Indian Vice-President to visit Myanmar

YANGON, 31 Oct — At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, His Excellency Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India will pay an official visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Auditor-General of PRC

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General Thura Shwe Mann inspects development tasks for Cocokyun

YANGON, 30 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, together with Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Major General Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein, senior military officers, departmental heads, left for Cocokyun at 6.40 am today and arrived there at 8 am.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party visited Jinamarazein Padoga there and made cash donations. Afterwards, they arrived at Sasana Mandaing monastery and paid obeisance and presented provisions to Sayadaw U Kovidacara. They made cash donations towards the funds for construction of Sasana Pala Dhamma Rakhtita Dhammayon in the compound of the monastery.

General Thura Shwe Mann presented cash for the Wut Association reciting religious verses in the monastery. After giving necessary instructions to the officials, General Thura Shwe Mann, the commander and party cordially greeted local people at their houses. At the township People’s Hospital, they viewed mass vaccinating children against measles and inspected surgical rooms, dental clinic and wards.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues press release

YANGON, 30 Oct — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar issued a press release concerning the biannual report on the situation in Myanmar dated 30 October 2003 issued by the United States Department of State. Full text of the press release is as follows:

On 27 October 2003, the United States Department of State issued a biannual report on the situation in Myanmar.

It is most regrettable that the US State Department has once again issued a report that not only does not reflect the true situation in the country but is also intrinsically flawed. The report is less than objectives and is nothing but a politically motivated attempt to exert pressure on Myanmar. The report fails to note the vast transformation taking place in the country, particularly the strides taken by the Government towards the emergence of a democratic state.

It is an undeniable fact that the Government is taking systematic steps to bring about the emergence of a democratic state. The seven-step political programme that would ensure a smooth transition to democracy has been welcomed and endorsed by the entire people in all parts of the country. Myanmar is determined and committed to build a democratic society in keeping with the objective conditions of the nation as well as the aspirations of the people. Already systematic steps are being initiated for the convening of the National Convention that would eventually lead to a new constitution and a
Grow more coffee for long-term interests

The Union of Myanmar is climatically and topographically suitable for agriculture. Therefore, it is no wonder that agriculture is the main pillar of its economy.

At present, farmers are giving first priority to the cultivation of 10 major crops, including paddy, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, sugarcane and maize, that can improve returns. In some hill regions, coffee, tea and pepper are being grown, especially coffee as it has a good demand in overseas markets.

Among the hill regions, Pyin-Oo-Lwin township is well-known for its beautiful natural environment as well as for its produces such as various kinds of flowers and vegetables. Moreover, it is very suitable for the cultivation of coffee. Therefore, efforts are being made to put 100,000 acres of land of Pyin-Oo-Lwin and Nawnghkio townships under coffee. As more and more people have become interested in the cultivation of coffee, Myanmar Agriculture Service is giving encouragement and necessary help to them.

Those who started coffee plantations on 270 acres of land in 1999 are now enjoying good returns from their coffee plants. They exported 40,000 viss of coffee in 2001 and 70,000 in 2002.

It is also heartening to learn that coffee plants are being grown on 23,000 acres of land in these two townships. As more and more people have become interested in the cultivation of coffee, more coffee plants are being grown on 7,000 acres in these two townships. As more and more people have become interested in the cultivation of coffee, more coffee plants are being grown on 7,000 acres in these two townships.

Commander inspects development tasks of Cocokyun Township

YANGON, 30 Oct — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Col Mya Min Swe, accompanied by Managing Director of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications U Maung Taing Tin, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tin and departmental officials, this morning inspected regional development tasks in Cocokyun Township in Yangon South District.

At 10 am, the commander cordially met with police force members and their families at the township police station and attended to their needs.

Next, he inspected the police station and urged the officials to grow vegetables and crops to extend cultivation of paddy, vegetables and livestock breeding, to boost production and to improve the education, health, social and economy of the local people.

Afterwards, the commander and party arrived at the Cocokyun Basic Education High School and presented the books for the school library through the headmaster.

The commander also attended a ceremony to honour the teachers who taught to achieve good results at the school and presented gifts to the teachers.

Min Naing leads Kanbawza Open Golf Championship

YANGON, 30 Oct — Myanmar, a member country of WHO, signed the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on 23 October at UN Headquarters in New York.

After four years of discussions, WHO member countries unanimously adopted the convention on 26 May 2003.

Myanmar hosted the fourth coordination meeting of ASEAN regional countries in August 2002 and announced the Yangon Declaration. Altogether 75 countries have so far signed the convention.

Myanmar signs Convention on Tobacco Control

YANGON, 30 Oct — The Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Principal U Thein Win of Bago Degree College of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education as the principal of the same college on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Archery delegates from foreign countries arrive

YANGON, 30 Oct — Vice-Chairman of Asian Archery Federation Mr Sangara Kosavanta and Honorary President of World Archery Federation Mr Donald M Love arrived here this afternoon to attend the 13th Asian Archery Championship and 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier. Moreover, a total of 33 athletes—seven from Thailand, five from Hong Kong, 19 from the Republic of Korea and two from the Philippines—also arrived here this afternoon to participate in the archery championship. They were welcomed by officials at the Yangon International Airport.

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Commander Maj-Gen Mya Min Swe inspects multimedia teaching room in Cocokyun Township in Yangon District (South). — YANGON COMMAND

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**US military reports escalation of attacks in Iraq; two Americans killed, seven Ukrainians wounded**

Baghdad, 30 Oct — Insurgents destroyed an American tank north of Baghdad, killing two US soldiers, and wounded seven Ukrainians in the first ambush against the multinational force patrolling central Iraq, officials said Wednesday. The attacks were part of a dramatic upsurge in recent days.

US policy was already suffering another setback when the international Red Cross announced it was reducing its international staff in the country, two days after a deadly suicide car bombing at its Baghdad headquarters. The humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, also announced it had pulled out workers.

Secretary of State Colin Powell had urged the Red Cross and other non-government organizations to stay in Iraq because “if they are driven out, then the terrorists win.”

The latest attacks 233 over the last seven days according to the US military have driven the combat death toll during the occupation above the number killed before President Bush declared an end to active combat on May 1.

Two American soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were killed and one was wounded late Tuesday when their Abrams battle tank apparently hit a land mine near Balad, 45 miles north of Baghdad, division spokeswoman Maj Jossynl Aberle said.

Their deaths brought to 117 the number of American soldiers killed by hostile fire since May 1. A total of 114 US soldiers were killed between the start of the war March 20 and the end of April.

It was the first M1 Abrams battle tank destroyed since May 1, military officials said. Several of the 68-ton vehicles the mainstay of the Army’s armoured forces were disabled in combat before May 1.

The ambush of the Ukrainians occurred Tuesday night when two armoured personnel carriers rolled over land mines near Suwayrah, about 30 miles southeast of Baghdad.

After the vehicles were disabled, gunmen opened fire on the disembarked soldiers. A spokesman for the multinational division at Camp Babylon said on condition of anonymity.

The spokesman said it was the first ambush against the Polish-led force that since September has been patrolling a belt of central Iraq south of the capital. About 1,650 Ukrainians are serving in the Polish-led force of some 9,500 peacekeepers.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it would remain in Iraq, but would reduce the number of international staff now about 30 and increase security for those who stay. The agency has 600 Iraqi employees.

Associated Press writers Katarina Kroatovac in Tikrit and Mariam Fam in Mosul contributed to this report.

