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

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Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in progress at Bagan Archaeological Museum. — mna

Much benefits will be achieved through development of transport linkage among nations

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt chairs Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy

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Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand sign Bagan Declaration, agreements

Garovo ca, reverence; this is the way to auspiciousness.
Keep momentum of success of transport sector

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has been fulfilling all the requirements for national economic growth and higher living standard of people with the object of building the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one.

As smooth and easy transportation is the key to developing the national economy and raising the living standard, the Government is building new roads and bridges and upgrading the existing ones. As a result, national people can now travel from one region to another across the Union. Since 1988, more than 2,000 miles of new roads and 163 bridges at least 180 feet long have been constructed.

Formerly, there was only one highway and one railway linking the north and south of the country. But now, there is a network of motor roads and railroads connecting all parts of the Union. Moreover, there are road links between Myanmar and all her neighbours. The smoother and easier the transport sector is, the better the economic and social sectors will become.

The Ministry of Transport is responsible for the water and air transport sectors. In the aviation industry, two new airports including the Mandalay International Airport have been constructed and 21 existing ones upgraded. The extension of Bagan airport is under way and, when it is completed, there will be three international airports in the nation. In the water transport sector, there are Thilawa, Thakayta and Ahlon ports and other industrial ports.

With the improvement in transport infrastructure, Myanmar will one day become a transport hub of the region.

The passengers and freight transport services of the Ministry of Transport are meeting with success and this is due to the correct leadership of the Government and concerted efforts of the staff of various departments under the ministry.

We would like to urge all the service personnel of the Ministry of Transport to work as hard as they can to develop the transport sector and maintain the success they have already achieved by giving priority to safety and providing better service.
WASHINGTON, 12 Nov — The FBI is facing one of the most dangerous, difficult challenges in its history as agents and analysts try to solve a string of deadly bombings in Iraq.

In a telling sign of the peril, FBI agents must be accompanied by US troops whenever they leave their secure compound at the Baghdad airport. Further complicating their job is the lack of a cooperating foreign government to help them and the paucity of high-quality intelligence from either informants or technological surveillance.

“We don’t have the intelligence as of yet to keep events from occurring and, post blast, the intelligence to prove who’s behind them,” FBI counterterrorism chief John Pistole told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

“We are making progress, both forensically and in developing sources. It’s just a much greater challenge than any place we’ve been.”

The FBI is involved in about a dozen bombing investigations in Iraq, focusing on those that involve civilian or government targets rather than attacks directly on US or coalition military forces.

About three dozen FBI personnel are stationed in Baghdad, working primarily to identify and trace explosives used in the bombings. The agents are working with US soldiers, the CIA and Iraq police in trying to track down the perpetrators, Pistole said.

The FBI team also is involved in analysing and translating documents from deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein’s government, interviewing detainees and tracking known fugitives. Agents are fingerprinting 3,400 members of the Mujahedeen Khalq, the Iranian fighters who wanted to overthrow Iran’s theocracy. The Mujahedeen Khalq, considered a terrorist organization by the State Department, was backed by Saddam, but its members captivated to and were disarmed by invading US forces and allowed to stay in Iraq on the promise not to make trouble.

The fingerprints and interviews, Pistole said, “will provide a database for future reference” that could help the FBI solve or prevent terrorist attacks.

The types of weapons used in Iraq, from rocket-propelled grenades to plastic explosives, are being catalogued and traced by the FBI and other US agencies to identify the sources of terrorist arms.

The FBI would not allow interviews of personnel currently or recently stationed in Iraq. — Internet

Indian, Switzerland sign two accords

NEW DELHI, 12 Nov — Heralding a new dimension to their bilateral ties, India and Switzerland Monday signed agreements for cooperation in disaster management and science and technology and decided to explore prospects for diversifying bilateral cooperation in economic and other sectors.

During talks with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, visiting Swiss President Pascal Couchepin said his country was keen to have “brain exchange” programmes with India.

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The FBI would not allow interviews of personnel currently or recently stationed in Iraq. — Internet

At least three blasts heard in Baghdad, say witnesses

BAGHDAD, 12 Nov — At least three explosions echoed across the Iraqi capital Baghdad Tuesday night, although the location of the blasts was not immediately clear. Reuters reporters said.

The explosions, which sounded like mortar fire, follow a trend of mortar attacks on the US-led administration’s sprawling headquarters in central Baghdad in the past 10 days.

Those recent attacks have wounded several people but not killed anyone or caused much damage.

A US army spokesman said he had no concrete details.

“Terror in a series,” said the spokesman, based inside the administration’s compound on the West side of the Tigris River.

The mortar attacks have underscored the growing boldness of guerrillas confronting US-led occupation forces in Iraq, more than six months after President Bush declared major combat over on May 1. — Reuters

US soldiers remove the body of an Iraqi man killed during clashes in Latifiyah south of Baghdad. — Reuters

Grief over Iraq deaths marks Veterans Day

BOSTON, 12 Nov — As the country honoured its veterans in ceremonies nationwide on Tuesday, citizens expressed their grief over recent soldier deaths and their concerns about the country’s military engagements.

“The two accords were inked in the presence of the two leaders after they held wide-ranging discussions on a host of important bilateral, regional and international issues. The agreement on cooperation in science and technology will help the two sides combine their strength in research for mutually beneficial spin-offs and enable them to explore new avenues of cooperation in bio-technology, life sciences, Genome research and environmental technologies where the Swiss have made considerable advances.

Under the accord on disaster management, detailed agreements for cooperation in disaster management and science and technology and decided to explore prospects for diversifying bilateral cooperation in economic and other sectors.

US soldiers remove the body of an Iraqi man killed during clashes in Latifiyah south of Baghdad. — Reuters

South Korean models pose with Hyundai’s Equus during an unveiling ceremony at Hilton hotel in Seoul, on Wednesday, 12 Nov, 2003. The price of the new limousine VL 450 car equipped with 4,498 CC engine is US$ 72,410 (84 million won) and GS 300 car equipped with 2,972 CC engine is US$ 34,100 (40 million won). — Internet

Indian navy arrives for first-ever India-China naval exercise

SHANGHAI, 12 Nov — The scheduled first-ever joint naval exercise between India and China this week will go a long way in enhancing mutual trust and confidence between the militaries of the two Asian giants and lead to stronger bilateral ties, a senior Indian Navy officer said here Monday.

