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Thursday, 4 December, 2003

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indian military attaches

YANGON, 3 Dec— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye this morning received Military Attaché of India to Myanmar Colonel Shakti Gurung who had completed his tour of duty and his succe-

sor Colonel Chopra Jasvinder Singh at Zeyarthiri Beikman on Konmyinthta here.

Also present were General Khin Nyunt, Military Adviser to the SPDC chairman, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein. —MNA

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indian Military Attaches. — MNA

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Indian Military Attaché Colonel Chopra Jasvinder Singh. — MNA



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Educational goals in knowledge age are to be implemented not only in schools but also in human society Emergence of highly-qualified new generation youths becomes a major national need

Secretary-1 addresses concluding of Special Refresher Course for Teachers

YANGON, 3 Dec— Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address at the concluding of the Special Refresher Course No 20 for Basic Education Teachers held at Yadana Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Civil Service Selection and Training Board member U Hla Myint Oo, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of Supreme Court (Mandalay), Central Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and senior military officers, officials from the SPDC Office, departmental heads, the rector of CICS (Upper Myanmar), the pro-rector, heads of departments, coaches and trainee teachers.

Myanmar Education Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address on the

occasion. He said at a time when human resources necessary for better future of the country are being nurtured the roles of the teachers at basic education schools are of prime importance. So, the special refresher courses for teachers have been opened for the teachers to be more skillful in their subjects and to be able to teach the students more effectively.

To have the skills in a short period, it is needed to use modern teaching/learning aids so that the objectives of installation the aids will be realized. While performing the duties of teaching, teachers are needed to bring out the effectiveness of all-round education in respective schools widely.

The whole world today is developing with momentum due to rapid development of communication technologies. At such a time, efforts are to be made carefully with farsightedness in the interests of the country. Nowadays, it can be seen that some big nations with technological advancement are taking advantage of their superiority in technology to influence the developing nations ideologically and culturally through communication technologies. At this situation, the developing countries like the Union of Myanmar are to try not to be influenced by the big power nations but to stand firmly and prosperously with own national policies, he highlighted.

Emergence of highly-qualified new generation youths becomes a major national need. So, the State has been making earnest efforts for the country to be able to keep abreast of the other nations and to stand tall in the international community. In making endeavours to ensure all-round development of the State, the high standard of knowledge and education of the citizens are pivotal. So, the educational goals in knowledge age are to be implemented not only in schools but also in human society. They include literacy for all, promotion of national education standard, an opportunity of constant learning regardless of age and building of a modern developed nation, he elaborated.

The MEC Vice-Chairman quoted Senior General Than Shwe as saying that it is needed to strive for promotion of knowledge and education for the national interests to be firm. To be able to encounter this situation it is needed to make efforts for promoting the national education standard.

In implementing national education promotion programmes, emphasis is placed on mental development with the aim of promoting the students' creativity to be well-versed in every field, to be the ones with high morale who respect and abide by the law, discipline and social ethics, who value traditional customs and social value and to be

(See page 16)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 4 December, 2003

For brighter future of students

It goes without saying that higher educational standard of people plays a pivotal role in our drive for bringing about the all-round development of the Union. Strengthening the national forces through education will determine the future of a nation. In other words, development and perpetual existence of a nation and its people depend on educational standard of that nation. Therefore, the Government has placed a special emphasis on the successful implementation of national education promotion programmes and projects.

Education begins in the classroom but it does not end there. Education should never be "finished" so long as we live. It is not only in the classroom that education can be had. We can and should continue our education as long as we live. Therefore, the Government is taking all the necessary measures so that all the citizens can pursue basic education and learn constantly.

Basic education schools are the most important stage where education promotion programmes should be carried out. Education promotion programmes at the basic education level involve enhancement of students' enterprise and effective teaching methods. Not only that, they should be taught to be able to lead a moral life and abide by the law and social ethics. They should also be trained to become youths with strong patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

Successful implementation of education promotion programmes calls for close cooperation among teachers, students and parents. Out of them, the teachers play the most important role as they have to constantly deal with the students.

The closing ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No 54 for basic education teachers was held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) on 2 December and it was attended by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address at the ceremony, the Secretary-2 said that teachers should nurture their students to become intellectuals and intelligent-sia who possess high calibre, wide knowledge and correct outlook on life. We would like to urge the teachers serving at basic education schools to bear in mind the exhortation of the Secretary-2 and apply their energies to the task of brightening the future of their students.

Premier League Soccer Tournament continues

YANGON, 3 Dec — Premier league Soccer Tournament 2003-2004 organized by Myanmar Football Federation continued at Aung San Stadium this afternoon. Yangon City Development Committee Team and Defence Service (Army) Team-A played 2-2 draw. Man of the match award went to Aung Chan Min of Defence Service (Army) Team-A. —MNA

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe makes an address at the ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day jointly conducted by Ministry of Health and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. — MNA



concluding ceremony of the No 20 special refresher course for basic education teachers at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar). (News page -1) — MNA

Development activities inspected in Matupi, Mindat

YANGON, 3 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence met with departmental officials at the guest house of the Public Works in Matupi on 30 November, evening.

Present also on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chairman of

Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla, Col Hsan Aung of Matupi Station, local authorities and departmental officials.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on successful implementation of the tasks for health, education, communication, construction, hydel power projects, water supply, and training centres for development of youths.

Next, departmental officials reported on meas-

ures to be taken for accomplishment of the tasks. Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Col Tin Hla also presented reports on arrangements for rendering assistance in respective sectors.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on harmonious cooperation between service personnel and the public for regional development.

On 1 December, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected read upgrading un-

dertakings along Matupi-Mindat road and left there for the farm of Myanma Agricultural Service nine miles from Mindat. There, Lt-Gen Ye Myint was conducted round the farm by officials.

At the farm, 500 baskets of tea seeds that will cover 200 acres of tea plantation have been nursed and they will be distributed to departments and tea growers in this coming rainy season.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspects the farm of the Myanma Agriculture Service in Mindat. — MNA

World AIDS Day commemorative debate held

YANGON, 3 Dec — The Ministry of Health and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized a debate to mark World AIDS Day at the association at the corner of Thanthumar and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occa-

sion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, honorary patrons Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-Chairpersons Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, resident representatives of UN

agencies, Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay and officials.

The MMCWA president and the deputy minister delivered speeches. Next, the guests viewed the photos of AIDS control activities carried out by the MMCWA.

After the debate, the

MMCWA president presented the first prize to Sangyoung Township MCWA and the second to Mingaladon Township MCWA; and Vice-Chairman Dr Kyi Soe, the third prizes to Thanlyin Township MCWA and Dagon Myothit (South) Township MCWA.

MNA



Spanish military contingent returns home from Iraq mission

MADRID, 3 Dec — A group of 58 Spanish troops returned to their country Tuesday from a four-month mission in Iraq, saying their last days in Iraq were "very hard" as seven Spanish intelligence agents were killed in an ambush last Saturday.

The soldiers, including five women, were deployed in the Iraqi city of Diwaniya for logistic support. They described their mission in Iraq as difficult but positive when arriving at the Zaragoza Air Base by an Air Europa airliner.

They said their last days in Iraq were very difficult, particularly after the bloody attack on Italian police agents on November 12 in Nasiriyah, southern Iraq, and Saturday's ambush that killed seven Spanish intelligence agents in central Iraq.

The death of the agents of the National Intelligence Centre caused concern among the Spanish troops deployed in Iraq, Corporal Maria Garvin told reporters.

Other members of the military contingent, part of the logistic support unit, said the Iraqi area where the international Plus Ultra Brigade is deployed was generally calm. Seven Spanish intelligence officers were killed and one was wounded in an Iraqi guerillas ambush on Saturday in an area between Baghdad and Hilla, a city 100 kilometre south of the capital city.

Spain deploys 1,300 troops in south and central Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers patrol the streets of a small village near the southern Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, on Monday, 1 Dec, 2003. US forces repulsed two coordinated attacks by armed men in Samarra on Sunday.—INTERNET

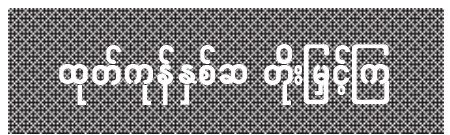
US soldier killed by bomb near tense Iraqi town

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec — An American soldier was killed when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy south of the tense Iraqi town of Samarra on Tuesday, the US military said.

A spokeswoman said a convoy from the US 4th Infantry Division was the target of the attack south of the town, where American troops say they killed 54 Iraqis in a bloody street battle at the weekend.

"A 4th ID convoy was attacked south of Samarra. One soldier died of his injuries," the spokeswoman said. Samarra lies about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters



Teheran protests to US over Iranian killed in Iraq

TEHERAN, 3 Dec — Iran has sent an official protest to the United States over the killing of an Iranian by American troops during a fierce firefight in Iraq on Sunday, the official IRNA news agency said here.

US troops said they killed 54 guerillas in a battle to fight off coordinated ambushes on armoured convoys carrying large quantities of banknotes in the tense Iraqi town of Samarra.

Police said eight civilians were among the dead, including an Iranian pilgrim.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the Swiss ambassador to Teheran on Monday to voice its strong protest over the killing of an Iranian by American forces," the agency said.

Switzerland has looked after US interests in Iran since Washington cut ties with Teheran shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Foreign Ministry called on Washington to investigate the Samarra incident and offer compensation to the dead Iranian's family.

MNA/Reuters

Annan forms advisory group on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Dec — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has gathered a group of 17 countries to form an advisory body that some participants believe could help shape Iraq's future.

