Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of congratulations to his Malaysian Counterpart

YANGON, 31 Oct — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dato’ Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has been appointed as Prime Minister of Malaysia. — MNA

State Peace and Development Council, Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov — On the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 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 Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

Prime Minister addresses MEC Meeting

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Myanmar Education Committee held its Meeting 2/2003 at the hall of the University Central Council in Kamayut Township here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of MEC Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of MEC and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, members of MEC, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said while implementing the seven-point roadmap of the State, the Government is making efforts to turn the Union of Myanmar into a modern and developed democratic nation. Hailing the seven-point roadmap of the State, the entire mass of national races held mass rallies in support of it in all the states and divisions and pledged to do their bit in the implementation of the roadmap. To be able to reach the efficient human resources, universities and colleges are being opened with respect to the specialties concerned. In like manner, to ensure the development of human resources in every region, more universities and colleges are being built nationwide. The institutions of higher learning are being opened not only in big cities, but also in secluded places. For instance, one univer-
sity, one government technological college and one government computer college were constructed in Panglong region, Shan-State. Moreover, colleges and government technological science schools are under construction in Monyin of Kachin State and Myingyan Township of Mandalay Division.

Steps are being taken with added momentum to raise the standard of human resources in the higher education sector. In the basic education sector also, arrangements are being made to accelerate the development pace in rural areas and raise the rural education standard, included in the five rural development tasks. With the objective that all school-age children must have access to schools, plans are being implemented, resulting in the increase of the population of school-age children. The enrollment rate of school-age children rose to 95% in 2003 from 70% per cent in the past. (See page 8)

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions conclude

YANGON, 31 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions starting 14 October concluded today.

The 18th and last day of the competitions were held at the designated places here. The competitions were attended by Members of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Deputy Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Hwaw. Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the competitions Deputy Min-
ister for Information Brig- Gen Aung Thein, officials of work committees and sub-committees, foreign tourists and enthusiasts. (See page 9)

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

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

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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Saturday, 1 November, 2003

Myanmar will not be deviated from her path by threats and challenges

On 30 August 2003, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt clarified the seven-point policy and programme (roadmap). Starting from 20 September, mass rallies in support of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister were held in Yangon, Mandalay, Hpa-an, Myitkyina, Loikaw, Taunggyi, Bago, Pathin, Magway, Sittway, Mawlamyine, Pyay, Kengtung, Monywa, Hakha, Myeik and Lashio.

At the mass rallies, people’s representatives throughout the country unanimously approved the call for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap.

And again on 21 October, the representatives of the people pledged to strive for the success of the roadmap at the rally held at the sports ground at the foot of the Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan Archaeology Zone.

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 democratic society in the country.

For Myanmar, the interests of the 52 million people take precedence over everything.

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

There is a lack of objectivity in the report and it 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.

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.

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.

Moreover, it appears that the report fails 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 1993. 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.

It is an undeniable fact that the Government is taking systematic steps for the emergence of a democratic state. Democracy must be homegrown and cannot be imposed from outside.

Myanmar will not be deviated from her path by threats and challenges.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov — On the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ahmed Ouyahia, Head of the Government of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

Minister receives guests

YANGON, 31 Oct — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig.-Gen Maung Maung Thein received Chairman Mr Oh Sang Soo and party of Gold Fish Products Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea and a 14-member delegation led by Vice Secretary General Mr Duan Guanhan of Yunnan Provincial Government and party. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung sends felicitations to Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov — On the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Abdelaziz Belkhadem, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

Dr Tun Aung Kyaw, winner of National Literary Award in Knowledge (Applied Science) category

YANGON — The Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, continued for the third day at the Ayethaya Golf Course in Taunggyi today.

After the third day event, Zaw Zin Latt (Pan-West) leads the professional golfers event with 217 strokes, followed by Aung Win (YCDC) with 218 strokes and Nanda Kyaw with 221 strokes. At the third day event, Nyunt Win scored hole-in-one at the third hole.

Dr Tun Aung Kyaw leads the amateur event with 224 strokes, followed by Zaw Zin Win with 226 strokes and Aung Aung Kyaw with 228 strokes.

Kanbawza Open Golf Championship continues

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Kanbawza Open Golf Championship jointly organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, continued for the third day at the Ayethaya Golf Course in Taunggyi today.

After the third day event, Zaw Zin Latt (Pan-West) leads the professional golfers event with 217 strokes, followed by Aung Win (YCDC) with 218 strokes and Nanda Kyaw with 221 strokes. At the third day event, Nyunt Win scored hole-in-one at the third hole.

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PRC Auditor-General concludes visit

YANGON, 31 Oct — Goodwill delegation led by Auditor-General Mr Li Jinjhu of the People’s Republic of China left here by air this morning.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Auditor-General Mr Maj-Gen Tun Maung, Deputy Auditor-General U Khin Win, Director-General of the Auditor-General’s Office Daw Thin Thin and officials, and Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjhu and officials.

The delegation members visited Mandalay and Bagan-Myan and studied the traditional culture and ancient national heritage during their stay in Myanmar. — MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig.-Gen Maung Maung Thein receive Vice Secretary General Mr Duan Guanhan of Yunnan Provincial Government and party. — MNA

Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Dr Tun Aung Kyaw concludes visit.
Annan seeks 0.5% growth in UN budget

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct.—After nearly a decade of no growth in the United Nations budget, Secretary-General Kofi Annan has recommended a 0.5-per-cent growth in the organization’s five-year budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, including small extra expenditures on programmes for Africa, crime prevention and human rights observance.

“Having heard both our great hopes for the organization and our carefully considered decisions of what to do in a world of finite and limited resources,” he told the General Assembly’s Administrative and Budgetary Committee, “we are drawing up this modest budget for 2004-2005.”

Cautioning that the security of UN mission staff would require more funds than presently requested, Annan said the organization’s budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, “which stayed in Baghdad after two bombings that stayed in Baghdad after two bombings of UN headquarters there, and then determined how to proceed.”

At the moment, the United Nations has no plans to withdraw from Iraq but Annan left open the possibility if the situation dictates it.

“We want to reassess our position and our posture and also try and assess the new developments on the ground because we seem to be entering a new phase with the attacks of the last 72 hours, and we need to analyze for ourselves what the future holds and how we should conduct our own operations,” Annan said.

“I think that this sort of reflection is better done in a calmer place and then we determine what our next moves should be.”

In recent days, Baghdad has been hit by a series of explosions, most of them caused by suicide bombers driving vehicles into police stations or other targets, including the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, or Doctors Without Borders, said they too were pulling their remaining international staff out of Baghdad while the agency reassesses how to play the vital role envisioned by the 101st Airborne Division was slightly

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Guerillas attack; Int’l groups bolt Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct.—Guerillas blasted a freight train west of Baghdad and exploded a bomb near a convoy in a northern city, injuring a US soldier, on Thursday as international organizations continued their exodus from Iraq, on the future of our operations, in particular security arrangements that we would need to take to operate in Iraq, our spokesman Marie Okabe said.

She said it was an “evacuation” and staff in the north would remain.

Okabe declined to give more details but about 60 UN staff members were believed to be in Iraq, including some in Baghdad, after Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday it was temporarily pulling its remaining international staff out of Baghdad, joining other organizations in withdrawing after Monday’s deadly suicide car bombing at the Baghdad headquarters of the Red Cross.

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Iraq hit by string of deadly explosions, one US soldier killed

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct — Iraq was hit by a string of explosions Thursday that set a freight train on fire, killed a US soldier in a military convoy and ripped through Baghdad’s Old Quarter. Another blast injured two US soldiers on a military police patrol.

