Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Romania

YANGON, 1 Dec — 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 Ion Iliescu, President of Romania, on the occasion of the National Day of Romania which falls on 1 December 2003. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Indagaw Industrial Zone

YANGON, 30 Nov — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, arrived at Indagaw Industrial Zone of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Bago Township, Bago Division, this morning.

The Prime Minister was welcomed at the industrial zone by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and departmental heads.

At the briefing hall of the radiator plant, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported to the Prime Minister on production and efficiency of Junior CNC lathe machines, resistance spot welding machines and drilling machine for 1500 feet deep tube-wells.

Managing Director U Soe Thein of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries reported to the Prime Minister on installation and test running of machines and projects being carried out there; Managing Director U Myo Tun of Myanma Agricultural Industries on salient points of tiller factory project and arrangements for production of 3,000 tillers a year; Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanma Machine Tool and Electrical Industries on production of aluminum wire and meters and arrangements for production of 66 KV aluminium and steel wires for Kengtung Hydel Power Project; and Managing Director U Ye Tun of Myanma Industrial Construction Services on construction of plants in the industrial zone and water supply, power supply and greening tasks of the zone.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister gave instructions on conducting researches constantly, taking innovative measures for development, production of import substitute items, and distribution of quality products to industrial zones.

The Prime Minister proceeded to the Tiller Engine Factory in the zone and inspected the machine tools, 15 horse power tillers, four wheel tillers and trailers produced by the factory. Afterwards, the Prime Minister viewed the factory. Later, the Prime Minister proceeded to the Heat Treatment Workshop and the Forging Workshop in the zone and inspected the tasks being carried out there.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister arrived at the Foundry in the zone and looked into the production process there.

The Prime Minister also inspected the ball bearing plant by the factory. Afterwards, the Prime Minister viewed the plant and inspected the machine tools, 15 horse power tillers, four wheel tillers and trailers produced by the factory.

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

**Monday, 1 December, 2003**

**Live and Let Live**

The first day of December is designated as World AIDS Day and with the initiation of World Health Organization (WHO), “World AIDS Day” is commemorated in the countries around the world. This year’s commemoration is the 15th one.

Awareness raising activities underscoring the AIDS epidemic are conducted on 1 December and a slogan is also laid down every year. The slogan of the World AIDS Day 2003 is **Live and Let Live**.

Out of the diseases common to the people, AIDS is the most dangerous. It spoils human system in human body and can kill the patient in a short time. Prevention and control measures are being taken around the world. In many countries, AIDS campaigns are being conducted on 1 December as a mass movement.

Since 1989, the State has been giving guidance on taking measures to control the spread of AIDS as a national duty. It is incumbent upon all the national people to fight against the danger posed by AIDS epidemic.

Every strata of life should have the knowledge on AIDS and must try to know about it. There are many departments that disseminate knowledge on AIDS and ready to help. It is no need to feel ashamed or frightened to raise queries about AIDS. As regards the disease, specific do’s and don’ts must be followed.

Articles on AIDS have been featured in books, pamphlets, newspapers, journals and magazines published by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF and the radio and television also broadcast educational programmes on AIDS. Dissemination of knowledge on AIDS is one of the best weapons to combat the disease.

The Government is taking measures to combat AIDS as a national duty and the UN agencies, in cooperation with social organizations, are also taking part in the fight against AIDS. They are actively carrying out tasks on combating, controlling, preventing the disease and providing counselling services.

We would like to urge all the national people to take part in the fight against the deadly disease while assisting the victims of AIDS in accord with the slogan “Live and Let Live”.

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**SSMNC Secretary Sayadaw leaves for Indonesia**

**Yangon, 30 Nov**

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Raththa Guna Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Pro-rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, accompanied by Director-General of the Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, left here by air this afternoon to attend the opening ceremony of the replica of Shwedagon pagoda to be held in the Republic of Indonesia.

The Secretary Sayadaw and members were seen off at Yangon International Airport by member Sayadaws of SSMNC, Director-General of Department of Religious Affairs Dr Myo Myint and officials.

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends launching ceremony of Matupi-Mindat-Pakokku bus lines**

**Yangon, 30 Nov**

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials on 29 November morning attended the ceremony to launch the Matupi-Mindat-Pakokku bus lines held in Mindat.

It was also attended by Chin State PDC Chairman Colin Tin Hla, Mindat District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo and departmental officials, social organizations, band troupes, and local people.

First, Colin Tin Hla formally opened the ceremony on the occasion. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander sprinkled scented water on the buses. Afterwards, the buses of Natmautong Bus Line and Golden Lass Bus Line were launched. The buses will shuttle between Matupi and Pakokku through Mindat.

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**Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspectss poppy-substitute brick factory in Lashio**

**Yangon, 30 Nov**

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Oo and officials, inspected construction of brick, undertaking process of brick production and systematic measures to be taken for proper drainage in the rainy season.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Highland-1 Model Plantations of the command where sunflowers, groundnut and winter crops are grown. At the briefing hall, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on various kinds of crops including perennial crops, pulse and beans, sunflowers, macadamia and groundnut on the plantations.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented progress in macro-economic and financial development in ASEAN+3 region in the ASEAN+3 Meeting held in Seoul, Korea on 28 November.

At the Informal AFDM+3 Meeting held in Seoul, Korea on 28 November, the Asian Development Bank presented economic and financial development in ASEAN+3 region while ASEAN nations presented progress in macro-economy and finance in the countries.

Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe presented macro-economy and financial conditions in Myanmar.

In the afternoon, matters related to implementation of Asian loan market programme and future work programmes were discussed. Singapore also presented work programmes of ASEAN+3 for the year 2004 and agreement on holding the AFDM+3 Meeting in Singapore in April 2004 was reached.

Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe together with Director Daw Ohmma Sein arrived back here by air the afternoon.—MNA

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**F&R deputy minister attends Informal AFDM+3 Meeting**

**Yangon, 30 Nov**

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, accompanied by Director of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Ohmma Sein attended the Informal AFDM+3 Meeting held in Seoul, Korea on 28 November.

At the Informal AFDM+3 Meeting held in the morning, the Asian Development Bank presented economic and financial development in ASEAN+3 region while ASEAN nations presented progress in macro-economy and finance in the countries.

