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

**Four economic objectives**
- Development of agriculture as the base and 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
**Second ASEAN+ China and Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting held**

November 2002 and the 1st **ASEAN+China Senior Transport Officials Meeting** held in September 2002, reports of ASEAN Secretariat, draft of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Transport cooperation between China and ASEAN, exchange of views on future tasks, three projects to be implemented under the **ASEAN+China transport cooperation programme** and agenda for the 2nd **ASEAN+China Transport Ministers Meeting**.

Next, 2nd ASEAN and Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting was held at the same venue in the after-

**Preserve and safeguard progress already achieved**

A mass rally in support of the seven-point future policy programme of the State was held at the sports ground in the Bagan Archaeology Zone on the morning of 21 October. At the mass rally, representatives of national races from all the states and divisions across the Union of Myanmar enthusiastically and unanimously approved the two resolutions — the one calling on all the national people to actively and enthusiastically participate with full Union Spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State and the other to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the Union races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved.

Moreover, the mass rally announced the Bagan Declaration in which the goals of the people — the perpetuation of the Union, the unity of the national races, the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation and the building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy — are embodied.

Mr Guo-Mei Tang holds discussions at the Second ASEAN + China Senior Transport Officials Meeting. — mna

Ms Guo-Mei Tang holds discussions at the Second ASEAN + Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting. — mna

Mr Mitsuo Nakamoto holds discussions at the Second ASEAN + Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting. — mna

U Mya Sein, Chairman of the mass rally, said, in his address, that our national goal — the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation — called for the cooperation between the entire national people and the Government and it was a process that should be systematically and gradually implemented in the right way.

The State Peace and Development Council has been trying as well as it can to bring about peace, prosperity and development — prerequisite for the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation. Moreover, it has been implementing political, economic and social objectives in the interest of national unity and Union Spirit, sine qua non for the perpetuation of the Union.

Due to the efforts of the Government, the plans for national economic development, social development and technological development are shaping up nicely. It is also because of the united strength of national forces and public participation that the Government has been able to put the nation on the right path to development.

We would like to call upon all the entire national people to ward off all the destructive acts that can impede the momentum of development and to preserve and safeguard the progress already achieved.

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Thursday, 23 October, 2003**

**Yangon, 22 Oct.** — The second **ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting** was held at Sedona Hotel this morning.

Present were senior officials of member of ASEAN nations Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and delegates. Officials of **ASEAN Secretariat** and delegates of senior transport officials of the People’s Republic of China and delegates.

Leader of Myanmar delegation Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung presided over the meeting and leader of delegation from the PRC Ms Guo-Mei Tang acted as joint chairman.

Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung spoke on the occasion. He said he would like to report on some salient points regarding the initial part of **ASEAN-China co-operation**.

In the 5th **ASEAN+China summit** on 16th November 2001, Brunei Darussalam, the leaders identified agriculture, information technology, human resources development, investment and Mekong River Basin Development as five priority areas for cooperation between **ASEAN and China**. Moreover, the **ASEAN and Chinese leaders** decided to convene a meeting of **ASEAN and Chinese Transport Ministers**.

Mr Guo-Mei Tang acted as joint chairman.

He said the ministers agreed to pursue collaboratively activities in land transport infrastructure, facilitation of maritime and river transport, and the expansion of air transport services. Senior officials are to implement mutually beneficial programmes of **ASEAN+China Transport cooperation programme** and activities.

First **ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting** decided to build and integrate transport network for smooth and speedy movement of goods and peoples as a supporting infrastructure to a free trade area between **ASEAN and China**, he said.

He said the ministers agreed to mutually participate with full Union Spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State and for the Union races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved.

Moreover, the mass rally announced the Bagan Declaration in which the goals of the people — the perpetuation of the Union, the unity of the national races, the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation — called for the cooperation between the entire national people and the Government and it was a process that should be systematically and gradually implemented in the right way.

The State Peace and Development Council has been trying as well as it can to bring about peace, prosperity and development — prerequisite for the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation. Moreover, it has been implementing political, economic and social objectives in the interest of national unity and Union Spirit, sine qua non for the perpetuation of the Union.

Due to the efforts of the Government, the plans for national economic development, social development and technological development are shaping up nicely. It is also because of the united strength of national forces and public participation that the Government has been able to put the nation on the right path to development.

We would like to call upon all the entire national people to ward off all the destructive acts that can impede the momentum of development and to preserve and safeguard the progress already achieved.

**Yangon, 22 Oct.** — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force on 20 September seized 0.215 kilo of heroin packed in 17 soap cans from a house of Daw Ma Aye, Ward-10, Takwin Village, in Hophon, Mohinnyin Township and arrested her. In connection with the case, the authorities also held Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan, owner of the drug. Similarly, the local authorities on 28 September searched the house of U Makhaw Gan in Thayagon Village, Seikimu Village-tract, Phakant Township and arrested the house owner and his wife Daw Lu Ywe together with 0.411 kilo of heroin packed in 31 soap boxes and 5.715 kilos of morphine.

Action was taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned. — mna

**Heroin, opium seized in Hopin, Phakant**

Daw Ma Aye and Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan with seized heroin on 20-9-2003 in Hopang. — mna

Daw Ma Aye and Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan with seized heroin on 20-9-2003 in Hopang. — mna

**The State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the Union races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved. Moreover, the mass rally announced the Bagan Declaration in which the goals of the people — the perpetuation of the Union, the unity of the national races, the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation and the building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy — are embodied.**

U Makhaw Gan and Daw Lu Ywe with seized narcotic drugs on 26-9-2003 in Phakant. — mna

**Yangon, 22 Oct.** — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force on 20 September seized 0.215 kilo of heroin packed in 17 soap cans from a house of Daw Ma Aye, Ward-10, Takwin Village, in Hophon, Mohinnyin Township and arrested her. In connection with the case, the authorities also held Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan, owner of the drug. Similarly, the local authorities on 28 September searched the house of U Makhaw Gan in Thayagon Village, Seikimu Village-tract, Phakant Township and arrested the house owner and his wife Daw Lu Ywe together with 0.411 kilo of heroin packed in 31 soap boxes and 5.715 kilos of morphine.

Action was taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned. — mna

**Heroin, opium seized in Hopin, Phakant**

Daw Ma Aye and Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan with seized heroin on 20-9-2003 in Hopang. — mna

Daw Ma Aye and Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan with seized heroin on 20-9-2003 in Hopang. — mna

**The State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the Union races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved. Moreover, the mass rally announced the Bagan Declaration in which the goals of the people — the perpetuation of the Union, the unity of the national races, the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation and the building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy — are embodied.**

U Makhaw Gan and Daw Lu Ywe with seized narcotic drugs on 26-9-2003 in Phakant. — mna

**Yangon, 22 Oct.** — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force on 20 September seized 0.215 kilo of heroin packed in 17 soap cans from a house of Daw Ma Aye, Ward-10, Takwin Village, in Hophon, Mohinnyin Township and arrested her. In connection with the case, the authorities also held Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan, owner of the drug. Similarly, the local authorities on 28 September searched the house of U Makhaw Gan in Thayagon Village, Seikimu Village-tract, Phakant Township and arrested the house owner and his wife Daw Lu Ywe together with 0.411 kilo of heroin packed in 31 soap boxes and 5.715 kilos of morphine.

Action was taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned. — mna

**Heroin, opium seized in Hopin, Phakant**

Daw Ma Aye and Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan with seized heroin on 20-9-2003 in Hopang. — mna
Some US troops don’t return to Iraq at end of R&R programme

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—More than a dozen American troops haven’t returned to duty after getting a vacation from Iraq, the Pentagon said Tuesday, dismissing suggestions there is any significant AWOL problem.

Sixteen of some 3,000 troops failed to show up at airports in Baltimore and Germany for return flights to the Persian Gulf region, said Army spokes-

man Joe Buhlas. None has been de-

clared “absent without leave” as offi-

cials try to sort out the cases.

To give troops some relief from the long and difficult deployments in Iraq and neighboring countries, the Pentagon late last month started giving two-week leaves in the largest R&R programme since the Vietnam War. Some flew to Germany and others to Baltimore free of charge, and they were responsible for flights the rest of the way to their destina-

tion. In the first five days of return flights starting on 12 Oct, 28 people didn’t show up, Buhlas said. After tracking them down, it was learned that 20 had permission or some reason. The other eight were unac-

counted for, as were eight who also missed

Some of the problem was a result of

the newness of the program Buhlas said, adding that numbers kept chang-
ing Tuesday and it was impossible to gauge the size of the problem.