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**Poll shows Latin America has dismal view of Bush**

Mexico, 30 Oct — Latin Americans have a dismal opinion of US President George W Bush after he ignored worldwide opinion to wage war in Iraq, and against a backdrop of mistrust over US aims in pushing for regional free trade, a poll published on Tuesday showed.

The University of Miami School of Business/Zogby International poll of Latin American elites found that only 12 per cent of those questioned rated President Bush’s performance on Latin America as positive.

In Brazil, Latin America’s largest country, 98 per cent gave the US leader a negative mark.

In Mexico, President Vicente Fox has been frustrated in his quest to improve the lot of 3 million to 5 million Mexicans living illegally in the United States, just 5 per cent gave Bush positive grades.

The poor view of Bush was mirrored by unease about who stands to gain from a 34-nation Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which would bring down trade barriers from Alaska to Patagonia and create a market of nearly 800 million people.

Just over half of the 537 Latin American community leaders questioned in six countries between August 20-22, 2003 believed the United States would benefit the Mexicans living illegally in the United States, just 5 per cent.

In Mexico, which has been trying to establish itself as a South American counterbalance to US economic might ahead of the next FTAA summit in Miami Nov 17-21, almost three-quarters regarded the United States as the prime beneficiary.

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**Baghdad deputy mayor killed in drive-by shooting**

Baghdad, 30 Oct — The deputy mayor of Baghdad was killed in a drive-by shooting on Sunday night, officials in the US-led coalition occupying Iraq said on Tuesday.

They said Fares al-Awami was near his home in the capital when the killers struck.

His death was a further setback to the coalition, which saw a rocket attack on its main compound on Sunday and four suicide bombings on Monday which killed 35 people and wounded 230.

“As Iraq is absolutely committed to the welfare of the citizens of Baghdad and the future of the city,” said Hank Bassford, the Baghdad region coordinator for the US-led Administration.

“We will mourn the loss of an Iraqi patriot, those who committed this cowardly act should know that we will not be deterred from completing our mission.”

Guerrillas opposed to the US-led occupation of Iraq have frequently targeted Iraqis, such as politicians and police officers, cooperating with the occupying authorities.

MENA/Reuters

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**US troops’ death toll hits landmark figure**

Baghdad, 30 Oct — The number of US troops killed by hostile forces during the occupation of Iraq exceeded those killed during the war itself when two US soldiers died in an attack north of Baghdad last night.

The two soldiers were killed and another wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb about 75 miles north of Baghdad, the US military said today.

Their deaths brought to 116 the number of US troops killed in hostile action since the US President, George Bush, declared major combat operations over on May 1. The US has said 115 troops died in combat during the six-week war that began on March 20.

The point at which all deaths of US military personnel, regardless of cause, equaled deaths during the conflict was reached on August 26. At that point, 138 people had died in Iraq through hostilities, vehicle accidents, illness and other causes in the post-May 1 occupation, the same number as died in the war. Up to 15,000 Iraqis — 4,300 of them civilians — died just the first four weeks of the war, according to a study released yesterday by an independent US thinktank, Project on Defence Alternatives, Iraqi Body Count, a volunteer group of British and US academics and researchers, has estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 civilians died in the conflict.

MENA/Reuters

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**Mahathir swipes at US Senate decision**

PUTRAJAYA (Malaysia), 30 Oct — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad brushed off on Tuesday a US Senate decision to curb aid to the country on account of recent remarks he made about Jews ruling the world by proxy.

“It doesn’t make any difference to us. We don’t really need that money,” Mahathir told reporters at his office in the administrative capital three days before he steps down from 22 years in power. The US Senate unanimously agreed on Monday to condition 1.2 million US dollars in military training aid to Malaysia. Malaysia prides itself on being a peaceful multicultural nation, with a 60 per cent Muslim majority, large non-Muslim Chinese and Indian minorities, and hardly any Jews.

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**Suicide bomber kills four in Iraq town**

Falluja (Iraq), 30 Oct — A suicide bomber blew up a car near a police station in the restive Iraqi town of Falluja on Tuesday day killing himself and four civilians, police said.

Police officers said a small car driven by one man exploded 100 metres (yards) from the main police station in the town west of Baghdad, outside a secondary school for boys.

Witnesses said a US troops sealed off the area around the blast.

“Four civilians were killed,” said Maj Assad Abdul Karim. A US military spokeswoman in Baghdad said she had no immediate information on the incident.

Falluja lies 60 miles west of the Iraqi capital in the so-called “Sunni Triangle” where Saddam Hussein has strong tribal ties and resistance to the US-led occupation is strongest.

MENA/Reuters
Red Cross focuses security review on Baghdad

Geneva, 30 Oct — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Tuesday a review of its Iraqi presence after the bombing of its Baghdad office would focus on the capital because it was safer for staff working elsewhere.

But spokeswoman Antonella Notari said no decisions had yet been taken by the Swiss-based aid agency on its response to Monday’s unprecedented suicide attack which killed up to 12 Iraqis, including two ICRC guards.

“Yes, (the review) mainly concerns Baghdad. That is where the highest risks are,” she told journalists.

Among measures being considered is a total or partial withdrawal of some 30 foreign staff, who are roughly split between Baghdad, Arbil in the north and Basra in the south.

“We have to look at the operation as a whole... but I do not see any indications today that we are going to take extraordinary measures for Arbil or Basra,” Notari said.

The agency, which is finding its tradition of political neutrality no longer gives it protection in conflicts, also has some 600 Iraqi employees for its work of supplying medicines, repairing water networks and visiting prisoners.

But officials say the latter is difficult without foreign staffs, whether in Iraq or elsewhere, because local employees are vulnerable to pressure by the powers that be.

The ICRC, which has been in Iraq since 1980, during which time the country has had three wars, has already reduced the number of its international staffers from a peak of about 100 shortly after the overthrow of former president Saddam Hussein.

The pullout speeded up following the killing of an ICRC technician in July and an August bomb attack on the United Nations’ headquarters in Baghdad, which also triggered a retreat of UN personnel.

Chinese Defence Minister meets with US Defence Secretary

WASHINGTON, 30 Oct — Visiting Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan on Tuesday met with US Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld at the Pentagon for talks on international and regional security, military-to-military ties and other issues of common concern.

Cao, also vice-chairman of China’s Central Military Commission and a state councilor, and Rumsfeld agreed that their talks were positive, constructive and fruitful.

Cao said China and the United States, being large and influential countries in the world, have broad common interest and basis for cooperation on important international and regional security issues.

He said that the development of healthy and stable relationship serves the fundamental interests of the two countries.

Cao said military-to-military ties are an essential part of the Sino-US relations and a healthy and stable relationship between the two militaries is in the interest of both sides.

China is glad to see that the military relations are restoring and developing thanks to the support of the leaders of the two countries and the efforts by the defence departments of the two sides, Cao said.

UNICEF says many Asian nations failing their children

BANGKOK, 30 Oct — Too many Asia-Pacific countries are failing their children and undermining the region’s growth by not investing in early health care, nutrition and schooling, a UNICEF official said on Wednesday.

One year after the United Nations children’s agency outlined a new global strategy for early childhood development, the results in Asia were mixed, UNICEF deputy regional director Richard Briddle said.

“While great progress has been made in some places, in others the under-five mortality rate is rising,” he told a three-day conference in Bangkok.

