment, hydro generators and power transmission equipment market in China in the coming years. Currently, Voith has 12 subsidiaries in China, with a combined investment of 100 million euros.

Voith's sales in China reached 375 million euros in the 2002/2003 fiscal year, or 12 per cent of the company's global total.

Since 1997, Voith has provided 17 papermaking production lines to China.

MNA/Xinhua

China launches first salvage manoeuvre

JINAN, 28 Nov—China's maritime authorities conducted the country's first salvage manoeuvre here in east China's Bohai Bay to practise new salvage technology and programmes.

The drill was initiated by the Maritime Department of the Ministry of Communications and China Maritime Searching and Rescue Centre. The Bohai Bay was chosen as the site as it is a busy navigation area as well as a place with the occurrence of frequent accidents under the effects of winter monsoons.

During the simulation, a ship with a chemical cargo caught fire during its course from Tianjin Municipality, a north China port city, to Yantai, a coastal city in east China's Shandong Province.

The crew sent SOS signals through maritime satellite system reporting serious injuries to two of the eight staff. Maritime departments started emergency rescue operations. Within a matter of 20 minutes, eight groups of rescue vehicles rushed to the site.

After about one hour, two seriously injured sailors were sent to the rescue centre by helicopter. The other six sailors were transferred to patrol crafts and three tug boats towed the ship to a harbour at the port of Yantai. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq to license foreign banks

BAGHDAD, 28 Nov—Iraq's banking sector is set to transform as foreign banks are allowed into the industry for the first time in nearly 40 years.

The newcomers are expected to introduce new products and services, and provide competition for the local banks.

A Central Bank deputy governor Ahmad Salman Mohammed says foreign banks will bring in capital, train people, provide jobs, modernize banking services and finance trade, industry and construction.

The Central Bank is to award in December licenses allowing a maximum of six banks to operate in Iraq until 31 December, 2008.

Other banks will be admitted after that date only, Mohammed said.

The invitation to foreign banks is the first since the banking sector was nationalised in 1964, four years before the former ruling Baath party's rise to power.

The winners are expected to begin operations within six months of receiving the licence. Mohammed said the foreign banks should staff all positions with Iraqis, with

the possible exception of the top management. Each bank should also be required to open a total of five branches across the country. Under the tender document, the minimum required capital for a foreign bank subsidiary to open in Iraq is 50 billion dinars, or \$25 million.

This is five times more than the capital required from the local private banks that were allowed to open in the early 1990s to compensate for the devastating impact of UN sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

The sanctions were lifted in May, one month after the US-led invasion ended Saddam Hussein's 24 years in power.

But the sanctions and political tension crippled the ability of the 17 local private banks to provide services and products such as credit cards, ATMs and letters of credit, and hindered their development. — Internet

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US forces kill Iraqi motorist 'in error'

BAGHDAD, 28 Nov—US occupation soldiers have shot dead an Iraqi motorist "in error" in the northern city of Kirkuk. Thursday's killing is the sixth such incident in recent months, said police.

Riad Khalas Abd Allah, 25, was driving at a normal speed 150 metres from one of a series of US checkpoints around the heavily guarded main square when the soldiers opened fire, said Police Major Adnan Muhammad Sadr.

His vehicle turned up no weapons and no explosives, said the major in the US-trained police.

The death happened during heavy rain which had apparently diminished visibility.

But Sadr, who heads the local police station, said there had already been five previous fatal shootings by US troops in the same square.

Internet

Second launching pad for satellites ready for inauguration

SHILLONG, 28 Nov — India's second launching pad for satellites had been completed and was ready for a formal inauguration, Federal Junior Minister for Space and Atomic Energy S. B. Mookherjee has said.

"It is a state-of-art and most modern in the world in Sriharikota. We are awaiting a formal inauguration by the Prime Minister," Mookherjee told reporters in this northeastern Indian city. Having been completed about three months ago, the launching pad was likely to be inaugurated by the end of January, he said.

India, one of the world leaders in space research and technology, was selling data and pictures to different southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Singapore and even to Germany, he said. On 17 October, India's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C5 was successfully injected into orbit RESOURCESAT-1, the country's most sophisticated and heaviest remote sensing satellite, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in southeast India. — MNA/PTI



Soldiers of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse), check an Iraqi man's papers during a night patrol in Tikrit, in the early hours on 27 Nov, 2003.

INTERNET

Indian Navy's Fast Attack Craft launched

PANAJI (Goa), 28 Nov — A Fast Attack Craft, the fastest combatant in the Navy and smallest with displacement of 60 tons, was launched on Thursday at the Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL). The craft capable of being fitted with surface to surface missiles and built by GSL, was launched at the hands of the wife of Vice-Admiral P. Jaitly, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition, Indian Navy.

FCA is fitted with MK-20 naval stabilized gun system with 20mm canon on forward.

Third in the series of its kind built in collaboration with IAI Ramta of Israel, the vessel has been designed to go into sea in the shortest possible time for day/night coastal surveillance and reconnaissance and for coordinated sea-air search and rescue operations.

Equipped with most modern structural, hydrodynamic and propulsion features, the craft is propelled by two "MTU engines" which drive two "articulated surface drives" (ASD) and "surface piercing propellers". — MNA/PTI

Thai Cabinet approves new Thai-Lao bridge

BANGKOK, 28 Nov — The Thai Cabinet has finally approved the construction of a new bridge linking Thailand and Laos, after 11 years of pressure from the two provinces on either side of the border, Thai News Agency reported here. Jare Chalatharawat, a government engineer in the northeastern province of Loei, was quoted by the agency as saying that on 18 November the Cabinet approved the construction of the bridge over the Hueng River linking Loei Province in Thailand with Chaiyaburi District in Laos.

The 3.3-kilometre-bridge, to start in Loei's Tha Li District, will cost 70.75 million baht (1.768 million US dollars) to be funded by Thailand.

The project, to be completed within a year, will facilitate travel and trade between the two countries as part of the Thai Government's economic development strategies for neighbouring countries, and will also promote cordial relations between the two countries, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Swimming for newborn babies gaining popularity in China

BEIJING, 28 Nov — Swimming for newborn babies is becoming increasingly popular in the Chinese capital of Beijing and southern Guangdong Province.

During the training course, the babies, many only about a dozen days old, are put into small pools filled with warm water, and float with the help of life rings.

The air temperature in-

side the room is maintained at around 28 degrees Celsius, and the water temperature in the swimming pool is kept around 38 degrees.

Before starting swimming, the babies will have to be fed with enough milk and receive special training, experts say.

Swimming for newborn babies is not only good to the growth of babies' bones and

muscles, but can strengthen heart, brain and lung functions, said Pan Xin, director of the "New Mum Post-delivery Service Centre".

"Together with their active movement, the water pressure and buoyancy are very helpful to the growth of the babies' nervous and secretion systems," Pan Xin added.

MNA/Xinhua



A 20-day-old Chinese infant enjoys a dip in a pool at the 'New Mother Postnatal Service Centre', which was officially opened on 26 Nov, 2003. The centre features eight different pools for the infants and toddlers. Experts believe babies who have an early swimming experience show improved physical and psychological development. Swimming also enhances the baby's balance, strength, coordination and endurance as well as their concentration and sense of independence. — INTERNET

South China city to open air route to Paris

GUANGZHOU, 28 Nov — China Southern Airlines and Air France signed an agreement here to open direct flights between Guangzhou and Paris on January 6 next year.

The two companies also plan to share the flight code for Airbus A340 planes. Both sides said the pact was backed by the Chinese and French governments.

Officials with Air France said at the signing ceremony that the contract is only a starting point, and more cooperation can be expected in future. They also consider China to be a very attractive market.

Li Kun, deputy general manager of China Southern Airlines, said that his company will try to optimize its resources and form a solid groundwork for future cooperation with Air France.

Passengers from Guangdong will be able to board the flight at noon, and arrive at Paris around 17:25 local time.

Under the agreement, there will be one flight a day from Monday to Friday from January 6 to June 13. From June 14, flights will be available every day. — MNA/Xinhua

China initiates measures to boost information industry

BEIJING, 28 Nov — China will initiate six measures to facilitate technical innovation and industrialization of scientific research and to boost the information industry, said a ranking official with the Ministry of Information Industry here.

Lou Qinqian, Vice-Minister of Information Industry, said China's information industry should target the domestic market while exploring and developing the international market, and forge a market-oriented system for technical innovation, in which companies should play leading roles with governmental support.

China should guarantee the implementation of a law on intellectual property protection and strengthen information collection and analysis, Lou noted. Research and development centres set up by multinationals and domestic companies should be encouraged to accumulate self-developed patent technology. Local companies' awareness of intellectual property should also be enhanced.

He said there was still a big gap between China and developed countries in the information industry sector. Since China is short of nuclear technology in some important areas, multinationals have

occupied the market with better and more funding and technology.

Although the annual increase rate of patent applications remained at over 23 per cent in recent years, most Chinese companies still needed to strengthen their awareness and management of intellectual property. The added value of China's exporting commodities was relatively low because of the lack of intellectual property.

