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

Yangon, 29 Nov — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Alfred Moisiu, President of the Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Albania which falls on 29 November 2003. — MNA

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

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

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

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

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

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, deputy ministers, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said that as is known to all the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand had been successfully held. The prime ministers of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand praised the successful holding of the meeting without any difficulties and hindrances and thanked Myanmar for her kind hospitality.

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

The Prime Minister of Thailand proposed the programme for cooperation after laying down Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand and the remaining three prime ministers supported the cooperation unanimously. Thus, the meeting was successfully held.

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

Myanmar, the host country for holding the meeting, will have to put on record the successful holding of an important international meeting for the first time and especially, it has been able to hold the meeting in historic Bagan, ancient Myanmar cultural zone as a success. Since the meeting amounts to the rehearsal for the ASEAN Summit to be held in Myanmar in 2006, it will contribute to successful holding of the ASEAN Summit.

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Building the road of prosperity together for mutual benefits

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For perpetuation of sovereignty and national development

The Government is striving day in, day out for bringing equitable development to all the regions in the country. Chin State lagged behind in development as it was difficult of access. Therefore, in taking measures for regional development in Chin State, the Government gives priority to better transportation.

Due to the geographical condition of the region, the paddy cultivation cannot be conducted there, and thus steps are being taken on a gradual basis to extend the highland paddy cultivation suited to the region. As the crop cultivation fails in the region, the Government is giving encouragement and rendering assistance to the cultivation of tea, which is suited to the geographical condition and the soil of the region.

As for the livestock breeding sector, the Government also offers assistance to the raising of cattle and oxen, the livelihood which is consistent with the region and can promise the economic boost to the most possible degree.

In meeting with local authorities, departmental personnel, officials of social organizations, national race leaders and town elders at Thazin Hall of the Nurses Training School in Falam, Chin State, on 25 November, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the country did not gain any development when it was under the servitude of colonialists, who exploited the country’s valuable resources, for over a century; and that the collapse of national unity in the wake of independence owing to the policy of regionalism and colonialists to drive a wedge between one national race and another left the country facing an unstable state amid a mountain of conflicts.

After taking the responsibilities of the State unavoidably, the Tatmadaw Government has been making strenuous efforts to restore national unity, stability and tranquillity in the State. At the same time, the Government has to carry out the herculean tasks to re-build the mountain of conflicts.

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

Therefore, all the national brethren are urged to be on alert to the ill-intentioned attempts of external elements and to strive for national development by taking the non-disintegration of national solidarity, non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy.
Bullets warn Iraqis against working with US forces

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

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

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

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

If their tactics succeed, it could deal a blow to American efforts to secure badly needed intelligence from Iraqi civilians on guerrillas who have killed 184 US troops since major combat was declared over on 1 May.

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

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

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

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

Just across the street, graffiti scrawled on the wall of a building reads: “Death to spies.”—Internet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vietnam to cut tariffs on exports to China

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

Under a tariff reduction list compiled by the ministry, Vietnam will reduce its 16.7 per cent average export tariffs to China from over 30-45 per cent, which those with rates of 15-30 per cent are to enjoy a new rate of 10 per cent from January 2004.

In 2003, Vietnam will lower tariffs imposed on goods exported to China to zero per cent to fulfil its full commitment to the Early Harvest Programme (EHP), part of an agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam lacks professional staff in tourism

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

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

Fewer malaria cases recorded in Cambodia in first 9 months

PHNOM PENH, 28 Nov—Cambodia’s malaria cases in the first nine months of this year have decreased slightly compared with the same period last year, the official news agency said Thursday.

Quoting a report released by Cambodia’s National Malaria Centre on November 22, the newspaper said that, between January and September 2002, 77,437 malaria cases were reported, while 76,912 have been reported in the first nine months of this year. But malaria deaths for the first nine months of the two years have remained almost level, with 275 deaths in 2002 and 276 deaths in 2003.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LAW and Dr Ani are considering legal action against the Prime Minister and the Attorney General, Peter Goldsmith QC, on the basis that the Iraq war was illegal. They also want to take up the case of the detainees being held by British and American forces in Iraq with the European Court of Human Rights.