“Twenty-seven million of our children are still underweight, every year 40 million more are victims of child labor. Their deaths seriously undermine the prospects of their surviving infants,” Briddle said.

Delegates from 30 Asia-Pacific nations were in the Thai capital to review development efforts in a region where some 1.3 million children, including more than 150,000 million under the age of five.

UNICEF’s Integrated Early Childhood Development strategy aims to strengthen a family’s ability to care for its children by ensuring better access to health care, nutrition, early schooling and basic services like clean water and sanitation.

The right nutrition and stimulation are vital during the first three years of a child’s life, when some parts of the brain can nearly double in size in 12 months, the agency said.

“Without it the result can be devastating — not just physically, but mentally, emotionally and socially,” it said. UNICEF argues that rather than treating problems in isolation, countries can reduce sickness, mortality rates and boost overall development if their programmes are integrated.

Who is behind attacks unclear in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 Oct — Twelve bombings and three months later, US occupation authorities appear no closer to halting the Iraq terror offensive than on the August morning when the first exploding vehicle ripped through Jordan’s embassy in Baghdad.

Some American officials were quick to blame diehard Saddam Hussein loyalists for the latest Baghdad suicide bombings, 45 minutes of coordinated strikes that stunned Iraqis. Others pointed to “foreign fighters.” On Tuesday, President Bush blamed both for the siege of Baghdad violence.

But in Baghdad itself, the US-led occupation made clear it’s still too early to answer the urgent questions of who’s behind the attacks and how to stop them.

The four bombings Monday, killing some 273 people and wounding more than 200, were the latest in a string stretching back to Aug. 7 and the Jordanian Embassy. Since then, truck and car bombs have devastated the UN headquarters, killed an Iraqi religious leader and scores of followers, and struck Turkey’s embassy, a hotel and other targets, killing more than 100 more people.

No credible claims of responsibility were made in the major attacks. Though seemingly aimed at discouraging cooperation with the US occupation, the bombings were not accompanied by any manifesto of goals or demands. And despite physical evidence left behind, investigations seem stalled. “We do not have a case,” a top Pentagon officer, Lt Gen Norton Schwartz, admitted last week.

Red Cross cuts foreign staff in Iraq

Geneva, 30 Oct — The internationally neutral Red Cross, reeling from a devastating car bomb attack on its Baghdad headquarters, said on Wednesday it would pull some foreign staff out of Iraq but would continue to operate there.

The Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stressed it would keep up its work in Iraq, where it has some 30 foreign and 600 local staff.

But it said it would review its operating methods to afford better protection to employees after Monday’s suicide bombing killed 12 people, including two Red Cross guards — one of four near simultaneous suicide attacks around the city in which 35 people died.

“We are reducing the number of international staffers and implementing additional measures to increase security for our remaining staff,” ICRC operations director Pierre Krahenbuhl told a news conference.

“The ICRC is not withdrawing from Iraq,” he added.

Details of how many staff would leave and what new steps would be taken were still being worked on.

Monday’s bloodbath left ayl agencies agonizing over their future as violence continues unabated despite the US-led occupation in postwar Iraq.

This article was published in the THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR on Friday, 31 October, 2003.
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

A US Army foot patrol passes barbed wire surrounding two city center hotels in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, 29 October, 2003. The US postwar combat death toll in Iraq climbed past the number of soldiers killed during the invasion when the US military said Wednesday it had lost two more dead in a roadside bomb north of Baghdad. Their deaths brought to 116 the number of US troops killed in hostilities since President Bush declared major combat over on 1 May, surpassing the 115 killed in the war launched on 20 March.—INTERNET

Employees of the International Red Cross collect electronic equipment left in the destroyed headquarters in Baghdad, Tuesday, 28 October, 2003. The International Red Cross says it has yet to make a decision on whether to pull staff out of Iraq following Monday’s suicide car bombings outside the organization’s office in central Baghdad.—INTERNET

US Army’s 4th Infantry Division soldiers hold a suspect with a hood on his head, as his mother looks on, during a night raid in Saddam Hussein’s home town of Tikrit, 193 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday, 30 October, 2003.

US Army 4th Infantry Division soldiers gather outside a first aid station in Tikrit, 193 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 28 October, 2003. One US soldier was wounded when guerrillas opened fire late Tuesday on the southern gate of the main US military base in Saddam Hussein’s hometown.—INTERNET

Iraqi children pass by the destroyed headquarters of the International Red Cross in Baghdad, on 28 October, 2003.—INTERNET

US Army soldiers walk through the debris of the Bayaa police station in Baghdad, in the western part of the city, on Monday, 27 October, 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
UN envoy says oil-for-food programme difficult to phase out

UNITED NATIONS, 30 Oct — Amid worsening security in Iraq, the course of phasing out the UN “oil-for-food” programme is facing increasing difficulties, Benon Sevan, the head of the UN humanitarian programme said Tuesday.

In a closed briefing to the UN Security Council, he said that due to the reduction of UN personnel and the late deployment of a hand-over team by the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the intended joint presidential review “has not been possible.” The 15-member Council in May passed Resolution 1483 to phase out the aid programme by November 21, after which Iraq’s oil revenues are to be placed in a fund controlled by the United States and Britain that is to be used to help rebuild Iraq.

Sevan said that the number of UN international staff and consultants has been reduced from the total of 769 countrywide to a “small core group of international staff in Baghdad and Erbil”.

He noted that a minimum of 115 international staff was needed in the north alone, to maintain “an orderly transfer” of over $3.5 billion-dollar worth of completed and ongoing projects, including 1.5 billion-dollar worth of assets to the authority as required.

“Handing over a multi-billion-dollar programme of such complexity and magnitude during the six-month period… would have been extremely difficult even under the best of circumstances,” he said.

He added that the remaining much reduced UN staff members are working mostly at locations far removed from their normal environment and, at times, “without having access to all the necessary documentation.”

In the absence of the needed staff, he reiterated his “as is” plan to meet the deadline. “I see no alternative... to the transfer of assets, ongoing operations and responsibility for the administration of any remaining activity under the programme to the CPA, as is, together with relevant documentation,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq to resume oil exports to Jordan

AMMAN, 30 Oct — Iraq will resume its crude oil supplies to Jordan, local Jordan Times newspaper quoted Foreign Minister Marwan Moasher as reporting on Wednesday.

“Iraq’s oil remains cheaper to Jordan due to the relatively short distance between the two neighbors,” the minister said, adding that the Iraqi oil meets the Jordanian petroleum standard.

He said the two countries have reached an agreement, under which Iraq will export 2.6 million tons of oil annually, or 50,000 barrels every day, to Jordan according to international market prices.

Currently, Jordan has to import almost all of its oil needs from the Gulf countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Iraq’s oil, which will be shipped by ship from Iraq’s southern port of Al Bakr to Jordanian Red Sea harbour of Aqaba, is expected to arrive in Jordan within 10 to 15 days, Moasher revealed.

The 50,000 barrels account for nearly 50 percent of Jordan’s daily consumptions of oil at 95,000 barrels.

After the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq became Jordan’s sole oil provider. Among the annual inflow of 5.5 million tons of oil and oil products, half were at preferential prices and half for granted. — MNA/Xinhua

China passes new law on road transportation safety

BEIJING, 30 Oct — China’s top legislature Tuesday passed two laws on road transportation safety and on security investment funds, and removed Tian Fengshan from his post of Minister of Land and Resources and appointed Sun Zhengliang as the new minister.

