Senior General Than Shwe and wife attend 50th Kathina robes offering ceremony of Ministry of Defence

YANGON, 1 Nov — The 50th Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Defence was held at Anawrahta hall of the ministry this morning. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw Kyaw attended the ceremony and offered Kathina robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rathana Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara of Mahawithutayama Kyaungtaik and members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of Alanpya Kyaungtaik and Sangyoung Kyaungtaik.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khan Win Shwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khan Than Nwe, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khan Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein’s wife Daw Khin Khin Win, wives of Members of the State Peace and Development Council, Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander and wife, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General and Chairman of Civil Services Selection and Training Board and their wives, senior military officers and wives and guests.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Daw Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathana Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife offered Kathina robes and provisions to Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Daw Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathana Guru Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khan Win Shwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khan Than Nwe, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khan Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein’s wife Daw Khin Khin Win, those present offered Kathina robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

After that, Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rathana Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara of Mahawithutayama Kyaungtaik delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw Kyaw present eight prerequisites to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arcinnabhivamsa.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Sunday, 2 November, 2003

For economic development of Rakhine State

The Union of Myanmar with favourable weather conditions is rich in fertile soil. At a time when the Government is making all-out efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, it is necessary for the country to possess a strong economy.

Rakhine State is one of the states that assists the economic development of the State. In Rakhine State, people are enjoying surplus of rice and at present, efforts are being made to put over one million acres under crops. Therefore, farmers are striving for extending cultivation of the main crops and boosting the per acre yield.

Only monsoon paddy is grown once a year in Taungup Township and its neighbouring areas, and thus to rear more income farmers are to cultivate vegetables and other crops after the monsoon paddy cultivation season. A study of cultivating beans and pulses shows that cultivation of pigeon pea exceeds the target and therefore, efforts are to be made to grow other beans and pulses apart from the pigeon pea.

Pepper is thriving in Rakhine State where there has enough rain in addition to good soil and favourable weather conditions. As there is a market for pepper which can benefit the farmers, extended cultivation of pepper should be carried out in Rakhine State.

As regards the meat and fish sector, fresh and sea water fishery industry is being carried out on a wide scale in Rakhine State. In the past, there were only about 60,000 acres of fresh and sea water prawn breeding ponds but now, the number has risen to over 150,000.

The unique location and richness in marine resources contribute much towards economic development of Rakhine State. Therefore, the Government, on its part, is building roads and bridges in Rakhine State for the latter’s development.

In building roads linking Rakhine State and other adjacent divisions there emerged 628 miles long Yangon-Sittway Union Highway, 323 miles long Thandwe-Taungup-Yangon road and 235 miles long Thandwe-Gwa Ngaithaitchaung-Yangon road and these facilities provide better transport.

In building major roads in the state which is teeming with rivers and creeks, building of bridges is no exception. As a result, altogether 1174 bridges including 25 river-crossing bridges with the length of 180 feet and above have emerged. People living in Rakhine State who had to mainly rely on air and water transport in the past are now able to access other regions in the Union by land.

For economic development of the state, people living in Rakhine State are urged to make earnest efforts for ensuring the yield of 100 baskets of paddy per acre while extending agricultural and livestock breeding tasks.

More archery teams arrive

YANGON, 1 Nov — The 10-member Malaysian team, a Korean coach, a member of Hong Kong jury, one from Laos, and an 11-member Indian team arrived here by air this evening to participate in the 13th Asian Archery Championship and the 2004 Athens Olympic Archery Qualifier to be held in Yangon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Myanmar Archery Federation.

Than Myint Aung, winner of National Literary Award

Aung, who won National Literary Award for her “Massi without form” collected short stories presented by the National Literary Award Scrutinization Committee under the Ministry of Information on 30 October 2003. Kyemon: We would like to know your opinion on your award-winning work.

TMA: It was in 1978. I contributed just a little at that time. I started to contribute much in the 1990s. I started to enter the literary world in 1987 with short stories in the Taingnyinny Jurnal. After 1987, I wrote short stories under the pen-name of Than Myint Aung. I have written five works of collected short stories, five medium-length stories and two novels.

I felt honoured to hear that novels depicting the human life and short stories reflecting real characters are popular among readers. With regard to social affairs, I am engaged in rehabilitation of orphans and conducting researches on new therapy for the psychiatric hospital. I have contributed a script regarding prevention of HIV. I am also working with the Mayangyantra Leprosy Control Centre. I am devoted to work for welfare of others in the committee for helping social affairs. My short stories are mostly based on social welfare work and real characters in human society.

(Translation: TS)

Export Market Promotion Course concluded

YANGON, 1 Nov — The Export Market Promotion Course, jointly conducted by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), concluded at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel yesterday evening.

It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, President U Win Myint and officials of UMFCCI; instructors, guests and trainees. President U Win Myint, U Moe Kyaw of UMFCCI and U San Maung Myint of the course made speeches on the occasion. Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Adviser to UMFCCI U Khin Maung Yi presented gifts to the course instructors. Education work committee members presented completion certificates to the trainees. A trainee spoke words of thanks. Secretary-General U Sein Win Hlaing made a speech at the dinner.

F&R Ministry holds Kathina robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 1 Nov — The seventh communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the Dhammayon of the Internal Revenue Department this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for F&R Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, President of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and wife, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, staff families and guests.

The minister and wife Nyansissara delivered a sermon and merits gained were shared.

Later, ‘soon’ was offered to the members of the Sangha.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife offer Kathina robes to members of the Sangha.

**MORE PHOTOS & ARTICLES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.**
American soldier killed as US warns of new Iraq threat

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—Another US soldier was killed in Iraq shortly after US consular officials warned of fresh attacks, and the American Congress passed a multi-billion-dollar aid package for the war-torn country. In Seoul, the foreign ministry revealed a South Korean diplomat had been kidnapped briefly by Iraqi gunmen to warn against its continued involvement in the US-led occupation, as foreign missions continued to draw down their personnel on the face of the bloodiest week since the invasion.

Security was tight across Baghdad as Iraqis locked to the first Friday prayers of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, following the warning from the US consular office that new violence was pending.

“There are a number of rumours of a ‘Day Resistance’, throughout Baghdad on Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2,” marking six months since Washington declared major combat over, the US statement said.

“US citizens are encouraged to continue to maintain a high level of vigilance and continue to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.”

Shortly after the warning, one American soldier was killed and four others from the 82nd Airborne Division wounded when a device exploded at 8.45 am (0545 GMT) in Khalidiya, 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of the capital.

