Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road is the result of harmonious efforts made by the State, the people and the Tatmadaw

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye graces opening of Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge

Over 150,000 people attend inauguration of the bridge

Over 150,000 people attended the opening ceremony of the Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, constructed by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction. — MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, realizing the good prospects of Taninthayi Division, gave guidance on taking measures for development of the division over the poor transportation, difficulties in exploiting land and water resources and causes of underdevelopment and he himself occasionally made field trips to fulfill the needs.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye who was here today toured Taninthayi Division and made arrangements for rice sufficiency in Taninthayi Division, the division to become the oil bowl of the nation after extending oil palm plantation, regional security and better transportation. The attendances of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council himself at the opening of Laynya-Mandaing Bridge and now the Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge reflect the State’s attention to development of Taninthayi Division.

With the goodwill and encouragement of the government, over 440 miles long Dawei-Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway is getting into shape. In the past, travelling by car from Kawthoung, the southernmost part of the Union, to Pathein, the northernmost part of the nation, was a dream. But now, with the collective efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw, the dream has come true. On completion of Thanlwin river crossing Mawlamyine Bridge in Mon State, there will be easy access to Taninthayi Division, Mon State and Bago Division.

On Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway which is vital for Taninthayi Division, the seven bridges—the Winwa Bridge, the Paungda Bridge, the Pulaw Bridge, the Pathaung Bridge, the Taninthayi Bridge, the Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge and the Laynya-Mandaing Bridge—have been built successfully one after another within six years. As a result, transportation between one region and another becomes easier. People living in Taninthayi, Laynya, Mandaing, Bokpyin, Hankapyu, Karathuri regions who had faced difficulties in transportation are now enjoying better transport using the motorway.

Building of roads and bridges is not confined to Public Works only, and thus the Tatmadaw Engineering Unit took the responsibilities in building the S10 feet long Pathaung Bridge and other small bridges were built with the contribution of local people. Local Tatmadawmen participated in collecting gravel and contributed labour.

The bridges built in Taninthayi Division including the Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge are not merely the ordinary ones but the friendship bridges linking other states and divisions.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
To raise the living standard of local people

After laying down the 12 political, economic and social objectives, the State Peace and Development Council, enlisting the internal strength, is striving day and night for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Thanks to the efforts of the Government, the nation is now witnessing fruitful results of development.

Although there exists good opportunities for development, progress in Taninthayi Division was slow in the past due to difficulties in transportation. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, State dignitaries went down to the grassroots level in the division and fulfilled the requirements.

Looking Dawei and Kawthoung through Myeik, Taninthayi and Bokpyin has been built and at the same time, Myeik and Kawthoung airports have been built and upgraded. Moreover, new jetties are under construction wherever possible in the region.

While building infrastructures in the transportation sector, the Government is also encouraging businesses that have good opportunities in the region. The region between Kawthoung and Myeik has good potential for oil palm cultivation and thus the government granted permission to national entrepreneurs to run oil palm industry there.

Now, there emerged thousands of acres of oil palm plantations in the region. As plans are under way to build oil palm mills in the region, it is sure that Taninthayi Division will become the oil bowl of Myanmar in the near future.

On 22 October, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met private entrepreneurs who are engaged in oil palm cultivation in Khamaukgyi region in Kawthoung Township and gave necessary instructions.

On the occasion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that with extended planting of oil palms in the division, it will ensure edible oil sufficiency in the country and the surplus can be exported. Thus, running oil palm plantations is an industry that can produce import-substitute exports. Thus, running oil palm plantations is an industry that can produce import-substitute exports. Thus, running oil palm plantations is an industry that can produce import-substitute exports.

Tanutthayi Division is blessed with favourable land and weather conditions, and thus rubber and pepper are to be grown in addition to oil palm.

We would like to urge all concerned to strive for the socio-economic development and raising the living standard of local people.
IMF outlines key areas of assistance for Iraq rebuilding

MAARIV, 26 Oct— There is much more that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can and wants to do as the next stage of the reconstruction process gets underway, IMF Managing Director Horst Köhler told the international donors conference on Iraq Friday.

“I see six major interrelated areas for our contribution,” Köhler told the two-day conference that has gathered representatives from 71 countries and 20 international organizations to discuss efforts to bring Iraq back to its feet.

“First is economic policy advice. The IMF will help create a stable macro-economic framework which is essential to underpin economic revival,” Köhler said.

The IMF’s second area of contribution is technical assistance to help Iraqis build up the administrative and policy-making capacity to run their country. Köhler told the conference, “The IMF will develop training programs for Iraqi officials.”

Köhler also welcomed the establishment of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, saying it was set up “to ensure that the Development Fund for Iraq is used in a transparent manner and that petroleum sales are made consistent with preserving international market best practices.”

Russia, Ukraine agree to defuse border row

MOSCOW, 26 Oct— Russia and Ukraine agreed on Friday to freeze a major row over a Russian construction project in the sea near Ukrainian waters and to resolve a border dispute in the next few weeks.

Russia would suspend work on what it calls a breakwater stretching from its southern region of Krasnodar towards the island of Tuzla, which Ukraine claims, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov told reporters. Krasnodar, which this week erected a floating sea frontier around Tuzla, used to be a spit from the Russian mainland and they are rebuilding it to protect coastal communities, beaches and farmland.

The Associated Press said the vehicles were attacked by American forces.

Tuzla is an island within its territory in the Kerch Strait—which divides Russia from Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula—based on decisions made when it and Russia were both Soviet republics.

Krasnodar officials say Tuzla used to be a spit from Soviet republics.

Foreign civilians killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 Oct.— An assault on a convoy west of Baghdad Saturday killed at least three civilians and wounded at least two, the deadliest single attack on the firms hired to provide basic services for occupation authorities. A US Army Black Hawk helicopter was also shot down near the northern town of Tikrit, injuring one crew member.

The attack on the civilian contractors occurred Saturday afternoon near Habbania, 50 miles west of Baghdad in the violence-plagued Sunni triangle, the US military said. Three vehicles were struck by a roadside bomb and then fired on with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms, according to a military spokesman.

The spokesman released no information about the victims’ nationalities.

The Associated Press said the vehicles belonged to European Landmine Solutions, a British company. The AP quoted David Rasmussen, an American employee of the firm who was wounded in the attack, and an Iraqi security guard, Laith Yousef—both of whom were traveling in the convoy—as saying their vehicles were attacked by American forces.

A US military spokesman in Baghdad denied that US forces had fired on the convoy. Another military official said US forces from the 82nd Airborne Division, which is responsible for security in the area, arrived at the scene after the attack and provided first aid.

A CBS cameraman, Nick Turner, who reached the scene minutes after the attack, said, in an interview that an American man and a British woman were killed.

In addition, he said, three Iraqis were killed and three people wounded, he said. Saying he saw a US convoy heading toward the scene of the attack shortly before the roadside bomb detonated, Turner raised the possibility that the civilians had been caught in crossfire between US forces and Iraqi attackers.

Correspondent Rajiv Chandrasekaran and special correspondent Omar Fekri contributed to this report.

Senators decry care of troops returning from Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct— Two US senators on Friday said the Army was housing some 650 sick and injured National Guard and Reserve personnel in unacceptably poor conditions at Fort Stewart, Georgia, while they were being evaluated to return to active duty.

Republican Christopher Bond of Missouri and Democrat Patrick Leahy of Vermont, co-chairs of the Senate’s National Guard Caucus, said in a report that soldiers who either had served in Iraq or on their way there were not getting proper medical care or evaluation.

The report, that stemmed from an investigation by the senators’ staffs, also said the barracks were designed for healthy soldiers on annual training were not suitable for ill or injured soldiers.

The worst barracks, it said, were “1950s style, concrete foundation barracks with no air-conditioning or insulation and detached toilets and shower facilities.”

It said poor conditions resulted from a lack of preparation for the influx of injured soldiers, brought on partly by June’s return of the 3rd Infantry Division from Iraq.

It said the base did not have enough medical clinicians and specialists, causing “excessive delays in the delivery of care.” It also said the guard and reserve personnel felt they were not getting the same level of care as their traditional active-duty counterparts.

The report urged that many more doctors be sent to Fort Stewart, and that the care be better coordinated. It also suggested that many of the soldiers be sent to other facilities closer to their homes.