The fifth meeting of the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, which was held from October 23 to October 28, also approved the decision to turn government loans, which the central government borrowed from the People’s Bank of China before 1995, into tradable treasury bonds.

The Law on Security Investment Funds, which has been delivered by the NPC Standing Committee four times, will take effect as of May 1, 2004.

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The meeting approved four reports presented by the Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee, Financial and Economic Committee, Education, Science and Technology Committee, Agricultural and Rural Committee respectively on the deliberation results of the bills proposed by representatives in the first meeting of the 10th NPC.

During the meeting, the NPC Standing Committee also delivered the draft laws on the People’s Bank of China, commercial banks and banking supervision. — MNA/Xinhua

Two US agents killed in east Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 Oct — Two US veterans working for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were killed in ambush in east Afghanistan while helping US-led coalition forces root out Taleban and al-Qaeda remnants, reports reaching here said on Wednesday.

The ambush happened on Saturday in the eastern province of Paktika, where US Special Operations Forces and Afghan Government troops, with air support, battled against a group of Taleban guerrilla fighters for about six hours.

A CIA statement issued overnight in Washington said that the two CIA agents were tracking terrorists operating in the Shinin region of Paktika Province, close to the Pakistani border, when they were killed.

Some 18 Taleban and al-Qaeda fighters were killed in Saturday’s operation, during which US helicopters and jet fighters fired at the enemy forces, US military authorities in Afghanistan announced on Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to open embassy in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 30 Oct — Malaysia will establish its resident embassy in Nepal within the next month, a spokesman of the Nepali Foreign Ministry said here Tuesday.

“Malaysia has expressed its intention of opening an embassy in Nepal by the coming November 30,” state-run English daily The Rising Nepal Wednesday quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Madan Kumar Bhattarai as saying. “A formal proposal to this effect has been received from the Malaysian Government and the task of giving it final shape has reached the last stage. The Malaysian Charge d’Affaires in Nepal will be appointed to the Malaysian Embassy to be established in Kathmandu,” Bhattarai said.

He expressed belief that the embassy will provide adequate assistance to Nepali labourers going abroad for employment. According to statistics, some 40,000 Nepali workers go to Malaysia for employment annually, and remittances of 2.5 million dollars to three million dollars come from Malaysia every month, which play an important role in the country’s economy. — MNA/Xinhua

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The ambush happened on Saturday in the eastern province of Paktika, where US Special Operations Forces and Afghan Government troops, with air support, battled against a group of Taleban guerrilla fighters for about six hours.

A CIA statement issued overnight in Washington said that the two CIA agents were tracking terrorists operating in the Shinin region of Paktika Province, close to the Pakistani border, when they were killed.

Some 18 Taleban and al-Qaeda fighters were killed in Saturday’s operation, during which US helicopters and jet fighters fired at the enemy forces, US military authorities in Afghanistan announced on Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to open embassy in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 30 Oct — Malaysia will establish its resident embassy in Nepal within the next month, a spokesman of the Nepali Foreign Ministry said here Tuesday.

“Malaysia has expressed its intention of opening an embassy in Nepal by the coming November 30,” state-run English daily The Rising Nepal Wednesday quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Madan Kumar Bhattarai as saying. “A formal proposal to this effect has been received from the Malaysian Government and the task of giving it final shape has reached the last stage. The Malaysian Charge d’Affaires in Nepal will be appointed to the Malaysian Embassy to be established in Kathmandu,” Bhattarai said.

He expressed belief that the embassy will provide adequate assistance to Nepali labourers going abroad for employment. According to statistics, some 40,000 Nepali workers go to Malaysia for employment annually, and remittances of 2.5 million dollars to three million dollars come from Malaysia every month, which play an important role in Nepal’s economy. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Tracking**

In my view, the present state of peace and the stand and form of the armed groups in Kayah State is more significant than other regions. Many of the places in northern and eastern Shan State and Kachin State achieved peace in 1992. But the situation in Kayah State remained unaltered.

Peace was restored in Pa-O region in southern Shan State, and Palaung region in 1991. But the armed groups in Kayah State, with different ideologies, beliefs and stand points. The BCP under its scheme to restore its influence in the Bago Yoma region, penetrated the regions frequented by the Kayah Pyithitt Party and tried to organize it in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978. There were also other groups existing independently in Kayah State.

The armed groups battled with the Tatmadaw and fought against each other. The Tatmadaw columns therefore had been tracking the armed groups.

**The sound of peace**

In 1992, the KNG made peace, but the Ka-la-la-ta, Kayan Pyithitt Party and the KNPP remained underground. They too wanted peace, but they kept watching the situation. They needed time to remove all the suspicion. They would be weighing and studying the national policy of the State, its goodwill towards the border areas and results of the peace. On 17 November 1993, the armed groups began to clearly hear the sound of peace that would bring progress to their region in accord with their wish. Khin Nyunt, the head of the Working Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Secretariat-1 of the State Peace and Development Council (now Prime Minister) General Khin Nyunt held a special meeting with Kayah State level officials, departmental personnel of Loikaw, Pfruho and Dimawcho townships, local elders, and local people at the town hall in Loikaw. In his address at the meeting, he underscored following factors:

- *The sound of peace in the region resulted from the internal insurgency that broke out soon after the rearguard of independence, the country did not achieve development. The advanced and developed nations have no internal insurgency at all.*
- *The armed groups in the jungles had opposed the successive governments for over 40 years in Myanmar. I would like to urge them to reconsider whether their armed opposition, although exceeding a period of more than 40 years, brought any benefit to them and development to their region.*
- *The border areas and national races development endeavours are being launched with the aim of enabling the national brethren to live the same way or woe and enjoy equal benefits and narrowing the social and economic gap between one region and another without discrimination of race, religion and division.*
- *I would like to urge the national races to work for all the armed groups in the jungles to return to the legal fold soonest for the State to be able to make utmost efforts to develop the entire Kayah State. In this regard, I would like to invite the armed groups to hold negotiations with the government and return to the legal fold, and I am officially inviting them, on behalf of the State.*

**Images of peace**

Wonderful, the armed groups in Kayah State were all aflush and moved towards peace simultaneously. Ka-la-la-ta, Kayan Pyithitt Party and KNPP returned to legal fold almost at the same time. But it was sure that they still would have doubts and worries as they were building trust from the positions of opposition.

On 9 February 1994, officials of the Military Intelligence met with the Ka-la-la-ta group in Mese. The Tatmadaw columns and the Ka-la-la-ta members arrived in Mese in advance. The manpower of hundreds on both sides were equal. The helicopter carrying the MI officials and peace negotiators from Loikaw had not arrived at the town yet. Both sides were watching each other with high military alert.

The MI officials and peace negotiators saw a large crowd of people wearing uniforms on the ground while the helicopter was hovering above the town. They were not able to differentiate between their men and the members of the Ka-la-la-ta. So they flew over the town in a lower altitude. But in the end, they made the decision to land as they were on a mission. The Ka-la-la-ta leaders said that their trust in the Government had become firmer when the helicopter had landed in the town. When the negotiations had completed, the Tatmadaw members and the Ka-la-la-ta members hugged each other happily. All the locals were also happy. Mese was so beautiful at that moment. The pilots that brought peace to Mese were Maj Ang Kywe and Maj Htay Win. The former was no more.

