Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Further cooperate to supply sufficient clean water to all rural areas.

The Government has been putting a large number of development projects into operation the length and breadth of the nation in its drive for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Among them are the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special regions development project and the five rural development tasks which are being implemented in harmony.

Joining hands with social organizations and the people, the Government is speeding up implementation of tasks for rural water supply, a basic requirement for realizing the development projects.

The ninth cash donations presenting ceremony for supplying clean water to rural areas, organized by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, took place at the Development Affairs Department in Thanlyentsu, Botataung Township, on 26 November. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepted the donations and delivered a speech on the occasion, saying that thanks to the rural water supply project, all the villages in eight townships have enjoyed fruitful results, adding that before long the project will also cover eight more townships. It is believed that the wellwishers’ cash donations can be counted up, but their goodwill and generosity is too great to measure, he said.

With cash assistance rendered by the State, funds of respective Development Committees and cash donations by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, NGOs and the people, the rural water supply projects have been implemented since 2000-2001.

As a result, out of 5,842 villages in the three arid zones namely Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, altogether 6,078 villages have enjoyed sufficient clean water, benefitting around seven million local residents. At the same time, respective Development Affairs committees are making efforts to supply sufficient potable water to local people in other states and divisions where water is scarce.

Up to the end of October 2004, sufficient clean water has been supplied to 6,098 against 15,183 villages in the states and divisions where water is scarce. As the cooperation of the State and wellwishers has resulted in a growing momentum in supplying clean water to rural areas, greater cooperation is needed to be able to supply sufficient clean water to all rural areas.

YANGON, 27 — Accompanied by Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Deputy Mayor Col Maung Pa, No 3 Military Region Commander Col Eint San, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi and officials, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the beautifying and upgrading tasks of Yangon City today.

The commander and party inspected the tasks for sanitation and repaving in Sanchaung, Kyimyindaing, Kamayut, Mayangon, Insein, Hlaingthaya and Shwepyitha townships. During the inspection, the commander gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Min Naing leads First Kasco Open Golf Championship

YANGON, 27 Nov — The First Kasco Open Golf Championship continued at Shwemantaung Golf Course in Mandalay this morning.

After the third round, Min Naing (Srixon) was leading the professional golfers division with 206 strokes. Win Kyaw (YCDDC), Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) and Kyaw Swa Lin (Srixon) tied at the second place with 207 strokes each and Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) at third place with 209.

In the amateur golfers division, Zaw Zin Win was standing first with 209 strokes. His runners-up were Myo Min Aung with 213 and Bo Bo with 215.

The Championship is being sponsored by Heritage Sports and Gold Co Ltd together with co-sponsors Air Bagan, Imperial Jade Drinking Water, Myanmar Berwery Ltd and Shwemantaung Golf Club. And, it is organized by Han Event Management.

The fourth round of the championship continues tomorrow.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
Singapore, Thailand to persuade ASEAN for earlier FTA timetable

VIETNAM (LAOS), 27 Nov — Leaders of Singapore and Thailand will persuade their ASEAN counterparts at the upcoming summit for an earlier timetable for a single market in the region, the grouping’s secretary-general Ong Keng Yong said here on Friday.

If Singapore and Thailand raise the topic at the summit, they have to get other countries’ consensus, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) secretary-general told reporters.

“Singapore and Thailand are big trade countries, but we still have countries with small trade volumes, such as Laos and Cambodia,” he told Xinhua.

Leaders of the ASEAN member countries will gather in Laos’ capital of Vientiane on Monday and Tuesday for their 10th summit, which is expected to accelerate a 2020 timetable for ASEAN to achieve free trade among the member countries.

If the free trade agreement (FTA) is implemented as scheduled, the ASEAN countries will become a single market claiming an annual total trade volume of 720 billion US dollars.

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his Thai counterpart Thaksin Shinawatra have expressed the wish for an even earlier deadline for the establishment of a single market.

The idea, however, is less welcomed by less developed countries in ASEAN.

Through a potential common market of a population of 500 million, the huge gap between member countries with different situations is believed to be a major barrier for the grouping’s further economic integration.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Vietnam to import more petroleum products

HANOI, 26 Nov — Vietnam will import nearly 1.3 million tons of petroleum products next month, up 52.9 per cent against last December, to feed its needs next month, up 52.9 per cent against last December, to feed its growing abroad 18 million tons of crude oil, its biggest foreign currency earner, between January and November, up 52.3 per cent in value against the same period last year due to rising world prices.

The country is estimated to import over 9.9 million tons of petroleum products worth 3.2 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of this year, up 8.9 per cent in volume and 45.1 per cent in value, the Ministry of Planning and Investment said on Thursday.

To reduce reliance on imports, Vietnam is investing some 1.3 billion US dollars to build its first oil refinery with annual processing capacity of 6.5 million tons in central Quang Ngai Province, which will become operational in 2007. It also plans to construct the second refinery with annual capacity of seven million tons in central Thanh Hoa Province.

The country is estimated to earn nearly 5.3 billion dollars from shipping abroad 18 million tons of crude oil, its biggest foreign currency earner, between January and November, up 52.3 per cent in value against the same period last year due to rising world prices.

Indian PM accepts invitation to visit Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 26 Nov — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has accepted an invitation Wednesday to visit Pakistan from his Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz.

“The invitation was extended by Aziz, on his maiden visit to the country, during his talks with Singh here,” the Press Trust of India quoted foreign secretary Shyam Saran as saying.

He said the dates of the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels of the two countries.

Singapore’s Changi Airport testing biometrics-based system

SINGAPORE, 26 Nov — The world’s first fully automated check-in and immigration clearance system that uses biometric recognition technology has been on trial at Singapore Changi Airport since 1 November.

According to a statement jointly issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), Singapore Airlines (SIA) and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on Thursday, the system will enable travellers to go through check-in, security check and immigration processes at one spot in less than two minutes.

To use the Fully Automated Seamless Travel (FAST) system, travellers will get a card containing a microchip that has captured his facial features and fingerprint details, and will help enhance check-point security and service with the application of new technology.

About 9,000 frequent travellers on the Singapore Airlines KrisFlyer programme will be selected for the trial, which will last for six months.

Loud explosion rocks Baghdad as smoke rises over capital

BAGHDAD, 26 Nov — A loud explosion rocked central Baghdad on Thursday, sending column of smoke rising above the protected Green Zone, witnesses said.

Black smoke could be seen rising over the area north of the Green Zone complex which houses the offices of Iraq’s Interim Government, the US and British Embassies, according to the witnesses.

The US military had no immediate comment on the incident.

Residents in west of Baghdad said they heard successive loud explosions as a plume of black smoke rose in the horizon to the far west of the city.

