Puja ca pujaneyyanam, to honour those worthy of honour; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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

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

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Secretary-General of Mae Fah Laung Foundation Chief Executive Officer of Doi Tung Development Project Mom Rajawongse Disnadda Diskul and party.— MNA

The Malaysian Minister and party arrive to attend ASEAN Ministers’ meeting on Agriculture and Forestry.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
University entrance for 2004-2005 academic year

YANGON, 6 Oct — Those who passed the 2004 matriculation examination are to personally draw the mark lists, biography, university entrance manual and university entrance application forms from the supervisors of respective examination centres beginning from 8 October to apply for the entrance. The applications can be sent right to Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) daily inclusive Saturdays and Sundays from 8 to 22 October. Detailed information is available at Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) on Thatonin Street, Kamayut Township, (Tel: 503147, 537677, 525612).—MNA

Winners in ASEAN Quiz announced

YANGON, 6 Oct — The Radio Myanmar of Myanmar Radio and Television is implementing the ASEAN in Action. In ASEAN Quiz for September held on 1 October, Maung Ye Hein Htut of Mingladon Township won the first prize. Dr Win Mar Myint of Kyauktada Township, Maung Soe Paing of Sangyang Town-ship, Hnin Hla Ma Khin Myo Kyaw of Insein Township won consolation prize. Officials presented prizes to the winners. The ASEAN Quiz for October will be held in MRTV at 10 am on 2 November. Those wishing to take part in the quiz are to report at Radio Myanmar Section at 9:30 am. Handsome prizes will be presented to the winners.—MNA

Entries invited to Colour Photo Contest

YANGON, 6 Oct — The 15th National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions Organizing Committee has announced to hold the colour photo contest. The title of the colour contest is “Developing Myanmar”. The entries are to be sent to Director U Tun Min of Information and Public Relations Department at 22/24, Pansodan Street, here, not later than 15 October. — MNA

Ministers leave for Vietnam to attend ASEM 5

YANGON, 6 Oct — Leader of the Myanmar delegation Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Tin Winn and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here by air this morning to attend the 5th Asia-Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM 5) to be held in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, from 7 to 9 October 2004. The ministers were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyaw of Insein Township and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Min of Information and Public Relations Department U Nyan Lynn have left in advance for Hanoi yesterday evening by air to attend the said meeting. An advance team led by Director-General of Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Thaung Tun also left in advance to attend the Senior Officials’ Meeting to be held in Hanoi on 6 October 2004 for the preparation of the Summit. MNA

Coord meeting to enhance improvement of cooperative societies held

YANGON, 6 Oct — The coordination meeting to enhance improvement of Central Cooperative Society and Cooperative Union was held at the Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, this morning. Present were Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, directors-general and officials of Cooperative Department, Department of Cottage Industries and Cooperative Export & Import Enterprise, the chairman and members of the Board of Directors of Central Cooperative Society and officials. The minister gave an opening speech. Next, Chairman of CCS U Win Sein and chairman of Cooperative Syndicates and officials reported on reforming of their respective organizational set-up and others. — MNA

Winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz announced by MRTV

Winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz organized by MRTV. MNA

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

Be aware of fabricated news, accusations

Myanmar is a peaceful and stable nation where four cardinal virtues — loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity — and deterrent principles of shame and fear flourish well. Myanmar enhances friendly ties with but never bears a grudge against other nations. She sticks together with her neighbours, ASEAN members and regional nations, cementing amicable relations.

Nowadays, the world nations have to brave delicate challenges. It is vividly clear that peace and security is under threat in the world. However, Myanmar constantly upholds the peaceful co-existence principles in dealing with other nations.

The United Nations approved of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence based on the concept that unity of world nations plays an important role. These principles continue to be practised by all up to now. But, in total disregard of these noble principles, neo-colonialists are now openly interfering in other nations' internal affairs and manufacturing fabricated news so as to serve their self-interests.

A coordination meeting was held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha, Yangon, on 5 October to adopt future tasks for protecting the rights of the children. Chairman of the Committee for Prevention against Recruitment of Minors Secretary-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the meeting, saying that the groups with negative views towards the country are making accusations on forced recruitment of minors for military service. They are also making false statements on narcotic drugs, human trafficking and forced labour with the intention of tarnishing the dignity of the State among international communities.

Myanmar has been shaping its brighter future with self-reliant efforts, but certain powers are fabricating false news so as to serve their self-interests, the destructive elements have invented such falsehoods on Myanmar in order to find a pretext.

