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

YANGON, 2 Dec — On the occasion of the 28th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Deputy Chief of General Staff of CPLA General Wu Quanxu

YANGON, 1 Dec—Visiting Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army General Wu Quanxu and party paid a courtesy call on Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at Zeyathiri Beikman on Kominyintha this morning.

Present at the call together with Senior General Than Shwe were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

General Wu Quanxu and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and Military Attaché Senior Col Xu Shulai.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe greets Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army General Wu Quanxu. — mna

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe receives Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army General Wu Quanxu and party. — mna

Prime Minister attends coord meeting on observance of 57th Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 1 Dec — The coordination meeting on observance of the 57th Anniversary Union Day (2004) was held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Kominyintha here at 4 pm today, with an opening address by Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary Union Day Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, the Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads and officials.

General Khin Nyunt made an opening speech. He said the meeting was held to successfully observe the 57th Anniversary Union Day which falls on 12 February 2004 on a grand scale in full national essence like the previous years. As Myanmar is a union, in accordance with national policy — non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — it is needed to safeguard the Union with national spirit and Union Spirit.

Observing the Union Day in full political essence is a way of depicting the firmness of Union Spirit among national people, in accordance with the fine tradition of regaining sovereignty and independence from the colonialists through the united strength of national brethren. The colonialists unjustly occupied Myanmar and used various means and ways to topple out the unity existing for a long time among the national people and used the divide-and-rule policy in order to prolong their domination. The independence and national reconsolidation was regained only by the endeavours of national race leaders with farsightedness.

However, due to purposely creating dissension by the colonialists for over a hundred years, there were suspicions among national brethren and armed conflicts occurred for over 40 years. That resulted in inability to strive for development of the state. It is a valuable history lesson for the State.

In fact, national brethren, in groups, have lived for thousands of years. They formed larger groups and that led to formation of firm Union. Each division and state has millions of people, in accordance with the fine tradition of living unitedly in accordance with the fine traditions of living in unity over thousands of years.

(See page 16)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 2 December, 2003

Strive for implementation of four-nation summit on economic cooperation strategy

The Cambodi-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand Summit on Economic Cooperation Strategy was successfully held on 12 November at the Bagan Archaeological Zone in Mandalay Division.

The plan to cooperate in the implementation of the four-nation economic strategy was proposed by the Prime Minister of Thailand and the other three nations unanimously approved it.

The work coordination meeting for implementation of the economic cooperation strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand was held in Yangon on 28 November and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address the Prime Minister said, “The future work programmes prescribed in Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand are massive, covering the tasks to be implemented by all four nations as well as by the two nations concerned. Therefore, if the four nations actively participate in the tasks, the momentum of economic development will be gained all the more.”

The success of the summit on Economic Cooperation Strategy will contribute a lot not only towards the economic development of the respective nations but also towards the ASEAN. As the development tasks prescribed in the strategy have been focused on development of border areas, they will benefit the people living in the border areas of the four nations. Economic development in the border areas will contribute to the realization of the objective to ensure the emergence of peaceful and tranquil border areas, the goal of the four nations.

In addition, it will help reduce border problems likely to crop up between any two nations and further enhance trust and understanding among peoples of the four nations.

We would like to urge all the ministries concerned and respective work committees to seriously address themselves to the implementation of agreements reached at the Summit on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

Radiological Society conference

YANGON, 1 Dec — The Radiological Society of Myanmar Medical Association will hold its fifth medical conference at the MMA here on 5 and 6 December 2003.

Interested persons and radiologists may attend the conference.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of felicitations to Laotian Vice-President

YANGON, 2 Dec — On the occasion of the 28th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2003, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Choummaly Sayasone, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

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

YANGON, 2 Dec — On the occasion of the 28th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Boungnang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. — MNA

U Win Aung sends message of felicitations to Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

YANGON, 2 Dec — On the occasion of the 28th Anniversary of the founding of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which falls on 2 December 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on 19 November 2003, in Hanoi.

MNA

Myanmar Ambassador presents Credentials to SRV President

YANGON, 1 Dec — U Tin Latt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on 19 November 2003, in Hanoi.

MNA

Thailand Exhibition 2003 to be held in Yangon Trade Centre

YANGON, 1 Dec — Under the economic cooperation programme between Myanmar and Thailand, with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce of the Union of Myanmar, jointly organized by the Office of the Commercial Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon and the Department of Export Promotion of Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, a press conference on Thailand Exhibition 2003 to be held at Yangon Trade Centre on upper Pazundaung Street, Mingalar Taungnyunt from 10 to 13 December was held at Mingalar hall of Daisit Inya Lake Hotel at 11 am today.

Present were Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Khin, Director (News) U Hla Tun, Chief Editors of Dailies and Myanmar News Agency, Minister Mr Opas Chantarasap and Minister Counsellor Mr Matyawongse Amatyakul of Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon.

Minister Mr Opas Chantarasap and Minister Counsellor Mr Matyawongse Amatyakul of Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon explained that the Thailand Trade Exhibition were held for seven times from December 1998 to May 2003 in Myanmar and the 8th Thailand Exhibition will be held on December 10, 2003. Altogether 150 companies will display a wide range of products and services in 180 booths, namely: auto parts & accessories, chemical products, children products, construction materials, hard-ware, cosmetics, electronics products, food products, beverages, packaging, furniture, garments and textiles, fashion accessories, household products, kitchenware, leather products, footwear, machine-tools and parts, pharmaceuticals, sanitary products, service trade and stationery products. Trade Day’s entrance tickets without charge can be taken out to be able to meet with Thai traders and Myanmar businessmen on 10 and 11 December. The exhibition will be kept open for general public on 12 and 13 December from 10 am to 6 pm daily. Moreover, special events will include Thai Fresh Fruits & Fruit Carving Contest, Technology Transfer presentation on Beauty & Health and Thai famous Papaya-Salad Contest. Office of the Thai Commercial Affairs in Yangon invited Myanmar Traders and entrepreneurs to hold Myanmar Trade Exhibition in Thailand for which it will render all possible help and assistance. Conditions of the exhibitions held in Myanmar from 1998 to 2003, attitude of Thailand regarding the exhibitions and trade matters were explained.

Next, Minister Counsellor Mr Matyawongse Amatyakul replied to queries raised by journalists.

The entrance tickets can be taken out at TTF (Yangon), Co. Ltd No 96, Bogalazay Street, Botataung Township, Yangon, Ph-294006 or 296227 or 245137 or 245138 and Fax-245092. — MNA
A record month of casualties in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Dec — 30 November: Two South Korean workers killed near Tikrit.
29 November: Seven Spanish intelligence officers killed and one wounded near Hillah; two Japanese diplomats and their Iraqi driver killed near Tikrit; two American soldiers killed near the Syrian border; one Colombian contractor killed and two wounded near Balad.
28 November: US soldier killed when rebels shelled a military base in Mosul; a second US soldier died from gunshot wounds.
27 November: A US soldier found dead in his barracks in Ramadi from a gunshot wound.
26 November: A US soldier found dead in Mosul.
25 November: Five US soldiers killed in three separate incidents. One died when his patrol vehicle rolled into a canal. Another from the 4th Infantry Division killed by an explosive device in Baqubah. Three killed in west Mosul.
22 November: Two US soldiers from the 1st Armoured Division killed in a traffic accident near Baghdad airport.
21 November: Two US soldiers killed. One from the 4th Infantry Division drowned when his vehicle rolled into a canal in Tikrit; another from the division is killed by an explosive device near Ghalibiyah.
20 November: Soldier from the 82nd Airborne Division killed in a bomb attack near Ramadi.
17 November: Three soldiers killed. One from the 1st Armoured Division died in non-hostile gunfire in Baghdad; another from the 4th Infantry Division killed by a bomb in Balad and another from the division killed in a grenade attack on a patrol in Abu Shukayr.
15 November: Seventeen soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division killed when two Black Hawk helicopters are brought down in Mosul. A soldier from the 1st Armoured Division killed by an explosive device in the Azamiyah area of Baghdad.
14 November: A soldier from the 1st Armoured Division killed by an explosive device in central Baghdad. Special Operations Force soldier dies when his vehicle struck a landmine. Two Task Force Ironhorse soldiers killed when their convoy was attacked with explosives north of Samarra.