After the meeting between both sides on 21, 23 and 26 February and 23, 28 and 29 April 1994, the ceremony marking the Ka-la-la-ta’s return to the legal fold was held at Kanda Hwon Park in Loikaw on 9 May the same year. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council (now Prime Minister) General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony.

The Kayan Pyithitt Party also held meetings with MI officials on 16 and 28 February, 5 May and 22 June 1994. Vice-Chairman of Kayan Pyithitt Party U Than Soo Naing presented a letter to General Khin Nyunt on 28 June 1994, saying that the peace negotiations were in progress; that they had full confidence in the State’s goodwill; and that they would like to invite General Khin Nyunt to attend the ceremony marking the restoration of peace. General Khin Nyunt attended the peace ceremony held at the town hall in Loikaw on 26 July 1994. (To be continued)

*Images of peace* by MNA, Kyemon: 28-10-2003 ***

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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 flappered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

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**US lawmakers push to end Cuba travel ban**

**WASHINGTON, 30 Oct — US lawmakers who want to lift a longstanding ban on travel to Cuba launched efforts on Wednesday to ensure congressional leaders do not make the measure in a back room deal with the Bush Administration.**

*The US Senate and the House of Representatives have voted overwhelmingly to lift limitations that restrict travel to Cuba, but Bush is expected to sign a bill eliminating such a decades-old US embargo on Cuba.*

*Senator Max Baucus, a Montana Democrat, and other supporters said they hoped to prevent the measure from being killed during House-Senate deliberations as it has been in the past.*

“I fully expect the congressmen to observe the will of Congress,” Baucus said, referring to negotiators from both chambers responsible for crafting final legislation.

*The Senate voted 59-36 last week to lift the travel ban as part of an annual bill to fund the US Transportation Department, the Treasury and other independent agencies.*

*The House voted 227-188 in September to approve an identical provision for the fourth year in a row in its version of the appropriations bill. The Bush Administration has worked with Republican congressional leaders in previous years to kill the provision during negotiations on a final spending bill.*

*But the fact that the Senate and House passed identical versions of the measure means it should be included in the final spending bill, if normal rules are observed.*

*Baucus said he doubted Bush would veto the appropriations bill if the Cuba travel measure was included.*

“I expect the administration is having second thoughts about that,” because of the surprisingly large Senate vote in favour of removing the travel restriction, he said.

*A Senate Democratic aide said supporters were confident they would be able to beat back any effort to kill the provision in the House-Senate conference. The 91-3 Senate vote and the 381-39 House vote on the final Transportation Department and Treasury spending bill also indicates Congress could overturn a Bush veto, he said.*

*MNA/Reuters*
General Thura Shwe Mann...

(from page 1)

After greeting the patients there, General Thura Shwe Mann met officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of local battalion. He gave instructions on extended agricultural and livestock breeding tasks and regional development tasks and inspected agricultural and livestock breeding tasks. General Thura Shwe Mann met with departmental officials, social organization members and heard reports on tasks being carried out in respective sectors. After attending to the needs, he made a speech. He expressed his delight to see the town progressing. This is the result of the cooperative efforts of departmental officials and local people. At a time when the State is making efforts for equitable development, the departmental officials are dutifully carrying out the assigned tasks. It is needed to extend tasks for agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health in the region with added momentum. Departmental officials concerned are to unhesitatingly strive for successful implementation of the five rural area development tasks.

He then presented cash and sport equipment to officials for departmental staff and social organizations in the town. Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann and party left there and arrived back here in the afternoon.

Minister U Soe Tha and wife present offertories to members of Sangha at 11th Communal Kathina Robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of NPED. — MNA

NPED Ministry holds Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 30 Oct — Under the patronage of Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and wife, the families of the ministry held the 11th communal Kathina robes offering ceremony at Leti Vipassana Monastery in Thingangyun Township this morning.

Saya Hein Latt

Saya Hein Latt won the National Literary Translation Award (Non-fiction) for 2003 with his “From the Third World to the First World”, Myanmar Version of the autobiography of former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew. Urged by his friend U Hla Thein Maung, who bought the book from his return on a foreign trip, and writer Mar Jay, Saya Hein Latt tasted the book and acquired an incentive to translate the book which, he thought, was full of endeavors worthy of emulating. Believing the book must have a proper place in Myanmar literature, he translated it into Myanmar which has brought him the national literary award.

National Literary Translation Award Winner (Non-fiction) Hein Latt

Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew is the beauties of the book that has won popularity and success so much that the publisher of the book, Business Information Group, was not able to provide enough copies to the readers. Saya Hein Latt has published 55 books, and the 50th book has brought him his first National Literary award. He has written books mainly on biography and religion. He was a librarian at the Institute of Agriculture in 1972 before he served as an assistant research officer at the Myanmar Education Research Society from 1976 to 1996. He got a diploma in library science and gave lectures in librarians courses Nos 1 to 10 of the Information and Public Relations Department.

Saya Hein Latt, the eldest son of U Maung Maung Tun and Daw Myint Myint, was born in Yangon and married to Daw Thiri Khin with one daughter. He said he welcomed the publication of fine literature in Myanmar and saw reading of books by Myanmar enthusiasts despite the high prices of books as a positive sign. He also expressed his conviction that only when there are more libraries, will the world of literature develop and new generation youths enjoy benefits.

Translation: MWT

Report on Myanmar once again issued

(YANGON) — With regard to the economic situation, any disinterested observer will find that the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States on Myanmar are not having the intended effect. Even the report acknowledges that “We are not in a position to judge whether they have served to increase the pressure on the government to change its basic policies”. The Government, relying on its own resources and with the support of friends and neighbours, has been able to improve the quality of life of its citizens. Never before in its history has the country seen so much improvement in its basic infrastructure as well as health and education standards of the people in such a brief time.

There also exists indisputable evidence that Myanmar is committed to the war against drugs. Nevertheless, the US report claims that Myanmar “has failed to fully meet its obligations” in the drug war, without explaining what it means. Myanmar is using all available resources, to fight drugs. It is also cooperating with regional and international partners as well as with international organizations. Moreover, it appears that report fail to take into account the statistics provided by its own Drug Enforcement Agency or by the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB). Myanmar has already conducted together with the United States Opium Yield Survey 9 times and the US agency concerned clearly acknowledged that opium production has fallen 77 per cent since the programme began in 1983. If one is to quote from INCB report, it is clearly stated that opium production fell by 50 per cent in the last six years.

Therefore, it is time for the United States to adopt a more positive approach towards Myanmar. It is time that it begins with a fair and objective assessment on the situation in Myanmar. It is also time to review policies that are neither in the interest of Myanmar nor the United States.

Winners of Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Award announced

YANGON, 30 Oct — The list of award-winning writers at the Competition for Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Award 2002, organized by the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, was announced today.

In the novel category, Nan Moe Saw Aung and Kay (Tunhla) stood second and third respectively. In the short stories category, Aung Thu Yein (Paila), Hla Myat Ma (Dagon University) and Thaung Myint Oo (Kangyangon) came first, second and third respectively.

In the collection poems category, Shwe Myaung Maung Phu Wa, Maung Thet Hnin (North Okkalapa) and Zani gained the first, second and third prizes respectively. In the knowledge (article) category, first prize went to U Thaung Ngwe, second to Dr Aye Kyaw and third to Maung Nwe Than (PIRD). In the knowledge (science and applied science) category, Nueng Shwe Moe fetched the first prize; Lin Min Aung (Civl), second; and Shwenaga Tun Win, third. In the belles-lettres category, respective first, second and third prizes were taken by Maung Sein Hnin, Yawwaca Pho Htun and Maung Chit Htwe.

