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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prime Minister inspects development measures in Chin State

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with local authorities, departmental personnel, officials of social organizations, leaders of national race and town elders at Thazin Hall of the nurses training school in Falam. At the meeting, local authorities reported on measures for local rice sufficiency and the extension of highland cultivation, arrangements for use of high-yielding strains, the extension of sown acreage, the raising of domesticated wild oxen, the undertakings of regional development including education, health, water supply and communication, and requirements in the implementation of those tasks. Col Tin Hla also gave supplementary reports on the occasion.

(See page 9)
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Islamic Republic of Mauritania

YANGON, 28 Nov — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitation to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Vall Ould Bellal, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. — MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Islamic Republic of Mauritania

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

Ye river-crossing bridge for regional development

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

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

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

Before 1998, there were only 1,976.35 miles of railroad but now there is a total of 2,998.36 miles. Not only that, 145 miles of railroads are being currently built and it has been planned to construct another 512.05 miles. Moreover, there were 3,435 bridges built on the railway lines. On the Pakkoku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad, a tunnel was successfully constructed through the Ponnya mountain range. It was something for Myanmar Railways to be proud of.

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

Development tasks inspected

YANGON, 27 Nov — The Development Affairs Department Thura U Soe Aung and officials met with the staff of the department in Mogaung.

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

Foreign Affairs Minister receives guests

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

Myanmar PGA & MGF President’s Cup golf continues

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

After the third day match, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan West) and Myint Shwe (Wilson) led the tour with 214 strokes each in the professional golfers division, followed by Aung Win (YCDC) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan West) with 217, Aung Htet Htet Hlaing (YCDC) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan West) with 218 and Zaw Zin Win stood first in the men’s amateur division with 215, Aung Aung Kyaw second with 216 and Thein Zaw Myint third with 222.

In the women’s scratch event, Khin Thu Thu stood first with 155, Khin Mar Nui second with 167 and Ma Htay Htay third with 178. The tour was mainly sponsored by Rothamans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Mus-sing Wear), Loi Hein (Alpine), KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Wilson, Canon, UPG, San Far Travels and Tour, Pan West and Eastern Pro Enterprise Ltd and organized by Han Event Management.

The tour continues tomorrow. — MNA

Information Minister receives guests

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

YANGON, 28 Nov — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitation to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Vall Ould Bellal, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. — MNA
Why anti-US attacks have spread to Iraq’s north

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

In recent weeks, Mosul has witnessed a spate of roadside bombings, assassinations, and rocket attacks against American and coalition forces in the oil-rich city.

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

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

"Members of the former regime are working with Islamists in Mosul and from elsewhere, including from outside the country, and they are being paid by Saddam Hussein and Izzat Ibrahim [al-Duri]," says Mohammed al-Kaki, who heads the military wing of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) here. Mr. Duri was vice president of the Baath Party's Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest governing body, and Mr. Hussein's closest confidant. He is the Coalition’s second-most wanted man.

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

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

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

Adding to the instability are common criminals taking advantage of a weak police force, and the softer rule of Saddam Hussein’s control system dispensed by the former regime. Then there are the daily frustrations of intermittent electricity and fuel shortages.

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

Australia boosts fines for illegal foreign fishers

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

The crackdown comes after Australian authorities spent 21 days in August chasing a Uruguayan-flagged boat illegally in Australian waters will face heftier fines and have to pay the costs of any pursuit under new laws being introduced to the Australian Parliament this week.

The crackdown comes after Australian authorities spent 21 days in August chasing a Uruguayan-flagged boat in August highlighted the plight of the increasingly rare toothfish, a delicacy prized in Asia and the United States, but also the declining state of the world’s worst exploited fisheries.

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

434 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

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

The British military has reported 52 deaths; Italy, 17; Denmark, Spain, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 296 US soldiers have died 184 as a result of hostile action and 112 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department’s figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,094 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 350.

The latest death reported by US Central Command: A 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldier died Wednesday from a non-combat related gunshot wound in Mosul, Iraq.

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

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

Iraqi Kurds to host meeting on Iraq’s development

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

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

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

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

Iraqi Kurds acquired de facto autonomy from Saddam Hussein’s rule in Baghdad in 1991 Gulf War. Iraq’s four million Kurds make up 16 percent of the predominantly Arab population.

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

KRG Prime Minister Nechirwan Barzani would host the meeting and those attending would include Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, leaders of the Shamar tribe and the regions of Mosul, Kirkuk and Bshuk, Basra’s governor and selected businessmen.