“Tension in the region will be reduced if two militaries resolve their differences through dialogue and cooperation. The exercise will help in this direction,” Flag Officer Commanding (FOC-in-C) of the Eastern Command, Vice-Admiral OP Bansal told reporters here. Speaking on board INS Ranjit, a guided missile destroyer leading the fleet of five Indian Navy ships on a five-day goodwill visit to China, Bansal said the scheduled ‘search and rescue’ exercise on November 14 would open a new chapter in bilateral ties and would allow Indian and Chinese navies to cooperate more on issues affecting the maritime safety of the two countries as well as the region. — MNA/PTI

“UNESCO report fails to project India’s progress”

NEW DELHI, 12 Nov — In a diatribe Monday contested the UNESCO projection that it would not be able to achieve the goal of Education for All (EFA) before the 2015 deadline as the body’s chief admitted that its projection was based on statistics for the Year 2000.

Addressing the Third High Level Group Meeting on Education for All, Human Resource Development Minister Murli Manohar Joshi said UNESCO’s monitoring report had not been able to capture the progress made by India despite relevant data furnished to it by the government.

Joshi said the UNESCO Institute of Statistics had placed India among the countries with growing population of illiterates whereas India had achieved a fall in the absolute number of illiterates during 1991-2001. — MNA/PTI

Internet
CIA says Iraq security to get worse

WASHINGTON, 12 Nov — A recent CIA assessment of Iraq warns the security situation will worsen across the country, not just in Baghdad but in the north and south as well, a senior administration source told CNN Tuesday.

The report is a much more dire and ominous assessment of the situation than has previously been forwarded through official channels, this source said. It was sent to Washington Monday by the CIA station chief in Iraq. It was not immediately clear if the assessment was what prompted the hastily arranged trip to Washington by Iraq civilian administrator L Paul Bremer, who met Tuesday at the White House with President Bush and senior national security officials.

The report was discussed during the high-level session.

The senior administration source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Bremer agreed with the CIA assessment and added his personal comments to the station chief’s memo. In his Veterans Day speech Tuesday, Bush referred to “recent reporting” of cooperation between Saddam loyalists and terrorist elements from outside Iraq.

“Saddam loyalists and foreign terrorists may have different long-term goals, but they share a near-term strategy: to terrorize Iraqis and to intimidate America and our allies,” Bush told the conservative Heritage Foundation.

“In the last few months, the administration has changed its composition and method, and our coalition is adapting accordingly.” Another senior administration official said those points in the speech were based on a US intelligence report about the security situation.

A third US official said the intelligence report was from the CIA and that it highlights what the official conceded are several “major ongoing security issues.”

That official refused to characterize the report in further detail. But the senior administration source who did discuss the report said it essentially says things “are gonna get worse” across Iraq.

The source said the memo notes that: “More Iraqis are flooding to the ranks of the guerrillas.” Many of these Iraqis are Sunni who had previously been “on the sidelines,” but now believe they can “inflame badly harm” on the Americans.

Ammunition is “readily available,” making it much easier to mount attacks. The assessment also notes that organization and coordination are getting “tighter” among foreign insurgents — “extremists including but not limited to al Qaeda and Hizbollah” and those “displaced people” who lost power.

US admits troops shot Iraqi mayor

BAGHDAD, 12 Nov — The US military has confirmed that one of its soldiers shot dead the mayor of a highly volatile Baghdad district.

Mohammed Gazi al-Kaabi, who was appointed by the US authorities to run the largely Shia Muslim area of Sadit City in Baghdad, died on Sunday.

He was shot during an altercation with US troops at the local council’s compound. US Central Command says it is still investigating the incident in the area where US-Iraqi tensions are high.

It appears that the American soldiers stopped the mayor from driving into the Sadit City council compound, in line with rules to prevent car bombings. The mayor took exception and began to fight with one of the guards. Another soldier fired warning shots and finally shot the mayor in the upper leg. He bled to death.

Relatives buried the mayor on Monday, though without the numbers of mourners that might be expected at the funeral of a popular local leader.

The BBC’s Peter Greste, in Baghdad, says al-Kaabi was seen as a collaborator rather than a local representative after his appointment by the Americans. He adds that there is considerable friction in Sadit City between Iraqis and Americans, and this incident will do nothing to improve relations. — Internet

Blast in Basra kills at least three Iraqis

BASRA (IRAQ), 12 Nov — A bomb planted on a road in the southern Iraqi city of Basra tore a minibus apart on Tuesday, killing at least three Iraqis and scattering body parts across the road.

Police at the scene said three people inside the minibus were killed in the blast. They initially thought four had been killed due to the large number of dismembered body parts at the scene. Police said no British troops, who are in charge of policing Basra, were in the area at the time of the blast.

Malaysian rhino deaths may hit breeding programme

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 Nov — Three Malaysian rhinos have died in captivity since late October, two of them in the last couple of days, dealing a potential blow to efforts to breed the endangered animals in captivity, newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The English-language New Straits Times said the deaths of a male and a female rhino on Sunday and Monday at the Sungai Dusun Sumatran Rhino Conservation Centre in Hulu Selangor north of Kuala Lumpur had left the centre with just two females.

Five animals have died in the past two years according to The Star daily, which quoted Malaysian Rhino Foundation Chairman Mohd Khan Momin Khan as saying the two latest animals to die developed breathing problems over the weekend, and died suddenly.

It quoted an unidentified vet as saying post mortems on the rhinos revealed lesions and bleeding in their intestines and lungs due to bacterial infection.

India, Russia working on sophisticated combat aircraft

MOSCOW, 12 Nov — Disclosing that India and Russia have begun development of a sophisticated combat aircraft, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said that the defense co-operation between the two countries was of long-term and mutually beneficial character.

Asserting that Indo-Russian defence and military cooperation was “stable and rapidly” developing, Vajpayee said the two countries have started work on a 5th generation combat plane.

Two state-of-the-art fighters built in Russia have already joined the Indian national air force and are on sale, and the country will buy them in large numbers, Vajpayee said in New Delhi on the eve of his departure on a three-day official visit to Moscow.

Russia has delivered the modern T-90 tanks to the Indian army as part of the defence co-operation between the two countries in the mutually beneficial area of defence.