Washington has now lost 118 troops in action since major combat operations were declared over on May 1, more than it lost during the six-week spring invasion.

Nepal to set up 74,000 child centres by 2015

KATHMANDU, 1 Nov—A total of 74,000 early childhood development centres, mainly for children aged between 3 and 5, will be set up across Nepal by the year 2015, according to a high-ranking Nepali Government official.

“Development of any country is impossible without human resources. If children are not well brought up and given adequate human resources,” Basnet said.

In a bid to address the issue, the government has also been working with the basic education department to meet the goal of “education for all” by 2015, he added.

Foreign companies have been invited to participate in the first eight months of 2014, and 120,000 early childhood development centres, mainly for children aged between 3 and 5, will be the first of its kind held independently by China and South Africa.

China fair to be held in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Nov—The China Machinery and Electronics Products Fair will be held in the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannes- burg, from November 7 to 11 in a bid to boost trade between China and South Africa, Chinese Ambassa- dor announced here re- cently.

The fair, which is held to celebrate the fifth anniver- sary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries, will be the first of its kind held independently by China and South Africa.

More than 150 Chinese companies from 26 prov- inces and municipalities in China will exhibit their products, including auto- motives and components, construction, engineering and agricultural machinery, hardware and tools, elec- tronic appliances and commu- nication equipment.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Guijin said that South Africa is China’s top trade partner in Africa, with a to- tal bilateral trade of 2.6 bil- lion US dollars in 2002.

Trade between the coun- tries totalled 2.4 billion dol- lars, showing a dramatic in- crease of 49.7 per cent dur- ing the first eight months of 2003.

He predicted that the total trade volume is ex- pected to exceed three bil- lion dollars by the end of this year.

UNSG calls for joint efforts

for breakthrough of trade talks

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Nov—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said here Thursday that for a breakthrough of the stalled trade talks, concrete efforts guided by the so-called “Monterrey Consensus” are urgently needed.

Addressing the UN Gen- eral Assembly on its high- level dialogue on Financing for Development, Annan highlighted the need to re- call some of the spirit of the Monterrey conference held last year, since it has been distracted by dramatic events in Iraq and Cancun to “a world away.”

“The one most people remain concerned official development assistance: new commitments made in Monterrey reversed a trou- bling and devastating decade of decline or stagnation,” he recalled.

“But let’s not forget Monterrey’s other mes- sages,” he said, “first, the way the process broke new ground in bringing together... all relevant stakeholders... to improve policy coherence in the trade arena.”

The conference also em- phasized a need for poor peo- ple and poverty-stricken countries as partners in the development process... “not objects of pity,” he added.

Annan said the third and most important part of Monterrey is “the way both developed and developing countries acknowledged their mutual responsibilities and mutual accountability, a welcome departure from the polarizing practice of point- ing at what others were not doing.”

“Face an uncertain economy, wide-ranging so- cial distress and faltering trade negotiations that need a real jump-start at December’s WTO (World Trade Organization) talks in Ge- neva,” he said, calling on world leaders to “stay to- gether, stay engaged, and make this process work.”

The UN assembly started a two-day high-level dia- logue Wednesday on imple- menting the outcome of the 2002 International Confer- ence on Financing for De- velopment held in Monterrey, Mexico.

The theme of the dialogue is “The Monterrey Consen- sus: status of implementation and tasks ahead.” Par- ticipants will discuss a series of reports by the UN chief on the Monterrey Conference, and on imple- menting the Millennium Declaration.—MNA/Xinhua

Upsurge of violence predicted for Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—Security officials are preparing for a surge in violence against coalition forces in Iraq within the next few days, after receiving information that sup- porters of ousted president Saddam Hussein may be intending to co-ordinate a series of attacks in Baghdad.

Three days of violence are said by sources linked to the former president’s, Ba’ath party to be in the final plan- ning stages, security officials in Iraq said on Thursday.

Foreign companies have tightened security measures, and are convinced that the information received on the impending attacks is reliable.

The United Nations an- nounced on Thursday that it was temporarily withdraw- ing 30 expatriate staff from Baghdad, though it was not clear whether specific intel- ligence had been received suggesting that the UN was a target.

On August 19, a truck in northeastern China killed 4 people at the UN headquarters in the city.

Information suggesting that a series of attacks may be mounted by supporters of the ousted regime emerged as a US official identified Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, Mr Hussein’s former deputy, as the Saddam loyalist who is now coordinating violence against coalition forces and Iraqis working with the US-led operation in Iraq.

Beijing police destroy 300,000 pirated, pornographic VCDs

BEIJING, 3 Nov—Beijing police authorities on Thursday publicly de- stroyed 300,000 pirated or pornographic VCDs, a move signalling their de- termination to crack down on illegal activities related to pornography and piracy.

Police authorities said efforts to hunt down and seize pirated obscene VCDs had intensified at key areas, such as pedes- trian tunnels and bridges.

Statistics released by city authorities show that from July to the end of October, police recov- ered 11 premises, arrested 218 illegal VCD sellers and confiscated more than 820,000 illegal pub- lications, including 300,000 pornographic VCDs.—MNA/Xinhua
Irrumors prompt urgent US warning

Baghdad, 1 Nov — The US and Australian Governments have warned their nationals in Iraq to take extra care amid rumours of further violence in Baghdad this weekend.

The US consulate urged Americans to be alert following reports that a “day of resistance” was being planned.

Scores of people, mostly Iraqis, have been killed this week.

Tension is high in Iraq where Saturday marks six months since President Bush declared an end to major hostilities.

“US citizens are encouraged to continue to maintain a high level of vigilance and continue to take appropriate steps to increase their security and awareness,” the US consulate said in a statement.

Australian officials also warned their nationals to stay away from an area of central Baghdad where a hotel popular with foreigners, the al-Hamra, is located.

The Australian Government said it had received credible reports of what it called “imminent terrorist attacks” in the area.

The BBC’s Jonny Dymond says there have been such scares in the past which have come to nothing. But, he adds, if the aim of spreading such rumours is to cause fear and concern, then it is succeeding.

Ordinary Iraqis, who unlike most foreigners do not live in protected areas, are also nervous.

“People approach me all the time now and say they are afraid to walk anywhere,” Mohammad Saleh al-Ubaidi, an Imam in a mosque in Baghdad, told Reuters news agency.