The group, which held its first meeting on Monday, brings together Iraq's neighbours and Security Council members. Several envoys said members of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council would probably be invited to the next meeting, although no date had been set.

Annan told the meeting, attended by 17 ambassadors, that he would soon place a report before the Security Council on what the UN could do in Iraq.

He added that the UN planned to nominate an interim chief representative for Iraq shortly and a special representative early next year.

"We urged that the Secretary General appoint a special representative or an acting special representative as soon as possible," US Ambassador John Negroponte told reporters after the meeting. "The Iraqi Governing Council... (has also) asked that a special representative be named as soon as possible," he said.

Syria's UN ambassador, Faysal Miqdad, said the meeting was "a step in the right direction." "Certain ideas were raised but frankly speaking this is the first time for such a meeting," he added. Annan is said to be toying with the idea of stationing political staff in Cyprus or Jordan until security conditions improve in Iraq. In the interim, a chief envoy would commute to the Iraqi capital.—Internet

Chinese economy to grow 8.5% this year

BEIJING, 3 Dec — China's economy is expected to grow 8.5 per cent this year, said Ma Kai, minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC), here.

Ma said at a national work meeting on development and reform that gross domestic product (GDP) was to top 11 trillion yuan (1.3 trillion US dollars) this year. The economy showed a good momentum that had been long expected over the past few years.

Noting that China improved economic efficiency while maintaining a rapid growth, he predicted that profits of industrial enterprises would grow 40 per cent to 50 per cent this year.

Ma said that as the economy grew bigger in size, the economic structure also improved. He said high-tech industries contributed some 23.7 per cent to the growth of industrial output in China this year.

He said that as government policy continued to show its effect on stimulating economic growth, the economy had become more and more dependent on its own forces to grow.

According to SDRC figures, the total investment in fixed assets was to top 5.3 trillion yuan this year, 23 per cent more than last year. The majority of the investment was financed by corporate funds or bank loans, instead of government investment. The investment by collective and individual persons also saw a faster growth rate than last year.

Ma said the country had steadily pushed forward various reforms and opened wider to the outside world. According to the SDRC's estimate, China's exports would reach 820 billion US dollars this year, increasing more than 30 per cent over last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Number of Philippine Internet users grows sharply in 2003

MANILA, 3 Dec — The number of Internet subscribers in the Philippines grew 131 per cent in 2003 to about 1.85 million from 800,000 last year, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) reported.

The NTC did not give the factors behind the increase but said the number of digital subscriber line (DSL) service subscribers had hit 16,165 as of the third quarter of 2003, according to the Philippine Daily Inquirer on-line news service here.

Dominant telecom carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. controlled 80 per cent of the local market, the NTC said.

The commission also noted that the increase in the Internet subscribers was quite "significant" compared to the previous years since 2000.—MNA/Xinhua



US troops have been met with fierce resistance in Iraq on 2 Dec, 2003.

INTERNET

Indonesian Govt may not fulfil its target T-bond issuance

JAKARTA, 3 Dec — The government may hold back its target to issue some 376 million US dollars' worth Treasury bonds (T-bonds) by the end of this year if it considers unnecessary to do so, Finance Minister said here.

The 376 million US dollars T-bonds are part of the 1.3 billion US dollars T-bonds the government has planned to issue in 2003.

"It will depend on the market situation. There will be no problem if we cannot reach the target," Boediono was quoted by the national news agency Antara as saying.

He said the 376 million US dollars T-bonds were a ceiling target for this year end so that if it was not reached it would not pose any problem.—MNA/Xinhua

Samarra clash toll still a mystery

SAMARRA, 3 Dec—The US military has vowed to continue aggressive tactics after saying it killed 54 Iraqis following an ambush, but commanders admitted they had no proof to back up their claims.

The only corpses at Samarra's hospital were those of civilians, including two elderly Iranian visitors and a child.

A top military commander acknowledged on Monday that the toll was based entirely on estimates gleaned from troop debriefings and that US soldiers had not recovered a single body from the scene of Sunday's clashes.

Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt estimated the number of dead in Samarra at 54, along with 22 wounded, saying they were all resistance fighters. He also said one person was detained.

He admitted that the one resistance fighter now confirmed in custody was a sharp reduction on the 11 claimed captured by the commanding colonel in Samarra earlier.

"Some of those earlier reports might have been a bit off," Kimmitt said.

"Are you asking me to produce (them)?" asked Colonel Fredrick Rudesheim, who heads the 3rd Combat Brigades that was involved in the clashes, when questioned by reporters about the absence of any fighters' bodies at Samarra's single hospital or on the city's streets.

Sergeant Nicholas Mullen, who fired rounds from an Abrams tank, offered yet

another explanation for the army's inability to locate the corpses. "We don't stick around," he said.

Challenged about what happened to the bodies of the 54 said to have been killed, Kimmitt said: "I would suspect that the enemy would have carried them away and brought them back to where their initial base was."

Asked about reports from senior police and hospital officials in the town of only eight civilians killed and dozens more wounded, the US general insisted: "We have no such reports whether from medical authorities or police."

But a medic at Samarra hospital said the bodies of "eight civilians including a woman and a child" were received at the hospital.

Hospital director Abd Tawfiq said "more than 60 people wounded by gunfire and shrapnel from US rounds are being treated at the hospital".

And ambulance driver Abd al-Munaim Muhammad said he had not ferried any fighters wounded or killed and wearing the black Fidayin outfit which US soldiers claimed their assailants wore.

"If I had seen bodies, I would have picked them up. It's not like the Ameri-

cans would have done it," he said.

"If the death toll had reached that announced by the Americans, the atmosphere in Samarra would be quite different," he added.

It was not immediately clear whether the figure included two Iranian visitors said to have been killed in their bus.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi condemned what he called the "blind attacks" by US forces.

"America is responsible for the killing of the Iranian national in Samarra. It must account for this crime," he said.

Teheran's foreign ministry on Tuesday summoned the Swiss ambassador to Iran, who acts as the head of the US interest section office there, to protest against the deaths, reported a state news agency.

Iran demanded that Washington "clarify the circumstances leading to the incident," and announce the result of its own investigation and provide compensation. The bloodshed prompted members of Samarra's tribal council to demand an immediate US pullout from the area.

Internet

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China to enhance medical aid to developing nations

BEIJING, 3 Dec — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said here Tuesday that her country will further enhance medical aid to developing nations and improve health cooperation with them.

In 1963, China sent its first medical team abroad to Algeria, when it was amid its hard struggle to tackle its own financial and economic problems.

After more than 20 years of economic reform, China has improved its economy greatly. "But our friendship with developing nations and sense of international responsibility won't change," said Wu at a commemoration to mark the 40th anniversary of its overseas medical programme.

Wu asked Chinese health and financial departments to attach great importance to the work with their foreign medical aid service and further improve relevant policies to ensure the smooth operation of the programme.

Gao Qiang, executive Vice-Minister of Health, said that China has sent over 18,000 medical staff for overseas aid programmes during the past four decades, covering 65 countries and regions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Oceania.

"Six hundred and thirteen Chinese medical staff have been awarded honours by the countries they worked in and 45 members laid down their lives at their posts," Gao said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis deny US account of biggest attack

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec — Residents in Iraq's northern city of Samarra said here the US military was falsely reporting the firefighting the day before and exaggerating the casualties.

A US spokesman said on Sunday that the American forces had killed 46 attackers, wounded 18 and caught eight in what he said the largest attack targeting US troops in the area. The US military raised the death toll to 54 on Monday without elaborating.

However, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel quoted witnesses and medical sources as saying that only eight people were known killed and two of them were Iranian pilgrimages.

Showing two Iranian passports, the witnesses said the two were killed by US fire when they were on board a bus driving in Samarra, 100 kilometres north of Baghdad, on Sunday afternoon.

The footage also showed the scene in a

local hospital in which many wounded people, including a teenager, were receiving treatment.

The witnesses said the US soldiers fired randomly and used all weapons they could use during the clashes with alleged guerrillas.

Late on Sunday, US Lieutenant Colonel William MacDonald from the 4th Infantry Division told reporters in Tikrit that two US logistic convoys were ambushed simultaneously with homemade bombs, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns. The guerrillas shot from rooftops and alleyways and the US forces returned fire from numerous locations, destroying three houses used by the attackers, said MacDonald — MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers of the 489th Civil Affairs drive in a convoy near the Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, Iraq, on Monday, 1 December, 2003.

INTERNET



South Korean protesters shout slogans in Seoul during a rally mourning the death of two workers shot by gunmen in Iraq, on 2 December, 2003.

INTERNET

Sri Lankan President calls for collective efforts to fight "AIDS"

COLOMBO, 3 Dec — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Monday called for collective efforts by all sectors of the society to contribute to the prevention of the deadly AIDS.

"Prevention efforts require a collective approach, we cannot be complacent. The health sector alone cannot be left to handle this catastrophe," Kumaratunga said in a message to mark the World AIDS Day.

"Other ministries and departments, covering finance, education, transportation, the police force, and the military, as well as NGOs, the private sector, and civil society organizations should contribute," she stressed.

MNA/Xinhua

Macao boasts best health status in Asia

MACAO, 3 Dec — "The health situation in Macao is the best in Asia," said Linda Milan, an official from the World Health Organization (WHO), who is on her inspection tour in China's Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tuesday.

The director of Building Healthy Communities and Populations of the WHO West Pacific Region just concluded her two-day visit in Macao on the condition of the city's public health and the health system's epidemic control ability.

"Macao's quick restructuring of hospitals' facilities and services in reaction to the control of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is highly commendable. The Macao SAR government is able to address other similar challenges in the future," said Milan, who was contributing her expertise to Macao's preparatory bidding for WHO-entitled "Healthy City" on her inspection.