Officials found some had received

an extension on their leave from their unit commander at home rather than their commander in Iraq, or had in-

formed commanders they’d be delayed but failed to phone proper officials at the airports, and so on, Buhlas said. “The vast majority ... have already been tracked back to guys who missed planes, missed connections — one man’s house burned down,” said Ma-

rine General Peter Pace, vice chairman, of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “So there are reasons why they didn’t return.”

A statement from the US Central Command called the number minuscule.

Lower-level European turnout for Iraq donor meet

MADRID, 22 Oct—Many European countries will send lower-level delegations to a donors’ conference on Iraq this week compared to the high-powered US team, reflecting persistent European scepticism over the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Treasury Secretary John Snow will lead the US delegation to the Madrid conference on Thursday and Friday.

Spain hopes the gathering will send a strong signal of international support for Baghdad and raise a substantial sum towards the estimated 56 billion US dollars needed to rebuild Iraq.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, World Bank Presi-

dent James Wolfensohn and Spanish Prime Minister Jose

Maria Aznar will also take part, a Spanish official said.

But Powell will see few other officials of equal rank when he surveys officials assembled around the conference table.

Spain, Italy, Japan — all supporters of US policy on Iraq — will send foreign ministers to the Madrid confer-

ence. But prominent European statesmen such as German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, France’s Dominique de Villepin or Britain’s Jack Straw will be notable by their absence.

Britain, Washington’s closest ally during the war, is sending International Development Minister Hilary Benn. Paris and Berlin, opponents of the Iraq war, are signal-

ling the low priority they place on the Madrid conference by sending relatively minor officials. — MNA/Reuters

Soldier reported killed in Iraq accident

US Army soldiers secure the area after a roadside bomb exploded Wednesday on 22 Oct, 2003 in a tunnel in the heart of the Iraqi capital Baghdad as a US military convoy passed by. A US Army officer said two soldiers were injured. — Internet

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan want Iraqis consent for troops

ISLAMABAD, 22 Oct—Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, two key allies in the US-led war on terror, ruled out on Sunday sending troops to Iraq without the consent of the Iraqi people.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said Iraqis had shown no desire to have foreign peacekeepers in their country.

“This express opinion from the Iraqi people has not been shown to us,” he said at a joint news conference with Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri in Islamabad.

“Up till that time at least for Saudi Arabia... we will not send any troops.”

Kasuri said Pakistan would also wait for an invitation from Iraq before making any decision to contribute to a multinational peacekeeping force authorized by a unanimously passed UN resolution on Thursday.

“If the people of Iraq ask for help, Pakistan as a brotherly country will do what it can,” he said.

“But we will wait for that to happen and when that happens, I am sure the public opinion in Pakistan will also change.”

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has faced strong opposition from the hardline Islamic groups since he threw his weight behind the US-led war on terror in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. — MNA/Reuters

Nations hope to catch up with China’s tourism development

BEIJING, 22 Oct—Participants at the World Tourism Organization (WTO) 15th General Assembly agreed they must accelerate the development of their tourism industries in order to catch up with China.

“When I first visited China in 1992, which marked the first visit China Year, the country received barely 15 million foreign tourists. Last year, just a decade after, the figure was 37 million,” said Francesco Frangialli, secretary-general of WTO.

“The trend will continue. I have mixed feelings when announcing this, but according to the WTO’s prediction, China will become the world’s number one tourism destination in 2020, overtaking my own country, France. To the Secretary of State for Tourism of France, I say, ‘You must defend yourself’.“

But China not only introduced fierce competition for visitors, but also unprecedented opportunities. — MNA/Xinhua

US anxiety over Iraq grows, says poll

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—A poll suggests Americans’ concern about Iraq continues to grow, even with many Americans agreeing with President George W Bush that news reports from Iraq are making the situation seem worse than it is.

Public support for keeping troops in Iraq until the coun-

try has stabilised slipped from 64 per cent last month to 58 per cent, according to the poll by the Pew Research Centre for the People & the Press. The percentage of poll partici-

pants that want to bring the troops home as soon as possible has grown from 32 per cent last month to 39 per cent.

But nearly four-in-10 Americans say the news media is painting too bleak a picture of Iraq. Bush has complained the news media “filter” is distorting the picture Americans are getting of Iraq. Anxiety about the nation’s job market is also increasing, with two-thirds in the poll saying jobs are hard to find in their communities, up from 59 per cent in June 2002 and 44 per cent a year before that. The poll of 1515 adults was conducted October 15-19 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. — Internet
Rights group urges US to investigate Iraqi deaths

Baghdad, 22 Oct—The US military has failed to conduct proper investigations into the killings of Iraqi civilians by its soldiers in Baghdad, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

The New York-based rights group said soldiers must be held accountable for their actions through thorough investigations in order to remove the “atmosphere of impunity” under which it said the Iraqi capital’s ocupying forces now operate.

In a new report, the group said it had confirmed the death of 20 civilians at the hands of US forces between May 1, when of Baghdad was declared major combat over, and the end of September.

The group said it had collected “credible reports” of 94 civilian deaths in Baghdad which warranted investigation. The military says it keeps no record of civilian deaths.

“It’s a tragedy that US soldiers have killed so many civilians in Baghdad”, said Joe Stork, head of Human Rights Watch’s Middle East and North Africa division.

“But it’s really incredible that the US military does not even count these deaths. Any time US forces kill an Iraqi civilian in questionable circumstances, they should investigate the incident.”

The report, “Hearts and Minds: Post-War Civilian Casualties in Iraq” says the military has not concluded only high-level investigations into suspected unlawful deaths.

Army Major Joseph Youwa, a Pentagon spokesman said: “Some unintended consequences are inevitable in any conflict, and even one innocent death is a sad fact, something we sincerely regret.” US forces went to great lengths to avoid such casualties.

Since the start of the war on March 20, between 7,395 and 9,196 Iraqi civilians are believed to have been killed through US military action, according to the independent Iraq Body Count project. — MNA/Reuters

UN report says US war on terror radicalizes Arabs

Amman, 22 Oct—The US-led war on terror has radicalized more Arabs angry both with the West and their autocratic rulers who are bent on curbing their political rights, a UN commissioned study released on Monday showed.

The Arab Human Development Report 2003 said Arab countries lagged other regions in dissemination of knowledge. Reading books was relatively limited, education dictatorship graduated submission rather than critical thought, the Arabic language was in crisis. The report, launched in Amman, blamed an absence of “effective and peaceful channels for dealing with injustices” for pushing radical political groups to seek change by violence.

Rima Khalaf Hunaidi, the top UN official behind the team of Arab intellectuals who wrote the report, said anti-Arab sentiment in the West after the September 11, 2001 attacks on US cities was a further factor radicalizing Arabs.

The UN Assistant Secretary General and regional director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Arab states said educational opportunities were further limited as an anti-Arab backlash made young Arabs retreat from studying in the United States.

Arab student numbers in the United States dropped between 1999 and 2002 by an average 30 per cent, Hunaidi added.

Arab disenchantment was deepened by automatic rulers who were given a “spurious justification for curbing freedoms on the pre-text of fighting terrorism” with Washington’s war on terror.

The report, on Arabs by Arabs, cited wider censorship - from restricting Internet access to suppressing publication of material deemed encouraging to “terrorism”.

Non-governmental groups suffered more legal and practical constraints in 2003, while progress towards women’s empowerment regressed in some countries and slightly progressed in others. — MNA/Reuters

Study shows factory employment falling worldwide

Washington, 22 Oct—Manufacturing jobs are disappearing around the world resulting from a global trend and not just in the United States, according to a report by the Wall Street Journal on Monday.

The paper said that economists at Alliance Capital Management LP in New York looked at employment trends in 20 large economies and found that more than 22 million jobs in the manufacturing sector were eliminated from 1995 to 2002, a decline of more than 11 per cent.

Contrary to conventional US beliefs, the research found that “America’s” military intervention, according to the independent Iraq Body Count project. — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi gunmen stand guard as a crowd gathers at the site of an overnight battle that left three Americans and ten Iraqis dead, in a street in Kirkush, 110 kilometres (70 miles) south of Baghdad on Friday, 17 October, 2003. The crowd scattered soon after another gun battle with US-led forces broke out in the same street. — INTERNET

Large explosion in Iraq’s Baiji region

Baghdad, 22 Oct—Witnesses in the Baiji area of northern Iraq said they heard a large explosion followed by huge clouds of black smoke late on Monday.

The witnesses said the source of the blast was not clear and they had no way of knowing the cause of the explosion.

Baiji, north of Tikrit and the scene of sabotage attacks in the past, is the site of an oil refinery that receives crude via a pipeline from Iraq’s Kirkuk oilfields.