Singapore’s visitor arrivals down 8.2% in October

SINGAPORE, 1 Dec — Visitor arrivals to Singapore numbered 586,016 in October 2003, down 8.2 per cent from a year ago, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) said here.

Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Australia and Japan remained as the top markets, accounting for almost 50 per cent of visitor arrivals, said the STB. For the first ten months of 2003, visitor arrivals declined by 23.5 per cent compared to the same period last year, it said.

The STB added that the average hotel occupancy rate for October 2003 stood at 75.3 per cent, with average room rates reaching 120 Singapore dollars (about 70 US dollars), the highest since the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in March 2003.

Visitor arrivals plunged by 70 per cent in May this year when Singapore was hard-hit by the SARS epidemic with hotel occupancy rate dropping to less than 20 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

Australian photographer presents show in Beijing

BEIJING, 1 Dec — Rawmoves, a show of dance photos by well-known Australian photographer James Houston, opened here Friday at Jinjia Art Museum in Beijing, after touring Taiwan, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Shanghai.

The exhibition is co-sponsored by the Australian Embassy to China and the art museum. The photographer said he was inspired by the moves of dancers of the three Australian dance troupes, namely Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Group and Bangarra Dance Theatre.

MNA/Xinhua

The major Spanish newspapers, Madrid on 30 Nov, 2003 carry the news and photos on their front pages of the Spaniards killed in Iraq. Seven members of Spain’s military intelligence agency were killed Saturday in an ambush near Mahmoudia, 30 kilometers from Baghdad. Headlines read ‘Seven Spanish secret service agents die in an ambush near Baghdad, Tragedy in Iraq. Seven Spanish spies killed in Iraq. Massacre of Spaniards in Iraq’. —INTERNET

Top Chinese legislator meets Bayer chairman

BEIJING, 1 Dec — The rapid growth of the Chinese economy and government commitment in protecting intellectual property rights have provided favourable conditions for Bayer Group and other multinational companies to expand business in China, top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo said here.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, made the remark during a meeting with Werner Wenning, chairman of the Board of Management of Bayer Group of Germany.

Wu expressed great delight in meeting with Wenning again after his visit to Germany in 2001. Noting that Sino-German relations are enjoying good momentum, Wu said Bayer has increased its investment and actively conducted training, research and development in China.

Wu congratulated Bayer on the start of construction of a polymer project in Caojing of Shanghai in east China. He said it is a technology and capital-intensive project and in line with China’s strategy of optimizing its industrial structure. He wished all Bayer projects in China success.

Wenning said Bayer Group has expanded its business in China over the years because of the support of the Chinese Government and corporate circles.—MNA/Xinhua

A US army OH-58D, Kiawa helicopters patrol the area in Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 30 Nov, 2003. Two Japanese diplomats were killed in Iraq after their car was ambushed in an apparent guerrilla attack outside Tikrit. Saturday. —AFP

Two South Korean workers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Dec — Gunmen shot and killed two South Korean electricians and wounded two others Sunday near Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said.

A day earlier, a Colombian civilian working as a contractor for the military was killed in an ambush on a convoy, the US military said Sunday.

The South Koreans were shot while riding in a passenger car apparently en route to Tikrit, north of Baghdad, Foreign Ministry Director General Lee Kwang-jae said.

South Korea’s Yonhap news agency said the victims were electricians for a South Korean company under contract with a US firm to lay power lines at an electric transmission station near Tikrit. Yonhap identified the wounded as Lee Sang-won and Lim Dae-shik, and said one was in critical condition.

Lee could not confirm the identities of the dead, who were employees of Ohmoo Electric Co, a company based in Seoul. He said officials from the South Korean Embassy in Iraq were on their way to the scene to investigate.

US Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said at a news briefing in Baghdad that the Colombian citizen died when insurgents opened fire with small arms on a convoy near the town of Balad, 45 miles north of Baghdad.

The Colombian was an employee of the US defence contractor Kellogg Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton Co, the company previously headed by Vice-President Dick Cheney, the military said.

Internet
As Spain absorbs deaths in Iraq, support for US is questioned

MADRID, 1 Dec—José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, said yesterday that his government’s course was unchanged and its determination unbroken and that Spain would stay in Iraq “with loyalty and serenity,” despite the killing Saturday of seven Spanish intelligence agents.

Yet as Spaniards absorbed the repeated display on 24-hour news channels of Iraq youths kicking the corpses of their countrymen and jubilantly waving bloodied remnants of their clothing, it was evident that Mr. Aznar’s policy of support for the United States will come under increased scrutiny and perhaps stronger resistance.

Sharp contrast
Public opinion in Spain has been overwhelmingly against the war in Iraq in sharp contrast to the willingness of Mr Aznar to come to the assistance of the United States.

The killings on Saturday, the latest in a series of raids apparently targeting countries that have supported the invasion orchestrated by the United States, threatens to raise fresh debate about the purpose of the Spanish presence in Iraq even among those who until now have backed the war without questioning Mr Aznar’s position.

In an editorial titled, “Deaths That Require Explanations and Reflection,” the conservative daily El Mundo, which has long supported Mr Aznar and his governing Popular Party, wrote that, “beyond partisan politics, it will be inevitable that both the government and society reflect deeply on the mission of Spain’s military in Iraq.”

Questions raised
“Concretely, what is the objective of the mission they are fulfilling and does the evident risk that they are taking really serve the interest of national security,” the editorial said, defining the terms of a necessary debate. “Furthermore, is the sacrifice of these lives really going to contribute to the democratization of the country.” El Mundo said the government also had to inform the country just how many Spaniards are in Iraq. Officials acknowledged Saturday that the agents who were killed were not part of the official military contingent.

Eighty-five per cent oppose war
Spaniards overwhelmingly opposed the war. El Mundo said that a recent survey showed that 85 per cent continue to do so. Hundreds of thousands of Spaniards took to the streets in protests, which continued even after the invasion started.

The seven agents were killed on Saturday in an ambush south of Baghdad; an eighth agent was injured.

Russia State Duma approves 2004 budget in final reading

MOSCOW, 1 Dec—The Russian State Duma, the Lower House of Parliament, passed the 2004 draft budget in the fourth and final reading on Friday.

The draft budget was approved by a vote of 245 in favour to 152 opposing with two abstentions in the 450-seat Russian Chamber, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The budget projects federal revenues at nearly 2.743 trillion roubles (91.4 billion US dollars) and expenditures at over 2.659 trillion roubles (88.6 billion dollars), providing a surplus of 84 billion roubles (2.8 billion dollars) for 2004.

The surplus, equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the anticipated 15.3 trillion-rouble (510 billion-dollar) gross domestic products (GDP), will be contributed to a stabilization fund.

The budget also forecasts the inflation rate at 10 per cent. National security is a priority in the 2004 budget. Spending on national security is to increase by 19 per cent as against last year, and expenditure on judiciary will go up by 30 per cent and law enforcement and security by 27 per cent.

Four killed in road accident in Romania

BUCHAREST, 1 Dec—Four passengers in a car died instantly in Romania Friday as their vehicle crashed at high speed into a road barrier and overturned, PRIVATE TV reported.

The accident took place in a remote area of the Alad Province, some 450 kilometres from the capital, according to local police. The police said the young driver in the Dacia car had probably been drunk and that the crashed car remained undetected for some hours in the sparsely populated region.

US Embassy in Bulgaria tightens security

SOFIA, 1 Dec—The US Embassy in Bulgaria’s capital Sofia steps up security measures, local media reported Friday.