The attacks came as international organizations continued their exodus from Iraq and the UN secretary-general warned of “a new phase” in postwar violence. A top US diplomat blamed al-Qaida for recent attacks, and in Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, US soldiers raided six houses after receiving tips that the inhabitants were helping establish a “new terrorist network” there, a military spokesman said.

In Baghdad’s Old Quarter, an explosion went off next to a printing shop, killing at least two people and triggering a large fire. The dead included a tea seller who owned a stall near the site, police and witnesses said. At least four other people were wounded.

An Iraqi police officer said the source of the blast was an explosive device, possibly a box packed with TNT. But the US military said it was investigating the possibility that a propane tank had blown up inside the building.

Soon afterward, two bombs detonated in the north of the capital next to a US military police patrol, injuring two soldiers, Maj. Scott Patton said.

Also in Baghdad, police said a motorist was arrested after trying to throw a hand grenade into a police station on the edge of the capital’s “green zone,” the heavily guarded headquarters of the US occupation.

Meanwhile, leaflets purportedly from Saddam’s “Arab Baath Socialist Party — Regional Command” appeared in the capital calling for a three-day general strike starting Saturday. The contents were broadcast by Lebanon’s LBC television station, but it was impossible to verify whether it came from remnants of the party.

The freight train was carrying military supplies near Fallujah west of Baghdad, when an improvised bomb set four shipping containers ablaze. No casual-
ies were reported, but the attack sparked a looting frenzy by Iraqis who carried off computer parts, tents, bottled water and other supplies.

A soldier from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was slightly wounded early Thursday when a bomb exploded near a US convoy in the nor-
thern city of Mosul, the military said.

The United Nations (news - web sites) said Wednesday it was temporarily pull-
ing its remaining international staff out of Baghdad, joining other organizations in withdrawing after Monday’s deadly suicide car bombing at the Baghdad head-
quarters of the international Red Cross.

Italy urges nations to unify behind Iraq

SAINT-SYMPHORIEN-LE-CHATTEAU, 31 Oct—A US pullout from Iraq would be “catastrophic,” French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said Thursday, urging countries to take a strong united stance to stabilize Iraq.

De Villepin—who has impounded speeches at the UN Security Council against US plans to attack Iraq won him international praise — spoke at the close of two days of informal talks among foreign ministers from Europe and North Africa.

He also said he and his fellow ministers favored a rapid transfer of power to the Iraqis: “We must...define an approach that will truly allow the Iraqis to take their destiny in hand.”

Car bombings in Iraq over the past week — one targeting the Red Cross headquarters in Baghdad — have dealt a further blow to reconstruction.

UN to pull international staff from Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked UN international staff in Baghdad to pull out following a new wave of bombing attacks in the Iraqi capital, a UN spokesperson said Thursday.

“The Secretary-General has been keeping the situation in Iraq under constant and close review, particularly in light of the recent wave of violence in Baghdad, which included the attack on Monday on the Inter-
ational Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),” spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters.

“Terrorist attacks have targeted a wide range of civilians and military personnel,” she said.

She said that the venue for the consultations had not been definitively decided but it probably would be Larnaca, Cyprus.

Currently, she added, there were close to 60 UN international staff in Iraq, some 20 in Baghdad and the remaining in northern Iraq, working with some 4,000 Iraqi nationals.

“I would also like to stress that this is a temporary relocation and is part of an ongo-
ing process, of a constant review of the situation on the ground given the volatile conditions there. It does not represent a policy decision to disengage from Iraq,” Okabe stressed.— MNA/Xinhua

Thai cabinet approves money to assist flood-stricken provinces

BANGKOK, 31 Oct — The Thai Cabinet approved a contingent budget of 200 million baht (some five mil-
lion US dollars) to assist flood-stricken provinces and flood victims in the upper-southern provinces of Petchaburi and Prachuab Khiri Khan.

The Cabinet approved the budget at its weekly meeting on Tuesday, ac-
cording to local TV news reports Wednesday. The money would be used for the reconstruction and repair of roads and other infra-
structures damaged by the prolonged flood, said the new-
spapers.

The budget would also be used to assist flood vic-
tims who had lost their homes and farmlands due to the inundation, stated the news reports.

Over 30,000 households in Petchaburi and Prachuab Khiri Khan have suffered from the prolonged flood of two weeks.

Indonesian foreign tourist arrivals decrease

JAKARTA, 31 Oct — Indonesian foreign tourist arrivals from January to August this year decreased to 2.3 million people, or 20 per cent lower than the same period of last year, Indonesian Minister for Tourism and Culture I Gde Ardika said here Wednesday.

According to the minister, it seemed difficult for the nation to attract some 4.5 million to 4.8 million foreign tourists as targeted this year.

Ardika said that the decline of the figure was mainly caused by the widely spread of the severe acute respira-
tory syndrome (SARS) in Asia region and the war in Iraq.

The annual survey, which 12 people, including two ICRC guards, were killed.

UN reports rising opium production in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Oct — Opium production is on the rise this year in Af-
ghanistan, which is by far the world’s biggest producer of the drug, said a survey released by the United Na-
tions on Wednesday.

The survey found the area under opium poppy cultiva-
tion has jumped by 8 per cent over last year, to 80,000 hectares from 74,000 hec-
tares. Now there is opium cultivation in 28 of Afghanist-
ian’s 32 provinces, up from 18 in 1999.

Production has also in-
creased, rising by 6 per cent to 3,600 tons from 3,400 tons, and about 1.7 million people, or 7 per cent of Af-
ghanistan’s population, are involved in the industry.

The annual survey, which took in fieldwork and analysis of satellite images, was conducted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).— MNA/Xinhua
Iraqi boys view a destroyed car at an Iraqi police station, the target of a suicide bomb attack on Monday, in the Baghdad suburb of Baya’a on 30 October, 2003.—INTERNET

An International Committee of the Red Cross worker leaves the agency’s shattered Baghdad headquarters, on 30 October, 2003. Red Cross officials in Iraq are to hold talks outside the country with Swiss-based colleagues on how to reduce foreign staff in Baghdad after a devastating suicide bombing of its headquarters there, a spokeswoman said on Thursday.—INTERNET

The train that was carrying supplies was set ablaze by an improvised bomb outside Fallujah, west of Baghdad Thursday.—INTERNET

Across the street from the Al-Khadraa Police station an Iraqi surveys the damage to his car after a bombing on Monday, 27 October, 2003. The latest attacks illustrated the desperate nature of the resistance - from hit-run guerrillas, perhaps Saddam loyalists, who are staging an average of 26 low-profile attacks on US forces daily, to bombers, perhaps Islamic extremists, staging suicide terror strikes.—INTERNET

War combat death toll in Iraq climbed past the number of soldiers killed during the invasion when the US military said on Wednesday it had lost two more dead in a roadside bomb blast north of Baghdad.—INTERNET

Iraqi security men shout as a car bomb burns outside the Baghdad Hotel in the Iraqi capital earlier this month. Victims of the blast included members of an Iraqi force set up to guard buildings, the Facilities Protection Service.—INTERNET
WB says two-thirds of Iraq debt should be cut

WASHINGTON, Oct 31—At least two-thirds of Iraq’s estimated $120 billion US dollars foreign debt will need to be written off if the country is to be properly rebuilt, World Bank President James Wolfensohn said on Wednesday.

