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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the coordination meeting on implementation of agreements reached during the goodwill visit of the Indian Vice-President to Myanmar. — MNA

Implementation of agreements during goodwill visit of Vice-President of India coordinated

YANGON, 29 Nov— A coordination meeting on implementation of agreements during the goodwill visit of the Vice-President of the Republic of India to Myanmar was held at Zeyathiri Beikman meeting hall on Konmyintha this evening, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2

Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said the meeting was to coordinate the discussions and matters to be implemented under the bilateral agreements during the goodwill visit of Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh

Shekhawat to Myanmar.

He said that at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar from 2 to 5 November 2003. Myanmar borders India and they are neighbouring countries maintaining existing friendly relations. Border trade between the two countries has

developed and both countries have good traditions of mutual cooperation, he said.

He said there were ministerial level visits between the two countries. The goodwill visit of the Vice-President of the Republic of India was the first one under present government and it was a significant development, he added.

He said the visit was very successful and better foundations were laid down for promotion of bilateral coop-

eration in economic, trade, education, health, science and technology and cultural exchange sectors. In 2003 seven bilateral agreements were signed and they were important efforts for bilateral cooperation.

Now Myanmar and India are implementing major projects such as Kaladan River communication project through land and water, Myanmar-India-Thailand communication road construction project, Reed-Tiddim, Reed-Falam Road upgrading project and offshore natural gas production project, he said.

Moreover, Myanmar and India are working together in education, science and technology and human resources development sectors and the visit of the Vice-President of the Republic of India paved the way for better prospects in bilateral cooperation, he added.

He urged all the ministries concerned to hold dis-

cussions at the meeting for successful implementation of the agreements reached during the goodwill visit of the Vice-President of the Republic of India and to reveal future prospects in bilateral cooperation.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on future tasks to be implemented such as development of infrastructures, trade, financial and investment matters, immigration, bilateral economic, trade, education, culture and technical cooperation, bilateral relations, regional cooperation, international relations and exchange of visits between the two countries.

The ministers and the deputy ministers also reported on the tasks to be undertaken by the respective ministries.

The Prime Minister took part in the discussions and then the meeting came to a close.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders

YANGON, 29 Nov— Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Kachin national race leaders U Lamon Tujaing, U G Zaw Saing and party of Kachin State Special Region-2, and peace negotiators Dr Zabwe Jan and U Khun Myat at the Zeya Thiri Beikman

at 10 am this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen

Thein Zaw, Minister for forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

First, the national race leaders expressed their support for the seven-point future policy programme of the

State clarified by the Prime Minister and informed of the fact that they would attend the National Convention.

Afterwards, they discussed matters related to education, health, construction of roads and bridges, hydel power generation, and economic enterprises for regional development tasks.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Kachin national race leader U Lamon Tujaing and party. — MNA

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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 30 November, 2003

Myanmar stands ready to cooperate with all international community that wish her well

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has been taking systematic measures in raising, maintaining and using the public finance after laying down firm financial policies and monetary policies for successful realization of political, social and economic objectives of the State.

This being the case, significant progress has been made in political, social and economic sectors. The national economic life is meeting with success owing to the united efforts of the Government and the people.

At such a time, some Western powers, opposed the wishes of 52 million Myanmar people, made an unjust accusation on Myanmar in order to get Myanmar people into trouble. Recently, the United States Department of Treasury issued the announcement dated on 19 November 2003 designating Myanmar and two Myanmar private banks to be of "primary money laundering concern" and proposing counter-measures be taken under section 133 of the USA PATRIOT ACT.

As regards the matter, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue of the Union of Myanmar issued a press release on the announcement of the United States Department of the Treasury concerning Myanmar on 28 November 2003.

The announcement of the United States Department of Treasury was an act done without considering the real situations properly. Far from helping Myanmar in its anti-money laundering drive, making a subjective assessment of Myanmar anti-money laundering efforts is an ill-considered move.

Myanmar enacted an anti-money laundering law in June 2002. Even the United States Department of the Treasury has acknowledged this important step. Following the promulgation of the law, the Myanmar Government has been taking steps for its implementation. Myanmar has been cooperating and holding discussions with international bodies including the United Nations.

Turning a blind eye to constructive activities of Myanmar, calling on its members to impose additional countermeasures against Myanmar and for the US to take follow up action based on the subjective assessment are acts that do not serve anyone's interest.

Myanmar, notwithstanding the economic sanctions and undue pressure imposed by the United States and its partners, has already initiated firm measures to overcome the twin problems of narcotic drugs and money-laundering. Myanmar remains committed to taking follow up measures to implement the anti-money laundering law. Myanmar stands ready to cooperate with all the international community that wish us well and are willing to lend a hand.

Myanmar sports team leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 29 Nov — The fourth group of Myanmar sports team to participate in XXII SEA Games comprising the Selected Myanmar Women's Football Team, an information group and a woman referee left here for Hanoi, Vietnam, today.

The team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation.

The Myanmar women team will play against the Thai team on 2 December and with Singapore team on 4 December in the group-B matches. — MNA



Myanmar PGA & MGF President Cup golf continues

YANGON, 29 Nov — The fourth leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003, Myanmar PGA & Myanmar Golf Federation President's Cup golf tour conducted by Myanmar PGA and MGF, continued for the fourth day at Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club in Bago Township yesterday.

After the fourth day match, the prize presentation ceremony was held. President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing made a speech on the occasion. Next, UPG Managing Director U Aye Han presented daily best prizes (women) for three days to Khin Thu Thu (YCDC) in the women's amateur level event.

Special Project Manager of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd U Myint Thein presented prizes to Zaw Zin Win and Aung Aung Kyaw who scored daily best in the first day match. Yin Aung Latt in the second day match, Aung Aung Kyaw in the third day match and Zaw Zin Win in the fourth day match of the men's amateur level event. Executive U Ko Ko Lay of MPGA and MGF presented daily best prizes to Zaw Zin Win (Pan-West) in the first day match, Myint Shwe (Wilson) in the second day match, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West), Than Naing (Wilson) and Kyaw Zwa Linn (Ping) in the third day match and Aung Win (YCDC) in the fourth day match of the professional golfers event and U Zaw Min of Htoo Trading Co Ltd presented prizes to Khin Thu

Thu (YCDC) who stood first with 230 strokes, Khin Mar Nyunt second with 254 and Htay Htay third with 267 in the women's amateur level event.

Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presented prizes to Zaw Zin Win who won first with 284 strokes, Aung Aung Kyaw second with 288 and Thein Zaw Myint third with 294 in the men's amateur level event and Aung Win (YCDC) who stood first with 287, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) second with 288 and Zaw Zin Win (Pan-West) third with 290 in the professional golfers event. Joint Deputy Managing Director Col Thein Aung (Retd) presented a cheque to Champion of the professional golfers event Aung Win (YCDC) and a gift to Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club Director Lt-Col Lay Myint (Retd). Next, Professional Golfer U Chan Han, General Secretary of MPGA, presented a gift to Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd through Joint Deputy Managing Director Col Thein Aung (Retd).

The golf tour was mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, together with Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Musing Wear), Loi Hein (Alpine), K M Golf Centre, Maruman, Wilson, Canon, UPG, Sun Far Travel and Tour, Pan West, Eastern Pro Enterprise, Tiger Beer and Hanthawaddy Golf and Country Club. The fourth leg was organized by Han Event Management. — MNA

Book Fair earns over K 1.8 million

YANGON, 29 Nov — To mark Sarsodaw Day of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the Book Fair and Centenary of Myanmar Novels Show continued at No 379-383 on Bo Aung Kyaw Street for the eighth day today and over 9,000 people visited the show.

Today's earnings from the sale of books were K 1,809,400. — MNA

Thamanya Sayadaw passes away

YANGON, 29 Nov — The Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana today announced that Presiding Sayadaw of Thamanya Hill Monastery in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Vinaya passed away at 9 am on 6th Waxing of Nadaw 1365 ME (29-11-2003).

Brief biography of the Sayadaw

The Sayadaw was born of U Taung O and Daw Ohn at Kawtkaik PaO Village in Hpa-an Township on 6th Waxing of First Waso 1272 ME (Wednesday).

He was novitiated by Kyangin Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Acara in Mawlamyine in 1285 ME with the sponsorship of his parents. At 7 am on 15th Waxing of Kason 1292 ME (Friday), he was ordained by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Acara at Khanda Ordination Hall of Yadana Bon Myint Monastery in Mawlamyine with the sponsorship of his parents.

Then, he studied Pariyatti (the three repositories of Buddhist Scriptures) under Kawtkaik PaO Village Monastery Sayadaw, Mawlamyine Yadana Bon Myint Monastery Sayadaw, Kyangin Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Acara, Mottama Kywechan Monastery Sayadaw, Kadogwin Monastery Sayadaw and Taikkala Taungsun Thayetkon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indacara. He also learnt Patipatti (meditation).

The Sayadaw taught Buddhist literature to his disciples of monks and novices at Wahsu Monastery and Thamanya Hill Monastery in Hpa-an Township. Until his demise, he carried out missionary tasks to the best of his ability such as teaching methods of meditation to some 500 monks, novices and nuns who resided in Thamanya Hill Monastery; always observing Araññānān Dhutin; and daily giving sermons and discourses to 100 to 500 lay persons who visited him.

In response to the attributions and brilliant missionary performance of the Sayadaw, the government conferred the title "Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika" on the Sayadaw on 21 November 1991.

At the age of 93, Vasa 73, the Sayadaw passed away at 9 am on 29 November 2003. — MNA



Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presents the crystal trophy to Aung Win (YCDC). — MGF

Myanmar Rice Marketing Course concludes

YANGON, 29 Nov — The concluding ceremony of Myanmar Rice Marketing Course (Program-3) (Batch-1) Rice Milling, Storage and Transportation conducted by the educational work committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at UMFFCCI training centre in Pabedan Township at 4 pm on 27 November.

It was attended by adviser to UMFFCCI U Khin Maung Yi, CEC members, members of the work committee and course instructors. The adviser and work committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing spoke on the occasion and presented completion certificates to the trainees. — MNA



The conclusion of Myanmar Rice Marketing Course (Program-3) (Batch-1) Rice Milling, Storage and Transportation in progress. — MNA

Grimmest month of war for coalition forces in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 29 Nov—November is already the bloodiest month of the war for coalition forces since the invasion of Iraq last March.