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

A US soldier with machine gun after an attack on a US convoy, in Fallujah, Iraq, on Monday, 10 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

Iraqi men walk past the site of a bomb blast outside a Baghdad courthouse on 11 November, 2003. INTERNET

British soldiers examine the scene where an explosion on a road used by British troops killed at least six civilians in the centre of Basra, southern Iraq, on Tuesday, 11 Nov, 2003. Apparently a remote controlled explosive device exploded, when two cars passed by, a witness said. INTERNET

US Army soldiers move in to secure the centre of Baghdad, on Tuesday, 11 Nov, 2003. An explosion occurred Tuesday afternoon as US soldiers were escorting 16 Iraqi prisoners from jail to the appellate court in the Waziriya district of northern Baghdad. Two Iraqi policemen and two prisoners were injured, police Sgt Ali Manhal said. —INTERNET

An Iraqi infant is fed at the al-Alawiyah hospital in Baghdad where many children are suffering from malnutrition since the US-led intervention of Iraq. Medact warned that Iraq is facing a ‘considerable’ disruption of its health care system as a result of the US-led invasion. INTERNET

US Army soldiers secure the Iraqi Museum in Baghdad, on Tuesday, 11 Nov, 2003. Several hundred ancient artifacts stolen from the Iraqi Museum during the wave of looting that hit Baghdad after the fall of Saddam Hussein’s regime have been returned to the museum, officials said Tuesday. INTERNET
Bomb at Italian base in Iraq kills at least 24

NASSIRIYAH, 12 Nov—A car bomb ripped through an Italian military police base in the Iraqi town of Nassiriya on Wednesday, killing at least 16 Italians and eight Iraqis in what appeared to be a fresh suicide attack.

The attack came as President Bush and Iraq’s US governor Paul Bremer discussed ways to speed the handover of power to the Iraqis in a second day of talks in Washington.

The blast tore off the front of the concrete building used by the Carabinieri on the Euphrates riverfront, set cars on fire and sent a plume of black smoke into the air.

“A truck crashed into the entrance of the military police unit, closely followed by a car which detonated,” a spokeswoman for the British-led multinational force in southern Iraq said.

Officials in Rome said the Italian deaths were believed to be 11 military police, four army soldiers and one Italian civilian. Khandar al-Hazbar, director of Nassiriya General Hospital, told Reuters at least eight Iraqis were killed and more than 80 wounded.

One of the wounded was a one-year-old child who had lost his eyes and nose. “He will die for sure,” Hazbar said.

Italian Defense Minister Antonio Maria said fighters loyal to Saddam Hussein were behind the attack.

“Evidence on the ground and intelligence reports lead us to believe that today’s attack was planned and carried out by remnants loyal to Saddam...united with Arab extremists,” Marino said.

India, Nepali Customs officials to meet in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 12 Nov—High-level Customs officials from Nepal and India will meet on November 26-28, Kathmandu to discuss Customs procedures and bilateral trade issues.

“The three-day long meeting will focus on simplifying existing Customs procedures, discuss ways about curbing unauthorized trade and boosting bilateral trade between the two neighbours,” The Himalayan Times newspaper on Tuesday quoted Krishna Hari Baskota, director-general of the Nepal Customs Department, as saying.

It will be a regular meeting to discuss Customs procedures and hurdles seen in its implementation and chalk out pragmatic systems of all ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries.

China to unify organic food standards

BEIJING, 12 Nov—China is trying to set a unified organic food standard to improve the authentication of such products.

A Press release from the Ministry of Agriculture, said China is trying to set a unified organic food standard to improve the authentication of such products.

A veteran of the Vietnam war carries a sign protest- ing the war in Iraq as he marches up 5th Avenue during the 2003 Veterans Day parade in New York City, on 11 November, 2003.

Bangkok, 12 Nov — After a long delay, Thailand’s state-run Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) inked a power purchase agreement with Laos’ Nam Theun II Power Co to buy 959 megawatts from the planning giant power project over 25 years, the Businessday website reported Tuesday.

Under the deal, starting in 2009, Egat will pay 1.64 baht (0.04 US dollar) a kilowatt-hour for the output of the Nam Theun II project, which has a capacity of 1,070 megawatts and can deliver 5,636 million units of electricity to Egat annually.

Egat Governor Sithiporn Rattanopas was quoted as saying that the purchase of power from Nam Theun II, the biggest power project in Indochina region, is outstanding as it will enhance the progress of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Power Grid and further reinforce the power systems of all ASEAN member countries.

He added the project will also benefit both countries substantially. For Thailand, the power from this environment-friendly clean project will be delivered at a reasonable price and will help to boost the power supply to the northeastern region, where the demand for elec- tricity rises continually.

Meanwhile, the purchase will contribute 236 million US dollars a year to Laos. The signing was originally sched- uled for July 18, but Electricite de France, the major share- holder with a 35-per-cent stake, abruptly announced it was pulling out. After intense negotiations between Laos and France, the French utility ultimately agreed to stay on.

SAARC members agree to liberalize visa for media

NEW DELHI, 12 Nov — SAARC member-countries Tuesday agreed to liberalize visa norms for enabling free movement of media personnel in the region as Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee cautioned the grouping that it would “miss the boat” if it failed to organize itself, giving way for other alignments to seize economic opportunities.

At the conclusion of the day-long SAARC Informa- tion Ministers’ Conference, representatives from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives decided to set up a regional information centre in Nepal and train media per- sons in India.

However, the issue of adopting model trans- national guidelines for broadcasting suggested by India was again put on the backburner after member- countries, except Bhutan, failed to provide their com- ments and Pakistan and Bangladesh asked for more time to study the proposals.

In an obvious wake-up call to Pakistan, Vajpayee warned that “if SAARC cannot organize itself, it will simply miss the boat.”

A US soldier watches a compound housing the US-led coalition in Baghdad has come under rocket fire.
YANGON, 12 Nov — The opening ceremony of Myanmar-China (Yunnan) Exhibition on Trade, Investment & Economic-Technological Cooperation jointly organized by the Union of Myanmar and People’s Republic of China (Yunnan) was held at Yangon Trade Centre in Pazundaung Town this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Rail Transport Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, deputy ministers, departmental heads, Secretary of the Yunnan Province Communist Party of PRC Mr Bai Enpei and officials, the Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar and ambassadors of foreign missions in Myanmar, entrepreneurs from Yunnan Province, officials of Myanmar-China Merchants Association and guests.

Secretary Mr Bai Enpei and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe spoke on the occasion and exchanged commemorative gifts.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Secretary Mr Bai Enpei, Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and Consultant of the People’s Government of Yunnan Province Mr Yang Yingnan formally opened the exhibition.