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Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe together with Director Daw Ohmma Sein arrived back here by air the afternoon.—MNA

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**Tong Tah Trade Fair ends**

**Yangon, 30 Nov**

With the assistance of the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003 exhibiting a wide range of products for the last day at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pansualung Street, Mingaladon Township was teeming with visitors. Officials of the Tong Tah Co Ltd presented flower baskets to Aungbawdi Co Ltd and Win Family Industry & Trading Co Ltd.

Altogether 112 booths of 38 companies including the Tong Tah Co Ltd were exhibited at the fair. —MNA

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**Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence inspects So So Pyay Pyay Brick Enterprise on Lashio-Hsenwi-Muse road in Lashio.** — MNA

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint sprinkles scented waters on vehicles at the launching ceremony of Matupi-Mindat-Pakokku bus lines.** — MNA

Manager U Khin Kyaw of Aungbawdi Co Ltd accepts flower baskets presented by officials of Tong Tah Co Ltd. — MNA
US is worried foe is tracking targets in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov—Bush administration officials are increasingly concerned that anti-American forces in Iraq are using simple but effective means to monitor activities and coordinate attacks against the American military, civilian administrators and visiting dignitaries.

As evidence, Pentagon and military officials cite a recent raid by troops of the 101st Airborne Division during which they broke up an apparent plot to assassinate an American colonel.

The would-be assailants, they said, had observed and charted the Army officer’s daily routine including his jogging route and schedule of public appearances to plan their attack.

Evidence gathered by investigators also sheds new light on the rocket attack that investigators also say targeted Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and other senior officials.

The “contact group” on Iraq, set up to coordinate the rest of the international community to support their efforts, is likely to embarrass their respective governments.

The attacks on both the Spaniards and the Japanese are likely to embarrass their respective governments.

French Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar defied public opinion at home to send around 1,300 peacekeepers to Iraq after strongly endorsing the US and British decision to invade the country on 20 March.

France welcomes UN setting Contact Group on Iraq crisis

PARIS, 30 Nov—France on Thursday welcomed the establishment of a United Nations Contact Group over the Iraqi crisis, describing it as a measure in the direction of “reinforcement of consultation among partners.”

“The participation of Iraq’s neighbouring countries (in the Contact Group) is necessary, due to the important role that they have to play in the stabilization of the region and in the full reintegration of a sovereign Iraq that lives in peace with its neighbours,” said a spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry.

“The group comprises the six countries that border Iraq plus Egypt, the five permanent members of the Security Council and four non-permanent members.”

The group is meant to coordinate the approaches of neighbouring countries and the rest of the international community.

The countries are to be represented at the level of their ambassadors to the United Nations. The neighbours are Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait and Egypt.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Swiss economy shows new signs of recovery

GENEVA, 30 Nov—The Swiss economy has begun to show signs of recovery, posting its first positive quarterly growth in a year, according to the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Seco) on Thursday.

Seco said in a statement that the upturn was mainly fuelled by a boost in exports.

The economy grew by 1 per cent in the third quarter of 2003, slightly exceeding expectations. Economists had predicted an average growth of 0.9 per cent.

Seco still expects the economic growth to decline overall in 2003, due to a sharp drop earlier in the year. However, it expects growth to accelerate next year to reach 1.5 per cent.

“A return to significant growth is expected in 2004,” Seco said.

The Swiss National Bank said the figures were roughly in line with expectations.

The sun set as a Spanish soldier sits at his machinegun guarding a helicopter landing zone in central Iraq. Seven Spanish intelligence agents were killed in an attack on their convoy south of Baghdad. —INTERNET

Billions to face water shortages as glaciers melt

MILAN (Italy), 30 Nov—The world’s glaciers could melt within a century if global warming accelerates, leaving billions of people short of water and some islanders without a home, environmentalists said on Thursday.

“Unless governments take urgent action to prevent global warming, billions of people worldwide may face severe water shortages as a result of the alarming melting rate of glaciers, the WWF group said in a report.

It said human impact on the climate was melting glaciers from the Andes to the Himalayas, bringing longer-term threats of higher sea levels that could swamp island states.

Of officials from 180 nations will meet in Milan on December 1-12 to discuss international efforts to rein in a rise in global temperatures, blamed by scientists on emissions of gases from factories and cars that are blanketing the planet.

“Simulations project that a 4.0 Celsius rise in temperature would eliminate nearly all of the world’s glaciers” by the end of the century, WWF said. Himalayan glaciers feed seven great rivers of Asia that run through China and India, the world’s most populous nations, ensuring a year-round water supply to two billion people.

Island states like Tuvalu in the Pacific, meanwhile, could be submerged by rising sea levels triggered by melting glaciers.

Sea levels could rise even further if ice from the world’s largest ice caps, in Antarctica and Greenland, melted substantially, though the report left them out of its reckoning because of their unpredictability.

Glaciers are ancient rivers of packed snow that creep through the landscape, shaping the planet’s surface.

“Glaciers are exceedingly important because they respond rapidly to climate change and their loss directly affects human populations and ecosystems,” said Jennifer Morgan, head of WWF’s Climate Change Programme. —MNA/Reuters

Little girls of China’s Dong Nationality sing songs of the nationality during its traditional song festival in southwest China’s Guizhou Province on 28 Nov, 2003. The traditional songs of the Dong Nationality, with a history of around 2,500 years, once deeply attracted audience in Russia, France, Austria and other countries. —INTERNET
Tokyo confirms two Japanese killed in Iraq

Tokyo, 30 Nov — Gunmen in Iraq killed two Japanese diplomats in an ambush on their vehicle Saturday, an attack that came with Japan moving closer to sending noncombat troops to the Mideast nation.

Japanese officials said the deaths — the first Japanese killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion — would change the government plan to use its soldiers to aid in the country’s reconstruction.

Details of the attack were still sketchy, but Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi said that the vehicle was ambushed near the city of Tikrit, where the envoys were to attend an aid conference.

The two were working for the reconstruction of Iraq, Kawaguchi said at a news conference.

Their driver, whose nationality was not immediately known, was seriously injured, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Jiro Okuyama.

Katshiko Oku, 45, headed the cultural affairs section of Japan’s embassy in London and had been on assignment in Iraq. Masamori Inoue, 30, was a second secretary at the Baghdad mission.

Christopher Bellew of Prudential Bache brokerage said.

We expect OPEC to leave production quotas unchanged,

Annan says “AIDS” is weapon of mass destruction

London, 30 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in an interview released on Friday that AIDS was a “weapon of mass destruction” for some countries and the world was losing the fight against the epidemic.