Some 95 coalition troops died this month—76 Americans, 17 Italians, a British and a Spania d. The worst previous full month of the war was April, when 73 US and six British troops were killed.

The grim war tally surfaced as retire Lt Gen Jay Garner, who first headed the occupation effort, admitted that the biggest US mistake in Iraq was putting too few troops in Baghdad. He also chided his successor for firing the Iraqi Army instead of hiring it to rebuild the country.

“If we did it over again, we probably would have put more dismounted infantrymen in Baghdad and maybe more troops there,” said Garner, who lasted as Iraq’s civilian administrator only from April 21 to May 12, when Paul Bremer took over.

Garner blamed Bremer for hurting Iraq’s reconstruction by disbanding the Iraqi Army in a move that increased the ranks of unemployed Iraqis, making them easy prey for Baathists loyal to Saddam Hussein to recruit them as insurgents.

“I think, yeah, it was a mistake. We planned on, at the end of the war, bringing the Iraqi Army back and using them in reconstruction,” Garner said in a BBC Radio interview yesterday. “We’re talking about around a million or more people among 2 million people that are suffering because the head of the household’s out of work.”

Garner wanted to keep as many as 400,000 Iraqi soldiers on board for work details.

“We had budgeted to pay the Iraqi

Army, but part of our plan said, you know, they will surrender like they did in the first Gulf War, but hell, they didn’t surrender, they just evaporated,” he said.

An aide to Bremer shot back, Jay Garner has not been here since June, and doesn’t really know all that’s been done.”

Garner blamed himself for not communicating better with the Iraqis, and said, in hindsight, he would have been armed with giant power transformers to get the lights back on quicker. On the ground yesterday, frustrated US troops, meanwhile, opted to use Iraqi tactics, arresting the wife and daughter of top Saddam deputy Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri to try to coax the suspected mastermind of anti-US attacks to give up.—Internet



Two Iraqi sisters found dead

BAGDAD, 29 Nov—The murder occurred in Baquba, about 60km northeast of Baghdad.

Bodies of two young Iraqi sisters have been discovered by US troops near Baquba, some 60km (35 miles) north of Baghdad, according to the occupation force.

A US military source said on Friday that they informed Iraqi police and handed over the bodies. The source said both deaths appear to be civil murder cases.

However, the brother of the girls had earlier said that US troops at Ibn Firas airport, 7km (4 miles) from Baquba, shot Fatima and Azra, 15 and 12, on Thursday at midday as they were collecting wood from a field some 30m away.

“Azra died on the spot and my other sister later died from her wounds,” said 18-year-old Qusay.

Policeman Hussein Ali said US forces handed one of the girls’ bodies over to the police “arguing that she had a gun in her possession.”

Police searched the girls’ home, “without finding anything illegal,” Ali added.—Internet



A soldier of US Army’s 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse) checks an Iraqi man with a metal detector before he enters an office building in Tikrit, north of Baghdad, Saturday, on 29 Nov, 2003. A US Army Bradley vehicle is seen in background.—INTERNET

Former Iraqi military commander dies when questioned by US forces

BAGHDAD, 29 Nov—A former Iraqi military commander died when he was questioned by an American soldier, the US military said in a statement Thursday.

The statement, issued from the western town of al-Qaim, said Major-General Abed Hamed Mowhoush appeared to die of natural causes Wednesday.

The on-site surgeon said Mowhoush “died of natural causes”.

It said the former general suddenly felt uncomfortable and lost consciousness when he was under interrogation, and the soldier questioning him conducted a rescue operation. Five minutes later, a surgeon came and continued advanced cardiac life support techniques which proved ineffective.

Coalition forces were cooperating with local tribal and religious leaders to properly treat and transfer the body while the cause of his death was under investigation, added the statement. Mowhoush, a member of the Sunni tribe of Mahalawi, used to be a commander in the former Iraqi air defence force which was among the units dissolved by the US military in May.—MNA/Xinhua

Lula wants pacifists and eco tourists in Brazil

BRASILIA (Brazil), 29 Nov — President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Thursday he wanted pacifists and environmentalists to visit Brazil to preserve its rain forests.

During the opening of the World Tourism Forum for Peace and Sustainable Development being held in Brazilia, Lula urged responsible travellers to visit Brazil.

talist and, combining the two, he becomes more than a tourist, he becomes a good tourist,” Lula said in an opening speech.

“There is nothing better than knowing that the person taking the plane is a pacifist and an environmen-

Tourism in Brazil is paltry considering the vast size of the country — about the same as continental United States — and the fact that it is home to the world’s largest tropical forest, the Amazon, which attracts relatively few tourists. Lula wants to sharply boost so-called ‘eco-tourism’ to Brazil. Most foreigners visit Brazil to enjoy the revelry of its yearly Carnival in the streets of Rio de Janeiro and sit on sandy beaches in the northeast.—MNA/Reuters

World luxury cars launch “Made in China” competition

BELING, 29 Nov — The new BMW 5 series of sedans, China’s most luxurious domestically-made autos so far, debuted here Thursday, marking the heated competition among world-level luxury car manufacturers in a “Made in China” campaign.

“The new 5 series means that we have brought the most advanced product to Chinese customers,” said Helmut Panke, chairman of the board of management of the Germany-based BMW Group.

of Chinese people rises, luxury cars have begun to enter China. And their “made in China” campaign indicates fiercer competition.

The joint venture between BMW and its Chinese partner Brilliance Auto plans to gradually realize a 40 per cent localization rate.

Earlier this month, General Motors announced it will introduce its luxury Cadillac to China, with some produced in Shanghai. This will be the first time that Cadillacs have been produced outside the United States.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to provide free treatment to HIV-infected mothers

KATHMANDU, 29 Nov— The Nepali Government is going to provide free treatment to HIV-infected pregnant women and newborn babies from next month, according to a government official.

The treatment programme, called Prevention of Mother to Child Treatment, will begin from the Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu on December 1, coinciding with the World AIDS Day. The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported here quoting R. P. Shrestha, director of the state-run National Centre for AIDS and Sexually-transmitted Diseases Control.

gramme is the priority of the government, and any pregnant woman infected with HIV will be given the essential drugs without charge,” Shrestha said.

The treatment will be provided to the infected mothers and later to their newborn babies for six months, he noted, adding, “Even if a treated mother give birth to a HIV positive child, the syrupy medicine can effectively control the disease.”

The programme will be gradually expanded to the regional and zonal hospitals with maternity facilities and trained staff, he said. More than 60,000 people in Nepal have contracted HIV and nearly 3,000 have full-blown AIDS. Experts warned that if the fast-spreading epidemic is not controlled, the disease will affect 10 per cent of Nepal’s most economically active population by 2010.—MNA/Xinhua



Carole Montillet of France takes a gate in her first run of the women’s World Cup giant slalom in Park City, Utah, on 28 Nov, 2003. Montillet finished with a combined time of 2:29.70.—INTERNET

US, Iraq occupation criticised in army report

BAGHDAD, 29 Nov — American military commanders did not impose curfews, halt looting or order Iraqis back to work after Saddam Hussein's regime fell because US policymakers were reluctant to declare American troops an occupying force, according to an internal Army review.

As a result, the Bush administration's first steps at reconstruction in Iraq were severely hampered, creating a power vacuum that others quickly moved to fill, and a growing mistrust on the part of ordinary Iraqis, the report said.

Since those first days, the US effort in Iraq has been hampered by a growing insurgency with persistent and deadly attacks against American forces.

The review, a postwar self-evaluation by the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), said the political decision to call the US forces that arrived in Baghdad "liberators" instead of "occupying forces" left the division's officers uncertain about their legal authority in postwar Baghdad and other cities.

Under international law, the report says, the troops were an occupation force and had both rights and responsibilities.

"Because of the refusal to acknowledge occupier status, commanders did not initially take measures available to occupying powers, such as imposing curfews, directing civilians to return to work, and controlling the local governments and populace.

"The failure to act after we displaced the regime created a power vacuum, which others immediately tried to fill," said the report.

A spokesman for the 3rd Infantry Division, Major Darryl Wright, described the report, marked "For Official Use Only", as a candid effort to find ways to improve the division the next time it is called to fight.

It reflects multiple, sometimes disparate, points of view from officers and troops who took part in the fighting, he said.

It mirrors recent criticisms by Jay Garner, the retired American general who briefly headed the first occupation government in Iraq.

He said in a BBC interview that the military did not act quickly enough to restore law and order and key services in Baghdad, and should have tried harder to win support from the Iraqi people.

Between 12,000 and 15,000 3rd Infantry Division troops fought in Iraq, and 44 were killed in action, Maj Wright said. The division, along with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, comprised the bulk of the ground advance north from Kuwait to Baghdad during late March and early April.

In the section regarding legal matters facing the division, the report said unidentified "higher officials" constrained the occupation effort and did not prepare for the fall of Saddam's government.

"Despite the virtual certainty that the military would accomplish the regime change, there was no plan for oversight and reconstruction, even after the division arrived in Baghdad," the report said.

"State, Defence, and other relevant agencies must do a better and timelier job planning occupation governance and standing up a new Iraqi government."

Internet

US funds Iraqi TV network in battle against 'hostile' Arab news stations

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) One of the chief US weapons in the battle to win Iraqi hearts and minds is Al-Iraqiya a Pentagon-funded TV station with an optimistic, pro-American slant.

Announcers on Al-Iraqiya, decry the guerrillas attacking US military and Iraqi civilian targets as "terrorists."

Problem is, those Iraqis fortunate enough to have satellite dishes consider Al-Iraqiya stodgy and slow on breaking news. They prefer Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya,

the flashy Gulf-based stations where anti-American fighters are branded "resisters."

Recently, condemnation has focused on the Qatar- and Dubai-based networks. The US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council shut down Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya for "inciting murder" by broadcasting a voice said to belong to Saddam Hussein. The State Department approved of the temporary closure but groups advocating press freedom were enraged by it.

Americans and their al-

lies also show little love for Al-Jazeera.

Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld has branded both networks "violently anti-coalition." He said a separate, US-owned satellite station would begin broadcasting next month, aiming to capture Arab viewers from the Gulf stations.

But Al-Iraqiya has critics, too. Many see it as a pawn of the US-led occupation authorities.