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

Report says missile strikes Italian Embassy in Baghdad

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

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

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

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

Last week US military said they found several rockets stashed in a street close to Italy’s Baghdad Embassy.
Garner says US made mistakes in Iraq

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

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

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

Garner arrived in Baghdad on April 21, shortly after Saddam’s fall. He was replaced by L. Paul Bremer on May 12, after less than a month as Iraq’s civilian administrator.

At the time he was criticized for not doing enough to stop the lawlessness in Baghdad.

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

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

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

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

**A mistake**

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

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

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

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

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

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

UN chief to consult advisors on Iraq

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

Spokesman Fred Eckhard told reporters at a press briefing that the meeting will be held at UN headquarters in New York on Monday.—INTERNET

WHO warns climate of fear encouraging spread of HIV/AIDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Experts say climate change to affect mankind negatively

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

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

Based on this report, the experts predicted the output changes of global warming in the 21st century. In 2050, 2080, and 2090, only to find that crop output in most developing countries will shrink, while that in developed countries in the Northern Hemisphere will increase.

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

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

Three rockets hit residential neighborhood in central Baghdad

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday’s attack came after US Central Command chief John Abizaid and US civil administrator Paul Bremer vowed to continue to fight the guerrillas despite that Sunni Muslim leaders called for a truce between the government and insurgents.

Bremer admitted the end of Muslim fasting month of Ramadan—MNA/Xinhua

Cleric says Iraq’s top Shiite criticizes US plans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—MNA/Reuters

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

**Who were the key figures and events mentioned in the document?**

- Jay Garner, a former lieutenant general who ran the relief mission for Kurdish refugees after the 1991 Gulf War.
- L. Paul Bremer, who replaced Garner after the fall of Saddam Hussein.
- Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, who consulted with advisors on Iraq.
- Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, who warned about the spread of HIV/AIDS in Asia.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes report, which predicted increases in global temperature and sea levels.
- The climate changes featuring global warming, which experts warned would have negative effects on human society.

**What are the main issues discussed in the document?**

- The decision to disband the Iraqi army.
- The insufficient communication at the end of Muslim fasting month in Baghdad.
- The rise of guerrilla forces and the US response to this challenge.
- The criticism of the US plans for transferring sovereignty to Iraq by top Shiite religious authority.
- The role of Sunni Muslim leaders in the conflict with the government.

**What conclusions can be drawn from the document?**

- Jay Garner criticized the US for not winning enough support from the Iraqi people.
- There is a concern about the pace of reconstruction work.
- The US military acknowledged the rise of guerrilla forces and the need to address the source of the attacks.
- Sistani expressed misgivings about the US plans, criticizing them as incomplete and insufficiently Islamic.
- The new US plans for Iraq's transition to sovereignty are seen as important by many Shiites, who want to play a leading political role.

**How do these issues and conclusions reflect broader global and regional trends?**

- The decision to disband the Iraqi army reflects broader trends in the post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, where the need for a strong central government is contested.
- The rise of guerrilla forces is a reflection of the power vacuum created by the US-led coalition's actions.
- The criticism of US plans by top Shiite religious authority highlights the complex regional power dynamics in Iraq.
- The transition to sovereignty is seen as crucial for stability and development in Iraq, with many stakeholders involved in the process.
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

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

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

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

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

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

Large explosions were heard after sundown on Tuesday in central Baghdad, near the US headquarters compound, known as the ‘green zone’. — INTERNET
Zambia, Angola satisfied with improved security along borders

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

The commission, which was set up in January 2002, is monitoring the situation across the borders and taking action to prevent any border transgression.

The two countries share a long border and have history of conflicts over resources and territory.

Halliburton in Iraq fuel row

KHAMENEI SAYS US SINKING IN IRAQ’S SWAMP

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

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

“The Americans are so desperate that they are bomb[ing] an occupied country,” Khamenei said.

The US military and administration are facing increasing resistance and challenges in Iraq.

Euro zone finance ministers break free of budget pact

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

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

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

The Commission expressed concern over the disease which has spread to 10 districts in Uganda.

Banana disease spreads to 10 districts in Uganda

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

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

He said part of the money can be used to sensitize farmers as to how the disease spreads and how they can both prevent and fight it.
The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand successfully concluded recently. Myanmar hosted the summit. Prime Ministers, a deputy prime minister, ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials of the four countries attended the meeting.