People were seen gathering on the rooftops of their houses to watch the blast as two helicopters flew overheads towards the scene. Also on Thursday, a loud explosion rocked the Green Zone as black smoke rose above the heavily fortified complex. Helicopters were seen flying over the area.

A US military Amphibious Assault Vehicle drives through a wall and locked gate to open a path for Marines assigned to the western Iraqi city of Fallujah on 26 Nov, 2004. —INTERNET

ASEAN Foreign Ministers line up for a photo call at the start of their meeting in Vientiane on 27 Nov, 2004. They are from left: Thailand’s Sarakart Sathirathai, Vietnam’s Nguyen Dy Nien, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah of Brunei, Hor Namhong of Cambodia, Indonesia’s Hasan Wirajuda, Somsvat Lengsavat of host nation Laos, Danek Sery Syed Hamid Albar of Malaysia, Myanmar’s Nyan Win, Edsel Custodio of the Philippines, Singapore’s George Yeo and ASEAN Secretariat Keng Yong. —INTERNET
China launches energy-saving plan for coming 15 years

BEIJING, 26 Nov—To cope with crippling energy shortage, China launched a comprehensive energy-saving plan Tuesday, effective from now to 2020.

The plan is the biggest and most ambitious one of its kind in China’s history, Zhao Jiaron, director of the department of environment resources conserva-
tion under the National Development and Reform Commission at a news conference.

By 2010, China set the goal to consume 2.25 tons of standard coal when producing 10,000 yuan (1,200 US dollars) of GDP, 0.43 tons fewer than that of 2002, said Zhao. In 2020, the figure is expected to decline to 1.54.

China requires all the buildings built after 2006 to embrace new technology and methods that could save 50 per cent of the energy consumption per square meter compared to now.

“We will promote central heating system in resi-
dences and public buildings, and charge all the habitants according to the metres equipped in each room, just as what we are doing with the electricity now.”

China will also transform existing buildings, espe-
cially hotels in northern China to reduce energy con-
sumption, said Zhao. By 2010, the work will be fin-
ished in 25 per cent of the big cities, 15 per cent of areas in medium cities and 10 per cent in small cities.

To encourage the production of energy-saving equipment, China launched a package of programmes.

“We will come up with a list of energy-saving products and include them in the catalogue of government procurement,” said Zhao.

Compared with the energy efficiency of developed countries, China has the potential to save 300 million tons of standard coal each year, said Zhao. China consumed 1.51 billion tons of standard coal in 2002.

Zhao attributed the high consumption to slow terti-
ary development, outdated equipment and poor man-
agement in the factories. —MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to boost industrial goods export

HANOI, 26 Nov—Vietnam will accelerate the export of industrial goods mainly by developing auxiliary industries, and helping enterprises sharpen competitive edges, according to the Minis-
try of Industry on Thursday.

To reap 17.8 billion US dollars and 20 billion US dollars from exporting industrial goods including crude oil this year and 1
next year, respectively, as planned, the country will build stronger sup-
plementary industries to ensure supply of local materials and accesso-
ries for the production of exports, especially textiles, garments, leather, footwear, and electronic products.

Specifically, Viet-

nam targets to raise the percentage of manufact-
versonal goods in its industri-
goods for export from to 75 per cent in 2010 from the current 50 per cent.

Now, the Vietnamese Government further helps companies renovate technologies, build trademarks, and cut pro-
duction costs by offering assistance regarding in-
rastructure, finance, investment and trade. It will also beef up trade promo-

tion by improving distrib-
ution systems and operation of Vietnamese representative offices abroad.

Vietnam is expected to gain export turnovers of 25 billion US dollars this year, 71.2 per cent of which will come from in-

dustrial products, includ-
ing garments, footwear, computers, electric wires and bicycles.

MNA/Xinhua

Turk lawmaker says US in Iraq worse than Hitler

ANKARA, 26 Nov—The head of Turkey’s parlia-

mentary human rights group has accused Wash-

ington of genocide in Iraq and behaving worse than Adolf Hitler, in remarks underscoring the depth of opposition in Turkey to US policy in the region.

“The occupation has turned into barbarism,” Friday’s Yeni Safak newspaper quoted Mehmet Elkatmis, head of parlia-

ment’s human rights com-

mission, as saying. “The US administration is com-

mitting genocide...in Iraq.

“Never in human his-
tory have such genocide and cruelty been wit-

tnessed. Such a genocide was never seen in the time of the pharoahs (of ancient Egypt), nor of Hitler nor

of (Italy’s fascist leader Benito) Mussolini,” he

said.

Two US Marines killed in Fallujah sweep

FALAFJAH, 26 Nov—Two US marines have been shot dead in the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

LiGen John Sattler said a group of marines was ambushed during house-
clearing operations and re-
turned, killing three guerrillas.

Iraq’s interim security minister said 2,000 peo-
ple had been killed in the US-led offensive in the city.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore receives 696,113 tourists in October

SINGAPORE, 26 Nov—Singapore received 696,113 tourists in October this year, up 19 per cent over last year.

According to a state-

ment by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Thursday, Indonesia and China were the island state’s top-two tourist-
generating markets while Australia and Japan tied for third place. These mar-

ets accounted for about 44 per cent of the total number of tourists of the month.

In the first 10 months of this year, Singapore posted an estimated 7.8 billion Singapore dol-

ars (about 4.7 billion US dollars) in tourism rece-

ipts. As a nation of around four million, Singapore’s target is to get 8.7 billion Singapore dollars (about 5.3 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese AIDS vaccine tested on human bodies

BEIJING, 26 Nov—Chinese-developed AIDS vaccine won government approval to be tested on human bodies Thursday, according to the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) of China.

The compound vac-
cine consists of DNA vac-
cine and regrouped virus carrier, said sources with the SFDA.

Chinese scientists began the research by studying domestically popular virus genes in 1996, including the enve-

lope albumen and core al-

bumen of the virus. They

found that human body will become immune to AIDS virus after inject-

ing DNA vaccine and regrouped virus carrier in succession. Researchers attacked a monkey with AIDS virus after injecting

the compound vaccine into its body, and found no ab-

normal reactions occurred.

Human body test, or stage I clinical test, of the compound AIDS vaccine aims to further assess the security of the vaccine, an SFDA official said.

MNA/Xinhua
Malaysia’s vehicle sale up in October

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Nov — The sales of vehicles in Malaysia grew 26.1 per cent to 43,206 units in October from 34,262 units in the same month last year, the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA) said Thursday.