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

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

Dr Ani is believed to have been questioned about his brother, Tariq, who was arrested in January in Finland also in connection with the breaking of UN sanctions against Iraq. He was released without charge.

After questioning, Dr Ani’s home was searched, but nothing was taken away. He was released on bail and is due to return for questioning on 21 January.

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

“If I don’t find some of my friends’ homes are raided the day before I get the letter from the Attorney General. We will co-operate with any investigation, we have nothing to hide. But neither are we going to be intimidated out of our activities over Iraq.”

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

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

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

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

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

It has been estimated that Britain’s continuing peace-keeping presence in Iraq is costing between 100 and 200 million pounds a month, it said, Britain still has about 10,000 troops in Iraq, most of them in the south of the country. —INTERNET

Thailand confident of eradicating poverty in six years

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

Speaking after a Press conference on Thailand’s Country Development Partner- ship on Poverty Analysis and Monitoring (CDP-PAM), Chakramon said that a pov- erty map was drawn up, detailing obstacles, problems and strategies for eradicating pov- erty, the Thai News Agency reported Thurs- day.

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

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

The central government will pay a total of 403.41 million yuan (48.55 million US dollars) to Anshu and Hunan provinces, which is 70 per cent of the entire compensation that are to be paid for their sacrifice. The local governments will pay the other 30 per cent of the compensation.

The state will also subsidize the construction of housing for people relocated. The Ministry of Finance has urged provincial governments to ensure the timely and efficient payment of the compensation, and step up supervision of the payments. —MNA/Xinhua

Compensation for people in flood deviation programmes urged

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

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Voith AG to expand investment in China

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

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

Voith’s sales in China reached 1.17 billion euros in the 2002/2003 fiscal year, or 12 per cent of the company’s global total.

Since 1997, Voith has provided 17 papermaking production lines to China. —MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian King reaffirms one China Policy

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

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

He said that it was determined policy to adhere to the one-China Policy, and I always recognize that there is only one China in the world and that is the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese terri- tory.

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

China lends Cambodia $30m for roads, aid

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

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

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

Israel

The latest figures show that around 6.2 million people, or 12 per cent of the compa- ny’s global total.

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

Impact marks are seen on the Italian embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 Nov, 2003 after the mission was hit and damaged by a rocket strike late Wednesday night. The head of the mission, Gian luca de Malta di Montecorvano, was not inside at the time and there were no reports of injuries. —INTERNET
**Iraq to license foreign banks**

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

The newcomers are expected to introduce new products and services, and provide competition for the local banks. A Central Bank deputy governor Ahmad Salim says foreign banks will bring in capital, train people, provide jobs, modernize banking services and finance trade, industry and construction.

The Central Bank is to award in December licenses allowing a maximum of six banks to operate in Iraq until 31 December, 2008. Other banks will be admitted after that date only, Mohammed said.

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

The winners are expected to begin operations within six months offering the licence. Mohammed said the foreign banks should staff all positions with Iraqis, with the possible exception of the top management. Each bank should also be required to open a total of five branches across the country. Under the tender document, the minimum capital required for a foreign bank subsidiary to open in Iraq is 50 billion dinars, or $25 million.

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

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

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

**Indian Navy’s Fast Attack Craft launched**

POONAM (Goa), 28 Nov — A Fast Attack Craft, the fastest commissioned of India’s naval vessels and smallest with displacement of 60 tons, was launched on Thursday at the Goa Shipyard Ltd., a Damen yard capable of being fitted with surface to surface missiles and built by GSL, was launched at the hands of the wife of Vice-Admiral P. Jhatly, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition, Indian Navy.

PCA is fitted with MK-20 naval stabilized gun system with 20mm cannon on forward.

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

Equipped with most modern structural, hydrodynamic and propulsion features, the craft is propelled by two “MTU engines” which drive two “articulatedsurfacedrives” (“ASD” and “surface piercing propel- kers” — MNA/PTI

**Swimming for newborn babies gaining popularity in China**

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

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

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

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

Swimming for newborn babies is not only good to the growth of babies’ bones and muscles, but can strengthen heart, brain and lung functions, said Pan Xin, director of the “New Mum Post-delivery Service Centre”.

