Secretary-1 inspects Mandalay ICT Park, Mandalay Industrial Zone

YANGON, 2 Dec.—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win viewed round IT companies and Internet Cafe at Mandalay ICT Park, Mandalay Yadanabon Market. — MNA

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township by helicopter. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and officials.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township. — MNA

Success of the education promotion programmes depends on the united cooperation of teachers, students and parents and the public

YANGON, 2 Dec.—State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address at the concluding of the Special Refresher Course No 54 for Basic Education Teachers held at Nawarat Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command/Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the civil service selection and training board chairman, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, the deputy auditor-general, members of CSSTB, officials from the SPDC Office, departmental heads, the rector of CICS, heads of departments, coaches and trainer teachers.

Myanmar Education Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address on the occasion. He said basic education teachers nurture the students to become intellectuals and intelligentsia and outstanding ones on whom the State can rely. The special refresher courses for teachers have been opened for the teachers to realize the true situation of the State and future prospects, to make efforts in education sector for development of the State and the people.

At a time when human resources, needed for the interests of the State in future, have been nurtured, the role of the teachers at basic education schools is of prime importance. While performing the duties of teaching, teachers are to bring out the effectiveness of all-round education. — MNA

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

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

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

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

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PERSPECTIVES
Wednesday, 3 December, 2003

For observance of 57th Union Day with full political essence

As the Union of Myanmar is home to more than 100 national races, it is of utmost importance for all the national people to safeguard their homeland with Union Spirit and in accord with our national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The work coordination meeting on observance of the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day (2004) was held at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmynitha in Yangon on 1 December and it was attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address at the meeting, the Prime Minister said that the yearly observance of the Union Day in accordance with full political essence reflects the stronger Union Spirit with which the national brethren of the Union won back their independence and sovereignty.

After invading and occupying Myanmar, the colonialists employed the divide-and-rule policy to prolong their control and attempted through various ways and means to disintegrate the national unity and tear the Union Spirit to shreds.

It was only due to the farsightedness and relentless efforts of patriots and other national leaders that the national unity was restored and, as a result, independence was regained.

Even 40 years after the regaining of independence, as the colonialists sowed discord among the national brethren, they had harboured suspicion and distrust for one another and armed insurgeries broke out all over the nation. The result: failure to carry out the nation-building endeavours. It was a great historical lesson for our nation.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw Government, since its assumption of State responsibilities, believes that only when there is strong national unity will peace and development be ensured. With this end in view, the Government has placed a special emphasis on restoration and flourishing of national unity.

Realizing the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government, most of the groups of national races have returned to the legal fold and are now cooperating with the former in national endeavours. As a result, the border areas are now able to enjoy the fruits of peace and development.

It is necessary to make concerted efforts to be able to observe the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day with full political essence so that national unity and Union Spirit will become stronger and stronger.

Computers donated to Auditor-General’s Office

YANGON, 2 Dec — To ensure further strengthening of economy and mutual relations between the two countries, the Chinese embassy to Myanmar donated computers to the Auditor-General’s Office this morning.

Present on the occasion were Auditor-General’s Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Deputy Auditor-General U Khin Win, Director-General Daw Thun Thin, Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint and officials. Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff also attended.

Next, Chinese ambassador Mr Li Jinjun had spoken purposes of the donation. Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung accepted computers presented by the Chinese ambassador and he spoke words of thanks.

Today’s donation was five computers worth about 2.5 million. — MNA

Upgrading of Mindat-Matupi road in Chin State in progress

YANGON, 2 Dec — The prize-presentation ceremony for the 35th Inter-State/Division Badminton Tournament (2003) took place at Aung San Gymnasium this morning.

It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Sports, leading patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, Myanmar Badminton Federation, President U Maung Maung Swe and executive directors, guests and enthusiasts.

President of the Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe presents prizes to winners in Badminton event (Men). — NLM

ISD Badminton Tourney ends

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The 4th Great Wall Traditional Medicines Enterprise Federations Tournament (Men) organized by MBF and sponsored by the Great Wall Traditional Medicines Enterprise will be held from 3 to 7 December. — NLM

Information Minister receives ambassadors

YANGON, 2 Dec — Member for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr DMM Ranaraja at his office on Theinbyu Street at noon and Australian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Paul Grigson at 12.30 pm today.

During the calls, they frankly discussed information matters and mutual relations between the two countries.

Present at the calls together with Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Directors-General and Managing Directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, the head of office and officials. — MNA

MNA

President for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chairman of Chin State PDC Col Tin Hla, Chairman of Mindat District PDC Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo and officials, Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff.

The 4th Great Wall Traditional Medicines Enterprise Federations Tournament (Men) organized by MBF and sponsored by the Great Wall Traditional Medicines Enterprise will be held from 3 to 7 December. — NLM

Leading patron of the Myanmar Badminton Federation Daw Khin Hla presents Meritorious Service Award to Yangon Division women’s and men’s teams. — NLM

President of the Myanmar Badminton Federation Daw Khin Hla presents Meritorious Service Award to Yangon Division women’s and men’s teams. — NLM

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence looks into upgrading tasks of the Mindat-Matupi road section. — MNA
**Floods hit northern Malaysia**

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Dec —Heavy floods have hit three districts in Terengganu State, northern Malaysia, in the past few days, forcing 648 people to flee their homes and take shelter at evacuation centres.

Spokesman for the Flood Operations Room at the Terengganu Police Headquarters said Sunday that 562 of the evacuees were in Dungun, 83 in Marang and five in Kemaman.

Meanwhile, the State Drainage and Irrigation Department reported that the water level in Dungun reached 20.48 metres at 8 a.m. Sunday, surpassing the danger mark of 19.8 metres.

The river’s level at Jerangau Bridge was 12.46 metres, close to the danger mark of 12.5 metres and the level was expected to rise further with rain in upstream areas, according to a spokesman of the department.

MNA/Xinhua

**US soldier dies as doubts grow over Samarra**

BAGHDAD, 2 Dec —A US soldier has died of bullet wounds even as doubts were cast over the version of events being put out by the Pentagon over Sunday night’s bloodbath in Samarra.

The occupier soldier was wounded when he was attacked by resistance fighters west of Baghdad on Monday morning.

No further details were available.

In Samarra, scenes of devastation dotted the town after fierce US attacks in which senior police and hospital officials said at least eight civilians were killed and dozens wounded.

American troops said on Monday that 54 resistance fighters had been killed in clashes on Sunday.

But a correspondent and other news agencies quoted hospital sources and Samarraregionals as saying that the US fire killed eight people, all civilians.

Samarra hospital accident and emergency department anaesthetist Bassam Ibrahim said “we received the bodies of eight civilians, including a woman and a child.” —Internet

**Bush strategy falling short in Iraq, Afghanistan**

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec —Senators just returning from Iraq and Afghanistan Monday the Bush administration is not committing enough resources to maintain stability in Afghanistan and is trying to move too quickly to set up a sovereign government in Baghdad, and both failures could have disastrous consequences.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-RI, who made the six-day trip with Sen Hillary Clinton, D-NY, said the US has not given consistent attention to Afghanistan, where insurgent forces are very active.