Security was tight across Baghdad as Iraqis attended the first Friday prayers of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

But anti-American fury erupted in a suburb of the capital after US troops entered a market place searching for those behind a grenade attack that had injured two soldiers, witnesses said.

Two Iraqis—one a policeman, the other a six-year-old boy—were killed in the unrest which erupted in the western district of Abu Ghrab.

Several other Iraqis and two US soldiers were also reported injured.

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Surveys shows HK SMEs more confident of business prospects

Hong Kong, 1 Nov — The latest Business Operating Environment Index for Hong Kong’s small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), released by the HK Productivity Council (HKPC) on Thursday showed that local companies are more confident of their business prospects.

The survey shows a Business Operating Environment Index for SMEs, introduced in 1998, was conducted quarterly to gauge the views of the overall business environment, operating costs, human resources, and risks.

The survey is based on 538 SMEs surveyed, of which 333 came from companies in the manufacturing sector and 205 from the service sector.

Commenting on the findings, Vincent Li, General Manager (Enterprise Enhancement Services) of HKPC said, “The overall index of 10.36 per cent, an increase of 7 percentage points compared to the last survey, represents the highest index ever recorded.”

The survey also gauged local SMEs’ views on the impacts of CEPA. It found that 29 per cent of companies from the services sector, and 28 per cent from the manufacturing industry agreed that they would benefit from CEPA.

MNA/Xinhua

Caring for grandkids can cause heart attack

Washington, 1 Nov — Taking care of grandchildren can give women more than a headache—it can raise their risk of heart attack, US researchers reported on Thursday.

The survey of more than 5,400 nurses found that those who cared for grandchildren at least nine hours a week had a 55-per-cent increased risk of heart attack.

It is probably the stress, said Summin Lee of Brigham and Women’s Hospital, who led the study, published in the American Journal of Public Health.

“The study was not looking at any underlying factors, it is likely that caregivers have so many demands placed on them that they lose time and energy to take care of themselves,” Lee said in a statement.

“It is possible that their role caring for these children makes it difficult for them to follow basic preventive health behaviors such as exercising, eating right and getting adequate sleep.”

Lee’s team at the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School said statistics show that about one in seven US women have raised a grandchild for six months or more.

MNA/Reuters
Report says Iraq contracts reek of cronyism

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov— Many of the US firms doing billions of dollars of work in Iraq and Afghanistan have been big donors to President Bush and his Republican Party and fill their boards with political and military heavyweights, a report on Thursday said.

The report by the watchdog group, the Center for Public Integrity, said most of the 70 firms and individuals getting up to $8 billion in contracts for post-war Iraq and Afghanistan donated more to Bush’s presidential campaign — a little over $500,000 — than any other candidate in the past decade.

“There is a stench of political favoritism and cronyism surrounding the contracting process in both Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Charles Lewis, executive director of the group, which investigates public service and ethics issues.

The report said 60 percent of the firms with contracts had employees or board members who served in previous administrations, for members of Congress and at the highest level of the military.

Winning companies were major political players overall and the group traced about $49 million in donations since 1990 from these same companies to political parties, committees and candidates. The Republican Party committee got $12.7 million while Democrats got $7.1 million.

360 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov— As of Friday, 31 Oct, 360 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense.

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

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 222 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defense Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,770 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 340. The latest deaths reported by the US Military: 4.

Philippines urges foreign debt swap for anti-poverty programmes

MANILA, 1 Nov— Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has led poor nations in calling on developed countries to agree to a foreign debt swap for anti-poverty programmes, said the Department of Foreign Affairs in a statement Thursday.

In a recent United Nations General Assembly roundtable discussion in New York City, Ople asked for a consideration of his proposal as a means for poor countries to realize the United Nations Millennium goal of cutting the incidence of poverty by half by 2015.

Ople noted that all of the international financial institutions, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, have been committed to fighting poverty by using the debt for anti-poverty programme schemes.

Under the scheme, the developed countries would agree to grant debt relief in exchange for the implementation of anti-poverty programmes, including micro-financing for small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those in the countryside.

“The Philippines is taking a more jugular approach, namely, a debt swap against poverty,” Ople said.

Ople chaired the roundtable discussion among 24 countries from Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America to review the regional dimensions of the implementation of the commitments made in the International Conference on Financing for Development also called the Monetary Consensus held last year in Mexico.

“Under the consensus, the developing countries agreed to take responsibility for domestic resources mobilization to be augmented by financial assistance from the rich countries and regional self-help schemes,” Ople said.

The Philippines was recently voted into the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member, with the term starting on January 1, 2004 and ending on December 31, 2005.

Ople Thursday attended the first High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the UN General Assembly on October 29-30, which will serve as the primary intergovernmental follow-up to the Monterrey Summit in Mexico last year.

During the dialogue, Ople is expected to call on the international community to exert efforts to reverse the declining levels of official development assistance, implement debt swap for poverty programmes for indebted developing countries and to develop a mechanism to provide micro-finance support for micro-small and medium-scale enterprises. — MNA/Xinhua

Second solar storm arrives at Earth

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov— A second huge magnetic solar storm arrived at Earth on Thursday just a day after an earlier one hit our planet in what one astronomer called an unprecedented one-two punch.

“It’s like the Earth is looking right down the barrel of a giant gun pointed at us by the sun... and it’s taken two big shots at us,” said John Kohl of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Massachusetts.

Kohl, the principal investigator for an instrument aboard NASA’s sun-watching SOHO spacecraft, said the probability of two huge flares aimed directly at Earth coming so close together, as they have this week, “unprecedented... so low that it is a statistical anomaly”.

Kohl said the second solar storm, known as a coronal mass ejection, peeled off the sun around 4 p.m. EST (2100 GMT) on Wednesday. Charged particles from the ejection started arriving at Earth around 10 a.m. EST (1500 GMT) Thursday.

This was just a day after an earlier ejection was first detected on Earth, arriving around 1 a.m. EST (0600 GMT) on Wednesday.

The second blast from the sun was moving even faster than the first one did, and some particles from the first linger even as the second one arrives.

While such solar storms do not directly endanger humans, the charged particles can play havoc with electric grids, satellites and other equipment. They can also create spectacular displays of the northern and southern lights. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which runs the US early warning system, said the storm could cause spectacular displays of the northern and southern lights.

Four killed as parking garage collapses in US

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov— Four people were killed and some 20 others were injured on Thursday when the top five stories of a parking garage under construction collapsed in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Two persons died inside the building and two others died at a hospital, while one remained missing, officials said.