It was Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra who proposed, during the ASEAN Summit on SARS held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 29 April 2003, to hold the summit of the four countries. Senior officials’ meeting concerning the matters to be discussed at the summit of the four countries was held in Vientiane, Laos, on 15-7-2003 and the ministerial meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1-8-2003.

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

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

All the leaders of the four countries of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnong Vorachith, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Secretary-1 Lt Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt Gen Thun Sein of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Khin Nyunt, proposed to establish the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS. It is the first summit meeting on economic cooperation strategy among the four countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Translation: MWT

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

YANGON, 27 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials of the SPDC Office on 23 November, arrived at Sittaung Bridge where they were welcomed by Mon State PDC Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Commander of No 44 LID Col Thet Naung Bo and officials.

On 24 November morning, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials arrived at Kyauktalon Township in Mudon Town-ship, Mon State, where a demonstration of cultivation of beans and sunflower in village in Mudon Township was given. Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed the harvesting of monsoon paddy in a farmers field. The average yield stood at 83.56 baskets per acre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with farmers who will be engaged in cultivation of mixed crops for the year 2003-2004 in Mudon Township. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the State Peace and Development Council is implementing border areas and national races development projects, projects in 24 Development Regions and the five rural development tasks for ensuring equity and development among regions in the country. Lt-Gen Maung Bo spoke of the need for growing the ten major crops and three new items of crops suitable to the region. Afterwards, he cordially greeted the farmers.

All together 674.06 acres of land were put under monsoon paddy in Mon State in 2003-2004. Of them, 111.673 acres have been harvested to this date and per acre yield is 65.91 baskets. It is targeted to put 140.000 acres of land under summer paddy this year and up to this date 12, 370 acres have been put under summer paddy.

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

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented teaching aids to the headmaster. Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aung Maung spoke on the occasion.

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

As the special four-year plan is being implemented in basic and higher education sectors, measures are being taken to upgrade the curriculum of the basic education sector, establish e-Education Learning Centres in various towns and give lectures through Digital Broadcasting System.

For the emergence of outstanding students, facul-ty members of universi-ties and outstanding students of basic education sector in cities. At the same time, efforts are being made to promote rural education.

As the summer farming and non-formal education, arrangements are being made to produce human re-sources with high qualifi-cation. Therefore, it is re-quired to apply multi-me-dia teaching aids.

It is heartening to note that Mon State PDC is pro-viding multi-media elec-tronic devices worth over 800 million to schools. In building the nation to become a modern and devel-oped one, it cannot be car-ried out individually.

As regards the agricul-ture sector, farmers who have applied scientific methods are more profit-able than those who have applied conventional ones.

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

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

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

Armed Forces Day TV quiz to be held

YANGON, 27 Nov — The Work Committee for Hold-ing TV Quiz to mark the 50th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 will hold TV quiz. The basic education level TV quiz for the eighth, ninth and tenth graders will take place on 15-1-2004, and the higher education level for the students of universi-ties, degree colleges and in-stitutes on 16-1-2004.

The history of the Tatmadaw volumes 1 to 4 is prescribed for the basic edu-cation level and volumes 5 to 8 for the higher education level. Pliniphyo Wesi Myanmargyi published by the Ministry of Information, News, TV, plays and special programmes broadcast by Myanmar Tele-vision are also prescribed for both levels.

Interested students are to submit their names to the principals and rectors con-cerned.

ISD badminton starts

YANGON, 27 Nov — The 55th inter-state/division/badminton tournament for 2003 was opened this morning at Aung San Gymnasium.

At the opening cer-eemony, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Min-ister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech.

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

“Thamada” Thingantaik launches its branch

YANGON, 27 Nov — The opening ceremony of abранch of “Thamada” Buddha Stat- ues & Monk’s Requisites Centre was held in conjunc-tion with the cash donation for the Ministry of Religious Affairs at the branch at No 156 on Shwegondaing Road in Bahan Township this morning. Minister for Reli-gious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony. Director-General of the Religious Affairs De-partment Dr Myo Myint, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Develop-ment Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and owner Thui Thudhamma Manjo- taddhara U Than Naung for-merly the chairman of Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint Maung unveiled the signboard of the branch. Af-terwards, the minister and officials viewed round the branch. Later, wellwishers presented cash donation to the minister and officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects... (from page 16)

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

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

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

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

They proceeded to the construction site of Kyauktalon River Water Pumping Project, thrived monsoon paddy grown with water from Ngathayauk and Lawkananda river water pumping projects in Mon State in 2003-2004. Of them, 111.673 acres have been harvested to this date and per acre yield is 65.91 baskets. It is targeted to put 140.000 acres of land under summer paddy this year and up to this date, 12,370 acres have been put under summer paddy.

