Universities and colleges have been built in development regions for emergence of human resources on which the State can rely

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Myeik and Dawei Universities

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends opening of new hospital (200-bed) in Myeik

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives back from India

YANGON, 27 Oct — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Lay arrived back here yesterday attending the Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultation held in New Delhi.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by the directors-general of the departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr R K Bhatta, Deputy Director-General U Nyan Lynn of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director-Extraordinary U Ye Myint also arrived back on the same flight.

At the Foreign Office Consultation held at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 23 October, both sides signed the agreed minutes of the meeting. The deputy minister and Finance Secretary of India Mr D C Gupta signed a 25 million dollar Credit Agreement between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of India.

On 24 October, the deputy minister paid a courtesy call on the Minister of External Affairs of India Mr Yashwant Sinha at his office. Myanmar delegation went to Kolkata and also called on the Governor of West Bengal Mr Viran J Shah at the Raj Bhavan the next day.

Auditor-General receives visiting Chinese delegation

YANGON, 27 Oct — Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung received Auditor-General of Audit Office of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Jinjun and party, who arrived here on an official visit, at his office on Thakhin Mya Park Road in Aikin Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion together with the auditor-general were Deputy Auditor-General U Khin Win, Director-General Daw Thin Thin and Deputy Director-General Daw Tin Kyi Oo. Also present together with the visiting delegation was Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun.

In the evening, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting delegation at the Karaweik Palace. The delegation this morning visited the Simon Pagoda, and in the afternoon it visited the National Museum and the Drug Elimination Museum.

Fourth Annual Meeting of Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum commences

The ministers, the deputy ministers, ambassadors and embassy staff and delegates and officials posed for souvenir photos.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Lay reported on introduction of GMS—BF, Dr Dinjia of TTC on cross border trade and investment opportunities among GMS countries, Investment Officer of ADB Ms Madeleine Varkay on transit trade among economic corridors, Executive Vice-President of VCCI Mr Hoang Van Dung on GMS—BF Trade Fair and Economic Affairs Officer of UNESCAP on GMS in a new Asia. The delegates took part in the discussions. The conference transferred chairmanship to Vice-President of UMFCCI U Win Aung was held. Newly appointed Chairman U Win Aung then presented certificates of gratitude to former chairman Mr Chanpheng Bounnapol and Secretary-General Mr Khunsintha-vong Nhouyiva-niovong. Next, U Win Aung extended greetings. In the evening, he hosted dinner in honour of the delegates at Karaweik Palace in Kandawgyi.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 28 October, 2003

Myanmar, future transportation hub of the region

The opening ceremony of the Ninth ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting was held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 23 October and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address on the occasion.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, “Before the advent of our government, transportation networks did not develop as much as they should have for various reasons. Consequently, during our time, we have devoted attention to achieve rapid and extensive progress in the transportation sector. We have built roads, rails, bridges, airports and seaports with our own resources.”

At the Ninth ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, the ASEAN leaders adopted the ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) in which they pledged to build an ASEAN Community based on the three pillars of “ASEAN Security Community”, “ASEAN Economic Community” and “ASEAN Socio-cultural Community”. The ASEAN Economic Community would include “enhanced infrastructure and communications connectivity”. Moreover, the leaders also agreed to accelerate regional integration in the 11 priority sectors including air travel and tourism.

Since 1988, 2,000 miles of new roads and a total of 163 major bridges including seven large ones over rivers, two across the Chindwin river and three across the Thanlwin river have been built. Moreover, as rail transportation constitutes an important sector in land transportation, over 1,000 miles of new rail lines have been constructed. Previously, the transportation network was mainly intended to link the north and south of the country. Today, there are road and rail networks that connect all corners of the nation and all the neighbouring countries with ours.

In the aviation sector, seven new airports have been constructed and 21 existing airports upgraded to accommodate larger aircraft. Before the time of the present Government, the Yangon International Airport was the only international airport. Today, with the opening of the international airport in Mandalay, a second international aviation entry point has been added. And in the near future, with the completion of the airport extension project in Bagan, there will be three international airports.

In the maritime transportation sector, Thalawa, Thakaya, Aikin and other industrial terminals including new container terminals with modern equipment have been completed.

We believe that our nation, with gradual development in infrastructure, will become a transportation hub of the southeast region.

Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Kanwal Sibal held discussions on a wide range of subjects including border related issues, trade and economic cooperation, development issues in a very warm and cordial manner. In the evening of 24 October, both sides signed the agreed minutes of the meeting. The deputy minister and Finance Secretary of India Mr D C Gupta signed a 25 million dollar Credit Agreement between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of India.

On 24 October, the deputy minister paid a courtesy call on the Minister of External Affairs of India Mr Yashwant Sinha at his office. Myanmar delegation went to Kolkata and also called on the Governor of West Bengal Mr Viran J Shah at the Raj Bhavan the next day.
**US colonel killed in Iraq hotel strike**

Baghdad, 27 Oct—In a daring strike, Iraqi guerillas attacked the heart of the US occupation on Sunday, unleashing a barrage of rockets against the Al Rashied hotel where US officials live and where visiting Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying. Wolfowitz escaped, but an American colonel was killed and 15 people were wounded.

Scores of American officials fled the hotel in pajamas and shorts after the 6.10 am assault, which apparently used a makeshift rocket battery on a timer that had been wheeled into a nearby park. More than a half-dozen holes pockmarked the hotel’s concrete facade and windows were shattered in two dozen rooms.

Wolfowitz, who appeared shaken as he addressed reporters at a convention center across the street where most officials fled, vowed the attack would not deter the United States in its mission to transform Iraq.

“There are a few who refuse to accept the reality of a new and better Iraq,” he said. “We will not relent in our pursuit of them.” The bold strike from nearly point-blank range once again pointed up the vulnerability of even heavily

**Indonesia to import 2.3 million tons of rice this year**

Jakarta, 27 Oct—Once hailed as self-sufficient rice producing country, Indonesia this year has to import 2.3 million tons of rice, says a top minister.

Speaking in the cool mountain resort of Ambarawa in Central Java, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-lakti said that domestic production has failed to match the demand arising from population growth. Indonesia achieved self-sufficiency in primary food commodities in 1983. “We have to be optimist that we can reach the same stature in the future,” he was quoted Saturday by the daily Jakarta Post as saying.

**Vietnam War nations to deepen search for US MIAs**

BANGKOK, 27 Oct — The United States and three South-East Asian countries pledged on Friday to work together to search for remains of more than 1,800 missing American servicemen from the Vietnam War.

What’s new is we are working now at a very senior level and working together as four nations,” senior Pentagon official Jerry Jennings told reporters after four-way talks ended in Bangkok.

