WASHINGTON, 3 Nov—Army Special Megan Ambuhl has pleaded guilty to one count of dereliction of duty in the Abu Ghraib Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal, in a deal with prosecutors sparing her any prison time, the US Army said on Tuesday.

Ambuhl, a 30-year-old reservist from Centreville, Virginia, was reduced in rank to private and ordered to forfeit half a month's pay, said Lieutenant-Colonel Pamela Hart, an Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon.

She became the third soldier from the Army's 372nd Military Police Company to plead guilty to charges stemming from the abuse at the jail on the outskirts of Baghdad.

A fourth soldier from an Army military intelligence unit also has pleaded guilty. Ambuhl was the first of the soldiers who have pleaded guilty not to receive prison time.

Ambuhl entered her plea on Saturday at a summary court-martial in Baghdad to a charge of dereliction of duty, taking responsibility for failing to stop or report abuse of prisoners by other US soldiers, according to the Army and Ambuhl's lawyers.

Under her agreement with prosecutors, they dropped charges of conspiracy, maltreatment of detainees and indecent acts. She had faced up to 7 1/2 years in prison if convicted on the more serious charges.

Another soldier in January informed the US military chain of command in Iraq of physical and sexual abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the jail, and a military criminal investigation ensued.

The scandal erupted in April when photographs depicting US soldiers taunting and humiliating naked prisoners became public, sparking worldwide condemnation.

The two other soldiers from Ambuhl's unit who previously pleaded guilty were Staff Sergeant Ivan 'Chip' Frederick and Special Jersey Sivits.

A US military judge in Baghdad last month sentenced Frederick to eight years in prison after he pleaded guilty to five charges that included assault, committing an indecent act and dereliction of duty. In May, Sivits was sentenced to a year in prison after pleading guilty to maltreating a detainee, conspiracy to maltreat and dereliction of duty.

Special Armin Cruz, a military intelligence soldier, pleaded guilty in September to maltreatment of detainees and was sentenced to eight months in prison.

In addition, PFC Lynndie England was ordered to stand trial on January 17 on charges of assault, conspiracy to mistreat prisoners, committing indecent acts, disobeying orders.

She gained notoriety after photos were released showing her holding a dog's leash attached to a naked Iraqi prisoner.

MNA/Reuters

A Filipino and an American kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Nov—A Filipino is among three foreigners, including an American, kidnapped from the Baghdad villa of a Saudi Arabian company supplying US forces in Iraq, officials said on Tuesday.

Initial reports had failed to establish that a Filipino was abducted on Monday along with an American, a Nepali and three Iraqis after a gunbattle in which an Iraqi security guard and one of the assailants were killed.

Two of the Iraqis were released overnight and on Tuesday returned to the villa in the affluent Mansour District.

The kidnap victims work for the Saudi Arabian Trading and Contracting Company (Satco), a Riyadh-based company owned by Saudi and Lebanese businessmen that supplies US forces in Iraq, according to executives who know the firm.

“We are concerned that an American was abducted yesterday...from Satco in Mansour,” a US Embassy spokesman said.

“They are actively engaged in the matter but cannot say what we are doing,” he said.

He said no one had claimed responsibility or made demands. He confirmed a Filipino was among the captives.

The Philippines Embassy in Baghdad said Satco had reported a Filipino accountant missing immediately after the kidnap.

"A Filipino is reported missing but I do not have verification that he was kidnapped," said Charge d'Affaires Ricardo Endaya.

The Saudi company has declined to comment.

At least 25 foreigners from a dozen countries are thought to be held by kidnappers trying to drive US-led forces and foreign workers from Iraq. Scores of foreigners have been abducted since April. Many have been freed but more than 35 have been killed, several of them beheaded.

The last two Americans to be kidnapped in Iraq were US citizens and were abducted by a militant group led by al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi that demanded US-led forces free women detainees.

The body and severed head of a Japanese backpacker kidnapped by Zarqawi's group was found on a Baghdad street on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

India warns IAEA should not be utilized for political ends

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Nov—India has warned against the use of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for "political ends" and said that effective measures should be evolved to check nuclear proliferation without constraining in any way the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Intervening in a debate on IAEA, India's Junior Minister for Foreign Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh told the United Nations General Assembly on Monday that the world's nuclear watchdog should not be utilized for political ends beyond its original purpose "to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies."