Statistics showed the growth rate of China's information industry was twice or even three times the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Despite the impact of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) disease earlier this year, China's information industry still completed an added value of 530.4 billion yuan (about 64 billion US dollars) from January to October, accounting for 5.7 per cent of the GDP.

MNA/Xinhua

မြို့ခြံခွေတာ၊ ဆိန်ပါလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



Iraqi children look through a fence in Yusufiyah, some 15 kilometres (8 miles) west of Baghdad Wednesday, on 19 Nov, 2003. Explosions rocked western Baghdad the previous night as US troops mounted fresh attacks against guerrillas. — INTERNET

China-Russia financial cooperation in progress

BEIJING, 28 Nov — The second meeting of the China-Russia financial cooperation forum opened here.

Addressing the meeting, Li Guixian, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said the smooth development of Sino-Russian ties had brought bright prospects for financial cooperation between the two sides.

Li, also chairman on the Chinese side of the Sino-Russian Friendship Committee for Peace and Development and honorary president of the Chinese Monetary Society, said the two countries' financial cooperation was making constant progress. He listed the signing of a settlement agreement for border areas, the development of relations between commercial banks, cooperation against money-laundering and financing for terrorism, and cooperation in the insurance business.

The forum first met in 2001 in Moscow, which greatly promoted financial cooperation, Li said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran not worried about tougher nuclear checks

TEHERAN, 28 Nov — Iran said on Thursday it was not worried about tougher inspections of its nuclear facilities despite a warning from the UN nuclear watchdog that any future breach of non-proliferation obligations would not be tolerated.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Wednesday condemned Iran's 18-year cover-up of sensitive nuclear research, including uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing — both of which could point to an atomic arms programme.

But in recognition of Iran's promises of "active cooperation and openness", including Teheran's commitment to allow snap inspections of nuclear sites, the IAEA stopped short of reporting Iran to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

Iran maintains it has no intention of building nuclear weapons and is developing nuclear technology for an atomic energy pro-

gramme to meet booming electricity demand. "We have no fear about our peaceful nuclear activities and surely if the agency inspects Iran for years, we will stress the peaceful aims of our nuclear programme," Iran's Supreme National Security Council chief Hassan Rohani was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

"Therefore, we are not worried about article eight of the (IAEA) resolution," he added, referring to a clause in the resolution which says that the IAEA board would meet immediately to consider "all options at its disposal" if any further serious Iranian failures to report nuclear activities come to light. — MNA/Reuters

EU, ESA sign cooperation agreement

BRUSSELS, 28 Nov — The European Union (EU) and the European Space Agency (ESA) have signed an agreement to bolster their cooperation in key areas concerning space technology.

The framework agreement, signed on Tuesday by European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin and ESA Director-General Jean-Jacques Dordain, is regarded as "another leap forward" in the EU's space policy, according to a Press release issued by the European Commission, the EU's executive arm.

Under the agreement, fields of cooperation include science and technology, Earth observation, navigation, communication by satellite, human space flight and micro-gravity, launchers, and spectrum policy related to space.

The EU and ESA will also launch and fund joint projects, participate in each other's schemes, create common management agencies, carry out studies and jointly organize conferences and training of scientists, exchange experts, equipment and materials, and share access to facilities.

"This agreement represents a milestone for Europe as it opens the way to a new era for Europe as a true space power," Busquin was quoted as saying.

This will enable the EU to address and achieve a large number of policy goals, notably in the areas of the information society, transport and environmental protection.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

China, Russia to jointly fight border drug problem

HARBIN, 28 Nov — China and Russia will cooperate to fight against transnational drug crime in their border areas, according to a document signed here.

The public security department of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province and Russia's General Administration of the Far East Region of the State Drug Control Department signed the document after three days of discussions, vowing to cooperate in information exchanges and police training.

Since last year, police from Heilongjiang Province and relevant Russian regions have cooperated in cracking six

transnational drug cases.

Cooperation will help cut drug trafficking channels, said Gao Delin, vice-director of the Heilongjiang Provincial Public Security Department.

It is necessary to promote international cooperation, since drug trafficking is a transnational crime, and no country can deal with it independently, said V. Parkhomenko, director of the General Administration of the Far East Region of the State Drug Control Department.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam sees seafood exports up

HANOI, 28 Nov — Vietnam is expected to earn 2.09 billion US dollars from seafood exports in the first 11 months of this year, up 12.76 per cent over the same period last year, the Fisheries Ministry said here.

In November alone, the country is set to obtain a seafood export volume of 220 million US dollars, said the ministry. The product is shipped to 75 countries and territories with the United States, Japan, the European Union (EU), China and South Korea as the main importers.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese children perform during a concert to promote awareness of AIDS in Beijing, on 27 Nov, 2003. Three years after an AIDS scandal in China's heartland was revealed after blood selling schemes infected thousands of people, the government has recognized the need to help those affected by AIDS, but critics say more needs to be done. December 1 marks the World AIDS Day. — INTERNET

Building the road of prosperity together for mutual benefits

Tekkatho Myat Thu

True to a Myanmar aphorism that goes "Visitors come when the house is pleasant", a continuous stream of precious visitors from foreign nations comes to Myanmar. Bagan, a repository of Myanmar cultural heritage, or regions in various states and divisions replete with scenic beauties, or regions with enchanting cultures of national races, or the splendid Shwedagon Pagoda are the places always crowded with tourists.

Myanmar is a country that flags its national prestige. Therefore, guests and tourists take an endless delight in enjoying and studying the fossils of Potaung region capable of tracing back the ancient history of Myanmar, stone-age clues seen along the Ayeyawady River and at the Pyadalin Cave, and the arts and crafts as well as the architecture of ancient dynasties from Sri Khittara down to Yadanabon.

The wealth of land and water resources; the increasing number of irrigation facilities, roads, railroads, bridges, schools, universities, hospitals, dispensaries, hydel power stations, industrial zones and housing estates; and the rising mechanization of farm work, all represent the true picture of Myanmar.

Precious guests and other tourists visiting Myanmar, where stability and tranquillity prevail owing to the absence of the smell of cordite as well as destructive acts and armed insurgencies, witness with their very eyes how peaceful and pleasant Myanmar is to travel.

General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, attended the ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia last October. All the member countries of ASEAN unanimously hailed and approved of the seven-point roadmap of Myanmar submitted by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to establish a genuine, discipline-flourishing and new democratic nation. Myanmar expressed her thanks to the member countries of ASEAN family for their friendship, understanding and support of the roadmap.

Being a member of the ASEAN family, Myanmar cooperates with other members in carrying out the tasks of the ASEAN and attends ASEAN meetings held in member countries. Moreover, it can be seen on news that Myanmar has hosted a number of ASEAN Senior Officials Meetings and Ministerial Meetings.

According to the list of special guests visiting Myanmar during this month, it is noted surprisingly that the guests were from good and friendly neighbours of Myanmar.

On the 1st of November, Theravada Chinese Monk Maha Saddammajotikadhaja Ashin Subhana (Su San Li) of Maesai North Mengxi Missionary School in Thailand and his laity donated over K 45 million and offered 'soon', robes and provisions to 500 members of the Sangha at Pylon Chanthra Great Ordination Hall in Dagon Myothit (South), Yangon Division. On the occasion, Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, also attended the ceremony and offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

On the 2 November, at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat arrived in Yangon by special aircraft on a goodwill visit. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye himself and responsible personnel of Myanmar welcomed the Indian delegation at the airport with a ceremony.

Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was accompanied by Deputy Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Didvijay Singh, Members of Parliament (RS) Mr Anil Kumar, Mr B J Panda, and responsible officials. At 6 pm on that day, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party held discussions with the delegation led by visiting Indian Vice-President at the Mingala Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road in Yangon.

At 7.20 pm, the ceremony to sign the bilateral agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India took place at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat were both present on the occasion. At the signing ceremony, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Indian Foreign Secretary Mr K Sibal signed the Myanmar-India Agreement on Visa Exemption for Officials and Diplomatic Passports and exchanged the documents.

Moreover, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and Indian Foreign Secretary Mr K Sibal also signed an MoU between the Ministry of Education of Myanmar and the Ministry of Human Resources Development of India. At 7.30 pm, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosted a dinner in honour of Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and his entourage.

On 3 November, Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat called on Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building. The visiting Indian Vice-President paid homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda in the morning and attended a reception at the Myanmar-India Business Club at 6.30 pm.

At 2 pm, Indian Foreign Secretary Mr K Sibal explained the purpose of the goodwill visit of the Indian delegation led by Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at the press conference held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road.

In his explanation, Mr K Sibal said that the Myanmar-India bilateral relations were encouraging; that there was a regular exchange of visits among the senior officials of both countries; that a remarkable increase had been seen in economic, cultural, education, and science and technology spheres; that five agreements between the two countries had been signed this year, and two others were also signed during the visit; and that they attached importance to those agreements.