The embassy has insisted that no pedestrians were allowed near the building of the American mission in the centre of Sofia, the report said.

Following the September 11 tragic events, car traffic near the US Embassy has been banned.

Such precautionary measures are part of the entire tightening of the security in the region due to the deadly bombings in neighbouring Turkey, the report quoted Bulgaria’s Foreign Minister Solomon Passy as saying.

A Bulgarian police official said that the moves were not in connection to some specific threat. One day earlier, the British Embassy, situated near Bulgaria’s Parliament, was closed down for security reasons and was opened later at noon.

US troops take position after a roadside explosive went off just outside Samara, Iraq on 30 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

Bloodiest month in Iraq leaves 105 troops killed

BAGHDAD, 1 Dec—The bloodiest month since the United States led the invasion and occupation of Iraq has come to a deadly close after insurgents killed 14 people from five nations in a weekend of apparently carefully calculated attacks.

During the past month, however, America’s allies bore the brunt of the assaults which were intended to fuel opposition within their countries to the occupation and hinder efforts to rebuild Iraq.

The latest military deaths bring the total since the war began on 20 March—a grim statistic that gives the lie to claims by the US military that the guerilla war is under control.

Deaths in Afghanistan

If the deaths of six US soldiers in Afghanistan last month are added, November was the most costly month for the American military since February 1991, when 162 US troops were killed in the 1990-91 Gulf war.

In the space of 48 hours, insurgents killed two South Korean electricians, a Colombian contractor, seven Spanish military intelligence officers, two Japanese diplomats and two American soldiers.

The South Korean electricians became the latest victims when they were shot last year in a car while travelling in Tikrit.

The Swiss air traffic control agency, Skyguide, confirmed it had reached an out-of-court settlement with the families of 12 of those who lost their lives.

The mid-air crash on July 1, 2002, occurred when a Russian passenger plane carrying over 40 schoolchildren collided with a DHL cargo jet while flying over southern Germany. Skyguide’s Berlin-based lawyer, Heiko von Schyndel, said a settlement had been reached, but declined to specify exactly how much compensation the families would receive, according to SRI—MNA/Xinhua

Risks of joining the Iraq mission

In 1991, when the US-led Gulf war swept out Iraq’s Saddam Hussein, the government said the mission would not lead to the democratization of the country.

Mr Aznar’s allies bore the brunt of the assaults which were intended to fuel opposition within their countries to the occupation and hinder efforts to rebuild Iraq.

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Japan fearful of sending troops to Iraq

Tokyo, 1 Dec—Most Japanese hold deep reservations about plans to send non-combat troops to Iraq, according to an opinion poll released Monday after two of its diplomats were shot to death there.

About 79 percent of respondents believe sending troops to help rebuild Iraq would make Japan a greater target of terrorism, the poll conducted by the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper showed. It also found support for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was plunging.

It was published Monday as Japan’s Foreign Ministry was to hold a memorial for envoys killed in a road-side ambush on Saturday.

Senior ministry officials held an emergency meeting early Monday to discuss the ambush. Though chief Cabinet spokesman Yasuo Fukuda said Sunday the attack was most likely an act of terrorism, the government was still investigating who carried it out and why.

The men were Japan’s first fatalities in Iraq since the US-led war began in March.

Details of the ambush remained sketchy, but the new right-wing public jitters about Koizumi’s pledge to provide non-combat troops to help with humanitarian and other non-combat support.

The nationwide poll of 1,036 people was conducted by telephone on the weekend, with a quarter responding after news of the attack was reported early Sunday. No margin of error was provided.

Blix hopes US learned a lesson in Iraq

BRUSSELS, 1 Dec—Hans Blix, the former chief UN weapons inspector, was quoted on Friday as saying he hopes Washington had learned its lesson in Iraq about the need for multinational cooperation.

Blix also told the Belgian daily De Morgen the United States could not simply choose to leave Iraq after toppling Saddam Hussein.

“‘The United States is on the ground, they can’t leave now. But... they don’t have much experience in reconstructing a country,’ said Blix, the former Swedish foreign minister who for 16 years headed the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“They will need the United Nations a great deal. I hope the Americans have learned their lesson and recognize the need for cooperation.

Indonesian coffee export to drop to lowest level

JAKARTA, 1 Dec—Indonesian coffee exports have declined steadily over the past five years and are expected to reach their lowest level this year, according to the Association of Indonesian Coffee Exporters (AAI).

Rachim Kartabratna, an executive at AAEK, said in a recent interview that coffee exports this year were estimated to drop to 134,481 tons compared with last year’s 258,849 tons worth 266.5 million US dollars.

The primary factors contributing to the problem included harvest failure, low productivity and a poor-quality product, he quoted Saturday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

Rachim explained that the El Nino and La Nina weather disturbances that occurred in 1997 and 1998 had caused the coffee harvest to fall.

The country’s coffee production fell to 335,400 tons in 1999 from 344,400 tons in 1998 and 391,800 tons in 1997.

The drop in production turned Indonesia into the world’s fifth-largest coffee producer, supplying only around 4.17 percent of world demand. In 1993, Indonesia was the world’s largest producer, with a total output of 427,800 tons.

Rachim said that low productivity and poor quality products were making it hard for Indonesian coffee to compete with Vietnam, the world’s second-largest producer after Brazil.
Al Arabiya TV denies US charges over Iraq

DUBAI, 1 Dec— Arab television station Al Arabiya denied on Sunday US allegations that it was linked to insurgents in Iraq and asked American officials to prove the accusation or retract their claims.

The charge was the latest to hit Al Arabiya, which broadcasts from Dubai and is seen as pro-Iraqi. It has been hit by US allegations that it is linked to insurgents in Iraq and that it was behind several attacks, including ones that targeted American troops.

Al Arabiya said in a statement that it was baseless and it denied any involvement in the attacks. The statement said that Al Arabiya had never been involved in any attacks that targeted American troops.

Al Arabiya said that the US claims were baseless and that it had never been involved in any attacks that targeted American troops. It said that it had never been involved in any attacks that targeted American troops.

A US defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Monday that the US had obtained evidence that Al Arabiya was involved in the attacks.

Rumsfeld said that Al Arabiya had been responsible for directing the attacks and had broadcast them.

The US has accused Al Arabiya of being a mouthpiece for insurgents in Iraq and of funding them.

Al Arabiya is a pro-Iraqi channel that broadcasts from Dubai and is seen as a mouthpiece for the Iraqi government.

The channel has been accused of being involved in theattacks on American troops.

Rumsfeld said that Al Arabiya had been responsible for directing the attacks and had broadcast them.

The US has accused Al Arabiya of being a mouthpiece for insurgents in Iraq and of funding them.
Two points of view on human rights

Aung Moe San

Today’s international sphere, there emerge two points of view on human rights. One should distinguish between the right and wrong with regard to the two points of view because philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways and the point however is to change it.

Philosophers have interpreted the world in various ways. But the point is to change it. This is the law of social science. According to the first point of view, it is accepted that human rights is the freedom of human beings; political freedom of man; and freedom described in United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and thus progress will be made if freedom is open to all.

The second point of view says that human rights means the basic needs of man that is food, clothing and shelter and they help for women. It accepts that this productive force and development can bring about human rights and democracy. Human rights can be enjoyed only with physical development. And human rights cannot be achieved through freedom or enacting of laws.

It cannot be said that a hungry man with freedom enjoys human rights. In other words, a society suffering from hunger cannot be portrayed as a society that is enjoying human rights.

On the whole, the two views can be assessed as follows: one is based on physical development and the other on spiritual freedom. Human rights is really essential for all. It makes a thorough study on cause and effect; it can be seen that the world today has been changing on its physical development path. For example, human rights in industrial technological age is better than that in stone age, iron age and technological age.

In reality, for a human society, only when there has been the development of infrastructures such as basic needs and productive force, there will be the development of education, administration, legislation and human rights, democracy and culture.