Out of the total, passenger cars accounted for 27,490 units and commercial vehicles 6,260 units as against 7,984 units previously, MAA said in a statement released here.

A total of 30,259 units of home-made cars were sold in October as against 23,710 units sold in the same month last year, MAA said.

Out of the total, passenger cars accounted for 27,490 units and commercial vehicles 6,260 units, it said.

Meanwhile, the sales of foreign-made cars stood at 12,947 units as against 10,552 units in the corresponding month of 2003, of which passenger cars accounted for 6,260 units and commercial vehicles 6,687 units, it added.

On a cumulative basis, automotive sales for the first 10 months of this year rose by 16.4 per cent to 399,021 units from 342,730 units for the same period of 2003.

The production of the country’s automotive industry in the first 10 months this year has totalled 386,236 units as against 368,556 units produced in the same period of 2003.

China enters crucial time for “AIDS” prevention

BEIJING, 26 Nov — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said Thursday that the country has entered a crucial time for AIDS prevention and urged everyone to work to stop the spread of the disease.

Attending a red ribbon — the Chinese symbol of AIDS prevention — distribution activity, initiated by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, Wu said the spread of HIV/AIDS has brought severe threats to China’s economy and society.

The AIDS prevention work is of vital importance to the country’s economic development, social stability, national security and the fulfillment of the goal of building a well-off society.

Wu said the country’s trade unions at all levels had made great efforts in leading workers to prevent HIV/AIDS during the past years and their efforts should be continued.

China’s fight against AIDS/HIV has lasted 19 years, since the first HIV infectious case was discovered in 1985.

The assessment report on China’s AIDS prevention and control, released by the Ministry of Health, shows HIV is an epidemic covering all the mainland’s 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

There are 840,000 HIV-carriers, of whom 80,000 suffer AIDS.

The majority of Chinese HIV carriers have been infected through blood transfusions. However, the ratio of sexual infections increased from 5.5 per cent in 1997 to 10.9 per cent in 2002 and more Chinese infants have been directly infected by their mothers.

The number of HIV carriers has rapidly increased, and the virus has been epidemic not only among high-risk groups like drug abusers, but also among average people.

Experts warned that more than 10 million Chinese will be HIV-positive in 2010, unless effective counter-measures are taken.

China’s 32 state-owned coal companies report fast-growing profits

BEIJING, 26 Nov — The state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council announced Wednesday that 32 state-owned coal companies netted 16.36 billion yuan (1.97 billion US dollars) in profit from January through October, 10.52 billion yuan more than that in the same period last year.

Among all the 32 state-owned companies, only one was in the red, with an 80 million yuan loss, the commission said.

The output value of the 32 companies was valued at 154.46 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 51.5 per cent, and the income from their primary business reached 176.13 billion yuan, an increase of 55.7 per cent.

Coal inventories of the companies was valued at more than seven billion yuan at the end of October.

Mandated by the State Council, the commission oversees 187 large state-owned companies.

Four British workers killed in Iraq, 15 hurt

BAGHDAD, 26 Nov — A mortar attack killed four employees of a British security firm and wounded 15 others in the Baghdad’s Green Zone, a fortified area that houses the US and Iraqi leadership, the company and British officials said Friday.

Britain’s Foreign Office said the dead were former Gurkhas, renowned Nepalese soldiers.

“The mortar landed in their camp,” said a Foreign Office official on condition of anonymity.

Tim J O’Brien, spokesman for the London-based Global Risk Strategies, said the attack took place Thursday, when multiple explosions were heard and black smoke was seen rising from the fortified zone on the western bank of the Tigris River.

NZ provides aid for Indonesian earthquake relief

WELLINGTON, 26 Nov — New Zealand will help provide shelter, food and basic items to those living in remote areas of Indonesia recently struck by a massive earthquake, Aid Minister Marian Hobbs announced Thursday.

The death toll from the quake stood at 27, with over 400 injured. Physical damage is reported to be extensive. The earthquake rendered more than 15,000 Alor households homeless out of a total of about 36,000. To date many people are still camped outside their houses fearing further tremors.

She said NZAID, the New Zealand Government’s international aid and development agency, would contribute 50,000 NZ dollars (about 35,000 US dollars) to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Emergency Appeal.

The appeals will fund relief efforts to provide temporary shelter material, mosquito nets and essential items such as food, hygiene kits and clothing for around 20,000 people.

“In addition to the immediate provision of shelter and food, the appeal will fund further assistance to rebuild, including the distribution of basic building materials and tools,” Hobbs said.

The massive earthquake measured 7.3 on the Richter Scale and struck nine sub-districts in Alor Island, East Nusa Tenggara Province in Indonesia in the early hours of 12 November.
10th ASEAN Summit, related meetings to adopt many documents

VIENTIANE (Laos), 26 Nov — The upcoming 10th ASEAN Summit and its related meetings will adopt about 34 documents, mainly on enhancing regional economic cooperation, strengthening dispute settlement mechanism, and preventing transnational crimes.

According to an on-line Press release issued by the Lao Foreign Ministry, the principal documents include:
- The ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action.
- The ASEAN Socio-cultural Community Plan of Action.
- The ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons. Particularly Women and Children.
- The Vientiane Action Programme, the Framework Agreement for the Integration of the Priority Sectors. The ASEAN Protocol on Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism.
- The ASEAN-China Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Lao Foreign Ministry, the principal documents in- clude:
  - An exhibition of some well-known French art images, famous French historical personages, and some famous French art images, such as “The Fifer” by Manet, are a vivid expression of France.
  - The National Museum of the People’s Republic of China on Transport Cooperation, the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China.
  - The Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism between ASEAN and China.
  - The Joint Declaration of the Leaders at the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.
  - The Instrument of Accession to the TAC (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation) by South Korea.
- The summit and its related meetings will be held here from November 25 to November 30.

Motorcyclists pass a row of ASEAN and partner countries’ flags in the centre of Vientiane. — INTERNET

Laos in spotlight with ASEAN Summit coming

VIENTIANE, 26 Nov — The small country of Laos has gained spotlight of international media with the 10th ASEAN Summit to be held here next week.

About 800 journalists from foreign media are expected to cover the summit and related meetings, according to the Lao Foreign Ministry.

International media staff have arrived in Laos’ capital of Vientiane since Monday and set up their equipment in the Press centre in the newly-built Lao International Trade Exhibition and Conference Centre, which will be the venue of the summit. “The arrival of the (international) Press... is the first time the mass media has been welcomed to Laos for an international event and is a historic occasion for the country since it opened itself up to the world in the late 1980s,” said local newspaper Vientiane Times Thursday.