Myanmar has prescribed laws, rules, orders and directives that protect the rights of the children, and prohibited forced labour as Myanmar people are noble-minded. It protects the rights of the children in accord with the Child Act enacted in 1993 and the Bylaw enacted in 2001. The entire national people are therefore to be united in serving the interests of the nation and the people, being aware of such false news and accusations to tarnish dignity of Myanmar in the international community.

Ministers leave for Vietnam to attend ASEM 5
1,061 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 5 Oct—As of Tuesday, 5 Oct, 2004, 1,061 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 806 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 7,730 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s weekly tally.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 923 US military members have died 697 as a result of hostile action and 226 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers as of Tuesday.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 1,061 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

Pentagon says nearly 200 wounded last week in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 6 Oct—The number of US troops wounded in Iraq increased by 198 over the past week, raising the total since the war began in March 2003 to 7,730, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

That is within the range of weekly increases reported over the past two months, which have varied from about 110 to 226 in one of the most intense periods of insurgent violence this year.

The Pentagon also announced that a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard was killed 3 October in Taji, Iraq. Sgt Christopher S Potts, 38, of Tiverton, RI, was hit by small arms fire while manning a traffic control post. He was with the 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery Regiment.

Potts was the third Army National Guard soldier to have been killed in Iraq this month, along with one active-duty soldier. National Guard and Reserve soldiers represent more than 40 percent of the 137,000 US troops in Iraq.

The violence this year.

Ten policemen killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Oct—Ten policemen, including a lieutenant-colonel, were killed in two separate attacks south of Baghdad, police said today.

Rebels opened fire on a group of policemen as they were returning to Baghdad from Mahmoudiya, 32 kilometres south of the capital yesterday, said Brigadier Ali al-Musaw. Lieutenant-Colonel Abdul-Latif Metasher Nejm was killed along with a major and five other policemen, he said. In Latifiyah, 8km further south, three policemen were shot dead yesterday as they stopped at a petrol station, said policeman Faec Nasser.

There was one survivor who told authorities the assailants took $US1 million ($1.39 million from their vehicle, Nasser said. It was not clear why the police had this amount of money in their possession.

The 25km stretch of road in which the two attacks took place is regarded as one of the most dangerous in Iraq after a series of high-profile kidnappings and deadly ambushes targeting foreign journalists and prominent politicians.

Chirac expresses France’s willingness to cooperate with China

PARIS, 5 Oct—French President Jacques Chirac said his country is willing to further strengthen cooperation with China, his spokesman told reporters on Monday.

Chirac has expressed his belief that China’s development is an opportunity for the economic growth and job increase in France, Jerome Bonnafont said.

“France must seize this chance because it has the capacity to be the partner of reference for China in many areas in which the strong features of the French economy can match the needs of China,” the spokesman said.

On Friday, Chirac will start a five-day state visit to China, which is also a return visit to the one paid to France by Chinese President Hu Jintao in January.

The two countries share some views on many political affairs, but France lags behind other European Union (EU) countries in terms of investment in China and has a long way to go amid fierce competition from such countries as the United States and Japan, he noted.

France is China’s fourth-largest trading partner in the EU, well behind leader Germany, although bilateral trade grew strongly to 13.4 billion US dollars last year and is expected to increase by 40 per cent this year.

Bonnafont said that during his visit, President Chirac and more than 50 French industrialists will launch a “concerted offensive” to win a larger slice of China’s market. Deals in energy sources, transport and aviation sectors are all due to be sealed, he added.

Guyana, China satisfied with development of ties

GEORGETOWN, 5 Oct—Guyanese President Bharrat Jagdeo and Prime Minister Samuel Hinds met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing respectively on Saturday, with both sides expressing satisfaction over the development of the relations between their countries. During the talks, Jagdeo said his country attaches importance to the relations with China and will firmly stick to the one-China policy. He expressed appreciation for the position of Guyana.

The two sides also exchanged views on how to strengthen bilateral relations, reform the United Nations and intensify South-South cooperation.

Also on Saturday, Li met with his Guyanese counterpart Samuel Rudolph Insanally. They attended the signing ceremony of agreements on economic and technological cooperation and on the relay of CCTV-9 programme in Guyana.

Guatemala, China satisfied with development of ties

MNA/Xinhua

“ANSA”, “Xinhua” sign news exchange agreement

ROME, 5 Oct—Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said Monday that he was satisfied with the agreement of journalism cooperation signed by China’s news agency, Xinhua and Italy’s ANSA.

“It is of great significance that Xinhua and ANSA will enhance their cooperation and exchanges,” Franco said when meeting with Xinhua news agency President, Tian Congming. The two are both influential news agencies in the world, he added.