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The opening of the Thamada Buddha Statues & Monk’s Requisites Centre in progress. — MNA
Government has to carry out herculean...

(From page 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Similarly, as the crop cultivation fails in the region, the Government is giving encouragement and rendering assistance to the cultivation of tea, which is suited to the geographical condition and most beneficial to the region. As for the livestock breeding sector, the Government also offers assistance to the raising of domesticated wild oxen, the livelihood which is consistent with the region and can promise the economic boost to the most possible degree.

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

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

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

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

The flourishing of national solidarity is necessary in the Union, where a diversity of national races reside in unison.

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

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

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

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

Since the previousparliamentary era, national solidarity had weakened, followed by numerous problems. And lessons have been drawn from those consequences. Therefore, it is important not to be duped by fabrications to cause the disintegration of national solidarity. The entire national races need to be well aware of such acts being committed with ill intentions to cripple the strength of the Union.

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

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

Next, the Prime Minister provided the Falam Nos of Chin State BEHS with a set of computer, television, video cassette player and inverter for local schools, and local people with clothes through a local authority.

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

The Prime Minister also greeted the teachers of the training school.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to the Falam General Hospital, where they were welcomed by the medical superintendent of the hospital, specialists, doctors and nurses. The medical superintendent and officials conducted the Prime Minister and party round the hospital.

After inspecting the hospital, the Prime Minister gave instructions on renovation of the hospital.

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

First, the Prime Minister and party inspected round the tea plantations there and met with members of the Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townspeople at the hall of the township.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Sai La Tin reported to the Prime Minister and party on area and location, population, cultivated acreage and crops, breeding of domesticated wild oxen, education, health, land ownership and infrastructure such as roads, water supply and supply of tasks of the township and upgrading of roads in the township.

Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council C. Sai Tin gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister fulfills the requirements and gave instructions. The Prime Minister said there are prospects for development of the township as it has more favourable land and conditions for development in other regions in Chin State. Moreover, its accessibility from other states and divisions via Thanglang-Haka and Haka-Gangaw roads and situated near the border trade route, the transportation sector of the township contributes towards the economic development of the region, he added.

So, the local people are to concordantly strive for the further development of the township, the Prime Minister said.

During the visit, the Prime Minister examined the roads for local rice sufficiency, cultivation of tea and breeding of domesticated wild oxen must be carried out with the encouragement of the Government.

The State is rendering assistance for the development of transport sector, which plays a vital role in regional development, he added.

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

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

The Prime Minister also urged the local people to participate conscientiously in the regional development tasks laid down by the government and be implemented by departmental personnel.

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

Next, the Prime Minister presented a computer set, television, video cassette player and inverter to basic education high school of the town to the headmaster and classroom teachers for the students.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the Township Peace and Development Council C. Sai Tin gave a supplementary report.

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

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the Township Peace and Hospital. The medical superintendent and staff welcomed the Prime Minister and conducted him around the wards, operation theatre, medical store, laboratory and X-ray room. The Prime Minister took interest in looking materials for possessing the characteristics of a hospital and providing systematic health care services to the public.

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

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

First, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Khan Hte Htan reported to the Prime Minister on location, area, cultivated acreage, crops, tea cultivated acreage, arrangement for extended cultivation of tea, breeding of domesticated wild oxen, education and health conditions of the township. Next, Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council C. Sai Tin gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister also urged the local people to participate conscientiously in the regional development tasks laid down by the government and be implemented by departmental personnel. (See page 10)
Government has to carry out herculean...

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

Information Ministry offers ‘soon’ to monks

210 drug cases exposed, 289 culprits arrested in October

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

U Ohn Thwin accredited to South Africa

The chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ohn Thwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa. MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister, who next greeted local national peoples, presented a gift to the Prime Minister for Information Dr Winn Aung, director general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, deputy director-general, directors and officials. First, the minister and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Rector Sayaw of the university and Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa. The minister offered 180,000 for ‘soon’ offering to Director of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of Susana U Khang Aung who presented certificate of honour to the minister. After delivering a sermon by the Sayawad, ‘soon’ was offered to members of the Sangha.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan, Deputy Brig-Min Kyaw Hsuan, director general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, deputy director-general, directors and officials. In Mandalay Division and visited the Shwesaw Pagoda and circled it clockwise. The General made cash donations to the pagoda. They also visited the Dhamma Rajaka Pagoda in Bagan. They paid reverence to the Buddha Image. The General donated cash to the pagoda. They spent the night at the guest house in Bagan.