The role of IAEA promoting developmental programmes for the betterment of humankind by using nuclear technologies, he said, is unique and must be encouraged and expanded but it should operate within its technical expertise in a transparent manner.

He said measures should be evolved to check nuclear proliferation without constraining in any way the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and added India would be a partner in such an effort and should bear the obligation flowing from it.

"Efforts to prevent proliferation should not impose undue restrictions on the development and utilization of nuclear energy," he said.

MNA/PTI

Angola profits more in first half of 2004

LUANDA, 3 Nov—Angola profited an extra revenue of 250 million US dollars in the first half of this year due to the price increase in the world market, according to a local report on Tuesday.

Minister Armando Jaime распростер the disclosure at a Press briefing here on Monday. He said that "the increasing of prices have been favouring an accelerated investments recovery that has been carried out by oil companies as well as a quicker reimbursement of our foreign debt through oil."

MNA/Xinhua
Prizes presented to winners...

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Khan Win, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the Leading Committee for the Organizing the Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Mayor, senior military officers, deputy ministers, members of Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions, Chairmen of Work Committee and Sub-committees and members, ambassadors, chargé d'affaires, resident representatives of UN organizations, officials of State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of social organizations, judges, managers of states and divisions and participants, prize-winners, students of University of Culture and guests.

At the ceremony, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing presented the first prize for the professional level (women's) xylophone contest to Daw Khin Thet Aye of Mandalay Division, second to Daw Khin Khan Myint of Rakhine State and third to Daw Than Tha Nyunt of Mandalay Division; the first prize for the amateur level (women's) xylophone contest to Daw Khang Zar Win of Yangon Division; second to Ma Cho Thet Tin of Sagaing Division and third to Daw Kyi Kyi San of Mandalay Division; the first prize for basic education level (women's) xylophone contest to Ma Ei Chai of Yangon Division, part of Mandalay Division; the first prize for primary education level (women's) xylophone contest to Ma Wint Yi Yun of Chin State.

Next, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Oo presented the first prize for basic education level boys' (aged 15-20) piano contest to Maung Zaw Zaw of Rakhine State and Daw Khin Myint of Yangon Division respectively; first, second and third prizes in the basic education level piano contest (boys', aged 10-15) to Maung Zaw Zaw Khaing of Yangon Division, Maung Pyu Naung of Sagaing Division and Maung Kyaw Naing of Ayeyawady Division respectively; first, second and third prizes in the amateur level piano contest (boys', aged 15-20) to Maung Htet Ko Ko of Yangon Division, Maung Moe Naung of Sagaing Division and Maung Nann Oo of Bago Division respectively.

Next, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi presented the first prize for the women's professional level men's guitar contest to Maung Zaw Zaw of Mandalay Division, second to Daw Khin Thet Aye of Mandalay Division and third to Maung Aung Ko Thet of Yangon Division; the first prize for the amateur level men's guitar contest to Ma Thiri Hlaing of Yangon Division; second to Daw Khin Thet Aye of Mandalay Division and third to Maung Aung Ko Thet of Yangon Division; the first prize for the basic education level men's guitar contest (boys', aged 10-15) to Maung Zaw Zaw Khaing of Yangon Division, Maung Zaw Htet of Bago Division respectively.

Next, Minister for Culture Minn Min Hlaing presented the first prize for basic education level girls' (aged 15-20) piano contest to Maung Zaw Zaw Khaing of Yangon Division, second to Maung Tang Yaw of Mandalay Division and third to Maung Aung Ko Thet of Yangon Division; the first prize for the amateur level girls' (aged 15-20) piano contest to Maung Zaw Zaw Khaing of Yangon Division, second to Maung Zaw Htet of Bago Division and third to Maung Aung Ko Thet of Yangon Division; the first prize for the basic education level girls' (aged 15-20) piano contest to Maung Zaw Zaw Khaing of Yangon Division, second to Maung Zaw Htet of Bago Division and third to Maung Aung Ko Thet of Yangon Division; the first prize for the amateur level girls' (aged 15-20) piano contest to Maung Zaw Zaw Khaing of Yangon Division, second to Maung Zaw Htet of Bago Division and third to Maung Aung Ko Thet of Yangon Division.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint presents a first prize for basic education level girls' (aged 10-15) mandolin contest to Ma Phyu Hnin Wai of Bago Division. MNA
Prizes presented to winners in...