Out of the two points of view, the US and West bloc are practising the former while most of the Asian countries are practising the latter. The US and its allies who have invaded Afghanistan and Iraq are now facing the situation that democracy could not flourish without any economic development. Their attempts have therefore reached deadlock. They are committing such wrong acts because they ignore the fact that they themselves have enjoyed human rights and democracy along with economic development.

In 1920, the right of women of the US to vote was included in the State Constitution after confirming the representation system in rural areas where the number of educated people and indirect representation system should be practised in urban areas where there is a larger population of educated people and indirect representation system in rural areas where the number of educated people is small.

On the question of whether Asian nations are practising the system halfway between the western liberal democracy and the eastern dictatorship, Mr Lee said that he did not think that Japan, China (Taipei), South Korea and Singapore were practising the US-European system. He said that Indonesia was hardly any people or country in society that discarded the entire system they had practised for ages but they might try to improve their system. They may use the system of other nations if it can contribute to their socio-economic development. The Philippines that copied the US system did not succeed, he added.

On human rights, Mr Lee said that Asian nations, whether in times of wealth or poverty, value society more than individuals. This attitude saved Asia from falling into deep poverty. Some Asians said that the right to freedom of assembly was not their culture. Regarding this, Mr Lee said that the Human Rights Declaration was drawn up by the Allies who won victory in World War II. The other member nations of the United Nations signed the Declaration just as witnesses. It would be a different story if only one country that sticks to the Human Rights Declaration was drawn up by the Allies who won victory in World War II. The other member nations of the United Nations signed the Declaration just as witnesses. It would be a different story if only if a country that sticks to the Human Rights Declaration was drawn up by the Allies who won victory in World War II.

Are there different types of human rights? On this question, Mr Lee said that it was different only in the way the priority was given. No one ignored human rights. No one said ill-treating people was right. Some know that they have violated human rights. They may use the system of other nations if it can contribute to their socio-economic development. The Philippines that copied the US system did not succeed, he added.

Therefore, of the two points of view on human rights, developing countries including Myanmar are to choose and practise the second point of view.

(Translation:BG+NN)
Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials, social organizations in Mindat

YANGON, 1 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagayaw Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, met with students of No1 Border Areas and National Races Development Training School in the compound of Taungpulu Pariyatti Patipatti Kyaytaik in Mindat on 28 November morning, and spoke words of encouragement to them.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw of the Kyaytaik Bhaddanta Panasatii and presented offertories to him.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint made a speech. He said that the government has laid down the five rural development tasks and is implementing them to ensure regional development and bring about harmonious development across the nation.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint handed over a set of computer sets, a set of videos and one generator donated by the Prime Minister for No1 BEHS and No 2 BEHS in Mindat.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected learning of students in the multimedia classrooms of No1 BEHS.

On arrival at No2 BEHS, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected skills demonstration of students in the computer aided instruction room.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party in the afternoon arrived at the local battalion in Mindat where they met with officers and other ranks and their families and gave instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected filtering undertakings of the local battalion. — MNA

World AIDS Day...

AIDS account for the highest number of deaths by any single infectious agent, it highlighted.

HIV/AIDS is not only a health issue. Experience from other countries has shown that it impedes national development and in some countries it has even become a security issue. Among the eight millennium development goals spelled out at the Millennium Declaration in the year 2000, the sixth goal states to halt and reverse the trend of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB by half by the year 2015, he added. Myanmar has launched an all out effort to prevent and control HIV/AIDS. With the guidance from the National Health Committee a multisectoral National AIDS Committee was formed in 1989, to combat HIV/AIDS. National AIDS Programme was formulated and implemented in accordance with the objectives of the National Health Plan.

In implementing the comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and control programme there are certain areas which need to be scaled up. This will require more financial resources. Ant-retroviral drugs should also be made more widely available at an affordable price, he elaborated.

The spread of HIV infection is mainly related to human behaviour. The strong social and cultural values in Myanmar have contributed in preventing the spread of HIV infection and “HIV/AIDS war” with all those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The kind-hearted nature of the Myanmar and religious teachings emphasize on loving kindness and compassion contributed to the care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Basic health workers and social organizations are providing support with sympathy and compassion. In conclusion, he emphasized the State’s awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on health, economic and social development. Healthy societies are more likely to become wealthy societies. We are implementing health and education programmes, including the comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities. He reiterated that Myanmar is seriously committed in fighting "HIV/AIDS war" with all our effort and with all available resources, in partnership with national, regional and international partner agencies. Afterwards, Chairman of UN Theme Group on AIDS Mr Najib Assifi read the message of Executive Director Dr Peter Piot of UNAIDS Programme.

The outstanding students who won prizes in the contests were then presented prizes. Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented the first, second and third prizes to ninth grader Ma Khaing Mala Nyunt of Kyemyindaing BEHS-1, eighth grader Maung Phyo Paing Thaw of South Okkalapa BEMS-1, ninth grader Maung La Min Win of Lammaw BEHS-2 respectively in the higher primary level essay contest. Eighth grader Ma Hsua Mon Yee of Athoke BEMS-1, ninth grader Maung Aung Kyaw Tun of Kyauktan (Myoma) BEHS-1, seventh grader Maung Aung Kyaw Tun of Tabinshwe TEEW and seventh grader Ma Thaw Yi Htoo of Daung BEHS-1 won consolation prizes.

Deputy Minister Dr Myo Oo presented the first, second and third prizes to sixth grader Ma Khin Tintin of Kyauktan BEHS-1, seventh grader Ma Thu Aung of Daung BEHS-2 respectively in the middle school level poster contest. Sixth grader Maung Aung Kyaw Tun of Tabinshwe BEHS-5 and seventh grader Maung Aung Kyaw Tun of Lammaw BEHS-2 respectively in the primary school level painting contest. Fourth grader Maung Htet Naing Lin of Daung BEHS-1 and fourth grader Maung Htet Naing Lin of Daung BEHS-1 won consolation prizes.

Chairman Mr Najib Assifi presented the first, second and third prizes to second grader Ma May Htoo Myat Mon of Kyauktan (Myoma) BEHS-2 and second grader Maung Htet Lin San of Kyauktan (East) BEHS-4 and fourth grader Ma Hsua Hnin Wai of Lammaw BEHS-2 respectively in the primary school level painting contest. Fourth grader Maung Htet Naing Lin of Dagon BEHS-1 and fourth grader Maung Htet Naing Lin of Daung BEHS-1 won consolation prizes.

After the ceremony, those present viewed the Cardiac surgeons of OLVZ hospital, Belgium, together with specialists of Medical Services conducting surgical operation at Tatmadaw General Hospital. — MNA

The Myanmar Co Ltd mainly sponsored the tour together with Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Lotus (Alpine), UPG, Canon, KM Golf Centre, Maruma and Wilson. Sun Far Travels and Tour. Yangon Golf Club will present hole-in-one prizes. Professional golfers and amateur golfers may enlist at Yangon Golf Club, Danyingon, Ph. 635563, 635617, 703785 and 723221 by 7 December afternoon. — MNA

President of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents a prize to an outstanding student at the World AIDS Day 2003 commemorative ceremony. — MNA

Chairman of UN Theme Group on AIDS Mr Najib Assifi presents a prize to an outstanding student at the commemorative ceremony of World AIDS Day 2003. — MNA

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with district and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, townswelders and others at No 1 Basic Education High School in Mindat.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made a speech. He said that the government has laid down the five rural development tasks and is implementing them to ensure regional development and bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected learning of students in the multimedia classrooms of No1 BEHS.

