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

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

YANGON, 29 Nov — A coordination meeting on implementation of agreements during the goodwill visit of the Vice-President of the Republic of India to Myanmar was held at Zeyathiri Beikman meeting hall on Konmyintha this evening, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said the meeting was to coordinate the discussions and matters to be implemented under the bilateral agreements during the goodwill visit of Vice-President of the Republic of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shrikhawat to Myanmar. He said that at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Vice-President of the Republic of India was the first one under present government and it was a significant development, he added.

He said the visit was very successful and better foundations were laid down for promotion of bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, education, health, science and technology and cultural exchange sectors. In 2003 seven bilateral agreements were signed and they were important efforts for bilateral cooperation.

Now Myanmar and India are implementing major projects such as Kaladan River communication project through land and water. Myanmar-India-Thailand communication road construction project, Reed-Tiddim, Reed-Falam Road upgrading project and offshore natural gas production project, he said. Moreover, Myanmar and India are working together in education, science and technology and human resources development sectors and the visit of the Vice-President of the Republic of India paved the way for better prospects in bilateral cooperation, he added.

He urged all the ministers concerned to hold discussions at the meeting for successful implementation of the agreements reached during the goodwill visit of the Vice-President of the Republic of India and to reveal future prospects in bilateral cooperation.

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

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

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

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

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the coordination meeting on implementation of agreements reached during the goodwill visit of the Indian Vice-President to Myanmar. — MNA
Myanmar stands ready to cooperate with all international community that wish her well

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has been taking systematic measures in raising, maintaining and using the public finance after laying down firm financial policies and monetary policies for successful realization of political, social and economic objectives of the State. This being the case, significant progress has been made an political, social and economic sectors. The national economic life is meeting with success owing to the united efforts of the Government and the people.

At such a time, some Western powers, opposed the wishes of 52 million Myanmar people and on 11 August 1990, invited a prearranged Myanmar military junta in order to get Myanmar people into trouble. Recently, the United States Department of Treasury issued the announcement dated on 19 November 2003 designating Myanmar and two Myanmar private companies to be of “primary money laundering concern” and proposing countermeasures be taken under section 133 of the USA PATRIOT ACT.

As regards the matter, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue of the Union of Myanmar issued a release on the announcement of the United States Department of the Treasury concerning Myanmar on 28 November 2003. The announcement of the United States Department of Treasury was an act done without considering the real situations properly. Far from helping to anti-money laundering drive, making a subjective assessment of Myanmar anti-money laundering efforts is an ill-considered move.

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

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

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

Myanmar sports team leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 29 Nov — The fourth group of Myanmar sports team to participate in XXII SEA Games comprising the Thai team on 2 December and with Singapore team on 4 December in the group-B matches. — MNA

Thamanya Sayadaw passes away

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

Brief biography of the Sayadaw

The Sayadaw was born of U TaungO and Daw Ohn at Kawkyaiyak PaO Village in Hpa-an Township on 6th Waxing of First Waso 1272 ME (Wednesday). He was novitiated by Kyangin Monastery Sayadaw Bhadatta Acara in Mawlamyine in 1285 ME with the sponsorship of his parents. At 7 am on 15th Waxing of Kason 1292 ME (Friday), he was ordained by Sayadaw Bhadatta Acara at Khanda Ordination Hall of Yadana Bon Myint Monastery in Mawlamyine with the sponsorship of his parents.

Then, he studied Patyatti (the three repositories of Buddhist scriptures) under Kawkyaiyak PaO Village Monastery Sayadaw, Mawlamyine Yadana Bon Myint Monastery Sayadaw, Kyangin Monastery Sayadaw Bhadatta Acara, Mottama Kywechan Monastery Sayadaw, Kadogwin Monastery Sayadaw and Taikakla Taungsum Thayekton Monastery Sayadaw Bhadatta Indacara. He also learnt Patipatti (meditation).

The Sayadaw taught Buddhist literature to his disciples of monks and novices at Wahsa Monastery and Thamanya Hill Monastery; always observing Aranakan Dhutin; and daily giving sermons and discourses to 100 to 500 lay persons who visited him.