In the Myanmar culture and arts category, Bagyi Hla Tin Tun, Aung Nyinna Chan (Mandalay University) and Zin Min (Thameneitwa) took away first, second and third prizes respectively. In the children’s literature category, first prize went to Hsu Lat Tun, second to Hsaw Maung Mon Myat (Kyalat—Magway) and third to Maung Mon Myat (Kyalat—Magway). In the youth literature category, Maabin Lwin Kyaw and Tin Tun stood first and second respectively. In the play, literature category, second prize went to Zin Min (Thameneitwa) and third to Tin Tun Oo (Culture). In the translation literature category, Aung Tun Aung won first.

Although 12 genres in Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Awards are offered, no manuscripts fetched awards in the political literature category.

The winners are requested to contact Sarpy Beikman on Merchant Street in Yangon via the telephone number 252560, before 7 November. The prize presentation ceremony is at National Theatre here on 23 November.

Stimulant tablets seized in Tachileik

YANGON, 30 Oct — Local police in Tachileik on 22 September seized 59,050 stimulant tablets bearing WY letters packed in 44 plastic bags from a house in Nantham Village, Monglin Village-tract, in Tachileik Township. In connection with the case, action was being taken against the house owner Daw Ar Ei, daughter of U Kyawlaw, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
Pivot fixed atop Pyathad…

Yathedaung Township, where local people and officers offered light and incense sticks to the Buddha Image in the prayer hall. The Sayadaw and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the Yathedaung Township Basic Education High School where they viewed learning of students with the use of teaching aids and gave necessary instructions. They also visited Aloeodawpyu monstery of Aungmyay Bodhi Dhamma Yeikhtatuyahmon of Township Sangha Nayaka Chairman Sayadaw Bhuddhanta Arcaryanayth and members Sayadaw and visiting Sayadaw of the monastery Sayadaw Bhuddhanta Sebana and members of the Sangha. After supplicating matter related to religious affairs, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party offered prayers to the Sayadaws.

At the hall of township PDC office, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party offered prayers to the Sayadaws. They then arrived at Townshp People’s Hospital in respect wards and surgical rooms. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to warmly welcome and give treatments to the patients with goodwill, to stock necessary medicine and do sanitary tasks.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo presented a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said in making efforts for development of the State’s economy region-wise plans have to be laid down. It is needed to extend own acreage in the township and priority is to be given to produce 100 baskets of rice per acre. For boosting per acre yield, it is needed for officials concerned to educate the farmers systematically to choose quality strain paddy, organic and inorganic fertilizers and necessary assistance will be given to them. Systematic extended growing of Matpe and Podein for boosting production is needed. In growing Matpe, it is needed to educate local farmers on systematic cultivation of the crop. As regards growing of perennial crops, the region needs growing of Thitseint trees. Of the three new items, pepper is to be grown on a commercial scale and necessary assistance will be given. In livestock breeding sector, it is needed to raise paddy of domestic strain on a manageable scale. As regards prawn breeding, it is needed to take care not to decrease own acreage in the region. All are to strive for stability of the region and prevalence of law. Necessary measures are to be taken for safe drinking water. In conclusion, he urged all to make efforts for the town to have the standard of a town and to be clean.

After greeting departmental officials, social organization members, town elders and local people, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back in Dutthagun. MNA

Labour and Social Welfare Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung enjoys the professional song contest (women). — MNA

Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development meets

The fifth meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development took place at the Bagan Hotel in Yangon Township this morning. It was attended by representatives from Brunei, Camodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and ASEAN Secretariat, and delegates of Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Hoteliers Association of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The meeting focused on the plan on the task force on tourism manpower development, research on tourism manpower development, conducting of courses for tourism guides and collection of results of the research works, terms of reference, suggestion papers, drawing of tables of manpower and requirements of courses for tourism guides conducted in ASEAN member nations. — MNA

YANGON, 30 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued competition programmes at designated places for the 17th day here today.

The venues where competition programmes took place were visited by member of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for the MTCPAC and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Gen Pe Nyin, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha, official members and committee members and enthusiasts, tourists and students.

In the song contest held at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Dagon Township on 9 am, eight contestants at women’s professional level and 11 contestants at basic education level (boys, aged 10-15) participated in the classical song event. The song contest for girls and boys, aged 5-10, at basic education level will be held tomorrow for the last day at the same venue. In the mandolin contest held at the National Theatre in Dagon Township on 9 am, seven contestants joined the competition at basic education level (boys, aged 10-15) and two contestants at basic education level (girls, aged 10-15). The xylophone contest took place at the Kambawzathardi Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at 9 am today. A total of six contestants competed in the contest at women’s amateur level, and nine contestants at basic education level (boys, aged 5-10), and six contestants at basic education level (girls, aged 5-10).

Seven harpists at men’s amateur level and four harpists at women’s amateur level joined the competition. — MNA

Contract for purchase of electronic lovers was signed between Myanmar FISCA Enterprise and China Telecom

Kunming, China, on 15 October at the presence of Yangon City Development Committee Joint-Secretary U Kyi Win and Consular-General U Thein Zaw.

A contestant participates at amateur level harp contest (women). — MNA

Mountaineering team in action

YANGON 30 Oct — A 35-member new generation mountaineering team of all universities led by Secretary of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation U Myo Thant success fully scaled Mt Myintmaht (1582-foot) in Kalaw Township on 16 October, Mt Hsinthaung (6020-foot) in the same township on 17 October and Mt Ashemyin Anakmyint (7752-foot) in Finkaya Township on 23 October, and hoisted the State Flags on the summits. The teams practised mountaineering on Mt Taungchon in Taunggyi Township on 24 October. — MNA

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung enjoys the professional song contest (women). — MNA

Competition programmes of 11th MTCPAC go on

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Bagan Archaeological Zone gaining development momentum

According to the Maha Yazawindawgyi and Hmannan Yazawindawgyi treaties, 55 Myanmar kings successively ruled Bagan Royal City (from 108 AD to 1369 AD) for more than 1,200 years in conformity with ten precepts of a good king. It was first founded by King Thamoddarit. It also stands as an unrivalled one in the world.

The religious edifices, the city wall, the moat and the old palace, stone inscriptions and donations, and wall paintings created throughout Bagan period indicated that Aniruddadewa (a) King Anawrahta founded the first Myanmar Empire and made enormous and relentless efforts for promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana.

Bagan Archaeological Zone is the cultural heart of Myanmar, the Land of Golden Pagodas. The region is teeming with pagodas, most of them have been renovated without damaging their original designs. In the past, they were only damaged ones or mounds for a long time.

Senior General Than Shwe in his tour of Bagan-NyaungU on 19 April 2003 gave guidance on rebuilding the ancient Bagan Palace of King Anawrahta, the founder of the First Myanmar Empire. Following the guidance, the Archaeology Department under the Ministry of Culture is excavating the ancient palace now.

The State Peace and Development Council has been preserving and renovating the cultural heritage in Bagan, and at the same time fulfilling the requirements of the people — construction of roads, bridges, railroads, modern buildings, hotels, motels, sports grounds, irrigation facilities, education facilities and hospitals, and implementation of potable water supply projects.