(from page 6)

Division and second prize to Ma Nwe Zin Win of Yangon Division; first prize for the basic education level (girls’, aged 10-15) to Ma Su Yi Ko Ko of Yangon Division and second prize to Ma Aye Myat Thu of Yangon Division; first prize for the basic education level (girl’s, aged 5-10) to Ma Phyo Phyo Lin of Bago Division and second prize to Ma Pan Mi Mi of Yangon Division; first prize for the professional level men’s mandolin contest to U Kyi Shwin of Mon State; second prize to U Kyaw of Sagaing Division and third prizes to U Tin Maung Htay of Magway Division and U Saw Hla Kyi of Mandalay Division; first prize of the amateur level men’s mandolin contest to U Hla Myo of Mandalay Division, second prize to U Than Soe of Bago Division and third prize to U Maung Maung Lwin of Kachin State; first prize for the higher education level men’s mandolin contest to Maung Myo Zaw of Yangon Division, second prize to Maung Oo Mya Tun of Rakhine State and third prize to Maung Zaw Zaw of Bago Division; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 15-20) mandolin contest to Maung San Htwe, second prize to Maung Aung Naing Win of Rakhine State and Maung Ko Ko Win of Bago Division; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 10-15) mandolin contest to Maung Aung, second to Maung Ye Win Aung of Bago Division, third prize to Maung Thein Aung Soe of Mandalay Division and consolation prize to Maung Pyae Sone Phyo of Rakhine State; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 5-10) mandolin contest to Maung Myo Moe and second prize to Maung Htet Ko Ko Lin.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint presented first prize for the professional level women’s mandolin contest to Daw Mya Hnin Yi of Yangon Division and second prize to Daw Ohmmar of Ayeawady Division; first prize for the higher education level women’s mandolin contest to Ma Hnin Nwe Soe of Ayeawady Division; first prize for the basic education level (girl’s, aged 15-20) mandolin contest to Ma Thi Hlaung of Yangon Division, second prize to Ma Nan Thu Zaw of Bago Division and third prize to Ma Ei Thandar Aung of Yangon Division; first prize for the basic education level (girl’s, aged 10-15) mandolin contest to Ma Phyu Hnin Wai of Bago Division, second prize to Ma Nwe Zin Win of Yangon Division and third prize to Ma Khin Marlar of Shan State; first prize for the basic education level (girl’s, aged 5-10) mandolin contest to Ma Le Yi Win of Bago Division.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented first prize for the basic education level boys’ (aged 10-15) oboe contest to Maung Kyaw Ko Lat of Magway Division. — MNA

Minister U Tin Winn presented first prize for basic education level boys’ (aged 10-15) oboe contest to Maung Min Soe of Mandalay Division. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min presents first prize for the professional level men’s domini contest to U San Tun of Yangon Division, second prize to U Maung Maung Myint of Shan State and third prize to U Kyaw Htay of Magway Division; first prize for the amateur level men’s domini contest to U Sein Tin Aung of Bago Division, second prize to U Myint Soe of Ayeawady Division, third prize to Maung Min of Yangon Division and consolation prize to U Thaung Maung Tun of Rakhine State; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 15-20) domini contest to Maung Htet Lwin of Mandalay Division and second prize to Maung Htoo Aung of Yangon Division; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 10-15) domini contest to Maung Zeyer Soe Oo, second prize to Maung Moe Tai of Ayeawady Division and third prize to Maung Thar Lin of Bago Division; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 5-10) domini contest to Maung San Shwe Myat; first prize for the professional level women’s domini contest to Daw Sein Sein Yi of Yangon Division; first prize for the basic education level (girl’s, aged 10-15) domini contest to Ma Nan Kyar Nyo Kyaw of Mandalay Division, second prize to Maung Pyae Zaw of Yangon Division, second prize to Maung Pyae Win of Mandalay Division and third prize to Maung Zaw Gay De.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min presents first prize for basic education level girls’ (aged 10-15) domin contest to Ma Shwe Zin Chit of Yangon Division. — MNA