In response to the attributions and brilliant missionary performance of the Sayadaw, the government conferred the title “Abhidhaja Agga Maha Suddhamma Jothea” on the Sayadaw on 21 November 1991. At the age of 93, Vas 73, the Sayadaw passed away at 9 am on 29 November 2003. — MNA

Myanmar PGA & MGF President Cup golf continues

YANGON, 29 Nov — The fourth leg of Myanmar Golf Federation (YCDC) in the fourth day match, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) who stood first with 285 strokes, Aung Aung Kyaw second with 284 strokes, Aung Aung Kyaw third with 283 strokes and Aung Aung Kyaw fourth with 282 strokes. — MNA

Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presented prizes to Zaw Zin Win who won first with 284 strokes, Aung Aung Kyaw second with 283 strokes and Aung Aung Kyaw third with 282 strokes. — MNA

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

Myanmar Rice Marketing Course concludes

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

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

Book Fair earns over K 1.8 million

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

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

The conclusion of Myanmar Rice Marketing Course (Program-3) (Batch-1) Rice Milling, Storage and Transportation in progress. — MNA
Grimmest month of war for coalition forces in Iraq

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

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

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

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

Garner blamed Bremer for hurting Iraq’s reconstruction by disbanding the Iraqi Army and replacing it with ranks of unemployed Iraqis, making them easy prey for Baathists loyal to Saddam Hussein to recruit them as insurgents.

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

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

“We had budgeted to pay the Iraqi Army, but part of our plan said, you know, they will surrender like they did in the first Gulf War, but hell, they didn’t surrender, they just evaporation,” he said.

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

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

Two Iraqi sisters found dead

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

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

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

However, the brother of the girls’ bodies over to the police ‘arguing that she had a gun in her possession.”

Police searched the girls’ home, “without finding any thing illegal,” Ali added.

Former Iraqi mili commander dies when questioned by US forces

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

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

It said the former general suddenly felt uncomfortable and lost consciousness when he was under interrogation, and the soldier questioning him conducted a rescue operation.

Five minutes later, a surgeon came and continued advanced cardiac life support techniques which proved ineffective.

Lula wants pacifists and eco tourists in Brazil

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

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

“There is nothing better than knowing that the person taking the plane is a pacifist and an environmentalist who will contribute to the world’s largest tropical forest, the Amazon, which attracts relatively few tourists. Lula wants to sharply boost so-called ‘eco-tourism’ to Brazil.”

Most foreigners visit Brazil to enjoy the revelry of its yearly Carnival in the streets of Rio de Janeiro and sit on sandy beaches in the northeast.

Nepal to provide free treatment to HIV-infected mothers

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

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

“The free treatment programme is the priority of the government, and any pregnant womaninfected with HIV will be given the essential drugs without charge,” Shrestha said.

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

The programme will be gradually expanded to the regional and zonal hospitals with maternity facilities and trained staff, he said. More than 60,000 people in Nepal have contracted HIV and nearly 3,000 have full-blown AIDS.

Experts warned that if the fast-spreading epidemic is not controlled, the disease will affect 10 per cent of Nepal’s most economically active population by 2010. — MNA/Xinhua
US, Iraq occupation criticised in army report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Problem is, those Iraqis fortunate enough to have satellite dishes consider Al-Iraqiya stodgy and slow on breaking news. They prefer Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, the flashy Gulf-based stations where anti-American fighters are branded “resist-ers.”

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

Americans and their al- liés also show little love for Al-Jazeera.

Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has branded both networks “vio- lently anti-coalition.”

He said a separate, US-owned satellite station would begin broadcasting next month, aiming to capture Arab view- ers from the Gulf stations.

But Al-Iraqiya has crit- ics, too. Many see it as a pawn of the US-led occupa- tion authorities.

“The whole country is un- der the control of the Ameri- cans, not just Al-Iraqiya,” complained one man, a Baghdad candy vendor who declined to give his name.

An editor at the station, Kareem Hammadi, said he accen tuates positive news “for the good of the Iraqi people.”