Next, the ministers and those present viewed round the exhibition.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe addresses the opening of Myanmar-China (Yunnan) Exhibition on Investment and Economic-Technological Cooperation. — MNA

YANGON, 12 Nov — The Anti-AIDS Exhibition concluded today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here. Students and people visited the final day of the exhibition. — MNA

Visitors at the Anti-AIDS Exhibition on 12-11-2003. — MNA

YANGON, 12 Nov — Secretary of Yunnan Province Communist Party visits Hlinethaya Industrial City

YANGON, 12 Nov — Secretary of Yunnan Province Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China Mr Bai Enpei, who is currently here to attend the Myanmar-China (Yunnan) Exhibition on Trade, Investment and Economic-Technological Cooperation, and officials visited Hlinethaya Industrial City this evening.

Deputy Director of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Tun Lin extended greetings to the guests and explained the facts about the industrial city and industrial zones in Yangon Division with audio-visual aids.

The guests visited Fame Pharmaceuticals Factory where factory manager U Tin Maung Aye explained on production of medicines. They went to Excellence Mineral Manufacturing Co Ltd where officials concerned reported on casting of mineral in the factory. — MNA

Seminar on Yunnan, Myanmar Trade & Investment Coop held

YANGON, 12 Nov — Seminar on Trade & Investment Cooperation between Yunnan, China, and Myanmar was held at the Traders Hotel here this afternoon.

At the seminar, Myanmar and Yunnan Province entrepreneurs discussed matters on economic and trade cooperation. It was attended by Director-General of the Border Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce U Nay Win, General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sein Win Hlaing, officials of the ministries, entrepreneurs from Yunnan Province and officials of the Embassy of China.

Publications donated to IPRD libraries

YANGON, 12 Nov — Wellwishers donated publications to the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information at a ceremony held at the IPRD meeting hall on Pansodan Street here this afternoon.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, the wellwishers presented 28,903 different kinds of books worth K 3,760,075 to the deputy minister, who presented certificates of honour to them and expressed words of thanks. — MNA

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding non-peaceful policies
* 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

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Much benefits will be…

Meeting on the Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand for approval. He reported on Myanmar’s geographical strategic position in transport.

In the discussions on future tasks of economic cooperation among the four countries, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said he was very glad to host the first Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Bagan, the city of the first Myanmar Empire and the site of Myanmar’s cultural heritage, was chosen for the summit meeting. The Bagan Declaration and future tasks to be released after the meeting will further strengthen cooperation among the people of the four countries, he said. He confirmed that Myanmar will implement the objectives and goals of economic cooperation strategy.

He said Myanmar proposed that Mandalay and Luang Prabang, Yangon and Bangkok, Mandalay and Chiang Mai, Myawady and Mae Sot and Tachilek and Maesai be designated as Sister Cities. Myanmar supported establishment of industries in border regions and it would carry out the tasks for gaining trade and investment opportunities. In Myanmar there are better prospects in agricultural, fishery resources development sectors. He said Myanmar wished to undertake cooperation in hydro-electric power resources, much benefits will be achieved through the development of transport linkage among the nations.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that it is heartening to know that all the four nations vowed to promote economic cooperation, adding that the frank and cordial discussions much benefit the nations, which yield a lot of good ideas. It is important to translate the agreements into action, he noted.

The Thai, Cambodian and Laos prime ministers gave supplementary discussions about implementation of agreements on promotion of cooperation for development of the four nations as soon as possible, and bridging the development gap among the countries.

Next, the Myanmar Prime Minister submitted the Bagan Declaration and Future Tasks, and the four prime ministers unanimously approved them. The meeting approved of holding of summits every two years and ministerial meetings and the meetings of high-ranking officials annually.

The Myanmar Prime Minister delivered concluding remarks.

Before the summit, the four prime ministers, together with Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers and the deputy ministers and officials of the nations, enjoyed a panoramic view of Bagan Archaeological Zone from the Bagan Archaeological Museum.

Prime Ministers of Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand enjoy the scenic beauty of Bagan from the Bagan Archaeological Museum. — MNA

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand sign…

Next, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister of Energy of Thailand Mr Prommin Lertsuridej, on behalf of the Government of Thailand, signed the Endorsement Documents of Production Sharing Contracts for the Exploration and Production of Petroleum between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEP International Ltd of Thailand for Mortama Offshore Blocks M-7 and M-9.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, and Minister Mr Prommin Lertsuridej, on behalf of the Government of Thailand, signed the Memorandum of Understanding between MOGE and PTT Public Company Ltd of Thailand on Yetaguon Gas Utilization Project.

Later, Secretary of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and Governor Mrs Anchalee Chavanich of Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand signed the agreed minutes between Myanmar Industrial Development Committee and the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand on the Development of Industrial Estates/Special Economic Zones in Cambodia.

The Joint Statement between the Government of LPDR and the Government of Myanmar on Energy Cooperation Strategy was signed by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Bounkeut Sangsomvong of LPDR and Dr Sorajak Kasemsvan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand.

After the signing ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented Yan Soonouk (lacquerware bowls) to Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of LPDR Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen. — MNA

DON’T SMOKE
Bagan declaration expresses...

(From page 16)

**DESIRING** to achieve prosperity in the region, through enhanced solidarity, mutual respect, close friendship, good neighbourhood and active cooperation among the four nations, to fully harness our enormous economic potential to promote spontaneous and sustainable economic development, and to uplift the welfare and quality of life of our citizens.

**CONSCIOUS** of the need to explore further ways and means by which our peoples could achieve greater economic growth, establish social and cultural ties and people to people contacts;

**ENVISIONING** to transform the border areas of the four countries into zones of durable peace, stability and economic growth, to promote social progress and prosperity of our peoples and to blend local, national and regional interests for common benefit and shared prosperity;

**CONVINCED** that the Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) will act as a catalyst to promote regional cooperation programmes, especially in the context of ASEAN Economic Community and to complement ongoing bilateral frameworks;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the principles enshrined in the Bangkok ASEAN Declaration of 1967 and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

1. The main objectives of the ECS are:
   - To increase competitiveness and generate greater growth along the borders;
   - To facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantage;
   - To create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries;
   - To enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner.

2. The ECS activities shall be:
   - Complementary to and enhance the existing bilateral and regional economic cooperation;
   - Deliverable with tangible results, utilizing comparative advantage of each country;
   - Feasible and be acceptable to the countries concerned;
   - Undertaken on the basis of voluntary and equitable sharing of benefits;
   - Undertaken on the basis of consensus between the partners concerned.