(To be continued)

Translation: KTY

Myanma Alin, 28-11-2003

China's transport industry boosted by high eco growth

BEIJING, 28 Nov — China's passenger and goods transport industry is developing rapidly after throwing off the negative impact of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Latest official statistics show that nearly 1.49 billion passengers travelled last October, an 86-per-cent surge from the figure in May when the SARS was harassing the country, and the figure was even higher than that of the same period of last year.

The sector showed China's highest economic growth, spurred by fast development of the transport

industry, according to a report from the Ministry of Communications.

The fast growth of the industry and fixed asset investment throughout the country brought great demand for industrial raw materials, like coal, energy, steel, and mining materials.

In addition, China's surging foreign trade also boosted goods transport in major ports. During the first three quarters, China's major ports handled a total of 1.93 billion tons of goods, up 18 per cent year-on-year.

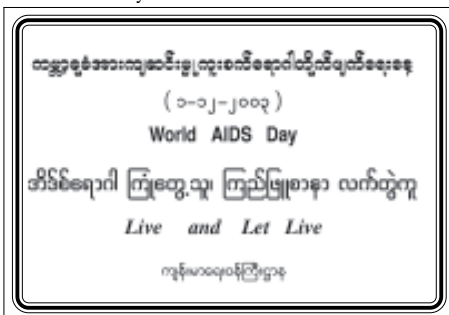
And the total throughput of containers at major

Chinese ports in the first three quarters increased by 30.6 per cent over the same period last year, reaching 32.29 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEU).

The Ministry of Com-

munications forecasts that road passenger transport in 2003 is expected to reach 14 billion people, and road goods transport is predicted to hit 11.2 billion tons.

MNA/Xinhua



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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နေ့နေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်နေ့နေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) (၃၀-၁၁-၂၀၀၃)ရက်နေ့၊
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(၁၄-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့၊
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နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းမြင့်
စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

An objective observer can...

(from page 16)

promulgation of the law, the Myanmar Government has been taking steps for its implementations. In this regard, Myanmar has been cooperating and holding discussions with international bodies including the United Nations.

It is counter-productive for the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at this juncture to call on its members to impose additional countermeasures against Myanmar and for the US to take follow up action based on a subjective assessment of Myanmar's anti-money laundering efforts. Surely, the United States is not unaware that Myanmar has been working on rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the anti-money laundering law it enacted last year.

The Ministry of Finance and Revenue of the Union of Myanmar therefore considers the United States Treasury Department's plans to impose counter-measures against Myanmar and the two Myanmar financial institutions unjustified, unfair and devoid of vision. Regardless of what the United States Department of the Treasury may say or do, Myanmar remains committed to taking follow-up measures to implement the anti-money laundering law. Myanmar stands ready to cooperate with all in the international community that wish us well and are willing to lend a hand. — MNA



The Senior Officials, Meeting between Myanmar and China on Drugs Control Cooperation in progress. — HOME AFFAIRS

Myanmar-China officials discuss drug elimination

YANGON, 28 Nov — The Senior Officials Meeting between Myanmar and China on Drugs Control Cooperation was held at the Regina Hotel in Tachilek, Shan State (East), on 26 November morning.

Present on the occasion were the 18-member Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, and the 14-member Chinese delegation led by Deputy General Sec-

retary of the National Narcotic Drugs Control Commission of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Qianrong.

The meeting focused on information exchange, conducting courses in bilateral narcotic drugs control sector and China's assistance in Myanmar's poppy-substitute crops cultivation sector. In the afternoon, both sides made a study tour of the surrounding areas of the town.

Accompanied by Secretary of the Central Commit-

tee for Drug Abuse Control MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi, the Chinese guests made an excursion tour of Mongyun yesterday morning. In the afternoon, the guests visited Wan Hong Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Integrated Farm in Wa Special Region. During the tour, local Wa nationals and officials briefed the guests on progress of regional development. Later in the afternoon, the guests left for home via Mongla. — MNA

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair draws visitors

YANGON, 28 Nov — The Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003 exhibited with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce continued for the third day at Yangon Trade Centre today.

The fair was teeming with people, businessmen

and students.

Displayed at the fair were local and foreign cosmetics, personal goods, textiles, a wide range of foodstuff, stationery, air freshers, pumps, lawn mowers, power saws, generators, different kinds of engines, carpenter equip-

ment, varnish, various kinds of paste and aluminium ladders, together with the programme of sale promotion demonstration.

The fair continues until 30 November from 9 am to 5 pm daily. Admission is free. MNA



The booth of Makita Construction at Myanmar Ton Tah Trade Fair 2003. — H

Thai Defence Minister...

(from page 2)

Next, the guests visited Shwe Nandaw Museum in the palace and signed in the visitors' book of the museum. At 5.10 pm, they visited Mandalay hill and paid homage to Buddha images there. The visiting defence minister and party enjoyed the sunset beauty of Mandalay from the top of the hill. The visiting defence minister signed in the visitors' book of Hsutaungpyi Pagoda on the hill and donated cash to the renovation funds of the pagoda. Members of the pagoda boards of trustees accepted the cash donation and presented certificates of honour to the visiting defence minister.

In the evening, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command hosted a dinner in honour of the Thai defence minister and party at the guest house of the command. During the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department entertained the guests with traditional dances. The visiting defence minister presented a basket of flower to the artistes and had a documentary photo taken together with the artistes.

Chairman of Mandalay



Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura and party visit Bagan Archaeological Museum. — MNA

Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint greeted the visiting defence minister at Amarapura hall of the Sedona Hotel (Mandalay) at 6.45 am today. The visiting defence minister and party, accompanied by the commander, left the hotel and arrived at Mandalay International Airport at 7.50 am.

Defence Minister of Thailand General Thammarak Isarangura and

party left for Thailand by special flight at 8.15 am.

They were seen off at the airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Brig-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, Military Attaché of Myanmar to Thailand Col Ko Ko Maung and senior officers. — MNA

Overseas Job opportunities

YANGON, 28 Nov — With the permission of the Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour, Htet Oo Manpower Services is providing

services for job opportunities in Singapore and Cyprus. Further details are available at Htet Oo Manpower Services, No 824,

Ground Floor, Mahabandoola Road, Lammada Township, Ph: 225688, E-mail-htetoo@cybertech.net.mm. — MNA

Heroin and raw opium seized

YANGON, 28 Nov — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched suspect La Khwan near Pansaing-Monkoe road in Ward 7 in Monkoe and arrested him together with 10 blocks of heroine weighing 3.56 kilos on 2 September.

Likewise, a combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Bhamo Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on a tip-off, searched a Supercub Motor Bike driven by Ma Nanaw Toung on Bhamo-Moemaik road in Thonmilewutgon Village in Bhamo Township and arrested her together with two

packages of heroine weighing 3.1 kilos on 11 September. On further investigation, Than Wai was also arrested.

In connection with the cases, action was being taken against the culprits under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police stations concerned. MNA

Heroin seized in Phakant

YANGON, 28 Nov — A combined team made up of members of Tatmadaw, local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force, acting on information, searched Saing Yi (a) Yi Tun at Yin Khat Pan Beauty Salon in Ayethaya Ward, Phakant, on 22 October 2003.

At that time no narcotic drug was seized, but upon further investigation, it was exposed that he bought heroin from U Paung Shin, son of U Pha Paung, of No 51, Hnget Pyawtwaw Ward and entrusted the drug to Thauung Kyan, son of U Hla Kyaw, of Hmawsis Village, Lonkhin Village-tract, Phakant Township.

The authorities arrested Thauung Kyan with 0.795 kilo of heroin and U Paung Shin with 0.034 kilo of heroin.

The police station con-

cerned is taking action against the three under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. MNA



Saing Yi (a) Yi Tun, U Pao Shin and Thauung Kyan seen with seized 0.829 kilo of heroin. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends ...

(from page 16)

Therefore, the government has been grappling with the problems by building creek-crossing bridges. Simultaneously, Anawrahta and Magway bridges across Ayeyawady River and Hsinbyushin bridge across Chindwin River were constructed around the region.

The purpose of constructing Anawrahta Bridge was to contribute towards better transport and development of the regions on west banks including southern part of Chin State. Now, Mindat, Kanpetlet and Matupi in southern Chin State have been easily accessible from other States and Divisions through Mindat-Kyaukhtu-Pauk-Pakokku and Saw-Seikpyu roads.

Now one can easily travel from the northern part of Chin State to other regions thanks to the emergence of Haka-Gangaw and Kale-Gangaw roads and Kale-Gangaw railroad through Gangaw region.

Duties have been as-



Lt-Gen Ye Myint addresses opening of Pakokku-Pauk section of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road. — MNA

signed to the Ministry of Construction to upgrade Matupi-Mindat-Kyaukhtu-Pauk-Pakokku road and Mindat-Kanpetlet-Saw-Seikpyu roads to all-weather facilities. The Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road will effectively serve as a tarred one contributing towards not only southern part of Chin State but Pauk, Kyaukhtu and Htilin.