Laos ensures safety for all participants in ASEAN Summit meetings

VIENTIANE, 26 Nov — Laos, host of the upcoming 10th ASEAN Summit, pledged here Thursday to ensure 100 per cent safety for all delegates from the 17 participating countries in the meetings.

Yong Chanthalangsy, Director-General of the Press Department of the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs and spokesman for the 10th ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) summit, made the remarks at the first Press conference for the summit and related meetings.

He said Laos, having a population of 5.7 million, is very proud of hosting the ASEAN meetings and every Laotian shares the opportunities of maintaining the security situation and guaranteeing that the meetings will be held smoothly and successfully.

Cambodia celebrates annual Water Festival

PHNOM PENH, 26 Nov — Cambodia’s annual Water Festival, the biggest festival in the capital, was kicked off on Thursday in front of the Royal Palace, which is expected to attract more than three million people all over the country.

King Norodom Sihamoni left the palace Thursday afternoon to watch the boat racing on the first day of the festival celebrations which will last through Saturday. It is the first time for the King to attend such a big festival since he ascended to the throne on 29 October.

Government officials, parliamentarians and diplomats also attended the celebration.

One of the main festival activities is the boat racing. It is expected that about 382 boats are to race in the three-day festival this year, more than last year’s 376. Around 28,300 rowers will take part in the races.

Besides the boat racing, the three-day celebrations will include fireworks, moon-prayers and in the night eight illuminated boats will be towed to positions in front of the palace.

There will also be classical performances and pop concerts in the public parks. Municipal officials said that this year’s Water Festival is better organized than in the past years.

More than 3,000 police were deployed at the main streets and crossroads to maintain the traffic order and security.

French medals exhibition opens in Beijing

BEIJING, 26 Nov — An exhibition of French copper medals opened at the China Numismatic Museum here Thursday. A silver commemorative coin issued by the China Numismatic Museum here Thursday. A silver commemorative coin

The accident occurred on the 17 participating countries in the meetings.

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A government is measured or determined by the principle or the policy it adopts, that is, whether it is a centralized socialist economic policy or a market-oriented economic policy. In like manner, a person is judged by the attitude he holds. That’s why sociologists have drawn a conclusion that government and people are subject to the policy they practise.

Recently there were some changes in the government. There is no government that escapes mutations, for instance, the replacement of the guilty party with the innocent one, that of the unfit with the fit, and the annulment of the policies deemed improper in the public interest and the replacement of them with proper ones. Since its assumption of the State responsibility in 1988, the current Tatmadaw government has been working hard to establish a democracy after laying down twelve objectives. Nowadays, the government is implementing the seven-point future policy programme or road map to shape a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Having engaged in the democratic revolution, the Tatmadaw government in the first place paid priority to restoration of the State responsibility and policies, directives, rules and regulations laid down by the State, he noted. If they do not adhere to policies, rules and regulations in the discharge of their duties or if they fail to serve the interest of the people, they will have to be removed from their posts, General Thura Shwe Mann explained.

Generally speaking, there have been the same government leadership and the same policies in the country long before and after the event. Achievements made were also due to the efforts of the same government leadership and thanks to the same policies. It is crystal clear that the seven-point Road Map is not the policy which was laid down by an individual, and it does not depend on an individual either.

With regard to foreign policy, he said, there will be no change, and we will continue to seek to foster friendly relations with all countries of the world. The Tatmadaw has formed the State Peace and Development Council in order to discharge its duties. In turn, the State Peace and Development Council has assigned responsibilities to the Prime Minister and the Central Authorities. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet members are not elected by the people. In other words, they are selected by the State Peace and Development Council and assigned duties. They are assumed to be capable of discharging State duties loyally in keeping with policies, directives, rules and regulations laid down by the State, he noted. If they do not adhere to policies, rules and regulations in the discharge of their duties or if they fail to serve the interest of the people, they will have to be removed from their posts, General Thura Shwe Mann explained.

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Senior General Than Shwe sees off...

(from Page 1)

the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council the Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, Charge d’Affaires ai of the Laotian Embassy Mr Kobkeo Luangkhot and official, Director-General Li-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Prime Minister’s Office, Director-General U Myint Thein of Pyithu Hlutaw Office, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, departmental heads and officials.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left in advance for Vientiane, Laos, on 26 November to attend the Meetings of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Economic Ministers prior to the ASEAN Summit.—MNA
Final rites for Myingyan Sayadaw...

(from page 16)

Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita, SSMNC member Sayadaw, member Sayadaws of All-sect Sangha Nayaka Committee, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and departmental officials offered provisions to member Sayadaws. Next, the Secretary-1 and party covered the casket of the Myingyan Sayadaw with the velvet bearing the picture of the Sayadaw. Messages of condolence were also read in an attitude of worship to the Myingyan Sayadaw. Later, the casket of the Sayadaw was conveyed to the sport grounds in Dagon Myothit (South) township. Along the road were people from all walks of life paying obeisance to the Myingyan Sayadaw.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on message of condolence. — MNA

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Sanvega gathas by Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and the congregation. Next, the Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offered provisions to the Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw, Lt-Gen Ye Myint to the Magway Sayadaw, and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe to the Sitagu Sayadaw.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and departmental officials offered provisions to member Sayadaws. Afterwards, the remains of the Myingyan Sayadaw were incinerated. Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Myingyan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita Mahathera was the Chairperson of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana University, the Chancellor of the Pakokku Maha Visuddarama Nikaya Monastery, and Presiding Sayadaw of Koehsaung Monastery in Myingyan and the Three Pitakas and Five Nikayas Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) township.

The Commander and ministers convey the remains onto the carriage. — MNA

The Commander and ministers convey the remains of the Chairman Sayadaw onto the pyre. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party take the Five Precepts from the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw at the final rites for Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein covers the remains of the Chairman Sayadaw with velvet bearing the Sayadaw’s picture. — MNA

Sayadaws of different monasteries, disciples monks and laity.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the attorney-general, deputy ministers, the vice mayor, senior military officers, departmental officials, Commander of No 2 Sports Region, Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and laity.

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The Commander and ministers convey the remains onto the carriage. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein covers the remains of the Chairman Sayadaw with velvet bearing the Sayadaw’s picture. — MNA

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Sanvega gathas by Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and laity. Messages of condolence were also read in an attitude of worship to the Myingyan Sayadaw. Next, the Magway Sayadaw delivered a sermon, which was followed by the sharing of merits gained.