The northern pipeline runs from Baiji to the Turkish Mediterranean coast. That export line is currently being repaired after a sabotage attack and US forces in the region have said they hope to have it pumping vital oil exports again by the end of the month. — MNA/Reuters

Orphaned Iraqi boy says he will never understand war

Beirut, 22 Oct—An Iraqi boy who lost both arms and suffered horrific injuries in a missile attack in Baghdad in March that killed 16 members of his family said on Monday he hoped to play football and become a doctor.

Ali Ismaeel Abbas, who lives in a small black sweater. He said he had learnt to Play football, and become a doctor, a

Arms before a World Award ceremony in Germany on Wednesday at which he will present Iraqi and Kuwaiti doctors with a “Men of the Year” prize. “They all put so much energy into helping me and the other wounded children.”

He said: “I want to thank the doctors who helped me,” 13-year-old Abbas said in an ARD television interview before a “World Award” ceremony in Germany on Wednesday at which he will present Iraqi and Kuwaiti doctors with a “Men of the Year” prize. “They all put so much energy into helping me and the other wounded children.”

He said as if they were taking care of their own sons.”

He said he had learnt to play his favourite video games with his feet and still hoped to be able to play foot-

ball one day. He said his idol, England’s David Beckham, had sent him an autographed

A scanned image shows the signature on a letter, purportedly written by ousted Iraq leader Saddam Hussein, which urged tribal leaders to launch a holy war against the “hated invaders”. — INTERNET

Iraq’s

US federal deficit up to a record $374.2b

Washington, 22 Oct.—The US federal budget deficit hit a record high of $374.2 billion dollars in the fiscal year of 2003 which ended on September 30, the US Govt. reported Monday.

A report from the Office of Management and Budget of the White House showed the record high of deficit resulted mainly from the increasing costs of the war in Iraq, a new round of tax cuts and economic weakness.

Providing a final accounting of the budget year of 2003, the White House said that the government deficit in the fiscal 2003 was more than double the imbalance of $157.8 billion dollars in the fiscal year of 2002. In dollar terms, the figure easily surpassed the old record of $290.4 billion dollars set in fiscal 1992.

The deficit represents 3.5 per cent of the total economic output in the United States, below the 5 per cent and 6 per cent levels hit in the 1980s during the Reagan administration.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi

Study shows factory employment falling worldwide

Washington, 22 Oct.—Manufacturing jobs are disappearing around the world resulting from a global trend and not just in the United States, according to a report by the Wall Street Journal on Monday.

The paper said that economists at Alliance Capital Management LP in New York looked at employment trends in 20 large economies and found that more than 22 million jobs in the manufacturing sector were eliminated from 1995 to 2002, a decline of more than 11 per cent.

More and more US manufacturers and congressmen are complaining that American manufacturing jobs are fleeing to low-cost Asian countries including China, at the time when US manufacturing sector has gone through 38 grueling months of declining employment. — MNA/Xinhua

Orphaned Iraqi boy says he will never understand war

Beirut, 22 Oct—An Iraqi boy who lost both arms and suffered horrific injuries in a missile attack in Baghdad in March that killed 16 members of his family said on Monday he hoped to play football and become a doctor.

Arms before a World Award ceremony in Germany on Wednesday at which he will present Iraqi and Kuwaiti doctors with a “Men of the Year” prize. "They all put so much energy into helping me and the other wounded children."

He said: "I want to thank the doctors who helped me," 13-year-old Abbas said in an ARD television interview before a “World Award” ceremony in Germany on Wednesday at which he will present Iraqi and Kuwaiti doctors with a “Men of the Year” prize. "They all put so much energy into helping me and the other wounded children."
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

An anti-tank missile is seen next to a busy street in Fallujah, Iraq, on Tuesday, 21 Oct, 2003, 35 miles (60 kms) west of Baghdad. The missile is a leftover from last Sunday, when a US Army ammunition truck was attacked in this city. —INTERNET

Government workers refusing to be searched by US forces hold a protest outside Iraq’s ministry of oil in Baghdad on 21 October, 2003. US soldiers fired above the heads of thousands of Iraqi government workers protesting on Tuesday after hearing that the Americans had detained a woman for refusing to be searched using a sniffer dog. —INTERNET

An Iraqi truck driver, centre, tries to take cover as US Army soldiers secure the area after assailants ambushed a US Army foot patrol outside Fallujah on Monday, 20 October, 2003. One American soldier and two civilians were killed and five others wounded in the second day of attacks. The patrol, from the 82nd Airborne Division, was first hit by an exploding homemade bomb, and then by small-arms fire, the military said. The driver of the white truck, above, was killed as well. —INTERNET

Soldiers of US Army 4th Infantry Division guard suspects with hands tied behind their backs during a weapon search operation in the village of Hamra, about 20km (12 miles) northeast from Tikrit, Iraq, on 22 October, 2003. US soldiers detained several suspects believed to be involved in deadly attacks on American troops and uncovered a weapons cache buried in the farming community during raids early Wednesday near Saddam Hussein’s hometown. —INTERNET

A US soldier guards an Iraqi detained in a dawn raid at a series of farms north of Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit on 22 October. Soldiers detained ten men suspected of involvement in bomb attacks against US troops. —INTERNET

An American soldier and two civilians were killed on Monday after a US Army patrol was attacked in the flashpoint Iraqi town of Fallujah. A US military spokeswoman said a roadside bomb exploded as the patrol was driving past before troops came under fire. Witnesses said two civilians were killed and five people, including a woman and a child, were wounded in the crossfire. —INTERNET
Iraqi guerillas renew attacks in Fallujah

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — US President George W. Bush’s support among older voters has dropped substantially in recent months, a front-page report in The New York Times said Sunday. Bush’s popularity has declined over all since early summer, and some recent polls showed that he lost more ground among voters of 65 and older than he did among younger Americans, the report said, quoting political strategists and analysts.

Older voters are particularly important, according to politicians, because they are much more likely to vote than younger people and because they are heavily concentrated in states that are often presidential battlegrounds, like Florida and Pennsylvania.

A New York Times/CBS News poll this month showed Bush has a 41 per cent approval rating among the 65-and-older voters, lowest among any age group, down from 44 per cent in July and 63 per cent in May. Similar trends were reported in an ABC News/Washington Post survey.

Analysts in both the Republican and the Democratic parties cited the economy, the stock market and the situation in Iraq as major factors for the slippage, along with more traditional concerns for older Americans like Medicare and the cost of prescription drugs.

“With low interest rates and a sluggish economy, they’re getting the rate of return they would have expected with the savings they have,” said Representative Robert T. Matsui, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. — MNA/Xinhua

A day in Iraq, 43 attacks on US

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct — As of Monday, 20 October, 339 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; and Ukraine, one. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 200 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures. Since the start of military operations, 1,590 US service members have died, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 337. The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: One 82nd Airborne Division soldier was killed and one was wounded in combat.

This was the same general area where a US military convoy, part of a convoy, broke down on the main road Sunday morning and came under attack. That truck and possibly two other vehicles apparently were hit by rocket-propelled grenades. Dozens of Iraqi youths danced and cheered as the vehicles went up in flames.

Iraqi guerillas renewed attacks in Fallujah on Tuesday morning and came under attack. Dozens of Iraqi youths danced and cheered as the vehicles went up in flames.

The American command was first hit by an exploding homemade bomb, then by small-arms fire, the military said. American troops then raided a nearby mosque in an apparent search for the attackers and detained three Iraqis. It could not be learned immediately whether there were any Iraqi casualties, although two civilian trucks were damaged in the action, including one left dangling on a bridge, apparently from what witnesses said was a rocket-propelled grenade strike.

The attack occurred about 20 yards from the main bridge leading into Fallujah from Baghdad, 35 miles to the east, where about 30 soldiers on foot, accompanied by five Humvees, were on patrol along the highway.

“Twas fixing my car on the other side of the street, and Americans fired in a circular motion as they tried to leave,” said Thaer Ibrahim, 30, one of the wounded Iraqis. The US command said there were no American casualties in Sunday’s attack.

In another development Sunday, Iraq’s interim leader called for an immediate mobilization of the old Iraqi army to help the harried American military. “The United States would ‘speed the process of relieving the burden on its troops’ by recalling the disbanded Iraqi military, said Iyad Allawi, current president of the Iraqi Governing Council. The idea got a cool reception from Baghdad’s US-led occupation authorities. “I don’t think there’s a vast swath of people out there who want to serve in the Iraqi army,” said a well-placed official of the occupation authority, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Americans are slowly rebuilding a new Iraqi army, having trained only 700 men but achieving this far.

Attackers killed two US soldiers and wounded a third in a clash outside the northern city of Kirkuk late Saturday. The deaths in Kirkuk brought to 103 the number of Americans killed by hostile fire since President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq. 217 of them in combat. In the attack near Kirkuk, 160 miles north of Baghdad, an American mounted patrol was ambushed by rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, 4th Infantry Division spokeswoman.