Pakokku, being a strategic region as well as one of the 24 development regions, has got fine education and health infrastructures. So, the roads which link Pakokku to other regions must be fine

facilities so that local people can easily grasp the opportunities on education and health sectors, and particularly the roads leading to Pakokku region should be fine ones, because the region can create commercial, educational and health opportunities for the southern part of Chin State.

With the better transport, it will broaden the scope of dealing, friendship and understanding among the national brethren, overcoming the evil legacy left by the imperialists that they made the regions remain difficult of access so as to create dis-

sension and coldness among the national brethren. Thus, all the national brethren who have been living together on the same land partaking water from the same source sharing weal and woe are to strive for flourishing of Union Spirit. Only when national races are to be equipped with patriotism based on Union Spirit, will there national solidarity be cemented more. That is why the government has been constructing roads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation.

In building up a peaceful, modern and developed

nation, the fine transport infrastructure is a must and political and economic policies suitable for the nation have been laid down and then are being accomplished. If these policies are translated into reality through cooperation of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw, the nation will enjoy a rapid development in a short time.

It is natural that there are certain hindrances and hardships in building an all-round developed nation. However, one can notice that Myanmar still has to brave the sanctions imposed at the instigations of internal and

external destructive elements, in addition to normal hardships. At such a time, the entire people are to continue to build up an economically strong nation on self reliance. And all must defend and safeguard the sovereignty of the nation with nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint called on the local people to collectively maintain the bridges on Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road for its durability. In conclusion, he urged the people from Magway Division and Chin State to

(See page 10)

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe tours Shan State (North)

YANGON, 28 NOV—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Col Aung Nyein of Momeik Station and officials, on 25 November, attended the opening of multimedia classrooms of Mabein Township Basic Education High School and made a speech.

Also present were local authorities, departmental officials, the headmistress and teachers of the school, members of social organizations, parents, members of the School Board of Trustees and others.

In the first session of the ceremony, outstanding students unveiled the stone inscription of Myanmar Education Goal and Myanmar Education Motto.

Headmistress Daw Win Mya and the chairman of

SBT opened the multimedia classrooms.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe pressed the button to unveiled the signboard of the multimedia classrooms.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party viewed students reciting religious verses, computer skill room, language section, projected media, audio lab, language lab, domestic education and painting room and the skill demonstration of students.

Next, the second session followed. The headmistress reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party on opening of multimedia classrooms and the chairman of SBT on efforts made to open the classrooms.

On behalf of students who passed the 2002-2003 matriculation examination with flying colours, Ma Ei Sanda Tun received awards presented by Lt-Gen Aung Htwe. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also presented uniforms for

teachers to the Township education officer.

Next, cash and kind donation for the multimedia classrooms was made. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented K 500,000 donated by the North-East Command to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing accepted K 300,000 donated by Kyaukme District PDC, K 500,000 and a set of computer by Asia World Co, K 500,000 and a set of computer by Ngwehsin Co, K 500,000 by Ruby Garden Co and K 1.5 million by the SBT and parents.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe made a speech saying that the government, paying emphasis on the strength of the education sector, is systematically implementing national education promotion plan.

Moreover, systematic arrangements are being made for emergence of out-

standing youths.

Only when there are harmonious participation of the entire people in promoting science and technology in the country, will it be possible to narrow the technical gap among countries and escape from the influence of some big powers who are trying to overwhelm the developing countries.

As the government has been making systematic arrangements for development of the education sector to be able to brave the challenges at the knowledge age, there are now flourishing information and communication technology in the nation.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also spoke of the need of the teachers to nurture the students to become good sons and daughters of the nation who can overcome the challenges of the future.

He also urged the parents and wellwishers to make donations for gaining

e-education and e-Library.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe urged the parents to guide their children to realize the acts with the intention of destroying the nation and lead them to avoid the acts and to enable the children to catch up with the knowledge age.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party posed for a documentary photo together with the headmistress, teachers and students.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party viewed the development of Mabein.

They proceeded to gem mining site of Shweli Yadana Company of the command in 7th mile Chaungsauk region in Momeik Township.

In-charge Lt-Col Myo Kyin reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on prospects in mining sapphire and its sample.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing made a sup-

plementary report.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the gem mining site. The commander reported on matters relating to gem mining and estimated profits.

They arrived in Momeik at 5 pm. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe met with departmental officials and gave instructions on regional development. Officials reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on agriculture, transport and education of Momeik and Mabein Townships.

The commander made a supplementary report.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe made a speech saying that as Shan State is now developing significantly, the government is making arrangements to promote the development momentum. Multimedia classrooms have been established in basic education schools. The teachers are to nurture the students to become ones who can serve the interests of the State.

Service personnel and local authorities are to collectively strive for smooth transportation in the region. Service personnel are to discharge their duties with goodwill in accord with the policies laid down by the State.

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the service personnel, hand in hand with the people, are to discharge their duties, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party spent the night in Momeik.

MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe formally unveils the signboard of multimedia classrooms of Mabein BEHS. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends ...

(from page 9)

take part in the tasks by doing their bit for ensuring national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty and perpetual existence of the nation. Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made a speech. He said that the road section opened today is Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat road. The road to be opened now is a part of the road opened today and was built by Pakkoku Township, Magway Division. It is Pakokku-Pauk road section.

The road is the main road linking Chin State (South) and Magway Division. Another road to link Chin State and Magway Division is Seikpyu-Hsaw-Kyaukhtu road. People from Kyaukhtu can travel to Chin State (South) via Mindat and to Chin State (North) by Mindat-Matupi-Haka-Falam-Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyikha road and Htilin-Gangaw-Kalay road. In addition, people from Magway Division can travel to Sagaing Division by means of Kyaukhtu-Pauk-Pakokku-Monywa road or Kyaukhtu-Pauk-Myaing-Monywaroad. Likewise, people from Paletwa can travel to Keng Tung and Tachilek from Chauk-Kyaukpadaung-Meiktila-Phaya Ngahsu road via Kyaukhtu-Saw-Seikpyu road. There were 1,308 miles of road in Magway Division in 1988 and there are now 1,699 miles of road with an increase of 392 miles.

Work is well under way for construction of 15 roads in Magway Division—two to link Chin State, one to link Sagaing Division, one to link Bago Division, one to link Mandalay Division and ten

in the division.

Tapyin bridge on this main road will soon be opened. The 180-foot long bridge is of bailey type and in Saw Township.

A local resident spoke words of thanks for construction of the facilities.

The commander and the minister formally opened the Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat (Pakokku-Kyaukhtu) road section. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for a documentary photo together with the guests.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscriptions to mark the opening of the facility. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Pakokku-Pauk road section.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party headed for Ngaphaungkan Village and attended the launching of the private bus lines to run Pakokku-Mindat-Matupi road. Member of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Head of Division GAD U Aung Win and District Chairman Lt-Col Kyi Tun formally opened the bus lines.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party sprinkled scented water onto the buses.

They inspected the upgrading of the road and attended the opening of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat (Pauk) road section in Paku. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and the head of Division GAD formally opened the road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into the road sections and greeted local people. Altogether over 10,000 local residents attended the opening ceremony. — MNA

Wool factory inspected in Thingangyun

YANGON, 28 Nov — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, together with Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, arrived at the wool factory of Myanma Textile Industries in Ward D in Thingangyun Township this morning. They inspected the woollen clothes produced

by the factory, production lines and wool preparation work and gave necessary instructions. The minister and the deputy ministers then inspected the main building of the factory and the site for weaving machines to be installed and left instructions on future tasks. — MNA



Minister U Aung Thuang inspects a production line at the wool factory under Myanma Textile Industries in Thingangyun Township. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening ceremony of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road (Pakokku-Pauk Road Section). — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects gem mining blocks at 7th mile Chaungzauk region in Momeik Township. (News on page 9) — MNA

Measures for development of Mongka region coordinated

YANGON, 28 Nov — The coordination meeting for development of Mongka region in Mongkhat Township, Shan State (East) took place at the office of the minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs this morning.

At the meeting, Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt made a speech on education, health and agricultural matters for the development of Mongka region. Director-General of the Department of Border Areas and

National Races Development Col Than Swe reported on condition of Mongka region and tasks being carried out.

Next, Chairman of the health subcommittee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo reported on health care services, Chairman of the education subcommittee Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min on educational works of the region and Joint-Secretary of the agricultural subcommittee Dr Toe Aung on land reclamation and agricultural works.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun presented the supplementary report and the minister made closing remarks.

MNA

Cash and kind presented to doyen literati

YANGON, 28 Nov — A team comprising Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Than Maung (Than Maung), Central Executive Committee member Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyu Thin), members of the packaging committee and South Okkalapa Township WJA Chairman U Myint Kyi (Myint Win Ni), this morning, paid respect to Sayagyi U Htin Gyi (Tekkatho Htin Gyi) and Sayagyi U Ohn Maung (Shwe Ti Hlaung) in South Okkalapa Township and presented K 60,000 each

and kind to them this morning. The two Sayagis could not attend the respect paying ceremony for doyen literati to mark the Myanmar Sarsodaw Day 1365 ME.