It was the first time senior officials from the United States, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos had met to share information and techniques working now at a very senior level and working together as four nations,” senior Pentagon official Jerry Jennings told reporters after four-way talks ended in Bangkok.

The meeting is the latest in a series of talks exploring ways to improve cooperation in searching for remains along Vietnam’s border areas with Cambodia and Laos, he said.

**Syria rules out sending forces to Iraq**

DAMASCUS, 27 Oct — Syria on Saturday ruled out sending forces to neighbouring Iraq to join multi-national forces in the war-torn country.

Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam made the remarks following a meeting with an Iraqi popu lar delegation, currently visiting Damascus.

“This is out of the question,” Khaddam said, adding “no Arab country will participate in sending troops to Iraq,” referring to a US call on other countries to send troops to Iraq to keep the peace.

Arab countries have not offered to contribute troops to Iraq though some of them, particularly in the Gulf region, have offered to assist Iraq’s reconstruction with aid and technical expertise.

Khaddam noted that he held talks with the Iraqi delegation on the latest developments in Iraq and Pal estine and the two sides stressed the need to end the occupation and the Iraqis right to decide on their future under the UN supervision.

**Thai tourism sector gets $373.5m boost from APEC**

Bangkok, 27 Oct—Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) estimated domestic and foreign tourist activities during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings had pumped 13.5 billion baht (373.5 million US dollars) into the kingdom, TAT’s official newspaper reported Saturday.

TAT Governor Juthamas Siriwan said domestic tourism spending during the special APEC holidays on October 17 and October 20-22 was estimated to be 8.5 billion baht (212.5 million US dollars), or 63 per cent of the total.

Hotel occupancy in some provinces, including Kanchanaburi, Chon Buri, Phetchaburi, Phuket, Chiang Mai, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Rayong, ranged from 80 per cent to 95 per cent during the four-day APEC holidays, which approved by Thailand’s Cabinet in order to avoid traffic congestion in Bangkok.

She also said APEC boosted foreign tourism in three important ways: first, the Royal Barge Procession promoted local culture; second, the tight security for APEC proved Thailand was a safe destination for tourists; and finally, the country showed it could host world-class events. —MNA/Xinhua

**Black Hawk down in Iraq, five US troops wounded**

Tikrit, 27 Oct—Five US soldiers were wounded in Iraq on Saturday in a rocket attack on a Black Hawk helicopter near Saddam Hussein’s home town of Tikrit.

As the aircraft blazed on the ground with sight of a major US base, soldiers told a Reuters photographer at the scene that a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) hit it in the air. But a US military spokeswoman in Baghdad said it was unclear what brought it down, only that RPGs were fired on the wreck.

“After the aircraft was on the ground, it was attacked with RPGs,” she said, saying it was “pre-sently not known” what brought the Black Hawk down. The five wounded were evacuated.

Reuters photographer Damir Sagolj heard a loud bang before the helicopter fell from the sky.

Soldiers said they saw the helicopter flying along-side a second Black Hawk when it came down. The second aircraft landed and rescued at least one crew member, they added.

Rocket attacks are a daily fact of life for the US forces on the ground. But there has been only one re-port of hostile fire bringing down aircraft since major combat ended in April. Despite American fears about the availability of shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles in Iraq.

US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, one of the architects of Washington’s campaign against Saddam, had visit-ed Tikrit hours earlier, to meet troops engaged in one of the main hotspots of Iraqi resistance to the occupation forces. —Internet

**Hotel windows are seen after eight rockets struck the Al Rashied Hotel early Sunday, on 26 Oct, 2003, where US military and civilian employees stay. A spokesman for the military command said there were an ‘unknown number of casualties’ and a quick reaction force had been dispatched to the scene. —Internet**
US Democrats clash over war in Iraq

DETROIT, 27 Oct — The nine Democratic White House hopefuls clashed on Sunday over the war in Iraq and an 87-billion-US-dollar administration request for troops and reconstruction there, trading charges over what they said was a crucial test of US leadership.

In their fifth debate in less than two months, the Democrats vying to replace President George W Bush accused each other of flip-flopping on Iraq and questioned who was best suited to handle the foreign policy challenges facing the United States.

Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, a stout supporter of the war, blasted Senators John Edwards and John Kerry for voting against the 87 billion US dollars requested by the Bush Administration even though they voted to authorize the war.

Lieberman, who said any Democrat who hoped to replace Bush needed to demonstrate leadership, also said retired General Wesley Clark had been wildly inconsistent on Iraq. "He can’t even now explain why he fought in Vietnam," the New York Democrat said.

Lieberman also hit John Edwards, the Democratic frontrunner for the US Senate seat from North Carolina, over his refusal to say whether he was against the 87 billion dollar request for Iraq.

"You can’t just say you’re anti-war and vote for 87 billion dollars," Lieberman told a debate following the debate, "or vote against 87 billion dollars and be anti-war. It’s a lie."

Formerly conjoined twins Mohamed Ibrahim (L) and Ahmed Ibrahim are joined by their parents Ibrahim Mohamed Ibrahim and Sabah Abou Al Wafa, along with their older brother, Mahmoud Ibrahim, at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas. The boys, formerly conjoined at the head, saw each other for the first time since surgery to separate them two weeks ago, their doctor said on 24 October, 2003. — INTERNET

Indonesian, Malaysian sign MoU

JAKARTA, 27 Oct — The Indonesian Institute of Accountants (IAI) and the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in a bid to avert challenges from South-East Asia’s economic integration.

IAI Chairman Ahmad Hadihroto told a press conference following the signing ceremony on Friday that the agreement was aimed at creating a standard accounting practice in the two countries through training, education, seminars and joint research programmes.

"Both institutions will be able to share information and do joint research. We will also implement education programmes and seminars to help improve the quality of our accountants," he was quoted Saturday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

During the recent summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the leaders of the regional grouping adopted a framework to liberalize and integrate the region’s economies by 2020 under the so-called ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The AEC envisages a single market with a free flow of goods, capital, skilled labour and services. This means that when the AEC is realized, accountants from Malaysia can freely work in Indonesia and vice versa.

The AEC is expected to boost trade and investment activities in the region.

However, he stated that bilateral cooperation in the accounting sector was more feasible than multilateral agreements.

He divided ASEAN countries into three different levels of economical progress and “it would be unfair for less advanced countries to adopt the same standards”.

In the polls ahead of the first nominating contests in January, "He took six different positions on whether going to war was the right idea. It took him four days to decide whether voting on the 87 billion US dollars was a good idea."