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

Iraq’s oil pipelines under attack

Resistance forces repeatedly hitting vulnerable spots; cost to rebuild rises

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

Insurgents have been striking almost weekly against a labyrinth of pumping stations and hundreds of miles of pipes fed by the oil fields in the southern desert near the border with Kuwait. Oil stations and refineries are riddled with vaults and tunnels dug by insurgents, allowing them to avoid US bomb and rocket attacks.

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

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

Mexican stares lowest foreign direct investment in seven years

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

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

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

It mirrors recent criticisms by Jay Garner, the retired American general who briefly headed the first occupation government in Iraq. He said in a BBC interview that the military did not act quickly enough to restore law and order and key services in Baghdad, and should have tried harder to win support from the Iraqi people.

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

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

“Despite the virtual certainty that the military would accomplish the regime change, there was no plan for over- sight and reconstruction, even after the division arrived in Baghdad,” the report said.

“State, Defence, and other relevant agencies must do a better and timelier job planning occupation governance and standing up an new Iraq government.”

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

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

The third quarter of the year also saw a cost to rebuild rises

MSF calls for adaptation of “AIDS” treatment to poor countries

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

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

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

Rostup said five to six million people infected with HIV in the developing coun- tries need access to antiretroviral therapy to survive. However, he said only 400,000 are receiving this life-saving treatment.

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

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

“Treatment must be adapted and simpli- fied and it must be free if we are going to pipeline that may be the solution to the epidemic. There has been dra- matic reduction in antiretroviral drugs due to generic competition,” Rostrup emphasized.

MSF calls for adaptation of “AIDS” treatment to poor countries

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

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

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

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

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

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

An Iraqi woman and her son walk by anti-US graffiti in Baghdad’s Azamiyah neighbourhood on 28 November. — INTERNET
US soldier killed in attack on Iraq base

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

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

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

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

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

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

Austria wants talks with EU on truck traffic

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

Speaking in Berlin, Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel said Austria was “deeply disappointed” by a decision this week by EU Government and European Parliament representatives that could ease curbs on truck traffic and wanted further talks on how to solve the environmentally sensitive issue.

Austria is the only EU country to have the legal right to limit truck traffic in a bloc founded on the principles of free movement of goods and people. It negotiated the privilege in a bid to curb pollution, when joining the club in 1995.

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

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

“It does not make any sense that non-EU member Switzerland is able to charge much higher tariffs, which displace traffic.

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

The Brenner Pass railway link is one of a number of transport projects that EU leaders are due to discuss next week in Brussels as part of plans to boost the bloc’s economy.

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

MNA/Reuters

French Senate halves contested tobacco tax hike

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

The amendment to the draft 2004 budget, submitted by Budget Minister Alain Lambert and adopted by France’s Upper House of Parliament, reduces the price rise due in January to 8.10 per cent from 20 per cent. The law will now go back to the Lower House, where Lambert’s conservative government has a large majority, for a fresh vote scheduled in mid-December.

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

About a third of adults smoke in France.

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

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

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

Opposition politicians accused the government of caving in to pressure from France’s 34,000 tobacco shop owners, who gained sympathy and wide media attention after the price hike was followed by a wave of burglaries.

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

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

“Then the government,” he said, “does not bow to pressure from the street.”

MNA/Reuters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Until now, nations have been under no obligation to clear munitions, leaving ordinary people to face the daily risk of being killed or maimed in former war zones, Forster said.