Reed and Clinton said they told National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on Monday that they were sending her a letter outlining the concerns and recommenda-
dations triggered by their trip. One of those concerns, they said, is the shortage of highly skilled forces in Afghanistan, including teams to eradicate the drug trade.

At the same time, the two senators said the Bush administration may be speeding up the transfer to a new Iraqi government in Baghdad to gain favor from US voters in the 2004 election. —Internet

**Political will, alternative therapies needed for “AIDS” in India**

NEW DELHI, 2 Dec —With a strong political will and several modern and alternative therapies available to treat HIV/AIDS, the healthcare system in India should make judicious use of them to provide quality and prolonged life to millions of affected people.

NGOs and healthcare experts said in Mumbai, south India, on the eve of World AIDS Day Sunday.

With over 73 drugs available in the world and a similar number of drugs under clinical trials and Indian pharmaceuticals alone having tens of formulation drugs at a reasonable rate, there should not be any hurdle treating those affected with HIV/AIDS, representa-
tives of NGOs told local reporters.

And the vaccine would be a boon when it is made available to the people as a preventive measure, they added.

MNA/Xinhua

**Hebei to create advanced forest ecological, industry systems**

SHIJIAZHUANG, 2 Dec —North China’s Hebei Province has set a goal to build up advanced forest ecological and industry systems by 2020, according to a recent provincial conference on forest development.

Under the scheme undertaken through three phases, local areas covered by forest are to increase to 23 per cent in 2015, or 4.3 million hectares, 30 per cent in 2020, or 85 million sq km or 5.76 million hectares.

The output value of local forestry will increase to 45 billion yuan (5.4 billion US dollars) in 2005, 60 billion yuan (7.2 billion dollars) in 2010, and 100 billion yuan (12 billion US dollars) in 2020.

The deteriorating ecological situation in some areas in the province will be eased in 2005 and greatly improved in 2010. A forestry industry system will take form in 2005 and will be upgraded in 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

**Indonesia buys four Dutch warships**

JAKARTA, 2 Dec —Indonesian Navy Chief of Staff Bernard Kent Sundakha said here Monday the country entered the final stage in its plan to purchase four warships worth 680 million US dollars from the Nether-
lands.

“We order four warships, two of them will be assembled overseas while the two others will be as-
sembled by PT PAL Surabaya,” Bernard was quoted by Detikcom online news service as say-
ing, referring to the state ship maker in East Java.

MNA/Xinhua
S. Korea instructs embassy in Iraq to reinforce security measures

SEOUL, 2 Dec — The South Korean Government Sunday instructed its embassy in Baghdad to reinforce its self-defence systems and take additional security measures, reported the South Korean Yonhap News Agency.

The instruction, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was sent to the embassy in wake of the killing of two Japanese diplomats in northern Iraq Saturday afternoon.

In the instruction, the government asked the embassy to more closely monitor the security situation throughout the country.

The chief of the embassy was also asked to flexibly cope with any emergency situation or deterioration in security circumstances, said Anacleto Felicani, Malaysia call for Europe-Asia cooperation to end Iraqi crisis

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Dec — Malaysia on Monday called on the European Union (EU) to collaborate closely with Asian countries in seeking a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis.

"It was time now for Europe and Asia to work together to help restrain the tendency towards unilateralism in dealing with problems confronting Iraq," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said when attending a round-table talks with EU ambassadors led by Italian Ambassador to Malaysia Anacleto Felicani.

"We need to work hard (together) to find ultimate solutions to bring peace and democracy to Iraq and its people," said Syed Hamid.

He was confident that every country, including the Brussels-based 15-member EU, could contribute effectively in finding long-term solutions for the good of Iraq.

Malaysia calls for Europe-Asia cooperation to end Iraqi crisis

"All this needs collaboration among the countries. It needs cooperation," the minister said.

Syed Hamid also said that a single country, no matter how big and powerful, would not be able to find the correct approach in its own to deal with underlying problems, like the killings in Iraq.

"The war is over but peace has yet to be won," the minister said.

The minister said the United Nations should play the central role in the rebuilding of Iraq and help in putting in place a fully democratic government.

China to maintain continuity of macro-economic policy

BEIJING, 2 Dec — China will maintain continuity of its macro-economic policy to ensure steady economic growth in 2004, according to a national economic meeting which closed here Saturday.

The Chinese economy is in the upward phase of the economic cycle and it is necessary to maintain the continuity and stability of its macro-economic policy to enhance confidence and stabilize the overall situation, according to the annual Central Economic Work Conference jointly held by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council.

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"We need to work hard (together) to find ultimate solutions to bring peace and democracy to Iraq and its people," said Syed Hamid.

China will continue to stimulate its domestic demand and implement proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy in the new year while making timely and proper readjustments in policy priorities for steady economic growth, the meeting decided.

Efforts will also be made to step up tax collection nationwide to increase revenues while restructuring public expenditures to ensure sufficient funds for key projects.

More public funds will be spent on agriculture and rural economy, on social development, on the country’s programme of developing the western regions and the revitalisation of the old industrial bases in northeast China.

The sectors that will get more financial support from the state also include environmental protection, re-employment, social security system and key state construction projects.

The meeting also called for the comprehensive use of various instruments in implementing the monetary policy so as to produce better effect through the coordination of monetary policy, fiscal policy and industrial policy.

To maintain a prudent monetary policy, efforts should also be made to properly control credits, improve their structure and maintain an adequate growth of monetary supply, according to the meeting.

Chavez says Venezuelan economy recovering

CARACAS, 2 Dec — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has predicted a noticeable economic, social and political recovery in 2003 for his country.

Venezuela’s economy is expanding, its international reserves are increasing and the inflation level is dropping, the local Press Saturday quoted Chavez as saying.

According to Chavez, inflation in October stood at 22.6 per cent, with unemployment at 16.7 per cent.

While the country’s economic dynamics are being spearheaded by telecommunications, construction and agriculture, it is also embracing more foreign investment, said the Venezuelan leader while inaugurating the fourth generator of the hydroelectric plant of Caruanch, in Bolivar state.

Chavez described Friday as a historical day and a day of victory for the Constitution, when the opposition started to collect signatures for a referendum to determine his continuity in office.

He claimed that it was an achievement of his government in paving the way for referendums. He also expressed his confidence that he would defeat the opposition and win the election to govern Venezuela until 2013.

Jordan, Iraq ink agreement on electrical power

AMMAN, 2 Dec — Jordan and Iraq on Sunday reached a memorandum of understanding under which Jordan will help Iraq develop electricity system.

"Jordan will help Iraq in the field of electricity and probe the possibility to participate in maintenance actions of various components of Iraq’s electricity system," Jordanian Minister of Energy Amr Khrusna said in a statement, quoted by the official Petra news agency.

Jordan will also train Iraq’s engineers and technicians in the posts of Jordanian electricity corporations, according to the agreement.

Cubans demand release of compatriots imprisoned in US

HAVANA, 2 Dec — About 10,000 Cubans gathered on Saturday in central Cuba, demanding the release of five Cubans imprisoned in the United States for espionage and conspiracy.

At the municipality of Quemado de Guines, in the central province of Villa Clara, the demonstrators deounced in a statement the long jail terms issued against Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Rene Gonzalez, Fernando Gonzalez and Antonio Guerrero.

Arrested in the United States in 1998, "The Five," as they are internationally known, were brought to trial in 2001 by a federal court in Miami, Florida. Gerardo, Ramon and Antonio were sentenced to life imprisonment, while Fernando and Rene to 19 and 15 years in jail, respectively.

In the demonstrators said "The Five" never endangered the US national security and only gathered information on terrorist acts against the Caribbean country planned by anti-Cuban groups based in Miami.

Polish coalition forces secure the road close to the spot where seven Spanish intelligence agents were killed in Iraq on Saturday, near the town of Suwayrah, 30 km south of Baghdad, on 30 Nov, 2003. — Reuters
FOREIGN TROOPS IN IRAQ FACE WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE, PROTESTS

Anti-war protesters stage a rally near the Diet building in Tokyo Monday, on 1 Dec, 2003, a day after the report that two Japanese diplomats were shot to death in Iraq.—INTERNET

Salvadoran troops from the Cuscatlan Battalion man a checkpoint on the southern outskirts of Baghdad, on the road leading to the central town of Kufa amid rising guerilla resistance in Iraq on Monday.—INTERNET

An Iraqi boy gestures in front of a burned-out car in Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, December 1, 2003.

Scenes of devastation dotted the Iraqi town of Samarra after fierce clashes between US forces and guerillas in which senior police and hospital officials said at least eight civilians were killed and dozens wounded on early Monday.

INTERNET

South Korean activists shout slogans during a protest near the US embassy in Seoul. Some 30 activists urged the South Korean government to cancel its decision to send troops to Iraq following the killing of two Korean workers in Iraq.

INTERNET

Soldiers of the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse) secure an area during a night raid on the outskirts of town of Baquba in central Iraq, on 1 December, 2003.

INTERNET
Dutch hold protest against US-led Iraq war

MAASTRICHT (The Netherlands), 2 Dec — Hundreds of people in Maastricht, The Netherlands held Monday a peaceful protest against the US-led war on Iraq ahead of a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Chanting slogans of "George Bush terrorist" and "This is what democracy looks like", the protesters made their way from the Congress centre where the OSCE meeting is held to the city centre.

The demonstration was organized by a platform of anti-war and human rights organizations to protest against the alleged violation of human rights as a result of the so-called war on terrorism and the US-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The protesters, who marched to the beat of a samba band, waved banners reading "Get out of Iraq" and "Powell go home" in reference to US Secretary of State Colin Powell who will attend the OSCE meeting on Tuesday.

The two-day meeting will focus on anti-terrorism efforts and international cooperation. Around 900 police officers are said to have been deployed in the region of the city during the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

UN chief meets contact group on Iran

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Dec — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday held his first meeting with envoys of the 17-nation contact group on Iraq to discuss the situation in the war-battered nation and how the UN can help its reconstruction.

Present at the closed-door meeting were representatives from Iraq’s six neighbours, Egypt and 10 UN Security Council members.

Chinese Ambassador to the UN, Wang Guangyu, told reporters that all contact group members supported the establishment of such an informal advisory mechanism on Iraq.

The contact group, which includes a majority of the UN Security Council member states and all neighbours of Iraq, will serve as a channel for Annan to exchange views with the international community on Iraq, he said.

The move indicated Annan’s interest in a UN role in Iraq, which is required by relevant Security Council resolutions, Wang noted.

"I think this will be conducive to the final settlement of the Iraqi issue," he stressed.

Syrian Ambassador Faysal Makdad echoed Wang’s opinion, describing the establishment of the contact group as "a step in the right direction".

"We want the restoration of the Iraqi sovereignty and independence as soon as possible, in line with the wishes of the Iraqi people," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to consider withdrawing Iraqi troops if situation worsens

BANGKOK, 2 Dec — Thailand will consider withdrawing its troops in Iraq if the security situation there worsens, Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said.

"At this time we are able to function like every other country but if the situation worsens and our troops cannot perform their duties then I will consult with the prime minister," Surakiart told reporters.

Surakiart said that the defence ministry was assessing the situation on a daily basis and so far it believed the presence of the 440-strong Thai contingent in the central city of Karbala was welcomed by the Iraqi people. "If we can still help them and still receive cooperation we will continue our work," he said.

Concern for the safety of the kingdom’s troops, including engineers, medical teams and a surveillance platoon, has escalated in line with the mounting death toll among foreign troops in Iraq. A Thai military envoy was fired at the Thai soldiers’ camp but there were no casualties or damage.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has rejected a demand from a group of senators that the contingent be withdrawn due to the poor security situation, insisting they were in good spirits and working effectively.

However, Defence Minister Thammarak Issarangkun Na Ayutthaya said in late October that Thailand could pull the troops out if the security situation spins out of control.

The Shiite holy city of Karbala was the scene of high tension between Shiite groups in October, when supporters of Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani prevented backers of a radical cleric taking control of important mosques.

MNA/Xinhua

China successfully grows paperbark imported from Australia

NAHOME, 2 Dec — China has successfully grown 41.3 hectares of paperbark with seedlings imported from Australia in its southern Guangdong Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The Guangxi Academy of Forestry imported the seedlings in 2001 and started to grow them in Qinzhou in May 2003. The trees are now 1.567 metres tall and are ready for use. More than 2.5 tons of branches and leaves could be yielded from each mu of paperbark (15 mu equals one hectare).

Paperbark produces a pungent oil which is used by chemical and pharmaceutical industries in skin disease remedies and as a stimulating expectorant.

Paperbark oil can only be produced in a few countries, shipping its price internationally.

Experts in Guangxi believe that increasing the growth of paperbark in Guangxi will help lower the price of paperbark oil and also bring in big profits for local growers.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-German ties to score new progress

BEIJING, 2 Dec — The existing Sino-German partnership of overall cooperation, based on mutual trust and benefit and equality, can score new progress with concerted efforts, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here.

In a meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder (L) with Chinese President Hu Jintao during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Schroder said a healthy relationship between Berlin and China was beneficial for the whole of Europe. — Internet

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MNA/Xinhua

Fewer Finns want vote on NATO membership

HELSPING, 2 Dec — The number of Finns who want a referendum if their country decides to join NATO has dropped sharply, according to a poll published on Sunday, although the majority says Finland is best off outside any alliance.

Finland’s decades-long policy of non-alignment is the subject of growing debate, with the country’s next defence review paper due for release in 2004.

Finland already cooperates with NATO in the Partnership for Peace programme, but few politicians have dared to directly address the sensitive issue of joining the Western alliance, something most Finns oppose.

The poll found that 56 per cent felt the Nordic nation could cope well outside a military alliance. No comparative figures were given for this question.

The poll did not ask respondents whether the country should join NATO.

NATO opponents say non-alignment has worked well for Finland, which shares a 800-mile border with Russia, and some are wary of the dominant US role in the alliance.

NATO proponents argue that the world has changed since the collapse of the Soviet Union and point out that Finland’s southern Baltic neighbours are already joining the alliance. — MNA/Reuters

Unemployment

MNA/Reuters
People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize the stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

US economist slams Bush on “war agenda” “AIDS”

VIENNA, 2 Dec — Leading US economist Jeffrey Sachs fiercely attacked US President George W Bush on Monday for pursuing an “agenda of war” and neglecting the fight against poverty and AIDS in the developing world.

“Development was pushed off the world’s agenda this year by an agenda about war,” said Sachs, who is a special adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and a professor of Columbia University’s Earth Institute.

“September 11, which has dominated the world’s agenda for more than two years, claimed 3,000 lives. Every day, 20,000 people are dying because of poverty from AIDS, TB (tuberculosis) and malaria. Every single day,” he said.

Speaking at the opening of the annual General Conference for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Sachs said the world was spending an astronomical amount of money on the instruments of war and a fraction of that on AIDS. “This year, the world will spend 500 billion US dollars on armaments, 50 billion US dollars on development assistance, and perhaps one billion dollars on AIDS,” he said in his speech, coinciding with World AIDS Day.

“A in my own country, the United States will spend 450 billion US dollars on the military and 10 billion US dollars on development assistance — a ratio of 45 to 1,” he added.

At a news conference that AIDS had clearly become a pandemic, Sachs, who in his speech said that in his own country, the United States, the government had proposed 200 million US dollars of his budget to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, he said “Two hundred million and 87 billion US dollars for the war in Iraq.”

MNA/Reuters

Bagan witnesses flying of flags

Ketu Nila

Bagan is the land where the Myanmar cultural heritage is being preserved and exhibited, and where the First Myanmar Empire was founded and had flourished. It is also the place where the economy, religion and culture of Myanmarees flourished, and the political and military power was built, and peace and stability prevailed.

As the national pride was at its height, Bagan was the glory of Myanmar people. Throughout the successive eras, men of letters and whether they be poets, writers or composers, have been endlessly praising the virtues of Bagan, which is the symbol of Myanmar culture and character.

The flags of victory fluttering high in Bagan has led to vitalizing the nationalistic fervour of the entire Myanmar people.

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — was successfully held on 12 November 2002 in Bagan which has fine historical traditions. At the Summit, Prime Minister of Myanmar Senior General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Cambodia Sandech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Boungnang Vorachith, and Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra held discussions on the development of the four countries.

The meeting was held with the aim of ensuring the peaceful co-existence among the four countries and the progress and prosperity based on mutual understanding, sympathy, trust, amity and respect, that are the principles of the good neighboring, and of equally sharing the opportunities.

As the Prime Ministers of the four countries held discussions on the above stand, the meeting was able to realize its aims and objectives. In other words, the Summit has been the combination of the strength of the four countries to bring about regional peace and stability and progress and prosperity that is the common interest of the developing countries of the region.

The holding of the Summit meeting of the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — which are ASEAN members, is to realize the vision of the present era — to make cooperation among the ASEAN members in the Southeast Asia region, based on common interest, to set up a prosperous family of South Asian nations that can stand shoulder to shoulder with the global powers, the European Union, and the North America Free Trade Area, and to set up an ASEAN Free Trade Area.

With this aim of the Association, in November 1997, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe delivered a historic speech at the Summit of the ASEAN ten nations in Bangkok on 15 December 1997. In his address the Senior General expressed the stand of Myanmar that Myanmar had already made a firm resolve to actively take part in the regional integration and the globalization process of the 21st Century. And with this stand, Myanmar proudly and actively hosted the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

Similarly, Myanmar hosted the Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, the Second ASEAN+China Transport Ministers Meeting, and the First ASEAN+Japan Transport Ministers Meeting. In this way, Myanmar has strengthened her international relations, regional relations and relations with the neighbours.

Some powers of the West are blindly believing the sanders and lies of the internal and external destructive elements while ignoring positive changes and developments occurring in the political and economic sectors of Myanmar.

But the success in Myanmar’s international relations has shown that the destructive schemes of those western powers to isolate Myanmar and impose sanctions and put pressure on her will never be effective, and will fail in the end.

Myanmar is able to extend her relations with the neighbours, the regional countries and friendly countries from afar, based on mutual respect, trust, amity, the family spirit and friendship. With greater acceleration, Myanmar is also promoting its cooperation with other countries based on common interest. The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — will help materialize the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the ASEAN integration plan, and will lead to laying of the good foundations ensuring peace, stability and development of the Southeast Asia region.

In this way, the Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation strategy among the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — includes the Action Plan, covering a wide array of sectors and a large volume of task, that must be implemented under long-term and short-term plans. Some of the tasks will have to be carried out by all the four countries, and some will have to be carried out by the two countries concerned. And the more work the four countries can carry out, the larger benefits the peoples of the countries will enjoy.

The peoples of the four countries will surely enjoy the social stability, peace and prosperity. Moreover, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos in particular will surely gain rapid economic development.

(To be continued)  ****

By Kvetu Nila

TVN

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Wednesday, 3 December, 2003  7
**Myanmar beat Thailand 4-2**

**YANGON, 2 Dec** — Myanmar women came back from behind to beat Thailand 4-2 in the thrilling women’s soccer match of the XXII Southeast Asia Games in Hanoi this evening. The first half ended with 1-1 draw. In the second half, Thailand added another goal. But the Myanmar women were able to score there more goals showing their brilliant performance and endurance throughout the 90 minutes. — NLM

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into regional development tasks in Matupi**

**YANGON, 2 Dec** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla, Col Hsan Aung of Matupi Station, Chairman of Mindat District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, paid a visit to Matupi Township Monastery on 30 November, and they paid homage and offered alms to Sayadaw Sadedha Jotikadba Bhaddanta Rajindha and members of the Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the school for nationalities youth of border areas and heard reports on educational performance, strength of students, school activities on agriculture and livestock breeding presented by principal U Hla Win. Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs and presented cash assistance to the students.

Then, he inspected tea plantation grown on both sides of the Matupi-Kanpetlet road where he was conducted round by officials. Upon arrival at Matupi Township People’s Hospital, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party gave Polio vaccine to preparatory measures children under five years old as for launching National Immunization Days.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with departmental officials, social organizations and town settlers at the meeting hall of Matupi Township Peace and Development Council Office. And, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions on regional development tasks. After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint handed over a television, a video cassette player and a computer set donated by the Prime Minister to Matupi BEHS through the headmistress Daw Naw Khwa Yi, and clothing for local people through Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Nyunt Soe.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to No1 Farming Zone of San Baung Ward, where he inspected tea plantations grown by service personnel. — MNA

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**Central Council of MRC to hold meeting on 18 & 19 Dec**

**YANGON, 2 Dec** — The 54th meeting of the Central Council of the Myanmar Red Cross Society will be held on 18 and 19 December at the assembly hall of the University of Nursing (Yangon).

It is kindly requested that members of the Central Council of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, chairman of Red Cross Supervisory Committees from states and divisions, health officers from states and divisions, red cross company officers, and police officers of states and divisions, are to attend the meeting without fail. — MNA

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**MMCWA conducts courses**

**YANGON, 2 Dec** — Organized by Domestic Training School of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the concluding of No (30/2003) Tailoring course, the opening of No (31/2003) Tailoring course and the concluding of No (1/2003) Basic Fruit Arrangement course took place at the building of the association at the corner of Thanbhumma Street and Paraami Street this morning. Present on the occasion were President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, members of central executive committees, patrons of Supervisory Committee and course instructors.

First, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made a speech on the occasion.

Next, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and members presented course completion certificates to trainees. President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Afterwards, Patron of Supervisory Committee for Courses CEC member Daw Kyin Khine presented gifts to course instructors. Trainees presented souvenirs for the training school to Patron of Supervisory Committee Daw San San Myint and Secretary Daw Wai Wai Tha. After the trainees had spoken words of thanks, they paid respects to the president, the vice-president, members and course instructors. Afterward, the No (31/2003) Tailoring Course was opened. Those wishing to attend the courses may contact the MMCWA. — MNA

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**Chinese goodwill delegation visits Shwe Dagon Pagoda**

**YANGON, 2 Dec** — Visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of CPLA, General Wu Quanxu together with Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Training of the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Military Attaché of Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Senior Colonel Xu Shulai yesterday evening visited Shwe Dagon Pagoda where they were welcomed by members of Pagoda Board of Trustees. First, visiting General Wu Quanxu and party paid obeisance to the Jade Buddha Image and offered flowers and lights to Buddha Image on western stairway.

Next, visiting General Wu Quanxu and party signed in the visitors’ book and donated cash. After the members of Pagoda Board of Trustees had accepted the donation, they presented a photo of Shwe Dagon Pagoda as a Dhamma gift to the Chinese goodwill delegation. Afterwards, they paid obeisance to the pagoda going round clockwise and studied the bell donated by Thayawady King and Mula Hidayaw by King Mindon and left there. — MNA
Success of the education promotion...
(from page 1)

The whole world today is developing with momentum thanks to rapid development of communication technologies. At this time, it can be seen that some big nations with technological advancement are taking advantage of their superiority and trying to control the ideological and cultural sectors of the developing nations through communication technologies. In this situation, the developing countries like the Union of Myanmar are to try not to be influenced by the big powers but to stand firmly and prosperously with own national policies, he highlighted.

In making endeavours to ensure all-round development of the State, the high standard of knowledge and education of the citizens is pivotal. So, the educational goals in knowledge age are to be implemented not only in schools but also in human society. They include literacy for all, promotion of national education standard, an opportunity of constant learning regardless of age and building of a modern developed nation, he elaborated.

In implementing national education promotion programmes, basic education schools are most fundamental. It is known to all teachers that three phases are being implemented for education promotion in basic education sector as of 1998. In implementing them, emphasis is placed on mental development with the aim of promoting the students’ creativity to be well-versed in every field, to be the ones with high morale who respect and abide by the law, discipline and social ethics, who value traditional customs and social value and to be the patriots fully equipped with firm nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit, he added.

In education promotion programmes, success has been achieved in basic education sector thanks to the leadership of the State, cooperation of local authorities and participation of students, teachers, public and wellwishers. Tasks for enrollment of all school-going children, tasks for opening post-primary schools to create opportunity to continue pursuing middle school education, tasks for opening of multimedia classrooms to strengthen of Union Spirit, he said.

He urged the teachers to realize and choose their own aims and thoughts and to be able to shoulder the duties of the world. Teachers are to adopt high will and national outlook for all, promotion of national education standard, an opportunity of constant learning regardless of age and building of a modern developed nation, he elaborated.

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Myanmar celebrates cent…

(from page 16)

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint called on respective officials to cooperate with the people in carrying out standard health care services in rural areas in accordance with guidance of the Head of State.

Next, the commander delivered a speech. The minister also made an address on the occasion, saying that as is known to all now, TB is rearing its ugly head again in the world nations including Myanmar, standing as a community health problem.

About one third of the world’s population (2,000 million people) have been infected with TB, annually causing around 8.9 million TB patients. Their age ranges from 15 to 54 years. And about 2 million people die of TB yearly. So, in 1993 the WHO had to announce that TB was global emergency, and adopted the Directly Observed Treatment Short Course Strategy.

According to the WHO 2002 TB Report, out of 210 world’s nations, only 148 were working the strategy.

The commander, next, presented cash donations and medical equipment, the commander TB medicines and the minister a microscope to the hospital.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected development undertakings in Mongkai Township, Shan State (South)

YANGON, 2 Dec—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, on 29 November, met with service personnel, local people, and members of social organizations in Mongkai Township, Shan State (South).

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe spoke of the need of the service personnel to participate in regional development endeavours with Union Spirit hand in hand with local people. He also urged them to extend agriculture and livestock breeding tasks and explained about the five rural development tasks.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on measures being taken for regional development, future plans and efforts to be made by service personnel and local people.

After hearing reports presented by Headmaster U Than Aung of Tonglaw Village affiliated Basic Education High School reported on academic matters; Health Assistant U San Lwin on health matters; and Chairman of Tonglaw Village PDC U Nyo Gyi on tasks being carried out for regional development, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe fulfilled the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected dispensary of the village and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Mongkai and paid homage to Shwemyintin Pagoda and presented offering to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata.

In meeting with service personnel, townelders and members of social organization at the town hall, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that collective efforts are to be made with Union Spirit for regional development. He urged them to extend sown acreage and use quality strains for regional rice sufficiency. He stressed the importance of meeting the target in growing the ten major crops.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also spoke of the need of officials and local people to strive collectively for ensuring regional stability and law enforcement.

The commander, next, reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on matters relating to agriculture, livestock breeding and regional development.

After hearing reports presented by officials, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attended to the needs.

And out of the 148, some nations can achieve cent per cent success of the DOTS strategy and the others remained as DOTS expansion ones.

Being well convinced the effect and impact of TB, Myanmar has been taking measures for control of the disease as national concern, designating TB as the second in the list of common diseases in the nation.

The TB Control Supervisory Committee formed in 1993 with the minister for Health as chairman has been supervising the TB control tasks.

Being satisfied with the results of Myanmar’s control tasks, the Global Drug Facility (GDF) provided Myanmar with TB medicines for three years, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) for five years worth US$17 million, thereby contributing towards cent per cent success.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented cash donations and medical equipment, the commander TB medicines and the minister a microscope to the hospital.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed the photos of activities on health care services and health educative posters at the hospital. They visited the specialists giving medical treatment to the patients.
The State is encouraging industrial development and increased production of export. In the process industrial zones have been established wherever possible in the country. The photo taken on 1 December 2002 shows the industries in the Industrial Town of Dagon Myothit (East) Township. —PHOTO: MNA

Discwheel Workshop of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Indagaw Industrial region, Bago Division, produces 34,500 discwheels every year to fulfil the domestic needs. — INDUSTRY-2

The inlet & exhaust valve plant, constructed by Ministry of Industry-2 in Indagaw Industrial Zone of Bago Division, produces a total of 46,000 inlets and exhaust valves per year as import substitute goods to be used in truck diesel engines, jeep petrol engines, tractor diesel engines, water pumps and diesel engines used in power stations. — INDUSTRY-2

Thanks to the assistance of the State and endeavors and innovation of Myanmar national industrialists, Myanmar industrial sector sees its development. The photo taken on 28 April 2002 shows the view of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.
Chinese farmers turn farmland into forest

BENZON, 2 Dec — About 53 million Chinese farmers had converted their farmland to forest by the end of 2002 and every affected farmer received 215 kilograms of grain, equal to 230 yuan (27.7 US dollars), according to a newly-completed report.

A mid-term evaluation report on China's nationwide project to return fragile land back to forest has recently been completed by the China International Engineering Consulting Corp. and has been submitted to the State Development and Reform Commission.

The Consulting Corp was entrusted to make the report as early as February, by the former State Development and Planning Commission.

The report said at the end of 2003, China is expected to return a total of 1.51 million hectares of fragile land from farmland to forest, completing 50 per cent of the planned goal.

The area of bare land has been reduced by 7.81 per cent from 1997 to 2002 in Yan'an and Yulin regions, located in north China's Shaanxi Province.

Uganda to host first intl' educational sector exhibition

KAMPALA, 2 Dec — Uganda is to host its first ever international education sector exhibition in which education institutions from various parts of the world will come together to showcase their activities and services.

Over 150 institutions from across Africa and Europe have confirmed their participation in the three-day event to take place from December 11-13 at Garden City exhibition hall in Kampala, capital of Uganda, according to a local media report on Monday.

Major participants in this exhibition will include primary and secondary schools, vocational and technical institutions, universities, non-governmental organizations and education funding organizations.

The exhibition organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Sports aims at bringing together all key players in the education sector to share experiences and expose participants to new opportunities and advances in the education sector.

"This is a forum intended to improve the flow of information in the education sector across boards," the organizer said.

Illicit liquor claims 15 lives in south India

New Delhi, 2 Dec — In a major loss of life tragedy, 15 people died and over 80 were hospitalized, some in serious condition, after they consumed illicit liquor in Tiruvallur District in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Four persons died soon after consuming the illicit brew Friday night in nine villages around suburban Ponneri while 11 others lost their lives Saturday morning as more and more victims were admitted to the hospital, the Press Trust of India reported.

The condition of some of those under treatment at the Government Hospital was stated to be serious and several of the victims complained of blurred vision. — MNA/Xinhua

US to build anti-drug coordination centre in Peru

LIMA, 2 Dec — The United States plans to build an anti-drug coordination centre next month in the Peruvian capital to crack down on illegal plant growing and drug smuggling in the area. Peru's official Andina news agency reported on Sunday.

The central base will serve as "the axis" for regional operations, supporting air, naval and river forces in the fight against drug traffickers, and details are under final negotiations between the two countries, the agency said, citing a spokesman of the US Embassy in Lima.

Increasing drug trafficking has turned Peru into a stronghold of drug production and dealing in South America.

Drug traffickers are equipped with satellite communication facilities, growing thousands of hectares of coca, marijuana and opium, and have built drug refineries, and even airports for landing small-sized aircraft hidden in the jungle. — MNA/Xinhua
Tanzania selects HIV/“AIDS” center

DAE-NI-SALAM, 2 Dec— The Tanzanian Government has selected Mwanza region in western Tanzania as a central place to fight against HIV/AIDS disease in the East African countries. Tanzania’s Minister for State in the Prime Minister’s Office William Lukusi said on Sunday that Mwanza region was not only considered as AIDS centre in Tanzania, but also the centre for Lake Victoria region, because Mwanza region is near the lake.

Another reason for choosing Mwanza region is that the place was also badly suffered HIV/AIDS disease, the minister said.

He said that according to the figures from the government, new infections of AIDS virus in Tanzania have decreased. The World AIDs Day is marked on December 1 each year. It has been selected by the United Nations as to give the society an opportunity to evaluate the fighting against the scourge.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian volunteers to start “AIDS” vaccine testing programme

ROME, 2 Dec— Some 40 Italian volunteers will start the first phase of a testing programme for a pioneering AIDS vaccine in this country, the Italian HIV Association said. Many of the volunteers are HIV-positive but there are also healthy people.

According to a local report on Sunday, the volunteers were recruited on a free phone line and will now be given the telephone number of a clinic nearest to them. After further talks and lab tests, they may end up at one of the three testing centres — the Spallanzani Hospital and La Sapienza University in Rome, or the San Raffaele Hospital clinic in Milan.

Barbara Ensoli, the head of the research programme, eventually plans to test the vaccine on 56 HIV-positive volunteers and another 32 healthy people. The vaccine, described by eminent oncologist Umberto Veronesi as “intelligent”, received the green light for human testing last week.

MNA/Xinhua

Business leaders failing to address “AIDS”

GENEVA, 2 Dec— Business leaders around the globe fail to recognize the threat to their companies’ future posed by the AIDS epidemic, the Swiss-based World Economic Forum (WEF) said on Monday. Citing results of an opinion survey among executives, the WEF said it showed business was not yet playing a significant role in fighting the disease which the United Nations says has infected five million new victims this year.

MNA/Reuters

Roy Disney forced out of Disney Board

LOS ANGELES, 2 Dec— Walt Disney Co. said on Sunday it was forcing Roy Disney off the board due to its mandatory retirement age policy, removing the last Disney family member from the board and a prominent critic of Chairman and Chief Executive Michael Eisner.

Clearly stung, Roy Disney said he would go and said Eisner should step down, a letter obtained by the Wall Street Journal showed. The move may be the last act of a showdown between Eisner, who has led the company for nearly 20 years, and the man who recruited him and then became a chief critic.

“It is my sincere belief that it is you who should be leaving and not me,” Roy Disney told Eisner in the letter dated November 30, announcing he was stepping down from the board and his job as head of animation at the company named after his uncle. George Mitchell, presiding director of the board, said in a statement that Roy Disney and two other directors, Thomas Murphy and Raymond Watson, would have to leave because of the mandatory retirement age, which is 72.

MNA/Reuters

Women’s federation calls for concerted efforts to prevent “AIDS”

CHANGSHA, 2 Dec— The Women’s Federation of Hunan Province, in central China, has called on the 30 million local women to make concerted efforts to create a sound social environment in which everybody can avoid contracting AIDS.

In an open letter to all the province’s women, issued on Monday, World AIDS Day, the provincial women’s federation called on local women to cherish their lives, care for others and work hard to curb the spread of AIDS.

Women’s federations in China are non-governmental institutions which work to protect women’s and children’s rights and interests.

In early 2003, the Ministry of Health designated six pilot counties and cities of Qiyang, Chenxi, Cili, Shimen, Hongjiang and Linxiang in Hunan to carry out a campaign to curb the spread of AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua

Swiss adventurer plans solar-powered flight

Lausanne, 2 Dec— Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard, the first man to pilot a balloon around the world non-stop, has announced plans to circle the planet in a specially built solar-powered aircraft.

Piccard, who circumnavigated the Earth in 1999 with Brian Jones of Britain, will lead a team of scientists and aviators in his attempt to fly around the world in a fuel-free plane — to be called Solar Impulse.

“A century after the Wright brothers’ first flight, we look forward to adding new pages to solar aviation,” Piccard, 54, said. “It is a colossal challenge.”

Lausanne’s Federal Institute of Technology will help Piccard’s team build an aircraft that can store enough power to stay in the air throughout the night.

Initial test flights are planned for 2006 with a flight of at least 36 hours set for the following year.

MNA/Reuters

New Zealand announces HIV/“AIDS” action plan

Wellington, 2 Dec— The New Zealand Ministry of Health Monday announced a HIV/AIDS action plan in which an extra three million NZ dollars (about 1.82 million US dollars) will be appropriated for fighting the AIDS epidemic.

Of the extra funding, 1.2 million NZ dollars (about 720,000 US dollars) will be spent this year on supporting national and local sex health services, including the AIDS Foundation and the New Zealand Family Planning Association.

The rest 600,000 NZ dollars (about 1.1 million US dollars) will be put into a safer sex campaign with work on that beginning in the New Year. The Ministry of Health released the HIV/ AIDS action plan to coincide with the promotion of a new Sexual and Reproductive Health Resource Book for healthcare organizations.

The plan reflects continued and expanded targeting of health promotion and education programmes and services to the groups most vulnerable to and affected by HIV/AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua
Cruzeiro beat Paysandu to win first Brazil title

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 2 — World Cup winner Zinho scored an early goal as Cruzeiro beat Paysandu 2-1 on Sunday to clinch the Brazilian championship for the first time.

The win, in front of a 70,000 crowd in Cruzeiro's home city of Belo Horizonte, gave the Foxes an unassailable nine-point lead over bottom club Partick Thistle, while Deportivo Coruna could leapfrog both teams with a victory on Sunday, once again failing to prove that they can perform in the Primera Liga.

Hughes' injury-time goal hands Rangers 1-0 win

GLASGOW, Dec 2 — Midfielder Stephen Hughes swooped home a stoppage time winner to rescue a 1-0 victory for Rangers away to Hibernian on Sunday and keep the Scottish champions five points behind Celtic at the top of the Premier League. A feisty young Hib side matched the visitors for long periods of a breathless Easter Road encounter until a late lapse in concentration saw Scottish under-21 international Hughes break free to smash a venomous shot into the corner of the net.

Cruzeiro coach Vanderley Luxemburgo added a fourth Brazilian title to the ones he won with Palmeiras in 1993 and 1994 and Corinthians in 1998. — MNA/Reuters

Axas restore four-point lead

AMSTERDAM, 2 Dec — Ajax restored their four-point lead over champions PSV with a 3-0 win over bottom club Zwolle on Saturday while PSV won with Palmeiras in 1993 and 1994 and Corinthians in 1998. — MNA/Reuters

Barca off target without injured Ronaldinho

MADRID, Dec 2 — Barcelona were held to a 0-0 draw by a stubborn Valladolid at the Nou Camp on Sunday, once again failing to prove that they can perform in the Primera Liga without injured Brazilian forward Ronaldinho.

The draw meant that the Catalans missed their chance to move up to the Champions League's top six and they are now two points behind Atletico Madrid in fifth place in the table and seven adrift of leaders Valencia. Valencia went top of the table on Saturday, thanks to a 3-2 win over Real Zaragoza, while former leader Real Madrid slipped to second after Ronaldo earned them a barely deserved 1-1 draw at domicilie against Osasuna. However third-placed Deportivo Coruna could leapfrog both teams and snatch top spot if they win their game at home to Villarreal in Sunday's late match.

Barca went on the attack from the first whistle at the Nou Camp, but they sorely missed Ronaldinho's creative skills as they tried to break down a well-organized Valladolid defence.

Although they enjoyed the lion's share of possession and laid siege to the Valladolid goal for much of the game, they hardly managed a shot on target. When they did, keeper Albano Bizzarri produced some fine saves to keep them at bay. — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea down Manchester United, go top

LONDON, 2 Dec — Chelsea swept to a 1-0 victory over champions Manchester United on Sunday to go top of the Premier League and emphatically stake their claim to this season's title.

Elephant midfielder Frank Lampard secured the win by converting a 29th minute penalty after United skipper Roy Keane tripped Chelsea playmaker Joe Cole at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea are on top of 35 points, one ahead of an Arsenal side who earlier had to settle for a 0-0 draw with Fulham at Highbury, with United stuck in third place on 31 points.

Elsewhere, Liverpool rallied to beat Bir-

 Chelsea's Frank Lampard celebrates scoring the winning penalty against Manchester United in the Premier League match on Sunday. The result kept Chelsea top of the table. — Misa

From left: former soccer players Pijf from Belgium, Pele from Brazil, Eusebio from Portugal and Klinsmann from Germany, pose with the Euro 2004 mascot Kinas, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003, in Lisbon, Portugal. The former players were in town to attend the Euro 2004 European Soccer Championship final round draw. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 3 December, 2003

Vietnam tie Thailand 1-1 at "SEA" Games soccer

HANOI, 2 Dec — Vietnam played a surprising 1-1 tie against reigning champions Thailand in the soccer tournament of the South-East Asian Games ("SEA" Games) here on Sunday.

Vietnam's coach Andre Filat said that "we were lucky to get one point from the free kick. I've been manager of the Thai team for many years but I've never seen Vietnam play this well. We got this one point with respect for Vietnam." — MNA/Xinhua

The draw for finals of Euro 2004 championship

LONDON, 2 Dec — Draw for the finals of Euro 2004 soccer championship made on Sunday, June 13:

Group A:
1. Portugal
2. Greece
3. Spain
4. Russia

Group B:
1. Sweden
2. Bulgaria
3. Denmark
4. Italy

Group C:
1. Switzerland
2. Russia
3. Latvia
4. Germany

Group D:
1. Belgium
2. France
3. Spain
4. Netherlands

Match schedule (kickoff times GMT):
Saturday, June 12:
Group A—Portugal v Greece (Oporto, 1600)
Tuesday, June 15:
Group A—Portugal v Greece (Oporto, 1600)
Group B—Switzerland v Croatia (Leina, 1600)
Group C—Czech Republic v Latvia (Oporto, 1600)
Wednesday, June 16:
Group A—Greece v Spain (Oporto, 1600)
Group B—England v Switzerland (Coimbra, 1600)
Group C—Bulgaria v Denmark (Braga, 1600)
Group D—Germany v Netherlands (Aveiro, 1600)
Friday, June 18:
Group C—Bulgaria v Denmark (Braga, 1600)
Group D—Netherlands v Bulgaria (Braga, 1600)
Saturday, June 19:
Group B—Sweden v Norway (Paris-Loule, 1600)
Group C—Czech Republic v Latvia (Oporto, 1600)
Saturday, June 26:
Group B—Switzerland v Croatia (Leina, 1600)
Group D—Netherlands v Germany (Braga, 1600)
Tuesday, June 29:
Group A—Austria v England (Oporto, 1600)
Group B—England v Switzerland (Coimbra, 1600)
Group C—Bulgaria v Denmark (Braga, 1600)
Group D—Netherlands v Germany (Braga, 1600)

Quarterfinals:
Thursday, June 24:
25 1-Group D v 2-Group B (Lisbon, 1845)
Friday, June 25:
26 1-Group A v 2-Group B (Lisbon, 1845)
Saturday, June 26:
27 1-Group C v 2-Group D (Paris-Loule, 1845)
Sunday, June 27:
28 1-Group D v 2-Group C (Oporto, 1845)

Semifinals:
Wednesday, June 30:
W-Match 25 v W-Match 27 (Lisbon, 1845)
Thursday, July 1:
W-Match 26 v W-Match 28 (Oporto, 1845)
Final:
Sunday, July 4 (Lisbon, 1845) — MNA/Reuters

S O R T S
Wednesday, 3 December
View today:

7:00 am
  1.  079:24 am
      2.  079:40 am

7:25 am
  1.  To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
  1.  Morning news

7:40 am
  1.  Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
  1.  089:55 am
  2.  089:40 am

8:20 am
  1.  099:55 am

8:30 am
  1.  099:55 am

8:30 am
  1.  099:55 am

9:00 am
  1.  Language English the easy and happy way for children and beginners

4:00 pm
  1.  049:20 pm

4:05 pm
  1.  049:25 pm

4:10 pm
  1.  049:15 pm

4:15 pm
  1.  049:30 pm

4:45 pm
  1.  049:15 pm

5:00 pm
  1.  059:00 pm

5:10 pm
  1.  059:10 pm

5:40 pm
  1.  059:40 pm

6:00 pm
  1.  069:00 pm

6:20 pm
  1.  069:20 pm

6:30 pm
  1.  069:30 pm

6:40 pm
  1.  069:40 pm

7:00 pm
  1.  079:00 pm

7:30 pm
  1.  079:30 pm

8:00 pm
  1.  089:00 pm

8:30 pm
  1.  089:30 pm

9:00 pm
  1.  099:00 pm

9:30 pm
  1.  099:30 pm

10:00 pm
  1.  109:00 pm

Monday, 2 December, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon, Rakhine, Kachin States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 7°C to 8°C below normal in Rakhine State and Mandalay Division, 5°C below normal in Shan, Chin States, Yangon and Bago Divisions, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kachin State, Tanintharyi and upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was 2°C to 3°C in Hla Ywa.

Maximum temperature on 1-12-2003 was 35.4°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 2-12-2003 was 17.6°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-12-2003 was 69%. Total sunshine duration on 1-12-2003 was 15.4 hours. Total sunshine duration on 2-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-12-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.1 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from the NNW at 10:12 hours MST on 3-12-2003. Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of the 2-12-2003: Possibility of isolated light showers or thunder showers in Kachin and Tanintharyi Division. Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon States, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions. Generally fair in the remaining areas. State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light showers in offshore Northern Myanmar Division. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-12-2003: Partly cloudy for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 3-12-2003: Generally fair weather.
YANGON, 2 Dec — The ceremony to mark cent per cent success of DOTS strategy in Myanmar under the supervision of the Ministry of Health took place at Matupi People’s Hospital in Chin State on 30 November morning, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chin State Peace and Development Council Chair- man Col Tin Hla, Col Hsan Aung of Matupi Station, departmental heads, officials, local authorities, members of social organizations and local people.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and the minister formally opened the ceremony.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the government, in its drive to ensure all-round development of the nation, has been steadfastly implementing the 12 objectives. In connection with the health sector, it is realizing the aim — uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation.

The government has been building up a modern developed democratic nation. Ensuring health and fitness of the entire people in all parts of the nation plays an important role in the process, he noted.

Myanmar is carrying out the Directly Observed Treatment Short-course in 323 out of 324 townships of the nation. In the remaining town, Matupi, TB control activities have been launched such as conducting respective courses, providing TB medicines, laboratory equipment and microscopes, he added.

It could be regarded as an important and auspicious ceremony for Myanmar to proudly declare Myanmar’s cent per cent success of DOTS strategy to the world including ASEAN Region, he remarked.

Regarding the health sector, it is a distinct evidence that Myanmar managed to totally eliminate leprosy and polio and to successfully prevent from outbreak of SARS in the nation, he said. (See page 10)

YANGON, 2 Dec — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein inspects breeding of pigs in Mya Sein Yawng Multi-purpose agriculture and livestock breeding farm. — MNA

Myanmar celebrates cent per cent success of DOTS strategy

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Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win inspects production of 42-passenger bus in No 1 Industrial Zone, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects Mandalay ICT Park ...

(From page 1) On arrival at Mandalay, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Mandalay ICT Park at Yadanabon Market. At the briefing hall, Acting Chairman Mandalay ICT Park Development Corporation Ltd Col Myo Nyunt Aung reported on the salient points of the ICT Park.

Next, member of the MICTDC Board of Directors U Thein Htut reported on establishment of the ICT Park in Mandalay, companies engaged in the ICT Park and measures being taken for development of the facility to the Secretary-1 who gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the ICT companies and the Internet cafe at the ICT Park.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the out of paddy-brand bicycle tyre and inner tube factory of the Flying Wheel Industrial Ltd at Mandalay Industrial Zone-1 where officials reported on the production process of tyres and inner tubes. After inspecting tyres and inner tubes the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

Next, they proceeded to the Mandalay power tillers factory of Good Brother’s Machinery Co at the industrial zone.

Officials of the company reported on the functions of the respective sections of the factory.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected power tillers produced by the factory.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the UD Group in the industrial zone and inspected production of Light Trucks and buses.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party met with the entrepreneurs at the Kanaung Industrial Hall.

At the meeting, the Secretary-1 made a speech. He said that the Mandalay Industrial Zone is meeting with success. With regard to the GDP of Mandalay Division, progress has been made with added momentum in the industrial sector of the division.

Therefore, realizing their capabilities and roles, the entrepreneurs of the industrial zone are striving for further development of the industrial sector. The government, on its part, will provide necessary assistance.

In addition, the industries of the entrepreneurs are needed to be the import-substitute ones, the ones that are meeting the standard of imported items and the ones that contribute to industrial development. Only then, progress will be made with added momentum in the Myanmar industrial sector.

After meeting with the entrepreneurs, Secretary-1 and party left Mandalay by air and arrived back here.

MNA

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