Kerry, a Massachusetts senator and decorated Vietnam War veteran who has highlighted his military service, drew a contrast with Lieberman’s lack of military experience at the debate hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus and Fox News Channel.

“I have served in an experience which you don’t have," he told Lieberman, “and that’s the experience of being one of those troops on the front lines when the policy has gone wrong.”

Kerry and Edwards, a North Carolina senator, voted against the 87 billion US dollars last week, along with Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich. Lieberman and Missouri Representative Richard Gephardt voted for the 87 billion US dollars, which was backed by both chambers of Congress but is still in a negotiating conference. — MNA/Reuters

Chile offers agricultural food assistance for Iraq

MADRID, 27 Oct — Chile on Friday offered technical assistance to Iraq in the areas of agriculture, food security, infancy and health, and will consider the possibility of helping in other areas, like justice and the electoral system.

During the second and last day of the International Conference of Donors for the Reconstruction of Iraq, Chilean Vice-Foreign Minister Christian Barros expressed his confidence in a prompt improvement in the security conditions in Iraq.

Barros called on the United Nations to play a relevant role in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Barros explained that Chile could offer technical assistance to improve the living conditions of the Iraqi people in the areas where South America has worked before, in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Barros highlighted the experience of Chile in agriculture, food security, infancy and health, as well as in the areas of justice and the electoral system.

Other areas where Chile could intervene are assistance for child victims of war, women’s conditions, and human rights education, said the official. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian prisoners are transported on a US Army truck into Abu Ghraib prison, on the outskirts of the capital Baghdad, on 25 October, 2003. — INTERNET

Chinese President meets New Zealand Governor-General

WELLINGTON, 27 Oct — Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao expressed satisfaction on Saturday over the smooth development of relations between China and New Zealand when meeting with New Zealand Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright.

During the meeting, Hu said that the China-New Zealand relations have made progress in recent years, with frequent top-level exchanges of visits and enhanced cooperation in the fields of trade and economic relations, education, tourism, and science and technology.

“Reviewing the development of bilateral ties since the two countries established diplomatic relations 31 years ago, we found that the important foundation and guidelines for our relations are mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and seeking common ground while reserving differences so as to achieve common development,” he said.

China’s new leadership has attached great importance to the China-New Zealand relations and hopes to further promote the bilateral ties, he said.

The Chinese President believed that through his visit both sides would deepen mutual understanding and expand common ground with a view to elevating their friendly cooperation to a higher level.

Cartwright said the Chinese culture brought to the country by Chinese immigrants since the early 19th Century has become an important part of the social culture and daily life of New Zealand.

Russia says safety concerns misplaced aboard “ISS”

MOSCOW, 27 Oct — Russia dismissed on Friday US concerns that failing equipment was endangering crew safety on the International Space Station, saying NASA was simply in the dark about the situation on board since grounding its shuttles.

The Washington Post reported on Thursday that several NASA officials had refused to sign off to the current 200-day mission by US astronaut Michael Foale and Russian Alexander Kaleri because air and water monitors on the ISS were in disrepair.

“Nothing has changed on the station,” Sergei Gorbunov, spokesman for Russia’s space authority Rosaviakosmos, told NTV television. “The crew are all right. They have everything, including air of proper quality.”

“All air-monitoring and air-supplying equipment is functioning properly. There are no problems. The only problem is that the shuttles are not flying. And that has disrupted data processing from the US segment of the station,” he said.

Foale, the newest ISS commander, told an orbit-to-Earth news conference on Thursday that he and his Russian colleague were aware of safety objections within NASA to their flight, which launched last week. But both felt perfectly safe.

The US astronaut Foale is replacing dismissed re- port of health concerns as “overblown”. Gorbunov said the safety issue was raised by the United States after Russia turned down its request to bring down a malfunctioning gas analyzer, a replacement for which was sent to the ISS in August. — MNA/Reuters
PROTESTS AGAINST WAR IN IRAQ

Some 25,000 protesters from across the nation demonstrated near the Washington Monument calling for what they describe as “an end to the occupation of Iraq” by the US on 25 Oct, 2003.—INTERNET

Anthony Sbragia of San Francisco stands in front of San Francisco’s City Hall during a protest and parade against the Iraq War on 25 October, 2003. Hundreds of people collected in Civic Center Plaza before the parade began.—INTERNET

A demonstrator waves a flag during a peace protest in Washington, on 25 October, 2003. Thousands rallied to protest the US policy in Iraq, the first major demonstration since President George W Bush declared an end to major combat in the war on Iraq.—INTERNET

A peace activist demonstrates during a rally on the National Mall in Washington, on 25 October, 2003. Thousands rallied to protest US policy in Iraq, the first major demonstration since President George W Bush declared an end to major combat in the war on Iraq.—INTERNET

Turkish women, supporters of the Islamic Felicity Party, hold a banner that reads ‘Don’t cooperate with occupation’ during a rally in Istanbul, Turkey, on 25 October, 2003. Hundreds of Turks, supporters of the Islamic Felicity Party gathered in an Istanbul square to protest the US-led occupation in neighbouring Iraq.—INTERNET

Some 25,000 protesters from across the nation demonstrated near the Washington Monument calling for what they describe as “an end to the occupation of Iraq” by the US on 25 Oct, 2003.—INTERNET
Most Iraqis see US forces as occupiers

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct— Most Iraqis regard the US-led forces in their country as occupiers rather than liberators, with many more now taking that view than did so just after US troops overthrew Saddam Hussein in April, according to a poll released on Thursday.

The survey by Iraq’s Centre for Research and Strategic Studies, a think tank set up by a group of Iraqi professors after Saddam’s fall, also showed only a small portion of Iraqis felt safest in the presence of US troops or local police.

The poll results, released on Thursday, showed that 67 per cent of Iraqis see the US-led coalition forces as “occupying powers.” The figure is up from 46 per cent in a survey conducted shortly after the war that ousted Saddam.

Fifteen per cent consider the coalition forces “liberating forces”, down from 43 per cent six months ago. One in 10 sees them as peacekeepers, twice as many as in April.

Asked what the best political solution would be for Iraq, 33.7 per cent wanted an “Islamic theocracy” while 23.7 per cent said they backed “Islamic democracy.” Support for “democracy” was at 30.5 per cent. The political terms were undefined.

Among members of the US-appointed Governing Council, the three with the highest approval ratings were Islamists from the Shiite branch of the Muslim religion practised by the majority of Iraqis.

Topping the list at 57.7 per cent was Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, a top official of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. He is the brother of Ayatollah Mohammad Bagher al-Hakim, who was assassinated in August.