On arrival at No2 BEHS, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected skills demonstration of students in the computer aided instruction room.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party in the afternoon arrived at the local battalion in Mindat where they met with officers and other ranks and their families and gave instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected filtering undertakings of the local battalion. — MNA

President of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents a prize to an outstanding student at the World AIDS Day 2003 commemorative ceremony. — MNA

Chairman of UN Theme Group on AIDS Mr Najib Assifi presents a prize to an outstanding student at the commemorative ceremony of World AIDS Day 2003. — MNA
Chinese delegation visits Drug Elimination Museum, Defence Services Museum, National Museum

YANGON, 1 Dec — Visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army General Wu Quanxu, accompanied by Vice Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Xu Shuli, yesterday afternoon visited Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township.

Officials welcomed the delegation and conducted them round the museum. Afterwards, General Wu Quanxu signed in the visitors’ book. Next, Deputy Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win presented record books on elimination of narcotic drug activities and a museum emblem to General Wu Quanxu.

The delegation this morning visited Defence Services Museum where officials welcomed them and conducted them round the museum.

In the afternoon, General Wu Quanxu and party also visited the National Museum on Pyay Road where Director of the Museum Daw Nu Mya Zan and officials welcomed the delegation. — MNA

Prime Minister attends ...

(from page 16)

He said at such a time, discussions are being made for successful holding of the Union Day ceremony with full political and national essence through consolidating the already-achieved national solidarity spirit and the Union will stand tall and build better foundations and promoting good traditions of significant Union Day.

He said in accord with the national policies that flourished in the course of long Myanmar history the government has laid down the seven-point future policy programme that can guarantee non-disintegration of national solidarity and non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of independence and sovereignty in the long run and lead to a united, peaceful, stable and prosperous democratic nation and it is now implementing them.

Therefore, he said, based on national solidarity spirit and the Union Spirit, all the people are to make strenuous efforts with one sense for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programmes.

At a time when the government is building a new future State, consolidation of national solidarity spirit and the Union Spirit among the national races is the prime national requirement for perpetuation of the Union.

With the belief that the Union of Myanmar established by all national races in unity will stand tall amidst the nations of the world and be perpetual forever, officials concerned are to make efforts for holding the 57th Anniversary Union Day ceremony on a grand scale with full national essence, he said.

He urged various sub-committees to make arrangements for holding of the ceremony, inviting delegates, sightseeing, hosting dinner and sending the message to Union Day Ceremonies.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on preparations for holding the 57th Anniversary of Union Day 2004 at the coordination meeting for Organizing the 57th Anniversary of Union Day 2004. — MNA

Chinese goodwill delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff General Wu Quanxu visits the Drug Elimination Museum. — MNA

“Soon” offered to members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University

YANGON, 1 Dec — Staff families of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Defence Services Museum, National Museum

Matriculation

YANGON, 1 Dec — The Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education today announced the timetable for 2004 Academic Year Matriculation Examination.

The examination will be held from 11 to 20 March (from 9 am to 12 noon).

Minister inspect the new fire engines

YANGON, 1 Dec — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, this afternoon inspected two fire engines renovated by the engineers of the Fire Services Department for Tiddim Township Fire Brigade and Salingyi Township Fire Brigade.

The director-general of the Fire Services Department and officials reported on the fire engine to the minister. — MNA

Final rites of Thamanya Sayadaw on 5 December

YANGON, 1 Dec — A ceremony to carry the remains of President Thamanya Sayadaw of Thamanyahill Monastery in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, Abhidajja Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Yinma, aged 93, vaisa 73, with white umbrella, will be held on 2 December (Tuesday) afternoon at the monastery and the final rites of the Sayadaw will be held at 1 pm on 5 December (Friday).

On 5 December, the remains of the Sayadaw will be entombed on Thamanya Hill.

MNA

Staff of FAD, students of universities of culture honoured

YANGON, 1 Dec — The staff of the Fine Arts Department and students of the universities of culture were honoured this afternoon for their achievements in the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung made an address at a ceremony to honour the prize-winners held at Kambawza Theatre of the Fine Arts Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here.

Next, the minister, deputy minister, the directors-general and rectors presented prizes to the staff and students who gained gold, silver and bronze medals in the competitions. — MNA

Donate blood

YANGON, 1 Dec — With a view to saving the life of patients at the respective hospitals through blood, the Mittabyar Association will sponsor a blood-donation ceremony at the Dhammayon of Botataung Pagoda on the morning of 7 December 2003. Blood donors may come and donate their blood on the occasion. — MNA

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects a fire-engine to be given to Fire Brigade of Tiddim, Chin State and a fire-engine to Fire Brigade of Salingyi, Sagaing Division. — MNA

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Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects a fire-engine to be given to Fire Brigade of Tiddim, Chin State and a fire-engine to Fire Brigade of Salingyi, Sagaing Division. — MNA
Kengtung Degree College, the cradle of highly qualified human resources

The government has laid down the 30-year long-term national education promotion plan and is implementing it to produce highly qualified human resources capable of building a modern and developed nation. The higher education sector has undergone a great change. The national education promotion plan covers Kengtung Degree College (formerly-Kengtung College of State East). Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li Gen Khin Nyunt (now Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt) drove a stake for construction of Kengtung Degree College on 23-4-97 and Public Works Ministry laid down the 30-year long-term construction project. Now we are in the process of completion. The higher education system has English as the predominant medium of instruction. There are 172 day-session students—74 in the first year, 69 in the second year and 29 in the third year.

Kyemon: Please let us know the electronic system at the degree college?

UAN: We have Computer Training Centre, e-Education Learning Centre, Multimedia Lecture Room and Language Labotary. Other electronic equipment have also been facilitated. There are 84 sets of computer, two multimedia projectors, one presenter, three screens, one scanner, one overhead projector and 48 sets of equipment for the language lab.

The Department of Human Resource Development of Kengtung Degree College conducted the three-month Basic Computer Training Course 1/2000 in March, 2000 for 120 trainees to ensure human resource development. Arrangements are being made for conducting more new courses.

The Kengtung Degree College is meeting with success in its efforts to produce highly qualified human resources capable of building a modern and developed nation.

Indian institutions to welcome more foreign students

BELLEZ, 1 Dec — India’s prestigious higher educational institutions, which offer high quality courses at a fraction of the cost compared with those in developed nations in developed nations, will welcome more foreign students, a senior Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry official said here Sunday.

“India has some of the best educational institutions in the world, which are recognized globally for their quality. Now we are in the process of marketing our strengths globally, including for the first time in China,” Additional Secretary in the Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education under the Federal Ministry of Human Resources Development, Kumud Bansal said.

Talking to PTI on the sidelines of a major Chinese educational exhibition here, she said that the HRD Ministry has, for the first time, targeted China as a potential market for foreign students.

“This is the first time for India to participate in an education exposition in China and we are very pleased with the initial response from Chinese students as well as parents,” Bansal said noting the growing interest on India among the Chinese people.

She said the Indian stall at the expo received a lot of enquiries from Chinese students on different courses, especially in information technology (IT). “We are confident that Indian higher educational institutions can compete with their western counterparts in the Chinese market,” Director (Technical), Ajit Kumar Motwani said.

Bansal, during her meeting with Chinese higher education officials, emphasized that India offers the best value money education destination for foreign students.

She also pointed out that since Indian higher education system has English as the predominant medium of communication and learning, the country could offer Chinese students excellent courses in a range of subjects at a fraction of cost compared to educational destinations in developed nations.

She said India is keen to attract foreign students into its higher educational institutions by offering courses in the field of engineering, medicine, agriculture, management, humanities and social sciences, fine arts etc.

Bansal said India would come better prepared to woo Chinese students next time since all the materials were only in English which is generally not spoken here by the public.

Article by Thin Win Latt, Kyemon 23-11-2003

Record number of India-China military exchanges in November

BELIZE, 1 Dec — Close on the heels of high-level exchanges between the Indian and Chinese Armed Forces, the visit of a senior Chinese Army officer to India beginning Sunday provides a fillip to the bilateral relations.