The patrol, from the 82nd Airborne Division, was first hit by an exploding homemade bomb, and then by small-arms fire, the military said. American troops then raided a nearby mosque in an apparent search for the attackers and detained three Iraqis.

“The main problem is ‘enabling the Iraqis to run their own affairs by themselves,’ Halayka said. He expressed his hope that ‘security situation in Iraq would improve’ and Iraq could regain its position on the world economic and political map. The United Nations should play an important role in helping rebuild Iraq and offer humanitarian aid to Iraqis, he stressed.

The output of packing products, such as plastic woven bags and metal barrels, was among the largest in the world, according to Han Jiaqiang, deputy president of the association. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s packing industry grows rapidly

Beijing, 22 Oct — China’s packing industry has expanded at an annual rate of 18 per cent in recent years, a national conference of Chinese packing Technologies Association (CPTA) heard Saturday in Beijing.

The Japanese economy, according to the Times, has expanded at an annual rate of 18 per cent in recent years, a national conference of Chinese packing Technologies Association (CPTA) heard Saturday in Beijing.

The output of packing products, such as plastic woven bags and metal barrels, was among the largest in the world, according to Han Jiaqiang, deputy president of the association. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi guerillas renew attacks in Fallujah

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — Despite ambushed an American foot patrol just outside Fallujah at midday Monday, killing one American and wounding five others in the second day of attacks in this anti-US hotbed west of Baghdad, the American command reported.

The attack occurred about 20 yards from the main bridge leading into Fallujah from Baghdad, 35 miles to the east, where about 30 soldiers on foot, accompanied by five Humvees, were on patrol along the highway.

“The main problem is ‘enabling the Iraqis to run their own affairs by themselves,’ Halayka said. He expressed his hope that ‘security situation in Iraq would improve’ and Iraq could regain its position on the world economic and political map. The United Nations should play an important role in helping rebuild Iraq and offer humanitarian aid to Iraqis, he stressed.

The output of packing products, such as plastic woven bags and metal barrels, was among the largest in the world, according to Han Jiaqiang, deputy president of the association. — MNA/Xinhua

Jordan reiterates importance of Iraq’s independence

AMMAN, 22 Oct — Jordan on Saturday reiterated the importance of enabling Iraqis to run their own affairs and rebuild their national institutions.

Mohammed Alha, Jordanian Prime Minister and Minister of Administrative Development, made the remarks while inaugurating a seminar organized by a UN foundation on the role of the Iraqi military in rebuilding the country.

The main problem is “enabling the Iraqis to run their own affairs by themselves,” Halayka said. He expressed his hope that “security situation in Iraq would improve” and Iraq could regain its position on the world economic and political map. The United Nations should play an important role in helping rebuild Iraq and offer humanitarian aid to Iraqis, he stressed.

Halayka’s remarks came two days after the UN Security Council adopted a unanimous vote on a sponsored draft resolution, calling for the formation of a multinational force for peacekeeping purposes in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush’s popularity among older voters slips

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — US President George W. Bush’s support among older voters has dropped substantially in recent months, a front-page report in The New York Times said Sunday.

Bush’s popularity has declined over all since early summer, and some recent polls showed that he lost more ground among voters of 65 and older than he did among younger Americans, the report said, quoting political strategists and analysts.

Older voters are particularly important, according to politicians, because they are much more likely to vote than younger people and because they are heavily concentrated in states that are often presidential battlegrounds, like Florida and Pennsylvania.

A New York Times CBS News poll this month showed Bush has a 41 per cent approval rating among the 65-and-older voters, lowest among any age group, down from 44 per cent in July and 63 per cent in May. Similar trends were reported in an ABC News/Washington Post survey.

Analysts in both the Republican and the Democratic parties cited the economy, the stock market and the situation in Iraq as major factors for the slippage, along with more traditional concerns for older Americans like Medicare and the cost of prescription drugs.

“With low interest rates and a sluggish economy, they’re getting the rate of return they would have expected with the savings they have,” said Representative Robert T. Matsui, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s packing industry grows rapidly

Beijing, 22 Oct — China’s packing industry has expanded at an annual rate of 18 per cent in recent years, a national conference of Chinese packing Technologies Association (CPTA) heard Saturday in Beijing.

The output of packing products, such as plastic woven bags and metal barrels, was among the largest in the world, according to Han Jiaqiang, deputy president of the association. — MNA/Xinhua
The duty defined by the national cause

Ketu Nila

Prime Minister of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt has already explained and declared the seven stages of the programme (roadmap) to build a future nation on 30 August 2003. They are:

(1) - Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.

(2) - After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system.

(3) - Drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

(4) - Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.

(5) - Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.

(6) - Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution.

(7) - Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw, and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

The seven stages are also the roadmap in practically and objectively implementing the political, economic and social sectors of the nation. In other words, they are the work programme to serve the interest of the State and the people based on the changes that occurred in the past, occurring at present, and will occur in the future of the process of the national policies.

The weaknesses and advantages of the historical process in fulfilling the national needs and serving the national interest are the decisive factor for the existence of the political parties and organizations, the governments and the individual leaders for the existence of national road or the national policy serving the basic interest of all the peoples and their countries of the world is the objective condition that cannot be denied or ignored.

The political sector of Myanmar had already seen the fall of the political parties and their leaders due to upholding of the doctrines that veered from the national political road, and the extreme visions of the individual leaders to place self-importance in the fore and to set up individual power.

There have been changes in the national political trend in accord with the process of the history as follows:

(1) - The conviction and the slogan during the BIA and BDA eras of the independence struggle concerning the goals of priority were — Independence first; independence second; and independence third.

(2) - During the anti-Fascist struggle, the Anti-Fascist and People’s Freedom League (APFPL) was formed as the single national political front, with the participation of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and all the political parties then existing, including the Tatmadaw, with the objective — Independence first; democracy second; and socialism third. The APFPL government that took over the State power after independence was regained laid down and followed the original national policy.

(3) - In 1958, the ruling APFPL party split into two factions — APFPL (Clean) and APFPL (Stable). When the consequences of the split were threatening the nation to face disintegration, Prime Minister U Nu of the ruling APFPL party transferred the premiership duty to the then Commander-in-Chief at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting and handed over the State duties to the Caretaker Government. After taking into account of the then political forces and the then national situation, the Caretaker Government laid down the national political line — the community peace and the rule of law first; the flourishing of democracy second; and the building of a socialist economy third. It held the free and fair parliametary democracy election in 1960, and transferred the State power to the winning party — the Pa-hta-sa — on 16 March that year.

(4) - The Pa-hta-sa was not able to lay down and practise the national policy. It was facing factional conflicts, the problem of declaring the State religion; the pro- and anti-demonstrations concerning the issue of the secession of states; the demands of some feudal lords and political parties practising extreme racial views to allow Shan State to secede from the Union after associating with the SEATO. Because of the multi-problems the Pahta-sa was facing there surfaced the danger of losing independence and the disintegration of the Union.

(5) - The Tatmadaw formed the Revolutionary Council and saved the nation from breaking up and losing independence on 2 March 1962. It laid down the national political programme of building a socialist society in the nation.

(6) - The Revolutionary Council transferred the State duties to the Burma Socialist Programme Party government in accord with the 1974 Constitution on 2 March 1974. The BSPP practised the national programme of building a socialist society in the nation.

(7) - Because of the general weaknesses and the repercussions of the changes of the socialist countries of the world, the BSPP was not able to lead the nation any more. Thus, the Tatmadaw has to take over the State duties on 18 September 1988 due to an unavoidable situation. The Tatmadaw Government laid down and practised "Our Three Main National Causes" — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — as the national policy.

The future democratic nation must be built in accord with the national policy of the present era and the constitution that has emerged guaranteeing the total democratic rights to all the national races.

Because the Tatmadaw took over the State duties on 18 September 1988 to restore the national situation that was facing deterioration in all sectors and to introduce a genuine discipline-flourishing democracy in the nation.

Soon after taking over of the State duties, the Tatmadaw government strove with might and main to ensure the rule of law, regional peace and secure and smooth transport, and to allow the private and the cooperative sectors in the task of ensuring adequate food, clothing and shelter conditions and to hold the multi-party democracy general election.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 9-10-2003

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 405,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million 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

Annan welcomes Iran’s decision to allow N-inspections

THE SIXTEENTH ASEAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFICIALS MEETING (STOM)
THE SECOND ASEAN+6 CHINA SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+CHINA)
THE SECOND ASEAN+JAPAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+JAPAN)
ATM RANGKUL
THE NINTH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM)
THE SECOND ASEAN+6 CHINA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+CHINA)
The FIRST ASEAN+JAPAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+JAPAN)
25-25 OCTOBER 2003
YANGON, MYANMAR

People’s Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as 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

Annan welcomes Iran’s decision to allow N-inspections

United Nations, 22 Oct — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Tuesday welcomed reports that Iran would allow UN nuclear inspectors unrestricted access to its nuclear facilities.