Later, the casket of the Sayadaw was conveyed to the sport grounds in Dagon Myothit (South) township. Along the road were people from all walks of life paying obeisance to the Myingyan Sayadaw.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on message of condolence. — MNA
Chairman of National Olympic…

YANGON, 27 NOV — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, departmental officials and well-wishers, visited Taungthaya Home for the aged in Kalwin Ward, Myeik, on 25 November morning when they paid homage and presented gifts to the elderly. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party offered flowers, oil and jock sticks and paid obeisance at the pagoda at the home. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to the site for construction of the four-storey main building of Myeik University where Pro-rector U Tun Thein and officials conducted them around the site. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on timely completion and meeting the set standard. At 8.30 am, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met military officers, officials at division, district and township levels, social organizations and town elders at Pale Yadana Hall Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint reported on assistance being rendered to meet the sufficiency of food by putting 500,000 acres each under oil palm crops and rubber and 26,000 acres under pepper. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said it is needed to extend the cultivation of high yield paddy strains. Local people and entrepreneurs are so cooperate in the cultivation. Being blessed with land and marine resources, Taninthayi Division should attach the importance of meeting the target of agricultural and livestock breeding tasks, he added. He also urged them to lend themselves to the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map of the State.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party sawover arrangements being carried out for the development of Myeik and gave necessary instructions to officials. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived back here at 6 pm on that day. — MNA

Press Conference on 6th Asian Wushu C'ships 2004 held

YANGON, 27 NOV — General Secretary of International Wushu Federation Mr Wang Xiaolin held a press conference on the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 hosted by Myanmar, at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Thangangywn Township, this noon.

Present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, the president and members of the Myanmar Sports Journalists Association, editors and reporters of dailies of News and Periodicals Enterprise, officials of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary of Wushu Federation Mr Kyuhei Murakoa said that the 6th Asian Wushu Championships 2004 hosted by Myanmar was the one in which the largest number of athletes participated and it was the advanced championships. Apart from the championships, the meetings of the Asian Wushu Federation and the International Wushu Federation were successfully held, he added. So, he thanked the president of MWF and officials. He asserted that Myanmar Wushu Federation made remarkable progress during the 10 years period and

Myanmar stands third with 5 gold...

Tien Dat of Vietnam, third in the men’s Changquan event.

Pyae Wai Phyoi and Aung Si Thu of Myanmar stood first; Chow Ting Yu and Chan Sui K’it of Hong Kong, second and Jia Rui and Ng Leong Chun of Macao, third in the men’s Dual event.

Hossein Jaghi of Iran stood first, Sa Tha Htay of Myanmar, second in the San Shou (men) event.

Pyae Wai Phyoi of Myanmar stood first in the Changquan, Qingshu and Gunshu events.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials presented prizes to the winners.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Council

Secretaty-1

Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets Asian Wushu Federation President Mr Li Zhijian at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.

Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay briefs on 6th Asian Wushu C’ships at the press conference. — MNA

Selected Myanmar Wushu athlete Pyae Wai Phyoi who won one gold, one silver and one bronze.

Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay briefs on 6th Asian Wushu C’ships at the press conference. — MNA

Gold medal winners Pyae Wai Phyoi and Aung Si Thu. — MNA

Myanmar together with Vietnam are runners-up of the People’s Republic of China, a super power in Asia, in the Wushu event.

Next, General Secretary of IWF Mr Wang Xiaolin explained the purpose of holding the championships.

Afterwards, President of MWF U Khin Maung Lay explained that after the 5th Asian Wushu Championships 2000, four countries including Myanmar submitted applications to AWF to gain opportunity for hosting the present championships. Myanmar got an opportunity to host the championships without objection. It is a tournament held once every four years. Due to assistance of the government, success has been achieved now. Participants from the countries and officials were satisfied with complete hospitality of the Myanmar. At present, the Asia is trying hard to add Wushu event in the 2008 World Olympic Games. So, MWF on its part plans to participate in the World Olympic Games.

Later, officials answered the queries raised by those present. — MNA

Third Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women

29 November - 1 December 2004

YANGON, MYANMAR
Construction Minister inspects Bridges of Pyapon, Twantay

YANGON, 27 Nov — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials of the Public Works arrived at the construction project of Pyapon Bridge in Ayeyawady Division this morning.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Se of the Bridge Construction Project Special Group (7) reported on the progress of construction of the bridge and future tasks. The minister attended to the needs. Later, Pyapon District Senior Engineer U Soe Myint reported on completion of road construction and maintaining them. The minister gave necessary instructions on the construction. The minister and party then inspected the construction site.

Up to now, bored piling of the five piers of the bridge has been completed. The minister and party then proceeded to the construction project of Twantay Bridge. At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Naing reported on completion of the bridge and future tasks and the minister attended to the needs.

Twantay bridge, which is built across Twantay canal in Yangon Division will link Hlinethaya Township with Twantay Township.

Urbanization tasks inspected

YANGON, 27 Nov — Col Myo Myint, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, inspected urbanization tasks being conducted by the township development affairs committees here on 27 November.

In his inspection tour of the townships in Yangon, he was accompanied by departmental officials.

In Kunchangon township, he inspected the nursery garden being worked on by the township development affairs committee, and the construction of the tar road in front of the electric power office. During his inspection, he gave instructions on timely completion of the road construction and minimizing loss and wastage. The road is being constructed at a cost of K 4.75 million funded by the State for 2004-2005 fiscal.

In Kawkhmu township, he also inspected road and bridge construction projects. The construction of Yedashe bridge and Kawchan bridge are under way at a cost of K 20,005,000 funded by the State for 2004-2005 fiscal.

He proceeded to Twantay, where he oversaw the repaving of Shwesandaw Pagoda Road, which is 1,600 feet in length.

Knowledge Bank Paper Reading Session held

YANGON, 27 Nov—The Knowledge Bank Paper Reading Session sponsored by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association took place at the Sarpay Beikman Building (second floor), of No 529/531, Merchant Street, here, at noon today.

Leader of Publishing and Discussion Working Group of MWJA U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shan) made an introductory speech.

Next, resource person Shwebo Mi Mi Giy presented paper on Sarpay-ttok-kyo-haw-hma-htun-sar-nya and resource person U Aye Cho (MA), on books part-2 published up to 1885.

After that, resource persons replied to queries raised by those present.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of MWJA U Tin Kha (Tektahin Tin Kha) spoke works of thanks.

News from the Districts

Road to Shwethalyang Buddha Image in Kyaukse put into service

KYAUSK, 20 Nov — Concrete Road to Shwethalyang reclining Buddha Image in Kyaukse was inaugurated on 21 October.

The road is 4,400 ft long and 24 ft wide. Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Tin Ohn, secretary of the district Peace and Development Association and chairman of the road construction committee formally opened the road.

