State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Republic of Turkey

YANGON, 29 Oct — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

Prime Minister attends meeting on Four-Country Economic Cooperation Strategies Summit

YANGON, 28 Oct — A meeting on Four-Country Economic Cooperation Strategies Summit (Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand), took place at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here this afternoon, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present at the meeting were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said the Strategic Implementation of Four-Country Economic Cooperation Summit (Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand) will be held in Myanmar in the near future. It is therefore needed to make preliminary coordination on issues to be discussed at the summit.

The Prime Minister urged officials of the ministries concerned to make coordination and collective efforts for the success of the summit as the holding of the summit will bring prosperity not only to the four countries but also to the whole region of ASEAN.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on preparatory measures to be taken by ministries concerned; and Minister for Commerce Brig Gen Pyi Sone on agreements of the Four-Country Economic Ministers Meeting (Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Thailand), held on 27 October in Bangkok.

Ministers and deputy ministers also reported on matters to be discussed at the summit.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions, and the meeting ended. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the meeting on Four-Country Economic Cooperation Strategies Summit. — MNA

Aseyawady Division grows over 3.4m acres of monsoon paddy

YANGON, 28 Oct — It was targeted in 2003-2004 that 3,376,320 acres of monsoon paddy were to be cultivated in Aseyawady Division. And so far 3,403,300 acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy exceeding the target, and they are thriving now. — MNA

Tasks for agricultural projects assigned in Ayadaw Township

YANGON, 28 Oct — A ceremony to assign duties to those who will implement agricultural projects for cultivation of cold season crops in Ayadaw Township Sagaing Division was held at the Township Peace and Development Council Office on 26 October.

Present were Commander of North West Command Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Tha Aye, members of Division Agriculture Supervisory Committee, Chairman of Monywa District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Naung, departmental officials and chairmen of ward and village peace and development councils.

The commander discussed cold season crops cultivation project in Ayadaw Township and successful implementation of the five rural development tasks. Next, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Kyi reported on arrangements for cultivation of cold season crops and chairmen of ward and village Peace and Development Councils.

The commander then gave instructions.

The commander and party went to Yoak-su Kyaung in the township and paid obeisance to Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw U Pannya and members of the Sangha. They presented offerstones to the members of the Sangha.

The commander inspected 16-bed hospital in the township and fulfilled the requirement.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Republic of Turkey

YANGON, 29 Oct—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends message of felicitations to Republic of Turkey

YANGON, 29 Oct—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Abdullah Gul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 29 October, 2003

Constant guidance of the Head of State for regional and national development

Now is the time when the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw are joining hands in building the Union of Myanmar into a modern and developed nation and, due to their united efforts, transport, education, health and economic infrastructures are rapidly developing. We owe the development of all these infrastructures to the constant guidance and far-sightedness of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, close supervision of responsible officials at different levels and efforts of service personnel including intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Owing to the lack of favourable conditions for development, Taninthayi Division did not develop as much as it should have. Therefore, the Head of State not only gave guidance on measures to be taken for the development of Taninthayi Division but also went on a field trip there and fulfilled the requirements.

Now efforts are being made for Taninthayi Division to be self-sufficient in rice, to become the oil bowl of the nation in the future, to be secure and to develop in transport.

For the transport sector of Taninthayi Division, Dawei-Myaik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway was built. Moreover, Winwa, Palauk, Palaw, Taninthay and Pathoung bridges on the highway were constructed. The last two bridges opened on 23 and 26 October respectively were Laynya-Mandaing and Kyweku-Kyaukphya bridges. Because of successful completion of one bridge after another, travels from one region to another in the division has become easy and smooth.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) attended the opening ceremony of the Kyweku-Kyaukphya bridge and extended greetings to local people. In his message, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that political, economic and social objectives were being systematically implemented for peace and development of the Union and, due to the united efforts and cooperation of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw, political, economic, education, health and social sectors have been experiencing rapid development.

Since its assumption of State responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government has spent a total of K 88,000 million plus US$ 150 million on the construction of 163 major bridges across the Union. With the emergence of Kyweku-Kyaukphya bridge, the longest in Taninthayi Division, we believe, the economy of the division and the living standard of the people in it will further improve.

Commerce Minister receives delegates to GMS Business Forum

YANGON, 28 Oct—Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received the delegates who attended the fourth annual meeting of Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum hosted by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the ministry on Strand Road this morning. The delegations were accompanied by Chairman of MSBF Vice-President of UMFCCI also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of the Border Trade Department U Nay Win, officials of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading-UMFCCI President U Win Myint and officials.

Information Subcommittee for 13th Asian Archery Championships meets

YANGON, 28 Oct—Information and Documentation Subcommittee for the 13th Asian Archery Championships and 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier held its meeting at MRTV Radio and Television this evening. Present were chairman of the subcommittee Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung, Staff Officer (Grade-I) of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Lt-Col Maung Maung Oo, officials of MRTV, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Archery Federation.

U Khin Maung Htay reported on release of events and results, information and documentation and cooperation among the departments.

Next, Secretary of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Myat Thura Soe, Director of SPED U Nyan Tun and members of the Subcommittee reported on functions and arrangements.

Information Subcommittee for 13th Asian Archery Championships meets

YANGON, 28 Oct—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended opening of Myanmar-Thai friendly tennis match at Theinbyu tennis plaza this morning.

Present were Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Ambassadors of Thailand and Mt Oum Maolanon and embassy staff, patron of Myanmar Women Sports Federation and members, President of MTF U Khin Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd), guests and fans.

Managers of both teams exchanged pennants.

Next, Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Thai Ambassador greeted players of both teams and posed for souvenir photos.

Men’s doubles, women’s singles, men’s singles and women’s doubles were played—MNA

Myanmar-Thai friendly tennis matches begin

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Nearly 40 killed in Baghdad blasts

BAGHDAD, 28 Oct—Car bombers struck the International Red Cross headquarters and four police stations across Baghdad on Monday, killing about 40 people in a spree of destruction that terrorized the Iraqi capital on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, according to police and Red Cross reports.

The Red Cross said 12 were killed there, and police said 27 were killed in the Baghdad area during the bombings, most of them Iraqis. The US military confirmed that among the dead was one American citizen. Crowds rioted at a Baghdad police station.

The bombings came hours after clashes in the Baghdad area killed three US soldiers overnight, and a day after insurgents devastated a hotel full of US occupation officials with a rocket barrage, killing a US colonel and wounding 18 other people. US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was in the hotel, but was unhurt.

It was two days of violence unprecedented in this city of 5 million people since the end of the US-Iraq war last April, attacks aimed at the American-led occupation and those perceived as working with it.

"We feel helpless when we see this," a distraught Iraqi doctor said at the devastated Red Cross offices.

In Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, witnesses said US troops opened fire, killing at least four Iraqi civilians, apparently an ambulance, right up to security barriers outside the building at about 8:30 am and detonated it, blowing down the Red Cross's front wall, devastating the interior and blowing shrapnel and debris over a wide area.

The ICRC said at its headquarters in Geneva that 12 people were killed, including two of its Iraqi employees. Baghdad ICRC spokeswoman Nadia Doumani said she believed the employees were security guards. Then, through the morning, four other vehicles exploded at police stations in the Baghdad area.

"We feel helpless when we see this," a distraught Iraqi doctor said at the devastated Red Cross offices.

UN reduced to pawn in hands of powerful nations

KOLKATA, 28 Oct—The United Nations has been reduced to a pawn in the hands of "some powerful nations" and the global organization "badly" needed reforms to retain its democratic fabric, diplomats from a few member countries said in this eastern Indian city on Friday.

Criticizing UN's "inefficiency" during the recent Iraq war, diplomats from Russia, Germany, Belarus and Bangla
desh said it "once again proved USA's stand as the self-appointed policeman of the world!"

"It was the world body stopped giving in to America's arm-twisting," they said, the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council was not binding on nations thus making it a toothless body.

"What is the role of elected countries when the five Security Council members use their veto power only in their national interest?" they asked.