A spokesman for the Secretary-General said that the UN chief “welcomes the declaration agreed in Teheran, Iran, by the Iranian Government and visiting EU Foreign Ministers regarding the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

He encourages the Iranian authorities to further cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency to resolve all outstanding issues with the Agency.”

According to news reports from Teheran, Iranian officials had told foreign ministers from France, Germany and Britain that it would suspend uranium enrichment and allow unrestricted access for inspectors from the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog.

MNA/Xinhua

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 9-10-2003
Representatives of Bagan…

(gifts to the hosts. The representatives visited the pagodas in Bagan region.

Putting up at Thrissippaya Ward in NyaungU Township, altogether 112 representatives from Magway Division paid a visit to the pagodas in the region and contributed voluntary services and made cash donations.

USDA CEC Member U Soe Tha also visited the representatives from Magway Division at Thrissippaya Ward and cordially greeted the hosts and presented gifts to them.

The representatives from Mandalay Division lodged at Ward 5 in NyaungU. USDA Secretariat member Brig-Gen Khin Maung visited the house where the representatives from Yangon Division carried out community health care and social services for the people. They donated over 800 copies of different kinds of publication to the libraries of the villages. Altogether 100 representatives from Shan State (South), 109 from Shan State (North) and 54 from Shan State (East) lodged at Anawratha and Kyansittha wards in the town.

They also took part in the community health and social welfare services in co-operation with the local populace. In the evening, they visited the pagodas and made cash donations there. A total of 105 representatives from Ayeyawady Division lodged at Myinkapa Village in NyaungU Township and performed health care services for the children, social and educational services in the village. They presented souvenirs to the hosts.

Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit entertained the representatives with Shumawa Anyeint, the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information with the films titled “Kaung-kinhet-ka-pa-ta-pwint” and “Pan-ta-pwint-pan-sin-chin” and documenty on 19 October evening. "Achit-konway-pwar-chin” and “Chit-chin-ai-acha-me-hni” and documenty on 19 October and “Hna-lonhla-ai-ai” and “Tha-me” and documenty on 20 October. The Myanma Radio and Television and the MRTV-3 under the Ministry of Information held interview programmes with the representatives and local residents. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 22 Oct — Myanmar delegation led by U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, left here this morning for New Delhi to attend the Foreign Office Consultation to be held at the Ministry of External Affairs of India. The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Directors-General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Ambassador of the Embassy of India. Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win was accompanied by Director-General U Nyen Lynn and Director U Ye Myint of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Tong Tah Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 22 Oct — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003 will be held grandly at the Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Street here from 26 to 30 November.

On sale at the trade fair will be various kinds of textile, cosmetics, plastic ware, foodstuffs, electric and electronic appliances, household utensils, stationery, machines, sport gear and other materials.

Blood bags donated to YGH

YANGON, 22 Oct — Ko- rea International Coopera- tion Agency (KOICA) yesterday contributed 1,000 blood bags worth K 3 million to Yangon General Hospital. Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Teik Wan accepted the bags and presented certificates of honour to Ms Sook Hee Baek of KOICA. — MNA

Educational talks on IT launched in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 22 Oct — Under the joint cooperation of the Myanmar Computer Federation and the CICC of Japan, the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts’ Association launched a mobile programme for educational talks on IT at eight places in six townships of Ayeyawady Division on 21 October, and the programme will go on until 27 October.

Officials from computer associations led by Chairman of MCF U Thein Oo will give talks at six high schools and two education colleges in Danubyu, Hinthada, Yekyi, Myamgnya, Pathein and Chaungtha townships in Ayeyawady Division.

Practical demonstration will be given on the application of computer networking systems in education, health, social and economic fields. Arrangements have been made for students, teachers and computer enthusiasts to explore the Internet. Small computer dictionaries will be given to every student as well as teacher who attends the talk shows. And wellwishers — Myanmar Computer Co Ltd, Knowledge Management & Dedication C(KMD), Computer Technical Team (CTT), Geocomp Myanmar Co, Myanmar Compu Mart Co, Queen Star Co, Lucky Bird Co, and Myanmar Millenium Group (MMG) — will provide necessary equipment for installation of the Network to the six high schools and the two education colleges. Moreover, Soft Guide Co Ltd will also donate CDs on nine-grader biology and chemistry. — MNA
Blood Donors Day to be observed

Yangon, 21 October — The ceremony to observe the 27th Blood Donors Day will be held here in December.

The blood donors (50 times and above) and the blood donors who won medals for outstanding performance in social fields class I, II or III on 4 January 2003, may enlist together with blood donation certificates and national registration cards at the Central National Blood Bank of Yangon General Hospital from 9 am to 3.30 pm from 21 October to 21 November. — MNA

Commerce Minister meets guests

Yangon, 22 October — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyai Sone received Mr Jimmy Teo of JB’s Resources Pte Ltd, Singapore, and party this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tun, directors-general and managing directors of the ministry. — MNA

Maha Janaka marionette contest continues

Yangon, 22 October — The marionette contest on Maha Janaka drama of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions concluded at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening.

The contest was held from 20 to 22 October. A total of 29 troupes from 11 regions and towns competed in the contest.

A contestant competes in the boys’ singing contest (Dhammapuja song) at basic education level (aged 10-15) at the 11th MTCPAC. — MNA

MOGE holds coord meeting

MOGE, 21 October — The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy held its third four-monthly work coordination meeting for the 2003-2004 fiscal year at the meeting hall of the ministry on Pyay Road yesterday morning.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi spoke on the occasion.

Next, the minister heard progress reports on exploitation of crude oil and natural gas and gave instructions. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General of the Energy Planning Department U Soe Myint, Managing Director of the MOGE U San Lwin and officials also gave additional reports. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on more production of crude oil and natural gas for local sufficiency, fire prevention measures, and the minimizing of loss and wastage. He also laid down future plans. — MNA

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Ko Lay, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Thant Nyunt, officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of panel of leading patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff and families.

Members of the delegation Joint-Secretary of MOC Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Than Zaw and member of MOC President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

Education Ministry offers Kathina robes

Yangon, 22 October — Ministry of Education held Kathina offering ceremony at Sabinnya Monastery and consecrated the pagoda No 3129 at Bagan in Nyaung U Township.

The ministry also held the consecration ceremony of the Pagoda No 3129. At the rob offering ceremony, Minister for Education U Than Aung and officials offered robes to the monks. The minister and officials presented K 2.6 million donated by the ministry to the monks. At 11 am, the monks consecrated the pagoda. Next, the minister and officials offered robes and presented K 2.6 million to the monks and K 3 million to the trust funds of the pagoda through an official. — MNA

Sports Minister arrives back

Yangon, 22 October — The Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, after attending the fifth civil sports festival of the People’s Republic of China held at Chansa, Hunan Province, the PRC, from 18 to 22 October, arrived back here by air this afternoon.

Present at the tea party were the USDA Coordination Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, directors-general and members of panel of patrons of the mass rallies, and outstanding youths of the new generation.

The tea party, Lt-Gen Soe Win thanked those present for the successful conclusion of the mass rally for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State in the Bagan Archaeological Zone and called for their active participation with full Union Spirit in the realization of the seven-point roadmap of the State in accord with the Bagan Declaration. Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially met with them. — MNA

Dinner hosted to participants ...

Yangon, 22 October — A dinner party was hosted to participants of the mass rallies under the seven-point future policy programme of the State in accord with the Bagan Declaration at the Central National Hotel.

Chairman of the leading committee for holding the mass rallies to mark the successful conclusion of the mass rallies and outstanding youths of the new generation including the leaders of social organizations, mass rallies, and outstanding youths of the new generation attended the dinner party.

The leaders of social organizations, mass rallies, and outstanding youths of the new generation delivered speeches of thanks.

A contestant competes in the girls’ piano contest (aged 15-20) at the 11th MTCPAC. — MNA

MN

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin watches artists of Sagaing Division competing in the Maha Janaka Drama Contest. — MNA

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi addresses the third four-monthly work coordination meeting of the MOGE for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. — ENERGY
**Ever-greening Lawkananda Sanctuary Park**

*Article: Kyo Tin Hline (Myiktila)*  
*Photos: Lawkananda Sanctuary Park*

There are a variety of trees, flowering plants, and animals. The park is now the new one, and it had existed since Bagan era. The park was renovated and opened in 1999 by the forest department with the aim of creating a haven for wildlife, making it a recreation centre for the public and arousing the public awareness of the forest.