Cambodia focuses on luring more Chinese tourists

PHNOM PENH, 26 Oct— Cambodia is focusing on luring more Chinese tourists, Tourism Minister Veng Sereyvuth said after returning from a World Tourism Organization conference in Beijing.

“To talk about tourist flow is to talk about the Chinese,” the Cambodian Daily on Friday quoted him as saying.

Of the nearly 500,000 tourists arriving this year, 40,000 came from China, according to the government figure.

In 2000, Cambodia signed a bilateral agreement with China to waive visa fees in an effort to put Cambodia on the map as a Chinese tourist destination.

Cambodia hopes to increase the number of flights between China and Cambodia to meet the need of more Chinese tourists. Currently, only Hong Kong, Shanghai and Guangzhou have direct flights to Phnom Penh.

S-E Asian countries urged to remain peaceful, stable

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Oct— Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi said Friday the Southeast Asian countries should ensure the region remains peaceful, secure and stable.

“The important thing is (ASEAN region) is our area. We have to safeguard the security of our area and ASEAN is collaborating to ensure this region remains peaceful, secure and stable,” the Deputy Prime Minister told reporters in Penang State, northern Malaysia, in response to United States President George W. Bush’s speech during a recent visit to Australia.

Bush reportedly called Australia his “sheriff” in the region for helping in the US-led war on terrorism since the September 11 attacks in the United States.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which now groups 10 states in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost the regional cooperation.

Abdullah said, “What it (the United States) wants to do, what it wants to say, what duties it wants to assign to Australia, all come within its right. It is its right.”

But he did not see the need for foreign intervention in the region.

“Although the area was already peaceful, safe and stable with the close cooperation of the member nations, Abdullah said.

“We do not agree with foreign interference because we ourselves do not poke our nose into other people’s affairs,” he said.
Annan in no hurry to send UN staff back to Iraq

United Nations, 26 Oct — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan made clear on Friday he was in no hurry to send staff back to Iraq following a highly critical report of security lapses before the August attack on UN offices in Baghdad.

A 40-page probe by an independent panel said a “dysfunctional” UN security system led to unnecessary deaths in the August 19 bombing that killed 22 people.

Annan has left a core staff of 15-20 people, mainly aid officials, in Iraq after a second bomb attack on UN headquarters on September 22 that killed Iraqi police.

“Since the two bomb attacks against us, we have had to rethink our own approach and our own presence and that will be a factor in our decision to increase our staff in Iraq,” Annan said. He added that many aspects needed to be worked out “to see exactly what kind of security, what arrangements, we’re going to do and what we will do for ourselves.”

The UN Security Council and the United States want him to send in political officers to help Iraqi leaders write a Constitution and organize elections.

But, in his first reaction to the report, Annan said he needed more time to study the investigation and side-stepped questions on whether he or other top officials would accept blame for the security failures.

“Obviously, that is one issue — of accountability, what happened, who did what or did not do what,” he said.

Annan said the United Nations would have to change its way of doing business, not just in Iraq, but elsewhere.

“Over the past 50 years, the United Nations has been working around the world under a system of security, which has served us well,” he said. “But the world has changed and we will have to change our way of doing business to be able to protect our staff around the world.”

On Wednesday, an independent panel, commissioned by Annan and headed by Martti Ahtisaari, a former Finnish president, issued a chilling report saying some lives might have been saved in the August bombing if the UN security system had heeded advance warnings and followed its own rules.

Twenty-two UN staff and visitors were killed, including the head of the mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello, when an orange flatbed truck drove up an access road near UN headquarters and dropped its explosives. Another 150 people were injured.

Ahtisaari and his team blamed UN security officials in Baghdad and in New York as well as high-level managers, who they said blurred the lines of command. — MNA/Reuters

Donors offer Iraq tea, rice, pilgrims

Madrid, 26 Oct — Some brought billions for Iraq, some brought hundreds of millions, some brought food and drink. Neighbouring Iran promised a tourist bonanza. Among the assistance pledged at the donors’ conference for Iraq in Madrid Friday was 100 tons of tea from Sri Lanka and rice worth 500 million US dollars from Vietnam.

Iraq, which fought for eight years in the 1980s but retains strong cultural ties, made one of the most unusual offers — 100,000 tourists and pilgrims a month, whom Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi expected to spend 500 million US dollars a year. — MNA/Reuters

Bird population in Bangladesh reduced alarmingly

Dhaka, 26 Oct — The bird population in Bangladesh is reduced alarmingly due to excessive use of pesticides in the agricultural fields, destruction of bird habitats and unavailability of foods during the last few decades, reported the official Bangladesh News Agency on Friday.

This was revealed by Bangladesh Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj when inaugurating a two-day display of cage birds organized by Bangladesh Cage Bird Breeders Association here. Describing bird hunting as anti-human and heinous crime, the minister laid emphasis for conservation of wild birds to ensure ecological balance.

More effective steps, including raising awareness and proper enforcement of laws should be taken in the areas, where migrated birds made their stopover. He added. Shajahan Siraj pointed out the secret wholesale markets for trading birds in the capital Dhaka would be identified and stern legal action would be taken against those who do the illegal trade.

The minister said the government has renewed an order prohibiting the hunting of all kinds of birds forindelible period, as the bird population did not increase during the period despite the ban. He said from the point of commercial view, rearing pet birds could be considered as means of livelihood. Export of pet birds could earn huge amount of foreign exchange, help generate employment and alleviate poverty, he added.

China strengthens IPR law, administrative enforcement

Beijing, 26 Oct — Since its entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) nearly two years ago, China has stepped up law enforcement in a bid to more effectively protect intellectual property rights (IPR), China’s top IPR watchdog said here Friday.

In an interview with Xinhua, Wang Jingchuan, commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), said that in 2002, Chinese courts at various levels accepted and heard more than 6,200 civil cases on IPR, with a yearly increase of 17.78 per cent of which 1,824 concerned copyrights, 2,080 concerned patents and 707 dealt with trademarks.

In 409 criminal cases on IPR infringement, 253 violators were brought to justice according to the nation’s criminal law, Wang said. Another 717 cases were related to manufacturing and selling shoddy goods, most of which were violations of IPR.

Meanwhile, nationwide IPR administrative organs, including patent offices, industrial and commercial administrative bureaus and copyright watchdogs, accepted 1,442 patent disputes, investigated 39,105 trademark violations with total fines of 214 million yuan (25.78 million US dollars), and confiscated 67.9 million pirated publication products.

Chinese astronaut, French official talk on phone

Beijing, 25 Oct — Yang Liwei, China’s first astronaut, told a French official and a former astronaut Ms. Claudie Haignere, Friday, that he was pleased to join all his counterparts in the world in contributing to the mankind’s great cause of peaceful development and utilization of outer space.

Yang spoke on the telephone with the French official, who was in Paris, with the assistance of an interpreter at the China Centreury Altar, in downtown Beijing, where an exhibition is being held on the country’s first piloted space launch Ms. Haignere was interstellar official in charge of research and new technology, had made two space tours, aboard Russia’s first space station in 1996, and on the International Space Station in 2001.

She congratulated Yang on his “perfect” space flight and said that the successful manned space launch is a boost for China’s status in the space industry. She expressed her hope that China would have female astronauts in the future as 16 European women have become astronauts.

China isolated on Iran nuke programme

Vienna, 26 Oct — The United States, which accuses Iran of secretly developing atomic weapons, has become isolated in its hardline attitude towards Teheran as more countries want to engage rather than punish, diplomats said on Friday.

On Thursday, Iran’s envoy to the UN International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Akbar Salehi, gave the IAEA a declaration he said “fully discloses” all aspects of Teheran’s nuclear programme, which he insisted is entirely peaceful.

The IAEA governing board set an October 31 deadline for Iran to provide it with such a declaration. Failure to do so would have left the agency’s board with no choice but to report Iran to the UN Security Council for possible economic sanctions.

But US officials insist Iran is in clear breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and if the 35-nation IAEA board agreed, it would have to notify the Security Council.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the French daily Le Figaro that Iran’s delivery of the declaration was positive, but added that he still did not trust them.

They have tried to hide their weapons programme from the IAEA and the international community,” he said.