Asked who could best provide security, 62.5 per cent of Iraqis said family, relatives and neighbours followed by 32.7 per cent who trusted police. Joint patrols by police and coalition forces were seen as the best guarantor by 42 per cent. Neighbourhood patrols by 3.2 per cent and coalition forces were last at 3 per cent.

Among other findings, 74 per cent of those polled said they did not trust local newspapers and half did not trust Iraqi political parties.

The poll of 1,620 Iraqis was conducted in seven cities from September 28 to October 10. The margin of error is 3 per cent.

“Concorde” soars away on last passenger flight

ABOARD CONCORDE, 27 Oct— Concorde, the world’s only supersonic airliner, roared off into aviation history on Friday, heading home to London for the last time.

The sleek, needle-nosed plane took off from New York’s John F Kennedy Airport in brilliant autumnal sunshine for a historic flight that brought an end to the supersonic era.

It climbed to the edge of space for the last flight across the Atlantic, travelling faster than a speeding bullet.

Tens of thousands protest Iraq policy in Washington

WASHINGTON, 27 Oct— Tens of thousands of protestors marched around the White House on Saturday in the first large-scale demonstration against the occupation of Iraq by US-led forces since President George W Bush declared an end to major combat.

The protesters, waving placards demanding the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, gathered at a rally at the Washington Monument before moving toward the White House.

Peace activists, joined by family members of US soldiers, said the mounting casualties in Iraq had helped spur the US anti-war movement into action after months of relative quiet.

“We need to make President Bush realize that our children are being killed,” said Fernando de Sollaz, whose son, a Marine, was killed in Iraq on March 25.

Since May, when Bush stood on the deck of an aircraft carrier and declared major combat in the Iraq war over, 108 US soldiers have been killed in guerrilla attacks.

Many of the protesters said they felt the cost of the Iraq occupation in American lives was too high and the billions of US dollars being spent on reconstructing the country’s shattered economy could be put to better use at home.

“We need to quit worrying about the ills of other countries and to stop spending billions of dollars on Iraq when we need money for our own jobs here,” said Washington resident Erik Jurek, who added that he was worried about his brother serving in the US Army in Baghdad.

United for Peace and Justice, which coordinated the protest with International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), estimated that 100,000 people from more than 145 cities attended the demonstration.

Police on the streets put the number closer to 20,000 or 30,000. Washington police do not provide official crowd estimates at public protests.

ANSWER spokesman Bryan Becker said the demonstration was intended to send a message to the Bush Administration that its position was “losing ground” while they were gaining.

Two new explosions hit Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct— At least two explosions detonated on Sunday evening in an area of Baghdad that includes the headquarters of Iraq’s US-led administration, the US military said.

A military spokesman said the explosions had gone off in the capital’s Green Zone, which also includes a top-security hotel that came under rocket attack earlier in the day. Reporters in central Baghdad also heard several explosions.

The new apparent attack followed a daring strike 15 hours earlier on Sunday, when insurgents attacked the heart of the US occupation, unleashing a barrage of rockets against the Al Rasheed hotel, where US officials live and where visiting Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying. Wolfowitz escaped, but an American colonel was killed and 15 people were wounded.

Scores of American officials fled the hotel in pajamas and shots after the 6.10 am assault, in which a rocket battery on a truck wheeled into a nearby park, hit the hotel with eight to 10 missiles. Holes pockmarked the Al Rasheed’s modern, concrete façade, and windows were shattered in two dozen rooms.

Wolfowitz, who appeared shaken as he addressed reporters at a convention centre across the street where most officials fled, vowed the attack would not deter the United States in its mission to transform Iraq.

“There are a few who refuse to accept the reality of a new and free Iraq,” he said. “We will be unrelenting in our pursuit of them.”

Paraguay welcomes Brazil’s election to UNSC

BRAZIL, 27 Oct— Paraguayan President Nicanor Duarte applauded Brazil’s election to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member, the local daily ABC Color reported Friday. The daily said Duarte “celebrated in a very particular way this event for he was one of the proponents of the inclusion in the Security Council of a member of the South American Common Market”.

The Paraguayan leader assured that Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is a “visionary made in combat, who shows us day after day his high spirit of solidarity to contribute to universal peace.”

He also remarked that “in the last UN General Assembly meeting, in September, in New York, I publicly said Paraguay favoured the incorporation of Brazil in the Security Council.”

UN considers $5b will suffice for Iraq in 2004

MAZAN, 27 Oct — The chief of the development group of the United Nations, Malloch Brown, considered that five billion US dollars will suffice to cover the real and immediate reconstruction needs for Iraq in 2004.

During his speech presented Friday at the International Conference of Donors for the Reconstruction of Iraq, Brown said the previous figures considered by the United Nations for such efforts amounted to nine billion dollars in 2004.

After having made an evaluation and taking into account the insecurity and the experience of post-conflict situations, the UN representative recognized that of the nine billion dollars, only five billion dollars will be applied in 2004. The UN pronounced Friday in favour of a “financial combination” for the 2005-2007 period which must not be only constituted by assistance, or else “a distortion would be caused in the flow of assistance for other countries”, he warned.

Delegations from 73 countries, 20 international organizations and 13 non-governmental organizations attended the event.

Spanish First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Rodrigo Rato announced Friday evening that the international donors’ conference for the reconstruction of Iraq has raised a total of 33 billion US dollars. — MNA/Albawal
The duty defined by the national cause-3

Ketu Nila

(continued from yesterday)

Later, the NLD, dogmatically grasping the 1990 election results and dialogue a political tactic, unlawfully formed the committee representing the Hluttaw. The committee representing the Hluttaw can be formed by the Hluttaw itself and when necessary. Therefore, forming the committee representing the Hluttaw in the absence of the Hluttaw is like forming a parallel government and amount to challenging the existing government. It is as clear as daylight how impossibly the NLD disregarded the law.

Inspite of all these, the Head of State himself sought ways and means for building confidence and understanding by holding talks with the leader of the NLD.

However, the NLD misinterpreted the Government’s flexible attitude and approach towards the national reconciliation was due to interference and pressure of big powers. It is obvious that the NLD, thinking highly of foreign nations, is still relying on them. It was because of this attitude that the NLD did an about-turn over the Government’s overtures to put it back on the national political path. So long as the stand of the NLD is solely in the interest of the party itself rather than the national interests and aimed at seizing power and so long as it is trying to topple the existing Tatmadaw Government, transition to democracy will be delayed and the emergence of a new democracy will be a far cry.