He said some $40 billion US dollars of the debt is owed to the Paris Club, a group of 19 government creditors from industrialized countries who negotiate debt restructuring, and at least $80 billion US dollars more due to other countries, including Gulf Arab and former Soviet states.

The Paris Club is a grouping of creditor governments who regularly meet in Paris to discuss bilateral official debt of nations around the world. It also helps them with restructuring that debt or lending money to them.

“It will need to be at least that to give the country a real chance of getting back to equilibrium, so I think a target of something north of two-thirds will be what people will be looking at,” he told the National Press Club in Washington.

Last month the Group of Seven wealthy nations said they wanted to reach a deal by the end of 2004 on Iraq’s debt.

Wolfensohn said the $13 billion US dollars in aid pledged at an international donor meeting in Madrid last week for Iraq’s reconstruction was a “good start” and another donor’s meeting may follow.

The United States has proposed $20 billion US dollars for Iraq’s reconstruction, part of a larger $87 billion US dollars that Washington wants approved by Congress for military spending in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The meeting from a financial point of view was quite successful, the interest was considerable but there remain the overriding questions of security and the future transformation of power,” Wolfensohn said of the Madrid meeting. —MNA/Reuters

Red Cross plans how to cut Iraq staff after bomb

BAGHDAD, Oct 31—Red Cross officials in Iraq are to hold talks outside the country with Swiss-based colleagues on how to reduce foreign staff in Baghdad after a devastating suicide bombing of its headquarters there, a spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Nada Doumani told Reuters Wednesday’s decision by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to pull out some of about 30 international staff, but maintain activities in Iraq was the best solution to an agonizing dilemma.

She would not say where the talks, which will go on through the weekend, would be held.

Monday’s bombing, which killed 12 people, including two ICRC local employees, has forced the traditionally neutral ICRC to balance the need to protect its staff against the imperatives of its humanitarian mission in Iraq.

“We have seen plenty of signs of solidarity since the bombing,” Doumani said.

Staff members of detainees, contractors and hospitals that we work with, have been coming to our headquarters to plead with us to stay in Iraq.

She said the ICRC had resumed some operations such as trucking clean water into Baghdad’s teeming Shiite Muslim slum district now known as Sade City.

Doumani said the Geneva-based ICRC would be considering extra security measures for its 600 local staff and those foreign staff remaining in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese State Councillor meets UN guests


Tang said he valued UNEP’s role in protecting the global environment, and expressed appreciation for Topfer’s efforts in strengthening cooperation with China.

He said the Chinese Government attaches importance to environmental protection and regards sustainable development as of great significance, expressing the hope to further enhance cooperation with the UN.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian president plans to visit Arab countries in December

BRASILIA, Oct 31—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will visit six Arab countries in December as part of its government’s efforts to strengthen ties with developing nations, the presidential office said on Wednesday.

Lula will visit Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Libya between December 2 and December 10.

On Saturday, he will start an eight-day Africa tour to Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

Most of the countries in both tours are members of the so-called Group of 20 (G-20), a bloc of developing countries. During the two tours, Lula will be accompanied by businessmen interested in enhancing commercial exchanges with Brazil and the South American Common Market (Mercosur), diplomatic sources said.

MNA/Xinhua

Sixth China-EU leaders’ meeting held in Beijing

BEIJING, Oct 31—The sixth China-EU leaders’ meeting was held here Thursday, and leaders from the two sides vowed to boost the cooperation between China and the European Union (EU).

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, in his capacity as President of the European Council, President of the European Commission Romano Prodi and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana attended the summit.

Wen said developing the China-EU relations is in the fundamental interest of both sides and would bring about mutual benefit.

China-EU relations should be developed from the long-term strategic perspective, Wen said.

The Premier said that the EU has issued five strategic papers on its policy towards China. The Chinese side has recently issued its first EU policy paper.

He said the bilateral trade volume has grown sharply and that during the first three quarters of this year hit $89.06 billion US dollars, up 41.5 per cent over the same period of last year and surpassing the figure of the whole year in 2002.

As for the EU itself, the Premier said it is a vital political force and economy to the world and it has played an important role in the international arena.

China has always supported the integration process of the EU and wished it to be strong and prosperous, he said, noting that China is willing to enhance cooperation in various fields.

MNA/Xinhua

Baghdad gas explosion kills at least one Iraqi

BAGHDAD, Oct 31—A blast in central Baghdad’s old quarter on Thursday killed at least one Iraqi and set several buildings ablaze, but the US Army said it was a gas explosion rather than another bomb attack in the city.

“It was a propane gas tank that exploded,” a US Army spokesman said.

The blast, which echoed across Baghdad on Thursday evening, followed suicide car bomb attacks on the International Committee of the Red Cross and three police stations that killed at least 35 people on Monday, the bloodiest day in Baghdad since Saddam Hussein was toppled in April.

Witnesses said the dead man was a tea vendor who had been sitting outside a three-storey building which bore the brunt of the blast. A pool of blood was left on the pavement.

At least two wounded men were carried away by residents.

MNA/Reuters

Train looted after bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Oct 31—A cargo train was looted by local residents in western Iraq after being attacked by a bomb planted on track Thursday, witnesses said.

The train was carrying computers, medicines, beverages and other supplies from Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, to Iraq’s southern port of Basra, 180 kilometres further west, when it was attacked. Four carriages caught fire but there was no report of casualties.

Residents scavenged to the scene and tried to take whatever they could carry, said the witnesses. —MNA/AV

Red Cross employees sit outside their damaged headquarters in Baghdad, on 30 October, 2003. The International Red Cross said Thursday it will decide soon how many of its foreign staff will leave Iraq after the Geneva headquarters announced it was reducing the number of personnel due to this week’s vehicle bombing against its local headquarters. —INTERNET

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (L) and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao toast a deal to allow China to join the European Union’s (EU) Galileo satellite navigation system. —INTERNET
China’s first business park to debut in Beijing

BEIJING, 31 Oct — By the end of this year, the first business park in China for company headquarters will make its debut in Fengtai District of Beijing, and the headquarters of 80 large enterprises will move into the park then.

Daoshun Xu, executive director and Asia Pacific president of DAUPHIN International Group, said the park is one of the most important things China has done this year and is a history they will talk about in the future.

The group has high hopes for the business park and its role in the future development of Beijing.

It is located in Fengtai District of Beijing as their regional headquarters. — TMT

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

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

China signs protocols on sports exchange with France, Netherlands

BEIJING, 31 Oct — China signed a protocol with France on the sports exchange for 2003-2004 here on Thursday.

The protocol was signed by Yuan Weimin, director of the Chinese Sport General Administration and French Sports Minister Jean-Francois Lamour, would allow the two countries to exchange visits and share information on nearly 20 sports, including cycling, equestrian, fencing, taekwondo and skiing.

"Some events in China, including equestrian and track and field, are not fully developed. We hope they will be reinforced through the sports exchanges," said Yuan.

Lamour, a fencing winner at the Seoul Olympics, said France was likely to learn from China in bidding the Olympics. — TMT

Security ready for upcoming Boao Asian Forum

HAKOU, 31 Oct — Security operations are ready for the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2003, from November 2-3, with more than 1,300 policemen residing in the town.

The Hainan Provincial Public Security Department said the police officers have conducted exercises and made preparations to ensure the security of the conference.

The Frontier Defence Army has conducted maritime security exercises involving suspicious vessels and floating objects. The Armed Police practised dealing with flammable and explosive substances.