Large continents like Africa and South America had no representation in Security Council, he said suggesting that in order to make it a truly democratic body, the permanent membership clause should be immediately abolished.

Consul General of Germany E Zander said reforms were urgently needed in the structure of the secretariat, the Security Council, the General Assembly and also the financial system.

Zander said not only the number of members in the Security Council need to be increased but ways to tide over chronic financial crisis should be found out.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Consul of Russian Federation Saeed M Zabi
tov said without creation of additional seats in the Security Council it would be difficult to effectively fulfill the UN charter.

Echoing his sentiments, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner Touhid Hossain said selective use of principle in the UN system had made it a body of only powerful nations.

Attacks signal escalation in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Oct—Suicide bombers struck the Red Cross headquarters and three police stations across Baghdad on Monday, killing about 40 people and injuring more than 200 in a coordinated terror spree that stunned the Iraqi capital on the first day of the Islamic holy month of fasting, Ramadan.

The string of car bombings, all within about 45 minutes, was the bloodiest epi
demic yet in the city of 5 mil
lion by insurgents targeting the American-led occupation and those perceived as working with it.

It also appeared to mark a dramatic escalation in tactics, suggesting a level of or
ganization US officials had doubted the resistance possessed. In past weeks, bomb
ners have carried out heavy suicide bombings in single
district.

President Bush said progress in Iraq is making insurgents more "desperate" and fuelling attacks.

Mr Bush told reporters at the White House that those who are continuing to en
pire in violence "can't stand the thought of a free society. They hate freedom. They love terror. They love to try to create fear and chaos."

One American soldier was killed in one of the po
lice station attacks and six US soldiers were wounded, the military said.

The US-appointed Iraqi Gov
erning Council, said the United States must speed up the training of Iraqi police and soldiers and employ ruthless measures to crush the insurgency.

* An Iraqi Civil De
fence Corps building in Mosul was attacked by grenades and Kalashnikov rifles, according to Iraqi officials. There were no casualties.

"Nothing works," al-Wa
drafik al-Rabii, a Shiite Muslim member of the US-appointed Iraqi Gov
erning Council, said the United States must speed up the training of Iraqi police and soldiers and employ ruthless measures to crush the insurgency.

"Shaken by the attack, the International Red Cross said that it may follow other groups in scaling back aid to the Iraqi people because of the danger. Other aid groups are withdrawing personnel from Iraq after Monday's wave of attacks."
US economy strongly affected by war, says Greenspan

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—The US economy is heavily influenced by the war in Iraq, US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said at the opening of the Group of 20 meeting on getting the global economy to grow at a brisker clip.

"The first thing is that it’s obvious in the States that the economic development and the economy in general in the past years has been very strongly influenced by the war in Iraq," Greenspan said.

Greenspan addressed finance ministers and central bank governors from the G20 countries and the European Union, saying that the US economy has reacted to "conflicts and hostilities we’re having.”

The meeting was private, and the rest of Greenspan’s speech was not immediately released to the media.

Later, a US Treasury official said that members of the G-20 were being asked to contribute funds toward the Iraq re-construction effort.

Treasury Secretary John Snow “is talking to his counterparts about the importance of rebuilding Iraq, and specifically about the debt issue,” said spokesman Robert Nichols.

"One of rebuilding efforts is the oppressive debt of Iraq." Iraq has a foreign debt of 125 billion dollars and needs some 56 billion dollars worth of reconstruction after decades of war, dictatorship and international sanctions.

However, countries such as Germany and France preferred to focus on G-20 discussions on mechanisms to fight terrorism financing, according to sources from both delegations.

“One issue is there are new ways to financing terrorists,” said Ernest Welke, German Bundesbank president: “Collecting money for social purposes and then not use it for social work.”

G20, which includes 19 countries and the European Union, was set up in 1999 as a forum for industrialized countries and emerging markets to encourage financial stability.

“Our work should ... hopefully translate into practical contributions to increase financial stability and promote solid economic growth,” Mexican Finance Minister Francisco Gil said.

He urged greater cooperation to counter money laundering, fraud, tax evasion and other financial crimes.

The finance ministers and central bankers were set to discuss bolstering global economic growth, refinancing national debts, efforts to crack down on financing for terrorists, and the effects of globalization.

Other issues were also expected to surface on the sidelines of the meeting, including US complaints about China’s exchange rate policy and Argentina’s request for a massive writeoff of its foreign debt.

The two-day meeting is the first gathering of leading economic powers since the failure of trade liberalization talks at a World Trade Organization meeting in September in the Mexican resort of Cancun.

That meeting was meant to breathe life into moribund trade liberalization talks launched in Doha in November 2001 that are due to conclude by January 1, 2005.

But five days of intensive discussions failed to yield consensus on such hot-button issues as the elimination agricultural export subsidies in industrialized nations, as demanded by developing countries, and proposals to extend the WTO mandate to such matters as cross-border investment, advocated by Japan and the EU.—Internet

Official says Iraq, Bulgaria “should intensify” cooperation

SOFIA, 28 Oct—The bilateral relations between Bulgaria and Iraq should be intensified, Hamid Mussa, member of Iraq’s Provisional Governing Council told the Bulgarian Evropa TV on Saturday.

When asked if for Iraq’s debt to Bulgaria, Mussa said that his country was rich in natural resources but after the three wars and the dictator’s regime it would need some time to return to normal economic life.—MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai seeks closer ties with Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 28 Oct—A Shanghai delegation led by Mayor Han Zheng is making a three-day visit to Hong Kong starting from Sunday to seek closer relations between the two cities.

Hang Zheng said on his arrival here that the two sides will explore overall cooperation to achieve mutual benefit and win-win situations with active and practical measures.

The delegation, consisting of high-ranking officials and business leaders, will kick off a series of meetings and visits aiming at finding more room to increase cooperation between Shanghai and Hong Kong under the framework of the newly-signed Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

It will be of great significance for the further development of the two sides, said a delegation member. According to the schedule, Han Zheng and Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa will attend the first meeting of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference. An agreement on cooperation between the two sides is expected to be signed at the conclusion of the visit.

Officials said that by the end of June, Shanghai had ratified 30,000 overseas-funded projects, one-third of which were funded by Hong Kong business people.

MNA/Xinhua

California wildfires threaten 30,000 homes

LOS ANGELES, 28 Oct—Wildfires raging in southern California on Sunday killed as many as 11 people and destroyed nearly 500 homes, and officials said there was no immediate end in sight as new fires continued to pop up and the skies throughout the region filled with acrid black smoke.

Fanned by the hot Santa Ana winds and minimal humidity, major fires were raging in at least 10 places, having already burned nearly 200,000 acres. The fires were threatening at least 30,000 homes across the region and have already caused millions of dollars in damages.

As night and moderately cooler temperatures came to the region, the weather outlook for Monday was not favourable, with the National Weather Service forecasting temperatures in the high 90s to 100 degrees (32-38 Celsius), with winds gusting up to 45 miles per hour.

MNA/Reuters

Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Oct—Three American soldiers were killed and four wounded in two separate attacks in Iraq, the US military said Monday.

Two soldiers were killed and two others wounded Sunday by a roadside bomb. The soldiers belonged to the 1st Armored Division, a military statement said.

In Abu Ghraib, on the western edge of Baghdad, one soldier was killed and two wounded Sunday after an attack on their Military Police unit, according to the statement.

Since President Bush announced the end of major combat in Iraq on May 1st, 112 US soldiers have been killed in hostile action.—Internet

US casualty in Iraq sharply rises to 351

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—As of Monday, on 27 Oct, 351 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense.

The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; Spain, one; and Ukraine, one.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 213 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defense Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,697 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 339.