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

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

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

Shweli Hydel Power Project located 17 miles from Namkham in northern Shan State. — PHOTO: MNA

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

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

New York, 27 Nov—A supersonic Concorde jet sailed up the Hudson River Tuesday to its final resting place: the Intrepid Sea Air and Space Museum in Manhattan, New York. The plane left JFK Airport on a barge in Manhattan, New York. The plane was moved to the museum Tuesday morning after its engines were removed and the remaining fuel was drained to prepare it for public display. When the 62-meter-long, 88-ton jet whirled passengers across the Atlantic Ocean in just three hours, round-trip tickets cost over 10,000 dollars. Visi-
tors, however, will be able to climb aboard for the price of admission to the museum.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (341)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR in Voy No.341 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-11-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and condition of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed upon arrival and each consignee is asked to arrive at 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: MS EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

UNAIDS epidemic shows no sign of abating, with 5 million people becoming infected and 3 million dying this year alone, according to a UN report released Tuesday.
The report by UNAIDS, the UN agency responsible for coordinating global efforts to fight the disease, and the World Health Organization, stated an estimated 40 million people are living with HIV worldwide, including 2.5 million children under the age of 15.

Globally, an estimated 5 million people were newly infected and 3 million people died of AIDS in 2003. Sub-Saharan Africa, the most severely affected region of the world, accounted for over 3 million of these new infections and 2.3 million AIDS deaths.

The report said the epidemic is rampant in sub-Saharan Af-

upported with anti-

peng and catching of insects, and descriptions for the trap-

ings, clothing and farm pro-
ducts were the major export commodities of Beijing.

Beijing exported electro-mechanical products worth 3.77 billion US dol-

ars in the January-October period, an increase of 32.1 per cent on a yearly basis. The city’s exports of high-tech prod-

ucts, such as mobile phones, software and integrated cir-

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4th session of Vietnamese National Assembly concludes

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

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

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

Phillipine manufacturing output falls in September

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

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

Too much Vitamin C may cause leukoderma

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

About 120 whales, dolphins die in Australia

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNET

CPPCC leader sends congratulations to seminar on climate change

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

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

Climate change is closely related to the environmental quality, energy and water resources, as well as food security and human health, and may cause great influence on the sustainable development of the society, Jia said.

To promote a harmonious relationship between man and nature and ensure a sustainable development has been a basic guideline for China’s modernization drive, and more efforts should be made to enhance the research on climate change so as to reduce the damage it may cause to natural environment and economic development, Jia said.

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

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

Philippine Airlines posts net loss in second fiscal quarter

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

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

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

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

Operating revenues for the three months to September fell 8.1 per cent to 177.42 million US dollars while operating expenses fell to 163.58 million US dollars.

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

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico shuts four green-onion companies after hepatitis outbreak

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

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua
**S P O R T S**

**Anderlecht edge Lyon to revive qualifying hopes**

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

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

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

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

Lyon striker Peguy Loynadiou came close twice in the first half. His sixth-minute shot towards the top far corner was well saved by diving goalkeeper Daniele Petrucci and he hit the post with another effort in the 20th minute.

Tihinen’s goal was no more than Anderlecht, and particularly Mornar, deserved as they dominated the second half with their speedy attacks after Lyon had made the better start.— MNA/Reuters

**Shevchenko fires Milan into last 16**

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

Andry Shevchenko broke the deadlock after 51 minutes, chesting down Cafu’s pin-point cross before coolly shooting past Ajax goalkeeper Bogdan Lobont.

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

Milan, with 10 points, are guaranteed top spot in Group H with second-placed Ajax involved in a fight for the other qualification form for Manchester United as they booked their place in the last 16 of the Champions League with a routine 1-0 win at Panathinaikos on Wednesday.

The Ukrainian striker slouched a lone furrow in attack for the Premier League champions in the absence of the retired Ronaldinho but got his reward five minutes from time with the only goal of the game.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said Shevchenko was now reaping the rewards of an extended run in the side.