The close cooperation in journalism will deepen the understanding and friendship between the Italian people and the Chinese people, he said. Tian thanked Frattini and the Italian Government’s long-time support to Xinhua’s Rome Bureau, saying Xinhua has strengthened its reporting on extensive European affairs.

The establishment of the European Regional Bureau of Xinhua in Brussels in May is a clear indication of Xinhua’s focus and on commitment to reporting on Europe, Tian said.

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MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier of the 1st Infantry Division takes position at a neighbourhood in Baghdad, some 125 kilometres north of Baghdad. —Internet
Rumsfeld admits “no hard evidence” linking Saddam, al-Qaeda

WASHINGTON, 5 Oct—Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Monday he knew of no “strong, hard evidence” linking Saddam Hussein’s Iraq and al-Qaeda, despite describing extensive contacts between the two before the Iraq invasion.

Rumsfeld, during a question-and-answer session before the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, was asked to explain the connection between Saddam and Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network, blamed for the September 11, 2001, attacks on America.

“I have seen the answer to that question migrate in the intelligence community over a period of a year in the most amazing way. Second, there are differences in the intelligence community as to what the relationship was,” Rumsfeld said.

“To my knowledge, I have not seen any strong, hard evidence that links the two,” Rumsfeld added.

“I just read an intelligence report recently about one person who’s connected to al-Qaeda who was in and out of Iraq. And it is the most tortured description of why he might have had a relationship and why he might not have had a relationship. It may have been something that was not representative of a hard linkage.”

US-led forces invaded Iraq in March 2003 and toppled Saddam and his government in a war whose main justification offered by the United States was the threat posed by Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons have been discovered.

But the relationship between Saddam’s government and al-Qaeda also figured in the US case for war.

A small Pentagon intelligence-analyses office found what it considered evidence of Iraq-al-Qaeda ties. Rumsfeld was one of the Bush Administration officials publicly describing this link. On 26 September, 2002, Rumsfeld told reporters at the Pentagon of evidence of contacts and cooperation.

“We have what we consider to be very reliable reporting of senior level contacts going back a decade, and of possible chemical and biological agent training. And when I say contacts, I mean between Iraq and al-Qaeda,” Rumsfeld said at the time.

“We have what we believe to be credible information that Iraq and al-Qaeda have discussed safe-haven opportunities in Iraq, reciprocal nonaggression discussions. We have what we consider to be credible evidence that al-Qaeda leaders have sought contacts in Iraq who could help them acquire...weapons of mass destruction capabilities,” Rumsfeld added at the time.

During a question-and-answer session at the Council on Foreign Relations on Monday, Rumsfeld also was asked what was the “number-one reason for the war.”

MNA/Reuters

Sadr may not take part in elections

BEIRUT, 6 Oct—Iraqi Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr hinted on Monday that he may not take part in elections planned for January, telling Lebanese television he rejected polls serving foreign not Iraqi interests.

“These are going to be US elections,” he told Lebanon’s al-Manar television. “I want elections for the Iraqi people, I want elections that are Iraqi, free and fair, nothing more, nothing less.”

Sadr also said he would only support someone who was untainted by the US-led occupation.

After three weeks of fighting between Sadr’s Mehdi Army and US and Iraqi forces in the southern city of Najaf in August, Sadr agreed to a peace initiative brokered by Iraq’s most influential religious leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

As part of the deal, Sistani pressured Sadr into agreeing to support the election. But some of his aides have since suggested he would boycott the polls.

Sadr also called on Iraqi security forces to stop working with US-led forces in Iraq. “I call on the Iraqi police and the Iraqi Army to show solidarity with their people and to quit the occupation,” he said.

Sadr reiterated his call for the release of two French journalists held hostage in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh Railway builds 361 km new track in three years

DHAKA, 5 Oct—The Bangladesh Railway (BR) has added 361 kilometres of new track to its countrywide network and improved the overall condition of this fragile sector in the last three years at an outlay of 17.1 billion taka (285 million US dollars).

The BR was a neglected sector for a long time, but it got a touch of modernization under the present government, The New Nation reported on Monday.

The report quoted BR sources as saying that the present government initiated 76 projects in the railway sector in the last three years with a special focus on maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and development.

The BR has a total track length of 2,880 kilometres across the country. The BR, which has a fleet of 277 engines, 1,410 passenger coaches and 13,679 four wheelers, operates 257 passenger trains and 55 goods trains round the clock.

The BR carries around 40 million passengers and 3.6 million tons of goods per annum.