The latest deaths reported by the US Central Command:
- Two 1st Armored Division soldiers were killed Sunday by an explosive in Baghdad.
- One 18th Military Police Brigade soldier was killed Sunday in a mortar attack in Baghdad.
- A 1st Armored Division soldier was killed Monday by an explosive in Baghdad.
- The latest identifications reported by the military: Army Pfc Steven Acosta, 19, Calexico, Calif., died Sunday in Baqubah from a non-hostile gunshot; assigned to C Company, 3rd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.
- Army 1st Lt Charles H Buchinger, 40, Winter Springs, Fla., killed Sunday in an attack on the Al-Rashed Hotel in Baghdad; assigned to Army Central Command Headquarters (Forward), Fort McMahon, Ga. Earlier reports had identified the serviceman killed in the attack as a colonel.
- Army Pvt Jonathan L Falaniko, 20, Pago Pago, American Samoa; killed Saturday in an explosive in Baghdad; assigned to A Company, 78th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, Fort Riley, Kan.—Internet

A fire bomber makes a drop of fire retardant just above the tree line in Duscanza, California on 27 October. The fire, which has scorched more than 100,000 acres across San Diego County is not expected to be contained until at least 31 October.—Internet
BAGHDAD ROCKED BY BOMB BLASTS

US Army soldiers walk through the debris of the Bayaa police station in Baghdad, in the western part of the city, on Monday, 27 Oct, 2003. A car bomb exploded outside this police station, leaving at least three Iraqis dead and several injured. Car bombers struck the International Red Cross headquarters and four police stations across Baghdad on Monday, killing almost 40 people, police and US military reported. —INTERNET

A US Army soldier walks through the debris of the Bayaa police station in the western part of Baghdad, on Monday, 27 Oct, 2003. A car bomb exploded outside the police station Monday, leaving at least three Iraqis dead and several injured. Car bombers struck the International Red Cross headquarters and four police stations across Baghdad on Monday, killing almost 40 people, police and US military reported. —INTERNET

US Army troops secure a blast site outside the Baghdad headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 27 October, 2003. Bombers struck four times in Baghdad at rush hour on Monday morning, killing almost 40 people near a Red Cross building and two police stations.—INTERNET

An Iraqi calls to rescuers for help in the debris of a blast site near a police station in the Baghdad suburb of Sha’ab, on 27 October, 2003. Bombers struck four times in Baghdad’s morning rush hour on Monday, killing almost 40 people near the Red Cross headquarters and two police stations.—INTERNET

US Army troops seal off a blast site outside the International Committee of the Red Cross Baghdad headquarters (at rear), on 27 October, 2003. Bombers struck four times in Baghdad at rush hour on Monday morning, killing almost 40 people near a Red Cross building and two police stations.—INTERNET

A US soldier waves away onlookers near a blast site in the Baghdad suburb of Sha’ab. Bombers have struck four times in Baghdad’s morning rush hour, killing almost 40 people near the Red Cross headquarters and two police stations.—INTERNET
Bremer orders full inquiry into Iraq hotel attack

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct— With anti-US attacks getting more brazen in Iraq, the US administration there said Sunday he might pull all staff out of a Baghdad hotel pounced by rockets that narrowly missed a top Pentagon official.

Paul Bremer, back in Washington for consultations, said he had ordered a full investigation into the attacks on the Rashid Hotel, where US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying. He was unhurt but a US soldier was killed and 15 people were wounded.

“I’ve asked for a complete investigation into this, obviously, and my security people are looking at it,” Bremer said when asked on “Fox News Sunday” if US troops and others should be pulled out of the hotel.

“Obviously, the security of our people — and I have several hundred people who work for me staying in the Rashid — has got to be an important factor in what we do next,” he added. The hotel houses hundreds of civil occupation officials and US military forces and is close to the palace where coalition headquarters is based.

US officials conceded on Sunday that attacks against US forces and officials were becoming bolder and there appeared to be a more organized resistance. US Secretary of State Colin Powell said a dangerous situation existed in Iraq and the United States was working hard to get the situation under control.

“We are still in the conflict and I don’t think the President ever sought to minimize that,” Powell told NBC’s “Meet the Press”.

“We are in this insurgency situation where people strike and run and it’s a much more difficult security environment,” he added.

“We did not expect this would be quite this intense for so long.”

Bremer said guerillas appeared to be getting more organized and he pointed to “several hundred hard-core terrorists from the al Qaeda and Ammar al-Islam type groups in the country.” — MNA/Reuters

US contractors weigh risks of working in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—US contractors helping to rebuild Iraq weighed the risks of operating in such a hostile environment Monday, after a string of deadly coordinated attacks in Baghdad.

Suicide bombers struck four times in Baghdad Monday, killing 35 people and wounding 230 in attacks that included one on the Red Cross. Sunday, rockets pounced a hotel where a top Pentagon official was staying, killing a US colonel and injuring 17 others.

Government contractors, many of them with hundreds of millions of dollars in business at stake, said publicly they were committed to Iraq but privately voiced concern over the long term and said they wanted to keep a very low profile.

“We are reluctant to become targets and so even to announce that we are staying there tells people that we are there on the ground and puts us at risk,” said one US contractor, who asked not to be named.

The US government has awarded billions of dollars in contracts in Iraq, and security plans for these companies change daily to avoid flashpoints, especially in Baghdad.

Ellen Yount, a spokeswoman for the US Agency for International Development, said the security of contractors and USAID’s own staff was the agency’s prime concern. Staff and contractors staying at Baghdad’s Rashid Hotel had been evacuated after Sunday’s attack.

“The situation is unprecedented, but a US citizen was killed in Baghdad on Monday and the United States was working hard to get the situation under control,” she said.

Bremer said the Rashid Hotel had been evacuated after Sunday’s attack. The hotel houses hundreds of US civil occupation officials and US military forces.

Some contractors are looking at cutting back operations in Iraq, while others are considering staying, depending on what happens in the future.

Paul Wolfowitz was in the hotel, but was unhurt.

The hotel houses hundreds of US civil occupation officials and US military forces.

Colin Powell said a dangerous situation existed in Iraq and the United States was working hard to get the situation under control.

“The kingdom wishes that when such advice is given by sources outside the kingdom that there would be coordination between the people giving the advice and the authorities in the kingdom,” the Saudi ambassador was quoted as saying.

He also said that his country had been actively cracking down on terrorist networks since the attacks on foreign compounds.

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British terror alert condemned by Saudi Arabia

LONDON, 28 Oct— The British Foreign Office issued a new warning Friday against his country without consulting it first, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported Saturday.

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He also said that his country had been actively cracking down on terrorist networks since the attacks on foreign compounds.

Some contractors are looking at cutting back operations in Iraq, while others are considering staying, depending on what happens in the future.

Paul Wolfowitz was in the hotel, but was unhurt.

The hotel houses hundreds of US civil occupation officials and US military forces.

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**“Is that so, Maung Ka Lu?” — “It’s more than that”**

**Maung Ka Lu**

Grandpa: Hi, Maung Ka Lu, where have you been these days? We haven’t met for long.

Maung Ka Lu: Oh, Grandpa, it’s news. I have been watching internal and external news on TV every evening. If I don’t know the authentic news reports, I will be deceived by false information.

Grandpa: Oh really? Please explain.

Maung Ka Lu: I had listened to the news reports on the seven stages of the future political programme explained by the Prime Minister in his address. It’s about the seven stages to build a genuine, discipline-flourishing democracy. In other words, the roadmap I had been watching on TV the news reports about the mass rallies, in which the national races of the Union have pledged to take part in the respective sectors for the success of the political programme.

Grandpa: I too was listening to the news, while telling the heads.

Maung Ka Lu: The Prime Minister explained the all-round developments our nation have enjoyed in a 15-year period facts and figures. When I had to listen to the news report about the developments, I have come to know how much our nation has been achieving peace and stability and national unity and also about the amazing success in all sectors, including roads, bridges and factories. The KNU, the DKBO or the Buddhist Kayins, the main forces of the insurgent groups. The main forces of the armed groups have returned to the legal fold as they have confidence in the Government’s words are always followed by the deeds.

Grandpa: The way the TV was reporting the news was excellent. We were able to know the achievements in national development and modernization completely as they were shown sector-wise.

Maung Ka Lu: The TV added region-wise and state/division-wise developments to the address of the Prime Minister with precise figures and facts in broadcasting every mass rally of the states and divisions. As the TV showed the region-wise development, the programmes have served as the proof to the fact that the Government’s words are always followed by the deeds.