Macao has got ready for the bidding at the suggestion of Shigeru Omi, the WHO Western Pacific Regional director. He suggested Macao apply for the "Healthy City" appraisal during his trip to Macao on July 30.

"It is the right time for Macao to showcase its image as a healthy and safe tourist city," he said when referring to the SAR's effective containment of SARS, which broke out in Macao's neighbouring regions of Guangdong and Hong Kong in the first half of this year. Macao only recorded one imported case.

MNA/Xinhua

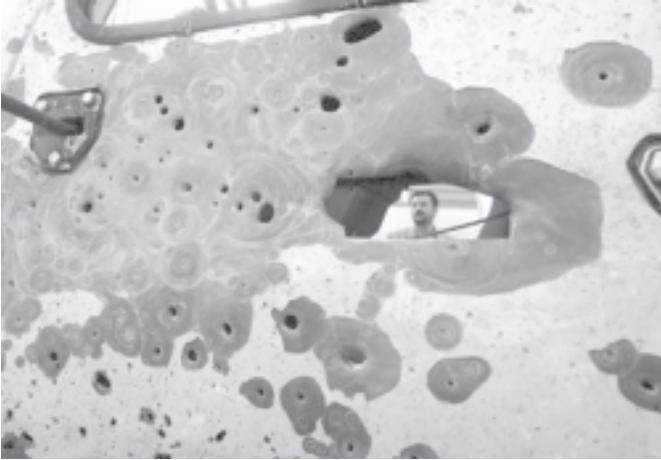
India, China to play significant role in East Asia development

NEW DELHI, 3 Dec — India and China can play a significant role in the economic development of eastern hemisphere, especially through bilateral cooperation in the areas of IT, textiles, agri food processing, infrastructure and automobiles, a senior government official said here.

"India and China, who are both members of WTO, worked very closely on several issues during the Cancun Ministerial meet.

MNA/PTI

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Residents in the town of Samarra inspect the shooting site, following a US Army attack on 1 December. At least one US soldier was killed when two almost simultaneous bomb attacks hit convoys near the Iraqi town of Samarra.

INTERNET



A resident in the town of Samarra, 125 kms north of Baghdad, shows bullets and a mortar shell piece that hit his home during a US Army attack on 1 December.—INTERNET



A child walks out through a bullet-riddled entrance hit during a US Army attack in the town of Samarra. The US military upped its death toll from intense clashes with guerillas in the Iraqi town of Samarra to 54 amid reports by Iraqi doctors that eight civilians were killed by US fire in the exchanges.

INTERNET



Iraqi men argue with a British coalition soldier in the centre of Basra, southern Iraq, on 1 December 2003.—INTERNET



A US Army soldier secures the area as soldiers remove the body of a 4th Infantry Division soldier that died in an ambush outside the Iraqi town of Samarra, north of Baghdad, on Tuesday, 2 December, 2003.—INTERNET



Two US soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the 173 Airborne Brigade take position next a group of Iraqi youths during a raid in Hawijah, 45 kilometres (nearly 30 miles) west of Iraq's northern oil centre of Kirkuk.

INTERNET

Annan organizes group of Mideast nations on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Dec—Iraq's neighbours, including Iran, and Security Council members, including the United States, came together in a new grouping some delegates hope will develop into an international conference on Iraq's future.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan formed the group of 17 countries as an advisory body that met for the first time on Monday and several nations hoped it would be able to take meaningful action in the future, participants said.

France, Russia and Germany have urged an international conference on Iraq but the United States so far is cool to the idea.

Annan told the 17 ambassadors he would present the Security Council with a report within a week on a role the United Nations could play in Iraq, the diplomats reported.

He also said he would name an interim chief representative for Iraq shortly and a new special representative early in the new year to replace Sergio Vieira de Mello, killed in the attack against UN headquarters in Baghdad on August 19 that cost 22 lives.

The Council has been split since the US invasion of Iraq, with key members wanting the world body to play a larger role. Annan has hesitated to send staff back to

Iraq since the August 19 disaster. Several envoys said members of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council would probably be invited to the next meeting, although no date has been set.

Annan is weighing whether to place political staff in Cyprus or in Jordan until security conditions improve. In the interim, a chief envoy would commute to the Iraqi capital.

"We certainly urged that the Secretary-General appoint a special representative or an acting special representative as soon as possible," US Ambassador John Negroponte told reporters after the meeting.

"And that is also, as you know, the Iraqi Governing Council, asked that a special representative be named as soon as possible," he said.

Syria's UN ambassador, Fayssal Mekdad told reporters the meeting was "a step in the right direction".

"Certain ideas were raised but frankly speaking this is the first time for such a meeting," he said.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier shot dead west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec—An American soldier was killed west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Monday after his patrol came under attack from guerrillas, the US military said.

In a statement, it said the

soldier was wounded by small arms fire near the town of Habbaniya on Monday morning and died of his wounds later. The town is a hotbed of anti-American sentiment. Three Iraqis were captured during the clash and

were being questioned, the statement said.

Since US President George W Bush declared an end to major hostilities in Iraq on May 1, 188 US soldiers have been killed in combat.

MNA/Reuters

China to reform investment system next year

BEIJING, 3 Dec—China is to carry out a reform of its regulatory system of investment next year, a major step taken to build a complete market system.

Chinese Minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC) Ma Kai said at a national work meeting held here that the SDRC had already passed the draft reform plan to the State Council for approval.

Ma said under the reform plan, most non-government investment projects would no longer require government approval. Investors are allowed to make their own decision and have only to notify the government about the projects for records.

For large-scale, non-government-funded investment projects and those in the areas restricted for private investment, they have to pass government assessment only in terms of national security, rational utilization of resources, environmental protection, optimizing economic structure, safeguarding public interest and anti-monopoly requirements, Ma said.

Ma said the SDRC was drafting complementary rules and regulations for the reform plan so as to pave the way for implementation next

year. The rules in the pipeline included regulations on assessment of corporate investment projects and regulations on management of investment by the central government.

Ma said the SDRC and its local branches would continue to sort out the projects requiring government approval next year. For those that no longer require approval, the government would develop new ways to monitor the investment activities.

He said China would also accelerate the reform of the management of corporate bond issuance next year. He said the regulations on the management of corporate bonds would come into force as soon as possible, while other relevant regulations were also being drafted.

Ma said the government would abolish the practice of approving issuance of corporate bonds and instead, such issuance would only need to be registered with relevant authorities. The scope of the use of corporate bond money would also be expanded and the varieties of corporate bonds be in-

creased, he said. The government would adopt a stricter but simplified process of examining issuance applications, he said.

According to the SDRC's estimate, China's investment in fixed assets is to increase 23 per cent this year. In the first three quarters of the year, collective and individual investment grew at a rate 9.6 percentage points faster in the same period of last year.



US soldiers stand guard near an arrested Iraqi man during a massive raid in Hawijah, near Iraq's northern oil centre of Kirkuk recently.—INTERNET

Vietnam urged to improve business environment

HANOI, 3 Dec—Over 300 foreign and local delegates gathered here at the 13th Vietnam Business Forum on Monday, discussing measures to improve business environment in the country.

At the one-day forum, delegates noted that it is high time Vietnam passed a new Investment Law, which applies to both domestic and foreign investors, to create a fair playing field for businesses.

Also to create a more equal competitive environment, the participants suggested that the country should pass a competition law soon. They also raised concerns regarding changes in the taxation regime, including the proposed Ordinance on Personal Income Tax.

"Under the draft, the taxable income level will increase to 258 US dollars from the current 193 dollars," Deputy Minister of Finance Truong Chi Trung said, adding that the revised ordinance could take effect from January 2004.

Along with investment and finance issues, delegates proposed that the government make legal documents more effective and transparent by actively consulting the public and business community before issuing them.

The forum is organized by the International Finance Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the World Bank.

MNA/Xinhua

Drug traffickers arrested at Nepali airport

KATHMANDU, 3 Dec—Police at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Nepali capital Kathmandu Monday arrested two persons with 43.28 kilos hashish, an airport official said here.

"The two men are alleged to be involved in trafficking drugs to Japan," said Bimala Thapa, superintendent of the airport police office.

"Another man, suspected accomplice of the two arrested, is still at large," Thapa said.

In this year alone, the Illegal Drugs Law Enforcement Unit of Nepal arrested 74 Nepali citizens and 13 foreigners in connection with drug trafficking, she noted, adding that the police confiscated over 374 kilos of hashish and 16 kilos of heroin at the same time. — MNA/Xinhua

Iranian police seize 5 tons of drugs

TEHERAN, 3 Dec—Iranian anti-drug police have seized about five tons of various kinds of illegal drugs throughout the country in recent operations, the official IRNA news agency reported here.

Police have seized over 3,600 kilos of narcotics and arrested 45 drug smugglers and 31 distributors in Hormuzgan, Kerman, Khorassan, Teheran, Qom, Yazd and Sistan-Baluchistan provinces, the report said.

In addition, some 1,346 kilos of various drugs were seized in eastern Iran during two separate operations, according to the IRNA report.

Iran sits at the crossroads of a major drug trafficking route originating mainly from Afghanistan and linking markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, West Europe and other regions.

More than 3,000 Iranian anti-drug policemen have lost their lives in clashes with drug traffickers during the past over 20 years.

MNA/Xinhua



US Airforce airmen of the 824th Security Forces Squadron patrol the area around the ziggurat of the ancient Babylonian city of Ur, near the US Air base of Tallil, in the southern Iraq, on 2 Dec, 2003.—INTERNET

We honour you, Mighty Ayeyawady!