Now, the government has upgraded Bagan-NyaungU Township into NyaungU District. Thanks to the stability and prevalence of law and order, development projects have been accomplished cent per cent in the region.

A total of 56,147 tourists from over 50 nations visited Bagan Archaeological Zone in 2001, 70,223 in 2002 and up to September 2003 altogether 42,913 tourists visited the region. Most of them were from Germany, France, USA, Italy, Australia, Japan, UK, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Canada and the People’s Republic of China.

Bagan is an archaeological region that is endowed with priceless and invaluable cultural heritage. These ancient heritages are to be well preserved, and nation-building tasks are to be carried out with added momentum simultaneously. The government has been thus implementing these tasks hand in hand with the entire people, and therefore the archaeological zone of the auspicious ground Bagan is making further progress.

Translation: MS (Kyemon: 23-10-2003)

Clinton says US must work harder at making friends

LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas), 30 Oct — Former President Bill Clinton said on Wednesday the US needs to work harder at making friends so it will have fewer enemies.

"In a world where we can’t possibly occupy or jail or defeat every person that might wish us ill, we need to work harder to make a world with more partners and fewer terrorists," said Clinton, speaking at the groundbreaking of a new world headquarters for aid group Heifer Project International.

His successor, President George W. Bush has launched a global "war on terrorism" since the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington that have included invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Clinton said greater humanitarian cooperation would make the world safer because the use of force could not curb all anti-US sentiment. The Heifer Project, founded 60 years ago in Iowa but now located in the Arkansas capital, distributes farm animals, fish and poultry to the poor in the United States and 47 other countries.

MNA/Reuters

First ASEAN - INDIA Tourism Consultation

Bagan, Union of Myanmar

October 31, 2003

Ugandan minister promises cheaper "AIDS" drugs

KAMPALA, 30 Oct — Ugandan Minister of Health Jim Museveni has said that AIDS patients in the country may soon access anti-retrovirals (ARVs) at less than half a US dollar a day.

Museveni was quoted Wednesday by local daily The New Vision as saying that bidders for supply of ARVs quoted very low prices, with one quoting less than half a dollar per daily dose.

The minister did not name the companies, but said the bids were opened on Monday last week. He said President Yoweri Museveni had negotiated with pharmaceuticals to lower the cost of anti-retrovirals.

He also said Museveni and former South African President Nelson Mandela had lobbied former US President Bill Clinton to have the cost lowered by 100 per cent.

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

For extension of agricultural tasks, dams and reservoirs are being built across the country spending a large sum of money. Loinanpha Dam was built on Tikellya Creek near Loinanpha village, Dimawhso Township, Kayah State. The dam was opened on 6 March 2002. — PHOTO: MNA

Thaphanseik dam is located near Thaphanseik village in Kyunhla Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Division. It was opened on 17 April 2001. It is the largest one in Myanmar and also included in the longest dams in Southeast Asia. — PHOTO: MNA

Hinywet Dam in An Township, Rakhine State was opened on 29-10-2002. With 750 feet in length and 70 feet in height, the dam was built at a cost of about K 100 million to supply water to about 100,000 people. — PHOTO: MNA
Australian scientists target bacteria as industry booms

SYDNEY, 30 Oct — Australian scientists are creating a range of bacteria-based products, which can clean toxic dumps and convert waste into usable material, to tap into a five billion US dollars a year global environmental biotechnologies industry.

Five universities and research institutes and several industry partners — including Meat & Livestock Australia — have joined forces and will officially announce their quest for “bacteria power” on Thursday.

“Australia is right up with the best in the world in developing this technology,” David Garman, executive director of the new Environmental Biotechnology Co-operative Research Centre (EBCRC), told Reuters on Wednesday.

“Researchers at the Centre are on the hunt for the best bacteria for cleaning up contaminated sites, for converting waste into products and for replacing toxic chemicals,” Garman said.

Other possibilities range from replacing heavy metals with living bacteria in paints, to destroying the activities of “bad bacteria” in drinking water.

Australia’s work on targeting bacteria was part of a worldwide trend of new developments with environmental biotechnology, said Garman, who values the global commercial market for environmental biotechnologies at five billion US dollars a year.

Garman said bacteria, which evolved in equilibrium with animals, humans and plant life, found it hard to work in a less natural modern urbanised environment.

“Suddenly the natural bacteria needs a lot of help to get through the sort of loads we’re putting on them,” he said.

In some areas this would involve the addition of controlled amounts of naturally occurring bacteria to carry out a process faster or better, or to achieve a goal. Or it could involve providing bacteria with the right conditions to do their work. — MNA/Reuters

Expert warns about high birth defects in China

DALLAS, 30 Oct — Every half minute there is one birth defect case occurring in China, but 70 per cent of the these tragedies could have been avoided, said a professor at an ongoing forum on family planning and birth health held here.

“Birth defect has become one of the major reasons for birth death and growth handicap,” said Professor Zheng Xiaoyong, director in charge of the population institute with Beijing University.

Experts estimate that China has 20 million new births every year but 800,000 to one million babies have birth defect.

A survey launched by the Ministry of Health in 1986-1987 showed that the total birth defection rate in the country was 1.301 per cent. But experts say the monitoring covered little rural areas and the diagnosis level was comparatively low, thus the figure might be 4 to 5 per cent according to some studies, and the environment are the two major reasons for birth detection, but at least 70 per cent of birth defection, including Down’s Syndrome, congenital heart disease and other abnormalities of function, could be controlled with the development of medical technologies.

China is now implementing a birth defect prevention programme, which covers prevention and treatment measures before pregnancy, in pregnancy and after delivery. Zheng called on people to receive medical examination before marriage, choose the best time for pregnancy, be well prepared for pregnancy and receive examination regularly during pregnancy. — MNA/Xinhua

1,015 HK professionals to be invited to work in Shanghai

Hong Kong, 30 Oct — Shanghai is to invite 1,015 professionals from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to work in the Chinese Mainland city, a senior Shanghai official announced here Tuesday.

Sun Luyi, director of Shanghai Personnel Affairs Administration, said at a Press conference that the posts for invited Hong Kong professionals are mainly in the service industry, accounting for 55.3 per cent of the total, indicating Shanghai’s demand of Hong Kong’s quality professionals in the field.

He said Shanghai expects 142 professionals from Hong Kong’s financial sector, 83 from tourism and hotel industries, 34 from logistics sector and professionals from the advertising industry, to work in Shanghai, the leading financial and industrial centre of the Chinese Mainland.

Sun said all of the posts will be offered by the municipal government, state-owned enterprises and non-public sectors. He said his city is ready to provide more posts for professionals from Hong Kong’s financial, exhibition and shipping industries, which are the core of Shanghai’s economic development.

Shanghai Vice-Mayor Zhou Yupeng said at the Press conference that Shanghai will also welcome professionals from the exhibition marketing and exhibition/centre management sectors for the 2010 Shanghai Expo.

He said Shanghai is to introduce advanced management experience from Hong Kong, an international trade, financial, shipping and information centre in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Zhou said, apart from inviting more Hong Kong professionals to his city, Shanghai will also send more people to Hong Kong for professional training. — MNA/Xinhua

“Columbia” astronauts added to US space memorial

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 30 Oct — The names of the seven Columbia astronauts who died in February were added to a national memorial at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on Tuesday. The memorial is a mirror four stories high made of polished granite in which the names of US astronauts who died in flight or during training are carved and illuminated by the sun.