Grandpa: Right. The roadmap suits best to the history, experiences, the traditions and culture and desire of our nation. Everybody who wishes to see the nation enjoying progress will have to constantly follow the roadmap without fail.

Maung Ka Lu: True Grandpa. We are tired of hearing the slanders being made by the national traitors, expatriates, fugitives and power seekers against the roadmap in collusion with some of the media of the west. The false information, I have said earlier, means those slanderers.

Grandpa: Oh, Maung Ka Lu, if the national traitors, expatriates, fugitives and power seekers do love the nation, they will have to live in the country and do utmost together with the people for nation development. Only then, will the people acknowledge them as the persons who are really serving the national interest. And they will win the votes of the people to a certain degree whenever appeased and whenever intimidated.

Maung Ka Lu: The Myanmar people always ward off such attempts with Union Spirit, national pride and unity.

Grandpa: The colonialist group is organizing other countries to apply pressures and impose economic sanctions on Myanmar and to isolate her. The group is even trying to deceive other countries to think Myanmar as a country violating human rights and freedom of worship worst and producing narcotic drugs most.

Maung Ka Lu: But the countries which love justice and know well the wicked plots of the colonialist group do not believe its words. Just see the Ninth ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia, all the ASEAN leaders have welcomed and agreed to the future political programme of Myanmar explained by the Prime Minister at the Summit, although there were instigative acts by the colonialist group. It firmly shows that the world never believes and accepts the egocentric acts of the west. We can know if we watch the international news reports of the Myanmar TV.

Grandpa: The press conference on 13 October had already presented the fine unity, conviction and traditions of the ASEAN. The answer given by the officials to the question — whether it was right or wrong that the KNU was about to return to the legal fold — is interesting. The internal insurgency is the nearest enemy disturbing the national development and most severely destroying the lives and property of the people. Our nation had already faced a lot of trouble for over 40 years due to the ill effects of the divide-and-rule policy, susceptive, factional and ideological prejudices and the extremists. Seventeen major armed groups have returned to the legal fold as they have confidence in the Government’s national development endeavours during the 15-year period. Thus, peace is prevailing the length and breadth of the nation, and business is also prospering. The KNU and SURA are just remnant insurgent groups. The main forces of the KNU, the DKBO or the Buddhist Kayins. The group led by Phado Aung San and another led by U Saw Tha Mu He have already returned to the legal fold and are working for national and regional development in the embrace of the people. Thus, the remaining KNU insurgents are taking refuge in the border areas of the other country. They sometimes sneak into the country and ambush the people in committing terrorist attacks. The KNU insurgents held discussions with the government representatives for seven times — three informal discussions and four formal discussions — to return to the legal fold. But the persons such as Eugene Thaik and Naw Louisa Benson came to the KNU and urged it to stay under ground as directed by the west. Thus, the KNU issued the Mehtarawhta declaration and went against the road to peace and committed more acts to destroy the Union. Is Naw Louisa Benson the wife of Bo Lin Htin of KNU brigade 5, who returned to the legal fold in 1964 and went under ground again. He married Naw Louisa Benson while in the legal fold, and died in a battle. Naw Louisa Benson KNU brigade 5 joined Bo Mya. Is she a mixed race of Jew and Kayin, a former actress and Miss Myanmar, who married an American, while staying in Bangkok, and accompanied her husband to the west?

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(Translation: TMT)


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People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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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.

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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

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All this needs to be known

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

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* ကမာရိုင်း၊ရှမ်းကြီး၊ဗုဒ္ဓယန်း၊ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးဓာတ်၊မြေပြင်ပေါင်းများ နှင့် ရေပွဲကြီးများကို လျက်ရှိစေသည်။* ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များကိုလည်း သိမ်းဆောင်ထားသည်။* ကြည်စာရင်းကြီးများ၊ကြည်စာစာရင်း၊ပင်လယ်များကို အသွင်များကိုလည်း သိမ်းဆောင်ထားသည်။*

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

Second best time is now.
Minister inspects social welfare tasks in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 28 Oct — Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, met officials of the Fire Services Department, Social Welfare Department, Relief and Resettlement Department, and Immigration and National Registration Department at Mandalay Division SWD on 26 October and gave necessary instruction to them.

Yesterday morning, the minister went to Shindawgon Village in Patheingyi Township where he inspected the site chosen for construction of a women care centre. Next, the minister inspected the training schools under the Social Welfare Department and gave necessary instructions to officials. Afterwards, the minister and officials arrived at the school for deaf and dumb where they inspected round the vocational training hall, computer room, lecture hall and hostel and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Delegates of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries arrive

YANGON, 28 Oct — A total of 21 delegates of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries arrived here by air yesterday to attend the 20th ASEAN tourism market pro-

promotion meeting, the 9th ASEAN tourism human resource development meeting and the 8th ASEAN tourism investment meeting to be held at Bagan Hotel in Bagan Archaeological Zone on 29 and 30 October. They were welcomed by officials at Yangon International Airport. The delegates flew on to Bagan-NyaungU today. — MNA

Minister attends Four-Country Preliminary Commerce Ministerial Meeting for Economic Cooperation Strategies

YANGON, 28 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone attended the Four-Country Preliminary Commerce Ministerial Meeting (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand) for Economic Cooperation Strategies, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 October. Before the meeting, the four commerce ministers cordially met to make preliminary discussions.

Afterwards, they made speeches at the meeting. Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone discussed matters relating to tax relief on Myanmar’s export items, implementation of book-keeping trade, cooperation on taxation, opening of departments that can help trade and travelling at border areas, development of human resources, development of transportation infrastructures, formation of entrepreneurs’ council for economic cooperation strategies, holding of trade fairs and establishment of industrial zones that produce export items.

The delegation arrived back here yesterday evening. They were welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Ko Lay, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads of the ministry and relatives. — MNA

Census databases computerization course opened

YANGON, 28 Oct — The agricultural census course for 2003 was opened this morning at the Settlement and Land Records Department (Head Office) here. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Settlement and Land Records Department and Food and Agriculture Organization has jointly conducted taking census for 2003.

A total of 56 trainees from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and SLRD are attending the course. — MNA

The opening ceremony of the agricultural census course in progress. — A&A

A contestant competes in the Domin contest at amateur level. — MNA

A contestant competes in the Dobat contest at professional level. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Li-Gen Khun Maung Than cordially greets Tatmadawmen and their families from battalions and units of Sittway Station. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greets Tatmadawmen and their families from battalions and units of Sittway Station. — MNA
YANGON, 28 Oct—Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, accompanied by officials, on 26 October morning inspected 10 tons of paddy seeds for summer cultivation and 5.76 tons of high yield Hsun Shweli hybrid paddy produced at the command at the hall of the command and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Next, the commander proceeded to the site where the Indoor Stadium will be built near the parade grounds of the command and inspected land preparations. Officials reported on work being carried out for earth preparations and future tasks to the commander who attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the commander and party arrived at the modern sports grounds construction in Shan State Union Stadium in Lashio, an official of Asia State Union Stadium in construction site in Shan State MPF Police Col Win Naing reported on arrangements being made for construction of Yan Dang Aung Pagoda in the compound of the Kyauktgaik.

Next, the commander and party paid homage to Yan Aungnyin Pagyaung at the entrance to Lashio and paid homage and presented offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tej尼亚. Next, Joint Police Commander of Shan State MPF Police Col Win Naing reported on arrangements being made for construction of Yan Dang Aung Pagoda in the compound of the Kyauktgaik.

Ministers inspect Mazin Industrial Cooperative Society in Bago

YANGON, 28 Oct—Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Hla Hlaing and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min yesterday morning inspected Mazin Industrial Cooperative Society in Bago.

Aftewards, Maj-Gen Hla Hlaing and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min met with executives of the society and officials at the briefing hall. At the meeting, he gave instructions and urged them to make efforts for the improvement of the society. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min made suggestions. Next, Deputy Director of the Bago Division Cooperatives Department U Toe Sein reported on tasks being carried out by the department and an official on work of the society.