“Together with their ac- tivity movement, the water pressure and buoyancy are very helpful to the growth of the babies’ nerves and se- cretion systems,” Pan Xin added.

**South China city to open air route to Paris**

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

The two companies also plan to share the flight code for Airbus A340/400s. Both sides said the pact was backed by the Chinese and French governments.

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

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

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

Under the agreement, there will be one flight a day from Monday to Friday from Janu- ary 6. From June 14, flights will be available every day. — MNA/Xinhua
China initiates measures to boost information industry

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

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

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

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

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

Statistics showed the growth rate of China’s information industry was twice or even three times the country’s gross domestic product (GDP). Despite the impact of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) disease earlier this year, China’s information industry still completed an added value of $30.4 billion yuan (about 64 billion US dollars) from January to October, accounting for 5.7 per cent of the GDP.

China-Russia financial cooperation in progress

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

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

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

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

Vietnam sees seafood exports up

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

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

Iran not worried about tougher nuclear checks

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

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

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

Iran maintains it has no intention of building nuclear weapons and is developing nuclear technology for an atomic energy programme to meet booming electricity demand.

“We have no fear about our peaceful nuclear activities and surely if the agency inspects Iran for years, we will stress the peaceful aims of our nuclear programme,” Iran’s Supreme National Security Council chief Hassan Rohani was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

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

Blair treated for stomach complaint

LONDON, 28 Nov — British Prime Minister Tony Blair saw a doctor at his Downing Street office after complaining of a stomach ache, a spokesman said on Thursday.

Blair, 50, felt unwell on Wednesday during the pomp-laden state opening of Parliament — just five weeks after the Premier suffered a heart scare.

“He had a stomach ache and was checked over and is now feeling fine,” a Downing Street spokesman said. “He has been working tonight... and will be chairing Cabinet on Thursday as normal.”

Blair received electro-cardiac treatment at a London hospital on October 19 after being admitted with heart palpitations.

He was discharged from the hospital on October 22 after being treated for a chest infection.

“The Prime Minister has struggled to convince sceptical Britons over the war in Iraq and was forced to defend his office’s role in the naming of weapons expert David Kelly, who committed suicide,” MNA/Reuters

EU, ESA sign cooperation agreement

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

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

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

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

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

The ESA aims to address and achieve a large number of policy goals, notably in the areas of the information society, transport and environmental protection.

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

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

The new light of myanmar 29 November, 2003
Building the road of prosperity together for mutual benefits

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

Myanmar is a country that flags its national pres- tige. Therefore, guests and tourists take an endless delight in enjoying and studying the fossils of Pontaung region capable of tracing back the ancient history of Myanmar, stones and caves seen along the Ayeyawady River and at the Pyaydaline Cave, and the arts and crafts as well as the architecture of ancient dynasties from Sri Khithatta down to Yadanabon.

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

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

General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, attended the ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia last October. All the member countries of ASEAN unanimously hailed and approved of the seven- point resolution of Myanmar submitted by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to establish a genuine, discipline- flourishing and new democratic nation. Myanmar ex- plained the purpose of the goodwill visit of the Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and his entourage.

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

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye himself and responsible officials of both countries; that a remarkable increase had there was a regular exchange of visits among the senior officials of both countries; that a remarkable increase had taken place this year, and two others had been signed this year, and two others were also signed during the visit; and that they attached importance to those agreements.

**** (To be continued)

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 enter- prises
* 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.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 29 November, 2003
An objective observer can... (from page 16)

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

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

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

Myanmar-China officials discuss drug elimination

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

Present on the occasion were the 18-member Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, and the 14-member Chinese delegation led by Deputy General Secretary of the National Narcotics Control Commission of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wang Quanzhong.

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

Accompanied by Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control MPE Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi, the Chinese guests made an excursion tour of Mongla.

The meeting ended on information, searched for and presented certificates of honour to the visiting defence minister.

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

Chairman of Mandalay

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair draws visitors

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

The fair was teeming with people, businessmen and students. Displayed at the fair were local and foreign cosmetics, personal goods, textiles, a wide range of foodstuff, stationery, air freshers, pumps, lawn mowers, power saws, generators, different kinds of engines, carpenter equipment, varnish, various kinds of paste and aluminium lids, together with the programme of sale promotion demonstration.