3. The areas of cooperation of the ECS shall include:
   - Trade and Investment Facilitation;
   - Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation;
   - Environment, Education and Training;
   - Tourism Cooperation;
   - To strengthen and enhance cooperation efforts in agriculture and industry by establishing and improving infrastructure facilities, joint production, marketing and purchasing arrangements, research and development and exchange of information.
   - Transport linkages;
   - To establish, to facilitate trade, investment, agriculture and industrial production and tourism.
   - Tourism Cooperation;
   - To promote a joint strategy for tourism cooperation among the countries concerned;
   - To facilitate tourism among the four countries and from the other regions.
   - Human Resources Development;
   - To enhance capacity building of people and institutions;
   - To initiate measures to develop a HRD strategy that is regionally competitive.

DO HEREBY AGREE:

1. To task the Ministers to implement the attached Plan of Action and the Common and Bilateral Projects, in an efficient and expedient manner:
2. To encourage the private sector to fully participate in the implementation process in order to ensure the success of the ECS objectives.
3. To mobilize the provision of grant aid or soft loans in order to maximize investments in border areas.
4. To convene Summit Meeting of the Heads of Government biennially, and Meetings for the Ministers and the Senior Officials annually, to expedite the implementation of the ECS.
5. To call this agreement “Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy” or ACMECS.

Myanmar-Korea soccer on 16, 18 November

Yangon, 12 Nov.—The invitational football friendly matches between the selected Myanmar football team to the XXII SEA Games and Ulsan University football team of the Republic of Korea will be held at 3.30 pm on 16 and 18 November at the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna). Admission fees are K 1,000 (grandstand) and K 500 (ordinary) per head. —MNA

Four countries envision...

(From page 16)

4. We expressed our desire to achieve prosperity in the region, through enhanced solidarity, mutual respect, close friendship, good neighbourhood and active cooperation among the four nations, to fully harness our enormous economic potential to promote sustainable economic development, and to uplift the welfare and quality of life of our citizens.

5. We envisioned transforming the border areas of our four countries into zones of durable peace, stability and economic growth, to promote social progress and prosperity of our peoples and to blend national and regional interests for common benefit and shared prosperity.

   - The main objectives of the ECS are:
     - To increase competitiveness and generate greater growth along the borders;
     - To facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantage;
     - To create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries;
     - To enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner.

7. The ECS activities shall be:
   - Complementary to and enhance the existing bilateral and regional economic cooperation;
   - Deliverable with tangible results, utilizing comparative advantage of each country;
   - Feasible and be acceptable to the countries concerned;
   - Undertaken on the basis of voluntary and equitable sharing of benefits;
   - Undertaken on the basis of consensus between the partners concerned.

8. We decided that the areas of cooperation of the ECS would include trade and investment facilitation, agricultural and industrial cooperation, transport linkages, tourism cooperation and human resources development.

9. We agreed to task the Ministers to implement the Plan of Action and the common and bilateral projects, in an efficient and expedient manner and at the same time, to encourage the private sector to fully participate in the implementation process in order to ensure the success of the ECS objectives.

10. We also agreed to convene Summit Meeting of the Heads of Government biennially and for the Ministers and the senior officials to meet annually, to expedite the implementation of the ECS. Myanmar will host the next ECS SOM and Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in 2004 and a working group will be set up to consider a comprehensive biennial work programme.

11. We agreed to call the agreement “Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy” or ACMECS.

12. After the Summit Meeting, two energy related contracts between Myanmar and Thailand were endorsed in Bagan on 12 November 2003. On the same occasion, two energy related joint statements, one between Cambodia and Thailand and the other between Laos and Thailand, were signed. The occasion took place in the presence of the four Prime Ministers.

13. A discussion among Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand to conduct a feasibility study on setting up of industrial estate zones in Myanmar and Cambodia was held in Yangon on 10 November 2003 and two Agreement Minutes one between Cambodia and Thailand and the other between Myanmar and Thailand were signed.

14. In conjunction with the Summit, Business Forum of the four countries was also held in Yangon on 9 November 2003.—MNA
**General Khin Nyunt...**

(from page 16) the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior officials, Prime Minister of LPDR Mr Boungnang Vorachith, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior officials and Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Deputy Prime Minister Mr Somkid Jatusripitak, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior officials, the Myanmar Ambassadors to Cambodia, LPDR and Thailand, the Ambassadors of Cambodia, LPDR and Thailand to Myanmar, and entrepreneurs from the four countries attended the dinner.

Before and during the dinner, Gold Medallist Entrepreneurs from the four countries attended the dinner.

**Li-Gen Ye Myint visits Mandalay Industrial Zone**

YANGON, 12 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Commander Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officials, visited the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction site on 10 November morning.

At the briefing hall on Mandalay Bank, they heard reports on construction tasks by Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Hay Myint of Public Works. After inspecting the construction tasks, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left for the site on Sagaing Bank where Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Hsan Win reported on completion of construction tasks and future tasks. Chief Engineer (Upper Myanmar) U Maung Maung presented a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Padatha Kyaw lathe and blacksmith of U Kyaw Win-Daw Thein Thein on Mekkhaya Road in Mandalay Industrial Zone-2. They inspected production of Royal car and Beauty car. Entrepreneur U Kyaw Win conducted them round the place. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Chantha candle producing work of U Than Swe at the corner of 51st Street and Mekkhaya Street. U Than Swe conducted them around the place and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Mann wicker-works factory of U Sai Khin Aung on 62nd Street in Industrial Zone-1, Sanpya Industrial Myottih. Producer Manager Daw Nwe Ni Kyaw Win conducted them around there and explained the salient points. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Hi-Tech finished wood factory on Panchan Street and inspected the production process.

**NCC Work Committee meets**

YANGON, 12 Nov. The National Convention Convening Work Committee held its meeting at Kyiakkasen Ground this morning. Present were Chairman of the NCCWC Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Than Swe, Joint Secretary 1 U Khin Maung Myint, Joint Secretary 2 Dr Thaung Myint and members. Chairman of the NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe delivered an address. Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt reported on matters to be implemented by the Work Committee, functions and matters on distribution of duties assigned to members of the Work Committee.

The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by Chairman U Aung Toe.

**Development tasks inspected**

YANGON, 12 Nov — Director-General Col Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs inspected construction of Minywa-Kyaungsu bridge in Thanlwin Township, Bago Division, this morning. The bridge that links Minywa and Kyaungsu villages will be 250-foot long and 14-foot wide.

Deputy Directors-General of the DAD U Ohn Nyunt and Thura U Soe Aung attended meetings on development tasks in Bago and Yangon Divisions on 10 November morning.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

The Government is making concerted efforts for the emergence of more hospitals equipped with modern facilities and specialists. The photo shows Shan State General Hospital (200-bed) in Kengtung, Shan State (East).