"The whole country is under the control of the Americans, not just Al-Iraqiya,"

complained one man, a Baghdad candy vendor who declined to give his name. An editor at the station, Kareem Hammadi, said he accentuates positive news "for the good of the Iraqi people."

Internet

Mexico sees lowest foreign direct investment in seven years

MEXICO CITY, 29 Nov — Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Mexico totalled about 8 billion US dollars during the first nine months of 2003, the lowest in seven years, the Central Bank said on Thursday.

The amount was lower than the 9.62 billion dollars for the same period in 2002. Nearly half of the investment this year went to the manufacturing sector 49.8 per cent, followed by financial services 26.3 per cent, trade (10.6 per cent) and transportation and communications 5.3 per cent.

The investment mainly came from the United States 63.8 per cent, Britain 12.2 per cent, the Netherlands 5 per cent, Germany 3.7 per cent and France 3.7 per cent.

In the January-September period, portfolio foreign investment reached 209 million dollars as 778 million dollars was drawn from the stock market and 987 million dollars entered it.

The third quarter of the year also saw a reduction of 121 million dollars in deficit in the balance of payments, thanks to a cut in the public-sector debt and the inflow of FDI.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraq's oil pipelines under attack

Resistance forces repeatedly hitting vulnerable spots; cost to rebuild rises

KIRKUK, 29 Nov — Three successive explosions rattled the windows at the Northern Oil Co on a recent afternoon. Within minutes, several US contractors and Iraqi executives rushed out to start assessing the damage from yet another attack on Iraq's oil pipelines.

Insurgents have been striking almost weekly against a labyrinth of pumping stations and hundreds of miles of pipeline that snakes through the desolate plains and rugged hills of northern Iraq, bearing crude oil exports to the Turkish port city of Ceyhan. The attacks have all but shut down the flow of 850,000 barrels of exported crude that coursed through Kirkuk's hub of pipelines each day before the war, US and Iraqi officials said.

Describing the vulnerability of the pipeline, one insurgent, Ali, a 32-year-old former Iraqi army sergeant turned resistance fighter, recently put it this way: "The truth is, there is very little they can do to stop us. We can hit them every day if we want to."

The sabotage also has robbed the US-led occupation of revenues that it hoped would defray the vast cost of rebuilding postwar Iraq. As if to highlight the campaign against the petroleum industry, insurgents fired rockets at the Oil Ministry in Baghdad last week from a donkey cart.

Washington's reconstruction strategy counts on an expected \$50 billion in oil export revenue for Iraq over the next three years, but the sabotage, combined with extensive damage to infrastructure from neglect and looting, means the earnings are likely to fall far short of US predictions.

The pipelines are the focal point of a dangerous cops-and-robbers drama involving anti-US insurgents and the US and Iraqi forces trying to hunt them down. — Internet



A US soldier securing the area near the place where two US helicopters crashed in Mosul on 16 Nov. A US soldier has been killed in a mortar attack on a US military base in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a US military spokesman says. — INTERNET

MSF calls for adaptation of "AIDS" treatment to poor countries

NAIROBI, 29 Nov — Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF or doctors without borders), an international medical humanitarian organization, has called for adaptation of AIDS treatment to poor countries.

Speaking at a new conference here on Thursday, Morten Rostrup, president of the international council of the MSF, said that millions of people with AIDS could benefit from life-saving antiretroviral medicines, but it will only happen if treatment models become much better adapted to the real-life situation of developing countries.

"Unless the world changes its approach to treating AIDS, the millions of people who need treatment are unlikely to gain access to it," he warned.

Rostrup said five to six million people infected with HIV in the developing countries need access to antiretroviral therapy to survive. However, he said only 400,000 are

receiving this life-saving treatment.

"Adaptation means fewer pills per day, fewer lab tests and free treatment, dispensed in the communities where people live, that is at district facilities and at community health posts," Rostrup said.

The MSF has estimated that a target price of 50-70 US dollars for annual treatment per person is achievable if there is strong political commitment by governments.

"Treatment must be adapted and simplified and it must be free if we are going to combat the epidemic. There has been dramatic reduction in antiretroviral drugs due to generic competition," Rostrup emphasized.

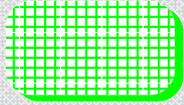
MNA/Xinhua



Italian Army soldiers of the 'Sassari Brigade' search Iraqi motorists at a checkpoint outside the southern Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, on 27 Nov, 2003. The Italian mission in Baghdad was hit and damaged by a rocket or mortar late Wednesday.

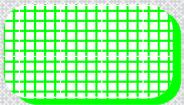
INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Iraqi policemen inspect damage to a bridge over the Tigris River after a roadside bomb explosion in Baghdad on 28 November, 2003.

INTERNET



A file photo of US Army soldiers patrolling past Baghdad's Al Rashid Hotel after a series of explosions rocked the building on 26 October. A US soldier has been killed in a mortar attack on a US military base in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a US military spokesman says.

INTERNET



Explosive experts study an unexploded bomb found near Baghdad on 28 November. — INTERNET



Terrified Iraqi children protect themselves from the cold after they're taken outside their house during a pre-dawn raid in a suburb of Baqub recently.

INTERNET



An Iraqi woman walks next to a defence wall around the CPA, Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters in the southern Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, Friday, on 28 Nov, 2003. Defence devices of all military barracks and foreign installation of Nasiriyah have been reinforced after further danger warnings following an attack to the Italian Carabinieri headquarters.

INTERNET



An Iraqi woman and her son walk by anti-US graffiti in Baghdad's Azamiyah neighbourhood on 28 November. — INTERNET

US soldier killed in attack on Iraq base

BAGHDAD, 29 Nov — An American soldier died when guerrillas shelled a military base in the northern city of Mosul on Friday.

On Friday, Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen Jack Reed of Rhode Island arrived in Baghdad.

The former first lady and Reed, both Democrats, have been critical of the Bush administration's handling of postwar operations in both countries.

In Baghdad, an explosion slightly damaged a highway overpass, and the military said that two US soldiers died in separate incidents in central and northern Iraq.

One soldier died on Thanksgiving from a gunshot wound inside the heavily fortified base in Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad. It was not immediately clear how the shooting occurred, a military statement said.

Another soldier died Friday when four mortar shells slammed a 101st Airborne Division base in Mosul. Attacks by Iraqi insurgents on US troops in Mosul have increased in recent weeks.

More than 60 US troops were killed in hostile action in November, more than any other month since the end of major combat in Iraq on 1 May.

Since operations began, nearly 300 US service members have died from hostile action. Another 136 have died from accidents and other causes.

A total of 75 soldiers from allied nations also have died, bringing total coalition deaths to more than 500. Several civilians working for the US military have also been killed. — Internet



A mortar attack on the headquarters of the 101st Airborne Division in the northern city of Mosul in Iraq killed an American soldier on 28 Nov, 2003. INTERNET

Austria wants talks with EU on truck traffic

BERLIN, 29 Nov — Austria said on Thursday it was unhappy with a draft European Union decision that could open up its Alpine roads to more heavy truck traffic and wanted further talks on how to solve the environmentally sensitive issue.

Speaking in Berlin, Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel said Austria was "deeply disappointed" by a decision this week by EU Government and European Parliament representatives that could ease curbs on traffic Austria has had since joining the bloc.

"This is as important to us as those issues that have been important to Germany in recent days," Schuessel said, referring to Berlin's effort to block the European Union from taking disciplinary action over a soaring budget deficit.

Austria is the only EU country to have the legal right to limit truck traffic in a bloc founded on the principles of free movement

of goods and people. It negotiated the privilege, in a bid to curb pollution, when joining the club in 1995.

But in talks late on Tuesday, representatives of EU governments and the European Parliament curbed that right by saying newer, cleaner lorries would no longer need to apply for "ecopoints" — the special truck transit permit.

"I request, and I hope to have received a positive echo from (German Chancellor) Gerhard Schroeder, that we find a way to price Alpine transit routes in comparable ways," Schuessel said.

"It does not make any sense that non-EU member Switzerland is able to charge

much higher tariffs, which displace traffic.

We want equality and are ready to invest a lot ourselves from our revenues so that the railway link through the Brenner (pass) can be finished as quickly as possible," he said.

The Brenner Pass railway link is one of a number of transport projects that EU leaders are due to discuss funding at a summit in Brussels in two weeks as part of plans to boost the bloc's economy.

To take effect, this week's decision must be ratified by both Parliament and by a formal meeting of the EU's Council of Ministers.

MNA/Reuters

ပြည်ထောင်စုတစ်နိုင်ငံလေးလွှင့် ထုတ်တုန့်ပြင်း

Governments, including US, Russia and China, approve treaty to remove battlefield explosives

GENEVA, 29 Nov — World governments approved a treaty Friday that would require countries to clean up unexploded mines and other munitions in territories they control after a war.

Ambassadors from 92 nations, including the United States, Russia and China, agreed to the language in the accord. It is the first disarmament treaty accepted by the Bush administration.

Under the treaty, which still has to be ratified by each individual government, nations promise to remove or destroy all unexploded munitions, including unexploded enemy ordnance, in territory they control after a conflict.

Governments also have agreed "without delay after the cessation of hostilities" to give the United Nations and aid groups information to help locate and clear explosives.

"The treaty is an important recognition that states are responsible for eliminating this serious threat to civilians in the aftermath of war," said Jacques Forster, vice president of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Until now, nations have been under no obligation to clear munitions, leaving ordi-

nary people to face the daily risk of being killed or maimed in former war zones, Forster said.

Some delegations to the negotiations have expressed concern that the agreement lacks the authority to be enforced. "Some fundamental articles have too many qualifiers," said Swedish representative Anneli Lindahl Kenny.

There are no precise figures about the amount of unexploded weapons around the world, but in Iraq alone US officials have said there are up to 1 million tons of that will take years to remove. The new treaty was negotiated in less than a year and is the first agreement produced under the conventional weapons accord since 1996.

The treaty will be sent to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and then be open for signing and ratification by governments.

It will come into force and become legally binding once 20 governments have ratified it.

Internet

French Senate halves contested tobacco tax hike

PARIS, 29 Nov — The French Senate approved a measure late on Wednesday halving a planned increase in cigarette prices, in an attempt to appease tobaccoists fuming over the second sharp price hike in three months.

The amendment to the draft 2004 budget, submitted by Budget Minister Alain Lambert and adopted by France's Upper House of Parliament, reduces the price rise due in January to 8-10 per cent from 20 per cent. The law will now go back to the Lower House, where Lambert's conservative government has a large majority, for a fresh vote scheduled in mid-December.