The names of Rick Husband, William McCool, Kalpana Chawla, Michael Anderson, David Brown and Laurel Clark, all US astronauts, and Ian Ramon, Israe’el’s first astronaut, were added to the memorial, joining the names of those who died in the 1986 Challenger disaster, the 1967 Apollo One fire and seven other astronauts who died while in training.

— MNA/Reuters

Russian miners found alive after five days

Novosibirsk (Russia), 30 Oct — Of 33 miners trapped in a flooded Russian mine for five days, 11 have been found alive, one is dead and one is unaccounted for, local officials said on Wednesday. “Twelve have been located, but one of them is dead, while one is still missing,” said Karfil Zhutayev, a local administration official.

Interfax news agency reported the miners would be taken out of their shaft from a neighbouring mine from 11 am (0800 GMT). — MNA/Reuters

Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge.
Livestock breeding of pedigree stock cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry etc., form an integral part of the rural economy. Ownership of livestock is characterized by small individual herds and flocks. For the environmentally-friendly sustainable development of the livestock breeding industry, vast pasturelands with suitable climate and animal feed are available in different unpolluted regions.

To increase production of meat and fish products for domestic consumption and share the surplus with other countries is one of the sectoral policies and principle objectives of the livestock and fishery sector. This Fair is aimed to expand market share of Myanmar’s surplus fishery and livestock products within the region and to visualize the investment potentials of the sector.

It is hoped that Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair - 2003 will bring about more business contacts and promote intra-regional trade in the sector.
Depleted Dortmund exit German Cup in second round

BERLIN, 30 Oct—A depleted Borussia Dortmund made an early exit from the German Cup when they lost 2-1 at Bundesliga rivals Borussia Monchengladbach in the second round on Wednesday.

Dortmund, who have 11 players sidelined by injuries, paid the price for a sluggish first half.

The home side took the lead on 11 minutes courtesy of a superb free kick from Slovenia midfielder Igor Demo and doubled the advantage through Finnland striker Jonas Kolka 13 minutes later.

The visitors stepped up a gear after the break but failed to score until Czech striker Jan Koller pulled one back from a penalty with two minutes remaining.

Four-times Cup winners Schalke 04 failed to reach the third round for the first time in four years when SC Freiburg scored with two minutes remaining.

Two other Bundesliga sides, TSV 1860 Munich and Eintracht Frankfurt, went out to Second Division opponents.

TSV 1860 were beaten on penalties by Allemannia Aachen while Eintracht Frankfurt lost 2-1 to MSV Duisburg after extra time.

Holders Bayern Munich needed penalties to move past Second Division Nuremberg on Tuesday.

Monaco, PSG knock out of League Cup in first round

PARIS, 30 Oct—A full-strength Olympique Marseille dismissed Monaco's reserve team 2-0 to ease into the second round of the French League Cup on Wednesday.

The Cup holders, who were not the only favourites to stumble at the first hurdle as Paris St. Germain lost 2-1 on penalties against Ligue 2 side Gueugnon. The clash between joint Ligue 1 leaders Marseille and Monaco had looked exciting on paper but proved far less so on the pitch.

The team fielded by Monaco coach Didier Deschamps also lead their league — the French Fifth Divi- sion — and as a result, the game was a one-sided affair allowing fernandao and Didier Drogba to score for Mar- seille within 31 minutes.

Play almost ceased afterwards as Marseille coach Alain Perrin re- placed his key players, like Drogba or Belgian Daniel van Buyten, with younger men Deschamps' decision to field his B team had sparked a row with the competition's broadcaster France Television. PSG lost out again to Gueugnon, who as a Third Divi- sion team beat them in the 2000 final.

After Gueugnon's Mansour Boutabut opened the scoring in the 13th minute, PSG dominated but could only equalize through Brazilian Reinaldo on the hour.

Reinaldo was one of three players whose penalty was saved by Gueugnon goalkeeper Jean-Marc Branger, for by the best man on the pitch.

Monaco's reserve team beat Marseille on penalties to advance to the next round.

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WEATHER

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Magway Division, southern Shan, Kayah and Rakhine States, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas.

Minimum temperature on 30-10-2003 was 13.0°C (55°F). Minimum temperature on 30-10-2003 was 23.7°C (77°F). Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 30-10-2003 was 79.0%. Solar radiation on 30-10-2003 was 0.30 hours. Rainfall on 30-10-2003 was nil at Yangon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2,206 mm (86.84 inches) at Yangon Airport. 231 mm (9.14 inches) at Kaba Aye and 2381 mm (93.74 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from east at 11:35 hrs MST on 29-10-2003.

Rain simulation: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and generally elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until end of 31-10-2003: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be scattered in Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Shan State and Bago Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. The temperature of central Alliance is (60%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated or thunderstorms are likely in southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-10-2003: Mostly cloudy for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-10-2003; Partly cloudy.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Friday, 31 October, 2003
Pivot fixed atop Pyathad of prayer hall of Buddha’s Footprint Pagoda in Yathedaung Township

YANGON, 30 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo and party, attended the ceremony to fix pivot to the Pyathad of the prayer hall of Buddha’s Footprint Pagoda in Chedawya Village, Musay Island, Yathedaung Township, yesterday morning.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Missionary Alodawpyi Sayadaw Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Pariyatti Sasana Hitadbara Bhaddanta Ariyawamya, Yathedaung Township Tingok Village Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Medhavi, Aukzigaing Village Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Varasami Kyungyi Village Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandobhasa and members of the Sangha. Also present on the occasion were local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organisations, members of the pagoda board of trustees and local residents.

Alojawpyi Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

(See page 9)

Ma Kyan, winner of National Literary Award for 2002

The National Literary Award for knowledge (arts) genre for the year 2002 went to Sayamagyi Daw Kyan. Her pen name is Ma Kyan. This is the second time she won the highest literary award in Myanmar. She was given the award for the first time for her book, which is entitled “History of Myanmar : 1885-86” and deals with the situation of Myanmar just after King Thibaw had been taken away by the British. The award given to her for the year 2002 was for her book “In search of Myanmar history and other articles”. She said that, while she was studying Myanmar history, she found weaknesses for which Myanmar lost her independence. As she wanted to inform the people of what she had found, she laboured to gather as many historical facts as she could. She succeeded in her work as she herself was very much interested in history. Her book is a collection of 50 articles which were first appeared in the “Naing-ngan Gonyi” magazine.

Her intention in writing this book was for the Union of Myanmar not to lose independence again, to let the people know the losses their country had suffered when she lost her independence and for posterity to be able to take lessons from the past weaknesses.

(Translation: NN)

Work coordination meeting of 11th MTCPAC

YANGON, 30 Oct — Work coordination meeting between the chairman of the Work Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and committees, subcommittees, and managers of state division teams was held at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) this evening. On behalf of the chairman, Commandant Li-Col Tin Kyaing of the centre spoke on the occasion. Chairmen of respective committees and subcommittees, managers and officials reported on matters related to the competitions. Li-Col Tin Kyaing fulfilled the requirements.

(— MNA)

A competitor taking part in the amateur level xylophone contest for women.

(— MNA)

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MNA

Chinese delegation

YANGON, 30 Oct — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received Chinese delegation led by Mr Duan Guanhan, Deputy Secretary-General of the administrative body of Yunnan Province of the People’s Republic of China at his office today. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of Border Trade Department U Nay Win, Managing-Director U Min Hia Aung of Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading and officials were also present.

MNA