“What’s helping Diego is playing more often,” Ferguson told a news conference.

“He’s establishing himself and with the form he’s showing it’s hard to leave him out.”

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

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

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

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

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

**Forlan strike sends Man United through**

ATHENS, 27 Nov.— Diego Forlan continued his prolific scoring form for Manchester United as they booked their place in the last 16 of the Champions League against accessories at the Stade Velodrome.

The Uruguayan striker plundered a lone furrow in attack for the Premier League champions in the absence of the retired Ronaldinho but got his reward five minutes from time with the only goal of the game.

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

**Beckham, Ronaldo light up Zidane’s homecoming**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zidane was one of the quietest performers for Real, particularly after Mido clattered him from behind shortly before half-time. Zidane was substituted before the end to a standing ovation from the crowd.

Zidane still supports Marseille and last played against them in the 1998-99 season for Girondins Bordeaux.— when he was sent off for elbowing Marcel Desailly.

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

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

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

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

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

**Monaco into last 16 after 1-1 draw with PSV**

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

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

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

But PSV substitute Jan Vennegor of Hesselfink equalized with a header from a free kick given against Monaco’s goal line, as goalkeeper Ezikos. He was sent off for a second yellow card for apparently picking the ball up because a team mate was injured.

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

Monaco have 10 points from five games, their only defeat coming last month at Deportivo, who beat AEK Athens 3-0 on Tuesday and also have 10 points. PSV, who have seven points, must beat Deportivo 2-0 next month to become the other team to qualify from group C.

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

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

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

**Panathinaikos’ Dimitris Papadopoulos (top) is tackled by Manchester United’s Darren Fletcher during a group E Champions League soccer game, in Athens.**—ERT/Reuters
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Friday, 28 November, 2003

WEATHER

Thursday, 27 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours

MST: After the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night-time temperatures were 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kayin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, 3°C above normal in Mon State and Tannaybi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 26-11-2003 was 35.5°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 27-11-2003 was 18.0°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:00 hrs MST on 27-11-2003 was 64.7%, which was slightly lower than the normal of 67.3% at Yangon International Airport. Sun shines for about 8.7 hours approx.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-11-2003: Generally fair weather in the whole country. State of the sea: Seas will be slightly to moderately rough in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-11-2003: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Man-

8:00 am  9:00 am  10:00 am  11:00 am  12:00 noon  1:00 pm  2:00 pm  3:00 pm  4:00 pm  5:00 pm  6:00 pm  7:00 pm  8:00 pm  9:00 pm  10:00 pm

8:30 am  11:00 am  1:00 pm  3:00 pm  5:00 pm  7:00 pm  9:00 pm  11:00 pm

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R 489  Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Street, Road at 43rd Street, Yangoon, Cable Newlight, P.O.Box No.43, Telephones: 296115, Manager 296648, Circulation 297903, Advertisment 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) 297028 (Press).
YANGON, 27 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and officials of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday evening.

The Thai Defence Minister and party were briefed by chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Oo and officials of SPDPC on matters relating to construction special group 14 of Public Works near Twinge Village in Thabeikkyin Township.

Deputy Superintendent Engineer of the group U Win Maung reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and officials on the needs.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the gold mine of Asia World Co in Momeik Township, the gold mine of Shwe Hlaing and attended to the needs.

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

YANGON, 27 Nov — Visiting Thai Defence Minister General Thura Shwe Mann saw off the Thai Defence Minister and party, who left here to pay a visit to Bagan-NyaungU and Mandalay, at Yangon International Airport at 7.30 am.

The Thai delegation was also seen off at the airport together with General Thura Shwe Mann by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Thai Embassy to Myanmar Mr Oum Mothan and officials.

The Thai Defence Minister and party were accompanied by Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Col Khin Maung Oo and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

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

YANGON, 27 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected harvest of monsoon paddy fields in NyaungU Township yesterday evening.

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

Thai Defence Minister and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda

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

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

The guests offered flowers and lights at the prayer board of trustees.

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

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

YANGON, 27 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, on 24 November morning, arrived at Mandalay International Airport where chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of the North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and senior military officers welcomed him. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected Twinnge-Momeik Road meeting the set standards and requirements.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the gold mine of Asia World Co Ltd in Momeik Township, Kyaukme District. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and an official of Asia World Co reported on matters relating to construction of Twinnge-Momeik Road.

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

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on construction of the Twinnge-Momeik Road with the set standards and unblocking of drains.

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