Washington had hoped to push the IAEA board to declare Iran in “non-compliance” with its NPT obligations at a November 20 board session. But diplomats said it would be very difficult after Iran made several major gestures this week to show it may want to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog. — MNA/Reuters

A British Airways Concorde making the last trans-Atlantic commercial flight landed on 24 October, 2003 at London’s Heathrow Airport, as British Airways ended its Concorde flights due to high costs and a drop in passenger numbers since the 9/11 New York attacks and the Iraq war. — MNA/INTERNET

An Iraqi child runs past an abandoned military vehicle in a village near Baghdad International Airport on 20 October, 2003. Six months after the end of the war in Iraq the country is still afloat in ammunition, despite coalition efforts to dispose of it.

(MNA/Xinhua, 25 Oct—Yang Liwei, China’s first astronaut, told a French inter- national atomic energy agency official talk on phone)

An Iraqi child runs past an abandoned military vehicle in a village near Baghdad International Airport on 20 October, 2003. Six months after the end of the war in Iraq the country is still afloat in ammunition, despite coalition efforts to dispose of it.

(MNA/Xinhua, 25 Oct—Yang Liwei, China’s first astronaut, told a French inter- national atomic energy agency official talk on phone)
Anti-war protesters rally in East and West

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct—To chants of “Impeach Bush,” thousands of anti-war protesters rallied in the nation’s capital Saturday and delivered a scathing critique of President Bush and his Iraq policy.

Demanding an end to the US-led occupation and the quick return of American troops, the demonstrators gathered on a sunny fall day at the Washington Monument to listen to speeches and songs of peace.

One man’s small cardboard sign gave his summing-up of the day: “This administration does not represent me,” it said in black capital letters typewritten on white paper.

TheRev Al Sharpton a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, exhorted the crowd not to be content with the gradual withdrawal of US forces from Iraq.

“We don’t give Bush $87 billion, don’t give him 87 cents, give our troops a ride home,” Sharpton said to loud cheers from the crowd.

Hundreds of anti-war protesters also took to sun-drenched streets in San Francisco.

“We feel it’s very important to keep our voices heard because we want our troops home,” said Bill Nelson, a Burbank, Calif., bookstore owner. “We want the money here for health care and jobs, not a military industrial complex.”

The rallies on both coasts were organized by International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) and the ANSWER Coalition.

The protest in Washington drew a diverse crowd—young, old, veterans, relatives with loved ones in the armed forces and American Muslims. An activist group of older women called the Raging Grannies, singing anti-Bush songs, brought whoops of agreement from the protesters.

Organizers estimated that 100,000 people turned out for the demonstration, but police put the number much lower, from 10,000 to 20,000. Police no longer issue official crowd estimates, so the size of the protest could not be verified.

Waving signs reading “Make Jobs Not War” and “Bush is a liar,” the protest ended with a march from the White House, down to the Justice Department and then back to the Washington Monument.

The streets remained open to traffic.

Hot, dry winds fans southern California wildfire

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Oct—A huge wildfire fanned by hot, dry winds burned out of control in the San Bernardino National Forest in Southern California on Saturday, forcing authorities to order more evacuations.

Residents in the town of Alta Loma were ordered to leave their homes as the blaze, named the Grand Prix fire, continued to roar through dry heavy brush in the foothills about 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

Evacuations were ordered earlier in the community of Lytle Creek and near Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes.

“We expect a very tough fight today,” said Georgia Smith, fire spokeswoman for the San Bernardino National Forest.

“The Santa Ana winds are very erratic and shifting, and they are expected to be very strong in the canyons.”

The fire, which broke out Tuesday and is being investigated as possible arson, has been whipped by the Santa Ana winds that blow through Southern California in the autumn.

They were expected to reach speeds of 30 to 35 miles per hour on Saturday, Smith said.

The blaze has burned through 13,736 acres and destroyed six homes and a US Forest Service helicopter on the ground. There have been no injuries.

The first, fuelled by dense old-growth trees and brush that have not burned since 1873, sent thick black and orange smoke drifting across Southern California, choking nearby towns with ash.

The east-west Interstate 210 freeway was shut down early Saturday, but Interstate 15, the main freeway link between Southern California and Las Vegas, was open.

Officials said more than 2,000 firefighters were battling the blaze and it was 21 per cent contained.

MNA/Reuters

Iran offers to help Iraq rebuild with oil swap

MADRID, 26 Oct—Iran offered on Friday to help Iraq reconstruct while offering its former enemy an oil swap arrangement that could help Baghdad boost crude export revenues.

Iranian Foreign Miniser Kamal Kharazzi also promised a credit facility of up to $300 million US dollars and offered cross-border electricity and gas supplies.

“We stand ready to supply our electricity and gas to Iraq and to facilitate its oil exports through our oil terminals or enter into a swap arrangement that can amount to 350,000 barrels per day,” Kharazzi said in the text of a speech he is due to deliver to a donors’ conference on Iraq.

“We have envisaged a comprehensive package of economic cooperation comprising development aid, investment, trade, tourism, project financing and so on,” the text said.

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein waged a war with Iran from 1980-1988, financed in part by Western powers, after the Iranian revolution of 1979.

Kharazzi’s offer is the most significant commercial advance by Tehran since the March US invasion of Iraq that removed Saddam from power, but the initiative is unlikely to receive a welcome from Washington.

An oil swap arrangement between Iran and Iraq would probably be designed to permit Baghdad to deliver crude across its eastern border to Iranian refineries, oil dealers said.

Iran in return would export an equivalent volume of Iranian crude on Iraq’s behalf from its Gulf terminals.

MNA/Reuters

Laser treatment new option for acne sufferers

London, 26 Oct—It blights the teenage years and can make life a misery but doctors said on Friday that laser therapy could offer new hope for teenagers and adults with acne.

About 50 per cent of teenagers suffer from some form of the skin condition that erupts on the face, neck, arms, back and chest.

It can range from the occasional flare up of pimples or spots that do not require any treatments to severe episodic acne causing scars and psychological problems.

Creams and antibiotics are usually given to control the problem but Dr Anthony Chu, a dermatologist at Hamersmith Hospital in London, said pulsed-dye laser therapy is also effective.

“It is the first time lasers have been shown to have an effect in treating active acne,” Chu told Reuters, adding that lasers were given a sham treatment.

Twelve weeks after just one laser treatment, Chu and his colleagues noticed an improvement in the laser patients but found no difference in the other group.

Pulsed-dye laser therapy targets red blood cells and is given in very short spurts lasting about 0.3 milliseconds. The entire treatment lasts about 10 minutes, is painless and does not have any side effects.

Laser therapy has already been used to increase collagen production in the skin to smooth wrinkles and facial lines. Chu suspects in acne it reduces inflammation that causes the spots to come up. Most acne treatments, whether cream or oral antibiotic must be used daily.

Chu said one laser treatment would probably be needed every three months.

“After a single treatment with the laser you had a persistent effect over a three-month period,” he said.

“It is not a cure for acne. It is a treatment and a very good treatment,” he added.

Chu and his colleagues said laser therapy should be further explored as an alternative to daily drugs or creams.—MNA/Reuters

A US Apache gunship flies around a burning Black Hawk helicopter, down, in Tikrit, 193 km north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 October, 2003. The US Army Black Hawk helicopter was shot down Saturday by ground fire near Tikrit, a center of Iraq’s anti-US insurgency, US officials said. At least one person was injured.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

One US soldier killed in Iraq attack

BASRrah, 26 Oct—Guerrillas using small arms killed a US soldier on Friday in an attack in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the US military said in a statement.

“One 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldier was killed in a small arms fire attack in western Mosul,” said the statement from US Central Command. Guerrillas fighting the US-led occupation have killed 106 American soldiers since Washington declared major combat in Iraq over on May 1. Many civilians have also been killed in attacks meant for Americans, or in crossfire.

Washington has blamed the attacks mostly on fighters loyal to ousted president Saddam Hussein, though officials often refer to foreign Islamic militants operating in Iraq.

An Iraqi civilian was killed and two were wounded in what residents said on Friday was a mortar attack in southern Baghdad.—MNA/Reuters

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"Non, nein, nyet" trio sulk at Iraq aid conference

MEXICO, 26 Oct—France led a trio of party-poopers on Friday as the tally of aid for post-war Iraq soared to tens of billions of dollars, criticizing Washington’s reluctance to set a clear timetable for handing power to Iraqis.