Teak, pyingadorea, paduak, thitya, ingyin and other trees grow thickly in the park that even the sunlight cannot penetrate them. Moreover, flowering plants are in full bloom. Star tortoises, endangered species, are also kept in the park. The brood of star tortoises are released to the area where they can live naturally so as to deter them from extinction.

To make the park look green and pleasant forever, arrangements have been made to grow more teak trees, mango trees, papaya plants, and other kinds of trees.

Lawkananda Sanctuary Park is the beauty of Bagan. Therefore, the park will no doubt attract not only locals but also tourists. And it will also be a great relief to all of those who pay a visit there.

Translation: KTY  
Myanma Alin: 13-10-2003  

**Heho Airport to facilitate the air transport sector**

*Article by Sein Swe Hlaing*  
*Photos by Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)*

There is no place like Inlay where boats are rowed with the legs. Heya Ywama floating market where shops are opened on boats is another attractive scene. Being a place that is fascinating the foreign tourists, Inlay Phaungdaw U Pagoda Festival of the lake-region is crowded with foreign tourists taking photos of its beautiful scenes.

Heho Airport facilitates the transport of the region complete with pleasant scenes, interesting cultural heritage, and customs of local national races.

Asia World Co Ltd started the upgrading tasks of the old airport on 27 August 2001, including extension of the 6,000-foot long runway into a 8,500-foot long one, widening of the breadth of the runway from 50 feet to 100 feet, and ringing the tarmac. A 720x300 Sq-feet apron for aircraft and a 300x50 Sq-feet airport building have also been constructed. Western part of Kyahon mountain that was included in the area of the airfield was also levelled and the 9-foot long and 5,200-foot long entrance way to the airport was extended into a 24-foot wide two-way lane. An archway with the breadth of 34 feet was also constructed. The upgrading tasks completed on 1 October 2003, allowing Fokker F-28 aeroplanes to land at the airport. Plans are under way to further extend the runway into a 10,000x200 Sq-foot one that will allow large aircraft such as Boeing and Airbus.

The air transport sector of the country has gradually improved while the number of airport has risen from 21 in 1988 to 26 now. F-28s can land at eighteen of them. Increased number of airports that can operate F-28s including Heho airport is sure to facilitate the transport of tourist places like Inlay region.

(Translation: MWT)  
Myanma Alin: 17-10-2003  

---

**Lawkananda Sanctuary Park**

*Photos by Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)*

---

**Runway of Heho Airport**

---

**The stone inscription**

---

**Young students watch a crane in the Lawkananda Sanctuary Park.**

---

**Archway of the Lawkananda Sanctuary Park.**

---

**Star tortoises kept in the Lawkananda Sanctuary Park.**
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

The 1,180 feet long Ngamin dam is situated on Ngamin Creek, 1.5 miles east of Ngamin Village in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division. It was opened on 18 July 1999. The facility was designed to irrigate 4,000 acres of farmland in Taungdwingyi Township. — PHOTO: MYANMA ALIN

The 300-foot Langkho Bridge was commissioned into service near Dahseik village in Langkho Township, southern Shan State on 11 September 2003. It is linking Langkho and Mongpan Townships on Namhsan-Monai-Tahsan motorway. — PHOTO: MNA

The liquefied petroleum gas plant of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy, in Nyaungdon, Pantanaw, Maubin region, was built with the aim of producing propane liquefied gas, butane liquefied gas, naphtha petrol and lean gas, using wood-substitute fuels for prevention of deforestation, practising thrift in electricity use, producing fuels for industrial and vehicle use and preventing air pollution. — PHOTO: MNA
Chinese, Mexican presidents pledge to further ties

BANGKOK, 22 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox, agreed in their talks on Monday to further develop the friendly ties between the two countries.

Their meeting took place here prior to the opening of the 11th Economic Leaders’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. Both leaders spoke highly of the progress in relations between the two countries and lauded the bilateral cooperation in a wide range of fields in recent years.

Hu said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to developing an all-round friendly cooperation with Mexico. He called on the two sides to join hands in fully tapping the potential of bilateral cooperation.

He noted that China, Mexico and other Asian countries have a long tradition of breast feeding, which is indispensable to the growth of babies.

China News Service

Study says sexual identity hard-wired by genetics

LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct — Sexual identity is wired into the genes, which discounts the concept that homosexuality and transgender sexuality are a choice, California researchers reported on Monday.

“Our findings may help answer an important question — why do we feel male or female?” Dr. Eric Vilain, a genetics professor at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine, said in a statement.

“Sexual identity is rooted in every person’s biology before birth and springs from a variation in our individual genome.”

His team has identified 54 genes in mice that may explain why male and female brains look and function differently.

Since the 1970s, scientists have believed that estrogen and testosterone are wholly responsible for sexually organizing the brain.

Recent evidence, however, indicates that hormones cannot explain everything about the sexual differences between male and female brains.

Published in the latest edition of the journal Molecular Brain Research, the UCLA discovery may also offer physicians an improved understanding of the brain, leading to enhanced verbal expressiveness in females. “This anatomical difference may explain why women can sometimes articulate their feelings more easily than men,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

GARDAN

Singapore aims to become regional medical service hub

SINGAPORE, 22 Oct — Singaporean Acting Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan reiterated on Monday that Singapore is determined to become a medical service hub for the region.

Khaw said that last year, more than 200,000 foreigners came to Singapore for medical services. “But our dream was much more ambitious. With 500 million people in Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations), just 10 per cent alone would be a sizeable volume for our healthcare sector,” he said.

The minister made the remarks at the launch of Singapore’s 50th year and its 11th Economic Development Board, which together with the nation’s 12th Five-Year Plan, is expected to propel the city-state into one of Asia’s most developed healthcare systems.

The minister reiterated on Monday that Singapore is determined to become a regional medical service hub, which will attract physicians from around the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Cover Story

Blair rests after heart scare

LONDON, 22 Oct — Brit- ish Prime Minister Tony Blair scaled back his workload on Monday after requiring five hours of hospital treatment including electric shocks to regulate heart pal- pitations over the weekend, in the first health scare of his premiership.

The 50-year-old Blair — who has had the toughest year of his six-year rule in the Iraq war and its difficult aftermath — was sending Foreign Minister Jack Straw in his place to report to a European Union meeting to Parliament. — MNA/Reuters

Us doctors say Egyptian twins improving

DALLAS, 22 Oct — One week after doctors separated two-year-old Egyptian twins conjoined at the crown of the head, one of the boys has taken a full recovery from a mechanical ventilator and their condition may soon be upgraded from critical to guarded, doctors said on Sunday.

Dr James Thomas, director of critical care at Children’s Medical Centre in Dallas where Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim were separated last Sunday, said Mohamed was taken off a ventilator that had helped him to breathe and his brother may be removed from the apparatus on Monday.

“If Ahmed continues to improve, he may be ready to come off the ventilator tomorrow,” Thomas said. “Once each twin is breathing on his own without respiratory distress, his condition may be upgraded from critical to guarded.”

MNA/Reuters

claims day notice

MV “FAREAST EXPRESS” VOY NO (100)

Consigee of cargo carried on MV “FAREAST EXPRESS” Voy No (100) which will arrive on 22-10-2003 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MNA/Reuters

claims day notice

MV “MAS SUTRA” VOY NO (045)

Consigee of cargo carried on MV MAS SUTRA Voy No (045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-10-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MNA/Reuters
China, US launch cooperation in fighting “AIDS”


Describing HIV/AIDS as “a very urgent public health issue” in China, US CDC director Julie Gerberding said the program would provide information and expertise to assist China.

China’s Health Ministry estimated that at least one million Chinese are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The annual rate of the increase of HIV carriers has averaged 30 per cent in recent years.

Medical experts warned the number of HIV carriers could soar to 10 million by 2010 if no effective measures are taken to control the disease now.

“The biggest challenge we’re facing is how to prevent the disease from transmitting to the general public from high-risk people such as prostitutes,” said Li Liming, director of the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“China would ‘honour its commitment to take transparent and open-minded measures’ to address the problem, and to conduct swift international cooperation,” he said.

“China has learned many lessons from the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, and one of them is international cooperation,” he said.

The office will work with the Chinese CDC to strengthen national and local surveillance systems of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. It also aims to develop basic care and treatment models for China’s vast rural areas.

Uganda gets $71m from Global Fund for “AIDS” medicine

KAMPALA, 22 Oct — Uganda has got 71.96 million US dollars from the Global Fund to buy anti-retrovirals for three years, reported local daily The Monitor on Monday.