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

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

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

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

INTERNET

FRENCH C GAY.jpg

INTERNET
Building the road of prosperity
together for mutual benefits

(Continued from yesterday)

The visiting Indian Vice-President also detailed the
tasks being carried out in cooperation between the two
countries. In the afternoon, the Union of Myanmar Fed-
eration of Chambers of Commerce and Industry hosted a
luncheon in honour the Vice-President and party. On 4
November, the Vice-President and party left for Bagan-
NyangU. A joint statement of the two countries was
issued on the same day. It stated that the Vice-President
of India expressed support for the national reconsolida-
tion process and progress in the transition to democracy in
Myanmar. Both leaders expressed their determination to
enhance the relations between the two countries and reaf-
irmed the target of US$ 1 billion of bilateral trade by
2006. Invitation of the President of India to Chairman of
the State Peace and Development Council Senior General
Than Shwe to pay an official visit to India was accepted
with pleasure by Myanmar. The Vice-President also agreed
with pleasure to convey the invitation of the Chairman of
State Peace and Development Council to visit India. The
panel of chairmen of the summit of the four
countries; that the leaders were mindful that sus-
ced for common action to live in peace with one an-
other, was chosen for the summit. The Bagan Declaration
was also signed and issued by the four prime
ministers, General Khin Nyunt added. Myanmar
would benefit from implement-
ting the economic cooperation strategy, he said. Myanmar
to accelerate economic growth, social programmes and
cultural development in the region through joint endeav-
ours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order
to strengthen the foundations for a prosperous and peaceful
community of nations and to the principles enshrined in
Bangkok ASEAN Declaration of 1967 and the Treaty of
Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. It stated eco-

Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos,
and Thailand, at the Sedona Hotel on KabA Aye Pagoda Road on 10 November. The second senior offi-
cials’ meeting and the ministerial meeting of the summit
were held at the hotel the same day. The visiting prime
ministers paid a courtesy call on Chairman of the State
Peace and Development Council Senior General Than
Shwe at the Credentials Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Build-
ing on 11 November morning. State Peace and Develop-
ment Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe hosted
a luncheon in honour the visiting prime ministers at the
Pyithu Hluttaw Building at 11 am. In the afternoon, the
prime ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thai-
land left for Singapore.

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation
Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand
was held at Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan
Archaeological Zone, Mandalay Division, at 8 am on 11
November. Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar
General Khin Nyunt, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr
Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Boungnang
Vorachith, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra,
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein
Sein of the State Peace and Development Council of the
Union of Myanmar, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand
Dr Chatchai Srote of the Council of Chambers of Commerce
and Industry of Myanmar and Thailand, Minister of
Transportation and senior officials of the countries attended
the summit. At the summit, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt
said he was glad to host the first Summit Meeting on Economic
Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.
Bagan, the city of the first
Myanmar empire and the site of Myanmar’s cultural heri-
tage, was chosen for the summit. The Bagan Declaration
and Plan of Action to be released after the summit will
further strengthen cooperation among the people of the
countries. Myanmar would benefit from implement-
ing the economic cooperation strategy, he said. Myanmar
wished to promote cooperation in the tourism and human
resources development sectors, General Khin Nyunt added.
The Cambodian prime minister, the Laotian prime min-
er, and the Thai prime minister also took part in the
discussions on economic development of the four
countries.

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

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-
prizes
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a
four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is
equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
- The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased
Myanmar beat Singapore 2-0

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

In the second match of group B, selected Myanmar football beat Singapore football team 2-0.

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

In the first match of group B, Malaysia football team beat Cambodia football team 8-1.

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

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends...

(from page 16)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alodawpyi Pagoda Buddha Pujiya on 8 Dec

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

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

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair continues

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

At the trade fair, Pentel, Carl, Max, Midori, Sam Wang, Taekyang, Hello Kitty, Comix, Helix and Panaco brand stationery, and various kinds of foodstuff are being displayed together with demonstration of the products.

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

MMA Women Chapter pays respects to elders

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

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

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

Leading Patron Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and officials presented K 20,000 each to elderly doctors. On behalf of the elderly doctors, Sayagyi Col Hla Han (Retd) spoke words of advice.

MMA Women Chapter pays respects to Sayadaw U Tejaniya.

The Booth of Pentel (Japan) Co Ltd at Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003. — MNA
Yangon, 29 Nov—State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, inspected the basic education high school in Pauk on 27 November morning.