Germany and Russia — which joined hands with Paris in opposition to the US-led invasion of Iraq — also stood aside from the mounting excitement at a donors’ conference in Madrid, pledging no additional funding for reconstruction.

All three countries agreed only grudgingly last week to back a UN Security Council resolution that sets up a multinational force under its control and asks nations to contribute both troops and cash.

They had sought a resolution laying out a clear path for ending the occupation and a bigger role for the United Nations in supervising Iraq’s transition to a sovereign government.

“France had suggested a political approach based on the necessary starting point: affirmation of the principle of sovereignty and self-determination for the Iraqi people,” French Trade Minister Francois Loos told the Madrid media.

“This approach could have created conditions for a greater effort by the international community to open the way for reconstruction and stabilization.”

Some of the more than 70 countries represented in Madrid sent foreign ministers, but not France, Germany and Russia.

Paris and Berlin are contributing heavily to a pledge of 200 million euros from the European Union’s budget. But some of their European partners like Britain, Spain and Italy brought much heftier bilateral pledges to Madrid.

Both France and Germany said they were providing humanitarian aid on a large scale. German State Secretary Erich Stath er said Berlin was in talks with the United Arab Emirates on training police in Iraq, and overall it was spending 200 million euros on the country.

But he made the same political point as Loos: “We believe that…transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi people will help to secure peace and will enhance the reconstruction process.”

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov, at the needs-assessment report drawn up by the United Nations and World Bank, saying the data needed “additional substantiation”.

In one passage of his prepared speech which he did not read out, Fedotov also questioned the assessment’s conclusion that only two billion US dollars of Iraq’s estimated oil income for 2004 could be assigned to reconstruction.

... MNA/Reuters

Blair accused of breaking aid-poor promise

LONDON, 26 Oct—British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been accused of breaking a promise not to cut aid to poor people overseas as Britain is expected to pledge around 250 million pounds (about 420 million US dollars) to Iraq at the international donors’ conference in Madrid.

Charities claimed that much of the money is coming from slashing projects to help alleviate poverty in so-called “middle-income” countries like Bolivia, Guyana and Brazil.

Channel 4 News revealed that Blair wrote to Christian Aid director Daleep Mukarji in April to promise that the reconstruction effort in Iraq would not hit the programme for the world’s poorest people.

“The Secretary of State for International Development has given a public commitment that funds will not be redirected from other emergencies such as southern Africa or Ethiopia/Eritrea, nor from programmes supporting poor people elsewhere,” Blair wrote. In a handwritten note at the bottom of the letter, the Prime Minister added, “I assure you the programmes will continue.”

“It is a broken pledge and we are particularly concerned because of the people it is going to be affecting,” George Gelber, head of policy at Catholic aid charity CAFOD, told the TV programme. “Very poor people in middle-income countries are the ones who are going to feel the pain.”... MNA/Xinhua

US convoy hit in bomb attack in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 26 Oct—A US military convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in a western Iraqi city on Friday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The bomb explosion occurred when the convoy drove through Fallujah, a restive town 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, said the witnesses.

They said they saw a vehicle damaged and several wounded soldiers who were evacuated when reinforcements arrived at the scene.

The bomb attack took place during the funeral of a man killed in an earlier attack.

... MNA/Reuters

Feeble quake jolts southern Iran

TEHERAN, 26 Oct—A feeble earthquake measuring 4.9 on the open-ended Richter Scale jolted Fars Province in southern Iran on Friday morning, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The Geophysics Institute of Teheran University said the earthquake occurred at 9.28 local time (0558 GMT).

The epicentre was near cities of Zanjanrud, Jundam and Lar, about 300 kilometres from the provincial capital of Shiraz.

The quake caused no death but inflicted serious damage to many buildings in the region, the report said.

Two moderate quakes measuring 5.8 and 5.6 respectively occurred in the same region in July this year, which killed two people and ruined over 4,200 residential units.

... MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to issue treasury bonds in November

JAKARTA, 26 Oct—The Indonesian Government will issue treasury bonds worth 5.7 trillion rupiah (some 670.6 million US dollars) in November, a one-month delay from its original schedule, Finance Minister Boediono said Friday.

The total value will be 5.7 trillion rupiah to be issued in two stages, Boediono told reporters here.

The government planned to issue treasury bonds worth 11.7 trillion (1.4 billion US dollars) in 2003 alone. The first six trillion rupiah (705.9 million dollars) worth of bonds have been issued earlier this year...

... MNA/Xinhua

School children wearing masks resembling the mascot of the Afro-Asian Games ‘Sheroo’ gesture at the camera, in Hyderabad, India, on 23 October 2003. The children are scheduled to participate in the formal inauguration of the games Friday...

... Internet

Donors promise Iraq $33b

MEXICO, 26 Oct—International donors pledged at least 33 billion US dollars in aid and loans over the next four years to help rebuild war-ravaged Iraq on Friday as the response to a US-led drive for funds far outstripped expectations.

Spanish Economy Minister Rodrigo Rato said the combined offer — made at a gathering of more than 70 nations in Madrid — was equivalent to twice Iraq’s annual national income and was a global vote of confidence in the country’s future.

“...The highest estimate for pledges from non-US donors came from the Iraqis themselves. Planning Minister Mubd Hafez told reporters they had matched Washington’s promise of 20 billion US dollars.

That is on top of 20 billion US dollars promised by Washington and is far in excess of what had been expected a few weeks ago, when political divisions threatened the existence of the meeting.

“A little over six months ago Iraq was the black sheep of the international community,” Iraq Governing Council President Iyad Allawi told a news conference. “Today I am again proud to be Iraqi.”

The 33 billion US dollars falls short of the 56 billion US dollars the World Bank and United Nations have said is needed over four years to rebuild an economy torn apart by war and sanctions, but future oil revenues, foreign direct investment and a refund on the oil-for-food programme could narrow the gap...

... MNA/Reuters
The duty defined by the national cause-3

Ketu Nila

Since the Tatmadaw’s assumption of the State duties, and till now there have surfaced slanderous oppositions and criticisms against the Tatmadaw, saying that the military unjustly seized power and crushed the democracy struggle. But those slanders can be judged with the objective conditions of the national political development in Myanmar.

The Tatmadaw was born of the anti-colonialist struggle, the anti-fascist struggle and the independence struggle. It is growing stronger while crushing internal and external dangers to safeguard independence. Had the Tatmadaw stood idle during the 1948, 1949, 1958, 1962 and 1988 crises, the nation would face destruction in all sectors and lost her independence and sovereignty. It is particularly true during the 1988 unrest. The Tatmadaw has the duty to save the nation from facing any undesirable situation and ensure the security of the people. The Tatmadaw will never let the nation fall under subjugation for no reason. It has the aim of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation in accord with the essence of democracy. But the NLD gave more priority to grabbing power than to take part in the national task. Thus, the NLD started to oppose the Government and made confrontations. In the Gandhi declaration, the NLD demanded the convening of the Hluttaw in September 1990, and transfer of the State power to the NLD in accord with the constitution drawn by the party itself. At the secret meeting in Mandalay, the NLD compiled a paper to grab power through three opposition means. Chairman of the NLD Sein Win and cohorts and some representatives selected contact KNU Bo Mya on 18 December 1990 and formed the expatriate government outside the nation. It launched political and military attacks against the Government from inside and outside the nation. It is the NLD’s first act to go against the Government offer to collectively take part in drafting of a constitution.

The NLD issued its view slandering the discussion and participation of delegates at the National Convention. The NLD delegates also took part in drawing the rules and principles of the Convention to draft a constitution. On 11 November 1995, it sent a letter slandering the National Convention with negative views. The letter also stated that the NLD would not attend the National Convention anymore as its demands to meet with the State Law and Order Restoration Council were not answered by the National Convention Convening Commission chairman in his address. The person who created the problems was the ex-NLD general secretary who had already been dismissed from the party. Her personal influence could override the decision of the party central executive committee, and it showed the real image of the NLD. Thus, the organization, task and democracy rights of the NLD were based on a single person. It had led to downgrading the party’s organizational task and democracy rights.

The NLD deviated from the course of serving the national interest and sacrificed the right to do national politics for achieving self-interest. This has left a black mark in history. The NLD also opposed and left the National Convention while delegates from all walks of life and national races were holding discussions to draft a constitution. Hence, we can say that it has failed to discharge the duty defined by the national cause. It is the NLD’s second act to oppose the collective national task serving the interest of the nation.