U Maung Maung Soe Tint (Rtd. Ambassador)

The study of world history shows that nations and civilizations emerged along the rivers. The ancient Egypt civilization originated in the Nile Basin. So, it would not be wrong to say that Egypt is the gift of the Nile. Moreover, the ancient Mesopotamian civilization also began in the basin of Tigris and Euphrates, Rome and its civilization at the Tiber, the Indian civilization at the Indus basin and the Chinese civilization at the Yellow River. The basins are fertile and water is easily available there and so they are very suitable for agriculture. Because of agriculture, trade developed. And the rivers created waterways for transportation of people and cargoes. Thus, villages, towns and nations came into existence and civilizations flourished.

We owe our gratitude to the Ayeyawady for the existence of our nation and civilization. Tagaung, Bagan, Sagaing, Inwa, Mandalay and Pyay are situated along it. The history of Myanmar and the Ayeyawady are inseparable. The first Myanmar was founded at Bagan on the bank of the Ayeyawady. Myanmar civilization began there and Buddhism started flourishing in Myanmar from there.

On 11 November, 2003, the Chao Phraya River and the Mekong River joined the Ayeyawady near Bagan, metaphorically speaking. Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Agreement on Economic Cooperation Strategy was reached. We thank the Ayeyawady and Bagan for this unprecedented event.

The Chao Phraya River is situated in Thailand and the history of Thailand and its civilization developed along this river. Skothai, Ayutthaya and Bangkok emerged along it. The Mekong River flows through Laos and Cambodia. The social, economic and cultural sectors of these two nations are flourishing along this river.

The Chao Phraya River represents Thailand, The Mekong Laos and Cambodia. The prime ministers of these nations on 11 November arrived at Bagan, the Archaeological Zone of Myanmar to attend the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy.

Prime Minister of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt presided over the meeting and all the prime ministers from the four nations approved the Bagan Declaration. Moreover, five future work programmes were also approved. Included in these work programmes are (a) trade and investment, (b) agricultural and industrial cooperation, (c) transport linkages and (d) tourism cooperation and (e) human resource development.

I would like to explain the benefits to be gained from the four-nation economic cooperation. Only then will the people of Myanmar realize how it can contribute towards their social and economic life.

First of all, I would like to present some of possible results. Thailand will make more investments in our country. To facilitate trade and tourism at the border, one-stop service will be opened. Not only that, surveys will be carried out to establish retail and wholesale centres. Moreover, account trade will be implemented.

As the first phase of the sister city project, measures will be taken for increased relations between Yangon and Bangkok, Mandalay and Chiang Mai, Tachilek and Maesai, and Myawady and Maesot after designating them as sister cities. Moreover, plans are also under way to transport and sell products to Myawady after turning it into an industrial zone. For that project, Thailand will render financial assistance and extend loans.

As for the agricultural and industrial cooperation, efforts will be made to implement the Contract Farming Method with added momentum. There will also be an exchange of technologies and the conducting of courses in the agricultural and forestry sector.

In the energy sector, ways and means will be sought

to enhance businesses, small and medium, through the promotion of cooperation. For these industries and joint-venture enterprises, common funds will be set up. Arrangements will be made to set up agricultural produce trading businesses at border areas and to establish special economic zones in Myawady and Maesot and industrial zones in Hpa-an and Mawlamyine. The Thanlwin river hydel power project will be implemented along with other gas-powered electricity generation projects at Maesot, Myawady, Hpa-an, Thaton and Yangon.

As for the transport sector, a second Tachilek-Maesai friendship bridge as well as a Maesot-Myawady-Hpa-an-Thaton motor road will also be constructed speedily. Furthermore, arrangements will be made to improve the Myawady-Kawkaik-Mudon-Mawlamyine road along with Phaya Thonsu-Thanyuayay-Mawlamyine road.

In the tourism cooperation sector, arrangements are also made for 'Four countries, one destination joint tours' and 'Two countries, one destination joint tours' together with 'Caravan tours' and 'Cross country tours'. Measures will also be taken to run joint tourism industries including marine tourism at promising places in both countries. For tourism industries, plans have been drawn up to provide easy access to entry visas, enabling tourism entrepreneurs of Myanmar to participate in the tourism promotion programme in Thailand. Moreover, plans will also be made to promote the aviation sectors of both countries. Thailand receives nearly 11 million tourists annually earning US\$ 7.5 billion from this business.

In the human resource development sector, there include the conducting of courses on the five projects mentioned in the future work programme, the presentation of prizes by Thailand, the providing of training to journalists and government employees, and the conducting of joint researches on businesses such as commercial tourism and practical cooperation.

People residing in border areas will enjoy the fruits of progress as priority will be given to border area development. With the economic boost, these regions will undergo prosperity with the prevalence of stability and peace leading to the end of armed insurgencies and enabling Myanmar to enjoy the economic growth promising a higher living standard of its people. As a result, investment and export will be on the increase. So will the number of factories. It means that there will emerge job opportunities enough for the public with the prospect of increased income and higher living standard. What's more, there will be better transport systems and further economic cooperation with neighbouring countries. As a result, the four countries will become the ones without boundary.

There are prospects of shifting agriculture and manufacturing works to suitable sites, thanks to friendly cooperation based on mutual benefit between the countries. It means that businesses will be conducted at the places where there is sufficient labour, instead of bringing in the labour from another country. This programme will promise regional economic development and put an end to social problems springing from working in foreign nations.

I wrote an article "Strategic Myanmar", which appeared in the Kyemon issued on 2-7-2002, reflecting how strategic and important Myanmar is in Asia. To express my belief that Myanmar would become a modern and developed nation soon, I also wrote an article "My gift of belief for Myanmar", which appeared in the Myanmar Times issued on 24-10-2003. The two articles have everything in common with the Bagan Declaration. Therefore, I am in high spirit at the thought that my dreams will come true soon.

Translation: NN+KTY

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

စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်

မြန်မာ့သိုင်းရင်းဆေးသမားတော်များညီလာခံ

ကျိုက္ကဆံကွင်း၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုခန်းမ

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁၆)ရက်နေ့မှ (၁၈)ရက်နေ့

စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်

သိုင်းရင်းဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပစ္စည်းပြပွဲ

တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁၇)ရက်နေ့မှ (၂၆)ရက်နေ့

Significant achievements making...

(from page 16)

the tasks for uplift of morale of the disabled in the world who deserve sympathy, promotion of their dignity and enjoyment of equal social rights in the social development sector.

The government is also making efforts for all citizens to enjoy social happiness equally with peace of mind and for the disabled to fully enjoy the fruitful results of national development like average people, he said. Therefore the plans were laid down and are being implemented to raise the quality of life of all citizens, to fully enjoy the fundamental social rights and to possess qualifications of the healthy citizens with high education standard, morale and morality, he added.

In implementation of social development activities, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is taking charge of social life development of children and elderly people including the disabled who need social assistance with the cooperation of volunteer social organizations and international social organizations, he said.

He said the government is carrying out the tasks for the disabled to stand in society with dignity, and to uplift their morale, adding that it is also undertaking the tasks not to become discarded people through the rehabilitation tasks including treatment.

He said the government is implementing the rehabilitation programmes that include formal education, vocational education, social relation and employment by opening schools for the blind, the deaf and the handicapped people. Similarly, the government has been rendering assistance to the schools for the blind and deaf established by social organizations. Government departments in co-operation with social organizations are actively taking part in rehabilitation programmes including education and necessary training, he stressed.

He said the government established Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation. The

federation, a member of international disabled sports committee, participated in disabled sports meets and won gold medals. Significant achievements have been made in the rehabilitation programmes due to the encouragement of the government, cooperation of volunteer social organizations and the people and efforts of the disabled themselves, he said. It is heartening to note that the disabled are actively taking part in the tasks that contribute towards the progress of their life and Myanmar society and the interest of the State, he added.

With the success of the programmes, arrangements for training and nurturing the disabled can be made with greater momentum, upgrading the training school-based rehabilitation system to community-based rehabilitation one with the participation of the people and the disabled.

At such a time, he urged the officials concerned to promote the life of the disabled and continue to raise the momentum of achievement for standing tall in society as humans with dignity and of great value and taking part in national development tasks together with other citizens in the respective roles.

In conclusion, he urged all the people to provide assistance to the disabled with humanitarian spirit for participating in society and help them take part in nation-building tasks with their strength in building a modern developed nation. He also urged the disabled to make efforts to raise their standard and employ their outstanding qualifications without abandoning themselves to fate.

The Secretary-2 presented gifts and certificates of honour to Sayadaw U Neya, who established Seinpangon school for the blind in Kya Village, Shwebo, Sagaing Division, in 1954 and has nurtured the students thenceforward; U Sein Htwe, who won Sarpay Beikman Drama Literature third prize in 1969, Thutapadetha (Arts) third prize in 1970, Belle Letter second prize in 1975 and

Sarpay Beikman Belle Letter first prize in 2002; U Win Naing of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation who won one gold and two silver in the 8th Sports Meet for Disabled Persons for Far East and South Pacific Region; U Myint Zaw who won four gold, one silver and one bronze in the 15th Sports Competitions for the disabled; and Maung Aung Naing Tun (2nd Year, Law, Dagon University) who won two gold in the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint presented gifts to outstanding students Ma Theint Thu Thu Lin of training school for the youth disabled, Maung Myo Ko Ko of the training school for the adult disabled, Ma Phyo Phyo Htet of school for the deaf in Mandalay, Maung Aung Lwin Oo of Kyimyindine School for the Blind, Maung Soe Nyein Tun of Sagaing School for the Blind, Maung Zin Min Htet of Eden School for the youth disabled, Ma Aye Aye Myint of Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf and Dumb, Maung Win Maung Than of Khawegyan School for the Blind, Ma La Hsi Lu Gyan of Myitkyina School for the Blind, Ma Lazun Htu Lwam of the association for providing assistance, Maung Tun Win of PyinOoLwin School for the Blind, Ma Aye Aye Win of Meiktila School for the Blind, Maung Aung Kyaw Lwin of Pakokku School for the Blind, Lt-Corporal Kyaw Kyaw Tun and Sergeant Tint Naing of Defence Services Vocational School and Maung Khu of Phayaphyu Centre for the Disabled.