All those with a desire for democracy do not want such a situation come to pass. To overcome such a situation with the united strength of the Union nationals, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt clarified the seven-point policy programme. This policy programme, in essence, is the beacon for building a new, peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

The emergence of the State Constitution is the cardinal demand of the history of contemporary Myanmar. It is of great importance to draw a comprehensive constitution in accordance with the wishes of the Union nationals. Moreover, it should be a constitution approved by the entire nationals of the Union. This is the absolute democratic right of the national people, the original owner of the State power. It is the right of any party or any group or any individual to draw a constitution.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw Government started holding the National Convention on 9 January 1993 to be able to lay down fundamental principles for a comprehensive constitution in accordance with the wishes of the Union nationals. Moreover, it should be a constitution approved by the entire nationals of the Union. This is the absolute democratic right of the national people, the original owner of the State power. It is the right of any party or any group or any individual to draw a constitution.

The programme in the fifth phase of the “holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies)” is aimed at realizing of the very life and genuine desire of the State and national people. To be exact, as the duration from 1990 to 2003 is over a decade, it is impossible to ignore the fact that the life and desire of the State and the people are changeable during that period. The concrete attitude to the 1990 electoral result should be discarded in this year of 2003.

Not only can the logical acceptance of possible mutability warrant the prosperity of the State and national people, it will also contribute to the practical application of the genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system.

The programme “convening of Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution” and the seventh programme “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”, makes it clear that the Tatmadaw Government is standing steadfastly on the national cause so as to build a future State with the roadmap of the State.

It is strongly believed that the roadmap of the State, which emerged in conformity with the historical development, is “the duty defined by the national cause” in establishing a future state based on the attitude free from sectarian views without neglecting the practical life and desire of the State and national people. In other words, the roadmap of the State, which is to be implemented actively by the entire mass of national people including political parties equipped with love of the country, love of own race and love of the Union by adopting the genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system for creating a modern, developed democracy, is also “the duty defined by the national cause” in the present history of Myanmar.

(Translation: NN+KTY)

Volunteers enthusiastic about teaching Chinese overseas

GUANGZHOU, 27 Oct — Over 200 volunteers have registered to teach Chinese abroad in a project initiated by the Guangdong Provincial Overseas Exchange Association. The association will set up a database of the volunteers to match them with the invitations and requests from abroad, said Lu Weixiong, director of the Guangdong Provincial Overseas Exchange Association, at a forum held here Saturday on the volunteer work.

Most of the volunteers have a high level of education, with 12 percent of them having master degrees and 62 percent having bachelor degrees. They worked as teachers, civil servants, reporters and engineers.

The project was launched in August. Since July 2001, the association has sent volunteers to help Chinese teachers in Indonesia. Many people in other countries are interested in learning Chinese and more volunteers are needed, Lu said. Guangdong Province is home to many overseas Chinese.

MNA/Xinhua

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of 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 amount to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

China’s food industry output increases in first eight months

BEIJING, 27 Oct — China’s food industry output reported an output of around 801.1 billion yuan (96.87 billion US dollars) for the eight months to August, 18.67 percent higher than that of the corresponding period last year.

According to the latest statistics from the China National Food Industry Association (CNFIA), the country’s food industry also realized a sales volume of about 762.9 billion yuan (92.2 billion US dollars) from January to August, up 20.14 percent over the same period last year. Despite the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in spring, China’s food industry kept considerable growth in the first eight months of this year. Overall, economic indexes reflected a sound operation in the food sector, which boosted both high investment and output levels, said CNFIA.

MNA/Xinhua

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye pays...  

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends opening of new...  

Heroin, raw opium seized in Phakant  

Performing Arts Competitions continue programmes
Universities and colleges have been...

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report presented by Pro-Rector of Dawei University U Kyaw Kyaw Htay. — mna

In accord with the motto of the university, the population of the division is very sparse; as Taninthayi Division is rich in good natural resources, people residing in the division are to make efforts for ensuring regional development and peace and security; the states and divisions are striving for regional development under the leadership of the State; therefore, Taninthayi Division is to strive for more development; especially, efforts are to be made for ensuring rice sufficiency in the region; as the division is rich in good soil, it is sure that efforts for ensuring rice sufficiency will meet with success; the fishing sector has great potential among the productivity of the division; it is necessary to strive for boosting fish and prawn industry and promoting the meat and fish sector by extending fish and prawn breeding; for ensuring rice sufficiency the State has encouraged the tasks carried out for building embankment and over 5 million meters of the embankment has been finished and as a result 11,000 acres of land have been prevented from floods; thanks to the correct leadership of the State and collective efforts of service personnel and people, the nation including Taninthayi Division is witnessing fruitful results of developments; efforts being made by the State with good will are aimed at raising the living standard of people; arrangements are also being made to transform the country into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation; the seven-point policy programme of the State wins support in states and divisions; the government will try its best for development of the State. The Secretary-1 urged the local people and service personnel to strive for development of the citizens in economic and education sectors in harmony with the development of the State. In his address, the Secretary-2 said Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party came to the division to attend the inauguration of Laynya-Mandaing Bridge, Taninthayi Division, to inspect the training of Kaikhai-Bridges and to fulfill requirements for development of the region. He said Taninthayi Division has plenty of natural resources in agriculture, fish, meat, forest, mineral and energy sectors. In other words, it can be said that the division is food warehouse for posterity, he said. The division and the progress in the states and divisions will the nation develop. He called on officials of the division to make efforts for development of agriculture, fish and meat and mineral sectors, he said. National entrepreneurs are engaged in cultivation of oil palm in the division. Local officials and people are to provide assistance to them, he said. He said ensuring security is important for the development of the region and called for cooperation in the tasks for peace and stability. Later, in his speech, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that Taninthayi Division has become more developed than in his previous visit to the region. The region becomes owing to the unified efforts of Tatmadawmen, departments and locals in hand with the Government. Since its assumption of the responsibility of the State’s responsibilities by the Tatmadaw, progress has been made in the implementation of the political, economic, sociocultural and social objectives after being laid down. With the 12-objective measures will be taken to stabilize and develop the country. The 12 political, economic and social objectives are under way for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuity of sovereignty. Laying down the three development plans, the Government is making efforts to ensure simultaneous development in all parts of the country, including border areas. The development plans are being implemented by establishing the 24 development zones, in which Dawei and Myeik regions of Taninthayi Division are included. Being a region which mainly relies on water transport and was difficult of access previously, two development zones were designated in Taninthayi Division for its development. It is therefore incumbent upon local officials, employees in the division and unity to carry out the work for regional development. The region is made up of 10 townships. Energetic efforts are to be exerted to establish oil palm farms in the region. The Government is needed to raise the living standard of local people. At a time when other states and divisions are hampering away at their regional development drives, Taninthayi Division should carry out its development projects in competition with them not to be lagged behind in development, he concluded. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted those present on the occasion. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived at the Dawei University this morning. At the briefing hall, he heard reports on the brief background history of the university, courses being conducted at the university, the role of the university in education of students, and staff welfare. Minister for Education U Than Aung also made address at the briefing hall. Next, Senior Engineer U...
Prime Minister attends…

Myanmar had the experiences of holding the Asian Circuit Archery contest successfully in 1998. Therefore, it is believed that the contest to be held soon will be able to reflect the glory of Myanmar and the national prestige and integrity.