Thousands of angry French tobacco shop owners demonstrated in Paris on Monday against the planned 20 per cent increase, which they say could force them out of business. About a third of adults

smoke in France.

But Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin insisted as recently as Sunday the rise would go ahead — pushing the price of a pack of cigarettes above the five euro (6 US dollars) mark. A tax hike in October raised the cost of a top brand to 4.60 euros from 3.90.

Government officials had argued higher prices would help an anti-cancer campaign as well as plugging a deficit in public healthcare finances.

The budget amendment substitutes a rise in one tobacco tax with a rise in another, keeping state revenues intact but lessening the rise in retail prices.

Opposition politicians accused the government of cav-

ing in to pressure from France's 34,000 tobacco shop owners, who gained sympathy and wide media attention after the last price hike was followed by a wave of burglaries.

Thieves even resorted to ram-raiding — smashing cars into shop fronts, a technique usually reserved for jewellery stores.

In a radio interview, junior Commerce Minister Renaud Dutreil said confused interpretations of the amendment had created the impression the government had backtracked.

"The government," he said, "does not bow to pressure from the street."

MNA/Reuters



Journalist and visitors view a Chinese-made Volkswagen Polo during an off-line ceremony on the outskirts of Shanghai on 28 Nov, 2003. Europe's biggest carmaker, Volkswagen AG, said on Friday it had built its first car in China destined for export and would sell around 600 Chinese-built vehicles a year in Australia in the medium term. — INTERNET

Building the road of prosperity together for mutual benefits

Tekkatho Myat Thu

(Continued from yesterday)

The visiting Indian Vice-President also detailed the tasks being carried out in cooperation between the two countries. In the afternoon, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry hosted a luncheon in honour of the Vice-President and party. On 4 November, the Vice-President and party left for Bagan-NyaungU. A joint statement of the two countries was issued the same day. It stated that the Vice-President of India expressed support for the national reconsolidation process and progress in the transition to democracy in Myanmar. Both leaders expressed their determination to enhance the relations between the two countries and reaffirmed the target of US\$ 1 billion of bilateral trade by 2006. Invitation of the President of India to Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to pay an official visit to India was accepted with pleasure by Myanmar. The Vice-President also agreed with pleasure to convey the invitation of the Chairman of State Peace and Development Council extended to the President of India Dr APJ Kalam to pay an official visit to Myanmar, it stated. After visiting Bagan-NyaungU and Mandalay, the Vice-President and party left for India on 5 November.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosted a working dinner in honour of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, who arrived Yangon to attend the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road on 10 November. The second senior officials' meeting and the ministerial meeting of the summit were held at the hotel the same day. The visiting prime ministers paid a courtesy call on Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe at the Credentials Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building on 11 November morning. State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting prime ministers at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building at 11 am. In the afternoon, the prime ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand left for Bagan-NyaungU.

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand was held at Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan Archaeological Zone, Mandalay Division, at 8.30 am on 12 November. Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Somdit Jatusripitak, ministers, deputy ministers, and senior officials of the four countries attended the summit.

At the summit, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said he was glad to host the first Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Bagan, the city of the first Myanmar empire and the site of Myanmar's cultural heritage, was chosen for the summit. The Bagan Declaration and Plan of Action to be released after the summit will further strengthen cooperation among the people of the four countries. Myanmar would benefit from implementing the economic cooperation strategy, he said. Myanmar wished to promote cooperation in the tourism and human resources development sectors, General Khin Nyunt added. The Cambodian prime minister, the Laotian prime minister, and the Thai prime minister also took part in the discussions on economic development of the four countries.

The panel of chairmen of the summit of the four countries issued a press statement the same day. The Bagan Declaration was also signed and issued by the four prime ministers. It stated that the four countries reiterated their aspiration and strong willingness to establish a strong foundation for common action to live in peace with one another and in shared prosperity through fostering mutual understanding, confidence, good neighbourliness among the four countries; that the leaders were mindful that sustainable economic development requires a secure political

environment; and that they reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate economic growth, social programmes and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of nations and to the principles enshrined in Bangkok ASEAN Declaration of 1967 and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. It stated economic cooperation strategy as follows:

- To increase competitiveness and generate greater growth along the borders;
- To facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantage;
- To create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries;
- To enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner. It also stated the tasks for the success of the ECS. The areas of cooperation of ECS are:
- To capitalize the comparative advantage of the countries concerned;
- To facilitate smooth flow of goods and investment for job creation;
- To create income generation and reduce socio-economic disparity;
- To strengthen and enhance cooperation effort in agriculture and industry;
- To develop and utilize transport linkages among the countries concerned;
- To facilitate trade, investment, agriculture and industrial production and tourism;
- To promote a joint strategy for tourism cooperation among the countries concerned;
- To facilitate tourism among the four countries and from the other regions;
- To enhance capacity building of peoples and institutions;
- To initiate measures to develop a HRD strategy that is regionally competitive.

Furthermore, it stated future tasks. Press release of the chairman of the summit stated that the four leaders agreed to call the agreement "Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS.

The prime ministers and parties had an opportunity to enjoy the beauties of Bagan, the Ayeyawady and Myanmar and the Myanmar dances. They watched the Myanmar traditional boat procession in the Ayeyawady during the luncheon hosted in their honour by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 13 November.

During the time, Secretary of Yunnan Province Communist Party of the People's Republic of China Mr Bai Enpei and party visited Yangon and paid a courtesy call on Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on 14 November. Vice-Governor Mr Zhong Shan of Zhejiang Province of the PRC and party called on Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konemyinthta the same day. I would like to put on the record the distinguished guests who, as good friends and neighbours, visited Myanmar during the first two weeks of November 2003 and discussed matters related to friendship and cooperation, thereby building the road of prosperity together for mutual benefits.

(Concluded)

Translation: MWT

Myanma Ailin: 28-11-2003

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.

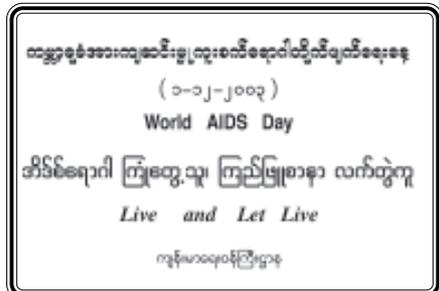
Efficient use of fuel

- * 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
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ၊
လစဉ် လ၏ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နေ့နှင့်နောက်
ဆုံးပတ်တန်နေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်
မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။
၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တန်ခူးနေ့) (၃၀-၁၁-၂၀၀၃)ရက်နေ့၊
၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်
(၁၄-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့၊
နှင့်
(၂၈-၁၂-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့။



နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့်
စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

Myanmar beat Singapore 2-0

YANGON, 29 Nov — The men's soccer journey of 22nd South East Asian Games commenced in Vietnam today.

In the second match of group B, selected Myanmar football team beat Singa-

pore football team 2-0.

Team captain Soe Myat Min and Htay Aung took the winning goals for the Myanmar team.

In the first match of group B, Malaysia football

team beat Cambodia football team 8-1.

Malaysia team will play against Singapore team and Myanmar team will play against Cambodia team on 3 December.

MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends...

(from page 16)

schools that nurtured successful candidates in the matriculation exam 2003 to Lashio BEHS-5, Lashio BEHS-2 and Namtu BEHS (Branch). The commander also presented prizes to outstanding students who won one distinction and two distinctions in the exam, and cash award to retired Shan State (North) Education Officer Daw Nan Sai Ywet Luang who had discharged education duties in Shan State (North) for 37 years and six months. Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe made a speech and posed for a documentary photo together with the outstanding students and teachers.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe arrived at 120-acre high yield paddy farm of Shan State (North) in Humon Village-tract in the Township. The commander, the deputy commander and the Shan State (North) manager of Myanma Agri-

culture Service reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on arrangements for seed production.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on taking measures for local rice sufficiency and systematic highland cultivation.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe proceeded to Konmyint-2 highland reclamation project of Lashio station.

After hearing the report presented by the commander and the deputy commander, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on making arrangements for systematic cultivation and inspected round the farms of the project.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe arrived at Nagayon pagoda and presented offertories to the Sayadaw of Sasana Aye Monastery. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe paid homage to Buddha images at the pagoda and inspected the site to build a replica of the Shwedagon

Pagoda.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe proceeded to Hsintaung coal exploration site and inspected mining of coal.

After hearing reports presented by responsible officials, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents offertories to Sayadaw U Tejaniya. — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe poses for documentary photo together with outstanding students. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents K 20,000 to an elderly doctor. — MNA

MMA Women Chapter pays respects to elders

YANGON, 29 Nov — The 21st respect-paying ceremony of the Women Chapter of the Myanmar Medical Association (Yangon) took place at the hall of the MMA on Theinbyu Road here this morning, attended by Leading Patron of Women Chapter of MMA (Yangon) Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, MMA (Central) Chairman Prof Dr Myo Myint, professors/physicians at home and

abroad, doctors and members.

Chairperson of MMA (Yangon) Dr Daw Yee Yee Hla extended greetings and explained the purposes of the ceremony. Afterwards, 310 elderly doctors were paid respect.

Leading Patron Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and officials presented K20,000 each to elderly doctors. On behalf of the elderly doctors, Sayaygi Col Hla Han (Retd) spoke words of advice.

MNA

Alodawpyi Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya on 8 Dec

YANGON, 29 Nov — The Alodawpyi Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival will be held in Bagan-NyaungU at 9 am on 8 December.

Transport has been arranged for convenience of

the pilgrims and devotees. Bus tickets are available at U San Aung Kyaw-Daw Ma Ni at No 102, Pyay Road, 10th Mile. Buses will leave at 9 am on 6 December.

(H)

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair continues

YANGON, 29 Nov — The Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003 continued for the fourth day at Yangon Trade Centre today, visited by industrialists, businessmen, students and people.

At the trade fair, Pentel, Carl, Max, Midori, Sam Wang, Taeyang, Hello Kitty, Comix, Helix and Panaco brand stationary, My Shaldan, ARS, Kobayashi brand air fresher, Oriental Koshin brand agricultural used pumps, Makita, Maktec brand carpenter used tools, Turtle Wax brand car polish, WD-40 brand rust remover, Granja Lawnmower Kaaz brand mowers, V-Tech, Oci, Orgafix brand glue, Stihl brand wood cutters, Ercolina brand aluminium ladders, Yamaha brand generators and engines, textile, cosmetic, consumer goods, home appliances,

and various kinds of food-stuff are being displayed together with demonstration of the products.