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

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

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

IT Instructors’ course concludes

Yangon, 29 Nov—The Instructors’ Training on Fundamental IT for Myanmar (MYEIT) and Fundamental IT Engineer for Myanmar (MYFE) sponsored by Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) and Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) concluded at the MICT Park in Hline Township yesterday afternoon. It was attended by President of MCF U Thein Oo, Secretary U Thaung Tin and members of the representatives from AOTS, course instructors and trainees.

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects BEHS in Pauk

Yangon, 29 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials of the State Peace and Development Council together with Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and senior military officers, on 26 November morning, left Momeik for Monglon Village and arrived there at 9.30 am.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party left there by the Momeik-Mongkol-Monglon-Kyaukme road. He gave instructions on renovation of the road for smooth transportation.

At the orange plantations of Hong Pang Co at Kunseik Village-tract in Hsipaw Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports by U Aye Thein of the company on growing of opium-substitute crops on 810 acres of land. After inspecting the orange plantations, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party proceeded to Naungmon Village in Lashio Township in the evening and visited the orange plantations of Lin Tun Co. Director U Lin Tun (a) U Win Zaw reported on growing of opium-substitute crops on 300 acres of land. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected thriving of honey orange trees there.

MNA

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LT-GEN AUNG HTWE INSPECTS TEST MINING, ROAD CONSTRUCTION

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

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December is a transition month between the two adjacent years. It is also a peculiar month for the organizations and agencies around the world that tackle the threat of AIDS, since World AIDS Day falls on the first day of December. Various types and forms of awareness raising activities are conducted only on that day but also throughout the year, as the World AIDS Campaign.

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

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

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

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

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

From the other perspectives, there is a vicious cycle of prejudice (thought), stigma (attitude), and discrimination (act) that leads to harmful consequences to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. People might think that “it is the punishment by the god”, “one is infected because of its own fault”, and “people die anyway, why care so much”. The attitude towards PLWHA could be that “PLWHA deserve it”, “we have to spend a lot of money in taking care of PLWHA”, and “at least it could be one way of reducing population growth”. The discrimination that could happen against PLWHA and their family members are such that they could be denied from accessing to care and support including medical care services. The children could also be refused from enrolling into schools, or being allowed to stay near the school or being refused to be removed from the school. A worker might be refused to employ or be removed from the job because of HIV status.

In fact, stigma and discrimination are major barriers in prevention and control of the infection, and also barriers in providing care and support to those infected and affected. The internalization or internalized stigma can have powerful psychological consequences that may lead to depression, despair and loss of self-esteem among persons infected and affected. This in turn can prevent them from accessing health care information and services or participating in activities that can protect them from HIV. The external stigma and discrimination can undermine the prevention and control efforts and fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic in many parts of the world.

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

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

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

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

Community-based intervention activities and peer education programme should be included and emphasize the issues related to stigma and discrimination as well as the programmes and activities that address these issues for greater integration of and compassion for PLWHA.

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

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

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

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

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


**COP2C chairmain arrives in Colombo**

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

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

To further solidify and develop the long-term steady friendly relations and cooperation between China and Sri Lanka on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence is in the fundamental interest of the two peoples and serves peace and development in Asia, noted Jia.

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

— MNA/Xinhua

**Vietnam’s grain production up in 2003**

**HANOI, 29 Nov—** Vietnam has harvested 36.7 million tons of grain, including 32.4 million tons of unhulled rice, in the 2003 crop year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said here.

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

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

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

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

Agriculture export rose to 2.8 billion US dollars each year between 2001 and 2003, from 3.1 billion US dollars in the 1991-1995 period.

— MNA/Xinhua

**China announces top ten young people of 2003**

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

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

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

— MNA/Xinhua

**Dalian becomes N-China’s largest int’l settlement centre**

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

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

Dalian has become the largest international settlement centre in the northern part of China, said experts.

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

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

— MNA/Xinhua
Iran hails IAEA resolution as victory against US, Israel

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

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

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

“This resolution is a clear sign that the United States and Israel have failed to implement their premeditated plan against the Islamic Republic,” Rowhani said. Close contact between Europe and Iran had paid dividends, he added.