Minister U Tin Winn presented first prize for the professional level men’s violin contest to U Pike of Ayeawady Division, second prize to U Khin Maung Yin of Mandalay Division and third prize to U Ti Win of Mandalay Division; first prize for the amateur level men’s violin contest to Maung Si Thue Aung of Rakhine State and third prize to U Nyunt Win of Mandalay Division and third prize to U San Maung of Yangon Division; first prize for the higher education level men’s violin contest to Maung Win Arkar Aung of Bago Division, second prize to Maung Aung Htwe of Yangon Division and third prize to Maung Bo Bo Kyaw of Mandalay; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 15-20) violin contest to Maung Thet Htet Aung of Yangon Division and second prize to Maung Min Thukha of Yangon Division; first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 10-15) violin contest to Maung Kyaw Wana of Mandalay Division, second prizes to Maung Hay Shar Yaw Taw of Yangon Division and Maung Thirta Oo of Mandalay Division and third prize to Maung Saw Gay De. — MNA
Myanmar and Thailand sign MoU on Water Resources

YANGON, 4 Nov — The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand signed an MoU on cooperation in water resources management at the Dusit Island Resort in Chaing Rai, Thailand on 1 November morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hay Oo, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint and delegates, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand Mr Suwit Khunkitti, delegates and guests. At the ceremony, the two Ministers delivered addresses, signed the MoU and exchanged the documents. The ceremony came to an end. After the ceremony, they posed for documentary photos. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hay Oo and party went to Chang Rai Farm and observed production of the Farm and they were conducted round by Chairman of the Farm Mr Montri and officials. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hay Oo views hybrid corn plantation on 1-11-2004. AGR & HRI

Industry-2 Minister tours Bago, Mandalay divisions

YANGON, 4 Nov — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin on 30 October arrived at construction project of the multi-purpose diesel engines manufacturing factory (Thagaya) Yedashe Township, Bago Division, and inspected the construction work. At the briefing hall, responsible officials briefed the minister on progress of construction work and arrangement for water and power supply to the factory. Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Bank Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin went to Myektila Bank (Branch) of MIBD the next day and inspected banking services there. The minister on 1 November arrived at the vehicle repairing factory No 1 in Aungmyathazan Township, Mandalay Division and inspected Super Mandalay Jeeps and 10-ton and two-ton lorries assembled by the industrial zones. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Saw Lwin also inspected the construction work of the industrial training school (Mandalay). He went to the Mandalay Bank (Branch) of MIBD and also inspected the banking services. On 2 November, the minister arrived at the multipurpose diesel engines manufacturing factory (Thagaya) project in Yedashe Township and gave instruction on efficient use of electricity and fuel. — MNA

Contract signed to build Momauk-Lweje Road

YANGON, 4 Nov — The Ministry of Construction and Momauk Road construction Company from China today signed a contract to repair and construct Momauk-Lweje Road at Public Works (Head Office) here. Managing Director of Public Works U Han Zaw and Director-General of the Chinese construction company Mr Li Hialgyum signed the contract and exchanged documents. Present on the occasion were Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, departmental heads and officials. After completing Momauk-Lweje gravel road, the Chinese company will carry out the maintenance work of the road for ten years. — MNA

Nepalese journalists visit Bagan-NyaungU, Sagaing, Mandalay

YANGON, 4 Nov — A seven-member Nepalese journalist delegation led by Mr Manju Ratna Saky on 2 November visited Shwezigon Pagoda, Alodawpyai Pagoda and Arannda Pagoda in Bagan NyaungU, Mandalay Division. In the afternoon, they also visited Bagan Archaeological Museum and Myanmar Institute of Language. The delegation went to the University for Development of National Races in Sagaing the next day and viewed round the museum of the university. During their stay in Mandalay, the journalists called on the Mayor of Mandalay Brig-Gen Yan Thein and visited Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image and the Yadanabon Bridge Project. In the evening, Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein hosted a dinner to them. The delegation arrived back here this morning. — MNA

Fitness and higher …

(from page 1) are to make continued efforts for further achievements. Next, NHC Secretary and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo reported on measures taken for the implementation of the 41st NHC meeting’s resolutions. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint also presented reports on arrangements for sending health staff abroad for further medical studies. Later, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa reported on the operation of health care centres for women. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo also presented additional reports on arrangements made for organizing the fifth traditional medicine practitioners conference and the traditional medicines and medical equipment exhibition. On the occasion, Director-General of the Health Planning Department Dr Kyi Soe read out the resolutions of the 42nd NHC Meeting and sought the approval of the meeting.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein made suggestions in respect to the reports and gave concluding remarks. — MNA

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