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the People’s Liberation Army, Wu Quanxin, left for India on an “official goodwill visit”. The military exchanges between the two countries began on November 10 with Indian warships making a friendly call at Shanghai port and conducting the first-ever joint naval exercise with the Chinese Navy. India sent three warships, namely, INS Ranjit (guided missile destroyer), INS Kalsub (guided missile corvette) and INS Jyoti (replenishment tanker) for the joint search and rescue exercise on November 14 in the East China Sea.

The exercise, aimed at ensuring the safety of maritime time and space and improving co-ordination in search and rescue at sea, was a stepping stone in enhancing inter-operation between the two navies, official sources said. This was immediately followed on November 16 by a senior Indian Army delegation’s visit to China, which included a first-ever trip to Tibet.

The delegation met senior PLA officials, visited some military facilities and interacted with the National Defence University.

The high-level visits highlight the commitment of the two countries to increase mutual trust and understanding and enhancing mutually beneficial and broad-based cooperation, sources said.

MNA/PTI

“AIDS” drugs to be provided in government hospitals in India

NEW DELHI, 1 Dec — In a major initiative to tackle the dreaded AIDS, the Indian Government will provide free drugs for the disease in government hospitals as pharmaceutical companies also decide to lower their prices if incentives were provided.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of World AIDS Day here, Indian Union Health Minister Sushma Swaraj said that the programme to provide AIDS medicines in government hospitals would first begin in the six high-prevalence states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland.

The programme is expected to begin from next April and about 100,000 AIDS patients are likely to access the drugs through government hospitals and antenatal clinics in the first year.

Swaraj said that representatives of pharmaceutical industry requested that they be provided with fiscal incentives structure equivalent to the incentives available to them through the Clinton Foundation.

The minister said that the industry agreed not only to bring down the prices to that of Clinton Foundation but also to lower them further for domestic consumption.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.
Better communication services for the public

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on development of Panglong region where the Union Spirit was conceived. In accordance with his guidance, development infrastructures such as universities, colleges and facilities for better transport & communication are built there. The photo shows the 500-line digital auto-exchange in Panglong, Shan State, which was inaugurated on 11-2-2003.— PHOTO: MNA

The development of communication sector is key to the realization of one of the economic objectives of the State—Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. The photo taken on 9 December 2002 shows modern equipment installed at digital auto-exchange in Panglong.

PHOTO: MNA

In the globalization period, the digital divide widens the gap between the haves and have-not. Therefore, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs is extending telephone, telegraph and postal services in rural and remote areas. The photo taken on 30 December 2002 shows Digital Electronic Auto Exchange in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Division. —PHOTO: MNA

With the use of modern telecommunication technology, development of various sectors such as education, health, economy, etc. can be achieved rapidly. The photo taken on 30-12-2002 shows modern facilities installed at Pyapon Auto Exchange.— PHOTO: MNA
Fischer says EU cannot slam door on Turkey

EU leaders are due to decide in December 2004 if Turkey has implemented enough reforms to begin accession negotiations.

Fischer’s speech came after Chancellor Gerhard Schröder made a strong endorsement of Turkey’s bid.

Schröder won re-election last year with the help of many voters from among the two million Turks living in Germany—MNI/Reuters

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China to become Philips’ biggest market

Shanghai, 1 Dec.—Gerard Kleisterlee, president and CEO of Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands, said on Saturday that his company expects its business volume in China to reach $12 billion US dollars in four years, and China will then become the company’s largest market.

Kleisterlee said he is confident about his company’s rapid development in China, owing to years of successful cooperation there. China is the most important part of Philips’ development strategy, and the company will continue its efficient cooperation with this country, said Kleisterlee as he concluded a week-long visit to China here Saturday. Seven

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P.O. Box 109,
Ph: 2481087/73043
(For: Donnem Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand).

Dated: 2 December, 2003

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JATIWANGI PB-400 NO (369)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JATIWANGI PB-400 Voy No (369) are here by notified that the vessel will be arrived on 2-12-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm on Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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Germany.—arguing a bridge into the Is-

cession negotiations. Fischer’s speech came

after Chancellor Gerhard Schröder made a strong

eorse of Turkey’s bid.

Schröder won re-elec-
tion last year with the help of many voters from among the two million Turks living in Germany—MNI/Reuters

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"Europe must stand up from becoming a member of the bloc. "Europe must stand up to its promises and its val-
es," he told a party con-
gress of his Greens in Dres-
den via a satellite television
link from an EU foreign min-
isters meeting in Naples. “One cannot simply slam the door shut on Turkey’s ‘nom.”
Gene found as definitive cause of heart attacks

NEW YORK, 1 Dec — The first gene to be definitely identified as a cause of heart attacks has been discovered by scientists at The Cleveland Clinic, researchers said.

Data published in the December 28 issue of Science showed that a mutation in a gene discovered in an analysis of the genetic makeup of 21 members of an Iowa family, has a direct cause-and-effect relationship with coronary artery disease and heart attacks.

Researchers found that certain elements, representing 21 base pairs of nucleotides and seven amino acids, were missing from the gene in the Iowa family, which had been plagued for generations by incidents of coronary artery disease.

"What we discovered is a deletion mutation," said Eric Topol, chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at The Cleveland Clinic. "This deletion affects coronary artery wall stability, making it more susceptible to plaque buildup and heart disease."

Topol said it is unlikely other families will be found with the exact same genetic mutation. But researchers will seek to identify smaller mutations involving the same gene that may be less dramatically linked to heart disease.

People with the exact genetic mutation of the Iowa family have a 100 per cent chance of having a heart attack or developing coronary artery disease, Topol said.

"For them, it's not a matter of 'if' but a matter of 'when'. For that reason, we think this specific mutation will prove to be rare. Most gene mutations that we discover will not be able to protect themselves from plaque buildup and heart disease."

Topol said it is unlikely other families will be found with the exact same genetic mutation. But researchers will seek to identify smaller mutations involving the same gene that may be less dramatically linked to heart disease.

"Finding the gene opens a new avenue through which scientists can track the pathway that leads to coronary heart disease and heart attack," said Qing Wang, in whose laboratory the discovery was made.

Future research will focus on pinpointing the roles other genes in the endothelium, the barrier between blood vessels and blood elements, the research shows.

Researchers found that mutations to the MEF2A gene makes the muscle of the heart muscle more susceptible to invasions and attacks by certain large cells. That allows the formation of atherosclerotic plaques.

The UN’s who estimates that six million people in poor countries are in immediate need of the anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment that many rich world suffers now take for granted, but less than 300,000 actually receive it.

The strategy requires getting ARV treatment to half of the six million by the end of 2005. The WHO, whose recommendations

Photographers acquitted over Diana crash snaps

PARIS, 1 Dec — Three photographers who took pictures of Princess Diana and her friend Dodi Al Fayed on the night of their fatal 1997 crash did not break French privacy laws, a Paris court ruled over the weekend.

Just after 1 am on August 31, the family of the Angeli agency, freelance Fabrice Chassery and Jacques Langevin, who worked at the time for the Sygma agency, faced charges following a complaint by Dodi’s father Mohamed Al Fayed.

Both Martinez and Chassery took photographs of the two after their Mercedes had crashed in a tunnel following a pursuit by paparazzi on motorbikes through Paris. Langevin took shots of them shortly before the crash as they left Paris’ Ritz hotel.

The case hung on a precedent in French law under which the image of a corpse is deemed private, even on a public road.

Under the country’s strict privacy laws, the photographers could in theory have been jailed for a year and ordered to pay fines of 45,000 euros. However the public prosecutor had requested only suspended prison sentences.

Similar charges against five other photographers had already been dropped.

The verdict follows fresh controversy in Britain following the revelation by Diana’s former butler Paul Burrell that she had given him a letter written by her own death.

"AIDS has ceased to be a condition," pop singer Bob Geldof said in his song. "We can do something to control our will to live."

"(AIDS sufferers) are not carry as high a risk," he said. "For that reason, we will seek to identify smaller mutations involving the same gene that may be less dramatically linked to heart disease."