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

Thai Defence Minister... (from page 2)

Next, the guests visited Shwe Nandaw Museum in the palace and signed in the visitors’ book of the museum. At 5.10 pm, they visited Mandalay hill and paid homage to Buddha images there. The visiting defence minister and party enjoyed the sunset beauty of Mandalay from the top of the hill.

The visiting defence minister signed in the visitors’ book of Houtaugnyi Pagoda on the hill and donated cash to the renovation funds of the pagoda. Members of the pagoda boards of trustees accepted the cash donation and presented certificates of honour to the visiting defence minister.

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

Chairman of Mandalay

Overseas Job opportunities

YANGON, 28 Nov — With the permission of the Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour, Htot Om Power Services is providing services for job opportunities in Singapore and Cyprus. Further details are available at Htot Om Power Services, No 824, Ground Floor, Maha Bandoola Road, Lanmadaw Township, Ph: 225688, E-mail:hteero@cyber-tech.net.mm — MNA

Heroin and raw opium seized

YANGON, 28 Nov — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on a tip-off, searched a suspect at Khwun near Paungsaing-Monkoe road in Ward 7 in Monkoe and arrested him together with 10 packages of heroine weighing 3.1 kilos on 11 September. On further investigation, Than Wai was also arrested.

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

MNA

Heroin seized in Phakant

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

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

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

The police station concerned is taking action against the three under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends ...

(From page 16)

Therefore, the government has been grappling with the problems by building creek-crossing bridges. Simultaneously, Anawrahta and Magway bridges across Ayeyawady River and Hsinbyushin bridge across Chindwin River were constructed around the region. The purpose of constructing Anawrahta Bridge was to contribute towards better transport and development of the regions on west banks including southern part of Chin State. Now, Mindat, Kanpetlet and Matupi in southern Chin State have been easily accessible from other States and Divisions through Mindat-Kyaunkto-Pakokku-Saw-Seikpyu roads.

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

Duties have been assigned to the Ministry of Construction to upgrade Matupi-Mindat-Kyaunkto-Pauk-Pakokku road and Mindat-Kanpetlet-Saw-Seikpyu roads to all-weather facilities. The Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaunkto-Mindat Road will effectively serve as a纽带 one contributing towards not only southern part of Chin State but Pauk-Kyaunkto and Htilin.

Pakokku, being a strategic region as well as one of the 24 development regions, has got fine education and health infrastructures. So, the roads which link Pakokku to other regions must be fine facilities so that local people can easily grasp the opportunities on education and health sectors, and particularly the roads leading to Pakokku region should be fine ones, because the region can create commercial, educational and health opportunities for the southern part of Chin State.

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

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

In building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the fine transport infrastructure is a must and political and economic policies suitable for the nation have been laid down and then those being accomplished. If these policies are translated into reality through cooperation of the State, the people and the Tanaung, the nation will enjoy a rapid development in a short time. It is natural that there are certain hindrances and hardships in building an all-round developed nation. However, one can notice that Myanmar still has to brave the sanctions imposed at the instigations of internal and external destructive elements, in addition to normal hardships. At such a time, the entire people are to continue to build up an economically strong nation on self-reliance. And all must defend and safeguard the sovereignty of the nation with nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint called on the local people to collectively maintain the bridges of Pakkokku-Pauk-Kyaunkto-Mindat Road for its durability. In conclusion, he urged the people from Magway Division and Chin State to (See page 10)
Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends …

(from page 9)

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

Measures for development of Mongka region coordinated

YANGON, 28 Nov — The coordination meeting for development of Mongka region took place at the office of the minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs this morning.

At the meeting, Minister for PBANRDA Col Thet Nyunt made a speech on education, health and agricultural matters for the development of Mongka region. Director-General of the Department of Border Areas and National Races Development Col Than Swe reported on condition of Mongka region and tasks being carried out.

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

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

Cash and kind presented to doyen literati

YANGON, 28 Nov — A team comprising Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Than Maung (Than Maung), Central Executive Committee member Daw Khin Than Win (Kyi Kyu Thin), members of the publishing committee and South Okkalapa Township took part in the Myanmar Sarsodaw Day 1365 ME.