Four US soldiers charged with killing Iraqi general

WASHINGTON, 5 Oct—The US military has charged four soldiers with murder in the death of an Iraqi general who suffocated after being shoved in a sleeping bag and physically abused during interrogation in Iraq last November, the Army said on Monday.

Chief Warrant Officers Jeffrey Williams and Lewis Welshofer Junior, Sergeant 1st Class William Sommer and Special Jerry Loper were charged with murder and dereliction of duty, officials at Fort Carson, Colorado, said in a statement.

Iraqi Major General Amir Hamed Mishouh, a key air-defence commander for toppled President Saddam Hussein’s military, died last November 26 of “asphyxia due to smothering and chest compression” while being detained by the US military in Al Qaim near the Syrian border, according to a death certificate released by the Army in May.

The criminal charges were the latest in a series brought against US troops stemming from the abuse and in some cases deaths of numerous prisoners held in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The murder charge carries a maximum sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole, while the dereliction charge carries a maximum sentence of six months of confinement, according to the statement. The US military initially described the general’s death as apparently from natural causes, but changed the account in the weeks after revelations surfaced this spring of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib Jail on the outskirts of Baghdad. — MNA/Reuters

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Two powerful explosions kill 15, dozens wounded in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 Oct— Two powerful explosions rocked central Baghdad separately on Monday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens of others, the US military and witnesses said.

In the first attack, a car bomb blew up near one entrance to the heavily fortified Green Zone and close to an Iraqi National Guard recruitment post, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 70 others, doctors and witnesses said.

A vehicle rushed into the entrance, where the US military has a checkpoint. The car bomb was detonated before reaching the entrance amid many bystanders, witnesses said.

“A vehicle-borne IED (improvised explosive device) was detonated near one of the checkpoints on the west side of the Green Zone,” the US military said.

According to the labels, the pieces date back from 1,500 BC to 150 BC. Qteishat said that the pieces were seized Saturday in an Iraqi car, which tried to enter Jordan at Al Karameh border, adding that the pieces will be examined by archaeological experts to get more details.

Jordan’s Customs has seized more than 1,500 pieces of the Iraqi antique of different kinds since June of 2003.

Malaysia, Morocco to foster business ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Oct— Malaysia and Morocco on Monday formed the Malaysia-Morocco Business Council (MMBC) to foster business ties and further facilitate mutual investment.

The establishment of MMBC showed that Malaysia maintained strong brotherly relations with Morocco politically as well as economically, Malaysian Foreign Min-

ister Syed Hamid Albar said at the launch of the council here.

He also called for more efforts to tap the vast potential between the private sectors of the two countries.

The minister’s speech was delivered by his Deputy Joseph Salang. Syed Hamid said that the Moroccan businessmen should take advantage of Morocco to penetrate the larger North African market and at the same time, Moroccan business people could use Malaysia as a base towards the larger Southeast Asian market.

Morocco is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), which also groups Tunisia, Al-
geria, Libya and Mauritania with a combined population of 80.4 milli-

on and an average gross domestic product per capita of 2,046 US dollars.

“In this regard, we are encouraged by the Moroccan Government’s policy to pursue trade liberalization, privatization and other re-
form measures with the aim of enhancing socio-economic development of the country and its people,” he said.

“I believe that the establishment of the Malaysia-Morocco Business Council is timely and a step in the right direction,” Syed Hamid said. Meanwhile, Moroc-
co’s State Secretary for Vocational Training, Employment, Social Af-
fairs and Solidarity, Said Oulbacha, said that there were a lot of opportuni-
ties that both countries could benefit from, par-

cularly in sectors like education, information technology, oil and gas, manufacturing as well as financial services.

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Philippines Govt sees no need to deploy more workers to Iraq

MANILA, 5 Oct— The presence of more than 4,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Iraq is already enough contribution of the Philippines to the rebuilding of Iraq, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said Monday.

Romulo, who just came back from New York for the UN Assembly, told reporters that the Philippines has had a good number of people in Iraq who are helping the war-torn country, which is “a sizable number by any standard”.

The remark was the response to the call of United Nation Secretary-Gen-

eral Kofi Annan for UN members to help in the rebuilding of Iraq.

“We pointed out to Secretary-General Annan that indeed we have more than 4,000 workers participating in the rebuilding of Iraq. Our team (humanitarian contingent) has (also) built school rooms, water facilities and other infra-
structure like roads, medical outreach programme,” Romulo said.

The secretary also stressed that the imposition of the ban on the deployment of OFWs in Iraq was made out of their safety concerns due to the heightened kidnapping incidents perpetrated by the Iraq militants in the war-torn country.

Despite the ban, 27 OFWs were con-

firmed to have managed to enter Iraq illegally.