It is encouraging to see that MAF, in its eighth years tenure, has been able to compete with its counterparts of the People’s Republic of China, Korea, etc. who are 20 to 30 years of age.

But, the lessons—if the athletes are overconfident over their efficiency they will be away from the victories they ought to win as in the case of the best horse may slip sometimes—are to be drawn.

The Myanmar archers are to make relentless efforts with a sense of spirit to win as they are to compete with over 20 archery teams with about 250 archers from over 20 nations although they are qualified and have been able to secure gold medals in the international contests.

To be able to hold the contests on a grand scale, officials of the respective departments and organizations are making sustained efforts, and it is incumbent upon the Myanmar archers to compete with unyielding spirit.

Therefore, the Myanmar archers are urged to take part in the contests with mental and spiritual fitness to be able to take part in the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Contest.

The Myanmar archers are also urged to take part in a fair way, showing the glory, politeness and hospitality of Myanmar and sporting spirit.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected preparations for holding the 13th Asian Championship Archery Contest 2003 and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier at Youth Sports Training Centre (Thuwunna).—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends final rites of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandobhasa of Nyaungbin-ai-tawya monastery in PyinOoLwin and Salinгиy

YANGON, 27 Oct — The final rites of Presiding Nayaka Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadha Myaungbin-ai-tawya monastery in PyinOoLwin and Salinгиy Townships was held at Sankyuang in Nyaungbin-ai-tawya monastery in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

The Sayadaw passed away on 20 October 2003 at the age of 82.

Present were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws led by Ashihdaja Maha Rathana Guru Bhaddanta Agghiy, Sayadaws Pravitkha Patikha Waso, Sayadaw of Bodhitahtaung, and Sayadaw of Mandalay.

The Sayadaw was associated with the Ministry of Defence, Myanmar Armed Forces, Religious Associations, Departments and Organizations, and other departments.

The Sayadaw received the remains of Sayadaw Ye Myint, Miniser for Religious Affairs, with the velvet robe.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Bodhitahtaung Kyautgaw in Monywa Agga Maha Saddhamma-joti-kadha Myaungbin-ai-tawya monastery in PyinOoLwin.

Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun

A total of 60 trainees of State-owned banks and private banks are attending the two-month course, conducted by the Union of Myanmar Banks Association, held at the Central Bank of Myanmar (foreign exchange office).

A girl seen competing in the xylophone contest (girls, aged 10-13). —MNA

Chinese Communications Minister and party leave for home

YANGON, 27 Oct — Minister of Communications of China Mr Zhang Chunxian and party, who attended the Second ASEAN+China Transport Ministers meeting hosted by Myanmar, left here by air this afternoon.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and the embassy staff. —MNA

Rehabilitation Medicine Conference on 1-2 November

YANGON, 27 Oct — The Society of Rehabilitation Medicine of the Myanmar Medical Association, will hold its 1st Rehabilitation Medicine Conference on 1-2 November at MMA at No 249 on Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Nine papers on Musculoskeletal problems will be submitted at three symposiums. — Symposium on Neuropathic Pain, symposium on Perspectives of Osteoporosis and Symposium on Osteoarthritis.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation is one of the social objectives of the State. With the objective, the government is building new hospitals across the nation. The photo shows the Maubin General Hospital.

PHOTO: MNA

The strength of intellectuals and intelligentsia plays a key role in building the nation to be on a par with nations of the world. With this end in view, new universities and colleges have been built to produce more intellectuals and intelligentsia. The photo shows the Government Technological College in Panglong, Shan State.

PHOTO: MNA

Industrial development is one of the key factors for national development. Therefore, the government is encouraging industrial development. The photo shows Pakokku Textile Mill project of Myanma Textile Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1. — MNA
Kenya to produce bacteria to fight mosquito

NAIROBI, 27 Oct — Kenya plans to open Africa’s first factory dedicated to the production of bacterial pesticides to help tackle malaria, one of the continent’s biggest killers, an international research body said on Friday.

The disease kills about 3,000 children a day and costs the world’s poorest continent around 12 billion US dollars a year.

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICPE) said the 1.5 million US dollar facility would be operational within six weeks.

The factory will produce seven to eight tons of liquid Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis (Bti) annually.

The pesticide, which can be sprayed on water and plants, is lethal to malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

It has been around for 20 years but has not been used extensively in Africa because of its high cost. Pro-
**Over 8 million Chinese find jobs in first nine months**

**BEIJING, 27 Oct—** An additional 8.12 million people found jobs in China in the first nine months of this year, the State Administration for Labour and Social Security said Saturday. The country created 6.5 million new jobs in the first nine months, said Zheng, when reporting to the fifth meeting of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC), the country’s top legislature.

A company is not allowed to file bankruptcy until it puts forward a proper and satisfactory solution on how to place its employees and is forbidden to dismiss people without compensation in line with laws or to default on their salary, he said.

“Large state-owned enterprises are required to report to local government before they fire a large number of employees,” he added.

Because of the outbreak of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in the first half of this year, China’s service sector and manufacturing industry failed to recruit as many employees as usual.

Not all preferential policies for re-employment of laid-off workers, such as loans and taxes, were fully implemented, Zheng said.

The central government has sent 13 teams to make sure that the re-employment policies are carried out at the local level, he said.

**Study shows chopsticks may cause arthritis**

**WASHINGTON, 27 Oct—** Using chopsticks may cause arthritis in the hand, US researchers reported on Friday.

A study of more than 2,500 residents of Beijing found that osteoarthritis was more common in the hands used to operate chopsticks — and in the fingers specifically stressed by chopstick use.

While the effect is not big, and not likely to discourage anyone from using chopsticks, it merits further study, the researchers told a meeting of the American College of Rheumatology Orlando, Florida.

Dr David Hunter of the Boston University School of Medicine and colleagues interviewed 2,507 60-year-old residents in randomly selected Beijing neighbourhoods.

They asked whether they were left- or right-handed, especially when eating, studied how they handled their chopsticks and took X-rays.

Each joint was checked for signs of osteoarthritis, and then the team compared how many people had arthritis in the chopstick-using hand as opposed to the other hand.

Arthritis was more likely in the chopstick-using hands — specifically the thumb and the second and third joints on the first and third fingers.