Officials also presented 84 persons who won prizes in the 26 competitions to mark International Day of Disabled Persons.

Afterwards, the youth disabled entertained those present with dance variety and songs. The minister presented gifts to them.

MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win presents a model hostel best award to hostel No 1 through a trainee. MNA



Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents a prize to an outstanding disabled person. MNA

Tailoring course concludes

YANGON, 3 Dec — A ceremony to conclude the tailoring course No 1/2003, opened by the Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar War Veterans Organization at No 1 War Veterans Model Village, took place at the basis education high school in the village this morning.

Secretary of COC and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung spoke on the occa-

sion and presented course completion certificates to trainees. Next, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented awards to the trainees who stood first, second and third at the course.

Director of Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Aung Thein also presented gifts to two course instructors. After the ceremony, the commander and party viewed round the

clothes made by trainees. A total of 49 trainees attended the course, which lasted 12 weeks. Later, the commander, the minister and party attended a road opening ceremony at the same village. On the occasion, the chairman of supervisory committee for Thanmyanthu bus lines and a local authority formally opened Hsinphyushin road. The road is 2,700 feet long and 12 feet wide and is built of gravel. — MNA



Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attends the opening ceremony of the Hsinphyushin Road at Ledaukan model village. —MNA

Cooperative products exhibition and market festival

YANGON, 3 Dec — The leading committee for organizing the cooperative products exhibition and market festival 2004 of the Ministry of Cooperatives held a meeting at the hall of the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street this afternoon, attended by Patron of the leading committee Minister for Coopera-

tives Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

Present on the occasion were directors-general, the managing director and officials of the departments and enterprise under the ministry and members of the leading committee and subcommittees. On the occasion, the minister made a speech on measures for successful

holding of the exhibition and the festival to be held at the Cooperative Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza) from 13 to 19 January 2004.

The chairman of the leading committee and officials reported on arrangements for holding the festival. The minister made closing remarks.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development tasks

YANGON, 3 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and officials of the SPDC office, left Kyauktu by car yesterday morning and arrived at Pauk at 7.45 am.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with township level departmental officials at Shwe Paukpin Hall. The chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on sufficiency of rice in the township and regional development tasks. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged departmental personnel to participate in regional development tasks and extended cultivation of rice and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Hsupokegon Village in the township and inspected the fields of pulses and beans, potatoes, onions and land preparation works for cultivation of summer paddy. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected the site chosen for construction of No 4 Kyaw Creek rural diversion weir on the creek near the village.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspects renovation of Mingaing Bridge. — MNA



and party went to Pyama Village and inspected the site chosen for construction of No 3 Kyaw Creek rural diversion weir. Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the harvest of monsoon paddy and fields of onion and other crops there.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived at Gwogon Village and inspected the fields to be irrigated by construction of a diversion weir near the village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted the farmers of the village and viewed round the fields of pulses and beans and onion.

At 10.30 am, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Zeepya Village and Mingaing Village and in-

spected the maintenance of a bridge in Mingaing Village. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the site chosen for construction of No 1 Kyaw Creek Rural Diversion Weir and the hospital and the affiliated basic education high school of the village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint donated cash to the hospital and the school. Lt-Gen Ye Myint paid homage and presented offertories to members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda Vamsa at Aungzeya Pala Monastery at the village.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left the village by special train and inspected the site chosen for construction of No 1 Kyaw

Creek rural diversion weir and Kyaw creek rail bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected the Pauk-Zeepya-Pakokku railroad. On arrival at Sathain creek, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the site chosen for construction of a diversion weir between Zeepya and Dattaw stations. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Dattaw Railway Station and inspected the station and railroad.

On arrival at Myoso Railway Station, Lt-Gen Ye Myint was welcomed there by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint

and party proceeded to Myaing by train and inspected the railroad and paddy fields, crop plantations and sunflower fields on both sides of the railroad.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders at the hall of the Township Peace and Development Council Office in Myaing. The chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council and departmental officials reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on sufficiency of rice in the township and tasks being carried out by respective departments.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint said under the guidance of the Head of State, five rural development tasks were being implemented simultaneously all over the country. Moreover, the State also placed emphasis on smooth and secure transport for the development of respective regions. Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauktu-Mindat road, which was important for regional development had been put into service, he added. Irrigation facilities were also being constructed in the region, he pointed out. In conclusion, he urged those present to take necessary measures for extended cultivation of paddy and regional development.

MNA

Hospitals inspected in Magway Division and Chin State

YANGON, 3 Dec — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, together with Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung, Deputy Director-General of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Col Than Aung and officials, inspected hospitals in Magway Division and Chin State beginning 28 November.

The minister and party, in the morning of 28 November, arrived at the hospital of Pauk Township in Pakokku District, Magway Division. They inspected round the hospital and staff quarters and fulfilled the requirements. In the afternoon, the minister inspected the Kyauktu station hospital of Saw Township in Pakokku

District. He provided the medicines to the hospital and gave necessary instructions. In the evening, Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and the minister, inspected the people's hospital in Mindat District and attended to the needs.

The minister and party attended the ceremony to mark the cent per cent covering of DOTSTB in the whole country held at the people's hospital in Matupi Township on 30 November morning.

The minister viewed the giving of medical treatment to local patients by specialists of Haka Hospital led by Head of Chin State Health Department Dr Khin Maung

Tun at Matupi Township People's Hospital. The minister and party then gave polio vaccine to the local children at the sites where polio vaccine was being given to aged under-5 children in Matupi. Next, the minister inspected round the Matupi Township Hospital and provided medicines and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister inspected

the Popa rural health care centre and 16-bed Popa Sangha hospital and gave necessary instructions yesterday. The minister and party inspected the out patient ward, X-ray room, patient wards and medical stores of NyaungU People's Hospital this morning. After fulfilling the requirements there, the minister arrived back here by air. — MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint gives polio vaccine to children at People's Hospital in Matupi, Chin State. (HEALTH)



Officials of the UMFCFI meet Indian guests.

MNA

UMFCFI officials meet Indian guests

YANGON, 3 Dec — General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint Secretary-2 Dr Maung Maung Lay and central executives this afternoon met with Indian delegation led

by Mr P Jayavelu Babu, Vice President & Head-East Zone of the Larsen & Toubro Ltd, India, at the office of the federation. At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters relating to construction work and cooperation in trade in Myanmar. — MNA



Patron of the Myanmar Badminton Federation U Kyi Nyunt makes an opening address at the Great Wall National Badminton Championship. — NLM

Great Wall National Badminton Championship opens

YANGON, 3 Dec — The opening ceremony of Great Wall National Badminton Championship of Myanmar Badminton Federation sponsored by Great Wall Traditional Medicine Production was held at Aung San Stadium this morning.

It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Sports, executives of Myanmar Women Federa-

tion, patrons, the president and executives of MBF, and guests.

Patron U Kyi Nyunt of the federation made an opening speech, and first day matches of the championship commenced.

A total of nine contesting teams are taking part in the championship, which will continue till 7 December.

NLM

Letpan Dam Construction Project, a good investment

Article by Kyaw Sein & photos by
Thwin Aye (Kyemon)

The government has been making a prudent investment on projects of water supply, the main requirement in the agriculture sector, the length and breadth of the nation. Especially, seeking all possible means and ways, it is building irrigation facilities in arid zones that have to mainly rely on the rain fall for agricultural purpose.

With a view to boosting production of crops and greening of the

regions, the government gives priority to small and medium dam construction projects, which can be completed in a short time.

Having only an average annual rainfall of 27 inches, Myinmu Township in Sagaing Division does not get enough water for cultivating crops. The Irrigation Department thus carried out a feasibility tour and constructed an earthen embankment across Letpan Creek about one mile north

of ChaungU Village in Myinmu Township for fulfilling the region's requirement.

A new 12-mile road has been built from Alakappa Village to the Letpan Dam, resulting in better transport for local people.

The village is adjacent to the dam and so villagers have enjoyed higher income by extended cultivation of such crops as beans and pulses, corn, sesame and cotton.

In the division, so far 14 dams have been constructed benefiting over 360,000 cultivable acres of

land. Three dams are being built and on completion, they can irrigate around 5,600 acres. And 11 more irrigation facilities will be constructed. On completion, they will benefit over 170,000 acres of land.

The dam has a water surface of 16 square miles with a 4,000-foot-long and 91-foot-high earthen embankment. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of paddy in nearby villages. Thanks to the construction of the dam, the villagers no longer suffer the problem on drinking water shortage.

We, staff of Kyemon daily interviewed some farmers of Tawchaunggyi and TawchaungU Villages. According to farmers, it is learnt that in the past local farmers had to totally rely on the rain in growing crops and no crops could be grown in summer.

And it is expected to boost production of crops and they will launch cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. They have also enjoyed fruitful results of sufficient potable water. Local people are satisfied with the project.

Formerly, based on the rain fall, local farmers



Earth work being carried out for construction of Letpan Dam in Myinmu Township, Sagaing Division.