Fire fighters have inspected the fire equipment at the BFA site, the International Conference Centre. — MNA/Xinhua

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever accused

People’s Desire

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

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 Ayeyawaddy River

Reading time: 10 minutes 20 seconds

(Continued from yesterday)

While the Kayan Pyithit Party was active in Kadugyi, Kadule and Phekon and Namap in the south of Pinlithon in cooperation with Ra-La-la ta, I heard of its leader by the name Than Chah very often. Later, I came to know that U Than Soe Naing was Than Chah. He has started a new life with new conviction and name.

The KNPP and officials of the Military Intelligence and peace negotiators held the first meeting at Warhi village near Loikaw in October 1993. There was only seven or eight MI officials and peace negotiators, but about 150 or 200 KNPP were waiting for them at Loikaw. After the meeting the KNPP returned to the legal fold on 21 March 1995. Secretary-1 (now Prime Minister) General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to mark the achieving of peace. It was a memorable region.

For me, Kayah State is included in one of the memorable regions. I have been once to Latein, Laei, Pikin and south of Shadaw. The CO died nearly 2,000 medium and 500 large enterprises and the headquarter of 80 large enterprises will move into the ABP by then.

Often, our mules and horses fell into the gorges and died. The KNPP and officials of the Tatmadaw battalions, who took part in the respective sectors.

When I was a captain, our No 1 column led by our CO Maj Saw Wa Nyunt were operating in the region between Pon Creek and Thanlwin River. Lt Chit Swe and some of my soldiers died in the enemy attack on Tambon camp at the end of 1987.

The CO and some officers and privates fell in the battle at Daw-khaw-aw in the south of Shadaw. The CO died without knowing that I would become his son-in-law one day. Many of my men including the CO sacrificed their lives without knowing that I would become his son-in-law one day.

Brethren died too. Whatever had happened in the past, the development of Kayah State is the national duty for all as present.

The results of peace

Pasawng, Pekhlon, Shadaw, Dimawhso and Pruhso in Kayah region have been covered by the border area development project. The border area development drive began in the region in 1994-95. Motor roads have emerged in the areas where there were not even bullock-cart tracks in the past.

A large number of new roads including Moebye-Lagnew of the Pikhun road, Pruhso-Manhau-Hsaya road, Hibu-Pyihsuang-Thikyeik road, Hoya-Geko road, Lobaku-Khupsara road, Pikin-Laui-Latain-Haungngyayung road, Bawsale-Dawmyekho-Dawmyangyiroad, Lawpita-Parekh-Bolya road, Dawrawkhu-Lweykan road have been built.

Leiktho-Yado-Hsibu-Loikaw road has been upgraded to a Union Highway.

Thirteen basic education primary schools, four basic education middle schools and two basic education high schools have been opened in the state for development of the education sector. Station Hospitals emerged in Hsibu-Dawmangyi, Hoya and Lweykan. Four dispensaries and nine rural health centres have been opened.

Post offices have been opened in Pasawng, Dimawhso, Pruhso, Hsibu and Hoya; telegraph offices in Mese, Pikin, Dawmangyi and Shadaw; and radiotelephone lines were installed in Loikaw, Hoya and Mese.

TV retransmission stations have been built in Bawsale, Pasawng, Mese, Pruhso and Shadaw. Five agricultural camps, one tractor station, and four veterinary centres, have been also set up.

Electricity supply to towns and villages in the region has been extended. Moreover a large number of religious buildings have been renovated.

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Prime Minister addresses...

(Due to page 1)

As always when the Gov- ernment is hammering away at the drive to promote the national education standard across the country, the Prime Minister, in the capacity of the basic education sector to the broader education sector, all the officials of the education sector should make field trips down to such grass-roots level as rural areas.

The education plans are meeting with success as schoolheads and technicians take part in education seminars that are held every year to draw educational plans and review the plans being implemented.

In the five-year short-term plan, included in the 30-year long-term plan for the national education promotion programme laid down in line with the guidance of Head of State Senior-General Than Shwe, and annual plans are discussed and reviewed at educational seminars held every year. And arrange-

ments are therefore to be made systematically for the realization of the goals of the long-term education plan to be in conformity with present requirements.

At such a time when ef-forts are being made to shape a modern and developed democracy by solely relying on own national strength, it is necessary to turn out hu-man resources capable of building their own nation by themselves. Thus, to achieve that goal, it is incumbent upon not only ministries responsible for universities and colleges but also related ministeries in the country to work in the interest of the citizen were able to continue their course of study.

Prime Minister said the senior-minister of the Ministry of Education was able to conduct only 59 courses including under-graduate and post-graduate diploma, masters and doctorate degrees. In 2003-04 academic year, they were able to conduct a total of 157 courses including under- and post-graduate diplomas, master’s degree, master of research and doctorate degrees. He said a total of 78 work plans and 637 projects were being implemented under the 30-year education promotion programme for the higher education sector.

At the time of when the project was approved, 31 October 2003, a meeting with success as was attended by the representative of the basic education sector to the Ministry of Education. The senior minister made a speech. He said the project was creating learning opportunities by opening and upgrading of basic education schools. In 2003-04 academic year, there were a total of 41,121 schools, including 1,806 of high school level, 3,067 of middle school level, 3,820 of post-primary school level and 31,428 of primary school level. A total of 649,632 students were attending at the high school level, 1,992,862 at the middle school level and 7,640,030 at the primary school level, totalling the number of students at 7,640,030. Under the project for enrolment of all the school-aged children, enrollment activities were carried out in respective townships during the school enrollment week from 9 to 15 June, 2003. Thanks to these efforts, 95.05 per cent of children above the age of 5 were enrolled at schools.

Number of the townships covered by the project increased to 144 and 98.93 per cent of children in the townships were registered at kindergarten. Tasks for permanent schooling for children were also being carried out.

Under the programme to increase the rate of students pursuing the middle school education after the primary school level, appropriate primary schools had been upgraded into post-primary schools starting 2001-02 academic year. Therefore, a total of 224,044 post-primary students were learning at the 3820 post-primary schools in 2003-04.

Next, the senior minister for Tourism and Tourism U Thaung, Minister for Cooperatives and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Cooperatives Nay Hla Myint, Minister for Cooperatives U Hla Myint, Director-General U Saw Lwin of the Higher Education Department, Lower Myanmar reported on tasks being carried out in Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, curriculam of diploma courses in Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, arrange-

ments to attach the Institute of Lacquerware to Meiktila Institute of Economics, and conferring honorary doctorate degrees respectively.

Afterwards, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister Gen-\n
eral Khin Nyunt made a con-

cluding speech. In his speech, he said it was encouraging to hear the arrangements for nurturing highly qualified human resources being carried out by the ministries re-

tated to education. It was a significant progress that a total of 257 degree courses could be extended at the university and colleges under the Ministry of Education at the time of the present govern-

ment.

Prime Minister urged those present to strive for the successful implementation of education promotion programmes and national education promotion programmes with a view to nurturing highly qualified human resources and intel-

clectuals in the country in ac-

cord with the guidance of the Head of State.

First ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations opened

YANGON, 31 Oct—The opening ceremony of the First ASEAN-India Tourism Consultation was held at the Bagan International Parominium in the morning. It was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tour-

ism Brig-Gen Thein Seik and India Mr Amitabh Kant, representatives of tourism in-

dustries from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philip-

pines, Singapore, Thai, Viet-

nam, and the ASEAN Sec-

tariat, Joint-Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism of India Mr Ambitth Kanti and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Seik made a speech. He said tourism industry is in an im-

portant and new economic sector that can fetch foreign exchange. Myanmar being a country abundant in re-

sources for tourism indu-

try, the government is exert-

ing efforts for the develop-

ment of the industry. It is also cooperating with Visit ASEAN Campaign and BMST-IEC. He also ex-

pressed his belief that pro-

motion of cooperation in tourism between ASEAN and India will meet with suc-

cess. Afterwards, Chairman of ASEAN Tourism Indus-

try Chairmang of Tourism Ambassadors Yang Rattanavong and Joint-Secret-

tary Mr Ambitth Kanti also made speech. After the ceremony, the First ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations were held.