He urged world leaders to do more to stem the spread of the disease.

“In some of the countries we are talking about, AIDS is a real weapon of mass destruction — and what are we doing about that?” Annan said in the interview with BBC World Service radio.

“It does indicate a certain incredible callousness that one would not have expected in the 21st Century.”

The United Nations said in a report this week that deaths and new cases of HIV/AIDS reached unprecedented highs in 2003 and were set to keep rising.

About five million people were infected in 2003 and more than three million died.

It said new global estimates showed about 40 million people worldwide were now living with HIV/AIDS.

“I am not winning the war because I don’t think the leaders of the world are engaged enough,” Annan said in excerpts of the interview released to the BBC’s Web site.

“Tung to pay duty visit to Beijing

Hong Kong, 30 Nov — Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Tung Chee Hwa will pay a duty visit to Beijing from December 2 to 4, a government Press release said said Thursday.

During his stay in Beijing, Tung will call on Chinese central government leaders and brief them on the latest developments in Hong Kong.

During Tung’s absence, Chief Secretary Donald Tsang will be the acting chief executive. The Director of the Chief Executive’s Office, W K Lam, Information Services Director Yvonne Cheung and the Chief Executive’s private secretary Robin Ip and his senior special assistant Chan Kin-ping will accompany Tung on the visit.

Angolan President calls for fighting “AIDS”, poverty reduction

Luanda, 30 Nov — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has said the fight against HIV/AIDS should be combined with a strategy to reduce poverty, local media reported on Friday.

Eduardo dos Santos was speaking on Thursday at the meeting of the National Commission for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS and Dangerous Diseases, of which he is the chairman, held in the Congress Hall.

The measures against the proliferation of this disease should be part of the strategy to fight poverty. “We should face these two problems as being related and inseparable, making up two sides of the same coin,” he said.

On the other hand, success in this fight also depends on the joining of efforts and on the commitment of members of the society.

A broad front to fight against this problem is necessary, because the government can lead the fight, but cannot carry it out with success alone, the President said.

According to the President, it is also important to continue mobilizing donor countries and large firms in the sense of not stopping to supply the means for the implementation of programmes that have already been defined.

Australian whistleblower wins award for anti-Iraq war stance

Canberra, 30 Nov — A former Australian intelligence analyst has been awarded a Whistleblower award for quitting his post to speak out against waging war on Iraq.

Andrew Wilkie — who resigned from Australia’s top intelligence assessment agency, the ONA, last March in protest over involvement in the Iraq campaign — was awarded the United Nations Association of Australia’s inaugural Whistleblower of the Year Award at a ceremony in Canberra.

Wilkie, who accuses the Australian government of misleading the public to justify war on Iraq, said the award vindicated his actions.

“It means a lot to me and it certainly encourages me to keep speaking out,” he told reporters.

“Of course, more than any other organization, the ONA has been the key player in this whole Iraq business.”

Association national president Margaret Reynolds said her organization had been keen to recognize Wilkie.

“It was a special award for 2003 which has been a pretty awful year for the UN,” she said.

“The invasion of Iraq was an illegal war brought by a super power and its friends and at great personal risk to his own career, Andrew Wilkie spoke out and brought the focus back to the proper role of the UN in this issue.”

The Australian government has denied Wilkie’s claims.

Drive Safely

Oil eases ahead of OPEC meeting

London, 30 Nov — World oil prices eased on Friday, as the market awaited next week’s OPEC meeting, which is widely expected to leave output unchanged.

Benchmark Brent futures in London last traded 25 cents lower at 28.45 US dollars a barrel.

Trade was very thin with many players absent because the US markets were shut for the Thanksgiving holiday.

“We’re held in a narrow range while the US is on holiday and ahead of next week’s OPEC meeting,” Christopher Bellew of Prudential Bache brokerage said.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries meets on December 4 to review its output policy and most market commentators believe the cartel will leave in place its output limit of 24.5 million barrels per day.

“We expect OPEC to leave production quotas unchanged,” said bankers Lehman Brothers.

Please contact us for further information.

MNA/Reuters

Andrew Wilkie, a former Australian intelligence analyst has been awarded a Whistleblower award for quitting his post to speak out against waging war on Iraq. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

Internet

Internet
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

An Iraqi girl covers her face as US army soldiers search for guerillas in the centre of Baghdad, on Saturday, 29 November, 2003. — INTERNET

Iraqi youths watch a soldier of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse) check an Iraqi woman with a metal detector before she enters an office building in Tikrit, north of Baghdad, on Saturday, 29 November, 2003. — INTERNET

Iraqis celebrate over the bodies of killed members of a Spanish military intelligence team on a street, south of Baghdad, on Saturday, 29 November, 2003. At least seven people were killed and one injured in the attack on the Spanish military intelligence team in Iraq. Spanish official said. — INTERNET

A US soldier searches a truck while another guards a group of Iraqis at a checkpoint in Baghdad on Monday 24 November 2003. — INTERNET

US Army combat engineers inspect damage recently to a building in a former Republican Guard compound in Baghdad, which was shelled by the US Air Forces in an operation called ‘Iron Hammer.’ — INTERNET

US-led troops are often hurt or killed by improvised explosive devices manufactured by anti-coalition guerillas and planted on the sites of roads. — INTERNET
Chavez says Iraq war creates uncertainty

CARACAS, 30 Nov — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Thursday that the war in Iraq has created international uncertainty and is jeopardizing the balance of the world petroleum market.

Chavez, who always opposed the war, said the invasion of Iraq has resulted in "terrible destabilization" and "general violence," which should never have taken place.

Chavez said uncertainty surrounding the future of Iraq’s oil producing sector is affecting the balance of price against production on the world petroleum market.

The President said Venezuela would not recognize the coalition authority in Iraq until the United Nations recognizes it. He also expressed his hope of “peace returning to the people of Iraq and the world”. — MMA/Xinhua

Site of ancient imperial palace found in North China

TAIYUAN, 30 Nov — Archaeologists have confirmed that they have discovered the site of an ancient palace of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534) in north China’s Shanxi Province.

The site was discovered in Datong, an industrial city in North China, which was the early Northern Wei capital for about 100 years and was called Pingcheng at the time.

“The location of Pingcheng Palace was a mystery to archaeologists before the discovery of this site,” said Zhang Qingjie, a research fellow with local archaeological institute.