Rescue teams were sent into the rubble of the 10-story garage, trying to locate missing workers by search cameras and dogs, and lumber-loaded trucks were brought in to shore up the building.

Over 300 construction workers were at the site when the garage floors collapsed.

The cause of the collapse was under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua
US Senate faults White House over Iraq documents

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov — The Republican chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee single out White House for failing to meet a moon (1700 GMT) deadline on Friday to turn over documents about intelligence on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction used to justify the US invasion.

But Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas said the CIA and State Department had provided “a good faith response” and the committee expected to receive “a quantity of documents” from both agencies by the end of the day.

“The White House has not met today’s deadline. I am hopeful that the White House will recognize the importance of the committee’s efforts and comply as soon as possible,” Roberts said in a statement.

The Senate Intelligence Committee this week sent letters to top administration officials demanding documents be turned over and interviews with officials be scheduled by the deadline.

Congressional officials said that step was intended to prod the administration to provide information the panel had requested as long as five months ago for its review of the quality of US intelligence on Iraq leading up to the war.

At this point more drastic steps such as subpoenas were not being considered, but Senator John Rockefeller said if the response was lacking he would be prepared to take such action.

“We’re not kidding around on this,” the West Virginia Democrat told Reuters. Setting the deadline was “meant to be a very strong signal to them that we’re tired of waiting. This is the nation’s business, there is a lot at stake,” he said.—MNA/Reuters

US special force soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 Nov — A US special force soldier has died of wounds suffered in a clash in volatile southern Afghanistan, a US military statement said on Friday, the third death involving US servicemen in less than a week.

The clash between US-led special operation forces and their Afghan allies and “a 10 to 15 member anti coalation element” took place on Thursday in an area about 35 miles west of the district of Deh Rawood in the province of Uruzgan.

“The US special operations soldier died from wounds received in combat,” said the statement sent from Bagram, the hub of US-led forces in Afghanistan, to the north of Kabul.

About 11,500 US-led forces are hunting remnants of the deployed Taliban, their al-Qaeda allies and followers of faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who have declared a ‘jihad’ or holy war against foreign troops in Afghanistan and US-backed President Hamid Karzai’s government.

The World Health Organization declared the SARS outbreak over in July but said this month it was bracing for another outbreak this winter and was forming a rapid reaction centre at its Geneva headquarters.

The flu-like disease is caused by a virus from a family known as coronaviruses. They cause diseases in livestock and some cases of the common cold in people.

“It would be naive to believe that we will never see the coronavirus again affecting human beings,” Gerberding said. Scientists needed to find a rapid diagnostic test to identify SARS, she said, adding that no convincing treatment regime had yet been found and it was still not clear where exactly the virus had come from.—MNA/Reuters

Expert says chances of containing SARS much improved

PARIS, 1 Nov—The chances of containing a new outbreak of SARS early are now much greater than last year due to improved alert systems, the director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday.

Julie Gerberding said it would be possible to contain outbreaks of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which infected some 8,500 people and killed more than 700 in the past year. Success depended on a quick response, she said.

“We have a lot better chance of containing the virus early this time than we did when it arose last fall,” she told reporters during a health conference in Paris.

“But it requires all global health care systems to act in a collaborative, fast way if the problem should appear again.”

She said better alert systems to report early any possible SARS cases were already emerging in places such as China, where the disease first emerged in November last year.

Chinese, Italian PMs vow to deepen cooperation

BEIJING, 1 Nov—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Friday pledged to expand the cooperation in diversified fields between China and Italy.

During the talks the two leaders held Friday morning, Wen made three proposals for this purpose. He said both sides should keep the frequent exchange of high-level visits and strengthen bilateral dialogue and consultation as well as the coordination within the United Nations and other international organizations.

Both sides should further tap the potential to expand trade and economic cooperation, promote cooperation between their small- and medium-sized enterprises, and strive to explore new fields, he said.

Wen said the two countries should strengthen the exchange and cooperation in the judicial field, culture and education, science and technology, environmental protection and tourism.

Berlusconi said Italy values the positive role China plays in the international arena, and is willing to deepen friendship and expand cooperation.

He said Europe-China ties have entered a new stage and there are brilliant prospects for cooperation between Italy and China. According to Wen, Italy has become China’s fourth trading partner among European Union nations, and China’s trade with Italy is expected to surpass 10 billion US dollars this year.

After their talks, the two leaders attended a ceremony witnessing the signing of a memorandum between the two governments on the establishment of cultural centers in both countries.

Prior to the talks, Wen hosted a grand ceremony in honour of Berlusconi, who is here for an official visit.

Berlusconi attended the sixth China-EU leaders’ meeting which was held Thursday in Beijing.—MNA/Xinhua

Barshefsky says US economy still faces many difficulties

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov—Former US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said that the US economy is still facing many difficulties although it is increasing at a strong pace.

“I’m not sure how the US economy will end up this year and the prediction now is very, very widely,” Barshefsky told Xinhua in an interview earlier this week. She is going to take part in the annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia to be held in Hainan Province, China, early next month.

She said that the consensus is that the US economic growth will continue and is generally strengthening. However, “it is less clear now what the job picture is going to look like.”

About 80 per cent of job dislocation in the United States “is the result of technology, not trade, not any—MNA/Xinhua

Contemporary Silk Road artworks shown in Beijing

BEIJING, 1 Nov—An exhibition of contemporary artworks focusing on China’s Silk Road culture began here Thursday in Beijing.

A total of 86 pieces of art from 66 artists living and working in Kashgar, Urumqi, Dunhuang, Lanzhou and Xi’an along China’s Silk Road are on show. The artworks include canvases, traditional Chinese paintings and engravings.

The artists include professional painters, artists from local cultural centres, researchers specializing in ancient grotto studies, people from art institutions, local farmers and herdsmen.—MNA/Xinhua
**Efficient use of electricity**

* Do not be softened
* Do not be bolstered
* Use the least possible amount of electricity

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appeared

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**People's Desire**

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

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**People's Desire**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appeared

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**MRTV and IPRD offer Kathina robes**

Yangon, 1 Nov — Under the patronage of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and deputy ministers, the first Kathina robes offering ceremony of the Myanmar Radio and Televisio

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**Rehabilitation Medicine Conference opens**

Yangon, 1 Nov — The opening of First Rehabilitation Medicine Conference of Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Myanmar Medical Association was held at the hall of MMA on Thenbyu Road this morning. President of MMA (Central) Prof Dr Myo Myint made an opening speech, followed by welcoming speech by President of the RMS Dr Than Toe.