"Finding the gene opens a new avenue through which scientists can track the pathway that leads to coronary heart disease and heart attack," said Qing Wang, in whose laboratory the discovery was made.

Future research will focus on pinpointing the roles other genes in the endothelium, the barrier between blood vessels and blood elements, the research shows.

The Cleveland scientists suspect that mutations to the gene weaken the endothelium, making it more susceptible to invasions and attacks by certain large cells. That allows the formation of atherosclerotic plaques.

The UN’s who estimates that six million people in poor countries are in immediate need of the anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment that many rich world suffers now take for granted, but less than 300,000 actually receive it.

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World pop stars perform at Mandela’s “AIDS” concert

CAPE TOWN, 1 Dec — Bono, the Corrs, Beyonce Knowles and other international stars answered Nelson Mandela’s call to help fight the scourge of AIDS on Saturday, putting on a musical extravaganza broadcast across the world on the Internet.

Former South African President Nelson Mandela, left at the Nelson Mandela AIDS Benefit Concert in Cape Town, South Africa, on 29 Nov 2003. The number 46664 is the prisoner number Mandela was jailed during his years of imprisonment. At back is Bono, right, and The Edge , second from right, from the rock band U2. —INTERNET

The concert will be televised the world over on World AIDS Day on Saturday, putting on a musical extravaganza broadcast across the world on the Internet.

The UN plan would rush “AIDS” therapy to world’s poor

NAIROBI, 1 Dec — The United Nations unveiled plans on Monday to rush life-saving anti-retroviral AIDS drugs to three million of the world’s poor in a 5.5-billion-US-dollar emergency strategy that the global AIDS epidemic shows no signs of abating.

The UN’s who estimates that six million people in poor countries are in immediate need of the anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment that many rich world suffers now take for granted, but less than 300,000 actually receive it.

The strategy requires getting ARV treatment to half of the six million by the end of 2005. The WHO, whose recommendations

Vietnam detains regional games ticket scalpers

HANOI, 1 Dec — Vietnam, the first-time host of the South-East Asian Games, has detained more than 20 people who sold tickets at up to 30 times their face value, police said on Saturday.

Tickets for the SEA Games, to be held from December 5 to 13, went on sale on Wednesday but were rationed to one ticket per person, drawing thousands of fans who camped outside the national stadium’s ticket outlet in Hanoi hoping for a seat in the final football match.

About 5,000 athletes from 11 countries will compete in 442 events to be held in 11 cities and provinces. Major events, such as the opening and closing ceremonies, will be held in Hanoi.

Southeast Asia comprises Cambodia, Brunei, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and East Timor.

The UN plan would rush “AIDS” therapy to world’s poor

NAIROBI, 1 Dec — The United Nations unveiled plans on Monday to rush life-saving anti-retroviral AIDS drugs to three million of the world’s poor in a 5.5-billion-US-dollar emergency strategy that the global AIDS epidemic shows no signs of abating.

The UN’s who estimates that six million people in poor countries are in immediate need of the anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment that many rich world suffers now take for granted, but less than 300,000 actually receive it.

The strategy requires getting ARV treatment to half of the six million by the end of 2005. The WHO, whose recommendations

Bono, right, and The Edge , second from right, from the rock band U2. —INTERNET

The concert will be televised the world over on World AIDS Day on Saturday, putting on a musical extravaganza broadcast across the world on the Internet.

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Sutton doubles take Celtic eight points clear

Glasgow, 1 Dec.—Chris Sutton scored twice as Celtic recovered from a goal down to beat bottom club Partick Thistle 3-1 at home and move eight points clear of champions Rangers in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday.

James Grady hit a surprise 11th minute opener for the division's bottom side at a sodden Celtic Park before a goal from Henrik Larsson (23) and two from his strike partner Sutton (36, 60) maintained Celtic's unbeaten league record.

Celtic—who have now played 35 domestic games without defeat—led the standings with 40 points from 14 games with champions Rangers on 32 before their trip to Hibernian on Sunday.

Celtic must now prepare to face Thistle again in a Scottish League Cup third round tie on Thursday.

Partick, who have just two points and are still without a league win this season, went ahead when Grady's header from Derek Fleming's free kick went wide of the underside of the bar.

But Celtic equalised 12 minutes later when Sutton set up Larsson to score and the Englishman put them ahead early in the second half when he flicked Larsson's free kick into the net. —MNA/Reuters

Valencia claim top spot, Ronaldo rescues Real

Madrid, 1 Dec.—Valencia snatched top spot in the Primera Liga on Saturday thanks to a 3-2 home win over Real Zaragoza, while champions Real Madrid slipped to second after a barely deserved 1-1 draw at Osasuna.

Ronaldo saved the day for Real with a 74th-minute strike to cancel out a top-class finish from Ivory Coast striker Ibrahim Baikayoko, who had put the Navarrans ahead in the first half.

Valencia made a great start at the Mestalla as they stormed to a 3-0 halftime lead against Zaragoza, with neatly crafted goals from winger Jorge Lopez and Vicente, and gifted Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar.

But Zaragoza hit back with well worked strikes from centre forward David Villa and gifted winger Juan underlined his former position on the right flank.

But they never looked comfortable at a packed El Sadar and it was Osasuna who were the first to show when Bakayoko controlled a flying cross with his back to goal, swivelled and volleyed just over the bar on five minutes.

Real failed to heed the early warning, though, and six minutes later the former Olympique Marseille player put the Navarrans ahead with a cool finish.

Receiving the ball on the edge of the area from fellow striker John Aloisi, Bakayoko checked inside Ivan Helguera and fired the ball past Real keeper Iker Casillas with a fierce left-foot finish.

The champions recovered their nerve a little on the half hour mark when Ronaldo produced a couple of his trademark jinking runs that provided the first threats to the Osasuna defence.

But it was Osasuna who continued to dominate as they poured through the middle and tormented the Real defence.

The Navarrans manufactured a host of further scoring chances but the Primera Liga's leading scorer Ronaldo made them pay when he equalized 16 minutes from time to take his season's tally to 10 goals.

Menegazzo, who was back in the middle in the second half, threaded a perfect through pass to pass to the Brazilian who sprinted past one defender, fended off another and tucked home inside the near post.

Zackha, of Latvia also suffered a surprise defeat 3-0 away to Siena thanks to two first-half goals from Brazilian Rodrigo Taddei and a late strike from his compatriot Fernando Menegazzo.

After Dejan Stankovic missed a glorious chance for Lazio in the 19th minute, firing high wide from just two metres out, Taddei put Siena in the lead, blasting home after the Lazio defence had failed to clear a cross from Gianni Giugou.

Two minutes later the Brazilian doubled the advantage after poor work from Latvia's Serbian defender Sinisa Mihajlovic.

Nicola Ventola whipped the ball away from Mihajlovic as the defender was trying to usher the ball out for a goal kick and fired over a low cross which Taddei slotted home.

Siena's Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo then missed an easy chance, firing over when unmarked inside the area, before Stankovic was sent off in the 67th minute for dissent.

Menegazzo wrapped up the victory in injury time after being set up by the outstanding Taddei.

The result moved Siena up to seventh place, while Lazio stayed fifth.

Inter hit back to humble champions Juve

Milan, 1 Dec.—Inter Milan recovered from their midweek Champions League mauling by Arsenal to hand Italian champions Juventus their first defeat of the season with a shock 3-1 win at the Delle Alpi Stadium on Saturday.

Argentine striker Julio Ricardo Cruz struck twice as Inter put their 3-1 home defeat by Arsenal behind them with a superb display to end Juve's 11-month unbeaten home record in Serie A.

The result was Inter's first league victory at Juventus in over 10 years—their last was 2.0 in March 1993—since they have been able to display just two goals and one goal in the fixture.

Juventus will lose top spot in the standings if AS Roma or AC Milan win on Sunday.

Inter led 1-0 from the 12th minute with a brilliantly taken free kick.