Next, the team went to the residences of doyen literati Dr Maung Maung Kha and Sayamagyi Daw Khin Thein of Mayangon Township and Sayagyi U Ohn Kyi (Maung Kyi Lwin-Sangyoung) of Dagon Myothit (North) Township and paid respects to them. The team also presented K 60,000 each and kind to the doyen literati who made speeches. — MNA



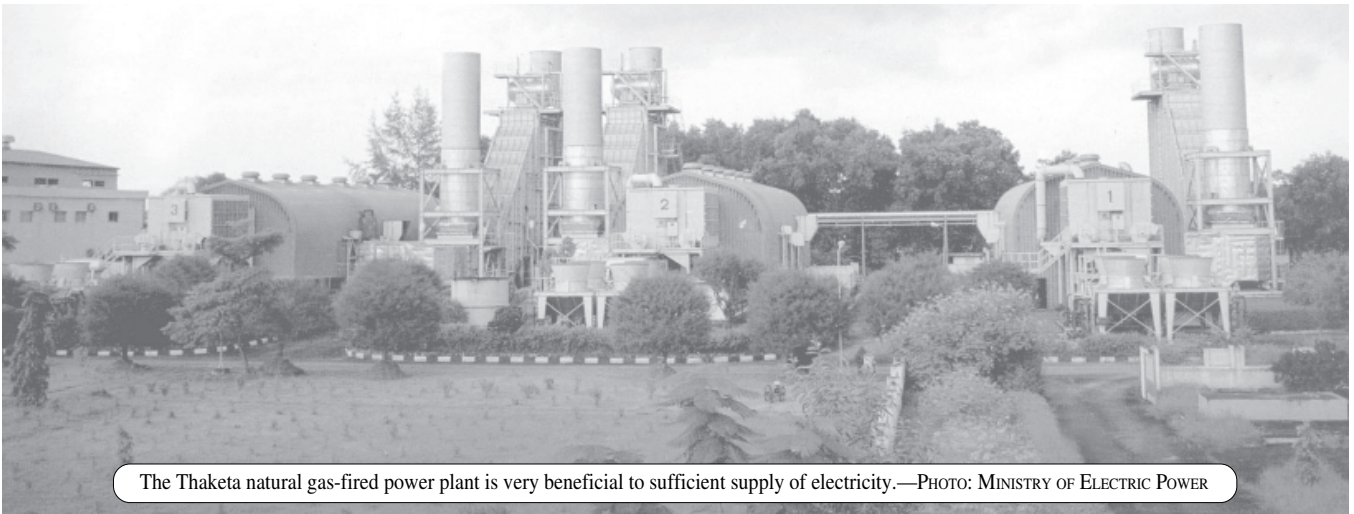
MWJA Vice-Chairman U Than Maung (Than Maung) and executives present cash and kind to Sayagyi Dr Maung Maung Kha. — MNA

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



New natural resources and energy deposits are being continuously explored. The photo shows the Plot No-1 of Yadana Natural Gas Field at Mottama offshore in Taninthayi Coast.— PHOTO: ENERGY

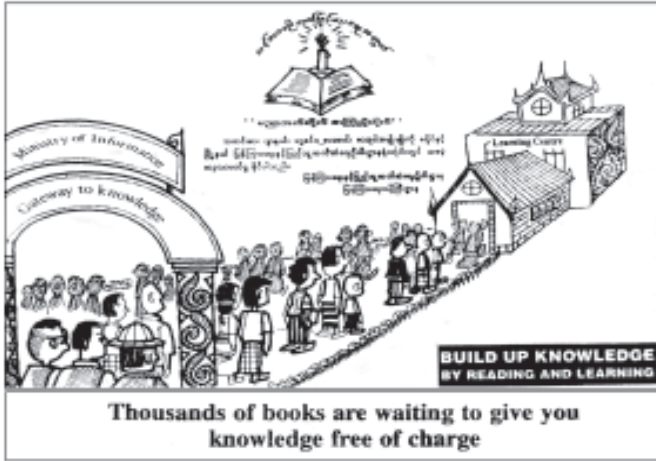
The Liquefied Gas Canister Factory which was built by the Ministry of Industry-2 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township produces 12 Kg and 19 Kg canisters. It produces 50,000 containers a year. —INDUSTRY-2



The Thaketa natural gas-fired power plant is very beneficial to sufficient supply of electricity.—PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER



The Ahlon natural gas-fired power plant an important role in sufficient supply of electricity.—Photo: Ministry of Electric Power



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MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (483)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (483) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-11-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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.

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UNICEF calls for help for Africa's growing orphan population

GENEVA, 28 Nov—The staggering number of African children already orphaned due to AIDS is only the beginning of a crisis, and "the worst is yet to come", warned a report issued by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Wednesday.

According to UNICEF's report titled "Africa's Orphaned Generations", AIDS has already orphaned more than 11 million African children, half of whom are between the ages of 10 and 14.

The countries that will see the largest increase in the

number of orphans, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, have HIV prevalence levels already higher than previously thought possible, exceeding 30 per cent.

In these three countries and Zimbabwe, more than one in five children will be orphaned by 2010; more than 80 per cent of them will have lost one or both parents due to AIDS.

The report shows that many countries are seeing growing proportions of families headed by women and grandparents. These households are already generally

poorer, and are progressively less able to adequately provide for the children in their care.

It says that many of the most severely affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa have no national policies to address the needs of orphaned children, including children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said the ongoing failure to respond to the orphan crisis will have grave implications not just for the children themselves, but for their communities and nations.

She warned that unless decisive action is taken in other regions and countries with epidemics now spiralling out of control, the lives and futures of their children will also experience the damage inflicted by the disease.

The UNICEF report argues that the course of the crisis can be altered by providing immediate support to families and communities to ensure that all of Africa's orphans have a secure and healthy childhood.

"The future of Africa depends upon it," Bellamy said.—MNA/Xinhua

Canada provides Zimbabwe with \$23m for HIV project

HARARE, 28 Nov—The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has contributed about 23 million US dollars to the Prevention of Mother-To-Child-Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV at the launch of a project called Zvitambo, local media reported.

Zvitambo is a Zimbabwe-based project that provides technical support for and conducts operational and clinical research on HIV.

The funds will be directed through the project over the next three years and will provide support for comprehensive HIV prevention and care services for women

and children in the rural areas of Zimbabwe.

Since 2001, Zvitambo has been working closely with the PMTCT under the AIDS and tuberculosis programme of the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and also coordinated activities with the Zimbabwe Association of Church-related Hospitals.

It has provided technical support to rural church associated hospitals to integrate PMTCT programmes.

Canadian High Commissioner to Zimbabwe John Schram commended what Zvitambo was doing, especially with regards to the

early integration of research findings.

The director of Zimbabwe Association of Church-related Hospitals, Vuyelwa Chitimbirike, said here on Tuesday the HIV and AIDS pandemic had posed a tremendous challenge to everyone, especially when the country was faced with poverty and economic hardships.

"The faces of children and families living in a world of AIDS and their resilience inspires us to join hands and fight this disease particularly in sub-Saharan Africa which we are part of," said Chitimbirike.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico appoints new ambassador to UN

MEXICO CITY, 28 Nov—Mexican Vice-Foreign Minister Enrique Berruga was appointed on Wednesday by President Vicente Fox as new ambassador to the United Nations, following the resignation of his predecessor Adolfo Aguilar.

A career diplomat since 1984, Berruga has served as Vice-Foreign Minister, ambassador to Costa Rica and political attaché at the United States and British embassies.

Aguilar, a member of a group of intellectuals who had driven Fox's presidential campaign, was disqualified by the President because of his comments on the US-Mexican relations.

Aguilar had said a few days before to an academic forum: "Unfortunately, the understanding that the political and intellectual class of the United States has of Mexico is a country whose position is that of a back yard." Fox dismissed the remark in an interview with US news network CNN, saying: "I completely reject that statement, which has nothing to do with reality."

MNA/Xinhua

NGOs should cooperate with Chinese Govt in "AIDS" control

BEIJING, 28 Nov—Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in China should intensively cooperate with the Chinese Government in AIDS prevention and control, said Zeng Yi, chairman of the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of STD and AIDS here.

Zeng, also an academician of the Chinese Acad-

emy of Sciences, said there were around one million HIV carriers now in China, and the number would increase tenfold in 2020 if no drastic measures were taken. "There is no time to delay in the prevention and control work", he warned.

"NGOs like our foundation should work in cooperation with the Government to

boost China's AIDS prevention and control work," Zeng said. He considered Thailand a good example in this respect — after decades of mutual efforts between the Thai Government and NGOs, Thailand had successfully controlled its number of AIDS sufferers to below one million, which was decreasing.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့ပြန်လည်အသံ

Ethiopian President awarded for contribution to environment, peace

ADDIS ABABA, 28 Nov—Ethiopian President Girma Wolde Giorgis has been awarded by an international organization for his contribution made in environmental protection and ensuring peace and stability in the country.