Uganda is the biggest beneficiary from this round of grants released by the Global Fund after a two-day meeting in Chiang Mai in Thailand.

US Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson said a total of 623 million dollars has been given out to 125 countries.

Thompson said that 60 per cent of the money will be used to scale up ART, but the government must be fully aware that the forum aimed to explore creative new ways of running China’s radio industry and offer an international platform for discussing radio development.

During the forum, participants from the Asia-Pacific Radio Development Forum, the European Broadcasting Union, the United States, Singapore and Taiwan will exchange views on future trends of the radio industry, radio station operation, the building of brands and the promotion of new radio technologies.

Japan, Europe to strengthen cooperation in UN

The Asia-Pacific region is either different in history, culture, traditional, political system, and economic model, or there are some problems there might be through dialogue and consultation in a joint effort to maintain peace and stability in the region.

The Asia-Pacific is a region of rich diversity. Countries are different in history, culture, traditional, political system, and economic model, or there are some problems that might be through dialogue and consultation in a joint effort to maintain peace and stability in the region.

The Chinese President Hu Jintao urged here Monday that the Asia-Pacific region should speed up interregional cooperation and promote economic regional integration.

In a press release, the London-based organization said the service would help industries make the right decisions on what they will do to prevent and control the spread of the disease.

Working closely with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the FCO drew up the scheme to meet the needs of industry for up-to-date information on which countries they do business with.

British Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs Mike O’Brien said that the service would help businesses operating around the world in the fight against terrorism and other non-traditional threats.

Security is now an integral part of every business day for the largest companies and this trend is spreading to smaller ones and must continue quickly, Digby said.

UK, a joint operation of the Departments of Trade and Industry, the Foreign Office, will work alongside business representatives, ensuring that government remains responsive to the needs of companies who work abroad, he said.

“Security is now an integral part of every business day for the largest companies and this trend is spreading to smaller ones and must continue quickly,” Digby said.

Russian spacecraft docks with “ISS”

Moscow, 22 Oct — The Russian Soyuz TMA-3 spacecraft carrying a three-member crew docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on Monday, two days after blasting off from the Russian Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The docking took place automatically as planned at 11:16 a.m. Moscow time (0716 GMT), the TASS news agency reported. Aboard the spacecraft are Russian astronaut Alexander Kaleri, NASA astronaut Michael Foale and Spanish astronaut Pedro Duque from the European Space Agency (ESA).
Ferguson lands two-match ban and fine

**LONDON**, 22 Oct—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was banned from the touchline for two matches and fined £10,000 pounds (16,770 dollars) by the English Football Association on Monday for abusing a match official.

The punishment related to comments directed at the fourth official by Ferguson during the English championship’s 2-1 Premier League win at Newcastle United on August 23.

The FA found Ferguson guilty of improper conduct and using insulting language at a lengthy disciplinary hearing attended by Ferguson in Manchester on Monday.

The start date of the ban is still to be confirmed, the FA said in a statement.

Ferguson was sent from the dugout by referee Uriah Rennie after complaining that a penalty was not awarded after a challenge by Newcastle’s Andy O’Brien on widener Ryan Giggs during the game.

The 61-year-old Scot appeared to swear at fourth official Jeff Winter on his way out of the dugout. Ferguson watched the rest of the match from Newcastle manager Bobby Robson’s office.

Zaccheroni ready to turn Inter Milan around

**ROUX**, 22 Oct—Alberto Zaccheroni has spoken of his enthusiasm for his new job after replacing Hector Cuper as coach of Inter Milan at the weekend.

“I’m perfectly in tune with the environment at the club and with the ambitions of (Inter president Massimo) Moratti,” Zaccheroni was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Monday.

“We’ve got a competitive squad at my disposal. It was an offer I couldn’t refuse.”

Argentine Cuper was sacked on Sunday, the day after a 2-2 draw with Brescia left Inter in eighth place in Serie A, seven points behind leaders Juventus.

His 50-year-old successor, known in Italy as “Zac”, had been out of work since being sacked by Lazio at the end of the 2001-2002 season but can expect a cool reception from Inter fans.

Inter were 14-9-9-99 season he enjoyed his greatest success when he steered Inter’s city rivals AC Milan to the Serie A title.

Three years later he masterminded Inter’s most painful defeat of recent years when, as coach of Lazio, he beat Hector Cuper’s side 4-3 on the last day of the 2001-2002 season to dash Inter’s hopes of winning their first scudetto since 1989.

It was a blow from which Cuper never recovered and that opened a permanent inquest into his leadership of the club, especially following the bitter defection of Italian World Footballer of the Year Ronaldinho to Real Madrid at the start of the following season.

The Brazilian striker cited personal differences with Cuper as the main reason for his departure.

After Inter’s 3-1 defeat in the Milan derby two weeks ago, Zaccheroni’s name circulat- ed in Italy’s sports Press as a possible successor to Cuper, though Lazio coach Roberto Mancini was rumoured to be Moratti’s preferred choice.

South American soccer round-up

**RED DE JANEIRO**, 22 Oct—Uruguay’s Clausura championship leaders Penarol lost their unbeaten record to lowly Tacuarembo thanks to goals from Roberto Raveglia and Horacio Erpen. Atletico Nacional booked a place in the semi-finals phase of the Colombian championship by edging out Tulua in a closely-fought 1-0 win but the football calendar was suspended in Bolivia due to social and political upheavals.

**URUGUAY**

Second-half goals from Raveglia and Argentine Erpen gave Tacuarembo a surprise 2-0 win over Clausura leaders Penarol.

Penarol were constantly troubled by the fast-moving two central figures for Defensor Sport—Hernandez and Musrri. It was part and parcel of the game, but the officials were too strict and Musrri. It was part and parcel of the game, but the officials were too strict. Penarol went on to lead 7-0 after a contentious penalty by Robinson Munoz.

Penarol were constantly troubled by the fast-moving Hernandez and Musrri. It was part and parcel of the game, but the officials were too strict and Musrri. It was part and parcel of the game, but the officials were too strict.

**COLOMBIA**

Freddy Grisales and Faustino Asprilla were the two central figures for Atletico Nacional who edged out Tulua 1-0 thanks to a penalty by Robinson Munoz.

Asprilla was in inspired form, and Grisales was equally effective for Nacional as the team secured their place in the semi-final phase of the Colombian championship. Carlos Hernandez gave away the penalty after handling the ball in the Tulua area.

Clinical finishing helped Tolima to a 3-0 win over Millonarios, putting the club within reach of a semi-final place. Atlety Dinosa opened the scoring with a header and Millonarios’ late was sealed when central defender Oscar Julian Ruiz was dismissed for dissent.

**CHILE**

Universidad de Chile wiped out a 2-0 deficit to draw with Concepcion in a match where both sides had a player sent off. Concepcion’s playmaker Jorge Valdivia was sent off after seven minutes when he retaliated to Luis Munir’s lingering challenge by elbowing the Universidad de Chile captain in the face. The blow left Munir with a bloodied face, but Valdivia played down the incident.

“There may have been contact, but I never meant to hurt Munir. It was part and parcel of the game and I think the officials were too strict with us,” he said.

Concepcion reacted by going on the attack and were rewarded when Ricardo Viveros was tripped in the box. Fernando Solis converted the penalty on 17 minutes and Ricardo Viveros added a second goal on the stroke of halftime.

**BOLIVIA**

Clinical finishing helped Millonarios to a 3-0 win over Tolima. Hernandez gave away the penalty by Robinson Munoz.

Penarol were constantly troubled by the fast-moving Hernandez and Musrri. It was part and parcel of the game, but the officials were too strict and Musrri. It was part and parcel of the game, but the officials were too strict. Penarol went on to lead 7-0 after a contentious penalty by Robinson Munoz.

**NEWCASTLE**

Striker Bellamy has flown to the United States to have surgery on his knee after the striker was forced to miss his club’s 1-0 win at northeast rivals Middlesbrough.

“I have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday and have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday and have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday. I have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday and have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday.

“His 50-year-old successor, known in Italy as “Zac”, had been out of work since being sacked by Lazio at the end of the 2001-2002 season but can expect a cool reception from Inter fans.

Inter were 14-9-9-99 season he enjoyed his greatest success when he steered Inter’s city rivals AC Milan to the Serie A title.

Three years later he masterminded Inter’s most painful defeat of recent years when, as coach of Lazio, he beat Hector Cuper’s side 4-3 on the last day of the 2001-2002 season to dash Inter’s hopes of winning their first scudetto since 1989.

It was a blow from which Cuper never recovered and that opened a permanent inquest into his leadership of the club, especially following the bitter defection of Italian World Footballer of the Year Ronaldinho to Real Madrid at the start of the following season.

The Brazilian striker cited personal differences with Cuper as the main reason for his departure.