Drug traffickers sentenced

YANGON, 31 Oct.—A combined team comprising members of the local intelli-

gence and Hlaingtwar Aung Drug Squad, acting on informa-

tion, inspected two sus-

cpects, Pho Cho and Maung Hsan, near a Chinese vil-

lage on Okphanton Street in Thaton, on 20 September 2002. The authorities found 25320 grams of marijuana on Maung Hsan. Thaton Police Station filed lawsuit on Pho Cho, son of U Tun Shein of Thaingseik village, Thaton Township; and Maung Hsan, school level 8, on the same village, under Sections 15/19(A)/(21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 23 September 2003, Thaton District Court sentenced down 20 years’ imprison-

ment each on the two drug pushers under the Section 19(a).

Delupr Minister inspects upgrading of Hotels, Motels and Inns

YANGON, 31 Oct.—Chair-

man of Sub-Committee for Upgrading of Hotels, Motels and Inns Deputy Minis-

ter for Hotels and Inns Deputy Minis-

ter for Tourism and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, attended the opening of the project on upgrading of hotels, motels and inns on 30 October evening in-

spected Panse Hotel running with refurbishment work in progress for upgrading of hotels, motels and inns in the suburbs of downtown Yangon. The executive officers from departments and the training being conducted at the central train-

ing school in Dagon Myothit (North) on 28 October. They studied nursery gar-

den and the training being given at the gardening course.

Earthquake report

YANGON, 31 Oct.—An earthquake of slight intensity (4.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (172) miles north of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road where MIH Managing Director Mr Suhkdeep Singh and General Manager Mr Ingo Ger Ruster inspected on upgrading of buildings for tourists. Next, the deputy minister inspected arrange-

ments being made for visi-

tors’ recreation.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003 while Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone makes an opening speech on the occasion. —MNA
Government has been making... of peace and tranquility in the nation. Infrastructures needed for national development have been established. With the effective use of these infrastructures, human resources play a key role in national development. Therefore, priority is given to the education promotion programme for constant emergence of the intellectuals and intelligentsia who are going to build and safeguard the new nation and for human resources development.

At a time when the respective nations are making relentless efforts for producing human resources of international levels, the present era has become the knowledge age.

Therefore, the government has laid down systematic plans for producing highly qualified human resources and improvement of education standard of the entire nation and implementing them.

Improvement in science and technology and electronic technology is now influencing the economic, education and health spheres of the human society. Teaching and learning based on electronic computer science that is keeping pace with changes has become the prerequisite for development of highly qualified human resources and improvement of the national education standard.

Efforts will have to be made to improve the skills of teachers who are engaged in teaching with the use of modern teaching aids. In brief, only a constant learning society will be able to face the challenges of the future.

Therefore, the government has been making all-out efforts for creating a situation complete with teaching and learning aids based on information and communication technology to be able to produce human resources capable of handling various situations to be faced in future and to ensure the emergence of constant learning Myanmar society in keeping with the times.

With regard to the progress made in the education sector, phase-by-phase measures have been successfully taken for promotion of the higher education sector. And cumulative success has been achieved in implementing the aims phase by phase for all-round development of student youths and bridging the development gap between urban and rural areas.

In the third stage of the education promotion programme, the special national education promotion plan is being realized simultaneously after combining the basic education sector with the higher education sector. As a result, difficulties of the former will be upgraded, and e-Education learning centres have been established in various townships to broadcast respective lectures for the students through data broadcasting system. Under a special programme, professors from the higher education sector are giving lectures to the outstanding students of matriculation in the townships where there are universities and colleges.

At the same time, systematic measures are being taken with added momentum for raising the education standard of rural people, mounting literacy campaigns, and enhancing the reading power of literate persons in rural areas.

It constant producing of highly-qualified human resources can be combined harmoniously with promotion of the education standard of the entire people, the national goal — building a peaceful, modern and developed nation— can be accomplished in a short time.

Being convinced that strong economy and literacy for all is of paramount importance for building up a modern developed democratic nation, the government has been realizing short-term economic projects and at the same time establishing good foundations in education sector, he noted. He called on the teachers to make endeavours with a wide view of national outlook for speeding up the development momentum in the education sector both quantitatively and qualitatively.

He again urged the teachers to properly guide and nurture the students to become ones, possessing nationalist spirit and patriotism, fully equipped with the conviction that they will strive for enabling the nation and the people to stand tall and to keep abreast with the world nations, and the concept that they will defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetuation through national solidarity.

The government in cooperation with the entire people has been constantly and steadily making endeavours in accord with the correct policies, and consequently the nation has been on the correct path leading to development.

Thus, there have emerged good foundations for national solidarity, and economic, social and technological infrastructures. At such a time, the government has adopted the State’s seven-point roadmap for the emergence of a democratic nation. These policies have been laid down in accordance with the political objectives of the State.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in his guidance, as saying that peace and stability must be restored, and the country and the people must be economically strong for building up a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Similarly, the education standard of the entire people must be high for perpetual flourishing of democracy in the nation. Upholding the guidance, all are to make collective efforts by doing their bit for ensuring community peace, strong economy of the State and high education standard of the people.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 said that the teachers are the ones who are to nurture the students for brighter future of the State and thus he called on the teachers with the national outlook to make efforts in pursuing the studies in order to translate the national education promotion plan into action as well as to exchange views and set under standing among the trainees.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainees. A total of 1,504 trainees from States and Divisions are attending the five-week course.

Meeting on ASEAN Tourism Investment held

YANGON, 31 Oct — The 8th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment was held at the Bagain Hotel in Nyaung U Township yesterday afternoon. It was attended by delegates of tourism industries from ASEAN countries, theASEAN tourism industry and the ASEAN Secretariat. At the meeting, matters related to the long-term development of tourism investment, promotion of cooperation, enhancement of economic sectors of ASEAN countries were discussed.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology Conference on 26, 27 Nov

YANGON, 31 Oct — The 6th Conference in Obstetrics and Gynaecology sponsored by Obstetrics and Gynaecology Team of Myanmar Medical Association will be held on 26 and 27 November at Summit Parkview Hotel. Those interested and surgeons are invited to attend the conference.

Archery teams arrive

YANGON, 31 Oct — Top part of the 13th Asian Archery Championship and the 26th Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier, a manager, a coach and two archers from Qatar arrived here this morning. Similarly, a Malaysian Archery team comprising a manager and five athletes and a Singaporean team consisting of a manager and three archers arrived here today. The 12-member Kazakhstan team led by Miss Belboshadyeva Victoria also arrived here this afternoon. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Archery Federation.

11th Myanmar Traditional...
To reach the world level

Nyi Nyi Soe Nyunt

Myanmar Archers are undergoing tough training to win medals in the coming three great events — a south-east Asia level competition, an Asia level competition and a world level competition — that will be held next month in their own country and in December in Vietnam.