After more than seven months of excavation, about 2,400 square metres were exposed, where a large terrace with steps, brick walls and a floor were unearthed.

Archaeologists also discovered construction materials, such as tiles, ridge decorations and different types of tile ends. and porcelain relics from the Liao (916-1125), Jin (1115-1234) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties.

“This is exciting that we have discovered a large number of tile-ends with various shapes and characters,” said Zhang. “It is exciting that we have discovered the remains of the entire site.”

Archaeologists also discovered construction materials, such as tiles, ridge decorations and different types of tile ends.

The noise raised concerns that the unusual noise had probably come from equipment aboard the station and that there was no collision whatsoever. “There’s not much left for us to do,” said Hartsfield. “It will be up to the Russians to decide whether anything else should be investigated. There’s not much left for us to look at from our end.”

Russian space officials said Thursday that “there was no collision whatsoever” with the space station and that the unusual noise had probably come from equipment aboard the station. "Everything appears to be fine," said Hartsfield. "It will be up to the Russians to decide whether anything else should be investigated. There’s not much left for us to look at from our end.”

US space agency unworried by “space station” noise

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov— The number of new HIV cases diagnosed in the United States is continuing to climb, and the most significant rise has been among Hispanics and gay and bisexual men, The New York Times said in a report.

From 1999 through 2002, the number of new HIV cases soared by 26 per cent among Hispanics and by 17 per cent among men who have sex with men, while the increase in new cases overall was 5.1 per cent, the newspaper reported, citing figures released by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The statistics, released by the CDC ahead of the World AIDS Day on December 1, represent the most comprehensive analysis of US HIV cases to date. The numbers came from 29 states participating in the four-year study.

The latest figures provide more evidence that the AIDS epidemic is resurfacing in the high-risk group of people in the country and underscores the urgent need for public awareness and action, US public health officials said.

The picture of US HIV infections might even be much worse than the latest figures indicated because states with the highest populations and possibly the highest rates of infections, like New York and California, were not included in the analysis.

According to the CDC, between 850,000 and 950,000 Americans are now living with HIV, the greatest number since the epidemic began more than two decades ago. An estimated 40,000 new HIV infections continue to occur in the US each year. — MMA/Xinhua

Attacks against non-US personnel in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 30 Nov — Some attacks on non-US personnel in Iraq:

— Nov. 27: Insurgents fire a rocket-propelled grenade at the Italian mission in Baghdad, causing damage but no injuries.

— Nov. 12: A truck bomb outside Italian barracks in Nasiriyah kills 19 Iraqis and 14 others.

— Nov. 6: Insurgents ambush a convoy of troops from Poland near Karbala, killing Maj. Hieronim Kupczyk.

— Oct. 9: Gunmen kill Jose Antonio Bernal Gomez, a Spanish sergeant working for Spain’s military intelligence, at his home in Baghdad.

— Aug. 19: Bombing of United Nations headquarters in Baghdad kills top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello of Brazil, a Spanish Navy captain and 20 other people.

— June 24: Iraqi gunmen kill two British military police officers during demonstration and then storm a police station, killing four more. — Internet

China, UN sign agreement on meeting arrangements

BEIJING, 30 Nov — The Chinese Government and the United Nations signed an agreement regarding the arrangements for the 60th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the 8th Session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries of the ESCAP here.

The agreement was signed by Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Kim Hakt-suh during the meeting. As the only comprehensive organization regarding economic and social development set up by the United Nations in the Asia-Pacific Region, ESCAP plays an important role in strengthening cooperation between countries in the region.

The two sessions were scheduled to be held at Shanghai from April 20 to 28 in 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

HIV infections continue to rise in US

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Archaeologists also discovered construction materials, such as tiles, ridge decorations and different types of tile ends. and porcelain relics from the Liao (916-1125), Jin (1115-1234) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties.

“Characters such as Long Live the Emperor prove that the site had been used by the royalty,” said Zhang. “It is exciting that we have discovered the remains of the entire site.”

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Border areas development (Kachin Special Region 1, Kachin Special Region 2)

The BCP 101 military region, the NDA, the Kachin Special Region 1, Panwa, the KIO, the Kachin Special Region 2, Laizin, they all are related to Kachin State and I am familiar with them. Living in different places, the ethnic races of Kachin State may have slight differences in language and culture, but they are of the same Kachin stock.

At the dinner marking the Inion Innan harvesting ceremony held on the lawn Malikha Villa in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 2 December 2001, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave the following speech:

"The Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan races, all are of the single main stock "Myanmar", have been living in the Union in unity and in war or peace throughout the course of history countable by the years in the thousand. Thus, they all have the firm belief that they are all related to each other.

"Do not even think about discarding any one of the Kachin ethnic races including Jinghpaw, Maru, Rawon, Less, Lachauk and Azer, or the definition of the word "Kachin" will not be completed. An act that is detrimental to the interest of any of the national races — the Kachin, the Kayah, the Kayin, the Chin, the Bamar, the Mon, the Rakhine and the Shan — will lead to harming the interest of the entire Union and people."

Birth of Kachin Special Region 1

Due to the differences in the views, the group led by U Zakon Ting Ring broke away from the KIO brigade 2 in 1969. Taking the difficulties of the KIA as an opportunity, the BCP armed U Zakon Ting Ring’s group and formed it as the BCP 101 military region in August 1979. The group was active in the surrounding areas of Kankaepite. But BCP involvement had created difficulties in the building of peace. The BCP fell because of the secession of the Kokang, Wa, Shan and Akha races from the communist organization. The remnant BCPs were hiding at the Panwa region, hatching schemes to set up Panwa as their base by offering higher position to U Zakon Ting Ring. But U Zakon Ting Ring rejected the scheme.

U Zakon Ting Ring consulted with his men, and on 15 October 1989, he decided to make contacts with the Government to build peace in the region, while cutting off all links with the BCP and discarding the BCP’s policy of winning battles and the power. He changed the name of BCP 101 battalion of the military region to the NDA, and drove out all the remnants of the BCP and DPA and ABS areas, which were forming the region.

After holding discussions with the representatives of the Tatmadaw and Military Intelligence officials stage by stage the NDA returned to the legal fold on 15 December 1989. The Government has built new roads and up-graded the existing ones in the region. He reestablished small villages in the region to become 14 new modern villages, complete with schools, dispensaries and hospitals.