Any one may visited the trade fair which will be kept open free of charge from 9 am to 5 pm daily till 30 November.

MNA

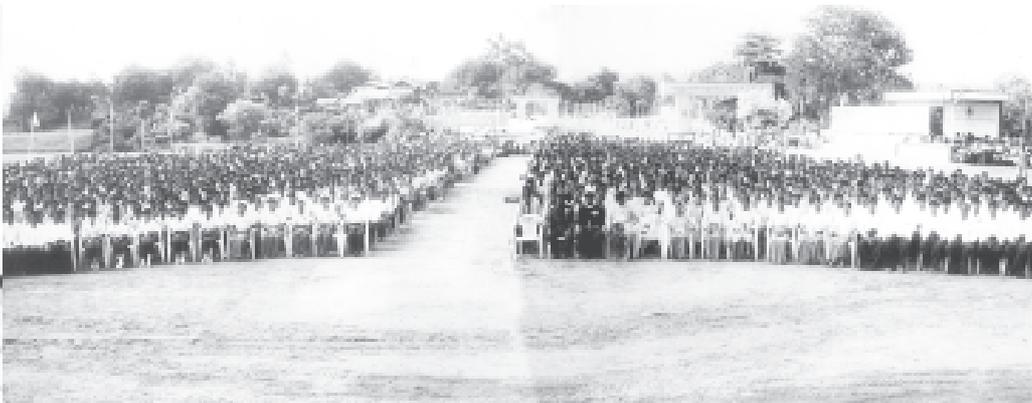


BADMINTON TOURNNEY: The 35th Inter-State/Division Badminton Tournament (2003) was held at Aung San Gymnasium on 29-11-2003. Photo shows a contestant returning the shuttlecock to his rival at men's event.

NLM



The booth of Pentel (Japan) Co Ltd at Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint addresses the opening of Tapyin Bridge and Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat (Pauk-Kyaukhtu) road section in Saw Township, Magway Division.
MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveils the stone inscriptions of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat (Pauk-Kyaukhtu) road section. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects test mining, road construction

YANGON, 29 Nov—State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, together with Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and senior military officers, on 26 November morning, left Momeik for Monglon Village and arrived there at 9.30 am.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe viewed sample gems mined from Lumaw exploration block and proceeded to the block site. Kyaukme District PDC Secretary Major Nay Win Myint reported on findings of the block, construction of new roads and background history. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented a supplementary report on sample of gems and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and party left

there by the Momeik-Mogok-Monglon-Kyaukme road. He gave instructions on renovation of the road for smooth transportation.

At the orange plantations of Hong Pang Co at Kunseik Village-tract in Hsipaw Township, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe heard reports by U Aye Thein of the company on growing of opium-substitute crops on commercial scale on 810 acres of land.

After inspecting the orange plantations, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and party proceeded to Naungmon Village in Lashio Township in the evening and visited the orange plantations of Lin Tun Co. Director U Lin Tun (a) U Win Zaw reported on growing of opium-substitute crops on 300 acres of land. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected thriving of honey orange trees there.

MNA



The Momeik-Mogok-Monglon-Kyaukme Road Extension Project site. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects BEHS in Pauk

YANGON, 29 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials of the State Peace and Development

Council Office, inspected the basic education high school in Pauk on 27 November morning.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the learning of students in the multimedia classrooms and language labs, domestic science room, the library and the altar room of the school. — MNA



DATA COLLECTION COURSE OPENED: The Settlement and Land Records Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation opened the agricultural data collection course (2003) at the department on 29-11-2003. Photo shows Director-General U Win Kyi addressing the opening ceremony. — MNA

IT Instructors' course concludes

YANGON, 29 Nov—The Instructors' Training on Fundamental IT for Myanmar (MYFEIT) and Fundamental IT Engineer for Myanmar (MYFE) sponsored by Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) and Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) con-

cluded at the MICT Park in Hline Township yesterday afternoon. It was attended by President of MCF U Thein Oo, Secretary U Thauing Tin and members, the representatives from AOTS, course instructors and trainees.

First, President of MCF U Thein Oo made a speech

on the occasion. Next, a representative of AOTS spoke. Next, President U Thein Oo, Secretary U Thauing Tin and the AOTS representatives presented completion certificates. Altogether 15 trainees attended the MYFEIT course while 30 trainees attended the MYFE course.—MNA



The closing ceremony of Instructor's Training on Fundamental IT for Myanmar in progress. — MNA

WORLD AIDS DAY, 1st DECEMBER, 2003 — “Live and Let Live”

Dr. Min Thwe - Department of Health

December is a transition month between the two adjacent years. It is also a peculiar month for the organizations and agencies around the world that tackle the threat of AIDS, since World AIDS Day falls on the first day of December. Various types and forms of awareness raising activities are conducted not only on that day but also the whole week as World AIDS Campaign.

According to the statistics released by WHO/UNAIDS, at the end of December 2002, it is estimated that there were about 42 million of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) all over the world. Among them, 19.2 million were women and 3.2 million were children under 15 years of age. The number of newly HIV-infected individuals in the 2002 alone was about 5 million, of which 2 million were women and 0.8 million were children under 15 years. The number of deaths due to AIDS in 2002 was about 3.1 million, of which 1.2 million were women and 0.61 million were children under 15 years. In Myanmar, the Ministry of Health and UNAIDS have jointly estimated the total number of PLWHA in 2002. It was estimated to be about 177,000 PLWHA in Myanmar.

With the initiation of World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988, “World AIDS Day” (WAD) commemorations have been conducted in the countries around the world to raise the HIV/AIDS related awareness among the societal members and thereby to make them to participate more in prevention and control efforts.

The slogan of the World AIDS Day 2003 is “အေအိုင်ဗီအက်စ်ရောဂါကြုံတွေ့သူ၊ ကြည့်ဖြူစာနာလက်တွဲ” in Myanmar and “Live and Let Live” in English, with the theme of *stigma and discrimination*. Since World AIDS Campaign for this year is the second and last year of a two-year campaign, the slogan and the theme are the same as that of last year. The campaigns use two-phase approach: to raise the broad awareness related to stigma and discrimination that occurred among those who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the first year (2002), and then to undertake the action-driven measures to reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination against these individuals in the second year (2003).

One may curious to know why stigma and discrimination usually occurred to persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. It is because of fear; the fear of getting HIV. Why getting HIV is so much afraid of? Because, people realize that there is no cure for HIV, and no preventive vaccine available. Besides, people believe that a person with HIV infection has to suffer a chronic course of illness before death. Moreover, there is a socio-cultural issue associated with HIV infection. HIV transmits mainly due to behaviors that are not socially acceptable in many countries: sexual promiscuity and drug use. Sexual promiscuity leads to unprotected sexual exposure and drug use leads to exposure with unclean needles and syringes. Thus the perceived idea is “HIV infects only bad people”, in other words, “only bad people got HIV”. No one wants to be considered as bad-person or socially unacceptable person. These factors create fear: the fear that leads to Stigma and Discrimination against those who are infected and affected.

From the infected or affected person’s perspectives, there are two kinds of Stigma— internalized stigma. HIV infected person may be ashamed of being infected since many people believe that HIV was the consequence of bad behaviour. HIV infected person may also be afraid of being discriminated against on account of the illness. This kind of feeling or fear is known as “perceived” stigma. Besides, HIV infected person or its family members may have personally experienced from discrimination. This kind of stigma that results from actual experiences of being discriminated against is known as “enacted” stigma.

From the other’s perspectives, there is a vicious cycle of prejudice (thought), stigma (attitude), and discrimination (act) that leads to harmful consequences to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. People might think

that “it is the punishment by the god”, “one is infected because of its own fault”, and “people die anyway, why care so much”. The attitude towards PLWHAs could be that “ PLWHA deserve it”, “we have to spend a lot of money in taking care of PLWHAs”, and “ at least it could be one way of reducing population growth”. The discriminatory act that could happen against PLWHAs and their family members are such that they could be denied from accessing to care and support services including medical care services. The children could also be refused from enrolling into the school or attending the school or being removed from the school. A worker might be refused to employ or be removed from the job because of their HIV status.

In fact, stigma and discrimination are major barriers in prevention and control of the infection, and also barriers in provision of care and support to those infected and affected. The internalization or internalized stigma can have powerful psychological consequences that may lead to depression, despair and loss of self-esteem among persons infected and affected. This in turn can prevent them from accessing health care information and services or participating in prevention and care initiatives. Prejudice and stigma towards HIV positive persons, AIDS patients and family members can easily lead to discriminatory act against persons infected and affected by HIV. This can further lead to a condition where people afraid to find out their HIV status or refuse to accept their HIV status or ignore the fact that they need to disclose their HIV status if there is risk of HIV transmission exists. An infected person could continue unsafe behaviours because of fear of raising suspicion about their HIV positive status. These facts indicate that stigma and discrimination can undermine the prevention and control efforts and fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic in many parts of the world.

A notable quote from one of UNAIDS’s document for World AIDS Campaign 2002-3 states that, “AIDS attacks the body, prejudice attacks the spirit, one is caused by a virus, one is caused by ignorance, both can kill”. This reflects the relevance of the slogan used for a two-year campaign: **Live and let live**. By the word “live”, it is meant for the empowerment of PLWHA and their families to believe in better future, to send a positive signal highlighting the importance of living life fully, and to emphasize a powerful will to live, despite HIV infection. By “let live”, it is meant to send a message to ensure access to care for PLWHA, a call to question everybody’s daily thinking and behaviour, and a call to society worldwide for greater integration of and compassion for PLWHA.

Countries around the world have been dealing with the stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS in various ways and forms. Some of the activities that can be easily implemented are as follows.

Strengthened efforts should be made so as to reduce myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS and fighting the ignorance. There is a continued need to let people know about basic facts of HIV transmission, non-transmission, prevention, care and support.

Involvement of PLWHAs is central to eliminating stigma and discrimination, PLWHAs and their family members should be encouraged to share their experiences, problems, difficulties and solutions in dealing with these issues among themselves and also with other people.