Next, the team went to the residences of doyen literati Dr Maung Maung Kha and Sayamyagi Kawth Thwin and Sayamagyi Daw Khin Thein of Mayangon Township and paid respects to them. The team also presented K60,000 each and kind to them this morning. The team comprising Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Than Maung (Than Maung), Central Executive Committee member Daw Khin Than Win (Kyi Kyu Thin), members of the publishing committee and South Okkalapa Township took part in the Myanmar Sarsodaw Day 1365 ME.

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

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

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

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

The Ahlon natural gas-fired power plant an important role in sufficient supply of electricity. — Photo: Ministry of Electric Power
**Ethiopian President awarded for contribution to environment, peace**

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

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

The foundation gave the award to Girma in acknowledgment of his visionary leadership and dedication to the environmental protection as well as outstanding contribution made in ensuring peace.

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

Saisonji expressed appreciation to efforts being made by President Girma to set up a rotary Scout unit to enable the children involved in environmental protection activities.

He also lauded Ethiopia’s efforts toward ensuring peace and stability in Africa.

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

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

The countries that will see the largest increase in the number of orphans, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, have HIV prevalence levels already higher than previously thought possible, exceeding 30 percent in the three countries and Zimbabwe, more than one in five children will be orphaned by 2010; more than 80 percent of them will have lost one or both parents due to AIDS.

The report shows that many countries are seeing growing proportions of families headed by women and grandparents. These households hold are generally poorer, and are progressively less able to adequately provide for the children in their care.

It says that many of the most severely affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa face national policies that do not address the needs of orphanged children, including children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

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

She warned that unless decisive action is taken in other countries with epidemics now spiralling out of control, the lives and futures of their children will also be lost to the scourge of AIDS.

**Canada provides Zimbabwe with $23m for HIV project**

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

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

The funds will be directed through the project over the next three years and will provide support for comprehensive HIV prevention and care services for women and children in the rural areas of Zimbabwe.

In 2001, Zvitambo, with the support of the PMTCT programme, was working closely with the PMTCT under the tuberculosis and immunisation programme of the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and also coordinated activities with the Zimbabwe Association of Church-related Hospitals.

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

Canadian High Commissioner to Zimbabwe John Cathan, commended what Zvitambo was doing, especially with regards to HIV and the early integration of research findings.

It has also coordinated PMTCT programmes.

Canada and CIDA's director of Zimbabwe Association of Church-related Hospitals, Vuyelwa Chitumbire, said here on Tuesday that the HIV and AIDS pandemic had posed a tremendous challenge to everyone, especially when the world was facing the worst health and economic hardships.

Chitumbire said: "I completely reject that dependency: "I completely reject that dependency," saying the scenario awaits the response of leaders and communities.

**Mexico appoints new ambassador to UN**

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

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

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

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

**NGOs should cooperate with Chinese Govt in “AIDS” control**

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

Zeng, also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said there were around one million HIV carriers now in China, and the number would increase tenfold in 2020 if no drastic measures were taken. “There is no time to delay in the fight of the AIDS epidemic,” he warned.

“NGOs like our foundation should work in cooperation with the Government to boost China’s AIDS prevention and control work,” said Zeng. He considered Thailand a good example in this respect — after decades of mutual efforts between the Thai Government and NGOs, it successfully controlled the number of AIDS sufferers to below one million, which was decreasing.
Chinese Govt to set up department for rejuvenating N-E region

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

Earthquake jolts S-W China province

Kissong, 28 Nov — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale hit Ludian County in southwest China’s Yunnan Province at 21:38 pm Wednesday, according to the State Seismological Bureau. The earthquake injured two with nobody killed thanks to the forecast from the state seismological bureau and lookout kept by the local government.

The accommodation of the victims has been well arranged and rescue teams led by provincial official Li Weijun have rushed to the area, said acting county mag-

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

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

Report shows Canadians boast higher rate of education

Ottawa, 28 Nov — Canadians boast a higher rate of post-secondary education than people in any other developed nation, says a report published on Wednesday. Fully 41 per cent of Canadians are either college or university graduates — more than any country, including the United States, with 37 per cent, and Japan, with 34 per cent, said the 400-page report made by Statistics Canada and Canada’s Council of Ministers of Education.