Aftewards, the ministers and party proceeded to the workshop of the Industrial Cooperative Syndicate on No-3 Min Road and saw over the products of the syndicate displayed at the shop. They also viewed the handicrafts displayed at the Colours of Myanmar Arts Centre on Kyekpon Pagoda Road.

Commander inspects construction work in Lashio

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19 armed group members exchanged arms for peace in August, September 2003

YANGON, 28 Oct—The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, has been making all-out efforts for the national reconciliation and for bringing about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation. The armed groups, realizing the endevours and genuine goodwill of the government, have understood that their acts did not benefit the nation and their regions at all, and exchanged arms for peace at the respective military camps individually or in groups.

In the South-East Command region, Sub-Lt Pha Naw Choe of Company-1, Battalion-1, No 1 Brigade of KNLA armed group, together with one M-16 automatic rifle and one 30 Carbine; Saw Chai Hwe, In-Charge of Dyaih Yai Village region under No 1 Brigade of KNLA armed group, together with one AK-47 automatic rifle, one magazine, 17 rounds of ammunition, Palama (a) Saw Toe of Bilin Township Administration Committee under No 1 Brigade of KNLA armed group; Corporal Kaw Win Naing and Private Nyunt Win, to get with one M-16 automatic rifle and one walkie-talkie; Private Kyaw Hsan from Mon splinter armed group together with one MA-11, two magazines and 32 rounds of ammunition.

In the North-West Command region, Lieutenant Nywe Khon of CNA armed group together with one home-made rifle and four rounds of ammunition; In the Eastern Command region, Dares (a) Daya, Township In-Charge of KNPP armed group; In the Southern Command region, Clerk Saw Taw (a) Saw Paw of Battalion-8, No 3 Brigade of KNLA armed group; In the Coastal Region Command region, platoon commanders Saw Pe-ku and Saw Tha Way and Privates Ko Aung and Nyi Nyi of Company-3, Battalion 10 of KNLA armed group together with two M-16 automatic rifles; one AK-47 automatic rifle, three magazines and 15 rounds of ammunition; Regional In-Charge Yun Il Aung, Tin Sein (a) Say Paing of Company-3, Battalion-11 of KNLA armed group together with one rifle, one magazine and 13 rounds of ammunition; Regional In-Charge U Da Pi together with one rifle and two rounds of ammunition; Privates Kaw Hmaw, Aye Win and Aung Shwe of BCP armed group together with one HK-33, two magazines, 20 rounds of ammunition and one hand grenade exchanged arms for peace at the respective military camps in August and September 2003. Altogether 19 armed group members, who exchanged arms for peace during that period, were warmly welcomed by officials of the respective military camps and provided with necessary assistance. There are more armed group members who are going to exchange arms for peace, it is learnt.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivers an address at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik on 27 October. (News reported) — MNA

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The opening ceremony of Myeik General Hospital in progress on 27 October. (News reported) — MNA
Nearly 12 million crimes reported in US in 2002

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — Some 11.9 million crimes were reported to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) last year by city, county and state law enforcement agencies, the FBI reported Monday.

The number of property crimes such as burglaries, thefts, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts remained almost the same as that of the 2001 reports, with an estimated loss of 16.6 billion US dollars. In 2002, about 13.7 million arrests, excluding minor traffic offenses, were made by law enforcement officials, with arrests for drug abuse and driving under the influence accounting for almost 22 per cent of the total.

The survey, taken in all 15 EU member states in the run-up to last week’s Iraq donors’ conference in Madrid, found that most European Union citizens and Iraq’s provisional government to manage the reconstruction effort, not Washington.

Nearly 58 per cent of EU citizens questioned said the war was totally or rather unjustified, while 29 per cent said it was totally or rather justified. The biggest anti-war majorities were in Greece (96 per cent), Austria (86 per cent), France (81 per cent) and Spain (79 per cent), even though the Spanish Government supported the war.

The poll showed over-welming support for the rebuild- ing of Iraq, most opinion polls taken for the European Commission showed on Monday.

The survey showed over-welming support for the US-led invasion of Iraq was unjustified and the United States should pay to rebuild the country, an opinion that many Americans share.

The Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge is a modern developed nation and fast flow of commodities brings honour to Myeik, the capital of the division.

The Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge Construction Project was launched on July 2000. The bridge is a modern developed nation and fast flow of commodities brings honour to Myeik, the capital of the division.

The Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge Construction Project was launched on July 2000. The upper structure of the bridge is of steel frames and the lower structure, of reinforced concrete. With a total length of 3,612 feet, the bridge has a 28-foot-wide motor way and two six-foot-wide walk ways on it. It can withstand 60 tons of loads. And its clearance is 230 feet wide and 228 feet high. The project was completed in July 2003, at a cost of around K 3,400 million.

The emergence of such large bridges reflects the guidance given by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the Special Projects Implementation Meeting 1/2003, saying that implementation of special projects which cover economic, transport and human resources infrastructures, that are needed for the nation, leads to development of all sectors of the country including economy, education and health sectors and raising the living standard of the people.

The construction projects help cement amicable friendship and relations and flourishing Union Spirit among the national brotherhood. So, local people wholeheartedly welcomed the inauguration of the Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge, which brings honour to Myeik, the capital of the division.

(Translation: MS)

Families scramble for safety as Calif homes burn

SAN DIEGO (California), 28 Oct — Some took their pets, others frantically grabbed family photographs and a few left with nothing but the clothes on their backs in the scramble to flee a fast-moving wildfire.

Flames licked the roadside as caravans of cars packed with lifetimes’ worth of memories edged with des- perate slowaways from threatened neighbourhoods in the picturesque canyons around San Diego.

Later, families in the homes of friends or mere acquaintances a couple of miles away, many — including myself — helplessly watched their houses either up in flames that leapt into the blood-coloured sky or came close to being destroyed.

Families scrambled to escape with their lives and property as the fires raged across the southern Californian coastal region.

The Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge Construction Project was launched on July 2000. The upper structure of the bridge is of steel frames and the lower structure, of reinforced concrete. With a total length of 3,612 feet, the bridge has a 28-foot-wide motor way and two six-foot-wide walk ways on it. It can withstand 60 tons of loads. And its clearance is 230 feet wide and 228 feet high. The project was completed in July 2003, at a cost of around K 3,400 million.

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Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Health is important not only to a person or a family but also to a nation as a whole. With this end in view the government is building new hospitals across the country spending a large sum of money. The photo shows the 300-bed teaching hospital in Myothit, Mandalay Division.—PHOTO: MNA

The Government is making concerted efforts for the emergence of more hospitals equipped with modern facilities and specialists. The photo shows Shan State General Hospital (200-bed) in Kengtung, Shan State (East).—PHOTO: MNA

It is very important for the citizens to become strong and healthy. The photo shows the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Ward in Lashio, Shan State (North). PHOT0: MNA
Thousands of books are available to give you knowledge free of charge.

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS.
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Spare Parts for 1200 HP India Locomotives (Prod. by M/s Maruti Udyog Ltd.) and Spare Parts for Diesel Electric Locomotives which will be purchased in US Dollar, Euro and Myanmar Kyats.—

Sr No.  Tender No      Description      Quantity
1.  12(CT) 12MR (ML)  2003-2004      Spare Parts for 1200 HP India Locomotives (YDM-4D/ML) (49-Items)  2.  12(CT) 13MR (ML)  2003-2004      Spare Parts for Diesel Electric Locomotives (9-Items)  

Closing Date: 2.12.2003 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours.
Opening Date: 2.11.2003 (Tuesday) (14:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon from 29 Oct 2003 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982,201555 Ext: 602,665,612.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

— MNA/Reuters

Russia’s richest man in jail facing fraud charges

Moscow, 28 Oct — Russia’s wealthiest man and head of oil giant Yukos, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, was in a Moscow prison on Sunday facing massive fraud and tax evasion charges.