From 4 to 8 November, the Myanmar archers will compete with their rivals in the Asian Archery Championships on their own soil, and after the Asian Championship, on 9 November, they will take part in the qualifier events for the Athens World Archery Championships. In December, they will go to Vietnam for the 22nd South-East Asia Games.

Although the Myanmar archers have won 12 gold, 11 silver and 12 bronze in other international events, since the founding of the Myanmar Archery Federation eight years ago in 1995, they haven’t bagged any gold in the SEA Games yet. They only won silver and bronze in the SEA Games.

MAF Secretary U Kyaw Oo told NLM that the Federation was making its best to win victories in all the three international games. He said, “Our archers will face a tough competition with their counterparts from top Asian countries. The Federation is providing every support and assistance to the archers to do their best in the Asian Archery Championships and the qualifier events. I believe that we are going to win medals as our boys and girls are doing good in their training, and in addition, we are the host. We are also doing our best to win the qualifier and to take part in the World Archery Championships in Athens next year.”

When asked about the SEA Games in Vietnam, he said, “Our main rivals will be Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. But we cannot underestimate the host. I believe that our boys and girls will take part in the Games with firm determination to bring honour to the nation.”

“Myanmar archers are in good shape in undergoing training together with their Korean coach, Mr An Seung Bum. Federation President Dr Khin Shwe is looking into all the requirements of the archers to win medals. He has used over US $ 17,000 for the archers to go training with advanced methods and gear. I hope his contribution will help much towards further development of the sport. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Mynt and officials are also rendering assistance to the Federation and the archers”, he also told NLM.

Concerning the Federation’s future plans, he said, “we are conducting courses in states and divisions to nurture a core force of new generation archers for the MAF. The MAF President is also providing all the expenses for hiring the Korean coach, Mr Yun Jea Tong, and courses for the new generation.”

Because of the guidelines given by the State, the support provided by the Sports Minister and the collective and energetic efforts of the Federation members, Myanmar archers will continue to win victories and reach the world level in the future.

Ministers to meet in Geneva to increase health investment

Geneva, 31 Oct — Ministers of health, finance and planning from 40 developing countries are meeting at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters here Wednesday to address the need to significantly increase investments in health. "This meeting signifies real political commitment from the highest levels of government and donor representatives. We must choose to make equitable and efficient health investments a reality," WHO Director General Dr Lee Jong Wook told reporters.

The official said that it is the first time WHO hosts a meeting so widely attended by non-health officials.

The meeting, slated to close on Thursday, comes nearly two years after the launch of the 2001 Report of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMIH). The report recommends that donors should increase assistance for health to 27 billion US dollars by 2007.

However, a recent WHO study has shown that the total development assistance for health from selected sources increased from around 6.1 billion US dollars in 1999 to only 7.7 billion US dollars in 2001. — MNA/Xinhua

Aiming at the target. A Myanmar archer undergoing training.

Read to show their best performance. Myanmar archers at their training camp.

Aiming at the target. A Myanmar archer undergoing training.

National Literary Award (Child Literature)

The National Literary Award (Child Literature) for 2002 went to Writer Min Shwe Min (Insein) for his beautiful work “Maung Lu Hmway and Ma Pan Hmoun”, a collection of poems for children. Starting from 1974 when he was an eighth standard student at Basic Education High School in Insein, he tried out for a pen name. He was born in Rakhin State.

He writes not only poems but short stories. His other pen names are Nyi Thit Sin and Maung Ko Oo. He wrote the book titled "Samyein-set-htok-sar-ok", a collection of poems, in 2000.

In 2002, the book of his poems appeared in various journals and magazines was published with illustrations.

The purpose of his work is to make children more polite and clever at their studies. The work also features culture and customs of national races.

With great pleasure and happiness he said to the New Light of Myanmar daily “I did not expect to win the National Literary Award at all, but I did”. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the State for honouring the highest literary award to him.

(Translation: MS)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

As the Government is carrying out tasks for equitable development of all States and Divisions, Magway Division has been achieving progress in economic, health and social sectors. The new Magway Airfield and runway inaugurated on 6 June 2003 is ready to receive jumbo jets like Airbus.

PHOTO: MNA

Homalin airport was opened on 3 August 2003 in Homalin, Khanit District, Sagaing Division. The photo shows the runway of Homalin Airport.

PHOTO: MNA

Heho Airport is the entrance to Shan State (South), its capital Taunggyi, and the Inlay lake. The upgrading tasks of the airport completed on 1 October 2003, allowing Fokker F-28 aeroplanes to land at the airport. The new Heho Airport of Shan State (South) was opened on 12 October 2003.

PHOTO: MNA
US, China to establish textile consultation mechanism

BEIJING, 31 Oct — The United States and China have agreed to establish a bilateral textile consultation mechanism on a regular basis, said US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans here Wednesday.

Evans, who is in Beijing to attend the US-China Joint Commission for Commerce and Trade, said the mechanism would be held quarterly, and will be co-chaired by the two sides.

The mechanism, which will start in January, will focus on a range of issues including market access, intellectual property, and the protection of civilian products. It will also address other bilateral concerns.

Evans said the consultation mechanism was a step forward in strengthening US-China relations and would help resolve trade disputes.

Miliary industries encouraged to produce more products in China

BEIJING, 31 Oct — Military industries, with their advanced science and technology, should play an increasingly crucial role in bolstering the development of the national economy as well as in upgrading and updating traditional industries, said a senior official.

The government has shifted its emphasis in military industries to manufacturing more products for civilian use since the late 1970s, and they have developed their own processes for research and development of civilian products after 20 years of growth, said Zhang Yunchuan, Director of the State Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence.

The statistics from the commission indicated that, from January to September, there was a year-on-year increase of 31.7% in the production of civilian products.

Chinese govt delegation to explore ways to increase imports

BANGKOK, 31 Oct — The Chinese government will send delegation to the United States to explore ways for China to increase imports, said a senior official.

The delegation, which will be led by the Chinese ambassador to the US, will visit the five-star hotel guesthouses in the country, and meet with US business people.

While in the US, the delegation will also visit various trade fairs and exhibitions, and hold discussions with local companies.

In his opening remarks, Vice-President Tien Mooyi Arrowi called on developing countries to adopt agricultural science and technology to transform agriculture and become competitive.

The Vice-President challenged the CGIAR to play a leading role in influencing the World Trade Organization to establish a fair market-oriented trading system for the developing world, so that its agro-based products can find favorable markets.

He commended the CGIAR for genetic variety conservation and high-yield rice, as well as its work in alleviating pests and diseases of crops and cattle, and for fighting traditional industries, and the contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Russian cultural festival begins in Beijing

BEIJING, 31 Oct — A Russian cultural festival opened here Wednesday to bring typical Russian folk dance and music to Chinese audiences.

The festival, which will run until November 5 in such cities as Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, and Ningbo, is sponsored by China’s Ministry of Culture with the participation of nearly 160 Russian artists from a group of musicians and three well-known artistic troupes — Moiseyev dance ensemble, Kuban Kazak dance ensemble and Carajan jazz trio.

The Moiseyev dance ensemble, the Carajan jazz trio and the prize-winning musician from the Tchaikovsky International Music Competition performed for the audience at the opening performance of the festival.

During the festival, the Moscow orchestra ensemble and the Kuban Kazak dance ensemble will stage more performances separately.

The International Music Competition winners will also hold a concert to mark the 110th anniversary of the death of the great Russian composer Tchaikovsky.
Singapore drafts bill to regulate human stem cell research

SINGAPORE, 31 Oct— The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Singapore said Thursday that it has drafted a new bill which would further enhance the regulation of human stem cell research and human tissue research and banking.