(To be continued)  
(Translation: TMT)


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.

Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 26 Oct.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back here by air this afternoon after attending the 21st conference of engineer-associations of the ASEAN countries held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 23 October.

The delegation included Chief Engineer (Bridge) U Tin Zaw, Senior Engineer (Bridge) Daw Si Si Than and Engineer (Bridge) Daw Mya Sein Aye, who received the ASEAN engineering out- standing awards on behalf of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction, and Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Association Prof Dr Sein Myint, who at- tended the meeting of the ASEAN Engineering Fed- eration and has taken charge of President of ASEAN Engineering Federation, and Vice-Chairman of MEA U Thein Lwin.

They were wel- comed back at Yangon In- ternational Airport by Deputy Managing Director (Project) U Tin Htut of Public Works, Deputy Di- rector-General of the Con- struction Inspection Depart- ment Lt-Col Hwe Maung, chief engineers, engineers, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Association Director-General of the Ir- rigation Department U Kyaw San Win and offi- cials.

The 18-member del- egation submitted the pa- pers on engineering during the conference.
For Taninthayi Division to... capability of Myanmar engineers.

All the national people can take pride in being able to construct such significant bridges on self-reliance basis. As the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are striving for building the modern and developed nation relying on the national strength, development in transport, economic, education, health and social sectors has emerged one after another. At the same time, measures for building a democracy nation must also be taken.

In the political objectives of the State, the first and second objectives calling for stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and national reconciliation have met with success thanks to the cooperation between the State and the people. In other words, peace and tranquility of regions and national reconciliation can be established firmly. Therefore, the third and the fourth objectives — emergence of a new enduring State constitution and building of a new modern and developed nation in accord with the new State constitution — must be implemented stage-by-stage and correctly. The seven-point roadmap that was recently announced to the nation is the correct programme for building a new nation and political programmes to be practically implemented in accord with the political objectives of the State. Such a time like this, some big nations eager to influence the State, turning blind eyes to the objective developments of the State, are putting pressure through political and diplomatic means and imposing economic and financial sanctions on the State with the excuses of democracy and human rights.

Therefore, what I would like to urge the people now is to undertake the tasks based on patriotism and love for the Union, and safeguard the national interest from all aspects. True essence of success is the motto that strength of the nation lies within. Unity, hard working, and good intention of local national races are the genuine determining factors for the perpetuity of the Union of Myanmar.

Future political programmes must be collectively carried out with the high awareness of the entire people.

In conclusion, on behalf of the local people, I would like to thank engineers, staffs, and local people who have constructed and maintained the bridge which is important for regional development and transport, and a pride of the political achievement. I would also like to urge local people to maintain the bridge for its perpetuity.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made a speech. He said under the guidance of the Head of the Tatmadaw, the ministry has been constructing roads and bridges day and night since 1988. Altogether 4,477 miles of roads have been constructed. A total of 163 bridges each of which is 180 feet long and above including the Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge have been opened to date. When the three bridges constructed for the Public Works are included, the number will be 166. The bridge was constructed on 14-11-2000 and it was opened after a period of 2 years and 11 months. The bridge is 5,162 feet long in total — the main bridge is 2,112 feet, the approach bridge on Kyaukphya bank is 200 feet and the one on Kyweku bank is 1,300 feet. About K 3,400 million has been spent on building the bridge.

Afterwards, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint made a speech. He said the bridge with 28 feet wide motorway and two six-feet wide pedestrian roads on both sides is the biggest and longest one in the division. As a result, one can travel from the northernmost to the southernmost part of Myanmar. So, it was a significant day not only for Taninthayi Division but also for the State. In the past, the water route was mainly relied on for travelling from one region to another. In addition, water and air routes played a key role in transportation sector. The division lagged behind in development of economic, social, education and health sectors, for there was no stability in the past.

Once stability prevails in the region, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, roads and bridges have been built in the division. Before 1988, there were only 363 miles of road in the division. At present, the 522-mile long Union Highway from Mahlwe Taung in Dawei District to Kawthoung has already built. In agriculture sector, over 468,000 acres of land was put under cultivation before 1988. At present, the number increased to over 670,000 acres. In meat and fish sector, the division produced 170,000 tons in the past. Nowadays, it produces over 500,000 tons of meat and fish. In pearl producing sector, over 72,000 momme of pearl is produced, up from over 7,300 momme in the past. In poultry breeding sector, over 986,000 poultry have been raised. There are 664 miles of road in the division, up from 397 miles in the past. In education sector, 1,109 basic education schools have been extended and opened in the division, up from 962 in the past. There are two universities and five colleges in the division, up from only one university in the past. The number of hospitals is increased to 23 from 17 in the past. On 25 October, a modern hospital (200-bed) was opened in Myeik. Thanks to building of transportation infrastructures such as construction of new roads, renovation of old ones, construction of the Yaa-Dawei railroad and extension of Myeik and Kawthoung airports will result in development of the division by year.

In conclusion, on behalf of the local people, the commander thanked Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, officials concerned at different levels for opening the bridge and pledged to maintain it for long-term use together with local people.

On behalf of the local people, Joint-Secretary of Myeik District Union Solidarity and Development Association U Min Thein spoke words of thanks to the government for the construction of the bridge.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye extended greetings to the local people. He said political, economic and social objectives were firmly laid down and have been implemented for peace and prosperity of the entire Union including Taninthayi Division. Thanks to the harmonious efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw, development has been achieved in all aspects of the State such as the political, economic, education, health and social sectors. As the synchronous development of all regions is...
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt…

(fulfilling the water supply and greening tasks of the university)

The Prime Minister gave instructions on making systematic arrangements for construction of the university as a prestigious institution of Kayin State. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected around the construction of the three-storey main building and two-storey building.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the construction site of Hpa-an Government Technological College.

Principal Daw Than Than Hnuy reported to the Prime Minister on back-ground history, location and area, courses, and number of students and teaching staff.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge gave a supplementary report on teaching and administrative affairs.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on nurturing qualified engineers of the future and inspected around the construction site of the college.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to Mebaung Monastery and Dhamma Pya Bayme Monastery in Hpa-an and paid homage to State Ovacadariya Abhidhaja Maha Rathga Guru Bhaddanta Indriya and Bhaddanta Sujana. The Prime Minister presented robes and offertories to the Sayadaws.

Next, the Prime Minister presented souvenirs to national race leaders Phado Aung San and U Saw Tha Mu He. The leaders also presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister arrived at Phayagon Nyeinchanye Village in Hpa-an Township, where he was welcomed by national race leaders Phado Aung San and U Saw Tha Mu He, members and local national races. The Prime Minister met with the national race leaders, local national races at the Peace Hall of the village and inquired about the regional development, rice sufficiency and conditions of agriculture site, livestock breeding, education and health.

The national race leaders reported to the Prime Minister on regional development tasks and requirements. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and spoke on the occasion. He said that the State would render assistance for regional development and promotion of the living standard of the local national races, and urged the local national races to unite and strive for regional development.

Next, the Prime Minister presented souvenirs to national race leaders Phado Aung San and U Saw Tha Mu He. The leaders also presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected around the construction of the three-storey main building and two-storey building.

The Prime Minister gave a supplementary report on providing necessary assistance for the success of the land reclamation project. The project is being carried out with the aim of preventing the region from floods and land reclamation works by car.

At the briefing hall of the site, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Cho Tun reported to the Prime Minister on condition of the agriculture sector in the state, cultivated acreage, condition of fallow and virgin land, exceeding the target of monosoon, paddy, rainfalls for the year, land reclamation tasks being carried out in wetlands of Mebaung Naunglon Chaung region, and cultivation of 2458 acres of land out of 3000 acres reclaimed this year.

Deputy Director of the Irrigation Department U Aung Kyaw Win reported to the Prime Minister on tasks being carried out to reclaim over 25,000 acres of wetland in the region. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation made a supplementary report on providing necessary assistance for the success of the land reclamation project. The project is being carried out with the aim of preventing the region from floods and land reclamation works by car.

Po Wa (Trs.)
The bridges on the road to southernmost tip

Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 26 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the 13th day at the designated places here today.