Prosecutors described the case as unprecedented. Khodorkovsky, who has challenged President Vladimir Putin’s rivals ahead of elections, was removed from his chartered jet in Siberia and whisked to Moscow on Saturday after prosecutors said he had deliberately failed to answer a summons the previous day.

He was questioned and charged with seven counts of fraud and tax evasion. Some accusations focus on the 1994 selloff of a fertilizer firm in connection with which another Yukos shareholder, Anton Lebedev, also faces charges.

Prosecutors say the state suffered more than one billion US dollars in damages. Like Lebedev, Khodorkovsky was ordered by a court to return to Moscow’s Matrosskaya Tishina (Sailors’ Rest) prison.

Under Russian legislation, Khodorkovsky could keep his fortune, the oil magnate’s lawyer, Anton Drel, told reporters.

Drel said his client, estimated to be worth 11 billion US dollars, had no regrets either about his activities or its decision to go on trial.

“Everything I have done is not a crime,” Drel said. “It is a legal mistake, and the fair person would appeal the charges. If this is a legal trial, the Russian constitution would allow it.”

Prosecutors said they would appeal the charges.

Russia’s biggest oil firm, Yukos recently engineered a merger with smaller Sibur.

US oil major Exxon Mobil is said to be interested in taking a stake. Neither Exxon nor another possible buyer, Chevron Texaco, commented on the new turmoil.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Susan Pettman told Reuters: “The full meaning of his arrest and this case remains to be seen. We are mindful in particular about the implications for rule of law and for the development of a healthy business and investment climate in Russia,” she added without further comment.

Yukos described the charges as “absurd”, pledged to uphold obligations to investors and denounced as “humiliating the brute violence used by Russia’s law enforcement system”.

— MNA/Reuters

India makes efforts to improve aviation security

New Delhi, 28 Oct — To improve its aviation security, India plans to join an ambitious intelligent border management programme which would help detect entry of undesirable elements into the country well in advance.

As part of this process, some international firms have recently made presentations on improving security at airports and, at the same time, ensuring a hassle-free travel for non-risk passengers.

An Australia-based security firm made a presentation last week on the border management solutions for Indian Civil Aviation Ministry to enhance border security and speed up clearance through technology.

The presentation was attended by Civil Aviation Secretary K. Roy Paul, Airports Authority of India Chairman S.K. Narula, and senior officials from Intelligence Bureau and Immigration, sources in the Civil Aviation Ministry said.

— MNA/Xinhua

Northeast China province building archives for farmers

Harbin, 28 Oct — Heilongjiang Province in northeast China has taken the lead in China in setting up archives for farmers to help improve the management of local rural human resources.

Heilongjiang started the project in mid-October to collect personal information of the local nearly 10 million rural labourers. Archives are normally only created for urban workers and employees in China.

The project is expected to be instrumental in solving problems regarding residence registration, insurance and school enrollment of children when local farmers resettle elsewhere or are recruited by the army, said Liang Shiman, a local official in charge of the affair.

— MNA/Reuters
**Thailand to host border trade talks with 3 countries**

**BANGKOK, 28 Oct—** Thailand is to host border trade talks with officials from Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia on October 28 in a bid to create a unified approach to border trade developments, the Thai News Agency reported Monday. Deputy Prime Minister Adisai Bodharamik revealed that the talks would be focused on cooperation in developing both border trade and trade among the four nations.

Expressing his hope that the meeting would result in both the efficiency and value of sub-regional trade, Adisai also said that the officials would look at past difficulties and obstacles currently hampering trade among the 4 nations so that economic prosperity could grow simultaneously with inter-regional relations.

Thailand would pledge to offer support in trade development, in particular by purchasing more agricultural products from neighbouring countries, he said.

According to statistics of the Thai Commerce Ministry, in the first 10 months of this year, the value of border trade between Thailand and these three neighbouring countries reached 4.08 billion US dollars.

The Foreign Ministers from these four countries met in Bangkok in August, discussing an "Economic Cooperation Strategy" (ECS) to fully harness the enormous economic potential among the four countries.

The ECS focused inter-regional cooperation in the fields of trade, agriculture, industry, road transport, tourism and human resource development.

**WHO to endorse triple-dose “AIDS” drugs**

**WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—** The World Health Organization will endorse controversial generic triple-dose AIDS drugs next week, the Washington Post reported on Saturday.

WHO will support distributing the pills, under which poorer countries would be able to buy cheaper generics. In return they must ensure none of these products end up on profitable Western markets where patents are strictly enforced.

On Thursday four generic drug companies agreed to make HIV drugs available to millions of people in Africa and Caribbean nations at about half the current price.

**German Environment Prize awarded**

**BERLIN, 28 Oct—** German physicist Claus Mattechek and businesswoman Hermann Josef Schulte were awarded this year's German Environment Prize on Sunday.

Mattechek won the award for his research aimed at protecting trees from enviromental dangers and Schulte shares the honours for developing automobile engine filters that are more environmentally friendly.

German President Johannes Rau presented the 500,000-euro prize in the western city of Osnabrueck, which is also Europe's most lucrative environmental prize. — MNA/Xinhua

**Khaleda Zia expresses optimism on Indo-Bangladeshi ties**

**DHAKA, 28 Oct—** Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday expressed her optimism that ties between India and Bangladesh would be strengthened in the future.

"Our bilateral relations would be further strengthened in the future," she told the outgoing Indian High Commissioner Monial Tripathy who visited her to make a farewell call.

"During the meeting held at Prime Minister's Office, Begum Zia stressed that the member countries of SAARC should increase trade among themselves for the benefit of their economies."

**Shanghai to make more level tail assemblies for “Boeing-737s”**

**SHANGHAI, 28 Oct—** The Shanghai Aerospace Industry Corporation will be able to produce 13 sets of level tail assemblies for new-generation Boeing-737s every month as of October.

Ken Yao, deputy president of Boeing China Company, said Chinese aerospace manufacturing enterprises have been playing an important role in Boeing's global suppliers network.

The cooperation between Boeing and Chinese aerospace enterprises began in the mid-1970s. Up to now, 3,300 operating Boeing planes are equipped with main components produced in China.

Apart from Shanghai Aerospace Industry Corporation, Boeing is also looking to lower prices for China and to allow generic copies to be distributed without challenge.

In August the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations approved a World Health Organization trade organization deal under which poor states with no drug industries would be able to buy cheaper generics. In return they must ensure none of these products end up on profitable Western markets where patents are strictly enforced.

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**Vietnam strives to produce more high-quality rice strains**

**HANOI, 28 Oct—** Vietnam is turning out more varieties of high-quality rice to implement the programme of growing one million hectares of rice for export in the Mekong Delta in the 2001-2005 period.

The government has assigned the Mekong Delta to produce one million tons of high-quality rice seeds this year, the local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported on Monday.

With the state subsidy for production of high-quality rice varieties, the Mekong Delta Rice Institute, Vietnam’s leading rice varieties maker, has so far this year produced 2,545 tons of rice seeds.

Experts said that Mekong Delta rice enterprises have met the international advanced level in terms of digitized manufacturing technologies and quality guarantee system.

The project is expected to produce 14.5 million tons of high-quality rice seeds by 2006.

Higher rice seed production in Vietnam is now capable of meeting less than 30 per cent of local demand for high-quality seeds. Last year, the country imported some 11,000 tons of rice seeds from several countries, including China.

The country’s rice output has tripled over the past 20 years, from 1.15 million tons in 1980 to 34 million tons in 2002, partly thanks to the application of modern technologies, especially biotechnology, in agriculture development. — MNA/Xinhua

**Mahathir urges Malaysians to do things in own way**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Oct—** Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad Sunday urged Malaysians to do things in their own way to maintain the national progress that it has achieved so far.

"We have succeeded in building a country that has given us a good life, that has given us pride, that is respected by everybody. We have done all these our way and we must always try and preserve this way of ours so that in coming years Malaysia will continue to develop and progress and its people will continue to live in comfort," Mahathir, who is retiring on Friday, said when opening the general assembly of the People’s Progressive Party (PPP) here.