Goi Peace Foundation President Hiroo Saionji awarded the certificate of merit and special peace pole to Girma at a ceremony held here on Wednesday, the *Ethiopian News Agency* reported.

The foundation gave the award to Girma in acknowledgment of his visionary leadership and dedication to the environmental

protection as well as outstanding contribution made in ensuring peace, Saionji said.

He said he had discussed with the Ethiopian President that the civil society and non-governmental organizations should focus on poverty reduction and environmental protection activities.

Saionji expressed appreciation to efforts being made by President Girma to set up a Boy Scout unit to enable the youth to be involved in environmental protection activities. He also lauded Ethiopia's efforts toward ensuring peace and stability in Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

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Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali waves to the audience after he received the 'Bambi Trophy' during the Bambi Media Award ceremony in Hamburg, northern Germany, on 27 Nov. 2003. At right is his wife, Lonnie. Muhammad Ali is honored with the 'Millennium Bambi 2003' media award for his lifetime achievement. — INTERNET

Report shows Canadians boast higher rate of education

OTTAWA, 28 Nov — Canadians boast a higher rate of post-secondary education than people in any other developed nation, says a report published on Wednesday.

Fully 41 per cent of Canadians are either college or university graduates — more than any country, including the United States, with 37 per cent, and Japan, with 34 per cent, said the 400-page report made by Statistics Canada and Canada's Council of Ministers of Education.

Students in Canada have more computers in their classrooms than their peers around the world and twice as much Internet access as students in the United States. But with Canada now spending more on health than it does on education, researchers warn these achievements come at a price.

Canadian taxpayers spent about 52 billion US dollars on health in 2000, 17 per cent of all

government spending, compared to about 45 billion US dollars on education, 15 per cent of government spending, said the report.

This is a reversal from 10 years ago, when 13.5 per cent of government spending was on health care and 14.4 per cent on education. Health spending first outstripped education spending in 2000. Experts believe this is not a good change as education traditionally drives health — it reduces health costs and creates the wealth that allows people to have a strong public-health system.

Canada relies increasingly on private dollars for public schooling — with a 16-per-cent jump in private funding over four years, largely for colleges and universities, but only a 4-per-cent rise in public funding. Some provinces have seen their school spending drop in the past five years.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese Govt to set up department for rejuvenating N-E region

BEIJING, 28 Nov — The Chinese Government showed its commitment to breathing new life into north-east China's struggling economy, agreeing to set up a special department to deal with the task. The move follows the landmark decision of last year's 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to put revitalizing the northeast at the top of the government agenda, Thursday's *China Daily* quoted an official sur-named Peng at the Industry Department under the National Development and Reform Commission.

"It is a big step forward to realize the government's goal of revitalizing the old industrial base," said Peng, adding that the State Council will form a national leading group soon to guide the blueprint. But Peng did not reveal exact timing of establishment of the leading group and office.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee recently called for accelerated efforts to revitalize the old northeast industrial bases, calling it a long-term and difficult task.

The three Northeast provinces of Heilongjiang,

Liaoning and Jilin, known as the "industrial cradle of China", played a vital role in the country's industrial development from the 1950's to the early 1970's.

However, many of the traditional industrial firms established in the 1950's, when China adopted a planned economic system, have been struggling since the country moved towards a market economy two decades ago.

The proportion of the region's industrial output value

to the national total has dropped to 9 per cent from 17 per cent. Some loss-making state industries were closed, having laid off large numbers of workers.

"It is time to get rid of the effects of the planned economy completely and establish a market-oriented economy, which might be the only solution for these enterprises," said Xu Chuanchen, a professor and a researcher on the state-owned sector at Jilin University. — MNA/Xinhua

Diana photographers await Paris trial verdict

PARIS, 28 Nov — Three photographers who snapped Britain's Princess Diana and her friend Dodi al Fayed on the night of their fatal 1997 car crash hear on Friday if they were guilty of invading the couples' privacy.

State prosecutors requested suspended jail sentences for the three men when a criminal trial based on strict French privacy laws ended in late October.

The judge is due to announce his verdict in a Paris courtroom at about 1:30 p.m. (1230 GMT), concerning defendants Jacques Langevin of Sygma agency, Christian Martinez of the Angeli agency and freelancer Fabrice Chassery. Diana, Dodi and driver Henri Paul died in a high-speed crash in a tunnel on August 31, 1997, as their Mercedes was pursued by paparazzi on motorbikes through central Paris. Dodi's father Mohamed al Fayed, millionaire owner of London's famous Harrods store, lodged the complaint that triggered the trial. It hinged on a precedent in France that the interior of a car is deemed private, even on a public road.

MNA/Reuters

"Times" launches tabloid edition

LONDON, 28 Nov — A tabloid-sized edition of the *Times* newspaper is on sale alongside with the traditional broadsheet for the same price in London on Wednesday, for the first time in the newspaper's 218-year history.

The move, aiming to boost readership, follows the success of a similar move by *The Independent* newspaper which has seen its sales increase since launching a smaller version two months ago.

All the broadsheets in Britain now publish smaller feature sections and the *Guardian* and the *Daily Telegraph* have privately tested the tabloid-size for their main papers.

It is thought the smaller papers could become popular with many people, especially among commuters on crowded trains.

The *Times* said the "compact" edition would be "very, very different to the average tabloid" as it will share the values and the content of the original.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts S-W China province

KUNMING, 28 Nov — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale hit Ludian County in southwest China's Yunnan Province at 21:38 pm Wednesday, according to the State Seismological Bureau.

The earthquake injured

two with nobody killed thanks to the forecast from the state seismological bureau and lookout kept by the local government.

The accommodation of the victims has been well arranged and rescue teams led by provincial official Li Weijun have rushed to the

area, said acting county magistrate Yin Guiyou.

The epicentre of the quake is located at 27.12 degrees North Latitude, 103.38 degrees East Longitude, some 255 kilometres north of the province's capital Kunming.

MNA/Xinhua



Former Miss World Priyanka Chopra attends a news conference after the inaugural filming of her new movie 'Waqf' or 'Time' in Bombay late on 24 November, 2003. — INTERNET



Miss Ireland Rosanna Davison, centre, poses with runners up after she was named Miss World Beach Beauty 2003 in this photo released by Miss World Organization, in Sanya, on south China's Hainan Island, on Friday, 28 Nov. 2003. At left is runner-up Miss Switzerland Bianca Nicole Sissing, and at right second runner-up Miss Bolivia Helen Aponte Saucedo. The Beach Beauty contest is one of five individual contests being held before the final of the Miss World contest on 6 Dec. The winners of each of the individual contests automatically go into the top 20 for the final. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Stuttgart advance, knockout Rangers

STUTTGART (Germany), 28 Nov — VfB Stuttgart advanced to the knockout phase of the Champions League and eliminated Rangers with a 1-0 victory over the Scottish champions in their Group E match on Wednesday. Central defender Timo Wenzel volleyed home from 10 metres after a free kick was poorly cleared by the visitors' defence to ensure victory for the Bundesliga leaders, who only needed a draw to make sure of surviving the group stage.

Rangers, the only team to have beaten Stuttgart in any competition this season with a 2-1 win in their first group meeting, had to win and now only have third place in the group for a spot in the UEFA Cup to fight for. Stuttgart, who recorded their fourth straight victory in the showcase competition, will face Manchester United at Old Trafford in their final group game on December 9, while Rangers entertain Panathinaikos.

Stuttgart, the German team of the moment with Bayern Munich struggling both at home and in Europe, now dream of emulating the surprise run of another German side, Bayer Leverkusen, who stunned Europe by reaching the Champions League final in 2002.

MNA/Reuters



VfB Stuttgart's Andreas Hinkel, right, and Glasgow Ranger's Shota Arveladze from Georgia, top, and Peter Lovenkrands from Denmark, below, fight for the ball during the UEFA Champions League group E soccer match at the Gottlieb Daimler Stadium in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany, on 26 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

Eriksson offered two-year contract extension

LONDON, 28 Nov — England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson has been offered a two-year extension to his contract which will take him through to the 2008 European Championship, the English Football Association (FA) said on Thursday.

Eriksson, 55, took over in October 2000 following the resignation of Kevin Keegan after England's 1-0 loss to Germany in the last match played at Wembley stadium.

"Sven is England's most successful coach since the legendary Sir Alf Ramsey," FA chief executive Mark Palios said on the ruling body's official website.

"He has already contributed enormously to the reputation of England in Europe and around the world. This offer shows the faith

we all have in him."

Ramsey managed the England team who won the 1966 World Cup at Wembley.

Swede Eriksson guided England to the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan after a 5-1 win over Germany and 2-2 draw with Greece. England lost 2-1 to Brazil in the quarterfinals. Last month England qualified for next year's European Championship after a 0-0 draw with Turkey in the final qualifier in Istanbul.