The Argentine, disputing for the injured Christian Vieri, added the second in the 69th minute, reacting well to fire home after his first shot was blocked by Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon.

With Juve pushing forward in search of a way back into the game, 19-year-old Nigerian Obafemi Martins raced on to a Cruz flick and danced past Nicola Legrottaglie before slipping the ball under Buffon to make it 3-0.

Juve defender Paolo Montero pulled one back for the champions in the final minute but that was no consolation at the end of a game which pushed Inter right back into the title race under new coach Alberto Zaccheroni.

Troubled Leeds earn morale-boosting win

London, 1 Dec.—Bottom club Leeds United put fears about administration behind them with a 1-0 Premier League victory away to Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

Young forward James McInerney scored the goal which ended a run of five league defeats for the debt-ridden and losing-money-making club whose board warned last week of possible administration.

With all the top clubs playing on Sunday, when second-placed Chelsea host champions Manchester United and leaders Arsenal are at home to Fulham, the Premier League focus switched to the mid-table and struggling clubs.

Alan Shearer's equalizer earned Newcastle United a 1-1 draw at沃尔·hampton Wanderers. Leicester City's recovery continued with a 2-0 win at Portman Road.

But trouble is sure to continue for Aston Villa after they were beaten 1-0 by Everton.

Newcastle draw at Wolves, spectator injured

Luton, 1 Dec.—Skipper Alan Shearer earned Newcastle United a share of the points on Saturday in a 1-1 draw at struggling Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The match got under way after a woman in the crowd was taken hospital after being hit in the face by a wayward firework, let off with other fans as part of a display the team put on to the pitch.

She was treated for cuts, while the club opened an investigation.

Once the game started, Nathan Blake gave Wolves a 27th minute lead after a long ball forward from Alex Rae, but Shearer levelled four minutes later in the Premier League's early kickoff at Molineux.

Murcia battle to 2-2 draw against Sociedad

Madrid, 1 Dec.—Struggling Murcia produced a determined performance to come from behind twice and earn a 2-2 draw at home to Real Sociedad in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Sociedad, who have also been in poor form in the league, took the lead against the run of play when midfielder Igor Gabibondo curled in a free kick on the edge of the area on 30 minutes.

Murcia, who dominated for long periods of the first half, were finally rewarded for their efforts two minutes after the break when striker Luis Garcia equalized with a carbon copy of the Sociedad goal. But Sociedad restored their lead less than a minute later, striker Oscar De Paula volleys in after fine work by Aitor Lopez Rekarte on the right.

Murcia refused to throw in the towel and pulled level again when David Karanka sent a glancing header low into the net from behind twice and earn a 2-2 draw at home to Real Sociedad in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

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Bentonite

15:30 Signature Tune
15:35 Central Glass Pavilion
15:40 9. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
15:45 6. Song of yesteryears
15:50 12. Weather report
15:55 8. International news
16:00 National News
16:05 10. News
16:10 Song on Screen "A Diamond-studded song"
16:15 National News
16:20 Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Mawlamyaying to Myeky)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
16:30 Oboe: Myanmar Musical Instrument
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine “Noodle with Coconut-soup”
16:45 National News
16:50 Shwezawar Lacquerware
16:55 Auspicious Glory
17:00 National News
17:05 A Village of Pa-o
17:10 Song “Ayaayawady”
17:15 National News
17:20 A Trip to Inlay Lake
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
17:30 Signature Tune Greetings
17:35 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myaana Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment”
17:40 Headline News
17:45 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Aspara- gus with Fish Flake)
17:50 National News
17:55 The Stage Male Dance
20:00 National News
20:05 Red Panda
20:10 Song “Cherry Present”
20:15 National News
20:20 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Activities in Myanmar
20:25 Song “Hakha”
20:30 National News
20:35 The Wonderful Peik-chan Rivane
20:50 A Peaceful Place of Mind
20:55 Dawei Water Fetching Dance
21:00 National News
21:05 The Ancient City Thirikhitaya
21:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Moonlight”
21:15 National News
21:20 From Yangon to the Peak of Mt.Victoria
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myana Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment”
21:35 Bentonite
21:40 Headline News
21:45 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes “Short headed fish with Morinda Curry”
21:50 National News
21:55 Unforgettable Bonfire Dance
22:05 Usefulness of the Whole Teddy Palm
22:10 Hill Resort Town (Thandaung)
22:15 National News
22:20 Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Mawlamyaying to Myeky)
22:25 Song “Way for Lovers”
22:30 National News
22:35 Oboe: Myanmar Musical Instrument
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine “Noodle with Coconut-soup”
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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 2 December, 2003

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole county. Night temperatures were 8°C below normal in Rakhine State, 5°C to 6°C below normal in Shan, Chin States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kayin State, Tanintharyi and upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was -2°C in Haka.

Maximum temperature on 30-11-2003 was 33.5°C (92°F). Minimum temperature on 01-12-2003 was 18.5°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-12-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 30-11-2003 was (79) hours approx. Rainfall on 1-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1 to 3-2003 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 4 mph from North at (10:10) hours MST on 30-11-2003.

Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 2-12-2003: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, Tanintharyi, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. State of the seas: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook: Look for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 2-12-2003: Partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers, especially in the morning.

Please tune in today:
- 8.30 am: Brief news
- 8.40 am: Music
- 8.40 am: Perspectives
- 8.45 am: Music
- 8.50 am: National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am: Music
- 9.05 am: International news
- 9.10 am: News/Slogan
- 9.40 am: Music
- 10.00 am: News/Slogan
- 10.45 am: News/Slogan
Prime Minister attends...

(from page 1)

So, in the time of Tamanaw government, the government believes that only when there is firm national solidarity, efforts for emergence of peaceful, modern and developed nation can be made. Based on the mutual understanding and forgive- ness, the government has made efforts. As a result, majority of national armed groups, having realized the goodwill of the government, have entered into legal fold, to cooperate with the government. At present, peace prevails all over the border areas, which are developing like cities.

Placing emphasis on strengthening of national solidarity and development of border areas and national people, the State has laid down plans to prevent the dissension, being disunited and incitements of the others which lagged behind in development.

He said the government has been building better foundations that can enhance harmonious development of the national races for con-solidating of national solidarity spirit and the Union Spirit. Now there is national solidarity spirit and the Union spirit among the national races, he added.

Chairman of Central Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day 2004 Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt makes a speech at the coordination meeting for organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day. --- MNA

Those in attendance at the coordination meeting for organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day. --- MNA

World AIDS Day commemorative ceremony held

YANGON, 1 Dec — The World AIDS Day commemorative ceremony was held at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning.

It was attended by deputy ministers, members of the Central Committee for Prevention and Eradication of AIDS, information sub-committee members, ambassadors from foreign missions in Yangon, resident representa-tives of agencies under the UN, members of Global Fund for AIDS, TB & Malaria Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), members of UN Expanded Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, the director-general of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, rectors and officials of universities under the Medical Research Department, medical superintendent from hospitals in Yangon, officials from the Ministry of Health, social organization members, chairmen and representatives of the organizations at home and abroad conducting AIDS educative activities, invited guests, winners of the World AIDS Day commemorative essay, poster and painting contests and their parents.

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Deputy Minis-ter Dr Mya Oo made a speech. He said the aim is to create awareness about HIV/AIDS among the general population and to inform the public about prevention and control activities, leading to increase community participation. This year’s theme, “Live and Let Live” is the same as last year. In other words, it aims for develop-ment of activities for care and support for people infected with HIV and AIDS patients and their families.

According to WHO/UNAIDS estimates, there are 42 million persons living with HIV/AIDS all over the world. Among them, 19.2 million are women and 3.2 million are children under 15 years of age. The number of newly HIV-infected individ-uals in the 2002 alone was about 5 million. Worldwide AIDS kill more than 8,000 people every day: that is a person dies of AIDS every 10 seconds. At present, HIV/AIDS...