PPP is a member of the ruling National Front which has 14 political parties. The Prime Minister expressed his hope that at the retirement the people would continue to live in comfort as a result of the nation’s progress.

Mahathir, 77, who has been the nation’s prime minister for 22 years, will retire on Friday for aging. "This is the wish of all of us. This is also my wish when I step down from the political arena," he said.

He said Malaysia had done many things that were not done in other countries. Like making every festivelcalendarisation of the country’s different races a national celebration to strengthen unity among the people. “It’s our way of fostering ties among the communities, among the followers of different religions,” he said.

The Barisan Nasional’s (National Front) way is through sharing. We’re not greedy, we don’t take everything for ourselves. We are willing to give a share to others who are also entitled to it and they in return give us what’s due to us.

"We share and share fairly so that everybody can have their portion of the wealth and well-being...this is our way," he said.

Stressing importance of a noble culture, Mahathir reminded Malaysians to lead a noble life because high ability and knowledge alone could not ensure success for the nation. Without a noble culture, the knowledgeable and capable persons could abuse their skills for bad intentions, he said.

"We may study until we obtain a doctorate, a PhD. But if our culture is bad, we will use our prowess to plan a bank robbery, for example," he added. — MNA/Xinhua

**The winners of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2003 pose for photographers in the Philippines capital, Manila, on 26 October, 2003. (From L-R) fourth runner-up from Malaysia and top 10 Miss Asia Pacific 2003, Thailand's Miss Asia Pacific 2003 first runner-up, Ms Khoi Nguyen from Vietnam and Miss Asia Pacific 2003 second runner-up, Ms Eriko Hara from Japan.**

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“During the meeting held at Prime Minister’s Office, Begum Zia stressed that the member countries of SAARC should increase trade among themselves for the benefit of their economies.**"
**Hertha coach on the bench for crucial Cup game**

**BERLIN, 28 Oct —** Under fire Hertha Berlin coach Huub Stevens, who was handed a two-match ban by the German FA last week, will be able to watch from the bench when his team visit Hansa Rostock in the German Cup on Tuesday.

The German Football Association (DFB) confirmed on Monday that Stevens would be banned for two games after lambasting a match official during a league game against Bayer Leverkusen earlier this month.

But the DFB accepted a request by Hertha asking for the touchline ban to cover the club’s next two Bundesliga matches.

That means Stevens can sit on the bench for the German Cup second round tie.

Troubled Hertha recorded their first Bundesliga victory of the season by winning 1-0 at Rostock on Saturday.

The capital club’s bosses told Stevens that Hertha had to win both games against Rostock — the league match last Saturday and Tuesday’s Cup showdown — to safeguard his job.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**Israeli soccer suffering from UEFA ban, says new chief**

**TEL AVIV, 28 Oct —** Yitzhak Menahem, installed as the new chairman of the Israeli Football Association on Monday said that playing all their major matches abroad at neutral venues was causing huge problems for the sport.

The UEFA-sanctioned competitive international matches and European club matches are not permitted in Israel after a ban was imposed in March 2002 because of the security situation in the Middle East.

Menahem told reporters after his election on Monday: “I take over at a very difficult time for the Israeli economy and it is having an effect on the IFA. I will do my best to navigate our ship through the stormy waters.”

“It is no secret that the IFA is in difficult times financially which is due to the fact that the national team’s matches have had to be held abroad. We have had tremendous expenses with no income at all.”

**MNA/Reuters**

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**Robinho double for Santos, narrow win for Cruzeiro**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Oct —** Striker Robinho hit two goals to help Santos romp to a 4-0 victory at Coritiba and stay in touch with Brazilian championship leaders Cruzeiro at the weekend.

Santos had double reason to celebrate when central defender Narciso went on as a second half substitute to mark his first appearance since undergoing a bone marrow transplant.

“I think people can see my story as an example that can be followed,” Narciso told reporters.

Cruzeiro scraped a 1-0 home win over Figueirense, ending a run of two successive defeats that allowed Santos to cut their championship lead from 12 points to six.

Mota scored the only goal when he converted Wendell’s cross 18 minutes into the second half. Figueirense’s attempts to mark Alex out of the game failed as the midfield playmaker had a hand in the goal and struck the crossbar twice.

Cruzeiro coach Wanderlei Luxemburgo gave his tired players a two-day break after the match. “The team was looking like a squashed tomato... (the players) need a little time at home with their families,” he said.

Corinthians continued to frustrate their fans, losing 3-2 to Athletico Paraense despite leading 2-0 thanks to two own-goal kicks by Coelho.

Bahia and Flu-minense shared a 2-2 draw that did little to ease the relegation fears of either club. Gremio lost 2-1 at Flammeno and are still rooted to the foot of the table.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**Partizan lose ground on Red Star with draw in Kula**

**BELGRADE, 28 Oct —** Serbia and Montenegro champions Partizan Belgrade lost ground on league leaders and city rivals Red Star with a 0-0 draw at Hajduk Kula on Sunday.

Red Star, who beat Borac Cacak 5-1 on Saturday, lead the standings with 22 points from nine matches, ahead of Santid Smederevo who have 21 after a 3-2 win over Sutjeska Niksic. Partizan have 19 points and fourth-placed OFK Belgrade are a further two points adrift.

Partizan missed a host of good chances to beat plucky Kula, whose goalkeeper Nikola Milojovic made a string of fine saves to deny Ivica Ilev, Ljubinko Drulovic and Albert Nadj.

Partizan coach Lothar Matthaeus said he was happy with his side’s commitment after 1-0 Champions League defeat at Real Madrid last week.

“The lads put in a good effort and I’m pleased with their commitment but not the result. We have only ourselves to blame for not winning as we didn’t take the many chances that came our way,” he told reporters.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**Santos face a difficult Alenitchev derby goal extends Porto’s lead at the top**

**LISBON, 28 Oct—** A goal by Russian midfielder Dimitri Alenitchev gave Porto a 1-0 win at Boavista on Monday after a hard-fought derby that in which they had Deco Souza sent off near the end as they stretched their lead in the Premier League.

Champions Porto, the only unbeaten team, are top on 22 points after the match at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, Sunday, on 26 October, 2003. The game ended in a scoreless tie.

In a ill-tempered match in which the referee showed 12 yellow cards and one red as well as disallowing home striker Faye Fary’s effort for offside.

Porto’s Brazilian-born playmaker Deco missed a golden opportunity to open the scoring on the hour when he beat goalkeeper William Andem but shot wide of an open goal.

Substitute Alenitchev grabbed the winner in the 77th minute with a shot from inside the box after a neat pass from the left by Brazilian striker Derlei Silva.

Porto were down to ten men three minutes later as Deco picked up a second yellow card. He will also miss their next Champions League match on Monday against Olympique Marseille after receiving three yellow cards in this season’s campaign.

Sporting’s new Brazilian signing Liedson ramped the winner at Alverca as the Lisbon side ended a run of three away defeats that allowed Santos to cut their championship lead from 12 points to six.

The 2002 champions came from behind after an early goal by Pedro Torrato but Brazilian midfielder Fabio Rochenbbeck levelled with a header before halftime from the penalty spot.

Liedson then confirmed his skill as a poacher after bagging his sixth goal in as many league and European games by firing home the rebound after a shot from captain Pedro Barbosa was fumbled by Alverca’s French goalkeeper Yannick Quesmel.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**Boca Juniors extend lead in Argentine league**

**Buenos Aires, 28 Oct —** Boca Juniors extended their lead in the Argentine championship at the weekend but had Estudiantes goalkeeper Juan Carlos Docabo to thank for the second goal in their 2-0 win.

Boca took the lead on 36 minutes when Matias Donnet’s free-kick flew beyond the despairing dive of Docabo.

But the second goal came gift-wrapped when Docabo received a back-pass and tried to chip the ball past Roberto Totta. The Boca player intercepted and gratefully accepted the scoring opportunity.

Among the chasing pack, San Lorenzo lost 1-0 at home to Quilmes, defender Danilo Gelro scoring the only goal on 15 minutes.