The Government has built two major bridges, three minor bridges, eight suspension bridges, a number of new middle schools and hospitals, 33 elementary schools, 13 dispensaries, two agriculture offices and other required facilities and infrastructures. Panwa, a hamlet in the past, is a developing modern town at present.

Kachin Special Region 2

KIO had already accepted U Zakon Ting Ring’s idea of making peace with the Government since the time when the peace efforts of NDA were in progress. In other words, the entire Kachin people firmly believed that peace was the only way to bring development to their land. The KIO held peace talks with the Revolutionary Council Government in 1963, and again with the Burma Socialist Programme Party Government in 1980.

The KIO initiated the peace talks with the Government in the early period of 1990. The Government’s sincerity, patience, understanding have been always obvious in every peace negotiation including the one with the KIO.

The initial meeting was held at Kyungok (Pansai) on 18 October 1990. The first meeting was held in Lashio on 24 October 1992. During the period starting from 22 February 1993 to 16 February 1994, six meetings were held in Myitkyina, and all were successful.

The ceremony to mark the KIO’s return to the legal fold was held in Myitkyina on 24 February 1994. Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt (now Prime Minister) attended the ceremony and delivered an address as follows:

“There may be disagreements between members of a family. But they are temporary disagreements, and not the permanent ones. “It is time for unity and reconsolidation”, and that’s our conviction at present. Hence, the Government has been inviting the armed national race groups to return to the legal fold.

“Peace can be restored as the KIO accepted the invitation, and held peace negotiations with the Government through sincerity and mutual understanding.

“The Kachin State lagged behind in development for a period of over 20 years. However, it will surely develop due to the assistance of the Government, the efforts of the Kachin people, and the endeavours of the KIO.”

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“The Kachin State lagged behind in development for a period of over 20 years. However, it will surely develop due to the assistance of the Government, the efforts of the Kachin people, and the endeavours of the KIO.”

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

Non-formal education efficiency course concludes

The concluding ceremony of the non-formal education efficiency course was held this afternoon at the Myanmar Education Research Bureau on Pyay Road here. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, the directors-general of the departments under the ministry, professors, departmental officials and invited guests.

Col Aung Myo Min made a concluding speech on the occasion. The lectures of the 32 education programmes were delivered from 9 am to 3:30 pm on 22, 23, 29 and 30 November. A total of 7,211 trainees learned the lectures at 192 e-Education learning centres across the country.
Prime Minister attends…

(from page 16)

Prime Minister and party together with the wellwishers and members of School Board of Trustees, teachers and students posed for documentary photos.

Myanmar delegation leaves for PRC

YANGON, 30 Nov — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min left here for People’s Republic of China by air this afternoon to pay a goodwill visit and to study rail transportation work in Yunnan Province of PRC.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Thaung, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials of the Chinese embassy, departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and families of the delegation members.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min was accompanied by General Manager (Mechanical/Electronic) of Myanmar Railways U Soe Win, General Manager (Civil) Li-Col Tha Han, Deputy General Manager (Electronics) U Zaw Win and Assistant General Manager (Communications) U Ba Myint as members.

Ministry of Rail Transportation

Myanmar delegation led by Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min seen together with those who see them off at the Yangon International Airport before departure for China. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Romanian counterpart

YANGON, 1 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Adrian Nastase, Prime Minister of Romania on the occasion of the National Day of Romania which falls on 1st December 2003. — MNA

Transport Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspects situation of waterway

YANGON, 30 Nov — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Thaung, Director-General of Department of Water Resources and Improvement of Rivers System U Chit Khin and officials inspected the worksite of maintenance of waterway of Bo Myat Tun bridge. At the briefing hall the minister heard reports on maintenance of banks, channels, maintenance of bridges, sluice gates, water level gauges and construction of waterway. — MNA

Educative talks on HIV/AIDS

YANGON, 30 Nov — To mark the World AIDS Day, educative talks on prevention of HIV/AIDS jointly conducted by the Myanmar Red Cross Society and UNICEF was held yesterday afternoon at the hall of Ahlon Township. On the occasion, officer of HIV/AIDS prevention project Dr Tun Aung Shwe gave educative talks on AIDS disease. Next an HIV patient recounted his experiences. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends message of felicitations to Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

YANGON, 1 Dec — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mirecea Geoana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, on the occasion of the National Day of Romania which falls on 1st December 2003. — MNA

Donate Blood

Finance and Revenue Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe arrives back from Seoul, Korea, after attending the Informal AFDIM+3 Meeting. (News page 2) — MNA
General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes...

(From page 16)

Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, Military Attaché Senior Colonel Xu Shulai and officials.

First, General Thura Shwe Mann greeted General Wu Quanxu at the lounge of the airport.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann introduced senior military officers who accompanied him to General Wu Quanxu.

Afterwards, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA) General Wu Quanxu and party, together with General Thura Shwe Mann, left the airport by a motorcade for the Tatmadaw Guest House at 1.20 pm.

Mayor inspects construction of General Assembly Hall

Yangon, 30 Nov — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, together with Secretary Col Myint Aung, committee members and officials, inspected the construction of General Assembly Hall of YCDC on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

The mayor gave instructions to the officials on close supervision of construction works.

Annual meeting of 11th
MFA held

Yangon, 30 Nov — Myanmar Floriculturists Association held its 11th Annual General Meeting at Pyaungsu Ayeikyeik Nyein hall in People’s Park and People’s Square this evening.

It was attended by members of panel of leading patrons Daw Khin Than Nwe and members, Chairman of the association head of department U Nyunt Pe of Parks and Playgrounds Department of Yangon City Development Committee, guests and members of the association.

Chairman U Nyunt Pe presented reports on functions of the association in one year.

Joint-Secretary-1 of the association Daw Swe Mar Win read out the report of central executive committee and member of central executive committee Daw Khin Aye Nwe, the financial statement at the meeting. The meeting gave approvals of the meeting elected 24 members of central executive committee including U Nyunt Pe as chairman and U Win Myint as secretary.

After those present had given suggestions, member of panel of leading patrons Daw Khin Than Nwe presented K 200,000 donated towards the funds of the association by members of panel of leading patrons to Chairman of the association U Nyunt Pe.

General Thura Shwe Mann hosts a dinner in honour of Deputy Chief of General Staff of CPLA

Yangon, 30 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence hosted a dinner in honour of visiting Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China General Wu Quanxu and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here this evening.