“While the increase in risk associated with chopstick use is small, this accounts for a large proportion of the osteoarthritis in these joint groups. We recommend further biomechanical research to evaluate the forces involved in chopstick use.”

Hunter noted that other studies have shown that using the hands repetitively can stress the joints and cause arthritis.

**WHO technical meeting on health promotion concludes in HK**

**HONG KONG, 27 Oct—** The three-day technical meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Hong Kong concluded Saturday after discussing issues on health promotion.

The Evidence of Health Promotion Effectiveness Technical Meeting provided an opportunity for participants to share, preview and examine the evidence of the effectiveness of health promotion from selected projects through presentations and discussions, said Director of WHO’s Department of Non-communicable Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Dr Pekka Puska.

“Health promotion is an integral part of WHO’s future action in global health and health promotion programmes and world conference,” Puska added.

**Chinese scientists promote biometrics technologies**

**BEIJING, 27 Oct—** Scientists from China’s top research body, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), suggested Saturday that governmental regulators set uniform technical standards for biometrics products, new hi-tech favourites of places in need of high security, such as airports.

The CAS Institute of Automation, which leads others in biometrics research and commercialization, invited competing research bodies, governmental regulators as well as companies throughout the country into a forum Saturday.

With this endeavour, the institute, also successful in earning money from their fashionable gadgets, wished to avoid unfair rivalry from the budding competition.

Biometrics is computerized verification of human features, regardless of physical or behavioural characteristics. Individuals could be identified, with high precision, by their facial features, iris, fingerprints, voice and handwriting.

The International Civil Aviation Organization advised its members to put biometrics information into passports and other identities. Although Chinese scientists have gained the know-how of biometrics technologies, Chinese manufacturers still need to import key hardware from developed countries.
Juventus, AC Milan extend lead in Serie A

ROMA, 27 Oct — Juventus and AC Milan opened up a five-point gap at the top of Serie A on Sunday with comfortable 2-0 wins over Brescia and Sampdoria.

Juve goalkeeper Gigi Buffon had to save a early Roberto Baggio penalty to keep his side level but midfielder Pavel Nedved and striker David Trezeguet scored for the Italian champions before halftime in Turin.

Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko’s seventh goal in as many games wrapped up a comfortable win for Milan at promoted Sampdoria after his Danish strike partner Jon Dahl Tomasson had given them the lead just before the interval.

Juve and AC Milan have 19 points but lie just ahead of Sunday’s third-placed AS Roma (14) to close to within two points if they beat Internazionale at the San Siro Stadium.

With one win in six matches, Brescia began as underdogs at Turin’s Stadio delle Alpi but earned their fourth-minute penalty when defender Ciro Ferrara barged striker Andrea Caracciolo.

Ex-Juve striker Baggio stepped up but his effort was saved and two minutes later the home side had taken the lead.

Winger Gianluca Zambrotta dashed down the left and cut the ball across the area for midfielder Nedved to spin and beat keeper Tommaso Rocchi.

Four minutes before the final whistle when Mauro Camoranesi crossed midfielders Nedved to score in his side’s 3-0 victory over Modena.

Parma’s Brazilian striker Adriano, who scored in his side’s 3-0 victory over Modena, had the 38th minute to gift the ball to Milan ace Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Roma keeper mistimed a run out of goal in the 44th minute to gift the ball to Milan ace Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Milan’s Andrea Pirlo missed a one-on-one chance on goal in the 53rd minute but had the 35th minute to gift the ball to Milan ace Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Both sides had chances to score further goals but the third did arrive six minutes after the break when Thiago Motta added one and crossed for Coju to head in at the near post.

Juve’s chief Serie A challengers, AC Milan, also enjoyed an easy win against newly-promoted Sampdoria, despite starting without injured striker Filippo Inzaghi.

Sampdoria’s Italian striker Bernardo Corradi to head in aluminium to put them under pressure. The players are disappointed that we did not win today.

Arsenal, looking to bounce back after Tuesday’s 2-1 Champions League defeat at Dynamo Kiev, made two changes from the side beaten in Ukraine with Fredrik Ljungberg and Dennis Bergkamp starting in place of Edu and Sylvain Wiltord. Both sides looked half-chances in a bright opening but it was Charlton with three successive league wins behind them, who went ahead on 27 minutes.

MNA/Reuters

AZ Alkmaar thrash Zwolle 4-0 to go top in Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, 27 Oct — AZ Alkmaar thrashed bottom team Zwolle 4-0 to go top of the Dutch First Division on Saturday.

Alkmaar have 22 points after nine matches, one more point than Ajax who travel to third-placed PSV Eindhoven (19 points) on Sunday.

Heerenveen lost 2-1 against NEC Nijmegen but stayed fourth with 14 points.

Ali El Khattabi put AZ ahead after only three minutes and they settled their seventh win of the season with goals in the last seven minutes of the first half by Kenneth Perez and Steijt Heyvorgens. Two minutes after the break Barry van Galen completed the rout.

AZ will only lead the Dutch standings for 24 hours. The winners of Sunday’s clash between PSV and Ajax will take over while a draw will put the side side back on top.

Lost crown Dutch champions in 1981, AZ are not members of the traditional top three, Ajax, PSV and Feyenoord, who have won 38 of the last 39 titles between them.

Four minutes before the final whistle, Georgios Samaras pulled one back for the home side but could not prevent their first home defeat this season.

Vitesse Arnheim seemed on their way to victory at Groningen as Frenchman Didier Drogba opened the scoring after 63 minutes.

But goals by Arvid Sim and Martin Dretz in the last four minutes gave the home side victory and left Vitesse one from bottom.

MNA/Reuters

Wenger was happy to take home a point after conceding his side’s third goal at the Valley, where they had enjoyed 3-0 wins in the last two seasons. “It was a difficult game,” he said. “We worked very hard and are a tough team to beat,” Wenger told SkySports television.

“The penalty had one merit. It woke us up and we

MNA/Reuters

AS Roma, Real Sociedad back on track in Spanish Liga

MADRID, 27 Oct — Real Sociedad beat Real Mallorca 3-1 on Sunday to claim their first Primera Liga win in five attempts, while Real Sociedad got back on track with a valuable 1-0 win to host Osasuna.

Barca, under pressure after a run of two draws and two defeats, took the lead away to Mallorca with a Javier Saviola strike that just crossed the line after nine minutes.

Ronaldinho fired in a free kick after 23 minutes and Philip Cocu headed in the third early in the second half. Mallorca improved in the final half-hour and pulled one back four minutes from through Fernando Correa but the result was never in doubt, even after Barcelona had midfielder Gabi sent off in the first minute of injury time.