Community-based intervention activities and peer education programme should include and emphasize the issues related to stigma and discrimination as well as ways and means to reduce them. It is also necessary to inform the public that with the availability of antiviral drugs the survivals of AIDS patients have been further prolonged.

In health-care provision practices, medical institutions and centres should have professional code of conduct and practices that address stigma and discrimination. Staff members should also be trained on proper application of guidelines. The activities should also be reinforced with regular and periodic monitoring and supervisions.

Factories and workplaces should have policies that

protect PLWHAs from discrimination at workplace. Pre-placement and employee orientation training should include topic on HIV/AIDS including stigma and discrimination.

Professional bodies should develop and adopt code of conduct with respect to HIV/AIDS. These professional bodies include, but not limited to, associations such as doctors, nurses, business coalitions, and chambers of commerce.

In Myanmar, National AIDS Programme has been addressing the stigma and discrimination issues by providing educational messages not only to general population but also to the targeted populations such as youths, out of school youths, mobile population, women, etc.

One of the remarkable events of awareness raising activities is the success of the “First Exhibition on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control” that was conducted in Tatmadaw Convention Centre in Yangon from 3 to 12 November 2003. The opening ceremony was attended by General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Health Committee, together with Secretary (1) of the State Peace and Development Council, Lieutenant General Soe Win and Secretary (2) of the State Peace and Development Council, Lieutenant General Thein Sein. It was opened by Dr. Kyaw Myint, Minister, Ministry of Health and a total of nearly eighty thousand individuals from all walks of life had visited during the 10-day period. This success not only reflects the existence of very high level of political commitments in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS but also illustrates the achievement of high level of understanding and cooperation among the related Ministries, local and international NGOs, UN agencies that are collectively fighting the HIV/AIDS in Myanmar since they all participated in the exhibition.

There are other activities carried out to combat the HIV/AIDS in the country. With the policy guidance laid down by the National Health Committee, National AIDS Committee has been closely monitoring the supervising the activities conducted by National AIDS Control Programme, under the Department of Health, Ministry of Health. The activities include prevention of transmission through sexual mode within which 100% targeted condom promotion was an integral part, prevention of HIV transmission among IDUs, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMCT), provision of care and support, screening of blood for HIV for the safe blood supply, promotion of multisectoral collaboration and cooperation, special programs activities, surveillance, supervision, monitoring and evaluation. Provision of care and support includes counselling, voluntary confidential counselling and testing, provision of antiretroviral therapy and treatment of opportunistic infections, and home care. These activities are being carried out not only by the Ministry of Health but also in collaboration with other related ministries such as, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and so on and UN Agencies, NGOs and INGOs.

During the World AIDS Day and Campaign this year, there will be central level activities and activities to be carried out at the State/Division and Township levels. At the Central Level, the main event will be conducted at the International Business Center on the first of December 2003. All these activities will be carried in collaboration with related ministries, partner NGOs, and UN organizations.

In addition, while celebrating World AIDS Day, some activities such as sharing sympathy for those who died of AIDS, care support for PLWHAs health talk for awareness raising and so on will be included. In fact, HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities should be carried out not just in a day or in a week but throughout the year. If everyone is taking the responsibility to protect themselves, and their family, the nation will be free from threat and impact of HIV/AIDS. If citizens around the world can protect themselves, the world is not far from freeing the threat and impact of HIV/AIDS.

Towards promotion of tourism industry



To promote the tourism industry, new hotels are being built while the old ones renovated. The Photo shows Sittway Hotel in Sittway of Rakhine State.—PHOTO: MNA



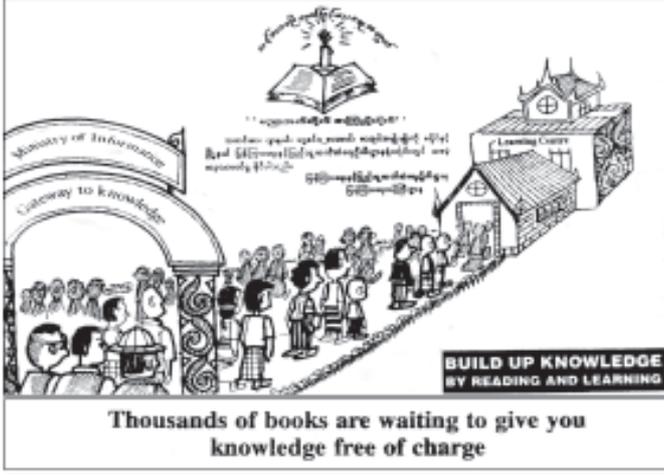
MraukU Hotel in MraukU of Rakhine State seen on 25-9-2002 after being renovated. PHOTO: H&T



Myanmar keeps the natural land and water beauty intact. The photo taken on 2 February 2003 shows an aerial view of the beauty of Chaungtha Beach resort in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division. PHOTO MNA



With the development of tourism, progress will be made in transport, living standard and trade. The photo shows Hotel Max built by Max Myanmar Co Ltd in Chaungtha Beach Resort seen on the opening day on 2 February 2003.—PHOTO: MNA



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■ ချိုင့်ဝှမ်းကိုဖြည့်၊ မြေပြန့်ကိုညှိ၊ စတောင်ကိုပေးကမ်း၊ ဝေငှားကိုဖြတ်
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ဖွံ့ဖြိုးစေရန် မြန်မာပြည်
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Int'l Jewellery Manufacturers Exhibition opens in HK

HONG KONG, 29 Nov— The 11th Hong Kong International Jewellery Manufacturers Exhibition opens here Wednesday with 217 exhibitors attending the event.

Although the event is not the largest in size, it is the best in time for buyers to replenish their inventory when they really know the market trends and clients' needs right before buying season like Christmas, said BK Chow, general manager of Hong Kong Jewellery Manufacturers' Association (HKJMA), the organizer.

The organizer said that the exhibitors attending this year's event are 4 per cent more than last year. It expected that buyers will be 20 per cent to 30 per cent more than last year. Summer Lam, sales manager of Aaron Shum Jewellery, a local exhibitor, told *Xinhua* that their clients come from the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Japan. She said that big colour stone widely used in the jewellery design will be a main trend in the coming year. The more colourful the jewellery, the more popular it will be.

Debbie Riley, director designer of Lionheart Design, a jewellery design company, said that big diamond and yellow gold will be the market trend in 2004.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Aaron Shum, chairman of HKJMA said that

although the whole industry experienced a tough time in the first half of 2003 due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Iraq War, Hong Kong is still the top four major exporter of precious jewellery in the world. —*MNA/Xinhua*

China announces top ten young people of 2003

BEIJING, 29 Nov— China's first astronaut Yang Liwei, basketball star Yao Ming and eight other outstanding young people were awarded the title of China's top ten young people of 2003 here.

The ten, including a journalist, medical worker, scientist, businessman and an official, were selected by a special committee from among 47 candidates from across the country.

This is the 14th appraisal of its kind in China, and was jointly organized by the All-China Youth Federation, the China Youth Development Foundation and a number of media organizations.

MNA/Xinhua

မြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

CPPCC chairman arrives in Colombo

COLOMBO, 29 Nov— Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) arrived here for an official goodwill visit at the invitation of Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament Joseph Michael Perera.

In his written statement delivered upon arrival at the airport, Jia said the people of China and Sri Lanka have forged deep friendship in the course of their long-term friendly exchanges.

To further solidify and develop the long-term steady friendly relations and cooperation

between China and Sri Lanka on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence is in the fundamental interest of the two peoples and serves peace and development in Asia, noted Jia.

He said he looks forward to exchanging views with leaders of Sri Lanka on bilateral relations and other issues of common interest and hopes that this visit will help boost the friendly sentiments between the two countries and the two peoples so that bilateral traditional friendship and cooperation will make fresh progress in the new century.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's grain production up in 2003

HANOI, 29 Nov— Vietnam has harvested 36.7 million tons of grain, including 34.2 million tons of unhusked rice, in the 2003 crop year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said here.

The grain harvested this year was 2.5 per cent higher than last year. In 2002, Vietnam produced 35.8 million tons of grain, including 34.06 million tons of unhusked rice.

Meanwhile, the country has so far this year exported 3.9 million tons of rice, 20 per cent more than 2002, making the country the world's second largest rice exporter after Thailand, according to the ministry.

The country is making greater efforts to generate an average income of 3,200 US dollars per hectare a year. The agriculture sector has recently adopted more intensive farming techniques, and combined rice cultivation with vegetable growing, livestock and fish farming.

In some parts of the country, there has been a shift from subsistence farming to commercial cash for both domestic and foreign markets.

Agriculture export rose to 2.8 billion US dollars each year between 2001 and 2003, from 1.3 billion US dollars in the 1991-1995 period.

MNA/Xinhua

Yellow rice husks found in 1,800-year-old tomb

BEIHAI, 29 Nov— Archaeologists found yellow rice husks in a tomb approximately 1,800 years old in Hepu County in south China's Guangxi autonomous region. The tomb belongs to a husband and wife in the imperial Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD).

They were from a well-to-do family judging by the funeral objects, pottery cooking range and a bronze mirror, said Xiong Zhaoxing, an associate researcher with the provincial archaeology team.

The paddy shells were as yellowish as fresh ones, Xiong said, but could give no reason. Some carbonized perfume was also discovered in an incense vase and was believed to be made in the areas of Malaysia, India and Thailand since it had been found in a number of other tombs belonging to same dynasty in Guangxi.

The husband's coffin chamber was empty as it had been robbed of everything, but the wife's chamber remained intact, Xiong said.

Hepu County is home to a series of ancient tombs belonging to the Han Dynasty. More than 400 ancient tombs have been unearthed since the 1970s with some 10,000 relics yielded including a sealed bronze vessel half full of 2,000-year-old wine.

MNA/Xinhua

Seminar on Internet Resources Management opens in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 29 Nov— The International Seminar on Internet Resources Management opened here aimed at enhancing cooperation in Information Technology (IT) among East Asian countries.

The two-day seminar is a gathering of IT experts from Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and South Korea. South Korea has implemented its first-ever project "Government Administration Information System" in Cambodia.

It will focus on "finding an effective way for Cambodia to get connected, to provide Cambodians with the necessary information to develop Cambodia and add more value to the existing networked world," said Minister of Council of

Ministers Sok An.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia attached great important to Information Communications Technology," added Sok An.