The extension comes after newspaper speculation linking Eriksson with Premier League Chelsea after he was pictured in July going to a meeting with the west London club's new owner, Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich. — MNA/Reuters

McCarthy double puts Porto through

OPORTO (Portugal), 28 Nov — South Africa striker Benni McCarthy ensured Porto qualified for the Champions League knockout stages with both goals in his side's 2-1 home win over Partizan Belgrade in Group F on Wednesday.

In the opening minutes Partizan's effective defence caught Porto offside several times and the visitors were solid enough in midfield to prevent the home team from settling into a passing game.

But Porto broke the stalemate in the 25th minute when McCarthy jabbed in a loose ball after Partizan goalkeeper Djordje Pantic fumbled a shot from Maniche Ribeiro.

In-form McCarthy came close minutes later by curling the ball just past the right post and forced another save from Pantic just before the break.

The visitors threatened to equalize 10 minutes from half-time when striker Andrija Delibasic spun to connect with a cross from Ivica Iliev and beat marker Paulo Ferreira to force a save out of Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia.

Partizan defender Nenad Djordjevic gifted Porto their second five minutes after the restart when his back pass beat Pantic and McCarthy converted from point-blank range.

Porto coach Jose Mourinho felt confident enough to rest McCarthy 20 minutes from time and bring on Lithuanian "supersub" Edgaras Jankauskas, who set up Maniche for another shot saved by Pantic.

Lothar Matthaeus' side made some spirited attacks in the closing minutes under pouring rain at the Antas Stadium but they were well contained by a Porto back four commanded by former international Jorge Costa. Delibasic gave Partizan a consolation goal in injury time by picking up a pass from Branko Savic and turning the ball past Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia. — MNA/Reuters

Bruges scramble 1-1 draw at Celta

VIGO (Spain), 28 Nov — An injury-time strike from substitute Rune Lange allowed Club Bruges to scramble a 1-1 draw against Celta Vigo in a Champions League Group H match that kept alive their chances of making the last 16.

The Norwegian striker glanced in a header at the far post after a neat chipped pass from fellow substitute Kevin Roetlands to cancel out a 74th-minute strike from Celta midfielder Alexander Mostovoi.

With reigning European champions AC Milan booking their place in the knockout stage as group winners thanks to a 1-0 win at Ajax, any one of the other teams can now claim the remaining place in the final round of matches in two weeks.

It was Celta who took the initiative from the first whistle at a rain-soaked Balaídos as opponents Bruges sat back and tried to play on the break.

Mostovoi, who was back in the starting line-up after arriving late from international duty with Russia, made several promising incursions into the Bruges area in the first 10 minutes but was unable to get a clear shot on goal.

Bruges took a more direct route when they got hold of the ball and Celta keeper Pablo Cavallero was forced to make a sharp block when forward Sandy Martens tried his luck with a snap shot on seven minutes.

Slovenian midfielder Nastja Ceh was denied by another good reflex save from Cavallero after he found space on 25 minutes and Norwegian striker Bengt Saeternes

headed over the bar from the ensuing corner.

Celta tried to work the ball from side to side as they searched for openings in the Bruges defence, but with torrential down-pour making a fluent passing game increasingly difficult they rarely looked like catching their opponents off guard.

The Galicians came to life, however, in the second half after coach Miguel Angel Lotina threw on Argentine winger Gustavo Lopez to spice up his side's attack.

Celta striker Savo Milosevic was denied what looked like a certain goal when 40-year-old keeper Danny Verlinden made an excellent point-blank save 10 minutes after the break and Lopez spurned another good chance when he slammed a shot against the bar. The home side were further frustrated when keeper Cavalier was forced off with an injury just after the hour mark.

But things looked up when Mostovoi broke the deadlock, steering the ball in from close range after an excellent cross from defender Eduardo Berizzo.

But the Russian went off injured minutes later and his team mates proceeded to spurn several good chances to extend their lead.

They eventually paid the price for their profligacy when Lange popped up to head in the equalizer. — MNA/Reuters

Lazio keep Champions League hope alive with Besiktas draw

ROME, 28 Nov — Lazio kept their hopes of reaching the last 16 of the Champions League alive after coming back to draw 1-1 with Besiktas in their Group G match on Wednesday.

The result means Besiktas stay second with seven points behind Chelsea, who qualified with 10 points after a goalless draw with Sparta Prague, on five points.

To go through Lazio, also on five points, must win at Sparta in their final game and hope Besiktas fail to beat Chelsea when they meet at a neutral venue. UEFA have ordered the match to be played outside Turkey following the recent bombings in the country.

Having taken just one point from their last three Champions League games, Lazio started the match knowing that defeat would see them knocked out of the competition.

The Turkish side arrived at the Olympic Stadium determined to hang on to their second place. With so much at stake, visiting coach Mircea Lucescu had predicted an edgy, tactical contest and was proved right.

During a timid first 45 minutes neither side appeared committed to pushing players forward. Lazio created several half-chances as striker Simone Inzaghi and then defender

Paolo Negro put shots wide and high, while at the other end keeper Angelo Peruzzi did well to deny Ilhan Mansiz from point-blank range.

The half seemed deadlocked but ended in controversy, when Jaap Stam was judged to have brought down Besiktas striker Seren Yalcin on the edge of the area.

German referee Markus Merk pointed to the penalty spot and Daniel Pancu converted into the bottom right corner to give the visitors an unexpected half-time lead.

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini introduced attacking midfielder Stefano Fiore and striker Robert Muzzi immediately after the break. His decision paid off in the 56th minute when the pair combined to score Lazio's equalizer.

A loose ball in the Besiktas area was cleared only as far as Fiore, who looped a cross back and Muzzi had time to tee up an overhead kick that beat keeper Oscar Cordoba. The goal signalled the start of a period of concerted Lazio pressure. — MNA/Reuters



A 20-meters-high 'Soccer Globe FIFA World Championship 2006' is exhibited next to the old Frankfurt opera house on 26 Nov, 2003. The display of the globe marks the countdown of the last 1,000 days to the start of the World Soccer Championship in Germany on 9 June, 2006. — INTERNET

MRTV-3
**29-11-2003 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
Mingalabar (K. Ja Nu)
9:06 The Birth Place of
Lacquerware Techni-
cians
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Stir Sheat Fish)
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Myanmar Fishery and
Livestock Fair
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarus Crane"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War
Period)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**29-11-2003 (Saturday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
15:36 The Birth Place of
Lacquerware Techni-
cians
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Stir Sheat Fish)
15:45 **National News**
15:50 Myanmar Fishery and
Livestock Fair
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarus Crane"
16:15 **National News**

- 16:20 Beauty of Woman of
Myanmar (Pre-War
Period)
16:30 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Carrot Pudding"
16:45 **National News**
16:50 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
17:00 **Weekly News High-
lights**
17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song
"Do you love me"
17:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
17:20 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 A Day's Work in Pearl
Culture
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-Water Prawn
Soup)
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-V)
19:55 The Theatrical Training
School Which Nur-
tured the Talented
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Breeding of Mythun
Song "New Goal"
20:12 Sittway with Magnifi-
cent Sight
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Community Based
Drug Control Pro-
gramme
20:25 Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 National Kandawgyi
Gardens
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Cucumber Salad"
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Pickled Fish from
Shwe Kyin
20:55 Culture Stage
"A Classical Male
Dance"
20:58 Tour in Myanmar
"Mandalay"
21:00 **National News**

- 21:05 Myanmar Musical Or-
chestra (Bwe Song)
21:10 Flowers in Profusion
21:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
21:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
21:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:35 The Birth Place of
Lacquerware Techni-
cians
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Stir Sheat Fish)
21:45 **National News**
21:50 Myanmar Fishery and
Livestock Fair
21:55 National Dance
"Kachin Dance"
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
22:10 Song "Crying of the
Sarus Crane"
22:15 **National News**
22:20 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War
Period)
22:25 Song "Towards Man-
dalay Golden City"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Carrot Pudding"
22:45 **National News**
22:50 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Let's have fun watch-
ing Chinlone Games
23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song
"Do you love me"
23:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
23:20 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights

**29-11-2003 (Saturday) &
30-11-2003 (Sunday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 01:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greetings
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
23:36 The Birth Place of
Lacquerware Techni-

- cians
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Stir Sheat Fish)
23:45 **National News**
23:50 Myanmar Fishery and
Livestock Fair
24:00 **National News**
00:05 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
00:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarus Crane"
00:15 **National News**
00:20 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War
Period)
00:30 **National News**
00:35 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Carrot Pudding"
00:45 **National News**
00:50 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
01:00 **Weekly News High-
lights**
01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song
"Do you love me"
01:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
01:20 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