THWIN AYE (KYEMON)



The control tower of the Letpan Dam under construction. — THWIN AYE (KYEMON)

Myanmar trounces Cambodia 6-0

YANGON, 3 Dec — After Kyaw Thuya's opening goal, the Myanmar team continued to dominate the match against Cambodia this evening in the XXII Southeast Asia Games in

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and scored five more goals later.

In the early minutes of the match Cambodia team was on the attack, threatening the Myanmar

defence and the goalkeeper, but failed to produce any goal.

Myanmar will meet Malaysia in its last group match.

NLM

Transport Minister inspects river water pumping stations, Pakokku Airport construction

YANGON, 3 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Director-General U Soe Myint of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, yesterday inspected the pumping of river water at Latpanchepaw river water pumping station in

NyaungU District and attended to the needs. At the station, officials concerned reported to the minister on arrangements for pumping river water in any season.

Similarly, the minister saw over the Ngathayauk river water pumping project.

In the afternoon, he

went to Pakokku Airport construction project. At the briefing hall, responsible officials reported on progress of the construction of runway and airport building and future tasks.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the construction of airport building.

MNA

Delegates to MCDCC meeting visit Mongyun

YANGON, 3 Dec — Delegates of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar-China Drug Control Cooperation Meeting held at the Regina Hotel in Tachilek on 26 November led by Deputy Secretary-General Mr Wang Qianrong of National Drug Control Commission, accompanied by Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials, arrived at Mongyun in Shan State

(East) on 27 November and visited the Hydel Power Plant, rice mill and high-yield paddy fields there.

The delegation also visited Wan Hong Basic Education High School and Wan Hong Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Integrated Farm in the afternoon.

Local national race leaders led by Wa national race leader U Pauk Yu Yi of Special Region-2 welcomed the delegation.

U Li Win briefed the delegation on opium substi-

tute development tasks and assistance offered by the Government. The leader of the delegation and the director-general of the MPF spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, they discussed matters related to drug elimination endeavours, future tasks and assistance programmes of the two countries. Later, the delegation viewed the products and feedstuff factory of the farm and left for home via Kengtung/Mongla on 28 November.

MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects regional development in Panglong, Loilem and Maukmai townships

YANGON, 3 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and officials, arrived at the construction site of Maha Rattha Bhiha Maggi Pagoda in Panglong on 30 November morning.

At the briefing hall, project in-charge U Chit Than Win of Asia World Company and engineer in-charge U Thit Lwin reported on tasks being carried out, future plans and their needs.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on meeting the set standard and ensuring work site safety. Later, he inspected round the site.

Next, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the pine trees grown by the Forest Department and natural pine

forest in Panglong and Loilem. He also met with officials concerned and gave instructions on forest conservation.

A total of 1,440,000 pine trees have been grown on over 2,400 acres of land by Forest Department in Panglong in 1993-2003 and 780,000 on over 1,300 acres in Loilem beginning 1997. In 2004-2005, over 800 acres of land will be put under pine trees.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party went to Maukmai where they inspected round the Maukmai Township People's Hospital.

Next, they arrived at the construction site of town hall. Executive Officer U Thauung Tun Zaw of the township development committee reported on fund raising for construction of the hall and work done.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions and inspected round the construction site.

In the afternoon, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party met with service personnel, members of social

organizations and town-sellers at the PDC office in Maukmai Township.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on making concerted efforts for regional development and extension of agricultural and livestock breeding works.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the new Maukmai Basic Education High School.

Headmistress Daw Mya Myo Lwin reported on completion of construction of new school building and learning of students.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on supply of drinking water for the school, durability of new building and construction of sports ground and fulfilled the needs.

On arrival at Homein, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party paid reverence and offered provisions to Sayadaw U Ponnya and members of the Sangha of the monastery in the town and fulfilled the requirements for the monastery. — MNA

Infrastructures for the aviation sector

As a result of upgrading
Kawthoung Airport and
the airport building,
jet planes carrying
passengers can
now use it.—PHOTO: MNA



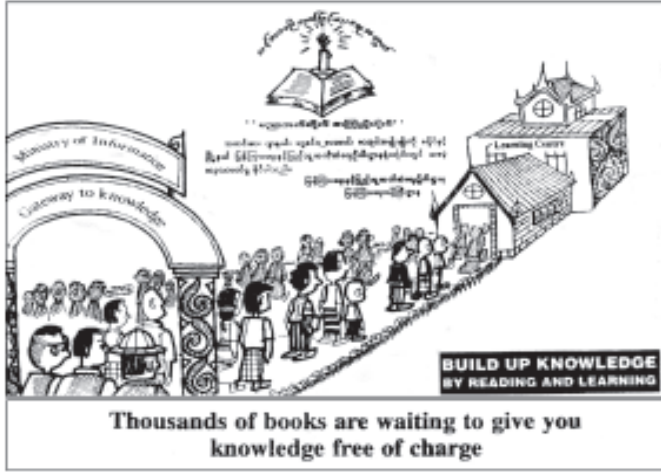
Magway Airport and airfield will
significantly contribute towards progress
of the transport sector of Magway
Division. The photo taken on 6 June
2003 shows the building of Magway
airport. —PHOTO:MNA



While taking measures for building new airports, the old ones are being upgraded. The photo shows Tachileik Airport
which was upgraded in 1999. —PHOTOS: HTAY AUNG (KYEMON)



Mandalay International
Airport in TadaU
Township in Mandalay
Division equipped with
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PHOTO:MNA



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 Ph: 248108/723043
 (For: Domern Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand).
 Dated: 4 December, 2003

DRIVE SAFELY

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SITTWE VOY NO (045)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SITTWE Voy No (045) arrived on 3-12-03 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed between 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Three killed, 15 injured in train accident

JAKARTA, 3 Dec — Three Indonesian students were killed and 15 others injured after falling from the Serayu express train in Bandung, West Java Province on Monday.

The seriously injured were taken to Hasan Sadikin Hospital.—MNA/Xinhua

All the victims, who are

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

**ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ
 ပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
 အဆင့်မြင့်ပညာသင်တန်း (အောက်မြန်မာပြည်)
 ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်
 ဒုတိယအကြိမ်သို့ နှင်းသဘင်ကျင်းပခြင်း**

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်မှ ကျင်းပသော ဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့၊ သို့လွန် ဒီပလိုမာဘွဲ့ သင်တန်းအောင်မြင်ကြသူများအတွက် ဒုတိယအကြိမ်သို့ နှင်းသဘင်အခမ်းအနားကို အောက်ပါအတိုင်း ကျင်းပမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျင်းပမည့်နေ့	- ၁-၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
ကျင်းပမည့်နေရာ	- ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ခန်းမ
ကျင်းပမည့်အချိန်	- ၂၀၀၄ခု၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ(၁)ရက် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နံနက်(၉:၀၀)နာရီ
ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ကြွေး	- ၁၅၀၀ (ကျပ်တောင်ငါးရာတိတိ)
အဆေးရောက်သည့်ကြွေး	- ၁၀၀၀ (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ)
အခမ်းလေ့ကျင့်မည့်ရက်၊ အချိန်	- ၂၀၀၄၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၃၁)ရက် (စနေနေ့)၊ နံနက်(၁၀:၀၀)နာရီ
လျှောက်လွှာလက်ခံမည့်ရက်	- ၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ မှ ၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၃ ရက်နေ့အထိ သတ်မှတ်လျှောက်လွှာပုံစံဖြင့် လျှောက်ထားရန်

မှတ်ချက်။ (၁) ဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့ (၁၉၉၇ အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းအောင်သူတို့) ၂၀၀၃ခု၊ နိုဝင်ဘာအောင် ကျောင်းသား၊ ကျောင်းသူများ ဘွဲ့လွှာဒီပလိုမာဘွဲ့ (၂၀၀၀ မှ ၂၀၀၃ခုနှစ်အထိ) အောင်မြင်ပြီးသူများ
 (၂) ဘွဲ့လွန်ဒီပလိုမာဘွဲ့ ၂၀၀၃ခုနှစ်နှင့် ၁၉၉၈ ခုနှစ်မှ အောင်မြင်ပြီးသူများသည် အဆေးရောက်သည့် အတွက်သာ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။
 (၃) အခမ်းလေ့ကျင့်မှုနှင့် ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်အခမ်းအနား တက်ရောက်သူများသည် မြန်မာဝတ်စုံ၊ တိုင်းရင်းသားဝတ်စုံ၊ အနောက်တိုင်းဝတ်စုံ (အမျိုးသား) နှစ်သက်ရာဝတ်စုံကို အပြည့်အစုံဝတ်ဆင်၍ တက်ရောက်ရပါမည်။
 (၄) ဘွဲ့ဝတ်စုံများရမ်းရန် ထောက်ခံစာကို ၂၆-၁-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္လာနေ့)မှစ၍ ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ် ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ဌာနတွင်ထုတ်ပေးပါမည်။
 (၅) အဆေးစိတ်ကို ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ဌာနတွင် စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
 ကြည့်ကြည့်ဆွေ
 ဖော်ကွန်းထိန်း
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 Yangon. 4 December 2003

China mobilizes whole society to fight against "AIDS"

BEIJING, 3 Dec — China is marking the 16th World AIDS Day by mobilizing the whole society to participate in the fight against AIDS, with Ma Xiaowei, Vice-Minister of Health, highly praising China's AIDS prevention and control work.

Speaking Monday at the awarding ceremony of the "121 joint action", China's AIDS donation plan, Ma said the government was pleased to see the formation of an anti-AIDS force, led by the central government, with all levels of governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public as participants.

"The support from scientists and enterprises is particularly significant for AIDS-related education and publicity," Ma said.