"I hope this seminar will be a very fruitful opportunity for closer cooperation in IT fields among the East Asian countries," Lee Han-gon, South Korean Ambassador to Cambodia, said at the opening ceremony.

"This timely international seminar will further strengthen and bond our already firm relationship with the international community and particularly with South Korea," Sok An said.

MNA/Xinhua

Dalian becomes N-China's largest int'l settlement centre

DALIAN, 29 Nov— The Import and Export Bank of China, one of the country's policy-oriented banks, has set up a branch in Dalian, a coastal city in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

So far, China's three policy-oriented banks, including the State Development Bank and the Agricultural Development Bank of China, have opened branches in Dalian.

Dalian has become the largest international settlement centre in the northern part

of China, said experts.

Dalian was one of the first five Chinese cities to open its financial sector in the wake of China's accession to the WTO in 2001.

So far, Dalian is home to 36 financial institutions, including 25 banks, and eight overseas banks have set up outlets in Dalian. Dalian's banking industry has established business cooperation with nearly 4,000 banks in more than 150 countries and regions. —*MNA/Xinhua*

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Computer image shows satellites that form part of the Galileo navigation system network. India will pick up a 350-million-dollar (300-million-euro) stake in the European Union's Galileo satellite navigation system, Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha told an India-EU business meet. — INTERNET

Iran hails IAEA resolution as victory against US, Israel

TEHERAN, 29 Nov — A top Iranian official has hailed a resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Wednesday as “a victory for Teheran and obvious failure for America and Israel,” the official IRNA news agency reported here.

The international nuclear watchdog's refusal to refer Iran's atomic programme case to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions is a victory for Teheran, Hassan Rowhani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was quoted as saying.

The IAEA Board of Governors issued a compromise resolution Wednesday not to take Iran's nuclear issue to the UN Security Council in view of Teheran's “active openness”, even though it condemned Teheran of covert nuclear activities in the past two decades.

“This resolution is a clear sign that the United States and Israel have failed to implement their premeditated plan against the Islamic Republic,” Rowhani said.

Close contact between Europe and Iran had paid dividends, he added.

The official explained that despite widespread pressures of the United States, Israel and certain countries, the new resolution has not only met many of Iran's demands, but also “have not brought about any posi-

tive achievement for Americans and the countries which are opposed to the development of Iran's peaceful nuclear technology.”

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said the IAEA resolution on Iran's nuclear issue provided further proof for peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities.

“The IAEA Board of Governors' resolution on Iran also proved that Iran pursues its nuclear project quite transparently, and is frank in reporting its process to the UN nuclear watchdog,” Asefi said.

“Such mutual trust between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA has been built despite all the hue and cry raised by the oppressor circles on Iran's intentions to produce nuclear weapons,” the spokesman said.

He added that “we expect the IAEA to establish a constructive cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran frankly, so that Iran, too, would be able to pursue its commitments on the basis of the Teheran Communiqué perseveringly.”

MNA/Xinhua

Aspirin cost effective in preventing heart disease

LONDON, 29 Nov — Aspirin and cheap blood pressure tablets are the most cost effective treatments to prevent heart disease, one of the world's biggest killers, a study published on Friday showed.

The analysis found that low-dose Aspirin was as effective and much cheaper than statins, which lower cholesterol, or the blood thinning drug Clopidogrel, which is sold under the brand name Plavix by the French drug firm Sanofi-Synthelabo.

“This analysis confirms the poor cost effectiveness of statins and Clopidogrel compared with Aspirin and antihypertensive treatments,” Tom Marshall, of the University of Birmingham in England, said in the *British Medical Journal*.

All the treatments are effective in preventing coronary heart disease, which kills millions of people worldwide each year, but the prices vary greatly.

Marshall estimated the cost of the different treatments for individuals and in combination for patients with various levels of risk for developing heart disease.

He calculated it would cost about 3,500 pounds (5,946 US dollars) a year to prevent a heart problem in a patient with a 10 per cent risk of the disease over five years with Aspirin, compared to 18,300 pounds

for drugs that lower blood pressure, 60,000 pounds for Clopidogrel and 61,400 for Simvastatin, the cholesterol fighter marketed by Merck & Co Inc under the name Zocor.

No one from the manufacturers was immediately available to comment on the analysis. Marshall compared the high-priced interventions to giving a patient a Rolls Royce when they would get a similar benefit from using a bicycle.

All the emphasis and advertising is on the latest drugs and the cheaper, older treatments are forgotten, he added.

“There should be greater emphasis on simple treatments. Aspirin, low-cost blood-pressure lowering treatment should be given much greater prominence and less attention should be given to high-cost interventions,” Marshall said in an interview.

The risk of developing heart disease increases with age. Smoking, a sedentary lifestyle and raised cholesterol and blood pressure levels are factors which increase the risk of developing heart disease.

MNA/Reuters

UN probes possible Iran-Pakistan nuclear link

VIENNA, 29 Nov — The UN nuclear agency is probing a possible link between Iran and Pakistan after Teheran acknowledged using centrifuge designs that appear identical to ones used in Pakistan's quest for an atom bomb, diplomats say.

Diplomats said the agency was trying to determine whether the drawings had come from someone in Pakistan or elsewhere. Teheran, accused by Washington of seeking to develop nuclear weapons, told the UN nuclear agency it got the blueprints from a “middleman” whose identity the agency had not determined, a Western diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear where the “middleman” got the drawings. The UN's International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) has said in a report Iran told the IAEA it got centrifuge drawings “from a foreign intermediary around 1987”. Centrifuges are used to purify uranium for use as fuel or in weapons. Experts say the ability to produce such material is crucial for an arms programme and the biggest hurdle any country with ambitions to build a bomb must overcome.

Several diplomats familiar with the IAEA said the blueprints were of a machine by the Dutch enrichment unit of the British-Dutch-

German consortium Urenco — a leader in the field of centrifuges.

Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Akbar Salehi, told Reuters he had no knowledge a Urenco design had been used by Iran. “This is new information to me,” he said. In a statement to Reuters, Urenco said it had not supplied any centrifuge know-how or machinery to Iran. “Urenco would like to strongly affirm that they have never supplied any technology or components to Iran at any time,” it said.

MNA/Reuters

ISRO chief says space technology to be made part of everyday life

CHENNAI, 29 Nov — The ambitious series of future Indian space missions, including the proposed unmanned moon mission by 2007-08, is aimed at accomplishing the objective of making space technology a part of everyday life and enrich the data base for fundamental research, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization G Madhavan Nair said here.

“The mission to moon Chandrayaan-1 would enable us to study many features of the moon, evolution of planetary systems and to map the lunar surface,” he said delivering the 24th convocation address at the Anna University, here.

Nair said similarly ASTROSAT, a dedicated satellite to observe the universe and Megha-Tropiques to study the tropical climate, was on the anvil.

“The missions will go a long way in kindling scientific temper besides obtaining data for fundamental research,” he said adding that India can take pride in the fact that “we rank within the top four or five space-faring countries in the world, thanks

to our self-reliant strides”.

Nair said India was also planning to use Remote Sensing Data to periodically bring out Natural Resources Census (NRC). This would be available as part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) that was proposed to be set up jointly by various government agencies and ministries.

“It will bring transparency in governance as well as empower the public with right to information,” he said adding that with high resolution satellite data and aerial photography, ISRO is also identifying large-scale mapping services as an important element of its future activities.

MNA/PTI



Mauri Markkanen from Finland, right, uses a chain saw and his son Marko a flattening iron as they form the Golden Calf out of a huge rock of ice during the preparation for 'Ice World' in Luebeck, northern Germany, on 28 Nov, 2003. A total of 35 international artists carve subjects and figures from The Bible for this first German Ice Sculpture Festival that starts on 12 Dec, 2003 and ends on 25 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET

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Sochaux thrash 10-man Dortmund 4-0

PARIS, 29 Nov— Borussia Dortmund, who had Salvatore Gambino sent off in the first five minutes, were thrashed 4-0 by Sochaux on Thursday and eliminated from the UEFA Cup.

The French side, who drew the first leg of the second round tie 2-2 in Germany, had the perfect start when Gambino — on his 20th birthday — pulled down striker Santos in the Dortmund area.

He was sent off and Pierre-Alain Frau scored from the penalty spot. Dortmund, European champions in 1997 and UEFA Cup runners-up in 2002, felt they should have had a similar penalty when striker Jan Koller had his shirt pulled in the area. Koller was booked shortly before halftime for protesting.

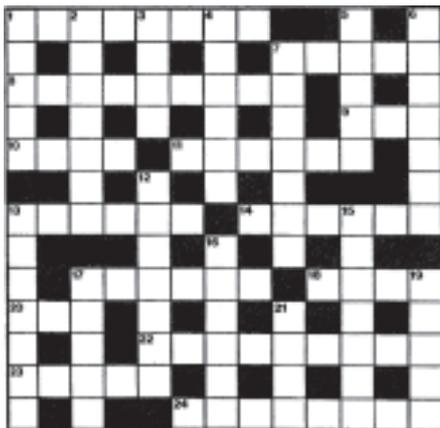
Sochaux dominated the second half against a tiring German side. Midfielder Jeremy Mathieu hit the Dortmund post before Santos made the most of a breakaway by chipping goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller for Sochaux's second goal in the 67th minute.

Wilson Oruma scored the third after Weidenfeller blocked Frau in the area and the Nigerian midfielder hit home the rebound from 25 metres. Embarrassment was heaped on Dortmund in the final minutes when defender Stefan Reuter slipped in the area to give the ball to Mathieu six metres out and he netted his side's fourth. — MNA/Reuters



John Aliu Carew, left, of AS Roma (Italy) duels for the ball with Mato Neretljak of Hajduk Split (Croatia) during their UEFA Cup second round second-leg soccer match in Split, Croatia on 27 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Supervises
- 7 Ships' companies
- 8 In disguise
- 9 Garland
- 10 Cheese
- 11 Grassy plain
- 13 Yearly
- 14 Citizen of Troy
- 17 .001mm
- 18 Retired
- 20 Untruth
- 22 Quiet
- 23 Arm support
- 24 Angered

DOWN

- 1 Oily fruit
- 2 Bind
- 3 Gelatinous pudding
- 4 Laws
- 5 Pretty girl
- 6 Common drug
- 7 Conduct oneself
- 12 Terpsichorean exercise
- 13 Perpetually young
- 15 Unemployed
- 16 Cosmetic liquid
- 17 Deserve
- 19 Given medicine
- 21 Lake

Manchester City crash out of UEFA Cup

LONDON, 29 Nov— Manchester City crashed out of the UEFA Cup on Thursday when they were held to a 0-0 draw in the second leg of their second round tie against Groclin Grodzisk in Poland.