Village-to-Village linking road constructed in Maubin Township

MAUBIN, 10 Nov — As part of implementation of the rural areas development tasks, Maubin Township Development Affairs Department has constructed the gravel road linking KhaNaungHtaw Village and PanTaPut Village in KyaukYwa Village-tract in the township recently.

The gravel road is three miles long and construction of the road is funded by the government during 2004-2005 fiscal year. It is expected that it will complete soon.

Knowledge banks set up in Thantlan Township

THANTLAN, 3 Nov— With the aims of disseminating general knowledge to local people, Thantlan Township Information and Public Relations Department has established libraries in the villages in the township.

Staff of the department made a field trip to Thantlan Village, Hmonlipi Village and Talan Village in the township and opened the libraries and also provided books on general knowledge.

Similarly, with the assistance of Namhkam Township Information and Public Relations Department, local people of PaukTaik Ward in Namhkam in Shan State (North) inaugurated the library on 16 October.

Namtha Township IPRD provided books on general knowledge for the library.

According to the IPRD, a total of 10,239 have been opened on self-reliant basis all over the nation, it is learnt.

Strong Quake Jolts Eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 Nov — An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale shook Nabire Town in Indonesia’s easternmost province of Papua at 11:25 local time Friday (02:25 GMT), the official Antara news agency reported.

The epicentre of the tremor is located around 17 kilometres from Nabire some 2,500 kilometres east of Jakarta, an official with the meteorology and geophysics agency was quoted as saying.

A building of state-owned cellular phone operator Indosat and several churches collapsed in the quake, but there was no immediate report on casualty.

Around eight hours earlier, another quake of 4.8 magnitude rocked the town.

China lays out timetable for arsenic poisoning control

TAIYUAN, 26 Nov— An official of Ministry of Health said on Thursday that China will provide safe drinking water and safe stoves for 500,000 people affected by arsenic poisoning by 2006.

By 2010, when the distribution map of arsenic poisoning is completed, all afflicted population will be provided safe drinking water and safe stoves, Xiao Donglou, deputy director of the ministry’s disease control department, clarified the timetable at the Water Quality and Arsenic Mitigation international conference held here. Long-term consumption of arsenic, through water or air, can lead to skin cancer and ultimately death.

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Bangladeshi customs plans crackdown on illegal cellphone sets

DHAKA, 26 Nov — The Customs Department of Bangladesh decided to crack down on different markets in Dhaka that sell smuggled and stolen cellphone sets to discourage black marketeers and boost revenue from the cell phone import.

According to the Financial Express on Thursday, the plan was set following the lowering, which found huge quantities of mobile sets are entering into the country through unofficial channels and are sold on these markets.

A high official from the National Board of Revenue official on condition of anonymity was quoted as saying that the practice of illegal import was hardly stopped, though the government has already been lowered the duty to 25 dollars from 50 dollars for each imported set from the current fiscal.

The Dhaka Customs House has issued a notice to eight markets including some biggest shopping malls in the capital city in this regard, suggesting vendors of the markets not to stockpile and sell illegally imported and stolen cellphone sets. The notice also asked the vendors to keep warranty and others necessary documents with the cell phones.

Cell phone sets without warranty will be seized and legal action will be taken against sellers of those sets, said the notice. According to some local importers, nearly one million cell phone sets are sold in Bangladesh annually with the market price of over 83.3 million US dollars.

Official importers, however, are holding only 10 per cent of the local market, while black marketeers are controlling 90 per cent, marketing executive of Electra International Ltd and official importer of Samsung cell phone sets Shahirat Raihan was quoted as saying.

Another importer who deals in Siemens sets said they welcome such a move as it will increase government revenue and users will get quality sets with a service guarantee.

Officials of different city markets, however, expressed their concern that such crackdown may harm businessmen, and suggest the Customs department should block and seize smuggled cell phones in entry points.

Ministry of Construction Public Works

Announcement of Cancellation of Quotation

1. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit, hereby gives notice of the cancellation of bid for the supply of Steel Truss for Ngahtatgone Chaung Cable Stayed Bridge Project.

2. Refund of bid bonds would be made by the Public Works, one week after this announcement of cancellation and the bidders are requested to apply for refund, together with receipts previously issued, at the Accounts Section, Road Division, Public Works, Head Office, No.60, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, within one month from the date of this announcement of cancellation.

Managing Director

Public Works

ADF to help Indian Ocean Countries stem AIDS

TUNIS, 26 Nov — The African Development Fund (ADF) has approved a grant of nine million US dollars to finance Indian Ocean Countries’ (IOC) project aiming at stemming the propagation of HIV/AIDS/STI (Sexually Transmissible Infections), according to a Press release available here Thursday.

The grant will target the migrant populations (migrant/seasonal workers, tourists, seafarers...) that move from island to island, along with the local populations with which they come into contact at ports, tourist locations and hotels.

The project will consist in raising the awareness of the subregion inhabitants of the dangers of the subregion

China holds seminar to enhance trade ties with Africa

BEIJING, 26 Nov — The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade opened a seminar on Sino-African trade ties Thursday in an effort to further trade and economic cooperation.

The two-week seminar, attended by 33 participants from 18 African countries, will focus on the cooperation between business chambers, ac-
Cyprus to crack down on software piracy

NICOSIA, 26 Nov — A Cypriot anti-piracy organization is to launch a nation-wide campaign against computer software piracy, local Press reported Thursday.

The Cyprus branch of the Business Software Alliance (BSA), a worldwide anti-piracy body, warned in a statement that all those found to have broken the patent law would be brought before a court and exposed to the penalties provided.

Cyprus’ new law on software piracy imposes heavy sentences. Violations are punishable with fines of up to 70,000 US dollars and as long as four years of imprisonment.

The same penalties apply to anyone who imports, distributes, sells, leases or promotes products or components that interfere with technological measures for the protection of software without permission from the right-holders.

According to the BSA, those falling within the net of illegality are defined as “anyone who knowingly produces, rents, sells, advertises the sale or rental or offers the sale or rental, or distributes or has in his possession unauthorized copies of software”.

Under increasing pressure from the United States and as a new member of the European Union, Cyprus has extended protection to databases and has introduced detailed provisions against the unauthorized reproduction or rental of software.

Meanwhile, piracy in Cyprus has spread way beyond the software industry. Local distributors of cinematographic DVDs said piracy in Cyprus’ film industry was reaching a crisis.

According to reports, thousands of pirate music CDs, DVDs and games are floating around Cyprus. Last year alone, police confiscated over 70,000 pirate DVDs. The country is losing around six million US dollars a year due to piracy in the film industry.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says Filipinos love soft drink’s most

MANILA, 26 Nov — Filipinos love carbonated soft drinks the most, compared to other food items, according to a recent study.