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

Canadian taxpayers spent about 52 billion US dollars on health in 2000, 17 per cent of all government spending, compared to about 45 billion US dollars on education, 15 per cent of government spending, said the report.

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

Diana photographers await Paris trial verdict

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

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

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

“Times” launches tabloid edition

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

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

All the broadsheets in Brit- ain now publish smaller fea-

INTERVIEW Weijun have rushed to the

Liaoning and Jilin, known as the “industrial cradle of China”, played a vital role in the country’s industrial de-

development from the 1950’s to the early 1970’s. However, many of the traditional industrial firms established in the 1950’s, when China adopted a planned economic system, have been struggling since the country moved towards a market economy two dec-

tades ago.

The proportion of the re-

gion’s industrial output value to the national total has dropped to 9 per cent from 17 per cent. Some loss-mak-

ing state industries were closed, having laid off large numbers of workers.

“It is time to get rid of the effects of the planned economy completely and establish a market-oriented economy, which might be the only solution for these enter-

pises,” said Xu Chunachen, a professor and a researcher on the state-owned sector at Jilin Uni-

versity. — MNA/Xinhua

INTERVIEW

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INTERVIEW
Stuttgart advance, knockout Rangers

Stuttgart (Germany), 28 Nov — VfB Stuttgart advanced to the knockout phase of the Champions League and eliminated Rangers with a 1-0 victory over the Scottish champions in their Group E match on Wednesday. Central defender Timo Wenzel volleyed home from 10 yards after a fast break created by the visitors. Defenders were well contained by a Porto back four in the first half and bring on Lithuanian "supersub" Edgaras Jankauskas, who set up Maniche for a goal in injury time by picking up a pass from fellow substitute Kevin Roelfsrand to cancel out a 74th-minute strike from Celma midfielder Alexander Mostovoi. With reigning European champions AC Milan booking their place in the knockout stage as group winners thanks to a 1-0 win at Ajax, any one of the other teams can now claim the remaining place in the final round of matches in two weeks.

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

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

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

Slovenian midfielder Nastja Ceh was denied by another good reflex save from Cavaliero after he found space on 25 minutes.

Sand Norwegian striker Bengt Sæternes headed over the bar from the ensuing corner.

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

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

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

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

But the Russian went off injured minutes later and his mate teamed up to stop several good chances to extend their lead.

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

Lazio keep Champions League hope alive with Besiktas draw

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

The result means Besiktas stay second with seven points behind Chelsea, who qualified with 10 points after a goalsless draw with Spartak Moscow, on five points.

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

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

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

During a timid first 45 minutes neither side appeared committed to pushing players forward. Lazio created several half-chances as striker Simone Inzaghi and then defender Paolo Negro put shots wide and high, while at the other end keeper Angelo Peruzzi did well to deny Rhan Mansiz from point-blank range.

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

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

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

A loose ball in the Besiktas area was cleared only as far as Fiore, who lobbed a cross back and Muzzi had time to teep up overhead kick that beat keeper Oscar Cordoba. The goal symbolised the start of a period of concerted Lazio pressure. — MNA/Reuters
Work coordination meeting...
(from page 1)
The future work programmes prescribed in Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand are very comprehensive, covering the tasks to be implemented by all four nations as well as by the two nations concerned.
Therefore, if the four nations actively participate in the tasks the momentum of economic development will be gained all the more.

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

As the development tasks prescribed in the strategy have been focused on development of border areas they have been focused on development of the respective nations.

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

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

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

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

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on the ministers concerned to take effective measures for successful implementation of agreements laid down by the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

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

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also explained the formation of the trade and investment facilitation cooperation work committee, the agriculture cooperation work committee, the industrial cooperation work committee, the tourism cooperation work committee, the human resource cooperation work committee, the livestock and fisheries cooperation work committee chaired by the respective ministers.

This was followed by a general round of discussion.

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

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

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

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

Also present on the occasion were Saging Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Ye Myint Thein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, local authorities, departmental heads, members of social organizations, local residents and others totalling over 10,000.

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

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

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

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

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

(See page 9)

An objective observer can see that statement of the United States Department of the Treasury is a spurious allegation

Ministry of Finance and Revenue issues press release

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

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

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

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