The English club, eighth in the Premier League, drew 1-1 at home earlier this month, a result that proved costly as Groclin edged through on away goals.

Groclin, fifth in the Polish league, dominated the first half but were unable to convert several scoring opportunities, the best of which came in the 28th minute when Andzei Niedzielnahad a shot cleared off the line by Chinese defender Sun Jihai. Nicolas Anelka broke free in the 74th minute for Manchester City but his shot was saved by goalkeeper Mariusz Liberda.

Coach Kevin Keegan substituted strikers Robbie Fowler and Anelka a minute later but City could find no way through.

MNA/Reuters

Italy's Scala to coach Spartak Moscow

Moscow, 29 Nov— Italian Nevio Scala has been appointed as coach of former Russian champions Spartak Moscow.

"We have agreed a one-year contract with Scala and he will officially sign it sometime next week," a Spartak spokesman told Reuters on Thursday.

Scala guided Shakhtar Donetsk to their first Ukrainian league title in his first season at the helm in 2002 but was forced to leave just three months later following a 5-1 thrashing by Austria Vienna in a UEFA Cup match.

The 56-year-old, who also coached in Italy, Germany and Turkey, led Italy's Parma to two European trophies, winning the now-defunct Cup Winner's Cup trophy in 1993 and the UEFA Cup two years later.

He becomes Spartak's fourth coach in less than six months in what has become the club's worst season in almost three decades.

Spartak, who take on Romania's Dinamo Bucharest in a UEFA Cup second round,

second leg tie on Thursday, finished in 10th place last season.

But after being knocked out of the domestic cup by First Division Kuban Krasnodar last week, the Muscovites, who have won nine Russian league titles since 1992, will not play in Europe next season for the first time in 24 years.

Scala replaces former Soviet striker Vladimir Fedotov, who was appointed as caretaker coach two months ago after Andrei Chernyshov was sacked.

Scala becomes the fourth foreign manager and the second appointed within a week in Russia's top flight.

On Sunday, Russian champions CSKA Moscow appointed former Portugal manager Artur Jorge to succeed former Russian coach Valery Gazzayev.

MNA/Reuters

Galatasaray against Juventus match to be played in Dortmund

NYON (Switzerland), 29 Nov— Galatasaray's Champions League Group D match against Juventus will be held in the Westfalenstadion in Dortmund, Germany on December 2, UEFA said on Thursday.

The game, initially scheduled to be played on November 25, was switched from Istanbul following last week's attacks on the Turkish capital.

European soccer's ruling body said on Tuesday that the fixture would be one of three moved away from Turkey to neutral venues for safety reasons. It will kick off in Dortmund at 19:45 GMT "We are very happy that following excellent cooperation between

UEFA, the Turkish FA and the home club involved, we have found a suitable neutral venue for the re-scheduled match," UEFA chief executive Gerhard Aigner said.

Two suicide bomb attacks on the British Consulate and HSBC Bank Headquarters in Istanbul last week killed 31 people and injured hundreds more.

The attacks followed bombings at two Istanbul synagogues this month that

killed 25 people.

Besiktas' home Champions League game against Chelsea on December 9 will be played outside Turkey as will Israeli side Maccabi Haifa's UEFA Cup tie with Valencia, which was due to take place in Izmir. "In due course we will also be able to announce the venues for the other two re-scheduled matches," Aigner added.

"We regret the move to neutral venues is necessary, due to the current security circumstances, however in the interests of the safety and security of players, participants and fans we felt it appropriate. "It goes without saying that UEFA shares in the sorrow and sympathy for the victims of the bomb attacks and for the people of Turkey at this time."

MNA/Reuters

Perry moves clear at Sun City

SUN CITY (South Africa), 29 Nov— American Kenny Perry carded a four-under-par 68 to take the halfway lead and set himself up for the 1.2 million US dollars first prize at the Sun City Golf Challenge on Friday.

The 43-year-old, on 11-under-par 133 overall, withstood the charge of Spain's Sergio Garcia who fired a six-under 66 to move to within a shot at the Gary Player Country Club.

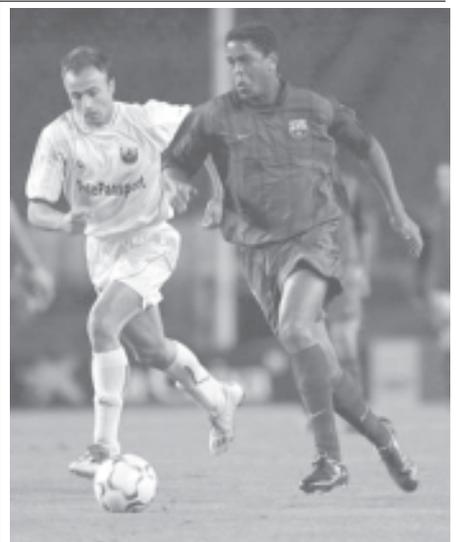
Garcia, Perry's junior by 19 years and who has made significant swing changes this season, hit massive drives and was much more precise with his iron play on his way to five birdies and an eagle.

He birdied the par-five second, but lost a shot next hole after pulling his drive left. He had to take a drop from an unplayable lie and although he hit his six-iron approach to 15-feet, he missed the putt.

Temperatures sizzled into the mid-thirties and Garcia's golf matched it. After a birdie at the par-three seventh, which by his own admission was a result of a lucky bounce, he eagled the par-five 10th. The 550-yard hole was reduced to a par-four as the

2001 champion hit a driver and a six-iron to 16-feet.

American Jerry Kelly joined Garcia on 10-under after a round of 67 with a further four players on seven-under 67, including overnight leader Vijay Singh's 14 shots off the lead. — MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert of Holland, controls the ball in front Panionios' Christos Kontis during a UEFA Cup second round second-leg soccer game in Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 Nov, 2003. Barcelona won 2-0. — INTERNET



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the regular meeting No 4/2003 of Myanmar War Veterans Organization. — MNA

MWVO Central Organizing Committee meets

YANGON, 29 Nov—The Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization held its regular meeting No 4/2003 at the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Headquarters this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, members of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO ministers, senior military officers, the deputy ministers, heads of departments and officials. Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein spoke at length on the objectives of MWVO, organizational matters, training, rural development that contributes towards the

development of agriculture and livestock breeding, community welfare services, providing cash assistance to outstanding children of war veterans, welfare services, future tasks, active participation in building of a peaceful modern developed democratic nation with full Union Spirit together with the Union Solidarity and Development Association. Next, Secretary of the Cen-

tral Organizing Committee of MWVO Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung reported on the resolutions of the previous meeting for approval and work done. Leaders of five groups of major tasks and organizational work groups reported on their functions and work done. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Tapyin Bridge on Pakokku-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road inaugurated

YANGON, 29 Nov—The opening of Tapyin Bridge on Pakokku-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road near Tapyin Village in Saw Township, Gangaw District, undertaken by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction took place at the bridge on 27 November afternoon, with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

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, departmental heads, members of social organizations and local residents totalling over 6,000.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the government has been implementing the five rural development tasks for ensuring development of the entire nation including rural regions.

Prior to the completion of the bridge, people had to cross the creek with difficulty through the suspension bridge. The creek floods whenever it rains heavily and so in the rainy season, the vehicles were often delayed for many hours due to the floods. But, now, people can cross the creek at any time thanks to the emergence of the facility, he noted. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called on responsible officials and local peo-

ple to cooperate in maintaining the facility for its durability. Next, Deputy Managing Director of Public Works U Soe Aung and Gangaw District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Htay Oo formally opened the bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for documentary photos together with local residents.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun unveiled the stone inscriptions of the bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander sprinkled scented water on it. They then passed the bridge.

Later in the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the opening of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat (Pauk-Kyaukhtu) road section at Kangyi Village, Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division. At the ceremony, the commander delivered a speech. Next, Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Tin Hla spoke words of thanks.

On behalf of local people, a local national thanked the State for the facility.

The commander, the minister and Chairman Col Tin Hla formally opened the road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, together with local people, posed for documentary photos. Lt-Gen Ye Myint pressed the button to unveil the stone inscription of the road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the facility.

Sixty-one miles of the 97 miles Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat road was paved.—MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint passes the newly-constructed Tapyin Bridge. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends education fund-raising ceremony and prize presentation outstanding students

YANGON, 29 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to raise K 45 million in education fund held in conjunction with the prize presentation of outstanding students in Shan State (North) at the City Hall in Lashio on 27 November.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental personnel, headmas-

ters, members of social organizations and wellwishers parents and members of the school boards of trustees. First, the commander explained the purpose of raising the fund and matters related to education promotion in Shan State (North).

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe accepted the cash donated to the education fund including K 30 million by Shweli Yadana Natural Resources Exploration and Trading Co Ltd, K 5 million by UT Khun Myat and entrepreneurs in Lashio, K 2 million by U Myo Naing of Toe Pwa Aung Feedstuff Factory, K 1 million each by U Saing Aye of So So Pyay Pyay Co, Asia

World Co Ltd and U Than Win of Padanya Ooyin Co, K 900,000 by Chairman of Lashio District PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe.

Afterwards, the commander accepted the cash donation of wellwishers including K 500,000 by Namkham Township Peace and Development Council and the Township Basic Education Department, K 500,000 by Yahtaik Co, K 1 million by merchants and fuel oil shops in Muse and Namkham, K 300,000 by U Thet Naing of Wa Water Supply, K 300,000 by entrepreneurs in Muse, K 400,000 by U Myint Aung and members of the school board of

trustees in Kutkai, K 200,000 each by Muse District PDC Secretary U Kyi Myint, Yadana Theingi Transport and U Lawma of Monghin Mongha, K 100,000 each by U Kyaw Min of Lashio Public Works, U Ma Htu Naw of Special Region -5, U Kaing Pha of Special Region-3 and U Saing Mon of Manpan, and K 200,000 by U Yan Gyi Myint of Special Region-1.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented prizes to 23 outstanding students who won three distinctions and above in the matriculation exams 2003, and the commander presented the first, second and third prizes for (See page 8)