The official explained that despite widespread pressures of the United States, Israel and certain countries, the new resolution has not only met many of Iran’s demands, but also “have not brought about any positive achievement for Americans and the countries which are opposed to the development of Iran’s peaceful nuclear technology.”

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

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

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

He added that “we expect the IAEA to implement their premeditated plan against the Islamic Republic,” Rowhani said. Close contact between Europe and Iran had paid dividends, he added.

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Sochaux thrash 10-man Dortmund 4-0
PARIS, 29 Nov—Borussia Dortmund, who had Salvatore Gambino sent off in the first five minutes, were thrashed 4-0 by Sochaux on Thursday and eliminated from the UEFA Cup.

The French side, who drew the first leg of the second round tie 2-2 in Germany, had the perfect start when Gambino—who on his 20th birthday—pulled down striker Santos in the Dortmund area. He was sent off and Pierre-Alain Frau scored from the penalty spot.

Sochaux dominated the second half against a tiring German side. Midfielder Jeremy Mathieu hit the Dortmund post before Santos made the most of a breakaway by chopping goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller for Sochaux's second goal in the 67th minute when defender Stefan Reuter slipped in the area to give the ball Mathieu six metres out and he netted his side's fourth. — MNA/Reuters

Italy's Scala to coach Spartak Moscow
MOSCOW, 29 Nov—Italian Nevio Scala has been appointed as coach of former Russian champions Spartak Moscow.

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

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

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

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

Scala, who took on Romania's Dinamo Bucharest in a UEFA Cup second round, second leg tie on Thursday, finished in 10th place last season.

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

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

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

On Sunday, Russian champions CSKA Moscow appointed former Portugal manager Artur Jorge to succeed former Russian coach Valery Gazzyayev. — MNA/Reuters

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

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

European soccer's ruling body said on Tuesday that the fixture would be one of three moved away from Turkey to neutral venues for safety reasons. It will kick off in Dortmund at 1945 GMT “We are very happy that following excellent cooperation between UEFA, the Turkish FA and the home club involved, we have found a suitable neutral venue for the re-scheduled match,” UEFA chief executive Gerhard Aigner said.

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

The attacks followed bombings at two Istanbul synagogues this month that killed 25 people.

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

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

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

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

Groclin, fifth in the Polish league, dominated the first half but were unable to convert several scoring opportunities, the best of which came in the 28th minute when Andzej Niedzielan had a shot cleared off the line by Chinese defender Sun Jihai.

Nicolas Anelka broke free in the 74th minute for Manchester City but his shot was saved by goalkeeper Mariusz Libera.

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

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

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

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

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

Temperatures sizzled into the mid-thirties and Garcia's approach shot in to 15-feet, he missed the putt.

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

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e-Education Learning Centre

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- Information Technology in Public Administration
- The Nature and Scope of Public Administration
- Pyu Civilization
- Geographic Discipline Environmental Studies
- The Scope of Philosophy
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Words of the ill-willed,
we care not a bit
- Let us be tired, but we shan’t waver
If our life is independent.
- If not wealthy, we care not
In our mind’s freedom
Our own farneasts, in our abodes
The value of our kin enhanced
Our position undisturbed,
If it remains that way.
- Because of the words of the ill-willed
On the way we traverse
There shall be no reneging, no wavering
There will never be
- Our objectives, laid down
Are not for others.
- Our objectives, that are laid down
Are for us, to live in freedom
To be the arbiters of our faith
Our great nation to be strong
To be that way, we will have to work
To continue act in due order
We shall continue to strive.

Po Wa (Trs)

WEATHER

Saturday, 29 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine States, 5°C below normal in Chin State, 3°C about normal in Mon State about in the remaining areas.
Maximum temperature on 28-11-2003 was 36.0°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 9-11-2003 was 19.0°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-11-2003 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 28-11-2003 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 29-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northwesterly at (14:15) hours MST on 28-11-2003.
Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 30-11-2003: Possibility of isolated light rain in Yangon, Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Forecast outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Southern Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-11-2003: Possibility of isolated light rain in the afternoon... Degree of certainty is (40%).
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-11-2003: Partly cloudy.