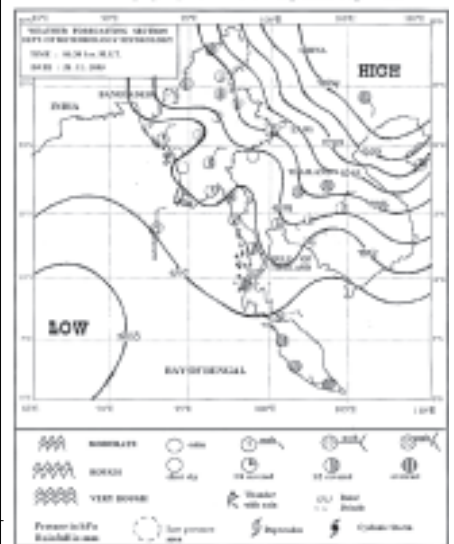
**30-11-2003 (Sunday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**

- 03:30 MRTV-3 Myanmar
International
Signature Tune
Greetings
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 A Day's Work in Pearl
Culture
03:40 **Headline News**
03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-Water Prawn
Soup)
03:45 **National News**
03:50 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-V)
03:55 The Theatrical Training
School Which Nur-
tures the Talented
04:00 **National News**
04:05 Breeding of Mythun
Song "New Goal"
04:10 Sittway with Magnifi-
cent Sight
04:15 **National News**
04:20 Community Based

- Drug Control Pro-
gramme
Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"
04:30 **National News**
04:35 National Kandawgyi
Gardens
04:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Cucumber Salad"
04:45 **National News**
04:50 Pickled Fish in Shwe
Kyin
04:55 Culture Stage
"A Classical Male
Dance"
04:58 Tour in Myanmar
"Mandalay"
05:00 **National News**
05:05 Myanmar Musical Or-
chestra (Bwe Song)
05:10 Flower in Profusion
05:15 **Weekly News High-
light**
05:20 Precious Myanmar
Lacquerware
05:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
05:35 The Birth Place of
Lacquerware Techni-
cians
05:40 **Headline News**
05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
(Stir Sheat Fish)
05:45 **National News**

- 05:50 Myanmar Fishery and
Livestock Fair
05:55 National Dance
"Kachin Dance"
06:00 **National News**
06:05 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
06:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarus Crane"
06:15 **National News**
06:20 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War
Period)
06:25 Song "Towards Man-
dalay Golden City"
06:30 **National News**
06:35 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
06:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Carrot Pudding"
06:45 **National News**
06:50 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
07:00 **National News**
07:05 Let's have fun watch-
ing Chinlone Games
07:10 Myanmar Modern
Song
"Do you love me"
07:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
07:20 Glimpses at Myanmar
Movies
07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Friday, 28 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C below normal in Rakhine State, Magway, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was 2°C in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 27-11-2003 was 36.5°C (98°F). Minimum temperature on 28-11-2003 was 20.0°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-11-2003 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 27-11-2003 was (8.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from Southwest at (17:10) hours MST on 27-11-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of the 29-11-2003:** Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of Certainty is 40%. **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 29-11-2003:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-11-2003:** Fair weather. **Weather outlook for last weekend of November 2003,** During the coming weekend weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and fair in Mandalay Division.



Saturday, 29 November

View today:

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55am
5. Delicacies
8:05 am
6. အရေးကြီးသော
အချက်အလက်များ
8:10 am
7. Dance Variety
8:20 am
8. ဝုလင်းရေကောင်းတံခွန်
8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Grammar made easy

- 11:00 am
1. အစီအစဉ်အစဉ်
11:05 am
2. News.
11:15 am
3. Roundup of the week's
TV local News.
1:15 pm
4. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လှန်သံ
"အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
2:55 pm
5. "အကြွေးမဲ့လုံခြုံရေး"
ကျော်သူ၊ သုတေသန၊ ရတနာစင်၊
အိုင်ဂျစ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေး၊
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)
2:45 pm
6. International News.
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday
Use
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. အခမ်းအနားတော်လှန်သံ
ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြားသံစုံစာ
ဝေဖန်မှု (အထူးပြုအားလုံး)
(မြန်မာစာ)
5:15 pm
6. နားထောင်စရာလက်သံ

- 5:25 pm
7. (၂၂) ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်
အာရှအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲအကြံပြု
ဆင်နွှဲမှု (ဆရာတစ်ပါး)
5:40 pm
8. Musical programme
5:50 pm
9. Game for children.
6:15 pm
10. Delicacies
6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. Discovery
7:25 pm
14. Musical programme
7:40 pm
15. စာသင်တန်းဆိုင်ရာသတင်း
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်ပြည်
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. "အခမ်းအနားတော်လှန်သံစုံစာ
(အပိုင်း-၂)
ကျော်သူ၊ သုတေသန၊ ရတနာစင်၊
အိုင်ဂျစ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေး၊
ဆရာတစ်ပါး (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ရိုးရိုး)
20. The next day's
programme.



Saturday, 29 November

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
8:50 am National news/
Slogan
9:05 am Music
9:10 am International news
9:15 am Music (Spotlight
on the star)
-Collin Raye
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Music at your request
-To be with you
(Mr Big)
-Words (Bee Gees)
-Super Trouper
(ABBA)
9:00 pm ASEAN Review
-Exchanged news
9:10pm Article/ Music
9:20 pm Myanma Culture by
Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
-Collecting old books
on Myanmar
9:30 pm Souvenirs
-Words of Love
(John+Paul)
-Close to you
(The Carpenters)
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

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

Work coordination meeting...*(from page 1)*

The future work programmes prescribed in Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand are massive, covering the tasks to be implemented by all four nations as well as by the two nations concerned.

Therefore, if the four nations actively participate in the tasks the momentum of economic development will be gained all the more.

The meeting will be able to help improve economic development of the respective nations as well as that of ASEAN.

As the development tasks prescribed in the strategy have been focused on development of border areas they will benefit the people in border areas.

Economic development in border areas will contribute to realization of the objective to ensure the emergence of peaceful and tranquil border areas, the goal of the four nations.

In addition, it will help reduce border problems occurred between the two nations concerned and further enhance trust and understanding among peoples of the four nations.

In implementation of the plan of action, Myanmar is making arrangements to form the leading committee and the respective work committees.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs will explain matters related to formation of the committees.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on the minis-

ters concerned to take effective measures for successful implementation of agreements laid down by the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand and to add more members to the work committees to be formed.

Afterwards, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on formation of the steering committee chaired by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt for implementing the Plan of Action of the economic cooperation strategy agreed at the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also explained the

formation of the trade and investment facilitation cooperation work committee, the agriculture cooperation work committee, the industrial cooperation work committee, the transport cooperation work committee, the tourism cooperation work committee, the human resources development cooperation work committee, the drug elimination cooperation work committee and the livestock and fisheries cooperation work committee chaired by the respective ministers.

This was followed by a general round of discussion.

Next, ministers and deputy ministers reported on matters related to future work programmes.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Prime Minister. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the work coordination meeting for implementation of economic cooperation strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening of upgraded road sections, bridges in Magway Division and Chin State

YANGON, 28 Nov — The opening of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauhtu-Mindat Road linking Magway Division and Chin State upgraded by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction and Tapyin Bridge in Pakokku Township took place at Kanhla Village in Pakokku Township yesterday, with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy

Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, local authorities, departmental heads, members of social organizations, local residents and others totalling over 10,000.

The opening ceremony of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauhtu-Mindat (Pakokku-Pauk) road section was held at Kanhla Village in the morning.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the 97-mile Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauhtu-Mindat Road is a major transport facility linking southern part of Chin State with Pakokku in Magway Division. The Ministry of Construction undertook the project for upgrading the road to a tarred one in accord

with the guidance of the Head of State.

Around 15 years ago, Pakokku and Gangaw regions lagged behind in development due to poor transport. At that time, the regions on west banks of Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers and those on east banks of the rivers were difficult of access in between.

Likewise, Mone, Man, Salin, Yaw and Kyaw creeks on the western banks of the rivers had been natural barriers for a long time.

Consequently, the regions on the west banks lagged behind in development in all spheres, compared with there the east banks of the rivers.

(See page 9)

An objective observer can see that statement of the United States Department of the Treasury is a spurious allegation Ministry of Finance and Revenue issues press release

YANGON, 28 Nov — The Ministry of Finance and Revenue of the Union of Myanmar issued today a press release concerning the announcement of the United States Department of Treasury dated 19 November 2003 designating Myanmar and two Myanmar private banks to be of "primary money laundering concern" and proposing countermeasures be taken under the USA PATRIOT ACT. Full text of the press release is as follows:

The announcement of the United States Department of the Treasury dated 19 November 2003, designating Myanmar and two Myanmar private banks to be of "primary money laundering concern" and proposing countermeasures be taken under section 311 of the USA PATRIOT ACT is an ill-considered move. It is one thing to criticize Myanmar and point out deficiencies in its anti-money laundering system but it is quite another to pass sweeping judgement that Myanmar is taking no remedial action to address the deficiencies.

An objective observer can see that the statement of the United States Department of the Treasury is a spurious allegation. Myanmar, notwithstanding the economic sanctions and undue pressures imposed by the United States and its partners, has already initiated firm measures to overcome the twin problems of narcotic drugs and money-laundering.

In June 2002 Myanmar enacted an anti-money laundering law. Even the United States Department of the Treasury has acknowledged this important step. Following the

(See page 8)