The competitions were attended by member of the panel of patrons holding the competitions Chairman of the leading committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of the panel of patrons holding the competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman of the leading committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Brig-Gen Than Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General of the SPDC office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, work committee Chairman No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, departmental heads, officials of the work committee and subcommittees, tourists, students and enthusiasts. The song contest continued at the National Museum on Pyay Road at 9 am today.

Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khai ung and members made judgements on the song contest held in the National Theatre. A total of 16 contestants participated in the basic education level religious song contest (aged 10-15, girls) and 11 contestants in the professional level (men) modern classic song contest. The song contest composed by the professional level contestants continued at the Kanbawzathiri Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. Chairman of the Panel of Judges for the contest Bogale U Tin Aung and members made judgements on the performance of the contest. A total of 12 contestants participated in the contest.

A total of six drum troupes participated in the professional level (men) drum contest (group) held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township today. A total of seven drum troupes participated in the basic education level (boys) drum contest (group). During the contest U Sein Ba Maw and members made judgements on the performance. The prizes presented to winners of the Wushu competition were given to winners of the Wushu competition.

Thika Tin

In the past, many rivers and creeks are crisscrossing the region that is a thin stretch of land facing the Andaman Sea in the west and bordering Thailand with the Taninthayi Mountain Range in the east, road building in the Taninthayi Division is a much difficult work. It needs manpower and mechanical power.

Besides, heavy rains and the rough terrain also pose as a barrier to all development undertakings in the division. But roads are essential requirements for regional and national development. In this regard, the Government has made a firm determination to develop the transport infrastructure and ensure a smooth and secure transport in the whole nation.

Mainly relying on the internal strength or in other words, the concerted efforts of the government bodies, the local authorities, the people and the Tatmadaw, the State has built miles and miles of roads and a large number of major and minor bridges and the length and breadth of the Union of Myanmar. Braving high winds, rough terrain and heavy rains, the forces of the nation conquered the land in building infrastructures including the roads and bridges needed for the success of the nation-building task. Because of the correct and effective leadership of the State and the ardent and energetic efforts of the nation-building forces, a large number of major bridges and new highways have emerged all over the Union.

In building the Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway alone, six over 500-foot bridges — the Wirawa, the Palauk, the Palaw, the Taninthayi, the Pathoung and the Laynya-Mandaing — have already been constructed.

Among the six, the Laynya-Mandaing Bridge was commissioned into service in Bokpyin Township on 23 October.

Spanning the Laynya River, the 360-foot concrete bridge supports a 24-foot wide motorway on it. The road is flanked by three-foot wide pedestrian lanes. The maximum load-bearing capacity of the bridge is 60 tons.

Another large facility in the highway, running from north to south in the Taninthayi Division, the Kyewgo-Kyaukphyu Bridge near Myeik, was also opened on 26 October.

As the Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Highway or the road to southernmost tip of the Union is linked with the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Dawei Highway, it will serve as the major land route to visit the Taninthayi Division and to reach Kawthoung at the Cape of King Bayinnaung. ***
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Transportation plays a key role in regional development. Thanks to the efforts of the government, new roads and bridges have emerged throughout the country. The photo shows the Nyinaung Bridge on Nantain Creek in Wa region. —PHOTO: MNA

The government has been taking measures for elevating the education sector of the nation. The photo shows the Government Computer College (Panglong) in Loilem, Shan State. —PHOTO: MNA

Dams and reservoirs have emerged throughout the nation. The photo shows Khawa Dam Construction Project site in Bago Division. —PHOTO: MNA
Australia, China boost ties with gas deal, free trade

CABAREE, 26 Oct.—Australia and China strengthened trade ties during a visit by President Hu Jintao on Friday, with China handing Australia its biggest ever export deal, both agreeing to explore a free trade pact.

Resource-rich Australia is seeking to tighten economic ties with China, the world’s fastest growing major economy, while China wants to build up its economic relationships in the Asian region to ensure imports of raw materials to feed its growth. The two nations signed a trade and economic framework agreement to deepen ties but the spotlight was stolen by China’s state-controlled oil and gas producer CNOC, which signed a $30 billion Australian dollars (21 billion US dollars) deal to buy a 12.5 per cent stake in Australia’s Gorgon gas field and take between 80 and 100 million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) over 25 years.

This deal topped Australia’s previous largest single export deal—a $25 billion Australian dollars contract awarded last year to supply China’s Guangdong Province with 3.3 million tons of LNG a year over 25 years.

Hu said China saw Australia as an increasingly important trading partner, particularly in areas of energy and resources. “The potential for Australia-China economic cooperation is immense,” said Hu, who was the first Asian leader to address Australia’s Parliament and Industrial Exports.

While Australia has tightened ties to the United States in recent years, culminating in a visit by President George W. Bush on Thursday, it has also continued to pursue trade links in Asia which accounts for about 50 per cent of Australia’s exports.

This year Australia, a key agricultural and mineral export, has sealed free trade deals with Thailand and Singapore and it is eyeing accords with the United States and China to build up a network of bilateral pacts as global bids to free up trade deal. Australia and China, its third largest trading partner agreed on Friday to a detailed study into the benefits of a free trade accord, to be completed by October 2005.

Trade between the two nations has surged in recent years with two-way trade almost tripling to 21 billion Australian dollars ($14.7 billion US dollars) since Australia’s conservative government took power in 1996. While Australia has tightened its ties to the United States in recent years, culminating in a visit by President George W. Bush on Thursday, it has also continued to pursue trade links in Asia which accounts for about 50 per cent of Australia’s exports.

A number of projects to use overseas investment are expected to be signed at the commencement of the meeting. So far, 23 of the world’s top 500 enterprises have invested in Anhui. Anhui had洽谈 5,545 overseas-funded enterprises, actually using 7.3 billion US dollars of overseas investment.

More than 70 per cent of the enterprises were funded by overseas Chinese, including those from Hong Kong and Macao, with investment accounting for 60 per cent of the total.

IBM to set up research laboratory in S Korea

Seoul, 26 October—IBM Corp., the world’s biggest computer hardware maker, reached an agreement with South Korean Government Friday to set up a research and development laboratory in South Korea.

According to the agreement, IBM and South Korean Government each will invest 16 million US dollars in the next four years to establish the laboratory. IBM is leading the newly-funded association.

The laboratory will develop embedded software for mobile communications and wireless applications for vehicles. Initially, the laboratory will employ 70 researchers including 10 staff from IBM’s Watson Research Centre in the United States.

China sets up NGO to protect wild plants

BEIJING, 26 Oct.—A non-government organization, the China Wild Plant Conservation Association (CWPCA), was set up in Beijing Friday.

As a voluntary association of members engaged in wild plant protection, the organization will work to serve the country’s wild plant protection cause, said Ma Fu, director of the newly-founded association.

Under the direction of state guidelines on wild plant protection, the association will unite social forces and promote knowledge of wild plants to improve public awareness.

The State Forestry Administration is in charge of the association and the professional work is guided by the State Forestry Administration and the Ministry of Agriculture.

China is home to 30,000 species of higher plants, about 10 per cent of the world’s total, in which about 57 per cent or 17,300 are endemic.

China has set up a basic legal system and administrative management on wild plant protection and has been protecting wild plant habitats and saving endangered species, said Zhao Xuefen, deputy-director of the State Forestry Administration.

As an integrated part of nature, wild plants are crucial to the ecological balance and the setup of CWPCA completed the country’s protection of natural ecosystems at the 20th anniversaries of China Wildlife Conservation Association, said Chen Runsheng, general-secretary of the CWPCA.

Overseas Chinese gather to seek investment opportunities

Hunan, 26 November—More than 150 overseas Chinese living in 20 countries and regions gathered Friday in Huaishang, a scenic spot known for Mount Huangshan in east China’s Anhui Province, to attend an investment fair to promote economic development in the province, especially in local cities on the Yangtze River.

The two-day fair is expected to help overseas Chinese increase their knowledge of China’s cultural and economic development in Anhui, in a bid to promote the province’s image on the international stage, said Provincial Vice-Governor Wen Haining.

Shanghai Telecom launches Internet cafe chain

SHANGHAI, 26 October—Shanghai telecom Thursday unveiled 30 newly-built chain Internet cafes run by Shanghai Telecom, the first time that the telecom industry expanded their business to this field.

Uniform management will be applied to the cafe chain and the Internet cafes, according to an official from Shanghai Telecom. All the cafes will follow the same service rules, use uniform logos and have a uniform style of environment.