PHOTO: MNA

The 2330 feet long Shweli Bridge linking Katha Township in Sagaing Division and Mabein Township in Shan State (North) was opened on 9 March 2003.

PHOTO: MNA

The strength of intellectuals and intelligentsia plays a key role in building the nation to be on a par with nations of the world. With this end in view, new universities and colleges have been built to produce more intellectuals and intelligentsia. The photo shows the Government Technological College in Panglong, Shan State.

PHOTO: MNA
EU to raise safety standards for breakfast cereals

BRUSSELS, 12 Nov — The European Commission launched proposals on Monday to raise food safety standards for nutrient enriched foods such as breakfast cereals containing extra iron aimed at young children and calcium-rich soft drinks.

There are no EU-wide rules setting out how many vitamins and minerals can be added to enriched food and dairy products, increasingly popular among health-conscious consumers seeking to limit calorie intake but still get nutrients needed.

“People choosing to add nutrients to their diet by selecting foods fortified with vitamins and minerals should be guaranteed safe products,” said EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Jean-Francois Cappelletti.

“The products should be labelled with clear and accurate information to avoid any risk of taking a vitamin overdose.”

The proposal would create a list of vitamins and minerals which could be added to food if backed up by science.

Baby food and diet foods would not be covered by the rules.

National rules, which make it obligatory for producers to say food was produced on public health grounds such as adding iodine to salt to prevent women from giving birth to mentally disabled babies, would also be excluded from the legislation.

The EU’s food safety authority would also carry out safety checks on the addition of herbal extracts to food.

The EU’s food and drink industry group (CIAA) welcomed the Commission’s proposal.

“(It) should encourage research and development efforts in the food and drink industry to enable it to better respond to evolving lifestyles,” said CIAA President Jean-Yves Bernard.

Member states will discuss the draft rules next year which also have to be approved by the European Parliament. The European Commission hopes to have the bill adopted by 2005.

MNA/Reuters

Weight Watchers, the high-fat Atkins diet, the extremely low-fat Ornish diet and the high-protein, moderate-carbohydrate Zone diet all help people lose weight and all reduce cholesterol, but in different ways, the researchers said.

On average, participants in the study reduced their heart disease risk by 5 per cent to 15 per cent,” Dr Michael Dansinger of Tufts University in Boston told a meeting of the American Heart Association.

“Instead of saying there is one clear winner here, we are saying they are all winners.” And, as might be expected, the closer dieters followed the plans, the more weight they lost.

Those who stuck it out for a full year lost, on average, 5 per cent of their body weight — or about 10 to 12 pounds.

While the dieters reduced heart disease “risk factors” such as cholesterol levels, overall blood pressure did not drop much and the study did not last long enough to see if this translated into a lower long-term risk of heart disease.

Instead, the researchers used statistics that show losing cholesterol by a certain amount, for instance, reduces the risk of heart disease overall, Dr. Roberts Eckel of the University of Colorado, who heads the Heart Association’s nutrition committee, said.

The message is clear — you lose weight however you can to reduce your risk of heart disease.

“I think weight reduction trumps a lot of other stuff,” Eckel said.

For the study Dansinger and colleagues chose 160 overweight people and randomly assigned 40 to each of four different diets. They weighed an average 220 pounds (109 kilograms) and needed to lose between 30 and 80 pounds.

All agreed to follow the diets to the best of their ability for two months, although none were enrolled in the full programmes that Weight Watchers and Dr. Dean Ornish advocate. They include exercise, group meetings and food diaries for Weight Watchers and stress reduction for the Ornish diet.

MNA/Reuters

Don’t smoke
**China willing to enhance cooperation in anti-terrorism fight**

**BEIJING, 12 Nov.—** China always supports and actively participates in international anti-terrorism cooperation, and is willing to work with all parties to promote the international anti-terrorism fight, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said here Tuesday.

Liu said at a regular Press conference that China’s persistent stand is to firmly oppose all forms of terrorism.

China holds that the anti-terrorism fight should be based on the UN Charter and international laws.

"We should not relate terrorism to a particular country, ethnic group or religion," Liu said.

Countries should make efforts to promote multilateralism and combat terrorism under the leadership of the United Nations and the UN Security Council, Liu noted.

Countries should also find a solution to regional conflicts, eliminating the roots of terrorism at the same time, Liu added.

The spokesperson said that China has already established dialogue mechanism of various forms in the anti-terrorism fight in a dozen of countries, and China hopes to enhance cooperation with all parties in anti-terrorism.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Chinese Navy ready to step up Sino-Indian bilateral ties**

**SHANGHAI, 12 Nov.—** The Chinese Navy is ready to step up contacts with their Indian counterpart to increase mutual trust and confidence as well as safeguard the vital maritime interests of the two nations, a top official has said.

Welcoming a high-level visit by Indian Navy to China, the commander of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) eastern sea fleet, Vice-Admiral Zhao Guojun said the friendly port call by the Indian Naval ships to Shanghai would enhance mutual trust and cooperation between the armed forces and contribute to the further development of bilateral ties between the two neighbouring nations.

Briefing the flag officer commanding of the eastern command, Vice-Admiral O P Bhasin on the role of the eastern sea fleet of the plan, Zhao here last night said the Indian warships under his command had to play a crucial role to safeguard China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, especially with the ‘Taiwan issue’ remaining unresolved.

Stressing that the Chinese Defence Forces were pursuing a policy of “active defence”, Zhao said he was looking forward to enhance its cooperation with the Indian Defence Forces in future and the first-ever joint search and operations manoeuvres scheduled for November 14 would promote greater understanding.

For Singapore, maritime security is a matter of very high priority given that we are an island with a heavy dependence on shipping and maritime trade for our prosperity," Teo said at the opening ceremony for the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference, or IMDEX ASIA 2003.

Two hundred shipping firms and a dozen of countries, and China hopes to enhance cooperation with all parties in anti-terrorism.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Portugal orders toxic US ships out**

**Lisbon, 12 Nov.—** Portugal on Tuesday ordered two toxic US ships heading for Britain out of its waters off the mid-Atlantic Azores islands, the Navy said.

The contaminated former Navy ships are being towed to northern England where they were to be broken up. Plans for the ships and others like them to be dismantled in Britain have sparked outrage among environmentalists.