At the conference, Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing, Head of Orthopaedic Department, Lecturer Dr Chu Thein of Sanpya General Hospital (Thingangyun) and Consultant of Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of Yangon General Hospital gave talks on “Perspective on Osteorborics.”

Symposium on “Neuropathic Pain” and “Symposium on Osteoarthritic Knee” will be read out at the conference which will continue tomorrow. — MNA
Only if today’s entire human society constantly studies advancements and changes, can it brave future challenges.
Prime Minister attends dinner ...

Education, he said, is the sole and most important sector that can enhance the standard of the nation in the 21st century. The world is now facing with the rapid changes due to the development of technology. So efforts are being made to acquire highly qualified human resources and to change Myanmar society into a learning society capable of facing and solving various kinds of changes and challenges.

He said education opportunities have been opened to enable Myanmar society to become an education-dominated society. The government reduced education limits and opened more schools, universities and colleges, and conducted undergraduate/postgraduate diploma, master degrees and doctorate degrees courses including MBA course. In the past, one could obtain such a degree in a foreign country spending a large amount of money. Now, one can get MBA degree in the country at ease and it is beneficial to both graduates and the state, he added.

The minister said the MBA course was first conducted in Yangon Institute of Economics in 1993. Everyone who is qualified can take the course. Beginning 2002-2003 academic year, evening MBA course was opened. Yangon Institute of Economics produced 323 MBA graduates including 57 from the present course.

In upper Myanmar, Myonya Institute of Economics opened MBA course in April 2000 and it produced 45 MBA graduates. The number of MBA graduates and economic management experts has increased day after day and it is seen that they work in government departments, local and foreign companies, banks and economic enterprises as managers. Some run their own business, he said.

He said their efforts made at the various economic sectors contribute towards the stronger national economic life of the State. The government firmly believes that development of the nation relies on expertise of Myanmar citizens, efforts and efficiency in keeping with the international communities.

In conclusion, he urged the graduates to strive for national development making use of economic management for continued build-up of economic foundations and systematic development of national economic life.

Next, Rector of Yangon Institute of Economics U Kan Zaw spoke. On behalf of MBA graduates, Ma Su Nyan Lin spoke words of thanks. The guests enjoyed dinner together with the graduates.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Daw Khin Win offer eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA

Daw Kyaying Kyaying attends cash ...

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

Daw Kyaying Kyaying, Daw Mya Mya San, the prime minister and wellwishers presented offertories to Sayadaws.

On behalf of Ashin Subhana (Su Huan Li) and Nun Su Che Rin presented K 5 million to Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa.

On behalf of Myinyang Sayadaw, the Prime Minister presented a reclining Buddha Image to Sayadaw Yang Wu Khone.

Ashin Subhana supplied donations. Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidha Bhaddanta Silek-kandabhinama delivered a sermon.

Next, Daw Kyaying Kyaying and wellwishers presented robes and medicines to members of the Sangha. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Daw Khin Win attend dinner together with the guests. The guests enjoyed dinner as they expressed thanks. The guests enjoyed dinner together with the guests. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA

Daw Khaing Khaing attends cash ...

Daw Khin Thaik Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo offers eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, offers eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, offers eight prerequisites and offertories to a Sayadaw at 50th Communal Kathina Robes Offering Ceremony of the Ministry of Defence. — MNA
Lt-Gen Kin Maung Than meets with Tatmadawmen and local people in Rakhine State

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets Tatmadawmen and local people in Rakhine State, and inspected thriving paddy fields, livestock breeding farms, fish breeding ponds, and shady trees and wind-breaking trees. He met with Tatmadawmen and families of local battalions and units in the station and gave instructions on undertaking manageable livestock breeding and agriculture tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families. Next, Lt-Gen Kin Maung Than and party proceeded to Buthidaung Station.

MNA

Myanmar Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2003 continues

Myanmar Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2003 continues to take part in the seminar to be held on the third floor of the building. Sale contracts were also signed between 14 booths and foreign importers. The trade fair will be kept open from 9 am to 5 pm till 4 November.

MNA

Earthquake Report

Richard T. van der Kuijlen

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

To enable the students of Maubin region in Ayeyawady Division to pursue the higher education with peace of mind, the Maubin University was established. The photo shows the main building of Maubin University which was opened on 18 July 2003.— PHOTO: MNA

Thanks to the strenuous efforts of the government, new universities and colleges have emerged throughout the country. The photo shows the magnificent main building of Mandalay Yadanabon University which was opened on 7 July 2003 in Mandalay.— PHOTO: MNA

Panglong University which was opened on 11 February 2003 is a symbol of endeavours made by the State Peace and Development Council for equitable development of all regions in the nation and for national unity.— PHOTO: MNA
**NEWS OF THE WORLD**

**China has no plans to change the current retirement age**

BEIJING, 1 Nov—Although some representatives have raised bills to change the different retirement ages for men and women, China’s top legislature has no plans to make legislation regarding this issue, say sources with China’s National People’s Congress (NPC).

The Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee of the tenth NPC decided not to address the legislation regarding this issue, said its chairman He Chunlin, who was at the fifth meeting of the tenth NPC Standing Committee to elaborate the proposal to top legislators.

In the first session of the tenth NPC this March, more than 100 representatives raised four proposals calling for the same retirement age for men and women.

According to current government rules, professional women working for government institutions and companies are required to retire at 55 while men retire at 60, and female blue-collar workers quit work at 50 while men retire at 55.

The difference in retirement age sometimes stops women from enjoying equal rights, especially for women with high education working in government institutions. With the development of Chinese society, more women have developed their own careers and do not want to retire earlier than men.

But there are still many women earning low wages in backward areas who are reluctant to retire at the same age as men, because they can earn almost as much after retirement.

Because all walks of society in different areas have different ideas on retirement ages, the Committee thought it was not time to make legislation to change the current policy, said He.

**China vows to improve governmental role in macro economy**

BEIJING, 1 Nov—A senior Chinese official vowed Thursday that China would speed up improving the government’s role in the country’s macro economy.

Liu He, deputy director of the financial administrative office of the Communist Party Chongqing Committee, marked when addressing an international financial forum here Thursday. Liu said that the improvement would focus on breaking the industrial monopoly, reducing administrative intervention and continuing to improve the social management and public service system.