The official said that the chain cafes are expected to help Shanghai Telecom extend its business to this field.

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China, Netherlands start joint programme on yellow river

ZHENGZHOU, 26 Oct— China and the Netherlands launched a cooperation programme on the Yellow River, China's second longest river, at an ongoing international forum on the river in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province.

At an inauguration ceremony on Thursday, Huang Ziqiang, deputy director of the Yellow River Water Resources Committee, said the programme was the start of large-scale cooperation between China and the Netherlands on the river.

Huang said the cooperation programme would focus on satellite-based monitoring of water and river movement forecast in the Yellow River Valley. Liu Zhisheng, a senior official with the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources, said both countries had cooperated on another programme involving the harnessing and development of the estuary of the Yangtze River, China's longest river, since 1985.

Under the Yangtze River programme, more than 100 Chinese water resources technical workers had received specialist training in the Netherlands. A joint committee has been set up under China’s Ministry of Water Resources and its Dutch counterpart to give guidance in water management and flood control. The Yantze River, with a length of 6,304 kilometres is one of the mudiest rivers in the world. It is know as “China’s sorrow” for the serious damage caused by frequent floods on the river.

China and the Netherlands agreed on the cooperation programme when they signed a joint declaration on the Yangtze and the Yellow rivers in September this year. Under the Yangtze River programme, China and the Netherlands also agreed to set up a joint steering committee under the joint declaration.

IMF official predicts strong growth of Chinese economy

HONG KONG, 26 Oct— David Robinson, deputy director of the Research Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said here Wednesday that he saw a strong growth of the Chinese economy and expressed the belief that the growth rate of China’s gross domestic product (GDP) may witness a faster speed next year.

Speaking at a symposium titled “World Economy Outlook”, David Robinson said the IMF predicted a 7.5 per cent GDP growth in China in 2003, adding that the growth rate may possibly exceed the number in 2004.

Robinson told the Press after the symposium that China’s economic growth has changed the old global industrial structure map, adding that more foreign companies chose to invest in China and the more foreign investment rushed to China and more lower priced industrial products made in China entered the world market.

He said that the strong growth of Chinese economy also benefitted other countries.

A latest report released by APIC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) last week indicated that China’s foreign trade volume in the first half of this year reached 1.1 billion US dollars and its export rose 44.5 per cent. The report also indicated that China’s imports amounted to 52.7 billion US dollars of direct foreign investment in 2002, up 12.5 per cent over that of the previous year.

Answering a question about the Renminbi exchange rate, Robinson said it is not important for the appreciation of the Renminbi, the important thing for China is to build up a flexible system that can encounter with any major financial shocks.

On the Hong Kong economy, he said that at the beginning of this year, the IMF predicted a 2.2 per cent GDP growth in Hong Kong, but the IMF lowered the figure to 1.5 per cent after SARS hit Hong Kong. But he expressed belief that Hong Kong’s economic growth rate this year would surely higher than the adjusted figure.

To allow more residents from major cities in Chinese Mainland to visit Hong Kong individually has boosted the Hong Kong economy, he said that at the beginning of this year, the IMF lowered the figure to 1.5 per cent after SARS hit Hong Kong. But he expressed belief that Hong Kong’s economic growth rate this year would surely higher than the adjusted figure.

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WFP appeals for $17m to help Tanzania

GENEVA, 26 Oct— The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Wednesday appealed to the international community for 17 million US dollars to help feed two million people over a six-month period starting in December, by providing 45,000 tons of food.

The WFP said more than half of Tanzania’s 34 million people live on less than one US dollar a day and are in a near-normal drought that is damaging the food security and incomes of the poorest farmers who depend almost exclusively on subsistence agriculture.

“The WFP’s assistance will dovetail with the Tanzanian Government’s action plan to feed the most vulnerable people between December and the end of March next year,” WFP country director Nicola Menage said.

“He said, however, we only have a small window of opportunity in which to get food aid positioned in time for the leanest months to reach those affected by the drought,” he added.

The WFP said that the effects of the drought is the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has played a significant role in reducing Tanzania’s agricultural productivity as well as undermining the coping strategies of affected populations.

Tanzania’s HIV prevalence rate of about 12 per cent and there are more than 800,000 children who have been orphaned by AIDS. The WFP plans to feed two million people over a six-month period starting in December, by providing 45,000 tons of food.

The WFP, also joined forces with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide seed and materials to those receiving food aid, thereby creating a “food for farming” package that will help to optimise production level and spring the next farming season.

“Today’s appeal assumes that the short harvest in February 2004 will be at near-normal levels,” Menage said.

“If this is not the case, then there could be an increased need for food aid in the worst-affected areas.”

China sees soaring grain prices this year

BEIJING, 26 Oct— China has, for the first time in the past six years, seen its grain prices soaring on the whole this year, which signified a vital change in domestic food supplies and demands.

Official statistics show that recent prices for paddy rice in east China’s Anhui Province reached 1.050 yuan per ton, up 80 to 120 yuan over the same period last year.

The purchase price for wheat in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province rose by 32 per cent to 1.100 yuan per ton. The maize price in Hebei and Shandong provinces also went up by 50 to 70 yuan per ton.

GE sees China global production centre

BEIJING, 26 Oct — General Electric (GE) has announced that it will make China its global production centre, with its purchase and sales volumes in the country reaching 5 billion yuan each by 2005.

As part of its global strategy to enhance China’s status, GE has established an industrial park for medical system in the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone, which has cost the group 26 million US dollars in direct investment.

The WFP said more than 17 million US dollars to help feed two million people over a six-month period starting in December, by providing 45,000 tons of food.

The WFP, also joined forces with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide seed and materials to those receiving food aid, thereby creating a “food for farming” package that will help to optimise production level and spring the next farming season.

“Today’s appeal assumes that the short harvest in February 2004 will be at near-normal levels,” Menage said.

“If this is not the case, then there could be an increased need for food aid in the worst-affected areas.”

A man walks among foot prints in the snow covered Olympic park in Munich, on 24 October, 2003. Overnight snowfalls in southern Germany caused traffic problems as Bavaria was covered with more than 15 centimetres of snow. — INFOSPORT
Deportivo beat Valencia to move top in Spain

Madrid, 26 Oct—Deportivo Coruna carved out a 2-1 win at home to Valencia on Saturday to bring an end to the unbeaten record in the Primera Liga and replace the 2002 champions at the top of the table.

Reigning champions Real Madrid took advantage of Valencia’s defeat to move up to second, a classy Zinedine Zidane volley and two late goals from Ronaldo earning them a 3-0 home win over Racing Santander despite a generally unimpressive performance.

With eight games played, Deportivo lead the standings with 21 points, followed by Real Madrid and Valencia on 19.

While Real produced only flashes of their best form against Racing at a rain-swept Bernabeu, Deportivo clinched victory over Valen- cia with arguably their best performance of the season. Juan Carlos Valeron hooked in their opener from close range after 14 minutes—the first goal Valencia had conceded in the league since their opening-day 1-1 draw against Valladolid. Valencia hit back with a Zinedine Zidane volley after 74 minutes, the former Real Madrid forward converting a David Albelda cross, but Diego Tristán crashed in a 92nd-minute free-kick from a Franco Semiòdi cross on the hour as all that separated the sides in a tight contest which ended with Deportivo’s fifth defeat from seven games leaving them next to bottom. — MNA/Reuters

Malaga claim narrow win over Zaragoza

Malaga, 26 Oct—Malaga survived a late fightback from Real Zaragoza to claim a 2-1 home win in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

A near-post header from Litos in the 28th minute and a Salva Ballista penalty in the final minute of the first half gave the home side a comfortable lead going into the break. Zaragoza hardly created a chance in the second period before Goran Drulic reduced the arrears with two minutes left of normal time.

The visitors poured forward but the Malaga defence came through a couple of nervous moments to secure a victory that takes them up to 10th place.

League leaders Valencia are away to second-placed Deportivo Coruna in the highlight of the weekend’s programme later on Saturday.

Chievo climb after win at Empoli

Milan, 26 Oct—A superbly taken goal from Brazilian striker Amauri gave Chievo Verona a 1-0 win at Empoli on Saturday to put them level with Parma in fourth place in Serie A.