China has one million HIV-carriers today, and the number is increasing at a high speed. In face of the severe situation, Ma said the State Council had made long-term plans on AIDS prevention and control, including more investment in HIV medicine research, and popularizing and reducing the cost of AIDS treatment.

Khalid Malik, UN resident coordinator in China as well as UN Development Programme resident representative, congratulated the Chinese Government, on behalf of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, on its achievements in AIDS prevention and control.

Malik said the United Nations would intensively cooperate with the Chinese Government especially in making AIDS-related laws.—MNA/Xinhua

Thailand chosen as example for provision of "AIDS" drugs to poor

BANGKOK, 3 Dec — The World Health Organization (WHO) has selected Thailand as a regional example for the provision of anti-retroviral drugs to poor people suffering from the HIV virus, Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan announced here.

Sudarat said that for the year 2004 the ministry had set aside 1.629 billion baht (40.725 million US dollars) for the provision of anti-retroviral drugs to 50,000 HIV sufferers, the *Thai News Agency* reported.

Of this funding, 904 million baht (22.6 million dollars) came from the Thai Government, and could cover 40,000 patients, while the remaining money came from the Global Fund for AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

The minister noted that around 95 per cent of AIDS patients in Thailand suffered

from poverty, and, as a result, were unable to pay for medication themselves.

Stressing that Thailand's provision of anti-retroviral drugs was in accordance with the WHO's target of providing medication to around three million of the 42 million AIDS sufferers across the world by 2005, she said that the WHO had chosen Thailand as an example to other countries in South-East Asia for the provision of drugs to AIDS sufferers.

The WHO had based its decision on the fact that Thailand was the only country in the region that had made any real progress on the issue, she said, adding that the provision of anti-retroviral drugs would greatly reduce expenses on diseases such as tuberculosis that might, otherwise, be contracted by AIDS sufferers.

MNA/Xinhua

China issues stamp to commemorate World "AIDS" Day

BEIJING, 3 Dec — The State Post Bureau of China issued a stamp to mark the World AIDS Day here.

The stamp, with the design of a heart-shaped red-ribbon, symbolizes the care and support given by the society to HIV carriers and AIDS patients.

Ma Xiaowei, Vice-Minister of the Chinese Health Ministry, said at the issuance ceremony that stamps are like the "name cards" of a nation. The new stamp shows the Chinese Government's support and active participation in AIDS prevention, and that it will play an active role in AIDS control efforts.

The commemorative stamp is worth 80 cents (about 10 US cents) with a circulation of 9.13 million copies.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု



Scottish Woodlands worker Roddy McTavish carries a Nordman Fir on a Christmas tree farm near the village of Biggar in Scotland, on 2 Dec, 2003. The farm has sold trees to the Harrods department store in London and has clients throughout the UK, France and Croatia.—INTERNET

WHO authorizes new medicines for "AIDS" treatment

GENEVA, 3 Dec — The World Health Organization (WHO) added three new generic products for first-line AIDS treatment to its list of medicines meeting WHO standards of quality, safety and efficacy on Monday, the World AIDS Day.

The new products are fixed-dose triple therapy combinations containing lamivudine, stavudine and nevirapine, the WHO said in a statement.

The introduction of these medicines in the list of quality medicines will increase choice and competition, thus contributing to making AIDS treatment more affordable, the statement said.

The WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), on Monday launched a "3 by 5 strategy" to treat three million people living with AIDS by 2005, and a WHO expert said there was

already substantial progress in one key area.

"The 3 by 5 strategy recommends simplified AIDS treatment regimens so that countries can quickly expand access to anti-retroviral medicines," said WHO Assistant Director-General for Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals Vladimir Lepakhin.

"These new products will help the countries hardest-hit by the AIDS epidemic get easy-to-take AIDS medicines to the people who need them most urgently," Lepakhin said.

MNA/Xinhua

Illegal immigration helps "AIDS" spread in S Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 3 Dec — Increasing immigration in southern Mexico has caused an increase of HIV/AIDS, Dagoberto Garcia, a health services officer in the south-eastern state of Quintana Roo, said on Monday.

Because of illegal immigrants from Central America, such as Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, about 150 new cases were reported every year.

Lorena Careaga, the leader of the non-governmental organization, Punto de Encuentro con la Comunidad, also blamed the increase on the arrival of patients from Central American countries. The state of Quintana Roo had reported 1,394 cases already this year, and 405 deaths, added Careaga.

On Monday, the 16th World AIDS Day, representatives from Mexico and Central America met in the city of Chetumal on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in southern Mexico.

According to the National Registry of AIDS Cases, 72,000 cases had been reported, of which 14,000 were found in the Federal District. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO report says one death from "AIDS" every minute in 2003

MANILA, 3 Dec — More than half a million people in the Asia-Pacific region died of AIDS in 2003, which makes one death from AIDS every minute, according to a report published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

In a statement, the WHO regional office for the Western Pacific said the WHO warns that, without major investments in prevention and care, similar annual death tolls can be expected until the end of the decade.

The report, HIV/AIDS (human immuno deficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in Asia and the Pacific Region 2003, highlights a number of disturbing trends, which indicate there are more than seven million people living with HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (of the global total of 40 million). The report says India has the highest number of people in Asia living with HIV/AIDS, an estimated 3.8 million to 4.6 million people, while China accounts for about 840,000 HIV infections.

The trends also include that high HIV infection rates

can be found in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and parts of China and India, according to the report.

In Cambodia, there is 2.6-per-cent prevalence among the general population, which indicates a generalized epidemic. Cambodia still has the highest estimated HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Asia and the Pacific.

Figures for Vietnam show HIV infection rates of more than 20 per cent among injecting drug users in most provinces. Disturbingly, the high rates of HIV infection among sex workers previously noted in the south of the country have now been found in the north (15 per cent of sex workers in Hanoi are estimated to be HIV-positive).

MNA/Xinhua

UN plans to rush "AIDS" therapy to world's poor

NAIROBI, 3 Dec — The United Nations unveiled plans on Monday to rush life-saving anti-retroviral AIDS drugs to three million of the world's poor in a 5.5-billion-US-dollar emergency strategy to fight a disease now killing 8,000 a day.

The UN's World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that six million people in poor countries need the anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment that many victims in the rich world now take for granted, but less than 300,000 actually receive it.

"HIV/AIDS has become the premier disease of mass destruction," WHO Assistant Director-General Jack Chow said at the launch of a strategy on World AIDS Day aiming to get ARV treatment to half of the six million by the end of 2005.

"This year alone three million people have died of AIDS. These are people whose lives could have been saved through provision of ARVs," he said.

The WHO announced last week that 40 million people around the world were infected with HIV, and that the global AIDS epidemic shows no signs of abating. It says the aim of the new strategy is to ensure that all people living

with AIDS, even in the poorest settings, have access to treatment.

It also hopes that better access to treatment will encourage those with HIV/AIDS to come forward, something which is difficult for many in countries where the stigma of having AIDS often condemns sufferers to social isolation.

"Experience in Brazil and Haiti has shown that where people can get treatment they have the courage to come forward for testing," Chow said.

"It is my desire that the three million goal is not a ceiling but a floor and that we start today to provide universal access." UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan says many political leaders still simply do not care enough to fight the disease, which has killed 28 million people since it was first reported among homosexual men in the United States in 1981.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese Premier shakes hands with "AIDS" patients

BEIJING, 3 Dec — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao Monday shook hands and had a face-to-face conversation with three AIDS patients at a hospital in Beijing, as various activities were launched nationwide to mark the World AIDS Day.

It was the first time that a Chinese Premier has visited AIDS patients.

Wen called on the governments at all levels to strengthen AIDS prevention and treatment, when paying a visit to Ditan Hospital, the most-advanced AIDS hospital in China, which has treated more than 600 AIDS patients.

Wearing a red ribbon shown care about the AIDS patients, the Premier shook hands with three patients one by one, asking them about their treatment, family

life and their kids' education.

"AIDS can be prevented and treated," Wen said, reminding the medical staff of providing better service for AIDS patients.

The AIDS epidemic has become a severe challenge to human existence and development, and prevention and treatment of AIDS has become a global issue on public health, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Central America has highest "AIDS" rate in Latin America

SANJOSE, 3 Dec — Belize, Honduras, Panama and Guatemala are four of the six Central American countries with the highest AIDS rate in Latin America, Jane Armitage, director of the World Bank for Central America, has said.

Armitage was quoted on Monday by local Press as saying that the epidemic in Central America is worsening day by day. He said in Honduras alone, at least 13,500 children became orphans because of the disease, which is now the second major cause of death, only after street violence.

Honduras has the highest percentage of AIDS cases in Central America, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of the total. At least 19,200 people in Honduras have died of AIDS since 1985, and it is estimated that some 27,000 children and teenagers will be infected with the deadly virus by 2005.

In Costa Rica, the epidemic rate is 0.6 per cent in the adult group. Since 1983, 2,500 AIDS cases have been reported and 1,500 individuals have died of the disease. — MNA/Xinhua



A container vessel enters the Singapore port. Singapore said it would like to complete a free trade agreement with the European Union before a similar pact is reached between the bloc and the ten-member ASEAN group.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Hakan keeps Galatasaray hopes alive against Juve

DORTMUND (Germany), 3 Dec—Hakan Sukur scored twice as Galatasaray beat Juventus 2-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday, keeping alive the Turkish team's hopes of qualifying from Group D.

Hakan grabbed the opener two minutes after the restart with a fine header and then sealed the victory with an injury time strike after being put through by Hasan Sas.

The result moves Galatasaray above Olympiakos into third place on six points, but leaves them two points behind their next opponents — second-placed Real Sociedad.