The Navy said the two ships, the Canopus and Compass Island, entered Azores waters Tuesday between the islands of Sao Miguel and Santa Maria, about 900 miles west of the Portuguese mainland.

The tug towing them, the St. Vincente-flagged Sable Cable, had told authorities it would anchor outside Portugal’s waters, the Navy said in a statement.

“These plans were not carried out by the tug, which today entered Portuguese territorial waters,” the statement said.

A Navy corvette then ordered the tug and the ships away and monitored their departure.

The Canopus, a navigation instrument ship, and the Compass Island, a submarine tender, are part of a fleet of four contaminated ships that have headed for Britain to be broken up.— **MNA/Reuters**

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**Survey shows most Ugandans become poorer though eco grows**

**KAMPALA, 12 Nov.—** Most Ugandans are becoming poorer though the economy is growing, a national survey shows.

Local daily The New Vision Tuesday quoted the Uganda National Household Survey 2003 as saying that the proportion of Ugandans living below the absolute poverty line has risen from 34 per cent in 1999 to 38 per cent presently.

9.8 million Ugandans are in this category, the survey said.

The report of the survey released by the Uganda National Bureau of Statistics said the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. In towns and villages alike, a minority has become richer while the majority have become poorer during the last three years.— **MNA/Xinhua**

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**Singapore calls for int’l cooperation on maritime security**

**SINGAPORE, 12 Nov.—** Singapore Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean here on Tuesday called for international cooperation in safeguarding maritime security.

“For Singapore, maritime security is a matter of very high priority given that we are an island with a heavy dependence on shipping and maritime trade for our prosperity,” Teo said at the opening ceremony for the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference, or IMDEX ASIA 2003.

Two hundred shipping lines run through Singapore to link more than 600 ports in 123 countries around the globe, said the Defence Minister. This year’s IMDEX is held against the backdrop of a fundamentally different security environment compared to the last exhibition here in May 2001, said Teo.

“Singapore has taken a range of measures to enhance security in our ports and waters,” said the minister.

However, no state can hope to be completely effective in dealing with the threat on its own, he stressed.

“The terrorism threat today is a trans-national one that knows no boundaries. Indeed, terrorists exploit the jurisdictional and enforcement weaknesses that exist when boundaries meet, especially so in the maritime environment,” he noted.

“Countries and multilateral agencies all over the world have begun to focus on the need to enhance maritime security. But a great deal more needs to be done by countries working on their own, and working together,” he concluded.

IMDEX ASIA 2003, to run until Friday, has attracted 42 official delegations from 30 countries. Over 200 exhibitors are showcasing their state-of-the-art maritime defence equipment and systems at the event.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Venezuelan troops seize 3.5 tons of cocaine**

**CARACAS, 12 Nov.—** Venezuelan troops seized 3.5 tons of cocaine near the nation’s isolated eastern Caribbean coast, where traffickers often smuggling marijuana, cocaine and fishing vessels, officials said on Monday.

National Guard troops raid three homes late Sunday night in Cumana, capital of Sucre State, where they captured the drugs and a small cache of handguns. Two Venezuelans were arrested in the operation, officials said.

They conducted three house raids where they captured about 3.5 tons of presumed cocaine. They also seized 12 hand guns and a revolver.

Colonel Wildman Rivol told Reuters by telephone: "Venezuela, the world’s No. Sea exporter, has become a transit route for cocaine and heroin from neighbouring Colombia to the US and Europe. Officials estimate at least 100 tons of cocaine is transported through Venezuela each year."— **MNA/Reuters**

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**The New Light of Myanmar**

**Thursday, 13 November, 2003**

**Portugal orders toxic US ships out**

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**MNA/PTI**

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**MNA/APTI**

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**MNA/Reuters**

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Wilkinson offers support to Leeds boss Reid

LONDON, 12 Nov.—Former Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson has called for a period of stability at the crisis-hit club as speculation mounted on Monday that current manager Peter Reid was facing the sack.

Reid’s position is in jeopardy after Saturday’s 6-1 thrashing at Portsmouth left them bottom of the Premier League but Wilkinson, who won the league title in 1992 while in charge of Leeds, said the club needed to think long-term.

“It is very important that there is stability at a time like this in the football club,” Wilkinson told Sky Sports television.

“It is very important that the manager, in this case, Peter Reid...knows what is happening for the next three months, the next six months. I have heard nothing in the last week that has told me that the club has a strategy, what that strategy is and whether that includes Peter. Leeds fans will not put up with this for the next two or three years.”

Van Nistelrooy, Seedorf back in Dutch squad

AMSTERDAM, 12 Nov.—Ruud van Nistelrooy and Clarence Seedorf have both been recalled to the Dutch squad for their Euro 2004 playoff against Scotland.

Manchester United striker van Nistelrooy was dropped from the squad for their final qualifier against Moldova after reacting angrily being substituted in the 3-1 defeat by the Czech Republic in September.

He sat on the ground and kicked a water bottle in disgust after being replaced by Pierre van Hooijdonk but later apologized to Netherlands coach Dick Advocaat.

Advocaat watched van Nistelrooy score twice for his English club Manchester United in the 3-0 Champions League win over Rangers last Tuesday and named him in his squad on Monday for the playoffs.

Seedorf has been overlooked for Advocaat’s last three squads since the match against Belgium in August but an injury to Mark van Bommel, who has had a hernia operation, means a recall for the AC Milan player. Juventus midfielder Edgar Davids is back in the squad after his one-match ban for his red card against the Czech Republic.

Beattie out, Johnson in for England

LONDON, 12 Nov.—Southampton striker James Beattie has been passed over for England’s squad to face Denmark in a friendly on Sunday, but there is a first call-up for Chelsea defender Glen Johnson.

Beattie, prolific at club level over the past two seasons but scoreless in four appearances for his country, had been widely expected to play at Old Trafford, having last turned out for England in a Euro 2004 qualifier against Liechtenstein.

But he has failed to impress England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, who offered only three strikers against the Danes — Wayne Rooney, Emile Heskey and Darius Vassell — when his 23-man squad was named on Monday.

Injuries have deprived Eriksson of striker Michael Owen, midfielders Paul Scholes, Owen Hargreaves and Kieron Dyer, while central defenders Jonathan Woodgate and Sol Campbell are also unavailable.

Another central defender, Rio Ferdinand, has been passed over as expected while he considers his response to being charged with misconduct for missing a drugs test in September.

The absences at the back mean Gary Southgate returns in central defence, while under-21 player Johnson is rewarded for a first senior call-up at right back after impressing for Chelsea in this season’s Carling Cup.