Present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Military Appointment General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Defence Services Inspector-General, Brig-Gen Thein Htai, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, senior military officers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Xu Shulai.

After the dinner, General Thura Shwe Mann and General Wu Quanxu exchanged commemorative gifts.
Danyingon Brick Factory

The brick is one of the essential construction materials for irrigation facilities, roads, bridges, and buildings for the emergence of the Union of Myanmar as a modern and developed nation.

The state-owned factory that produced largest amount of bricks in Myanmar is No 1 Brick Factory of Myanmar Ceramic Industries of the Ministry of Industry 1. The factory is situated at Danyingon in Insein Township, Yangon Division. The factory, which was built in December 1953 and completed in September 1956, has an area of 544.73 acres. One workshop each was attached to the factory in 1963 and 1967.

The extension of the factory again and again reveals the increasing importance and demand of bricks in Myanmar.

In manufacturing bricks through wet process, red mud and black mud were used. The factory is famous for its quality bricks manufactured with the production process of thoroughly grinding mixed mud or raw materials, pressing mud bricks with the use of machines, using vacuum pumps for required density and composition of bricks, and baking of bricks through tunnel kilns at 960 degree centigrade. The size of the brick produced by the factory is 220mm x 100mm x 75 mm and weighs 2.26 kgm.

Production capacity of the factory is 42 million bricks per year. Though the production target of the factory for 2002-2003 was set at 49.58 million, it was able to produce 54.553 million bricks. Investment for the factory was K 242.63 million including foreign currency worth K 26.69 million. As the construction works are being carried out in the country with added momentum, demand of brick is on the rise.

(Translation: MWT)

Patrons of MWSF meet SEA Games athletes

YANGON, 30 Nov — Leader of the patrons of the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and the patrons this morning met with rowers of the Myanmar Rowing Federation at the training camp of the federation at Inya Lake here.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party next viewed skill demonstration of rowing of the athletes who will participate in the 22nd South East Asia sports game.

Afterwards, the patrons of the federation proceeded to the Aung San Gymnasium and cordially greeted the athletes who will participate in the SEA Game. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe encouraged them.

Livestock breeding works inspected in Mingaladon

YANGON, 30 Nov — Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and Livestock Maung Maung Thein, together with Managing Director of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun, this morning inspected No 1 Plywood Factory in Kyimyindaung Township and No 2 Plywood Factory and Yangon Wood-based industry in Hline Township. Moreover, he also saw over wood-based industry in Shwepyitha Township and fulfilled the requirements for the industries. — MNA

After inspecting the Pyinmabin cattle sheds and gave instructions on extended breeding of domesticated wild oxen. In the afternoon, the minister and party inspected the Pyinmabin chicken and duck hatchery.

The minister met with farm managers and attended to their requirements. — MNA

Forestry Minister inspects wood-based industries, plywood-factory

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The minister met with farm managers and attended to their requirements. — MNA

Commander meets with local farmers

YANGON, 30 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe meets with local farmers in Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships at Nyaungwaing Agricultural Education Camp this morning and discussed matters related to cultivation of summer paddy, other crops, pulses and beans and oil crops. Afterwards, the commander inspected the Pyinmabin hybrid broiler poultry farm.

Leader of Patrons of MWSF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe meets Myanmar rowing team to participate in XXII SEA Games. — MNA

MNA
To provide better health care services to the public, the government is building new hospitals with modern medical equipment across the country. The photo taken on 20 May, 2003 shows the 200-bed General Hospital in Kengtung, Shan State (East). — PHOTO: MNA

As in Yangon, general and specialist hospitals have been built in Mandalay and now there emerge the 300-bed teaching hospital, the 300-bed Central Women’s Hospital, the 300-bed Children’s Hospital, Tuberculosis Hospital and Drug Rehabilitation and Mental Health Hospital in Mandalay. The photo shows the 300-bed teaching hospital in Mandalay. — PHOTO: MNA

Uplift of health and fitness of the entire national people is one of the four social objectives of the State. The photo taken on 20 April 2003 shows TB Hospital (100-bed) of Social Security Board of the Ministry of Labour in Htantabin Township. — PHOTO: MNA

Facilities for better public health care services
Made-in-China cars exported to Australia

Shanghai, 30 Nov—The first of 600 Polo sedans, Shanghai Volkswagen Corporation produces for Australia rolled off the production line here Friday. According to a five-year contract, Shanghai Volkswagen will sell 600 three-compartment Polo sedans to Australia each year, at a price of 113,800 to 140,000 yuan (13,750 to 16,910 US dollars) per unit, the same as that at the Chinese market, said Chen Zhixin, general manager of Shanghai Volkswagen.

E.H. Folkers Wedgeber, an official with Volkswagen of Germany, said that the export deal offers a good chance to test the overseas population of Volkswagen automobiles made in China. Polo is a compact model, and so far 70,000 units have been sold in China.

More illegal Indonesian workers deported from Malaysia

Jakarta, 30 Nov—Another 336 illegal Indonesian workers who were deported from Malaysia have arrived in Indonesia’s Parepare port in South Sulawesi Province, an Indonesian official said on Saturday.

The migrant workers who were sent home from Vietnam, America to sign air agreement next month

Hanoi, 30 Nov—Vietnam and the United States are scheduled to finalize next month an air services agreement that would allow direct passenger and cargo flights, state media said on Saturday.

The official Vietnam News Agency said both governments would sign the agreement, which was initialed in Hanoi in early October, in Washington during a 10-day visit by Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan starting on 2 December.

The pact is expected to take effect within a few months. Several US carriers have said they expected the direct flights from America to begin in March.

The five-year pact allows two passenger carriers on each side to operate directly for the first two years, with another permitted in the third year. The five years start after the pact is signed.

Vietnam’s air ministry had said last week that the administration would consider the possibility of jointly granting such agreements when its delegation went to Washington.

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Singapore hosts 1st Sino-S'pore Undergraduate Exchange Programme

SINGAPORE, 30 NOV — The first Sino-Singapore Undergraduate Exchange Programme is being held in Singapore from 28 November to 12 December, a government release said here.

Some 50 undergraduates and officials from Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and Tsinghua University are in Singapore for the inaugural exchange programme, said the press release published by the Ministry of Education (MOE) of Singapore.

Students from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will play host to their counterparts from China, said the MOE release.