Fatih Terim's side must win that match in Spain next week if they are to go through to the knock-out stage of

the competition.

The match against the Italian champions had been postponed by a week and switched to Dortmund's Westfalen Stadium by UEFA following the recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul.

But there was no doubt that Galatasaray enjoyed home advantage. The ground was packed with Turkish supporters, so many that the start was delayed for 15 minutes due to traffic congestion.

With little at stake for Juve, coach Marcello Lippi rested big names such as Pavel Nedved, David Trezeguet and Alessandro del Piero but, from the outset, it was clear that the Italians were keen to beat Terim's side.

Galatasaray keeper Faryd Mondragon was busy from the start and was out quick to foil Marco di Vaio in the 11th minute. Shortly afterwards, though, the Turks tested Juve keeper Antonio Chimenti, playing instead of the rested Gianluigi Buffon, with a well-struck effort from Berkant Goktan.

Fabrizio Miccoli, another Juve player given a rare start, struck the post with a 20-metre free-kick in the 29th minute but it was end-to-end football and moments later Berkant tested Chimenti again.

Juve ended the half with a spell of intense pressure. After di Vaio had twice gone close, Mondragon did well to keep out a shot from Enzo Maresca and just before the break the Colombian keeper pulled off an excellent double save to keep out a Miccoli strike and then di Vaio's follow-in.

But two minutes into the second half the Turks grabbed the lead when the lively Sabri Sarioglu burst down the left wing and his cross was met at the near post by Hakan with a smartly angled glancing header past Chimenti. The Italian champions responded positively with Maresca twice forcing Mondragon into saves, but the game drifted into scrappy battles in midfield as the Turks sought to keep a firm grip on the lead.

Ten minutes from the end, Berkant missed a great chance to secure victory with a second goal, shooting wide after being put through on goal by Hakan. However Hakan, who failed to impress in spells in Italy with Torino, Inter Milan and Parma, made sure there was no chance of a comeback from Juve, slotting home confidently in injury time after Hasan put him through with a smart pass. —MNA/Reuters



Istanbul's Goektan Berkant, centre, charges through Turin players during the Champions League group D match between Galatasaray Istanbul and Juventus Turin at the Westphalia Stadium in Dortmund, western Germany, on 2 Dec. 2003. —INTERNET

Arsenal and Southampton into League Cup quarterfinals

LONDON, 3 Dec—Arsenal cruised into the quarterfinals of the English League Cup on Tuesday as a virtual reserve team thrashed a full strength Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 at Highbury.

In the night's other fourth round tie Southampton deservedly beat local rivals Portsmouth 2-0 with two goals by England striker James Beattie. Arsenal, who beat Southampton in last season's FA Cup final, advanced with ease in the lesser competition despite resting almost all their first team squad.

French striker Jeremie Aliadiere got the opening goal from the edge of the box in the 24th minute and Nwankwo Kanu, who looked dangerous but wayward all night, finally found the target from close range in the 68th.

Arsenal then turned on the style as Aliadiere curled in his second three minutes later and Sylvain Wiltord weighed in with his first goal since August.

Alex Rae pulled one back for Wolves in the 81st minute with a spectacular finish but Arsenal had the last word as 16-year-old Spanish forward Francesc Fabregas became the club's youngest-ever scorer two minutes from time. There was further good news for manager Arsene Wenger as midfielder Patrick Vieira came through unscathed in

his first full game since he suffered a thigh injury at the end of September.

Portsmouth's first appearance at St. Mary's Stadium — the first south coast derby for almost eight years and only the 30th meeting of the two teams in almost a century of rivalry — proved to be something of a damp squib.

Last season's First Division champions were never really in the game as their more experienced rivals had the edge throughout without creating too many clear chances.

Both teams had been in poor form in the league in recent weeks and that was reflected in a scrappy match.

The opening goal came in the 33rd minute when defender Chris Marsden clipped in a low cross from the left and Beattie darted in to the six-yard box to poke the ball past Pavel Srnicek.

Portsmouth laboured without ever threatening an equalizer but their Dutch defender Arjan de Zeeuw was unfortunate to be sent off for an injury time trip on Beattie that allowed the England man to settle the match from the penalty spot. —MNA/Reuters



Hakan Sukur of Galatasaray Istanbul runs to score his second goal against Juventus Turin's goalkeeper Antonio Chimenti (bottom) and Edgar Davids (L), during their Champions League Group D first phase match at the Westphalia Stadium in Dortmund, Germany, on 2 Dec. 2003. Galatasaray won the match, 2-0. —INTERNET



Ricardo Clark, of the United States, left, and Ioannis Masmanidis, of Germany, challenge for the ball during a Group F match at the World U20 Soccer Championship at the Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi on 2 Dec. 2003. Germany won the game 3-1. —INTERNET

Valencia draw leaves door open for Real and Deportivo

MADRID, 3 Dec—Valencia missed a chance to stretch their lead at the top of the Primera Liga when they were held to a 0-0 draw by a dominant Real Sociedad at the Anoeta on Tuesday. The leaders were in uninspired form against the Basque side who can count themselves unlucky not to have claimed their first win in six outings in a game they dominated from start to finish.

Sociedad, who ran Real so close for the title last season but have struggled so far this term, had two goals disallowed in the first half and enjoyed a host of scoring opportunities in the second, but were unable to clinch the win they deserved. The result leaves Valencia a point clear of Real Madrid, but the champions can regain top spot if they beat city rivals Atletico in Wednesday's Madrid derby.

Third-placed Deportivo Coruna, who are a further point behind Real, could also overhaul Valencia if they win their match away to Valladolid. —MNA/Reuters

Joe Cole banned and fined for West Ham dust-up

LONDON, 3 Dec — Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole was banned for two matches and fined 15,000 pounds (25,780 US dollars) on Tuesday after a fracas as a West Ham United player in April.

Cole was suspended for two games, starting from December 22, and fined 10,000 pounds for improper conduct and using abusive and insulting language to a match official during West Ham's Premier League game at Bolton Wanderers last season.

The 22-year-old, who joined Chelsea in the close season after West Ham were relegated to the First Division, was fined a further 5,000 pounds for improper conduct in a mass confrontation on the pitch, a Football Association spokesman said. Cole, now an England regular, was also warned about his future conduct. —MNA/Reuters

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

Educational goals...*(from page 1)*

the patriots fully equipped with firm nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit, he added.

Success of the education promotion programmes depends on the cooperation of teachers, students and parents and the public. Only when teachers, students and parents cooperate, will the programmes achieve success as expected. Teachers should take a leading part in successful implementation of the programmes.

He continued to say that border areas have their distinct characteristics. As colonialists sowed discord among national brethren living together, there existed suspicion and distrust among them and armed insurgencies broke out. Due to armed conflicts, many lives were lost and education, health, social, economic and transportation sectors legged behind in development. In the time of Tatmadaw government, confidence, understanding and co-operation have been built up between the government and armed groups. Border area development projects have been laid down and implemented and emphasis has been placed on all-round development tasks. He urged the teachers at the border areas to make efforts with goodwill and national outlook for development of the national peoples' knowledge, for strengthening of Union Spirit, for literacy

of all citizens, for educating them the evil consequences of abuse and scourge of narcotic drugs.

He also urged the teachers from other regions to nurture the students to equip them with knowledge, high efficiency, right outlook and thoughts and to enable them to realize and choose their own future. In conclusion, he said in nurturing the youths who will shoulder the duties of the State, the teachers are to adopt the right view, aim high and strive for the better future of the country.

Afterwards, prizes and completion certificates were presented to the trainee teachers. The Secretary-1 presented the best trainee awards to SAT U Chit Ngwe of Homalin BEHS in Sagaing Division and JAT Daw Ei Ni Ni Swe of Linmyint BEPS-116 in Magway Township, Magway Division, the awards for diligence to Schoolhead U Kan Thauang of Myintha BEMS in Homalin Township, Sagaing Division, JAT Daw Khaing Khaing of BEPS-4 in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State and JAT Daw Khin Cho Han of Hkamti Township BEHS in Sagaing Division. He also presented the best hostel awards and completion certificates to trainees.

The trainees then presented K 50,000 for religious, education and social affairs to the Secretary-1 who accepted the donation and presented certificate of honour.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 greeted the trainee teachers.—MNA



Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers an address at the concluding ceremony of the special refresher course No-20 for basic education teachers at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar). — MNA

Dignitaries attending the concluding ceremony of the special refresher course for basic education teachers at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar). — MNA



Significant achievements made in rehabilitation programmes for the disabled due to encouragement of government, cooperation of social organizations and the public

International Day of Disabled Persons observed

YANGON, 3 Dec — The International Day of Disabled Persons was observed at a ceremony held at the International Business Cen-

tre on Pyay Road here this morning, with an address by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

It was also attended by the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs, de-

partmental heads, officials, NGOs, members of the panel of judges, wellwishers and guests.

In his address, the Secre-

tary-2 said the United Nations designated the 3rd of December as the International Day of Disabled Persons. Since then the Union

of Myanmar has been celebrating the International Days of Disabled Persons for 11 years. This shows that Myanmar has actively been participating in the noble functions of the UN for humans, he said.

He said the objectives of the International Day of Disabled Persons — promotion of understanding upon the disabled, implementation of the practical assistance programmes for the disabled and uplifting the standard of life of the disabled based on equal rights — have emerged as good results of social development activities regarding the disabled in Myanmar due to the efforts with national determination under the leadership of the government.

He said the government is systematically implementing (See page 8)



Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein views the performance of children of school for disabled person at a ceremony to mark the International Day for Disabled Persons. — MNA