Johnson could potentially line up alongside two of his Chelsea teammates at the back, John Terry and Wayne Bridge.

Blatter annoyed with English FA

LONDON, 12 Nov.—FIFA president Sepp Blatter criticized the English FA on Monday for taking too long to deal with the Rio Ferdinand doping case and for failing to implement rules on immediate suspensions for red cards.

Ferdinand, the 24-year-old England defender has been charged by the FA with misconduct for his failure or refusal to take a scheduled drugs test at Manchester United’s training ground on September 23.

It is unlikely his case will be heard before December. Blatter told reporters at a media briefing that he had spoken to FA chairman Neil Warnock about the delay.

He would also be talking to the FA about a Russian player’s failure to attend a drugs test before his club was suspended in the same competition for sending-off rules.

The rule was agreed at the recent FIFA extraordinary congress in Doha and Blatter said he would be urging the FA to step into line with other national associations.

Reluctance to implement the rule could be dealt with by FIFA’s disciplinary body who might merely warn the FA but could, as an ultimate sanction, suspend it from FIFA activities.

The English FA says it will not change its rules halfway through the season. In England, players sent off have the right of appeal and are not usually suspended for up to two weeks after that appeal has failed.

FIFA now insists on far tighter guidelines for appeal, which in future would be confined mainly to cases of mistaken identity. “As far as red cards are concerned, the player must be suspended for the next match in the same competition, and any appeal must be held before that match,” Blatter said.

“The English FA have known about this since it was discussed at the International Football Association Board meeting in Belfast in February.”

Petit out of Portugal squad with knee injury

LISBON, 12 Nov.—Benfica midfielder Armando Petit is out of action for about a month after suffering a knee injury.

Petit, who was hurt in Saturday’s 3-0 win at Alverca in the Portuguese Premier League, was in the 2002 World Cup squad and had been called up for the first time since coach Luiz Felipe Scolari became national coach this year.

Petit is expected to be fit for Portugal’s World Cup qualifier against Greece on November 25 to know where he stands for next year’s European soccer championships and automatically qualify for the finals.

Hitzfeld says Bayern’s troubles over

BERLIN, 12 Nov.—Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld believes Sunday’s convincing 4-1 Bundesliga win over Borrusia Dortmund marked the end of the German champions’ worries. “That was the turning point,” Hitzfeld said after his team restored pride at the expense of their arch-rivals.

“We played with full concentration and a strong will and were very efficient.”

Talk of a crisis, sparked by an 0-0 draw with rivals Schalke 04, has intensified after last week’s 2-1 home Champions League defeat by Arsenal, but Hitzfeld said Bayern were back on track.

The best news for Bayern on Sunday was that playmaker Michael Ballack, who had been criticized for a string of indifferent performances, was his brilliant self again.

Andy Roddick returns a shot against Carlos Moyà, of Spain, during the third set of their Tennis Masters Cup match on Tuesday, 11 Nov, 2003 in Houston. Roddick defeated Moyà 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.—INTERNET
## WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperature was 3°C to 4°C below normal in Rakhine, Chin States, Magway, Bago, Yangon Divisions and 6°C below normal in Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining states and division.

Maximum temperature on 11-11-2003 was 35.5°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 12-11-2003 was 18.5°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-11-2003 was 63%. Total sunshine hours on 1-11-2003 was (9) hours approx. Rainfall on 12-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Easterly (15:30 hours) MST on 11-11-2003.

Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 13-11-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

*State of the sea:* Strong easterly wind with (55) mph and temporary rough seas are likely in Gulf Mottama, Deltica, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Seas will be light to easterly in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.


### Forecast Table

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### Weather Forecast

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### Weather Outlook

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### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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

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**Bagan Declaration expresses desire to achieve regional prosperity, through enhanced solidarity, mutual respect, close friendship, good neighbourliness, active cooperation**

**Yangon,** 12 Nov — The following is the Bagan Declaration signed and issued by the Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in Bagan on 12 November 2003:

**Bagan Declaration**

We, the Heads of Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand, BUILDING on good neighbourliness, similar historical, cultural and religious heritage, and mutual interest; REITERATING our aspiration and our strong willingness, to establish a firm foundation for common action, to live in peace with one another and in shared prosperity, through fostering understanding, confidence, and good neighbourliness among the four countries and mindful that sustainable economic development cooperation requires a secure political environment; REAFFIRMING our commitment to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of nations. (See page 9)

**Four countries envision transforming border areas into zones of durable peace, stability and economic growth**

**Summit issues press statement**

**Yangon,** 12 Nov — The following is the text of the press statement issued by the chairman of the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in Bagan Archaeological Zone in Mandalay Division, Myanmar, on 12 November 2003.

**PRESS STATEMENT**

1. The Heads of Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand held a very — productive and constructive meeting this morning. The discussions were cordial and fruitful.

2. We exchanged views on the Plan of Action for Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) which will contribute in promoting regional cooperation, especially in the context of the emerging ASEAN Economic Cooperation Community and to complement the ongoing bilateral frameworks.

3. At the Summit Meeting, we adopted and signed the Bagan Declaration in which we reaffirmed our commitment to accelerate economic growth, social programmes and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of nations. (See page 9)

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**Cambodian, Laotian, Myanmar and Thai PMs arrive in Bagan**

**Yangon,** 12 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt yesterday afternoon left here by special aircraft and arrived at the Bagan-NyaungU airport in Mandalay Division to attend the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy of Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental heads.

Similarly, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang Vorachith and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra pose for documentary photo together with artists and vocalists of Fine Arts Department at the dinner. —MNA

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**General Khin Nyunt hosts dinner in honour of PMs, Dy PMs, Ministers, Dy Ministers, Senior Officials of Cambodia, Lao, Thailand**

**Yangon,** 12 Nov — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt hosted dinner in honour of Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen and party, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and party, who attended the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy in Bagan Archaeological Zone in Mandalay Division, at the Thiripyitsaya Sakura Hotel in the Archaeological Zone at 8 pm yesterday. Present together with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the dinner were Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein of the State Peace and Development Council, the ministers, Chairman Col Zaw Min of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, the deputy ministers, and senior officials. Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen. (See page 10)

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**Perspectives**

* Keep momentum of success of transport sector * Myanmar-China (Yunnan) Exhibition on Trade, Investment & Economic-Technological Cooperation opened

**INSIDE**

* Lt-Gen Ye Myint visits bridge construction site, Mandalay industrial zone * Foreign News page 3,4,5,6,12,13,14

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