Even among the poor who can barely afford anything else, soft drinks are the number-one food item ahead of cereals, meat or pasta, the Philippine Star quoted Cid Teresa, an economist with the Manila-based University of Asia and the Pacific as saying.

A study by Terosa and Social Affairs Nguyen Thi Hang as saying. Teresa said piracy in Cyprus’ world’s eighth-largest market of the soft drinks. Each bottle sells for about 14 US cents. Two poorest segments of the Philippine population consume a staggering 86 per cent of soft drinks sold in the country, Teresa said. However, softdrinks are also the top retail food item at the economically well-off classes, he added.

Filipino households spend between 50 and 60 per cent of their incomes on controls and beverage, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s poverty rate falls

HANOI, 26 Nov — Under 9 per cent of households in Vietnam are now poor, and the figure will drop to below 7 per cent next year, local newspaper Youth on Thursday quoted Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Nguyen Thi Hang as saying.

Initially, Vietnam set a target of reducing the percentage of its poor households to under 10 per cent in 2005, she noted.

The country’s poverty rate fell to 10.8 per cent in 2003, down from 37 per cent in 1998 and 58 per cent in 1993. Fuelled by the faster-than-expected poverty reduction pace, Vietnam plans to adjust the country’s poverty criterion at around 240,000 Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 15.3 US dollars) per month for urban dwellers and 180,000 VND (11.4 dollars) for rural residents, instead of 100,000 VND (6.5 dollars) and 150,000 VND (9.5 dollars) as it does currently.

If the new criteria are applied, up to 26 per cent of local households will be considered poor in 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

More cannabis being smoked in EU than before

BRUSSELS, 26 Nov — More cannabis is being smoked in the European Union than ever before, with three million daily users in the 25-nation bloc, but consumption may have reached its peak, new figures showed on Thursday.

Fifteen per cent of 15-16 year old EU school students are heavy cannabis users, with young men twice as likely to sample the drug as likely women, said a report by the European drug watchdog body.

“This is a very important public health issue that requires urgent attention,” Paul Griffiths, Programme Co-ordinator of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), told a news conference.

The annual report comes amid EMCDDA fears about a stronger version of cannabis now on the market which can cause panic attacks, and concern about “severe” drug problems in the new EU countries which joined the bloc in May this year.

Prolonged and heavy cannabis use can lead to depression and aggravate pre-existing mental health problems, Griffiths said.

MNA/Reuters

100 kilos of cocaine seized in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 26 Nov — Argentine police seized 100 kilos of cocaine and arrested three suspected drug traffickers Wednesday in the northern province of Salta, authorities said.

The suspects were nabbed along Route 34, which links Argentina and neighbouring Bolivia.

In another development, police confiscated 2,000 kilos of marijuana in the northwestern Misiones Province. Three suspects were arrested in the operation. Authorities said 1,100 kilos of cannabis and 27 tons of marijuana have been confiscated so far this year.

MNA/Xinhua
Juventus doctor found guilty of sporting fraud

TURIN (Italy), 27 Nov—Juventus doctor Ricardo Agricola was found guilty of sporting fraud and given a 22-month prison sentence on Friday after a trial investigating doping at Italy’s most successful soccer club.

Club chief executive Antonio Giradino was found not guilty. Agricola was also ordered to pay a 2,000-euro (2,600-US-dollar) fine. Defense lawyer Paolo Trofino told reporters the judge had found Agricola guilty of administering the banned blood-booster EPO.

“He was condemned for what was the weak point of the prosecution’s charges, the administration of EPO,” said Trofino.

“It is a sentence that will be difficult to get through appeal,” he said, confirming the defense intended to appeal.

The trial looked at Juve’s medical practices between 1994 and 1998, a period when they won three Italian titles and also the 1996 European Cup.

It is unlikely that Agricola will have to serve time in prison because, in Italy, first offences are often suspended.

“We are very satisfied about Giradino but there is a little bitterness for Agricola,” Trofino said.


“This is what I expected,” Guariniello said after the verdict. “It is only the first step.”

Mourinho has no plans to sign another striker

HARLINGTON (England), 27 Nov—Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has no plans to sign another striker though he admires the talent of Tottenham Hotspur’s Jermaine Defoe.

The Portuguese coach said stories in British newspapers on Friday that Defoe would move to the wealthy London club in the January transfer window were completely untrue.

“It’s not because I don’t like the player. He is a very good young player but we are not interested.” Mourinho told a news conference after final training for Saturday’s Premier League match at Charlton.

Dozens of players have been linked with moves to league leaders Chelsea over the last few months because of the buying power of billionaire Russian owner Roman Abramovich.

Mourinho has said he wants to keep his first-team squad to a maximum of 24 players.

His striker problems should also begin to ease with the return of Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba, who made his first appearance for six weeks when he played for half an hour of Wednesday’s Champions League goalless draw with Paris St. German.—MNA/Reuters

Brazilian Champion Santos get three-match ban

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Nov—Brazilian championship title contenders Santos have had their latest home ban extended to three matches and will not play any more games in their Vila Belmiro stadium this year.

Santos had appealed against a one-match ban, their third of the championship, after their fans threw coins and firecrackers onto the field during a home match against Corinthians in October.

Instead, Brazil’s sports disciplinary tribunal extended the ban and increased the original fine of 50,000 Reais (13,333 US dollars) to 80,000 Reais (21,333 US dollars).

Santos, winners in 2002, are two points behind leaders Atletico Paranaense with four matches each to play.

Santos are one of several clubs who have been hit by bans in an attempt to clamp down on rampant missile-throwing at Brazilian stadiums.

Atletico Mineiro, Juventude, Gremio and Atletico Paranaense have also been handed home bans. Gremio were also banned from using their first-choice alternative venue in Pelotas which was itself the scene of missile-throwing.

Wenger warns Arsenal not to discount Liverpool

LONDON, 27 Nov—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has warned his team not to discount Liverpool from the title race even though they trail leaders Chelsea by 13 points with a third of the season over.

Champions Arsenal, two points adrift of Chelsea, visit Anfield on Sunday and Wenger told reporters: “At the moment Liverpool are having a patch when they are certainly not at their best. It’s down to us to take advantage.

“They play with a strong midfield, Liverpool. They are often suspended. It’s a big game on Sunday, it’s always a key game for us and it looks like it can be again. It could have a big impact on the season of both teams.”

Arsenal won 2-1 at Anfield last season and Wenger knows the midfield showdown between Patrick Vieira and Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard, the two respective team captains, could decide Sunday’s match.

Both players have returned after injury and Wenger believes Vieira is now back to his best.