The proposed new Regulation of Biomedical Research Act will “strictly prohibit reproductive cloning, the creation of a human being through the application of cloning technology”, said the ministry in a Press release.

It will also stipulate the terms for informed consent before researchers can obtain tissues from patients or subjects for research, and safeguards to protect patients’ interests, said the MOH release.

Any person who carries out reproductive cloning research or unauthorized stem cell research shall be liable upon conviction to a fine, imprisonment or both, it said. “Clear and stringent regulations are critical as more research using human stem cells and tissues is carried out in Singapore because they will ensure that all the work being done here is ethically sound,” said Tan Chorh Chuan, MOH’s director of medical services.

The draft Regulation of Biomedical Research Bill will be put up on MOH’s web site for public consultation and comment from November 10 to 30.

Shock wave from Sun hits Earth’s magnetic field

LONDON, 31 Oct— A massive bubble of gas that could cause havoc with power grids and satellite systems hit the Earth’s magnetic field on Wednesday morning and is likely to have the biggest impact in Alaska and the Far East.

Scientists said the cloud of charged particles unleashed at high speeds by a solar eruption hit an aurora over Alaska on Wednesday and the Far East, as well as some radio communication problems. Fortunately there are not many large power grids in the far north so energy disruptions would be minimized, scientists said, although out in space it could cause interference with satellites and spacecraft.

CMEs come around every few years but the one that arrived on Wednesday is one of the strongest. Described as more of a nuisance than a danger to human life, they disrupt mobile phone signals and can cause major headaches for power, satellite communications and navigational companies.

“Wednesday’s massive CME was propelled towards Earth by a huge solar flare that erupted on Tuesday. It was classified as a G-5, the strongest category, and was travelling much faster than other CMEs,” said Hapgood.

“The scale of it and the fact that it was heading towards the Earth is what makes this one so special,” he said. “There is a whole period of activity on the Sun that is driving this. It may continue for a week or two so we may get more of these events coming from the Sun,” said Hapgood.

Week-long Russian culture festival in India from November 1

MOSCOW, 31 Oct— A week-long Russian culture festival will be organized in the Indian metropolises of New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai from November 1. The event, “Days of Russian Culture” is being organized under the inter-governmental agreement on cultural cooperation between the two countries, TASS reported Wednesday. — MNA/PTI

Cambodia celebrates King’s 81st birthday

PHNOM PENH, 31 Oct— Cambodia on Thursday kicked off grand celebrations in honour of King Norodom Sihanouk on the occasion of his 81st birthday on Friday, with well-wishings from the whole country.

Phnom Penh’s main streets and public parks have been decked out with lights for the birthday celebration. About 40 portraits of the King have been erected around the city, featuring images of the King and Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk in various periods of their life.

Newspapers carried front page photos of the revered monarch and full page blessings and admirations to wish him a long life, though the King requested earlier this month that admirers not send him birthday greetings.

Moreover, television channels have been airing the King’s films twice a week since early October. And from Thursday to Saturday, state-run television station TVK will air five of the King’s films, alongside blessings and documentaries about the King.

The King’s birthday coincides with elaborate preparations for the 50th anniversary of Cambodia’s Independence on November 9. It also serves as an informal lead-in to the Water Festival, which runs from November 7 to November 9. Sihanouk, who was reinstated as the constitutional monarch in 1993, remains “a unifying symbol” for Cambodia. — MNA/Reuters

Vietnam imports more auto parts in first 10 months

Hanoi, 31 Oct— Vietnam imported 432 million US dollars worth of automobile parts and component kits in the first 10 months of the year, posting a year-on-year increase of 52 per cent, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Thursday.

The rise is attributed to a strong sales of the country’s automobile manufacturers which sold more than 25,000 vehicles in the first nine months of this year. — MNA/Reuters

UN signs MoU with NACEN to check ozone depleting substances

New Delhi, 31 Oct— The United Nations Environment Programme on Thursday signed an agreement with India’s National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) to train Customs officials in the Asia-Pacific Region for controlling and monitoring Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).

The MoU is part of the obligations for ratification of the Montreal Protocol to which India is a signatory. India is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol provisions related to ODS phase out, an official release said.

ODS, comprising of chlorofluorocarbons, are used in refrigeration and air-conditioners. Production and consumption of ODS affect the ozone layer of the Earth. India decided to phase out use of ODS in 1993 and introduced a regulatory mechanism in 2000. But the taxation system has not changed, hence making the illegally produced ODS cheaper than the legally produced CFCs. — MNA/PTI
**Arsenal land heavy fine, four players banned**

**London, 31 Oct—** Arsenal were fined 175,000 pounds (£298,100 US dollars) on Thursday for failing to control their players in the 0-0 English Premier League draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford on **September 21.**

The English Football Association also fined and banned four Arsenal players — defender Lauren and Martín Keown, captain Patrick Vieira and fellow midfielder Ray Parlour — for their behaviour at the match.

Arsenal were also reprimanded and warned about their future conduct after a lengthy disciplinary hearing at FA headquarters in central London attended by the 26-year-old French defender and Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal’s fine was the second largest handed out to a club in English soccer history. Arsenal’s north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur were fined 1.5 million pounds for financial irregularities in 1994.

Cameroun defender Lauren was banned for three matches and fined 40,000 pounds for violent behaviour and improper conduct.

Keown received a three-match ban and a 20,000-pound fine for violent behaviour. Parlour was banned for one match and fined 10,000 pounds for improper conduct. Vieira was banned for one-game and fined 20,000 pounds, also for improper conduct.

The bans take effect from Monday, November 17, the FA said.

All five Arsenal players had admitted the misconduct charges and Arsenal Foot-

**South Africa narrows gap on China**

**Hyderabad, India, 31 Oct—** While Asian sports powerhouse China kept its steady pace by taking four more gold medals on Wednesday, South Africa got a golden harvest at Afro-Asian Games on Wednesday to narrow the gap between the two countries.

While South Africa took five titles from athletics and swimming to rank second in the medal table with 12 gold, 11 silver and 13 bronze medals, China took four golds in weightlifting, shooting and athletics to top the table with 17-6-3.

Africa finally displayed its supremacy in athletics competitions. Its athletes won five gold medals on Wednesday with veteran sprinter Franciek Fredericks of Namibia winning the men’s 100m title andearlier Anja Piennar Hardaus of Ethiopia, who won the women’s 5000m title at the Paris world championships earlier this year, eased to victory in the 10,000m race with a time of 33 minutes 11.12 seconds.

Women’s 1,500 meters race was also dominated by African runners with Abdillah Mohammmed from Morocco taking the gold at 3:40.17 and his compatriot Peter Ashk Abuali winning the silver in 3:40.21. The bronze medal went to Benjamin Chediinyot of Cameroon in a time of 3:43.32.

South African swimmers took the 4x100m relay. Eiegayehu D. Dibaba of Ethiopia, who won the women’s 5000m title and shared the women’s 10,000m gold with Mizuki Wakabayashi, won the gold of women’s sport.

Australia won only one track medal with Anna Platinum winning the women’s 800m.

In shot put, the three shooting gold medals on offer were split by China and India. Tan Zongliang, who won the men’s 50m free pistol title earlier in the games, dominated the qualifying and final stages to collect a total of 693.8 points in the 10m air pistol event.

The other two shooting gold medals were taken by Indian shooters with Rajivkumar Rathore winning the men’s 25m rapid fire event and Anjali Bhagwati taking the gold of the women’s sport with a 15-shot aggregate at 575.5 points.