Liu said the move is an important and urgent task for China to deepen the current economic structure reform, stressing that the continuous optimization of governmental management would be conducive to improving the quality and efficiency of the country’s market-oriented economy. Safeguarding a good market order is one of the most important roles for a government to play, Liu said, revealing that the sectors of telecommunication, electricity, and civil air service would be the key sectors in which China was to break the industrial monopoly.

Liu also stressed that China would make efforts to improve the country’s social management and public service system, creating job opportunities for the abundant labourers in the country’s vast rural area and urban families who struggle with financial difficulties.

As a very important mission to achieve sustainable development, the Chinese Government would work hard to further the reform of the country’s educational system, aiming to transfer the country’s advantage of population into human resources, Liu added.

**China signs tourism MoU with 12 nations**

BEIJING, 1 Nov—China and 12 nations signed the preliminary draft of a memorandum of understanding on tourism working in government institutions.

The signing countries were Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Greece, Italy, Sweden and Finland.

Officials with the China National Tourism Administration pointed out that the MoU will pave the way for Chinese tourism groups to visit Europe. So far, China has signed formal agreements on tourism with 27 nations. — MNA/Xinhua

**China, EU establish trade policy dialogue mechanism**

BEIJING, 1 Nov—China and the European Union agreed to establish a trade policy dialogue mechanism here Thursday.

At the 19th meeting of the China-EU Joint Committee of Economy and Trade, Wei Jianguo, Vice-Minister of Commerce, said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to promoting cooperation with the European Union and the policy documents that the two sides issued recently have shown the direction of development. Wei said China is willing to work with the EU to realize at an early day the goal “to become each other’s largest trade and investment partner”.

To realize the goal, Wei said China has set specific aims, for bilateral trade volume to reach 150 billion US dollars by 2007, 200 billion US dollars by 2013 and 280 billion US dollars by 2020.

Trade Commissioner of the EU Mission, Pascal Lamy, said he hopes the two sides maintain frequent dialogue and strengthen coordination by the trade policy dialogue mechanism.

As to whether to grant China “complete market economy status”, Lamy said the EU is working on it and will decide no later than the first half of 2004. After the meeting, the two sides signed a document which starts a dialogue mechanism on intellectual property.

According to statistics from the Chinese General Administration of Customs, bilateral trade volume in 2002 was 86.76 billion US dollars and that of the first nine months was 89.06 billion US dollars, up 41.5 percent year-on-year.

China and the EU became each other’s third largest trade partners. The EU is also the fourth largest foreign direct investment source and the largest technology import source for China.—MNA/Xinhua

**East Asia Mayors’ Forum to be held in December**

BEIJING, 1 Nov—With the purpose of seeking common development and prosperity in east Asia through better friendship and cooperation, the first East Asia Mayors’ Forum will be held from December 1 to 5 in Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

With the theme of “East Asia cities — cooperation and development”, the forum will offer a platform for participants to discuss how East Asian cities will lead the way in promoting cooperation and development in East Asia, and how the governments of East Asian cities help enterprises and residents conduct direct exchanges.

East Asian cities in the fields of economy, trade, tourism, information technology, culture and public health.

Participants in the forum will also discuss how East Asian cities conduct exchanges and cooperation in urban management and construction, development of human resources and sustainable development.

Hsiao Kyoung, deputy director of the preparatory committee of the forum, said at a Press conference here Friday.

**HK jet makes emergency landing in Japan**

HONG KONG, 1 Nov—A Cathay Pacific airliner made an emergency landing at a Japanese airport Thursday morning after pilots had a burning smell near the engine, a spokesman of Cathay Pacific told Xinhua.

All of the 208 passengers and crew members on board were safe and sound after the plane landed safely, said Maria Yu, communication manager of Cathay Pacific, in a telephone interview with Xinhua.

She said that the CX501 Flight bound for Hong Kong made the emergency landing at Nagoya Airport, after it took off from Tokyo’s International Airport at 10:47 a.m. Thursday. Yu said the passengers will continue their trip to Hong Kong Thursday night by another airliner of the Cathay Pacific. Nagoya Airport is about 270 kilometres west of Tokyo.—MNA/Xinhua
Mahathir hands power over to Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Nov — Outgoing Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Friday afternoon officially handed over the leadership of the Federal Government to new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The transfer of power ceremony was held at the Office of the Prime Minister’s Office on the fifth floor of the green-domed Prime Minister’s Department building in Putrajaya which is the seat of the Federal Government.

Abdullah, who will turn 64 next month, was earlier sworn in as the fifth Prime Minister of Malaysia before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Supreme Head of State) Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at the State Palace in Kuala Lumpur.

At the ceremony, Mahathir handed over the desk file to signify the transfer of responsibilities of the high office to Abdullah in the presence of Chief Secretary to the Government Samsudin Osman.

After the ceremony, Abdullah had a closed-door meeting.

Overseas investors eye China’s urban construction

BEIJING, 1 Nov — The 2003 China Mayors and Worldwide CEOs Summit was held in Beijing Friday, which revealed renewed enthusiasm for investing in China’s urban construction.

More than 10 Chinese mayors exchanged ideas on urban development with chief executives of transnational corporations, including Pricewaterhouse Coopers, FedEx, Walt Disney, ITT Industries, Switch AG, Nestle, Allianz, OBI, Veolia Environment, and Alcatel.

Albert Ng, managing partner of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, China, said the problem was not whether foreign companies should enter China’s market, but how they should win market share through competition.

China has been the world’s top choice for investors from overseas, and its rapid urban development offered more business opportunities, said Albert Ng. He was aware that some cities in western China were also developing the logistics, which would help promote urban development.

Many Chinese cities in the midwest region had good opportunities, drawing more overseas companies to invest in regions and participate in urban construction, he acknowledged.

Outside the summit site, the exhibition stand of the Wuhan China in Century Bridge Plan Foundation attracted a large number of representatives.

Tang Gungun, chairwoman of the foundation, said it planned to build a new bridge in Wuhan across the Yangtze River. Though the project plan was still under consideration, a number of international financial agencies had voiced a desire to participate.

“It’s really a surprise that so many people have a keen interest in the bridge,” Tang said.

Facing a new round of investment, Chinese cities are focusing on improving the investment environment. Zhao Gongqing, vice-mayor of Wuhan, said the city had launched a series of environmental protection projects to further improve the urban environment for sustained development.

EU president visits “Xinhua” news agency

BEIJING, 1 Nov — It is very important for the European Union (EU) and China to “stick together” for the development of world economy and world peace, said the visiting president of the EU Commission, Romano Prodi, here Friday.