After Inter’s 3-1 defeat in the Milan derby two weeks ago, Zaccheroni’s name circulat- ed in Italy’s sports Press as a possible successor to Cuper, though Lazio coach Roberto Mancini was rumoured to be Moratti’s preferred choice.

Vietnam beat South Korea in Cup qualifier

**SEOUL**, 22 Oct—Striker Pham Van Quyen scored a second-half goal to give Vietnam a 1-0 win over South Korea in their 2004 group qualifier, on 19 October 2003 in Muscat.

**NEWCASTLE**

Striker Bellamy has flown to the United States to have surgery on his knee after the striker was forced to miss his club’s 1-0 win at northeast rivals Middlesbrough.

“I have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday and have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday and have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday.

“His 50-year-old successor, known in Italy as “Zac”, had been out of work since being sacked by Lazio at the end of the 2001-2002 season but can expect a cool reception from Inter fans.

Inter were 14-9-9-99 season he enjoyed his greatest success when he steered Inter’s city rivals AC Milan to the Serie A title.

Three years later he masterminded Inter’s most painful defeat of recent years when, as coach of Lazio, he beat Hector Cuper’s side 4-3 on the last day of the 2001-2002 season to dash Inter’s hopes of winning their first scudetto since 1989.

It was a blow from which Cuper never recovered and that opened a permanent inquest into his leadership of the club, especially following the bitter defection of Italian World Footballer of the Year Ronaldinho to Real Madrid at the start of the following season.

The Brazilian striker cited personal differences with Cuper as the main reason for his departure.

After Inter’s 3-1 defeat in the Milan derby two weeks ago, Zaccheroni’s name circula- ted in Italy’s sports Press as a possible successor to Cuper, though Lazio coach Roberto Mancini was rumoured to be Moratti’s preferred choice.

Vietnam won 1-0.
16:15 National News
16:20 Na-na Aung Khan
Gita Than (Welcoming Music a Curtain raiser)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Cherry Present"
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Cherry Present"
19:36 Myaung Hay Wa Elich
Pianist Camp
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Prawn Salad"
19:45 National News
20:00 National News
20:10 Song "Flamingo"
20:15 National News
20:20 Ramayana in Myanmar
(Part-III) (RAAMA"
"Plays the Demons"
20:25 Song "Glory of
Myanmar"
20:30 National News
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Cucumber Salad"
20:45 National News
20:50 Ah Ma Yeu Litera-
ture Nursery
20:55 Kayan Dance
21:00 National News

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 23 October, 2003

WEATHER

Wednesday, 22 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in
Kayin State, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Division, rain or thunder-
showers have been widespread in Mandalay Division, isolated
in Kachin, Mon States, Magway Division and scattered in
the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Mandalay
and Magway Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were
Pymayamas (4.14 inches), Taungyi (2.24 inches), Pakokku
(2.05 inches), Loikaw (1.49 inches) and Mawlamyine (1.26 inches).

Minimum temperature on 21-10-2003 was 23.8°C (73°F).

Maximum temperature on 21-10-2003 was 23.8°C (73°F).
Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-10-2003 was 75.0%.
Total sunshine hours on 21-10-2003 was (4.4) hours approx.
Rainfall on 22-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and cen-
tral Yangon. Total rainfall from 1.1-2003 was 2202 mm (86.68
inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye
and 2381 mm (93.74 inches) at central Yangon. Magnitude wind
speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest
(150.00°) 30-00.00 HR MST on 21-10-2003.

Rain fall:
Weather is cloudy in Andaman Sea, south
Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

special features:
According to the observations at 06:30 hours
MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over Gulf of Thailand
still persists and move westward slowly.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-10-2003:
Rain or thun-
dershowers are likely to be widespread in
Mon State, Tanintharyi Division, scattered in
Tan State, Mandalay Division and isolated
in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Some of the near coastal squalls with moderate to rough seas are
likely off and along Mon, Tanintharyi Coast and Gulf of
Mortmain, Surface wind speed in squalls (30-40)
mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar
waters. Outlook for subsequent days: Continuation of rain or
thunder showers are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for
23-10-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. De-
gree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and ne-
ighbouring area for 23-10-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or
thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 22 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at respective venues for the 9th day today.

The competitions were attended by members of Panels of Patrons and Chairman of the leading committee for holding the competitions, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe. Vice-Chairman of the leading committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competitions Commander of No.3 Military Region Col Tin Tin Hsan, Director-General of the Fine Arts Department Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads, officials of work committees and sub-committees, enthusiasts and tourists.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay road. Chairman of Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khine and work committee members made judgements on the performances of the contestants at the song contest.

At the professional level classic/modern song contest (women), a total of fourteen contestants competed with "shweledaing" song composed by Shwe Pyi Ayet. At the basic education level religious song contest (aged 10-15, boys), a total of 17 contestants competed with Auyraya boysa song composed by vocalist Thein Han Lay. The higher education level religious song contest (boys) and basic education level classic/modern song contest (aged 15-20, girls) will be held at the National Museum tomorrow.

The competition of songs composed by the basic education level (aged 5-10) contestants were held at the Kambawza Theatre of the Fine Arts Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. Songs entitled "Miba Sayya Yitthaybar" composed by the nine contestants were competed with the accommodation of artists. Songs entitled "Pinya Myeint Pweletint" composed by the ten contestants of higher education level song-composing contest were competed with the accommodation of artists. Chairman of the Panel of Judges Bogalay U Tint Aung and members made judgements on the competitions.

A total of 11 contestants participated in the amateur level piano contest (male) with Nyidaw Minnun song. A total of two contestants participated in the amateur level piano contest (female) with Nyidaw Minnun song. A total of 8 contestants participated in the basic education level piano contest (aged 15-20, boys) with Taw Hnint Taung swe (Yodaya) song. A total of four contestants participated in the basic education level piano contest (aged 15-20, girls) with "Moe" song. Chairman of Panel of Judges for piano contest Sandyar Chit Swe and members made judgements on the contests.

A total of 9 troupes from states and divisions participated in the professional level Saing contest (men). A total of six contestants participated in the basic education level Saing contest (aged 15-20, boys). Members of Panel of Judges U Sein Sin and members made judgements on the performance.

Children of Tatmadawmen of Yangon Command vaccinated against measles

YANGON, 22 Oct — Under the aegis of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Yangon Command, the Tatmadawmen’s children aged from nine months to five years were vaccinated against measles at the command this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, President of the association Daw Sue Swe Oo and members, MCWA members, and Head of Dagon Township Health Department Dr Ohmar Thwin and members.

Dr Ohmar Thwin reported on arrangements for giving the vaccine to 147 children. The commander gave the children vaccinated against measles.

Mid-year Gems Emporium fetches over 15.2m euro

YANGON, 22 Oct — The Mid-year Gems Emporium 2003, which started from 17 October, was successfully concluded at 12.15 pm today. Gems, jades and pearl lots were sold at the emporium through tender and competitive bidding systems. A total of 348 jade lots worth 8,627,110 Euro were sold from 17 to 19 October, 44 gem lots worth 8,218,435 Euro from 20 to 21 and 44 pearl lots worth 145,349 Euro today totalling 436 jade, gem and pearl lots worth 15,190,84 euro were sold.

The emporium fetched 15,221,255 Euro from the sale of jewellery, jades and gems including jade sculptures worth 30,361 Euro which were sold at fixed price. A total of 838 gem merchants — 457 from 176 companies of nine countries and 381 national gem merchants from 146 companies at home — attended the emporium and bought the gems, jades and jewellery.

ASEAN Transport Ministers arrive

YANGON, 22 Oct — The ministers and the deputy ministers of Malaysia, Laos, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Vietnam and ASEAN Secretary-General arrived here to attend the 9th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting hosted by Myanmar from 23 to 25 October.

Gems trading to be extended

YANGON, 22 Oct — With the aim of raising national income by boosting gems trade, the Myanmar Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines holds gems emporiums in March and October yearly by coordinat- ing with local gems merchants.

Moreover, during the period when no gems emporiums are held, MGE makes arrangements to sell and export uncut gems and jade of local gems merchants at the airport.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by ambassadors, military attaches and staff of the respective embassies, Chairman of reception and accommodation sub-committee Director-General of Road Transport Administration Department U Hla Thant Myint and members.

Gems Trading Centre opened at the MGE (Head Office) in coordination with the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, the Customs Department and other respective departments.

At present, measures are being taken by MGE to hold more gems emporiums and extend gems trading in Myanmar. The local merchants who takes interest in gems trade may contact the MGE (Head Office).

Local and foreign gems merchants buy lots of pearls sold through tender system at the Myanmar Mid-year Gems Emporium 2003. — MNA