After Wednesday’s competitions, Asia has got 37 gold medals, 47 silver and 25 bronze.

**Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic returns a shot to Spain’s Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain during their Paris ATP Masters Series third round match at the Bercy indoor tournament in Paris. Novak won 7-5, 7-5.** —INTERNET

**Real Sociedad’s Kronastev (L) vies with Atletico Madrid’s Alvaro Novo (R) during Spanish soccer league match at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid.** —INTERNET
**MRTV-3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Signature Tune Greetings</td>
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<td>9:02 am</td>
<td>Song of Myanmar Beauty &amp; Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”</td>
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<td>9:06 am</td>
<td>Myanma Mat</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 am</td>
<td>Headline News</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:12 am</td>
<td>Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>National News</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:20 am</td>
<td>Scenic Myanmar “Golden Rock Pagoda (I)”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:25 am</td>
<td>Lon Yu Festival Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>National News</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:35 am</td>
<td>100 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:40 am</td>
<td>Myanmar Modern Song “Saying with the Eyes”</td>
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<td>9:42 am</td>
<td>Tour in Myanmar “Sagaiq, Mingun”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>National News</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:50 am</td>
<td>Hninjone, Home for the Aged</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:58 am</td>
<td>Song of Myanmar Beauty &amp; Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Musical programme</td>
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<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Games for children</td>
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<td>10:49 am</td>
<td>Delicacies</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:40 am</td>
<td>Games for children</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:49 am</td>
<td>Musical Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:53 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sat 1 November Tune in today:**

- 8:30 am: Brief news
- 8:35 am: Music
- 8:40 am: Perspectives
- 8:45 am: Music
- 8:50 am: National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am: Music (Spotlight on the star)
- 9:10 am: International news
- 9:15 am: Music (Spotlight on the star)
- 12:30 pm: Jennifer Lopez
- 1:00 pm: News/Slogan
- 1:10 pm: Music at your request - Dream lover (Tanya Tucker)
- 1:40 pm: The end of the world (The Isley Brothers)
- 2:30 pm: Hello I love you (Crystal Gayle)
- 3:00 pm: ASIAN review News
- 3:30 pm: Artistic/Fiction
- 4:20 pm: Myanma Culture by Dr. Khin Mazing Nyunt
- 5:00 pm: Swaw na taung Pagoda and Bells
- 5:30 pm: Souvenirs - Music music (Helen Reddy)
- 6:00 pm: My love, sweet love (Patti Labelle)
- 6:30 pm: News/Slogan
- 7:00 pm: PFL

**WEATHER**

Friday, 31 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Eastern Shan State, lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Yangon Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 30-11-2003 was 35°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 31-10-2003 was 21°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-10-2003 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 30-10-2003 was (7.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 31-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and 13 mm (0.51 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2206 mm (86.84 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2135 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northwest at (18:30) hours MST on 30-10-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-11-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthaiy Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-11-2003: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).


**Earthquake Report**

Issued at 23:30 hours MST on Today.

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.7) Richter Scale with its epicentre about (172) miles north of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (21) hrs (52) min (01) sec MST on 30th October 2003.
Prime Minister attends opening of “Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003”

YANGON, 31 Oct — “Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003” was opened this morning at the Yangon Trade Centre on Lower Parnandaung Street, attended by Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, Thai Commerce Minister Dr Adisai Bodharamik, Chinese deputy general secretary of China’s Ministry of Commerce Mr Duan Guan Han and party, deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, foreign diplomats in Myanmar, departmental heads, and guests.

First, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win formally opened the fair. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone said: We are conducting “Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair” with the following objectives: — to develop awareness of Myanmar’s developing fishery and livestock products internationally; — to gain market access for the fishery and livestock; — to attract foreign investment in fishery and livestock sector; — to obtain technical know-how of fishery and livestock production and other related manufacturing; and — to produce and share wholesome consumer goods, including high quality added products. With the motto “Myanmar’s Fish and Meat for All”, we aim to expand market share of Myanmar’s surplus fishery and livestock products within the region and to visualize the investment potentials of this sector. During a span of ten years, we were able to increase per capita consumption of fish one and a half times and, of meat by nearly three times. To achieve this we were able to increase the acreage of fish and shrimp ponds from forty thousand acres to three hundred and twenty four thousand acres.

Although export of livestock products is not very much, fishery products are exported to over forty countries annually. Due to lack of “further processing” facilities, only live, chilled and frozen raw products could be exported. During the same span of ten years, value of export of fish products increase six-fold making a significant growth in the industry. Being the largest country in South-east Asia Peninsular with only fifty two million inhabitants, large areas of land in different climatic regions are available in Myanmar. Aquaculture can be materialised in the unpopulated waters along the inland and coastal regions. Farm animals can be raised in the pasturelands and grasslands, and related infrastructure and industries can be built accordingly. As the whole production component in the livestock and fishery sector has been privatized, investors are welcomed by the Government and citizens alike as it is our desire to make this sector grow in a sustained manner. It is our vision to increase the profitability and competitiveness, and enhance the natural resource base to achieve greater national wealth and stronger rural communities.

In this Trade Fair, 133 foreign and local companies are participating with 229 booths at the indoor and outdoor spaces. They are displaying wide range of fisheries and livestock related products, such as, feedstuff and veterinary medicines, live fish and shrimp, frozen fish, prawn and crab, locally produced machinery for fishery, cold storage facilities, motors, pumps, fishing nets, etc.

For your information, there are six countries participating in this fair. They are 20 companies from Thailand, 6 companies from China, 8 from Singapore, 2 from South Korea, one company each from Malaysia and Hong Kong. Apart from the foreign companies, 95 local companies are also participating with the various live-stock and fisheries related products.

In conclusion, allow me to express once again that, I feel deeply honoured for your presence here and also thanks for both foreign and local companies participating in this “Myanmar Fishery and Livestock Fair 2003”. I am confident that this fair will give you very good opportunities for mutual benefit. And also I would like to thank to the Organizing Committee for giving every effort to make this fair a successful one. Next, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented gifts to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and distinguished guests. Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greeted those present on the occasion and inspected the trade fair. The trade fair will be kept open from 9 am to 5 pm till 4 November as of today.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers address at the opening of Special Refresher Course No 54 for teachers. — MNA

Government has been making all-out efforts for developing human resources capable of handling various situations to be faced in future and to ensure emergence of constant learning Myanmar society in keeping with the times Special Refresher Course No 54 for basic education teachers opened

YANGON, 31 Oct.—The Special Refresher Course No 54 for basic education teachers was opened at the Nawarart Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division at noon today with an address by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board and members, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, Rector of CICS Col Win Maung and officials, course instructors and trainee teachers.

In his address, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win said that with the aim of enabling the basic education teachers, who are nurturing the student youths to become intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the State can rely, to gain experiences and knowledge after realizing the prevailing situation and future of the State, of enabling them to serve the interest of the State consciously and constantly based on the knowledge they gained, and of enabling them to effectively contribute their shares in national and regional development through the education sector with strong nationalism, the special refresher courses for basic education teachers have been opened and the present course is No 54.

The State Peace and Development Council has been making strenuous efforts for the education sector to keep pace with changes in political, economic and social sectors and to be on a par with that of the global nations while striving for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation.

The education promotion programme is a significant turning point in the education history of Myanmar as well as an education milestone. That is why the role of teachers is of paramount importance in the programme.

Nowadays, concerted efforts are being made on self-reliant basis to ensure development of economic and social sectors with prevalence (See page 9)