During their stay in Singapore, the Chinese undergraduates will visit several government agencies and education institutions, including the Ministry of Education, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, said the release.

They will also be introduced to Singapore’s key education and economic policies, and participate in dialogue sessions with Singaporean politicians and senior government officials, it said.

The undergraduates from the NUS and the NTU will make their return visit to China on December 16-30, it added. Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministries of Education of the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Singapore on May 29, 2002, both parties agreed to exchange up to 50 outstanding university students annually, said the MOE.

The objectives of the exchange programme are to “broaden bilateral ties between China and Singapore and to foster understanding, collaboration and bonding” between students of the two countries. MNA/Reuters

Wild animal slaughter surges for fashion’s sake

LONDON, 30 NOV — The return of fur to the world’s fashion catwalks has spelled death to thousands of endangered animals with a boom in demand for their skins, a top wildlife protection officer said Friday.

John Sellar, senior enforcement officer for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), said there had been a surge in seizures of tiger and leopard skins as the fashion industry embraced fur once again.

“In the 1980s and 1990s the illegal skin trade virtually ceased to exist because it was not fashionable,” he told a gathering of wildlife enforcement officers.

“But we are seeing models going back into it and a consequent boom in the trade.”

Only last month, Chinese officials impounded 1,276 illegal pelts in their biggest seizure to date. They said the skins had come from 32 tigers, 579 leopards and 665 otters.

Sellar, tasked with monitoring and encouraging international enforcement of the CITES bans and restrictions on trade in endangered animals and plants, said London was a significant transit hub in the illegal trade, but not a major consumer.

“A lot of the fur trade is heading for China these days. It is a huge and increasingly affluent market,” he said.

Sellar, who works from CITES headquarters in Geneva, admitted that patrolling, let alone preventing, the illegal trade was a one-sided struggle as the lone operators of old were increasingly sidelined by organized crime syndicates.

And it was not just easily identifiable animal skins that were involved. The trade covered skins and products from reptiles, birds, snakes, rhinos, and elephants as well as bushmeat, caviar and plants for use in traditional medicines.

Sellar said that for every sturgeon legally taken in Russia for its caviar, up to 12 more were taken illegally and emptied of their eggs which were then fed into the lucrative legal trade using fake or purchased papers.

Those involved in the highly profitable and illicit trade were not averse to using bribery or violence to get their way. There had been numerous cases of investigators and officers being killed in mysterious circumstances, Sellar said.

But the threat of violence aside, in most cases enforcement officers were hugely overstretched just trying to catch the puffers, he said, let alone tracking down the merchandise. MNA/Reuters

France may punish those who cause women to miscarry

PARIS, 30 NOV — The conservative majority in France’s National Assembly has passed a controversial bill aimed at punishing anyone who causes a pregnant woman to miscarry against her will.

The bill, vigorously denounced by left-wing deputies as it was voted late on Thursday, would make it an offence for anyone to cause a pregnancy to end “by clumsiness, carelessness, inattentiveness or negligence.”

It was inspired by the case of a woman in the sixth month of pregnancy who lost her baby after being hit by a car. The driver was convicted of involuntary homicide but acquitted on appeal because a foetus cannot be the victim of a crime in French law.

Government leaders demanded changes to the bill, which is called “involuntary abortion” would limit abortion rights. The Socialist opposition disagreed and threatened its appeal to the Constitutional Court if the bill finally becomes law.

“The government is not challenging voluntary abortion,” said Philippe Douste-Blazy, a leader of the ruling UMP party, told LCI television on Friday. “But there is a legal vacuum for a pregnant woman who loses a child not voluntarily but by (some-one else’s) negligence or in-attentiveness.”

The French Senate has to pass the same bill before it can become law. Deputies said it might not do so because it recently rejected a similar amendment to a bill on road safety.

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Beckham receives OBE honour

LONDON, 30 Nov — England captain David Beckham received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) from Britain’s Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace. The soccer star was awarded in recognition of his role in promoting Britain through his sporting achievements. "It's great to receive an honour for playing football, for something I love doing," said Beckham.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who recommended Beckham for the OBE, said that "Beckham has performed with great distinction and has been a great ambassador for the country on and off the field." Beckham, who moved to Real Madrid from Manchester United for 25 million pounds in the summer, was accompanied to the palace by his pop star wife Victoria. The couple have dismissed recent Press speculation on difficulties in their marriage since Beckham moved to Spain. "She is my wife, she is going to be with me whatever happens," said Beckham.

MNA/Xinhua

Eriksson unhappy after contract offer made public

LONDON, 30 Nov — England coach Sven Goran Eriksson is unhappy that a Football Association offer to extend his contract for two years to 2008 has been made public.

His agent Athole Still was quoted in British newspapers on Friday as saying: "His reaction was one of disappointment. Not disappointment at the offer, but disappoint- ment at the fact it had been made public. He told me on Monday that the offer had been made verbally." Reports said the offer was worth 3.5 million pounds (six million US dollars) per annum for the four years up to the European Championship of 2008.

FA chief executive Mark Palios said the offer "showed their commitment in Eriksson, but media pundits have interpreted the move as an attempt to pin down the level of the Swede's loyalty to the England job. Eriksson, who has been linked with several top club jobs in Europe, has refused to commit himself to beyond leading England in the Euro 2004 finals in Portugal.

Hewitt remains one of the most difficult opponents worldwide despite his slide down the world rankings. He rallied from two sets down to beat Wimbledon champion Roger Federer in the Davis Cup semifinal with Switzerland in September. Eriksson, ranked three in the world, had the advantage over Hewitt in the early stages of the match, but Hewitt, playing his first match in eight weeks, slowly wore him down, using his superior grass court skills to find a way to overcome Federer's steady baseline game.

Mark Philippoussis was due to play Carlos Moya in Friday's second singles match and the doubles are scheduled for Saturday and the concluding reserve singles on Sunday. There was a major controversy before the final began when Tennis Australia carelessly played the wrong Spanish national anthem. Spanish Sports Minister Juan Antonio Angulo, who was watching the ceremony from the stands, left the stadium in fury to protest the wrong song and demanded the ceremony be re-staged with correct anthem.