Quilmes climbed to third place on 21 points and pushed San Lorenzo back into fourth spot.

Second-placed Rosario Central beat Independiente 2-0 and now have 22 points, five behind unbeaten Boca.

Lanus bagged their first win in the Apertura championship by edging Talleres 2-1. Mauricio Romero and Julian Maidana grabbed the goals that gave Miguel Brindisi his maiden victory as coach.

Struggling Olimpo also collected their first win of the season, beating Banfield 3-1.

Bottom spot in the league is now occupied by Nueva Chicago, who lost 4-0 to Chacarita Juniors. River Plate overcame Gimnasia-La Plata 2-0 but the ‘Millionaires’ are not within striking distance of rivals Boca.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**Corinthians continue to frustrate their fans, losing 3-2 to Atlético Paranaense despite leading 2-0 thanks to two own-goal kicks by Coelho.**

**Bahiia and Flu-minense shared a 2-2 draw that did little to ease the relegation fears of either club.**

**Gremio lost 2-1 at Flameneno and are still rooted to the foot of the table.**

**Tribune**
Vietnam to develop aerospace industry

HANOI, 28 Oct.—Like many other developing countries, Vietnam will develop aerospace industry with focus on its applications, but not to send people into space, a government official was quoted as saying here Monday.

The country will concentrate on technologies relating to Earth stations, satellite construction and launch, local newspaper Young quoted Nguyen Khau Son, deputy director of the National Natural Science and Technology Centre, as saying.

Aerospace applications in the fields of remote sensing, satellite location, geographic information system, and communications will be on focus, he added.

Along with a plan to launch its first satellite named Vinasat into space in late 2005, Vietnam is scheduled to launch other small ones for the purposes of environmental control, resource protection and natural disaster prevention, he revealed.

Priority of Maritime Lien

Also, the Vietnamese government said it would give priority to the development of the maritime lien to give security to the overall development of the country.

Philippine manufacturing output up in August

MANILA, 28 Oct.—The Philippines’ manufacturing output rose 7.5 percent year-on-year in August, after revised growth of 4.5 percent in July, the National Statistics Office (Nso) reported Monday.

Manufacturing sales volume in August grew 9.3 percent over the same month last year after a revised year-on-year growth of 1.4 in July, the Nso said in a statement, adding that factories operated at 78.6 percent of average capacity in August, as light drop from 78.8 percent in July.

Missionary Sayadaw U

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09.30 hours Mst:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in upper Sagain Division, isolated in Chai, Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions.

Weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 27-10-2003 was 35.5°C (92°F).

Minimum temperature on 28-10-2003 was 20.5°C (69°F).

Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs Mst on 28-10-2003 was 75.0%.

Total sunshine hours on 27-10-2003 was (6.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-10-2003 was 1 mm (0.04 inch) at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2203 mm (86.72 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2381 mm (93.74 inches) at central Yangon.

Wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 20 km/h.

Rainfall in Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 2.1 mm.

Maximum wind speed at Kaba-Aye was 29 km/h.

View today: Wednesday, October 29

7.00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Outtamathara
7.25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7.30 am
3. Morning news
7.40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7.55 am
5. Myanmar Slogan
8.05 am
6. Myanmar Slogan
8.10 am
7. Myanmar Slogan
8.20 am
8. International news
8.30 am
9. International news
10. Learning English the Easy and Happy Way for Children and Beginners
4.00 pm
1. Martial song
4.15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
4.30 pm
3. Practice in Reading
4.40 pm
4. Buddika Aha
4.50 pm
5. Campaign for saving water and energy
5.05 pm
6. Song of national races
5.20 pm
7. Classical song
5.35 pm
8. Campaign for seeking alms
5.50 pm
9. Musical programme
6.05 pm
10. Campaign for seeking alms
6.30 pm
11. Discovery
6.55 pm
12. Weather report
7.05 pm
13. Mile success in soccer
7.10 pm
14. Campaign for saving water and energy
7.25 pm
15. Campaign for saving water and energy
7.40 pm
16. Musical programme
7.45 pm
17. Campaign for seeking alms
8.00 pm
18. News
8.15 pm
19. International news
8.20 pm
20. Weather
8.30 pm
21. Campaign for seeking alms
8.45 pm
22. Campaign for seeking alms
9.00 pm
23. The next day’s programme
9.15 pm
24. Campaign for seeking alms
9.30 pm
25. Campaign for seeking alms
9.45 pm
26. Campaign for seeking alms
10.00 pm
27. PEL
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Sittway

Yangon, 28 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by responsible personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by air for Sittway yesterday morning.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Sittway Airport in Rakhine State at 10 am. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Aloawpyi Monastery at Aungmye Bodhi Dhamma Yeiktha on Airport Street.

Central Committee for Organizing 83rd Anniversary of National Day meets

Yangon, 28 Oct — The first meeting of the central committee for organizing the 83rd Anniversary National Day was held this morning at the meeting hall of the Government’s Office in the Ministers’ Office, with an address by Chairman of the central committee Minister for Education U Than Aung. Present at the central committee were central committee members, deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests and officials. Joint-secretary of the central committee acting Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Myint submitted the report on holding the 82nd Anniversary National Day ceremony and Secretary of the central committee Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win reported on arrangements for holding the 83rd Anniversary National Day ceremony. Those present also took part in the discussions. Later, the minister gave instructions on successful holding of the ceremony on a grand scale.

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

Yangon, 28 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued on the fifteenth day at respective venues today. The competitions were attended by Members of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of Panels of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Education U Than Aung and Minster for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competitions Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tin Htun, officials of sub-committees and sub-committees, enthusiasts, tourists and students.

Chairman of Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw Myo Pyone Khine and work committee members made judgements on the performance. — MNA

At the basic education level classic/modern song contest (male), five groups took part in the contest with Moe Kaebaw song. At the amateur level classic/modern song contest (male), two contestants competed with Wai Bago (Kyo) song. At the basic education level mandolin contest (aged 5-10, boys), two contestants competed with Thida Thida Myatha (Kyo) song. — MNA

At the basic education level male mandolin contest (aged 5-10, boys), three contestants competed with Thida Thida Myatha (Kyo) song. — MNA

At the basic education level xylophone contest (aged 5-10, girls), two contestants competed with Bon Saung Myint (Kyo) song. — MNA

At the basic education level classic/modern song contest (age 10-15, girls) will be held tomorrow. Chairman of Panel of Judges for mandolin contest U Nyo Gy and members made judgements on the performance. At the amateur level classic/modern song contest (male), five groups took part in the contest. — MNA

At the basic education level mandolin contest (aged 5-10, boys), three contestants competed with Thida Thida Myatha (Kyo) song. — MNA

At the basic education level mandolin contest (aged 5-10, girls), one contestant competed with Bon Saung Myint (Kyo) song. — MNA

At the amateur level mandolin contest (male), one contestant took part in the contest with Mingalat Thiri (Bwe) song. At the amateur level mandolin contest (female), one contestant took part in the contest with Min Kutha classic/modern song. — MNA

The Donmin contest was held at Kanbawza Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road yesterday. At the basic education level male mandolin contest (aged 10-15, girls), three contestants took part in the contest with Baho Myawth Thaw (Kyo) song. — MNA

At the basic education level xylophone contest (aged 10-15, girls), two contestants took part in the contest with Moe Kalawah song. — MNA

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and party offered provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha there. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party offered “soon” to Sayadaws from the monasteries in Sittway. In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected Sittway Station, where he inspected the cultivation of shady trees, plantations of vegetables grown on a manageable scale and measures taken for the greening of the environment in the battalions and units. Along Yangon-Sittway road, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected regional development tasks, thriving monocrop plantations and paddy fields ready for harvest. At 2.50 pm, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at the hall of Sittway Station, where he met with Tatmadawmen from battalions and units and their families and gave instructions on undertakings of agriculture and livestock breeding work on a manageable scale, education and health for children, and the assuring of production industries.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially met with them and spoke words of encouragement. — MNA