China FM spokesperson on Sino-U.S. trade disputes

Bereze, 29 Nov.—China is in opposition to US export limitations on Chinese textiles and the ruling that slapped dumping duties on colour television imports from China, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here Thursday. Liu said China has expressed dissatisfaction and objections to the US side.
The Chinese side also noticed that the US Government and its leaders had repeatedly expressed their wish to discuss with China about the trade issue. He said China considered some trade frictions normal at a time when Sino-US trade ties were developing so rapidly. China hoped that the trade issue could be handled properly through dialogue and consultation on equal footing. Liu said. Any unilateral actions were not constructive and would not help resolve the disputes.
By joint efforts of both sides, Liu acknowledged, very great advances have been made in bilateral trade and economic cooperation, which had become one important component part of Sino-US relations.

Estonia with 33 million Can- to support (OPCW) on Thursday.

Britain, Canada, Holland assist Russia in destroying c-weapons

Bereza, 29 Nov.— Britain, China and the Netherlands have taken concrete actions to assist Russia in destroying its chemical weapons arsenal, said the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on Thursday.
The Hague-based OPCW said Britain and Canada recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Moscow on cooperation to support Russia in destroying its chemical weapons stockpiles.
According to the MOU, Canada will provide Russia with 33 million Canadian dollars (25 million US dollars) to be used to finance the construction of an 18-kilometre railway link- ing a chemical weapons storage depot with the destruction facility in Shchuch’ye of Kurganskaya oblast, and Britain will ‘manage the funds on China’s behalf to carry out the work in Rus- sia’.
On November 5, the Netherlands and Russia signed an agreement on the contribution of four million euros (4.76 million US dollars) by the former for the modernization of an electricity station supplying power to the chemical weapons de- struction facility in Kambarka of the Udmurt Rep- public, according to the OPCW.—MNA/Xinhua
**Annual Organizational Meeting of Myawaddy-Way Kyo War Veterans Organization Takes Place in Sagaing Division**

Ye Myint called on responsive facility, he noted. Lt-Gencross the creek at any time for many hours due to the so in the rainy season, the bridge. The creek floods whenever it rains heavily and a bridge. The commander, the construction of Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, together with local people, posed for documentary photos together in Shan State (North) at the City Hall in Lashio on 27 November. It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hlaing, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental personnel, headmasters, members of social organizations, and local residents totalling over 6,000.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the government has been implementing the five rural development tasks for ensuring development of the entire nation including rural areas. Prior to the completion of the bridge, people had to cross the creek with difficulty through the suspension bridge. The creek floods whenever it rains heavily and so in the rainy season, the vehicles were often delayed for many hours due to the floods. But, now, people can cross the creek at any time thanks to the emergence of the facility, he noted. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called on responsible officials and local people to cooperate in maintaining the facility for its durability. Next, Deputy Managing Director of Public Works U Soe Aung and Fangang District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Htay Oo formally opened the bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for documentary photos together with local residents. Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun unveiled the stone inscriptions of the bridge, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander sprinkled scented water on. They then crossed the bridge.

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

On behalf of local people, a local national thanked the State for the facility. The commander, the minister and Chairman Col Tin Hla formally opened the road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, together with local people, posed for documentary photos. Lt-Gen Ye Myint pressed the button to unveil the stone inscription of the road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the facility. Sixty-one miles of the 97 miles Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaunkhtu-Mindat road was paved. — MNA

**MWVO Central Organizing Committee meets**

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**Tapyin Bridge on Pakokku-Kyaunkhtu-Mindat Road inaugurated**

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

**Four economic objectives**

- National reconsolidation
- 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 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 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

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

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

**YANGON, 29 NOV — The opening of Tapyin Bridge on Pakokku-Kyaunkhtu-Mindat Road takes place at the bridge on 27 November afternoon, with an address by Chairman Col Tin Hla formally opened the road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, together with local residents. Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun unveiled the stone inscriptions of the bridge, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander sprinkled scented water on. They then crossed the bridge.**}

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends the regular meeting of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Committee. — MNA**

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