Tennis Australia later issued a statement apologizing for the mistake and saying the right anthem would be played before Saturday and Sunday’s matches. — MNA/Xinhua

Crespo gets ready to kick-start Chelsea career

LONDON, 30 Nov — Chelsea’s top-of-the-table Premier League match with champions Manchester United on Sunday could go down as the real start to Hernan Crespo’s Stamford Bridge career. The Argentine striker has impressed in bursts in the few matches he has played since joining the expensively assembled London side from Inter Milan for 16.8 million pounds (26.28 million US dollars) in August.

In an interview with Reuters on Friday, Crespo said that after a fitful three months trying to settle in London, twice interrupted with trips back home to South America for World Cup qualifiers, he could at last dedicate himself fully to Chelsea.

"Now I can relax because until March (Argentina’s next qualifier) I can think only of Chelsea," he said. He has struggled to show his best form, having missed the first three months of the year with a knee ligament injury, followed by a three-week period with Inter and then the change of club.

But he added: "In six matches (with Chelsea), and not all from the start, I’ve scored five goals. I can’t complain and I’m still not at 100 per cent."

Suddenly finding his top form for Sunday may be a tall order, but Crespo said he would be helped by the relaxed atmosphere in the English game compared to Serie A. "People (here) live if the way it should be experienced, as a spectacle, two teams giving their all, without things like: ‘No, they’re holding back, a draw suits them, they’ve come to an agreement.’"

“It’s seen as a sport, something nice to watch, a pastime, and that’s brilliant."

"In Italy, if you’re not 100 per cent, you won’t make a difference," he said.

"Now I’ll get into proper physical shape... on a par with the rest (of the players)."

Chelsea’s attitude had helped enormously, he added, because manager Claudio Ranieri had not demanded that he and Argen- tina teammate Juan Sebast- ian Veron return immedi- ately from international duty.

MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

- FLORIDA'S Melanie Booth (12) tries to get to the ball over Florida State’s India Trotter (28) as Florida State’s Leah Gallegos (13) pursues the play during the NCAA Division I women’s soccer championships in Gainesville, Fla., on 28 Nov, 2003. Florida State won, 2-1. — INTERNET

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Monday, 1 December, 2003

THE WEATHER

Sunday, 30 November, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were 6°C below normal in eastern Shan State, 5°C below normal in Ayeyawady Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kachin, Chin, northern Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagain, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was 3°C in Hahkan.

Maximum temperature on 29-11-2003 was 33.0°C (91.4°F). Minimum temperature on 30-11-2003 was 17.5°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-11-2003 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 29-11-2003 was (6.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 29-11-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2111 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 14 mph from North at (11:48) hours MST on 29-11-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Aircraft is not advised to land until evening of the 1-12-2003: Possibility of isolated light rain in Tanintharyi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Myeik and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%): State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate. Air temperature: Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighboring area for 1-12-2003: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighboring area for 1-12-2003: Generally fair weather.

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Prime Minister attends opening of multimedia classrooms of Indaing BEHS

YANGON, 30 Nov—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by State Peace and Development Council Chairman General Thura Shwe Mann and members of Social Organisation Development Council, attended the opening of the multimedia classrooms of Indaing Basic Education High School here at 3.30 pm today.

The Prime Minister and party then toured the multimedia classrooms, computer rooms, study instruction rooms, study rooms, billboards of the new school building and the multimedia classrooms.

Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opened the billboards of the new school building and the multimedia classrooms.

The Prime Minister and party then toured the video system room, language lab, computer aided instruction room, computer application room, study room and inspected learning of students. After inspecting the domestic science room, they enjoyed the skills demonstrations of students at the arts room.

The ceremony to hand over the new school building and the opening of the multimedia classrooms was held at the hall of the school. Schoolhead Daw Khaing Shwe Nyunt reported on the purposes of opening the multimedia classrooms and modern teaching/learning aids installed at the rooms. No 11 LID Commander Col Hla Hlay Win then briefed on the construction of the new school building and the multimedia classrooms with the use of cash presented by the State and cash and labour contributed by officers and other ranks of Indaing Station and cash donated by wellwishers. He then handed over the documents related to the reinforced concrete school building to No 3 BED Director-General U Aye Kyu. The school building is 200 feet in length and 30 feet in width and was built at a cost of K 80,477,467.

Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min presented a set of computer, TV and VCR and video tapes presented by the MEC Chairman to the schoolhead. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and ministers accepted the donations: K 400,000 by the commander, K 200,069 by regiments and units under No 11 LID, K 300,000 by regiments and units of Indaing Station, K 500,000 by departments in the township, K 2,098,205 by Bo Latt General Trading Co Ltd, K 500,000 by Hein Ye Soe Industrial Co Ltd, K 500,000 by U Win Ko Ko and family of WS Gravel Trading, K 210,000 by entrepreneurs of Hsin Phyu Daw Chilli Enterprise, K 210,000 by Bok Some Ma Chilli Enterprise, K 125,000 by Imperial Jade Drinking Water, K 100,000 by Daw Mu, U Tun Wai, Ko Tha Pu Chilli Enterprise, K 163,000 by the Parents/Teachers Association, and K 50,000 by Kyan Taung Aung Rice Mill.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said the seven-point future political programme has already been laid down for emergence of the modern, developed democratic nation. Good foundation such as stability of the State, prevalence of law and order, economic strengthening and uplift of living standard of the public are needed to achieve success in implementing the objectives of the State. The State, while striving for laying the good foundation, is placing emphasis on development of human resources that will build future modern nation. The national education promotion programmes have been laid down in basic education sector and higher education sector. Uplift of the education standard of rural people is included in the five rural area development tasks.

Literacy campaigns for rural people have been launched. In addition, tasks for enrolment of all school-going age children have been implemented in cooperation with the public and success has been achieved, he said.

The State has upgraded and opened basic education primary, middle and high schools and post-primary schools for uplifting the rural area.

General Thura Shwe Mann receives Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA)

YANGON, 30 Nov—Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, received Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA) General Wu Quanxu and party at the Zeyathiri International Airport.

Also present on the occasion together with General Thura Shwe Mann were members of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman General Myint Oo, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA) General Wu Quanxu, and party at the Zeyathiri International Airport.

General Thura Shwe Mann receives Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA)

YANGON, 30 Nov—A Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA) General Wu Quanxu and party were welcomed at Zeyathiri International Airport by Members of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA) General Wu Quanxu and party were welcomed at Zeyathiri International Airport by Members of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence.

Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (CPLA) General Wu Quanxu and party welcomed at Zeyathiri International Airport by Members of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence.