Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Myanmar Shopping Mall

YANGON, 7 Dec — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning arrived at Myanmar Shopping Mall where he was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and officials.

The Prime Minister inspected showrooms at the Myanmar Shopping Mall which had been opened on Sule Pagoda Road.

A ceremony to inaugurate the Myanmar Shopping Mall was held at the said building, attended by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and guests.

First, Managing Director U Htay Aung of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Managing Director U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd formally opened the shopping mall.

Afterwards, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and officials welcomed Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe as a guest of honor.

The Prime Minister inspected showrooms at the Myanmar Shopping Mall. He viewed the shops and presented flowers to the staff.

At 10 am, the minister attended the eighth provison-donation ceremony held at Pyilon Aungchantha Pagoda. The ceremony was attended by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kyaungtaik and members of the Sangha.

Next, the minister presented 75 bags of rice to the Sangha and presented 200 bags of rice to the association and 225 bags of rice to 75 monasteries. He next presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Then Thant Zaw unveiled the signboard of the shopping mall.

Various kinds of camera, watches, cosmetics, jewelry items, garments with various designs for ladies, foodstuffs, purses, paintings, furniture made of rattan, various kinds of electronic devices, sports gear and book stalls are on sale at the shopping mall and Internet Cafe & Network Game are kept open there.

Minister U Aung Thaung meets local people, presents provisions to monasteries in Taungtha Township

YANGON, 7 Dec — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning arrived at YwaU Monastery in Aye-ywa Village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division and presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Kelasa.

Next, the minister met with local people in the compound of the monastery and discussed matters related to regional development.

After that, the minister presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of YwaU Monastery in Aungchantha Village and met with the local people.

At 10 am, the minister attended the eighth provision-donation ceremony held at Pyilon Aungchantha Pagoda and Panyawarana Ahynosoon offering association in Taungtha. The minister explained the purpose of the donation and presented 200 bags of rice to the association and 225 bags of rice to 75 monasteries. He next presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Next, the minister presented 75 bags of rice to the Home for the Aged through Chairman of Home for the Aged Supervisory Committee U Ba Hlaing, Chairman of Taungtha Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Sasana Vepulla Kyakan

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sundara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

At noon, the minister attended the ceremony to donate a vehicle to be used for missionary purpose held at Sasana Vepulla Kyakan.

Kyauktawgi Bhaddanta Sundara won two golds in SEA Games at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar will attend the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in the near future.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to attend ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit

YANGON, 8 Dec — At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar will attend the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in the near future.

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Myanmar won two golds in SEA Games

YANGON, 7 Dec — Myanmar sports team won two gold, six silver and eight bronze medals up to 6 December in the XXII SEA Games held in Vietnam. (More on page 8) — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Buddha Pujaniya festival opens

YANGON, 7 Dec—The opening of the Buddha Pujaniya festival of the Maha Zeya Anta Maraunzein bronze image in Bahan Township took place at the southern gateway to the image this morning, attended by the township Peace and Development Council chairman and members, social organization members, Wut association members, teachers and students and invited guests.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tissa. Leader of Myat Yanguchi Wut association U Mya Thuang recited Pali verses.

Member of the panel of patrons of the Committee for holding the Pujaniya Township PDC Chairman U Tun Hla Aung extended greetings and Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees U Tin Ngwe spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, member of Wut associations received Metta Sutta. The township PDC Chairman and the Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees formally opened the ceremony which came to a close with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanum Cium Tihatam. —MNA

Tatmadaw Soccer Tournament continues

YANGON, 7 Dec—The second round matches of the 42nd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Soccer Tournament continued at respective venues today.

At Yangon Command and Sports Ground in Mingaladon, Tatmadaw (Navy) team beat South-East Command team 2-1. Similarly, Southern Command team played with South-West Command team goal-less draw at Padomma Sports Ground in Sanyangyo Township. —MNA

Trial of National Chess Championship on 22-30 Dec

YANGON, 7 Dec—The first step trial of National Chess Championship, organized by Myanmar Chess Federation, will be held at Thida Hall of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township from 22 to 30 December. Those wishing to participate in the championship may enlist at the federation at Aung San Stadium, not later than 21 December. —MNA

Commander inspects tax-free markets in Yangon City

YANGON, 7 Dec—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected tax-free markets in Dagon, Kamayut, Mayangon. Yankin and Tamway townships this morning. Accompanied by military region commanders, Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyi Win officials, the commander inspected sales of vegetables, meat, fish, egg, rice and personal goods at the markets.

At Kyaukkaikasan Vehicle and Parts Centre in Tamway Township, the commander saw over shops in the centre and gave necessary instructions. —MNA

Commander attends opening of new patient ward

YANGON, 7 Dec—A ceremony to open a new patient ward two-storey building of Labutta People’s Hospital was held over to the head of township health department.

Next, Head of Department Dr Tun Aung of Ayeyawady Division Health Department and townselder U Tin Oo formally opened the new building. The commander formally unveiled the signboard of the building. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, departmental officials, social organizations, and guests.

The commander made a speech on the occasion. On behalf of well-wisher Dr Sein Win and family of United Construction, townselder U Tin Oo reported to the minister on measures taken for emergence of the new building. The documents of the building were handed over to the head of township health department. —MNA

The commander expressed the encouragement of the People’s Republic of China. They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Maj-Gen Aung Thein Lin. —MNA

Trial of National Chess Championship on 22-30 Dec

The eighth ceremony to pay respects to faculty members of GIT old students in progress in Maha Dhamma Bekman in Bahan Township on 7 December. —MNA
Panel begins to chart UN’s future

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Dec—The head of a panel charting the future of the United Nations says his group is to come up with “practical and doable” proposals in analyzing the world body’s failure to respond to threats of war and terrorism.

In recent years credibility of UN is at stake.”

“If the UN is found to be wanting or not as effective as people expect, it could mean we are moving towards the end of the UN system,” he said.

A panel of former prime ministers and foreign ministers, among others, to make proposals for the United Nations in the 21st century.

Speaking before the 16-member group started its first weekend retreat in Princeton, New Jersey the former prime minister of Thailand, Anand Panyarachun said, “we are at a crossroads.”

“We have to try to focus on the fundamental causes of failure of the UN system to take collective action or make a collective response to threats of peace and security,” he said of the report the panel will deliver by next September.

“We have to focus on a set of recommendations that are practical and doable,” Panyarachun said.

The panel was formed after Anand told world leaders at the General Assembly session last September that the world body had reached a “fork in the road,” possibly as important as in 1945 when representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco to draw up the UN charter.

He challenged the Bush administration’s doctrine of pre-emptive military intervention, saying it could lead to the law of the jungle.

But he said that the multilateral security system was also in disrepair, often incapable of dealing with threats of weapons proliferation, terrorism and poverty.

Panyarachun said the world remembered UN failures more than its achievements.

“It is true that the UN has had a mixture of good and disappointing results,” he said. “But be that as it may.

Dollar may weaken next week amid growing dollar-negative trend

TOKYO, 7 Dec—The US dollar may weaken against the yen next week as the Japanese currency loses its immunity to a fresh dollar-weakening trend, which pushed up the euro to all-time highs and other major currencies to multiyear highs this week.

Although the yen had been given a reprieve from the trend—resulting from global investors’ desire to limit exposure to dollar-denominated securities—the dollar’s fall of more than 2 yen from Tuesday appears to signify the start of the loss of that immunity, dealers said.

Although the yen had been in retreat partly to factors such as the nationalization of Ashikaga Bank and the Nov 29 killing of two Japanese diplomats in Iraq, the market “appears to have started a correction in the yen-dollar front,” said Danuke Uno, chief market analyst at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

Dealers said they expect the dollar to trade between 106.50 yen and 110.00 yen in the coming week.

In the early part of the past week, the yen was unscathed by upward pressure on such high-yielding currencies as the British pound and the Australian dollar as the plight of Ashikaga Bank and the killings of the diplomats dampened sentiment among Japanese dealers.

The dollar hit a high for the week in Tokyo of 110.04 yen Monday. But on Wednesday, the upward momentum started to affect the yen to the detriment of Japanese exporters, with the yen rising to the range of 108 yen to the dollar.

On Thursday and Friday, the yen was seen in the lower half of the 108 yen range with the overall dollar-weakening trend threatening to send it below 108 yen from time to time.

The dollar touched the week’s high on Nov 29 yen Thursday. Later in the day, the dollar fell into the 107 yen range overseas before returning to the 108 yen range on the threat of Bank of Japan (BOJ) interventions.

But on Friday, the dollar came close to sinking below a three-year low at 107.52 yen on Nov 14, 2000, when the day’s release of a disappointing US jobs data for November pushed the currency as low as 107.53 yen.

The US Labour Department said the US economy created only 57,000 jobs in the nonfarm sector in the month, much smaller than economists’ forecasts of 120,000-200,000.

Baghdad bomb kills US soldier, 3 Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 7 Dec—An American soldier and three Iraqis were killed in a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on Friday, police said.

Captain Sami Hadi told Reuters at the scene that around 16 Iraqis were wounded when the bomb, planted in the middle of a busy road, exploded as a US military convoy and a minibus were passing in opposite directions.

Witnesses said the minibus was badly damaged in the blast, with all its windows blown out. Pools of blood were visible on the floor of the wreckage. The front vehicle of the US military convoy was also hit, witnesses said.

The US military did not have any immediate information on the incident but said it was investigating.

More than 180 US soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq since Washington declared major combat over on May 1. During that period, scores of Iraqis have also been killed in almost daily assaults by anti-American guerrillas.

China Tibet Culture Week” opens in Thailand

BANGKOK, 7 Dec—“China Tibet Culture Week,” the first of its kind ever held in Thailand, opened here Friday evening. Against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains and Lama temples, Tibetan performers with ethnic fineries unveiled the event at the National Stadium in downtown Bangkok.

Li Bing, Vice-Minister 1 ship covering all areas of co-operation.

“Cultural exchanges such as this will certainly help promote better mutual understanding among our peoples,” the Thai Prime Minister said.

“Moreover, as the Thai and Tibetan people are predominantly Buddhists and share many similarities, we are very glad to have an opportunity to learn more about Tibetan culture and traditions,” he said in the message.

The event, scheduled to last until December 18, would offer local audience a panoramic view on Tibet with typical Tibetan singing, dancing, movies and exhibitions.

Li Bing, who heads the delegation of “China Tibet Culture Week,” said in his opening speech that the performances and exhibitions in the following two weeks would help Thai people know more about China and become more interested in the fascinating place.

In 2001 and 2002, China staged similar cultural events in Australia, New Zealand, Belgium and Canada.

China Tibet Culture Week Week’s closing ceremony.

Rome accord on Iraqi loans set to help trade

ROME, 7 Dec — The Iraqi economy got a boost on Friday when 16 countries signed a deal to release more than 2 billion US dollars in short-term export guarantees for companies looking to win reconstruction contracts in Iraq.

March Belka, the head of economic policy in Iraq’s US-led temporary administration, said the agreement would make it much easier for Iraqi firms to buy badly-needed goods from abroad and make them less reliant on costly hard-cash transactions.

“This is a very important event for the private sector and positive for the reconstruction effort,” Belka told Reuters after the signing ceremony in the Italian Treasury.

The two biggest contributors were the United States and Japan, which each offered loan guarantees of around 500 million US dollars, said an Italian official, who declined to be named.

The US Export-Import Bank announced in Washington its 500-million-US-dollar programme was now open for business.

The US short-term insurance facility is intended to support sales of consumer goods, spare parts, bulk agricultural commodities, fertilizer, capital equipment and raw materials.

Germany, which was adamantly opposed to the US-led invasion of Iraq, signed up to Friday’s deal, but France, another fervent critic of the war, was conspicuously absent.

The loans will be handled by the Trade Bank of Iraq, which was created in July by the US-led authorities in Baghdad and is being operated by an international consortium headed by US bank JP Morgan Chase Co.

Friday’s deal will make it possible for Iraqis and oil concerns to buy big-ticket items from abroad using letters of credit underwritten by national governments.

“Iraqis at the moment have to pay cash for pretty much everything, which is hugely cumbersome and risky,” Belka said.

“The fact that the Trade Bank of Iraq can now issue letters of credit will make it easy for Iraqis to buy goods in a more civilized and safer fashion. It will also reduce their costs.”

Officials expected initial demand from Iraq to focus on consumer goods, such as food.

Italy’s credit export agency SACE put some 250 million euros (301.5 million US dollars) on the table for short-term guarantees. Another 750 million euros have been earmarked for medium-to-long-term projects, but that money is frozen.

“We do not think that there are the conditions yet for medium-to-long term investment programmes,” said an official at SACE, referring to the security situation in Iraq.

South Koreans rally against sending troops to Iraq

SEOUL, 7 Dec — Some 3,000 people rallied near the US embassy in Seoul on Saturday to protest the South Korean government’s decision to send troops to Iraq, witnesses said.

The protestors braved freezing temperatures and gusting winds to chant anti-US and anti-government slogans on the pavement, some 150 metres away from the US embassy compound.

“No troops to Iraq,” they shouted while waving banners. The protestors included activists, workers, students, teachers, farmers, street vendors and representatives for the urban poor.

They also chanted slogans opposing a free trade agreement between China and the opening of the market to agricultural imports.

Companies of riot police, who outnumbered the demonstrators, formed human barriers to block roads leading to the embassy.

Last month South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun said he would consider sending around 3,000 troops, mostly non-combatants, to Iraq — far fewer than the United States requested. More than 400 non-combatants from South Korea are already in Iraq.

The sensitive US request for more troops has split South Korean public opinion and the issue is heating up after an attack killed two South Koreans in Iraq and injured two others six days earlier.

The four electrical company workers from Seoul were ambushed in their car on a highway near the Iraqi town of Tikrit.

Family expert warns divorce can psychologically damage children

WELLINGTON, 7 Dec — Divorce is as harmful to some children as a high-fat, high-cholesterol diet, a visiting family expert has warned.

Professor Paul Amato of Pennsylvania State University of the United States told the Strengthening Families Relationships Conference in Wellington Thursday that the effects of divorce on children could be as harmful as a “high-fat, high-cholesterol diet”, according to The Dominion Post here Friday.

“Yet we think of changing people’s diet as being an issue of public health,” he told the meeting.

Children became distressed when caught in the middle of a divorce. It had psychological effects that could persist for decades, Amato said.

He said that divorce often severed important ties a child’s father. “They’re not like dictators but use democratic control,” Amato said.

The more child support fathers paid the better their children performed in school, Amato’s study had shown.

Amato said children often rejected their stepfathers when their mother remarried, partly out of fear or being disloyal to their biological father. Amato had suggested the divorced parents hold off remarriage until their children adjusted to the "dramatic" change of divorce.

Vietnam to produce anti-SARS clothing

HANOI, 7 Dec — Vietnam is likely to make clothes from a special cloth imported from the United States, which are used to protect wearers from severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and other fatal contagious diseases.

The country’s leading local garment maker Viet Tien is proposing that the state allow it to tax-free import Prevent cloth produced by US firm Kappler. A domestically-made suit will cost less than 10 US dollars, compared to import prices of 15 dollars.

Next year, Viet Tien will produce anti-SARS clothing for export to the United States under a deal inked with Kappler.

Anti-SARS suits were used during the outbreak of the deadly disease in some regions in Asia.
The losses have been recorded, Statistics Canada said Wednesday, for the first time in 1850, the St. Lawrence River, levels at Montreal “averaged” two metres above the long-term average low-water mark at the outset of the last century.”

Matthew Bramley, director of climate change at Alberta’s Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, told reporters that the recession of Rocky Mountain glaciers has long been attributed to global warming.

Microsoft launches Internet portal in Indonesia

Jakarta, 7 Dec — Microsoft has officially announced the launch of MSN Indonesia, a localized web site of worldwide portal msn.com.

“The 350 million subscribers to msn.com, 306,000 are Hotmail users and 110,000 are MSN Messenger users from Indonesia, so we want to make it easier for them by providing a local MSN site, using the Indonesian language as an interface,” PT Microsoft Indonesia president Tony Chen was quoted here by The Jakarta Post as saying. Besides Hotmail and MSN Messenger, the new site, msn.co.id, will offer local news, search engines, online shopping, as well as electronic dating services — all services offered by the original portal.

Meanwhile, Shiriram Adakorion, director of MSN South Asia, admitted that partnerships with local companies in providing local news and other content were still being negotiated, so the web site was only partially finished on the launch date.

“We invite local companies to enter into partnerships with us in running this web site — for example, partnerships with local media to provide the latest news for our web site,” Shiriram said. Nevertheless, Shiriram was confident that the number of local customers would grow by 100 per cent over the next 12 months.

MSN Indonesia will also offer services such as MSN Mobile so that subscribers can receive e-mail messages, breaking news or chat with their friends via mobile phone.

Indonesia, with a total population of over 210 million, is a land of opportunity for business people offering online services. Although not many people have Internet access at home, many users, including those residing in minor cities, enjoy Internet facilities through local Internet cafes and in schools.

Ireland has won the Miss World beauty pageant, held this year for the first time in China

Hainan, 7 Dec — Rosanna Davison, 19, took the title on China’s tropical island of Hainan, watched by millions of people around the world.

After recently lifting a 54-year ban on beauty contests and spent millions sprucing up the venue.

Miss Davison, the daughter of rock singer Chris de Burgh, is a university student in the Irish capital, Dublin.

Rosanna Davison, won the Miss World competition held on Saturday in Hainan, China. Second place went to Miss Canada (right), Ms Nazanin Afshin-Jam, while the host country’s Ms Guan Qi took third. — Internet

France continues to refuse to take part in Iraq reconstruction

Paris, 7 Dec—The United States has recruited 15 countries to help it rebuild Iraq, but the French are still refusing to take part in the effort.

Part of Washington administration Provisional Authority, government export banks from the 16 participating countries and the Trade Bank of Iraq. Participants include: Austria, Austria, Belgium, Britain, the CzechRepublic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. — Internet

Beethoven manuscript fetches $2m

London, 7 Dec — A signed manuscript of one of Ludwig van Beethoven’s string quartets fetched nearly 1.2 million pounds (2.1 million US dollars) at auction on Friday.

The 31-page manuscript of Beethoven’s Scherzo from his String Quartet Opus 127 in E Flat Major was bought by a private buyer for 1,181,600 pounds, Sotheby’s auction house said in a statement.

“The result achieved by the Scherzo sold today confirms beyond all doubt the strength both of the market and of the demand for autograph works by this legendary composer,” said Stephen Roe, head of Sotheby’s European Book Department.

Beethoven composed the Scherzo at the request of a Russian prince in 1824-25. The manuscript includes alterations and additions made by the composer himself. — MNA/Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar Monday, 8 December, 2003

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Bomb attack kills US soldier, wounds two in Iraq

Mosul, Iraq, 7 Dec — Guerrillas blew apart a US Humvee with a roadside bomb in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, killing one American soldier and wounding two in the latest deadly strike on occupying forces.

Sergeant Kelly Tyler of the 101st Airborne Division told Reuters that explosives were detonated as a US convoy drove past in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city. Police who rushed to the scene said the blast destroyed a Humvee in the three-vehicle convoy.

“We heard an explosion and ran towards it. I saw four US soldiers lying on the ground, with their Humvee destroyed,” policeman Hamid Saleh said.

According to the latest Pentagon figures, 307 US soldiers have been killed in action since the start of the war to oust Saddam, 192 of them since President George W Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

Iraqi guerrillas have mounted daring attacks against US forces and their allies as well as Iraqis cooperating with the occupation. — Internet

EU ministers agree transport priorities

BRUSSELS, 7 Dec — European Union governments approved a list of transport infrastructure projects on Friday which will be eligible for EU funding — the Trans-European Networks (TENs) aimed at boosting Europe's economy.

In a meeting shown on closed-circuit television, EU transport ministers approved the list and added just one to the 29 projects — a canal between the Netherlands, Belgium and France. The list must be confirmed by the European Parliament.

Ministers looked headed for a deadlock when several countries, including Ireland, Portugal and Sweden, tried to add new projects to the list.

A process some EU diplomats said was inevitable if any alterations were made to the proposal.

But the new canvas project, linking waterways between the river Seine in France and the Schelde on the Dutch-Belgian border, was the only new minister-approved project it was not included on the original list largely due to technical reasons. "I am very, very happy," French Transport Minister Gilles de Robien told reporters. "It wasn’t looking good for the Seine-Schelde."

European Union-Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio resisted the addition, saying it would open a Pandora’s box allowing other countries and the European Parliament to overload the list with new projects.

I am very, very happy." — MNA/Reuters

Malaysian exports up 4.4% in October

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Dec — Malaysia’s exports in October stood at nine billion US dollars, up 4.4 per cent over that of previous month, a Press release on Malaysia External Trade Statistics indicated on Friday.

This was the highest monthly export figure recorded since September 2000, said the Press release issued here.

The total imports in October this year rose to 7.42 billion US dollars compared with 6.68 billion US dollars in September.

"Cocaine and ecstasy are not only addictive but also prove to be more dangerous than we had imagined," said Giorgio Bronzetti, chief scientist at the National Centre for Research’s (CNR) bio-technology department.

"These drugs, on top of their toxicological effects, attack DNA provoking mutations and altering the hereditary material. This is very worrying for the effects it could have on future generations," he said.

The use of ecstasy, a drug popular at all-night dance parties, increased by 70 per cent between 1995 and 2000, according to a United Nations report published in September.

Ecstasy and amphetamines have overtaken cocaine and heroin as the fastest growing global narcotics menace, the study said.

The CNR report, which took more than three years to complete, said animal tests had shown a direct relationship between ecstasy and cocaine intake and the effects on DNA.

UN says digital divide between rich and poor narrowing

GENEVA, 7 Dec — The digital divide between rich and poor nations, measuring the gap in access to the Internet and telecommunications, is narrowing faster than many expected, a United Nations agency said recently.

Before a world summit carried out similar surveys, the figures were on average 13 per cent lower than claimed in the research, he added.

"The digital divide is not as big as it was thought to be. In the EU there is probably less and in developing countries more than we thought," Minges said.

As a result, he added, it was probably unnecessary for developing countries to press for financial aid for telecommunications' infrastructure to be included in the proposed action plan for the December 10-12 summit.

A call by some developing countries for a "solidarity" fund is one of the areas of disagreement that must be confirmed by the European Commission's "solidarity" fund is one of the areas of disagreement that must be confirmed by the European Commission’s decision and the entire period before that date (1990),” said Esperanza Magnagay, one of the authors of the United Nations report published in September.

Six French journalists were detained overnight in Brussels after the Digital Infrastructure project was approved. The project will be used to boost economic growth and reduce digital divides between regions of Europe.

Britain lifts warning against travel to Turkey

LONDON, 7 Dec — The British Government on Friday removed its warning against travel to major cities of Turkey, while still claiming a high threat level in the country.

"Whilst there is still a high threat level in Turkey, the advice against all but essential travel to Istanbul and other major cities has been removed from the Travel Advice."

This is in response to a change in the assessment of the immediate threat, the summary of the British Foreign Office’s newly updated travel advice read. MNA/Xinhua

International media protests US visa policy, treatment of journalists

VIENNA (Austria), 7 Dec — International journalists are complaining that a US requirement for them to have special visas is unfair.

An Austrian journalist on his way to interview Ben Affleck for a movie magazine was detained, handcuffed, held overnight and deported.

Several say that in the past they were able to enter the United States for journalistic work without visas. A photographer for a Danish newspaper says he was detained, his fingerprints and DNA taken and that he was escorted to his return flight.

Six French journalists were detained overnight in Los Angeles, then forced to cross the entire airport in handcuffs and without belts or laces. The Belgium-based International Federation of Journalists plans to launch a global campaign against the US rules in coming days. — Internet

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Tourists ride horses near the 4,500-year old Sphinx at Giza near Cairo, on 6 Dec, 2003. Foreign tourism in Egypt has bounced back in recent months, following a 25 percent decline earlier in the year during the height of the Iraq war.— Internet

Tourists ride horses near the 4,500-year old Sphinx at Giza near Cairo, on 6 Dec, 2003.


**People’s Desire**

* Oppose those relying on external elements, setting us stooges, holding negative views.
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize 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.
* There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

**Efficient use of fuel**

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar.
* Thus, a total of 455,022 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.

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**Border area development: Once upon a time in Mawpha region**

Myint Soe (N Sü-là-là)

Ko Khin Maung Cho (Poet Ko Cho San), a friend of mine, contributed a poem to the National Races magazine, published by the Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races. His poem reminded me of the days when we were collectively upgrading Metman into a town. Great! He could tell us about Metman with his poems.

Another friend of mine, Ko Ohn Myint, knew the Mawpha area very well. He had served in the No 77 Light Infantry Division. Although he is not a poet, he can tell us about Mawpha very well.

One day he said, “When we went to Mawpha in 1986-87, we had to cross Tapin River from a jetty on a pontoon boat. Mawpha then was a hamlet with only 14 or 15 houses. It is located 1,500 feet above the sea level. From the mountain we could see Thanlwin River flowing silently on the lowland. In the east we could see the beautiful natural scene as far as the eye could see. The Point 5710, lying near Metman, was higher than the village. When there were battles in the area, the No 77 Light Infantry Division took a foothold at the Point. In the east not far from the Point was Thanlkhamouk Hillock. The Tarmadaw members had to make much sacrifices to seize it from the BCP. The BCP had military camps in Yang-U and Yangaw. Our troops were stationed in Lon-nauk and Twe-nauk towns. Great! He could tell us about Metman with his poems.

Aye Win was one of my classmates during my four years at the Defence Services Academy. He was quick to make friends with anybody and friendly with everyone at the institutions. When we had completed our studies at the DOSA duties were assigned to us to serve in the forward areas. When I asked him his assignment, he told me that he was assigned to Battalion No 105 under the No 77 LID. That was the last time I had seen him and heard his voice. He sacrificed his life for the national cause at a battle in Mawpha region as a 2nd Lt. Other Tarmadaw members including Cap Maung Yi, who was awarded the Thittha Thura Title for gallantry, also sacrificed lives in Mawpha region.

Mawpha in the past

In the past, areas lying in the north and west of the Mawpha region were under the control of BCP, Mongpyin was the southernmost town on Thanlwin River and Monghloi Township was the largest one in the west. It was also known as Thanlwin/Mawpha region. Residing there were Wa, Shan and Lahu races. Although it was included in the Fanyang Township it was difficult for the authorities to open and run administrative offices in Mawpha as it was on the other bank of the Thanlwin. Thus, the region was under the control of the BCP for many years.

Director U Sein Lin of our department was another person who knew the Mawpha region very well. Although 20 years have passed, he could draw the map of the region and pinpoint the villages, Tarmadaw camps, enemy positions, the places where battles took place, and the jetty from which he and his troops crossed the Thanlwin. He was from the No 104 Light Infantry Regiment.

The battalion under the command of the No 77 LID engaged battles with the BCP troops and liberated many areas from under the BCP control. While listening to his words, my mind went back to the officers mess of the No 104 Light Infantry Regiment. Where the battle was, the No 77 Light Infantry Division took a foothold at the Point. In the east not far from the Point was Thanlkhamouk Hillock. The Tarmadaw members had to make much sacrifices to seize it from the BCP. The BCP had military camps in Yang-U and Yangaw.

The youths of the AYA sang a hymn for God’s favour and stability of the State and progress of the nation.

There were no schools, hospitals and dispensaries.

Efficient use of fuel

* **Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate** (Yangon) celebrated silver jubilee

**Yangon, 6 Dec — The Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate (Yangon) held a ceremony to mark its silver jubilee at the Strand Hotel on Strand Road here this evening.**

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint and Deputy Director-General U Htin Myo, the Bishop and Fathers and officials of the Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate (Yangon), Catholic youths and guests.

The youths of the AYA (Yangon) sang a hymn to mark the silver jubilee.

Next, the president of the AYA (Yangon) presented a brief biography of the association.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and Bishop Charles Bodelivered speeches on the occasion.

Youths in charge Father Edwin David spoke words of thanks, followed by asking for God’s favour and protection for all.

Next, dinner was held and entertainment programmes were presented to those present.

MNA

**Hockey tourney opened**

**Yangon, 7 Dec — The seventh Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air’s) Shield Hockey Tournament was opened at the state sports grounds in Taunggyi on 3 December afternoon.**

Among the spectators were Shan State Peace Development Council Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife, military officers of the command and departmental officials.

The commands addressed the opening ceremony and watched the first match in which the central command team played against No 11 LID team.

Altogether 18 teams are participating in the tournament which continues till 17 December.

MNA
Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets…

(from page 16)

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the government is implementing plans for equitable development of the areas throughout the country including border areas; as Kayin State is included in one of the areas of development, departmental personnel are required to organize local people so as to participate in the regional development tasks; departmental officials are to harmoniously and actively cooperate in undertaking the tasks; in addition, service personnel must carry out the tasks to give wide knowledge to the local people.

Construction work of Monywa Airport inspected
YANGON, 7 Dec — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe accompanied by Director of the Department of Civil Aviation U Ohn Myint and officials, arrived at the finished wood factory of Tagon Wood-based Industrial Co Ltd in Sagaing, Sagaing Division, jointly undertaken by Sagaing Division War Veterans Organization and Flying Tiger Co Ltd, on 5 December. Deputy Manager of the factory U Ko Ko Myint reported on the site chosen for construction of the building; also in charge of Sagaing Wood Industrial Co Ltd, location, laying of pipe line and construction of the water tank.

Managing Director of the Co U Mya Khang reported on production and sale of timber, requirements and supply of raw materials and sale of finished products. Next, the minister fulfilled the needs.

The minister and party inspected the machinery at the factory and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The minister and party went to the construction site of Monywa Airport. Managing Director of Shwe Thanbywun Highway Co U Zaw Win Tun and North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe on availability of gravel and fuel oil, use of vehicles and machinery. The commander and the minister attended to the requirements.

Next, they went to the northern part of the runway and inspected earth work and tarring of road. The commander and the minister also inspected along the runway of the airport and gave necessary instructions to officials.

A&I Minister arrives back
YANGON, 7 Dec — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Nyunt Tin arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the 32nd Conference of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization held in Rome, Italy.

The delegation was well-received by Director of the Division/district/township Peace and Development Council Commander inspects TadaU Township Hospital, Pansay creek in Mandalay
YANGON, 7 Dec — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint accompanied by departmental officials, made an inspection tour of TadaU Township Hospital on 3 December. The commander inspected operation theatre, patient wards and dental section. Dr Su Su Kyi reported to the commander on measures being taken for giving medical treatment in the hospital.

Next, the commander encouraged the patients undergoing medical treatment and gave instructions to officials.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to Pansay creek, TadaU and inspected construction of the bridge in progress.

The minister gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

MNA

Mass sports activities launched in Bago Division
YANGON, 7 Dec — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and wife, departmental officials at division/district/township levels, members of Minister and Child Welfare Association, social organizations, local people and students numbering over 50,000 collectively took a walk in front of Thirihanta hall, Shwemawdaw pagoda yesterday morning, as mass sport activities in the first week of December, 2003.
Commander inspects...

(from page 16)

have been implemented and feeder canals have been dug in Tetthitkyun and Bawlekyun areas.

Then, local authorities and officials on reported on regional development and agro-

Next, local officials and farmers reported on edu-

tion, health and transport matters for regional develop-

Later, the commander attended to their needs and gave instructions that depart-

eral officials are to cooperate with social organize-

and local people for development of their respective townships. — MNA

Minister inspects No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory

YANGON, 7 Dec — Min-

ister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Aung, together with of-

icials, yesterday morning arrived at No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) of

Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries in Munhla Township, Magway Division. The General Man-

ager of the factory U Thein Aung reported to the minis-
ter on production target and production of new items and future tasks.

The minister next in-

pected the workshop for the assembling of tractors and gave necessary instructions to offi-
cials. — MNA

Great Wall National Championship Badminton Tournament concludes

YANGON, 7 Dec — The final match of Great Wall National Championship Badminton Tournament and the prize presentation, organized by Myanmar Badminton Federation, was held at the Aung San Stadium this morning. Among the spec-
tators were officials of the Ministry of Sports, patrons and executives of Myanmar Women Sports Federation, patrons and President U Maung Maung Swe of MBE and executives.

After the final match, MSWF General Secretary Daw Aye Aye and U Maung Maung Swe and officials presented prizes to winners. — MNA

Research paper reading session of MAAFLFC to be held

YANGON, 7 Dec — Or-

ganized by Myanmar Acad-

emy of Agriculture, Forest and Livestock and Fisheries Science, research paper reading session 2003 will be held from 10 to 12 Decem-

ber. The opening ceremony of the paper reading session will be opened at the meeting hall of Myanmar Agri-
culture and Livestock Breeding Enterprise (Headquar-
ters), 9th mile, Pyay Road at 9 am of December 10. The reading session of paper on agriculture will be held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Farm Enterprise (Head Office), the paper on forestry at Forestry Department, Insein Town-
ship and the paper on live-

stock breeding and fisheries at Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise.

Hunger, poverty serious threat to peace

ROME, 7 Dec — Pope

John Paul appealed to gov-

ernments on Friday to tackle hunger and poverty, saying they were a serious threat to peace and that having enough to eat was a basic human right.

“A hunger and malnutri-
tion, aggravated by grow-
ing poverty, represent a grave threat to the peace-

ful coexistence of peoples and nations,” he told rep-

resentatives of the UN’s food agency.

“Economic and political decisions... must increas-
ingly be guided by a com-
mittance to global solidar-

ity and respect for funda-

mental human rights, in-
cluding the right to ad-

quate nourishment,” the 83-year-old Pontiff said.

One in every seven people is now malnourished and the goal of halving the world hunger by 2015 is increas-
ingly out of reach, the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in its annual report, published last week.

“The world cannot re-

main deaf to the plea of those who demand the food they need in order to sur-

vive,” the Pope said.

The number of hungry people in the world in-

creased by 18 million to 842 million in 1999-2001 from 1995-1997, the FAO hunger report said. — MNA/Reuters

ICRC Conference agrees on measures to protect human dignity

GENEVA, 7 Dec — The

28th International Confer-
ence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent closed here Saturday with the partic-

ants committing them-

selves to a wide range of measures to protect human dignity.

Over 1,500 representa-

tives of governments and members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Move-

ment agreed on an Agenda for Humanitarian Action, which focuses on enhanc-

ing protection of people affected by armed conflict and reducing the impact of disasters and disease on vul-

nerable groups.

The states undertook to improve systems for ascer-

taining the fate of missing persons and to take effec-

tive steps to search for and identify human remains. It was also agreed that all states would pursue the ul-

imate goal of global elimi-

nation of anti-personnel mines.

Furthermore, the confer-

ence made a call for pro-
tecting humanity from poi-

soning and the deliberate spread of disease.

“We all agreed that ur-

gent action is required to pre-

vent the misuse of bio-

technology for hostile pur-

poses and the erosion of the prohibitions on poison-

ing and the deliberate

spread of disease contained in international humanitar-

ian law,” said Jakob Kellenberger, President of The International Commit-

tee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Kellenberger particu-

larly welcomed the two ob-

jectives of the Humanitar-

ian Agenda which focused on issues relating to the devastating effects of armed conflicts.

He said that “the one is aiming at ensuring respect for and restoring the dignity of persons missing as a re-

sult of armed conflict and their families, and the other at strengthening protection from the indiscriminate use and effects of weapons through controls on weap-

ons development, prolifera-

tion and use.”

“This was the first In-

ternational Conference of the 21st Century, and it came at a time when the world is facing major challenges to peace and security and widespread threats to health,” said Conference President Jaime Fernandez.

The 28th International Confer-

ence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent opened here on December 2 with the protection of human dignity as its central theme.

MNA/Xinhua

e-Education Learning Centre

- Mental Disorders
- Psychiatric Disorders
- Educational Anthropology
- Pali Language & Literature
- Law of Contract
- BA (Business Law)
- BA (Myanmar Law)
- Environmental Law
- BA (Environmental Studies)
- Introduction to Archaeology
- BA (Archaeology)
- BA (Regional & Comparative Studies)
- Regional & Comparative Studies
- Regional & Comparative Studies
The state, the people and the Tattawad are joining hands in all spheres for building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

At present, progress has been achieved in all sectors. The state has constructed dams and reservoirs for agriculture and roads and bridges for transportation.

Sanepauk Bridge constructed by Myanmar engineers on Yangon-Kyaunkyu Road in Ann Township, Rakhine State was inaugurated on 17 November. The Ministry of Construction built the new bridge under the guidance of the head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

At the inauguration ceremony of the bridge, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. In his speech, he said the State Peace and Development Council has been making strenuous efforts for all round development to ensure the emergence of a new modern and developed nation. In the process, development projects have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about equitable and harmonious development across the nation. The Sanepauk Bridge opened is situated in Taungup-Ma-eyi-Kyaunkpyu road section of the Yangon-Kyaunkyu Union Highway. The Kaishay Bridge, the Tawile Bridge, Hshbyin Bridge, Lame Bridge, Maek Bridge have been constructed out of 14 bridges with a length of over 180 feet to be constructed on Taungup-Ma-eyi-Kyaunkpyu road section. The Sanepauk Bridge is the 7th of its kind to be opened on the road section.

At the auspicious time, chairman of the Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of the Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo and minister for construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge.

The Sanepauk Bridge is 789 feet and four inches long and constructed crossing Sanepauk Creek. The bridge has 24 feet wide motorway and 2 feet wide pedestrian lanes on both sides. Its upper structure is of steel frame and lower structure is of reinforced concrete type. It can withstand 60-ton loads. Its clearance is 170 feet wide and 6 feet in height from the maximum water level. Now, Lonedawpaw Bridge, Didekpeka Bridge, Thanthamakky Bridge, Thanthanchay Bridge, Thazittan Bridge, Wanphike Bridge and Minkyaung Bridge are under construction in Rakhine State.

Now, the dream of Rakhine State has come true.

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(Translation: AMS)

Kyemon: 29-11-2003
The power of the industrial sector

The Battery Workshop established in Dagon Myothit( South) under the Ministry of Industry-2 produces 50,000 National brand batteries a year to fulfil the domestic needs.— PHOTO: INDUSTRY-2

The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries was constructed on 110.18 acres of land to the west of Kyogon station, Insein Township. The factory produces high quality tablets, medicines, injections, vaccines and intravenous injections. PHOTO: AUNG MYAT KYAW

The diesel engine factory in Indagaw Region, Bago Division, was constructed by the Ministry of Industry-2. It is now manufacturing 18-horse-power engines for water pumps, power-tillers, generators and dinghies. — MNA

No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory of Myanmar Tyre and Rubber Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2 is located six miles from Thaton, Mon State. Thanks to the factory there are job opportunities for over 1,000 people. It produces different kinds of tyres. The photo shows part of the production process at the factory. — PHOTO: HTWE KYI
The 24-year-old survivor was among 17 Cuban migrants who were rescued by a Coast Guard cutter. The Coast Guard said on Friday that the cutter rescued the man about nine miles off the Miami shore on Monday but the incident was not made public until Friday.

The man told rescuers he had been raised in Matanzas, Cuba, on November 27 with 10 other people aboard a 14-foot homemade vessel that was destroyed when it ran into bad weather. The days in question confirmed the seas were rough and the air unusually cool.

Coast Guard crews conducted an intensive air and sea search and alerted boaters in the area but had trouble pinpointing the vessel's likely route.

"Due to his traumatized condition, the information the survivor was initially providing was inconsistent," the Coast Guard said in a statement. One body was found on Wednesday, prompting additional searches but there was no sign of the other missing migrants.

"This confirmed the Coast Guard's fears that all of the others had likely died," the Coast Guard said.

MNA/Reuters

Uganda bans using mobile phones while driving

KAMPALA, Dec 7—The Ugandan Government Friday announced a ban on using mobile phones while driving and some other measures, to curb the frequent road accidents in the country.

The stringent measures were announced by Minister of Works, Transport and Communication John Nasasira in the run-up to the road safety week.

Nasasira said the other measures included banning of same day return journeys on long-distance roads, installation of speed governors for passenger service vehicles and compelling only importation of buses with in-built speed governors.

He said an average 15,000 accidents were reported every year and that from 1988 to 2001 an average 1,650 people died in road accidents each year.

He said 2,017 people died in 2002 alone and most of the victims were 45 years old and below, the most productive age bracket.

He said long distance drivers will have time cards which the police would endorse at the different stages of the journey to ensure they did not breach the speed limits.

The minister added that the government will also improve the road network under the 10-year road sector development programme.

MNA/Xinhua

Zanzibar, Turkey agree to cooperate in education sector

DAR ES SALAAM, Dec 7—The Turkish Government has agreed to cooperate with the Zanzibar Government in higher education sector in order to give students in both countries an opportunity in acquiring education.

The Turkish Ambassador to Tanzania Varol Ozkok made these remarks on Friday when meeting with Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume at the Zanzibar State House.

Ozkok said that his government will look at the possibilities of increasing the number of Tanzanian students in Turkey for receiving higher education in various fields.

Karume said that the plan will help greatly the efforts taken by the Zanzibar Government in enhancing the standard of education which is an important factor for the country's sustainable development.

MNA/Xinhua
Family communication urged to help Chinese children avoid autism

GUANGZHOU, 7 Dec — Psychological experts have urged Chinese parents to communicate about emotions and feelings with their children to help them develop a healthy mind and easy character, and avoid lapsing into autism.

The alert sounded to the dangers of the psychological disorder mainly affecting children following a recent survey among 765 students in five primary and junior schools in Guangzhou, capital of south Guangdong Province, which is one of the country’s economically developed areas.

The survey on children’s view on family education showed that more than 40 per cent of the interviewees wanted their parents to have a sense of humour, more than 20 per cent would like to join their parents in games, web surfing and other entertainment activities, and about 16 per cent regarded chatting and communication with parents as the favours at home.

Experts at the provincial psychological health research institute said that the survey reflects the loneliness of children in the present-day society, where high-rises strange children from each other.

Chinese children meet their peers and friends mostly during the schooltime and spend their spare time alone at their own homes without companions to play games with or do group activities together with.

Adding to the solitude is that, said the experts, their parents are fully occupied by work and other businesses and thus have not enough time to share with their off-spring.

The experts warned that those children alienated from the community for quite a long time are prone to autism, a condition most common among children characterized by self-absorption, which could cause them to grow into adults indifferent to others’ feelings and lacking community sense and social responsibility. — MNA/Inknua

Cuban President Fidel Castro said on Friday he will oust any Bush Administration plans to oust him and Cuba’s one-party Communist state will survive his death.

“The group of idiots that met in the White House will die of bitterness and frustration,” the 77-year-old Cuban leader said.

Castro, who overhauled a US-backed right-wing leader in a 1959 guerilla uprising, has outlasted the hostility of nine US presidents over a special US Treasury Department permit.

Singh is here for participating in the FAO conference on Global Food Security. Apart from participating in the round-table discussion, he also held bilateral discussions with European Agriculture Commissioner and his counterparts from Japan, Sweden and Finland. Talks mainly veered round issues concerning negotiations in WTO on agriculture.

MNA/Reuters

India may hike agri-import tariff to counter WTO imbalances

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — India has warned that developing countries will have to increase their import tariffs on agricultural products if the developed countries continue with the current mammoth subsidies regime.

“Unabated subsidies by major developed countries leave developing countries with the sole recourse of using tariff related measures to protect their farmers from the adverse consequences of trade distortions”, Agriculture Minister Rajnath Singh said here.

Addressing a round table on WTO-related issues in the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) conference Wednesday, he said unfairly gained competitiveness through bulging subsidies and unjustified protection in developed countries have rendered the developing countries vulnerable to the agricultural trade regime.

Singh is here for participating in the FAO conference on Global Food Security.

MNA/PTI

Study shows smoking cannabis cause damage to lungs

LONDON, 7 Dec — Smoking cannabis is not the harmless recreational activity it may seem because it can cause lung damage, researchers said on Friday.

Regularity smoking three or four joints a week, even for less than six years, can impair lung function and rob the body of antioxidants that protect cells against damage that can lead to heart disease and cancer.

“Smoking cannabis on a regular basis actually depletes your lung of protective antioxidant substances... and this may have chronic long-term implications for young individuals,” said Dr. Sarah Nuttall of the University of Birmingham in central England.

In a small study involving 20 people aged 19 to 30, including non-smokers and those who smoked tobacco and cannabis, Nuttall and her team took blood samples, measured lung function and tested for antioxidant markers. She presented the finding at a meeting of the British Thoracic Society in London.

“We found that smokers, compared to non-smokers, had impaired lung function,” Nuttall said in an interview.

Cannabis smokers also had significantly lower levels of a protective antioxidant and nitric oxide, which is involved in lung function, than non-smokers.

“Theses findings are important in young individuals in which the use of cannabis is increasing and may have serious long-term implications for what is currently regarded as a relatively harmless recreational habit,” she said.

Dr. John Harvey of the British Thoracic Society called for more research into the effects of smoking on the lungs.

“It is vital that young people understand the dangers of both cigarette and cannabis smoking since these habits can start having a serious impact on their lungs at an early stage,” he said in a statement.

Some European countries have taken a relaxed approach to cannabis use. Although it is technically illegal in the Netherlands, the drug can be bought and used in cannabis coffee shops in the country.

The Netherlands was also the first nation to make cannabis available as a prescription drug in pharmacies for chronically ill patients. — MNA/Reuters

A pair of twins flash a victory sign during a party for twins in Nanjing, in east-central China, on 6 Dec, 2003. A total of 423 pairs of twins were invited to the party said to be the biggest held in the former capital.

Intertnet

Castro says Cuban revolution will outlast Bush

CARACAS (Cuba), 7 Dec — Cuban President Fidel Castro said on Friday he will outlast any Bush Administration plans to oust him and Cuba’s one-party Communist state will survive his death.

“We hope that 15 minutes after my death the revolution will collapse. They don’t know that this country has thousands of leaders,” he added.

Castro, who overhauled a US-backed right-wing leader in a 1959 guerilla uprising, has outlasted the hostility of nine US presidents over a special US Treasury Department permit.

MNA/Reuters

Germany’s Steffen Dreisen, competes in the 200-metre backstroke at the World Cup swimming in Durban, South Africa, on 6 Dec, 2003. INTERTNET
**S-E Asian Games open in Vietnam**

HANOI, 7 Dec—The 22nd South-East Asian Games raised its curtain Friday night amid a gala celebration at the My Dinh National Stadium in Hanoi. A team of 11 skyscrapers carried the national flags of the participating 11 countries and paraded into the National Stadium, signalling the official start of the nine-day biennial Games. Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai declared open the Games after a parade of more than 5,000 competitors and officials.

Then thousands of artists, athletes and children took up the centre stage with a colourful rendition of traditional songs and dances. Nearly 4,000 athletes will compete in 32 sports, ranging from traditional pastimes like athletics and soccer to the more exotic pencak silat and sepak takraw. The competition will take place in 11 provinces and cities nationwide, the majority of which in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The participating countries are: Brunei, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor, Myanmar, Singapore and Laos, with Thailand and Indonesia considered most likely to dominate the region's biggest sporting event.

Vietnam and Thailand have both registered to compete in all 32 sports. The host nation has the biggest contingent with 690 competitors, while East Timor the smallest with just 16.—MNA/Reuters

**Vietnam’s gymnasts win first SEA Games gold for hosts**

HANOI, 7 Dec—Hosts Vietnam claimed their first gold medal at the 22nd Southeast Asian Games on Friday as their women gymnasts triumphed in the team event. The Vietnamese team, composed of Do Thuy Duong, Do Thi Nguan Thuong, Dao Thy Linh, Duong Minh Hang, Phan Thi Ha Thanh and Tran Thi Phuong Thao, scored a cumulative 124.550 points from four disciplines — vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. Singapore took the silver with 124.425 points, with Thailand third with 123.850. Many Vietnamese gymnasts shed tears in delight after the competition as it was a “surprise” win for them.

“We had pinned medal hopes on the men’s side,” said Nguyen Hoang Bao, coach of the Vietnamese team.—MNA/Xinhua

**Ferguson "feels fine" after heart scare**

MANCHESTER (England), 7 Dec—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said he “felt fine” on Friday after undergoing hospital treatment for an irregular heartbeat.

The 61-year-old underwent a D-Cardio version, a controlled electronic shock, on Thursday, a statement from the English champions said.

“L was performed successfully on an elective basis yesterday. Everything is normal and Sir Alex feels fine,” the statement said.

British media reported that Prime Minister Tony Blair recently underwent similar treatment for the same ailment.

Ferguson is one of the most successful managers in British soccer history having guided United to eight Premier League titles in the last 11 seasons and the 1999 Champions League.

Constantly in the limelight in 17 years as manager of one of the biggest and highest profile clubs in the world, he has had to deal with a number of controversial issues this season.

United defender Rio Ferdinand missed a drugs test, causing a huge furore that has lasted until Friday.

Beckham injury scare for Real Madrid

MADRID, 7 Dec—Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham pulled out of the team’s Spanish Super Cup encounter with an ankle injury on Friday, but should be fit to play in Saturday’s Primera Liga clash with Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

“Beckham withdrew as a precaution,” Real coach Carlos Queiroz said after training.

“He’ll be okay to play. We have to take a lot of care and avoid unnecessary risks. You also have to respect what your body is telling you.”

Assuming the England captain is fit to play, Queiroz will be able to field his first-choice side, including the likes of Luis Figo and Ronaldo, both former Barcelona players, and French midfielder Zinedine Zidane.

Barcelona will be missing Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho, their leading attacking player, because of injury. —MNA/Reuters

**Philippines wins SEA Games women’s team archery gold**

HANOI, 7 Dec—The Philippines outscored Malaysia 218-211 in the women’s team archery final to win the country’s first gold medal at the 22nd Southeast Asian Games here on Friday.

The Philippines, who upset title favourites Indonesia 226-224 in the semifinals, maintained their momentum against the Malaysians and bagged home the gold.

But Malaysia found some solace later as its men archers grabbed the men’s team title after defeating Indonesia 236-232 in the final.

The archery competition concluded on Friday as Malaysia won half of the four gold medals available.—MNA/Reuters

**European favourites get easy ride in 2006 qualifying draw**

FRANKFURT (Germany), 7 Dec—Leading European favourites France, Italy and England were given a relatively easy ride when the preliminary draw for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany was made on Friday.

France, the 1998 champions and Euro 2000 winners, were placed in European Group Four where their toughest rivals will be Switzerland and Ireland.

Italy’s trickiest opponents in a not-too-daunting Group Five were Slovenia, Scotland and Norway, while England face their British neighbours Wales and Northern Ireland as well as Poland and Austria in Group Six.

The draw threw up some other interesting configurations with the Netherlands and the Czech Republic again pitted together — as they were in both the preliminary and finals draw for Euro 2004.

Germany as hosts are the only automatic qualifier and will be joined by 31 other countries for the finals which open in Munich on June 9, 2006 and end exactly one month later with the final in Berlin. —MNA/Reuters

**Eriksson says qualifying not easy**

FRANKFURT (Germany), 7 Dec—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said his team would not find it easy against British rivals Wales and Northern Ireland in their qualifying group for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

“It’s local derbies, more or less,” Eriksson told reporters at the draw on Friday after England were placed in Group Six with Wales, Northern Ireland, Poland, Austria and Azerbaijan.

Wales did very well in qualification (for Euro 2004), they could have won the group. It will not be easy at all. I am sure Wales want to beat England at any cost but we want the same. We will see.”

After guiding England through to the Euro 2004 finals, Eriksson will be confident of winning the group and the Swede said he was pleased to have avoided the Netherlands, one of the dangerous foetters in the draw.

Eriksson was also happy to be facing Poland, a team England have played many times in previous qualifying groups.

“I think it’s a rather good draw, interesting.” Eriksson said. “It’s not perfect but it’s not bad. We will see what happens. It’s okay.”

Wales manager Mark Hughes has fond memories of the last time the Welsh faced England, the former Manchester United and Barcelona striker scoring on his international debut to secure a 1-0 victory in Wrexham in 1984.

“It was in my hometown and I scored the winner. I’ve got happy memories of that game and I hope to have happy memories of the games we’ve got ahead of us as well.” Hughes told Sky TV. “England are doing very well at the moment. They are one of the top sides so it’s a big test for us. I’m sure the Welsh lads will relish the prospect.—MNA/Reuters

**Beckham injury scare for Real Madrid**

MADRID, 7 Dec—Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham pulled out of the team’s Spanish Super Cup encounter with an ankle injury on Friday, but should be fit to play in Saturday’s Primera Liga clash with Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

“Beckham withdrew as a precaution,” Real coach Carlos Queiroz said after training.

“He’ll be okay to play. We have to take a lot of care and avoid unnecessary risks. You also have to respect what your body is telling you.”

Assuming the England captain is fit to play, Queiroz will be able to field his first-choice side, including the likes of Luis Figo and Ronaldo, both former Barcelona players, and French midfielder Zinedine Zidane.

Barcelona will be missing Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho, their leading attacking player, because of injury. —MNA/Reuters

**Woods tops candidate for Player of the Year**

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec—Tiger Woods was the top candidate for this year’s PGA Tour Player of the Year award, according to an unofficial vote on Thursday.

About 52.1 per cent of 10,783 readers of the USA Today voted for Woods, who did not win any major title this year.

South Africa’s Vijay Singh is the second best player to these readers, receiving 27.7 per cent vote, while Mike Weir, winner of the Masters, receiving 10.3 per cent.

The poll on Tour began submitted their votes after the Tour Championship early last month, and the final decision will be announced on Monday.

Woods won the title for the past four years.

—MNA/Xinhua

**Answers for yesterday’s Crossword puzzle**

ACRU CCEH ECFK KARL OTTOMAN INTER

BEEF EYF

ARCH CIYE

CHU POSSE CONE

FLEET TON

PRESS TENABLE

QUIY AYAL

ETTER
15:45 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
15:50 Beautiful Pleasant Beach Village
16:00 National News
16:05 Ancient Hokke Kan Thein Temple
16:10 Song “Sumprabum” “Great Turtle”
16:12 National News
16:15 National News
16:20 Lifestyle along the Ayeyawady (Manda- lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panora- maw & Myanmar Sent- iment”
16:30 National News
16:35 A Thousand Bo-trees from Greening Tropic Zone
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine “Po- tato Pudding”
16:45 National News
16:50 Myanmar Traditional Bronze Casting
16:55 National Dance “Kayan Dance” (We Bu)
17:00 National News
17:05 Photo by Artist Photo Show (Aung Min)
17:10 Song “Two, Together”
17:12 Weaving Industry of Myanmar (Rakhine)
17:15 National News
17:20 A Trip to Naga Land
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
17:30 National News
17:35 A Thousand Bo-trees from Greening Tropic Zone
17:40 Myanmar Cuisine “Potato Pudding”
17:45 National News
17:50 Myanmar Traditional Bronze Casting
17:55 National Dance “Kayan Dance”
18:00 National News
18:05 Photo by Artist Photo Show (Aung Min)
18:10 Song “Two, Together”
18:12 Weaving Industry of Pakokku
18:15 National News
18:50 Hua Pwe (or) Mogok

8-12:2003(Monday)
Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)
19:30 Signature Tune
19:35 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Pyay Laung”
19:40 Water Hyacinth
19:45 National News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes “Snake gourd stuffing pounded prawn”
19:45 National News
19:50 Hu Pwe (or) Mogok

8:05 am
7. Cute little dancers
8:15 am
8. Morning news
8:20 am
9. Song of national races
8:30 am
10. International news
8:45 am
11. Let’s Go
2.30 pm
1. (Myanmar) [Mandalay] (Stadium) (1st National Spirit)
2.30 pm
2. Practice in reading
4.45 pm
3. Musical programme
5:45 pm
4. Musical programme

Monday, December 8
View today:
7:00 am
6. Song of national races
7:15 am
2. Myanmar National News (Pyay)
7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
4. Morning news
7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
6. Song of national races

WEATHER
Sunday, 7 December, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C above normal in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, above normal in Kachin, Mon States and Magway Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kachin and Chin States and Yangon Division and 5°C to 6°C below normal in remaining areas. The significant night temperature was 0°C in Hpakha.
Minimum temperature on 7-12-2003 was 33.5°C (92°F).
Rela- tive humidity at 9:30 hours MST on 7-12-2003 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 6-12-2003 was (8 hours approx), Rainfall 7-12-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Bago-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-12-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Bago- Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabo-Aye) was 8 m/s from Northwest (at 10:00) hours MST on 6-12-2003.
Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay.
Temperature valid until evening of 8-12-2003:
Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Northern Shan States, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (90%) of.
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days:Significant decrease of night temperature in upper Myanmar areas.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 8 December, 2003 15
Lt-Gen Maung Bo gives instructions to departmental officials of Kayin State at Hpa-an Station. — MNA

Myanmar sports teams leave for Vietnam

Yangon, 7 Dec — A 14-member Myanmar Taekwondo Team and a 2-member Myanmar traditional rowing team numbering 38 led by Team Leader U Zaw Lin left here by air for Vietnam this morning to participate in the XXII SEA Games.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports, officials of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation and Myanmar Rowing Federation and their relatives.

It is the last batch of Myanmar sports teams to take part in the games. — MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back

Yangon, 7 Dec — After paying a goodwill visit to China, the Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min arrived back here by air this evening. The delegation studied rail transportation work in Yunnan Province, China.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff, departmental heads and officials welcomed back the delegation members at Yangon International Airport.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min was accompanied by General Manager (Mechanical/Electronics) of Myanma Railways U Soe Win, General Manager (Civil) Lt-Col Thi Haing, Deputy General Manager (Electronics) U Zaw Win and Assistant General Manager (Communications) U Ba Kyaw Htoo as members. — MNA

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and party being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects dredging of drains on either sides of Thida-aye Road in Htantabin — Yangon Command

Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets departmental officials in Hpa-an

Yangon, 7 Dec — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence met with Kayin State and district level departmental personnel at the combined hall of Hpa-an Station on 8 pm yesterday.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on regional development tasks.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, local Light Infantry Division Commander Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu, Secretary of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Li-Co Kyaw Win Maung, Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Li-Co Soe Myint Aung, Chairman of Kawtekkay District Peace and Development Council Li-Co Ko Ko Gy and departmental officials.

At the outset, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu reported on implementation of rural development tasks in 2003-2004 financial year, agricultural undertakings for local food sufficiency, putting of 361,574 acres of land under monsoon paddy, utilization of land and reclamation of vacant and virgin lands and accomplishment of projects in 2002-2003 and implementation of the projects till the end of October, 2002-2003.

Myanmar Agriculture Service Kayin State Manager U Kyaw Thein reported on rainfall in the state this year, cultivation of monsoon paddy, corn, edible oil crops and double cropping. Deputy Director U Khin Win of Setlement and Land Records Department on prospects for reclamation of wetland in Meibang-Naunglon region. Deputy Director U Aung Kyaw Win of Irrigation Department on digging of drains for ensuring prevention of flooding in Meibang-Naunglon region and Deputy Director U Myint Htay of Livestock and Veterinary Department on breeding of domestic poultry.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo fulfilled their requirements.

Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Lt-Co Soe Myint Aung submitted reports on utilization of lands in the district, growing of monsoon and summer paddy, groundnut and other edible oil crops, carrying out of economic, social and transport tasks and implementation of rural development works.

Chairman of Kawtekkay District Peace and Development Council Li-Co Ko Ko Gy reported on utilization of land in the district and carrying out of five rural development tasks. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended to their needs.

Article
Border area development: One upon a time in Mawpha region

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