Barcelona’s third victory of the league season gave them 12 points from eight games and took them up to seventh, behind Real Sociedad on goal difference. Sociedad, last season’s runners-up, were grateful to a Darko Kovacevic header for their victory over Osasuna, their first Primera Liga win since September 20.

Deportivo Coruna went top of the league on Saturday with a 2-1 win at home to Valencia, while Real Madrid moved up second place with a 3-1 victory over Racing Santander at the Bernabeu.

Deportivo have 21 points, followed by Real Madrid and Valencia on 19 and Osasuna on 14.

Real Betis improved to 10th on Sunday with a 3-2 win at home to Albacete. Barcelonafilled a good performance after disputing defeats at home to Valencia and Deportivo Coruna and re-taking the calculus of Patrick Khluver’s victory at the club.

Coach Frank Rijkaard opened the play Saviola up front in place of the Dutch international forward and he was rewarded with a first goal from the Argentinian after nine minutes, when he got just enough contact on the ball to beat Leo Franco.

Ronaldinho fired in a free kick from Ronaldinho midway through the first half and Ricardo Quaresma and Luis Garcia both missed excellent chances to score further goals. The third did arrive six minutes after the break when Thiago Motta advanced deep and crossed for Coju to head in at the near post.

MNA/Reuters

Real Madrid’s French player Zinedine Zidane takes a shot against Racing de Santander during a Spanish league soccer match in Madrid, Spain on 25 October, 2003. — INPHO/Reuters

Henry cracker helps Arsenal regain top spot

LONDON, 27 Oct — A superbly struck free kick by Thierry Henry sent unbeaten Arsenal back to the top of the Premier League on Sunday after a 1-1 draw at Charlton Athletic.

The France striker notched his 10th goal in all competitions this season with a 40-minute equalizer after Paolo di Canio had fired Charlton ahead from the penalty spot.

Arsenal, who have 24 points, are one point behind Chelsea with Manchester United surprisingly beaten, 3-1 at home by Fulham on Saturday, in third place on 22.

MNA/Reuters

Wenger was happy to take home a point after conceding his side’s third goal at the Valley, where they had enjoyed 3-0 wins in the last two seasons. “It was a difficult game,” he said. “We worked very hard and are a tough team to beat,” Wenger told SkySports television.

“The penalty had one merit. It woke us up and we

MNA/Reuters

Monaco back on top in French Ligue

PARIS, 27 Oct — Monaco went back to the top of France’s Ligue 1 by the narrowest of margins after drawing 1-1 at Sochaux on Sunday. Monaco and Olympique Marseille both have 24 points and a goal difference of 10 but Monaco have scored one more goal.

Fernando Morientes gave Monaco a halftime lead after his Dutch team-mate, defender Rob Penderecki equalized with a header.

Marseille beat Stade Reims 2-0 on Saturday while champions Olympique Lyon went third on 21 points after defeating Nantes 1-0 away. Paris St. Germain (20) drew 0-0 at AC Ajaccio. — MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

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“The penalty had one merit. It woke us up and we

MNA/Reuters
Lt-Gen Ye Myint ...

(from page 10)

Next, Taunggyawkyaw Sayadaw in Saliangyi Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ardicavamsa read the biography of the Sayadaw. Lt-Gen Ye Myint sympathized with the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Agghya delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Next, the remains of the Sayadaw were conveyed onto the carriage by disciples of the Sayadaw and Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party. The carriage was conveyed to the place where the final rites were to be held.

Members of the Sangha conveyed the remains of the Sayadaw onto the pyre. Lt-Gen Ye Myint then pressed the button to burn the pyre.

MNA

DRIVE SAFELY

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division, isolated in upper Sagaing, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 26-10-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 27-10-2003 was 22.0°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-10-2003 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 26-10-2003 was 7.6 hours approx. Rainfall on 27-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2202 mm (86.68 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2135 mm (84.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2381 mm (93.74 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Northeast at 15:30 hours MST on 26-10-2003.

Bay inference: According to the observations at 09:30 hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area in the Southeast Bay has intensified into a depression. It is centred about (190) miles southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar). It is forecast to move northwest wards slowly and may intensify further. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-10-2003: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be scattered in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed may reach (35) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in Rakhine State.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-10-2003: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-10-2003: Partly cloudy.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye pays homage to Laygyun Hsimi Pagoda, offers eight requisites to members of the Sangha in Myeik

At the prayer hall of the pagoda, Vice-Senior-General Maung Aye and party paid homage to the Sayadaws of Kyaungtaik in Myeik and received the Five Precepts from Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sankyaung Agga Maha Saddammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Pandhavamsa. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party offered the eight requisites to members of the Sangha. After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party paid homage to the Buddha Images kept at the pagoda. On 26 October morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived at Maha Theikhihiyaza Pagoda on Sandhawadi Hill, Myeik. At the briefing hall, the Divisional Superintendent Engineer of Public Works and the Head of Divisional Police Force reported on construction of the pagoda, cash (See page 8).

Prime Minister attends coordination meeting to hold 13th Asian Archery Championships and 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier

YANGON, 27 Oct.—A coordination meeting for holding of the 13th Asian Archery Championships and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier was held at the National Football Training Camp (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township this evening with an address by Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, members of Organizing Committee and sub-committees, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department, members of patrons of Myanmar Archery Federation, President of the federation and officials.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint reported on arrangements for the 13th Asian Archery Championships and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier. He said the championship, qualification, coaching and congress of Asia Archery Federation will be held in November. He also reported on preparations for opening ceremony and selection of Myanmar selected archers.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe reported on arrangements being made for holding the 13th Asian Archery Championship 2003 and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier.

He said that the Myanmar Archery Federation was formed on 8 February 1995. After entering the FITA, the MAF took part in 21 international level contests, securing 12 gold, 11 silver and 12 bronze. When the MAF has come to its fifth anniversary, it was capable enough to participate in the 27th Sydney World Olympic Archery Contest. The MAF has been able to hold the first Asian Circuit Archery Contest in Yangon in March 1999. The marksmen were dispatched abroad from 1995 to date to take part in the international archery contests.

Next, the chairman of the sub-committees for holding the contests reported on matters related to preparations for the ceremonies, the opening and closing ceremonies, invitation and accommodation, reception, health and transport.


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

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said it is learnt that the preparatory work for holding the 13th Asian Archery Championship 2003 and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier is, according to the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and the Chairman of Myanmar Archery Federation, nearing completion. Whenever the international sports contests were held in Myanmar, the respective departments and organizations made concerted efforts to ensure the success of the contests. As a result, Myanmar has been able to hold the contests on a grand scale.

(See page 10)