Amauri’s volley from a Franco Semiòdi cross on the hour was all that separated the sides in a tight contest which ended with Empoli’s fifth defeat from seven games leaving them next to bottom. — MNA/Reuters

Fulham topple Man United as Chelsea go top

London, 26 Oct—Champions Manchester United crashed to a sensational 3-1 home defeat by Fulham, while Chelsea went top with a 1-0 victory over Manchester City in a pulsating day of Premier League action on Saturday.

Lee Clark gave Fulham a third-minute lead. Diego Forlan levelled for United just before the break but second-half goals from Steed Malbranque and substitute Junichi Inamoto gave the west Londoners their first win over United since 1984.

Jimmy Floyd Hassellbank scored Chelsea’s first-half winner to put them top on goals scored but level on 23 points with Arsenal, who play at Charlton Athletic on Sunday. United stayed third on 22 points.

Elsewhere, Wolverhampton Wanderers produced an amazing comeback to beatimmer 4-3 after trailing 3-0 at the break. Liverpool ended a three-match losing streak by beating Leeds United 3-1 and Arsenal failed to extend their winning run to seven games.

The Cottagers ran out of steam.

“Chelsea played with intelligence, patience and a lot of sacrifice. Most teams this season have come to the Bernabeu with a damage limitation exercise in mind but in mind but Ronaldo took the game to Real from the start,” said Real coach Carlos Queiroz.

With Fernando Moran, Rodolfo Bodipo and Yossi Benayoun in eye-catching form, Racing carved the Real defence apart repeatedly, only for poor finishing to let them down. Their goal came just past the quarter-hour when Moran ran with the ball across the front of the Real area and picked out Benayoun in the centre who turned and fired past Iker Casillas.

A Lasota volley from a corner almost led to a second Racing goal but the Real defence scrambled the ball clear.

Racing passed the ball better than their illustrious opponents and created a string of chances but they failed to extend their lead and paid the price in the 27th when Zidane produced a precision volley from Ronaldo’s cross.

Two goals from prolific Brazilian striker Alton helped Werder Bremen win 2-1 at SC Freiburg to move into third, level on points with second-placed Leverkusen.

Stuttgart extend unbeaten run to recapitulate lead

Berlin, 26 Oct—VfB Stuttgart recaptured the lead in the Bundesliga by extending their unbeaten run to 10 games with a 2-0 win over VFL Wolfsburg on Saturday. Substitute striker Ioannis Amanatidis hit the winner in the 74th minute to send Stutt- garth two points ahead of previous leaders Bayer Leverkusen, who entertain Borussia Moenchengladbach on Sunday.

Three days after a 2-0 win over Panathinaikos took them to the top of their Champions League group, Stuttgart pleased their fans with another victory but were made to work hard and needed a couple of crucial saves from goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand to “in satisfied with the result but with not our performance,” said Stuttgart coach Felix Magath.

“We were a bit lucky to win this one. Wolfsburg were very aggressive in midfield and would have deserved a draw.”

Two goals from prolific Brazilian striker Alton helped Werder Bremen win 2-1 at SC Freiburg to move into third, level on points with second-placed Leverkusen.

MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday’s Cross Puzzle

MNA/Reuters

Aerial view of SL Benfica’s new soccer stadium shot on 14 October 2001 in Lisbon. The new-look 54,000-seater which can seat 30,000 and cost 120 million euros ($142 million dollars) will be inaugurated on Saturday, 20 October. The venue will host the final of the Euro 2004 European soccer championships to be held in Portugal in 2004.—INTERNET
22 tourists arrive by chartered flight

Yangon, 26 Oct — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, sponsored by the Ministry of Transport, and with the arrangement of Yangon Airways and Asian Trails Tour Ltd, 22 tourists from Germany arrived here this afternoon by chartered flight of Yangon Airways. Officials of YA and Asian Trails Tour Ltd and cultural groups welcomed them at the Yangon International Airport. During their stay in Myanmar, the tourists are due to visit Yangon, Heho, Inlay, Nyaungshwe, Popa and Bagan. On 30 October, they will leave for Phukhet, Thailand. — MNA

Earthquake report

Issued at 22:30 hours MST on Today
An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (1200) miles northeast of Mandalay seisomological observatory was recorded at (19)hrs (16) min (02) sec MST on 25th October 2003.

WEATHER

Sunday, 26 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States, Magway, Bago Divisions, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in upper Sagaing, Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Mawlaik (1.57) inches.

Minimum temperature on 25-10-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-10-2003 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 25-10-2003 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2220 mm (86.68 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2381 mm (93.74 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from East at (15:30) hours MST on 25-10-2003.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (09:30hrs) MST today, the low pressure area over Gulf of Thailand has move into the Southeast Bay of Bengal. It is likely to move Northwestward and may intensify further into a depression. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-10-2003: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be widespread in Rakhine, Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing Division and isolated scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Delicu, Gulf of Mottama, Mon-Taninthayi Coast and surface wind speed may reach (30) mph. Seas will be sligtly to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of thundery conditions in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-10-2003: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-10-2003: Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Untimely Rainfall warning

(Issue at 11:30 am on 26th October, 2003)
According to the observation at (09:30) hrs MST today low pressure area over Gulf of Thailand has moved into the Southwest Bay of Bengal. It is likely to move North Westwards and may intensify further into a depression.
Under this influence, scattered rain are likely in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions during the next (48) hours commencing noon today.
For Taninthayi Division to become oil bowl of the nation, national entrepreneurs have put 80,000 acres of land under oil palm

Taninthayi Division, which has been developing year by year due to the building of infrastructures in the transportation sector such as new roads and bridges, extension of flights after renovating Myeik and Kawthoung airports and constructing Ye-Dawei railroad. As regards the agriculture sector, although the division has not achieved rice sufficiency, paddy cultivation in the region has increased year by year. There were only over 190,000 acres of paddy in the division in the previous decade but now there are over 270,000 acres. Therefore, it can be seen that 80 percent of rice sufficiency has been achieved.

Under the project implemented for the division to become the oil bowl of the nation, the national entrepreneurs have put 80,000 acres of land under oil palm. Efforts are being made for extended cultivation of oil palm and building bran oil mill. Similarly, plans for extended cultivation of rubber meet with success.

The fishery sector, the promising one in Taninthayi Division, has developed with momentum. Apart from

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tyres and rubber factory, construction projects of university, technological college, land reclamation works in Hpa-an

YANGON, 26 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers, the Chief-of-Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by helicopter and arrived at No-1 Tyre and Rubber Factory of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Thaton industrial region at 8.30 am today.

The Prime Minister was welcomed here by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Thaton Station, Commander of No 44 LID Col Thet Naing Win, local authorities, the managing director of Myanmar Tyre and Rubber Industries and officials.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported to the Prime Minister on location of heavy industries of the ministry and products, measures taken for boosting production, products supplied to other ministries and prices, salient points, products, and tasks for boosting production of No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory.

Managing Director U Oo Zun of MTRI reported to the Prime Minister on organizational set-up of MTRI, location, area, technology, technical assistance, and investment of the factory, production of tyres at the factory, production to fulfill the market demand, production of tyres for vehicles, light trucks, heavy trucks, power tillers and bicycles, arrangements for producing radial tyres.

After hearing reports, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. He said that with the development of the State, demand of various kinds of tyres would increase in proportion with the increase in use of different vehicles. Systematic plans to fulfill the demand of tyres with the local production and measures for the emergence of an import substitute industry must be carried out in cooperation with national entrepreneurs. Arrangements must also be made for establishing rubber plantations of the ministry.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed round the production process of the factory and inspected tyres produced by the factory. Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Hpa-an in Kayin State. Commander of No22 LID Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Cho Tun Aung and officials welcomed the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and party proceeded to the construction site of Hpa-an University. Pro-rector U Saw Han Shein, professors, associate professors, heads of departments and teachers welcomed the Prime Minister.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt reported to the Prime Minister on background/history, courses, specialization, and number of students and teaching staff of the university, opening of IT rooms installed with 65 sets of computers, and teaching and management affairs. Chairman of Yuzana Construction Group U Hay Myint on blueprints, architectural designs of the buildings of the university, completion of the three-storey main building, two-storey lecture rooms, Block-A and Block-B, water and electricity supply and greening tasks; the director of Kayin State Development Affairs Department on extension of the entrance road and upgrading tasks of the university; and Kayin Satate Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Cho Tun Aung on