Prodi spoke during the visit to China’s state news agency, Xinhua news agency.

Prodi was one of the EU’s key strategic partners, Prodi said, adding that China had attracted world attention with the successful launch of its manned Shenzhou-5 spacecraft and the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Prodi said Xinhua, as China’s state news agency, played a “more and more important”, role in reporting domestic and international affairs.

Prodi was well-informed about the operation of Xinhua internal and overseas branches after visiting major departments.

Deeply impressed by the high working efficiency at Xinhua, Prodi said Xinhua is not only a Chinese agency, but a world news agency.

"The toilets are made of aluminum so I imagine he was down on hands and knees with his shirt rolled up and arm down inside, trying to flush out his cell phone," said Jim Cameron of the Connecticut Metro-North commuter council.

He said that because of the design of the train toilet, the mobile probably ended up in a chemical holding tank.

A spokesman for the railroad that serves the northern suburbs of New York and Connecticut identified the man as Edwin Ballard, 41, of New York, who suffered a minor injury to his arm as firefighters cut the toilet apart.

The track was closed and thousands of commuters were delayed during the evening rush hour.

The phone has not yet been recovered.

Thai-Laotian provincial governors meet on border security

BANGKOK, 1 Nov — Provincial governors from provinces straddling the Thai and Laotian border met in the Laotian capital Vientiane on Friday to hold talks on maintenance of security in their border, the Thai News Agency reported.

Thai Interior Minister Wan Muhammad Noor Matha was quoted as saying that the talks would be focused on border security, matters of holding dual nationality, narcotics and the facilitation of transportation between the two countries.

He said that officials from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (Thai) had discussed drugs suppression measures with their Laotian counterparts and that the talks resulted in enhanced cooperation in drugs control between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Thai minister warned of a growing problem of some people from countries, including North Korea and Bangladesh, illegally entering Thailand via Laos, and officials would work to draw up effective measures to prevent the illegal inflow.

World’s oldest person dies at 116 in Japan

Tokyo, 1 Nov — The world’s oldest person, Kamato Hongo, died in Japan Friday at the age of 116.

Hongo died in a hospital in the southern Kagoshima City of the Kagoshima Prefecture. She was born in 1887 and just celebrated her 116th birthday in September.

Hongo was known for her routine of sleeping for two consecutive days and then staying awake for the next few days.

Shochu, a Japanese distilled for which Kagoshima Prefecture is famous, and brown sugar were Hongo’s favourite. She attributed her longevity to working in sugar cane fields.

Mahathir Mohamad, left, hands over the Prime Minister’s personal files to his successor, new Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 31 October, 2003. Abdullah on Friday succeeded Mahathir as Malaysia’s fifth Prime Minister.

New Yorker drops mobile in train toilet, jams arm

NEW YORK, 1 Nov — Cell phone users have been known to complain about poor service, but one New York man’s mobile literary went down the toilet.

The man was on a suburban train from Grand Central Station on Wednesday night when he went to the bathroom to make a phone call, dropped the phone into the toilet bowl and then his hand and arm became stuck trying to retrieve it, officials said.

Metro-North Railroad staff could not help the man, so they stopped the train and called police officers and firefighters to extricate him, a process that took minutes using “jaws of life” rescue equipment.

“The toilets are made of aluminum so I imagine he was down on hands and knees with his shirt rolled up and arm down inside, trying to flush out his cell phone,” said Jim Cameron of the Connecticut Metro-North commuter council.

He said that because of the design of the train toilet, the mobile probably ended up in a chemical holding tank.

A spokesman for the railroad that serves the northern suburbs of New York and Connecticut identified the man as Edwin Ballard, 41, of New York, who suffered a minor injury to his arm as firefighters cut the toilet apart.

The track was closed and thousands of commuters were delayed during the evening rush hour.

The phone has not yet been recovered.
Marseille appeal against FIFA ruling on Barthez

Marseille (France), 1 Nov — Olympique Marseille have appealed against FIFA’s refusal to allow the loan of French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez from Manchester United, the club said on its website on Friday. FIFA disallowed the much-publicized move after deciding they could not make an exception by allowing a player to move outside the transfer window which reopens in January.

“Olympique Marseille have decided to appeal to FIFA’s executive committee after the decision to reject the qualification of Fabien Barthez by the players committee revealed by the media on Friday”, Marseille said in a statement. The appeal has been handed to the French Soccer Federation (FFF) who will in turn pass it over to FIFA.

Marseille said that as a result, Barthez, who has not played a match for United this season, would remain in Marseille and train with the squad pending a decision on the appeal.

“After considering returning to England, Fabien Barthez, in full agreement with Manchester United and Olympique Marseille, will continue to train with the Marseille squad until a decision is made on the appeal,” Marseille said. Marseille had asked permission to sign Barthez because their second-choice goalkeeper Cedric Carasso injured his knee in a charity match earlier this month and will be out for the rest of the season. — MNA/Reuters

Shotputters may tread same ground as ancient Olympians

Athens, 1 Nov — Athens Olympics organizers said on Friday they not only hoped to hold the shotput event in the birthplace of the Olympics but also in the same stadium where athletes first competed in 776 BC.

“We are looking into the added value of these games,” Culture Minister Evangelos Venizelos, the government’s top Olympics official said. “The proposal is for the shotput event to be staged inside the ancient stadium of Olympia.”

Officials have been thrashing out the option of moving the event out of the capital and into the sleepy southwestern town for some time now before presenting the plan to the International Olympic Committee for rubber-stamping.

“There will be no addition to this stadium, its archaeological value will be respected,” he told reporters. He said the nearby grounds of the International Olympic Academy will be the athletes’ base during the competition at a site where the games were first held.

“The conditions of the event will be almost the same with those of the ancient sport,” Venizelos said.

Athens Games organizers will consult the International Amateur Athletics Federation in Monte Carlo next week before submitting their plan to the IOC.

Wenger says Critics want to hang Arsenal

LONDON — Even if Arsenal’s players were hanged in London’s Hyde Park it would not be enough for some of the club’s critics, manager Arsene Wenger said on Friday.

Arsenal were fined 175,000 pounds and had four players banned for a total of nine games on Thursday following the ugly scenes in their 0-0 draw at Manchester United on September 21.

Wenger feels the punishment was severe but told reporters: “I am sure that there are also many people who are not happy because they feel we should have been punished more, but I don’t think it could have been much worse.”

“But even if they hang us, some people will want us hanged twice and at Hyde Park in front of the whole country.”

Arsenal’s Lauren was suspended for four games and fellow defender Martin Keown for three. Midfielders Patrick Vieira and Ray Parlour were banned for one game. The four, together with defender Ashley Cole, were also fined a combined total of 100,000 pounds.

“I accept that we did not behave in the way we would like for five seconds at Old Trafford, but it really was just for five seconds and I am proud to be the manager of these players,” Wenger told reporters.

“We have been punished and now we want to try and leave it behind us and concentrate on winning games.”

Beckham appoints Watford man his new personal manager

LONDON — David Beckham has hired Watford’s director of football as his new personal manager, the English First Division club’s website said on Friday.

Terry Byrne will leave his current post at Vicarage Road in December and join the Real Madrid and England midfielder in Spain.

“I am excited about the new project that has come about and I believe it is an offer that was impossible to refuse,” Byrne told Watford’s official website.

Byrne became a close friend of the England captain while he was working as a physiotherapist for the national team under Glenn Hoddle during the 1998 World Cup.

MNA/Reuters
View today:
Sunday, November 2
7:00 am
1. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
2. "Peace talks in Myanmar"
3. "Elections in Myanmar"
4. "Economic development in Myanmar"
5. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
6. "International news"
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
8:05 am
6. "Peace talks in Myanmar"
8:15 am
7. "Elections in Myanmar"
8:30 am
8. "Economic development in Myanmar"
8:45 am
9. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
11:25 am
11. Industrial achievement
11:35 am
13. Musical programme
11:45 am
14. Roundup of the week’s International News
12:15 am
15. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
12:20 pm
16. Milo success in soccer
12:30 pm
17. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
12:45 pm
18. "Elections in Myanmar"
1:00 pm
19. "Economic development in Myanmar"
1:15 pm
20. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
1:30 pm
21. "International news"
1:45 pm
22. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
2:15 pm
23. "Peace talks in Myanmar"
2:30 pm
24. "Elections in Myanmar"
2:45 pm
25. "Economic development in Myanmar"
3:00 pm
26. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
3:15 pm
27. "International news"
3:30 pm
28. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
4:00 pm
29. "Peace talks in Myanmar"
4:15 pm
30. "Elections in Myanmar"
4:30 pm
31. "Economic development in Myanmar"
4:45 pm
32. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
5:00 pm
33. "International news"
5:15 pm
34. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
5:30 pm
35. "Peace talks in Myanmar"
5:45 pm
36. "Elections in Myanmar"
6:00 pm
37. "Economic development in Myanmar"
6:15 pm
38. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
6:30 pm
39. "International news"
6:45 pm
40. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
7:00 pm
41. "Peace talks in Myanmar"
7:15 pm
42. "Elections in Myanmar"
7:30 pm
43. "Economic development in Myanmar"
7:45 pm
44. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
8:00 pm
45. "International news"
8:15 pm
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8:30 pm
47. "Peace talks in Myanmar"
8:45 pm
48. "Elections in Myanmar"
9:00 pm
49. "Economic development in Myanmar"
9:15 pm
50. "Culture and Art in Myanmar"
9:30 pm
51. "International news"
9:45 pm
52. "Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to Myanmar"
10:00 pm
53. "Peace talks in Myanmar"

WEATHER
Saturday, November 1, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay Divi-
sions, isolated in Shan, Kayah States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 3°C below normal in Ayeyawady Division, 3°C to 4°C above normal in lower Sagaing, Bago, Mandalay Divisions, 5°C to 6°C above normal in upper Sagaing Division, Kachin and Eastern Shan States and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 31-10-2003 was 33.5°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 1-11-2003 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-11-2003 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 31-10-2003 was (6.8) hours.

Rainfall on 1-11-2003 was 5 mm (0.21 inch) at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rain-
fall since 1-1-2003 was 2211 mm (87.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2394 mm (94.25 inches) at central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from East at (17:30) hours MST on 31-10-2003.

Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay, West central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-11-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Shan, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the seas: The seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-11-2003: Partly cloudy.
Indian Vice-President Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat — MNA

Curriculum Vitae of Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of Republic of India

Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India is a farmer and agriculturist by profession. He was born on 23 October 1923 in Khachariawas village, Sikar District, Rajasthan State.

He became a member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 1952, and was elected as Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 1977. After serving three terms as Chief Minister of Rajasthan, he served as Leader of the Opposition in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from January 1999 to August 2002. On 19 August 2002, he became the Vice-President of India and the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Mr Shekhawat wholeheartedly supported all agrarian reforms. He became a member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 1952, and was elected as Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 1977. After serving three terms as Chief Minister of Rajasthan, he served as Leader of the Opposition in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from January 1999 to August 2002. On 19 August 2002, he became the Vice-President of India and the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

While serving as Chief Minister of the State of Rajasthan in 1977, Mr Shekhawat launched several landmark programmes that were focused on poverty alleviation. The successful implementation of his poverty alleviation programmes were recognized in India and abroad. The Aryaabdya scheme, poverty alleviation programmes aimed at alleviating the standards of the poorest of the poor was redesignated as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the entire country.

Mr Shekhawat wholeheartedly supported all agrarian reform movements and pressed for early and effective land reforms.

Mr Shekhawat steered successfully the three coalition governments headed by him in the State of Rajasthan. As the Vice-President of the Republic and Chairman of the Council of States, Mr Shekhawat is keen to evolve political consensus to address the core concerns facing the nation.

He is married to Mrs Suraj Kanwar and has one daughter. — MNA

Prime Minister attends dinner to mark conclusion of Master of Business Administration (MBA) Course No 7

YANGON, 1 Nov — A dinner to mark the conclusion of Master of Business Administration (MBA) Course No 7 of Yangon Institute of Economics was held at Dusit Inya Lake Resort this evening, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Vice-Chairmen of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the auditor-general, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, rectors, professors, MBA degree holders and guests.

Minister for Education U Than Aung delivered a speech. He said scholars have accepted that the 21st century is knowledge age. Education that inspire intelligence is the most important aspect, meaning the whole future social relations centered on education, he said. (See page 9)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed by MBA graduates at the dinner to mark the conclusion of Master of Business Administration (MBA) Course No 7. — MNA

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

YANGON, 1 Nov — At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, presents robes and offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed by MBA graduates at the dinner to mark the conclusion of Master of Business Administration (MBA) Course No 7. — MNA

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