“I have had conversations with Patrick and he is really highly committed and motivated,” Wenger said.

“In the last two games he has been back to his normal level. He struggled for a few weeks because he had an ankle problem.

“I rate Steven Gerrard highly, he is a great player as well, at the level of Patrick. I rate him like Patrick as one of the best midfielders in the world.

“They play with a strong midfield. They have Xabi Alonso, Gerrard, Hamann, it’s an area they concentrate on so the way we play in the middle of the park will have a big influence on the game.”

Real Zaragoza’s David Villa (L) controls the ball near Deportivo La Coruna’s Mauro Silva. Liverpool, facing a crippling striker shortage, were reported to have made an approach to Spanish club Zaragoza for striker Villa.—INTERNET

Bayer Leverkusen’s Brazilian defender Juan Silveira dos Santos (L) vies with Real Madrid’s Brazilian Ronaldo (R) during their Champions League clash at Santiago Bernabeau stadium in Madrid.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Situated above (6)
4 e.g. a Eucalyptus (3,4)
8 Whim
9 Porter’s room
10 Zodiac sign
11 Hundred runs
13 Second-hand
15 Extravagant
17 Angler’s maggot
20 Overt
22 N.Y. Airport
24 Strap
26 Precise
27 Audition
28 Scorn
29 Woodlen fabric

DOWN
1 Discourteous
2 Musician
3 Destructive
4 European country
5 Fruit
6 Our debt (anag.)
7 Each
12 Border
14 Having footwear
18 Competitor
19 Affianced
21 Large snake
22 Press into dough
23 Something over
25 Shade of green

MNA/Reuters
Australia’s refusal will not hurt ties with ASEAN

Canberra, 27 Nov — Australia’s refusal to sign a regional non-aggression treaty would not hurt its push to increase ties with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Prime Minister John Howard said on Friday.

Howard will become the first Australian Prime Minister to attend an ASEAN meeting when he travels to Laos next week for a summit that will kickstart negotiations on a free trade deal between the 10 members of ASEAN and Australia and New Zealand.

Howard, who has upset some regional leaders with his policy supporting pre-emptive strikes on terror groups in other countries, said he had not formally asked to sign ASEAN’s Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).

“It is not the sort of treaty that we being a non-ASEAN country would sign,” Howard told Australian radio.

Nepal to host regional meeting on telecom strategies

Kathmandu, 27 Nov — Telecommunicational and hydrometeorological experts from seven countries will meet here to discuss regional telecom strategies from November 29 to December 1.

About 25 experts from China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the United States will discuss the data management and dissemination of regional flood information for the establishment of a regional flood information system in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region, the Information Centre for Integrated Mountain Development said here on Friday.

The three-day discussions aim to establish an agreed regional telecom strategy that will be presented at a secretory level meeting, along with recommendations for a testing phase planned in the year 2005.

The outcome of the meeting will provide important information for the technical realization of a regional information system.

China hopes to solve South Korea’s nuclear issue with IAEA

Vienna, 27 Nov — China hopes that South Korea will continue to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in providing speedily relevant information concerning its nuclear activities so as to bring about an early solution to the issue within the framework of the agency, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Thursday.

The Chinese delegation believes that the return on South Korea’s nuclear issue released by IAEA’s Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei provides a large amount of facts and information, said Zhang Yan, permanent representative of China to the UN and other international organizations in Vienna, at the IAEA’s Board of Governors meeting.

“The report enables us to understand more accurately and comprehensively the nature and scope of South Korea’s nuclear activities and their impact,” Zhang said.

Although the quantities of nuclear materials involved in South Korea’s laboratory activities of enrichment and plutonium separation have not been significant, yet South Korea failed to report the activities in a timely manner, he said.

This is a matter that causes serious concerns.”

But South Korea, he said, has taken corrective actions, and adopted an attitude of full cooperation in assisting the IAEA’s investigation.

WEATHER

Saturday, 27 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kayin State and Mandalay Division and weather and have been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Moock (0.04) inch. Night temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Shan and Mon States, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mandalay, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Kayin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (6°C), Putao (8°C) and Mindat (9°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-11-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 27-11-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 27-11-2004 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 27-11-2004 was (5.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport. Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 112.28 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.68 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from East at (09.00) hours MST on 27-11-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over South Andaman Sea is located on Andaman Sea and is generaly cloudy to cloudy in Andaman Sea and generally fair the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-11-2004: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Motama and join and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Sea will be slight else where in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-11-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Final rites for Myingyan Sayadaw

YANGON, 27 Nov — The final rites for the Myingyan Sayadaw were held in the Sport Grounds of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon East District, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Patihindabhihamsa, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives AWF President and party

YANGON, 27 Nov — Chairman of National Olympic Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein received President of Asian Wushu Federation Mr Li Zhijian and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint (See page 10)

Myanmar stands third with 5 gold, 8 silver and 9 bronze in Asian Wushu Championships

YANGON, 27 Nov — The 6th Asian Wushu Championships successfully concluded at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thawunna, Thingan-gyun Township, here, this morning.

The People’s Republic of China team emerged champion with 21 gold, two silver and one bronze; Vietnam stood second with five gold, ten silver and 15 bronze; and Myanmar, third with five gold, eight silver and nine bronze.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, MOC member Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Minister of Sports of the PRC Mr Li Zhijian, officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of Panel of Leading Patrons for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, officials of International Wushu Federation and Asia Wushu Federation, the President of Myanmar Wushu Federation and officials.

After the morning events, Swe Swe Thant of Myanmar stood first; Huang Yan Hui of Macao, second; and Nguyen Thi Ngoc Oanh of Vietnam, third in the Women’s Nanguan Combine event.

Ho Ro Bin of Malaysia stood first; Zaw Zaw Moe of Myanmar second and Le Quang Huy of Vietnam third in the Men’s Nanguan Combine event.

In the women’s nangun event, Huang Yan Hui of Macao stood first; Swe Swe Thant of Myanmar second and Sachiko Takeda of Japan third. In the men’s nandao event, Ho Ro Bin of Malaysia won the first prize, Zaw Zaw Moe of Myanmar second and Le Quang Huy of Vietnam third.

Nguyen Thi My Duc of Vietnam stood first; Han Jing of Macao, second; and Dan Thanh Huan of Vietnam, third in the women’s Changquan event.

After the evening events, Pyae Wai Phyo of Myanmar stood first; Arvin Ting of the Philippines, second; and Nguyen (See page 10)

Gold medal winner Swe Swe Thant in Nangquan, Nangun and Nandao combined event seen with Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and MWF President U Khin Maung Lay. — NLM