In view of this, the Philippine Gov-

ernment has appealed to the Middle East countries bordering Iraq and the United States for the help in curbing illegal entry of more OFWs to Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Jordanian Customs seizes six pieces of Iraqi antique

AMMAN, 5 Oct— The Jordanian Customs has seized six smuggled pieces of the Iraqi antique, belonging to late Bronze Era, the Jordanian television reported on Sunday.

The pieces carried metal labels introducing their kinds and dates, Mahmmod Qteishat, director-general of the Customs Authority, was quoted as saying.

He said that the metal labels also revealed that these pieces belonged to Baghdad Museum, which was swept shortly after the US occupa-

tion of Iraq.

According to the labels, the pieces were a lot of opportuni-
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Philippines Govt sees no need to deploy more workers to Iraq

MANILA, 5 Oct— The presence of more than 4,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Iraq is already enough contribution of the Philippines to the rebuilding of Iraq, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said Monday.

Romulo, who just came back from New York for the UN Assembly, told reporters that the Philippines has had a good number of people in Iraq who are helping the war-torn country, which is “a sizable number by any standard”.

The remark was the response to the call of United Nation Secretary-Gen-

eral Kofi Annan for UN members to help in the rebuilding of Iraq.

“We pointed out to Secretary-General Annan that indeed we have more than 4,000 workers participating in the rebuilding of Iraq. Our team (humanitarian contingent) has (also) built school rooms, water facilities and other infra-
structure like roads, medical outreach programme,” Romulo said.

The secretary also stressed that the imposition of the ban on the deployment of OFWs in Iraq was made out of their safety concerns due to the heightened kidnapping incidents perpetrated by the Iraq militants in the war-torn country.

Despite the ban, 27 OFWs were con-

firmed to have managed to enter Iraq illegally.

In view of this, the Philippine Gov-

ernment has appealed to the Middle East countries bordering Iraq and the United States for the help in curbing illegal entry of more OFWs to Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua
Iraq to lower tax rates on industrial projects

BAGHDAD, 5 Oct— The Iraqi Finance Ministry announced that it would lower tax rates on industrial projects, Al Mashiq newspaper reported recently.

The decision was aimed at removing taxes which represented obstacles to industrial projects, like customs imposed on agricultural equipment and lands allocated to establish plants, a ministry official said.

The ministry was working in coordination with tax and Customs departments to tackle the problem of high fees which hindered the improvement of the industrial sector, the official said.

The official added that the tax department would measure the tax on net profits within a reasonable rate. 

Japan to ask US to move Marine bases from Okinawa

TOKYO, 5 Oct— Japan plans to ask the United States to move some US Marine bases from its southernmost prefecture of Okinawa to a location outside Japan, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun said on Monday.

The report comes as Washington considers the details of its Global Defense Posture Review, under which it plans to cut the number of US troops deployed overseas by up to 70,000.

In return for the removal of the 2,600 Marines, Japan would offer the US extra storage facilities for weapons, fuel and other military equipment, the Yomiuri said.

Tokyo was also considering allowing US troops to use domestic military bases and civilian airport and port facilities, something currently only permitted in emergencies, the Yomiuri said.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and US President George W. Bush agreed last month to accelerate talks on easing the military burden on Japan, especially Okinawa, after a dispute over the handling of a military helicopter crash.

Tokyo complained that the United States resumed CH-53D Sea Stallion flights without fully explaining the cause of a crash involving the same model at a university campus in Okinawa in August. Three crew members were injured in the crash, but no one on the ground was hurt. Koizumi said in a speech last week that he would consider relocating some functions of US bases to the mainland, in line with a US request. Likely difficulty in persuading local governments to play host to the troops led the government to decide to ask for their removal, the Yomiuri said.

Okinawa, Japan’s poorest prefecture and home to about half of the 47,000-strong US military presence in Japan, has long been bearing what many see as an unfair share of the defence burden.

Nigeria to launch four-day polio immunization drive

LAGOS, 5 Oct—Local government offices across Nigeria are to launch a four-day polio immunization drive aimed at polio eradication during the National Immunization Days (NIDs) on 9-12 October, the News Agency of Nigeria reported recently.

Baver Dzeremo, president of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria, was quoted as saying that the move was “to mobilize workers for the total eradication of polio in the country”.

Teachers and traditional rulers would join in bringing out children for the exercise, he said.

NIDs are days earmarked for house-to-house administration of oral polio vaccines on children below five years, irrespective of their previous immunization status, he said.

“The aim is to boost immunity in the entire community and to stop the transmission of the wild polio virus which cripples or kills infected children,” he added.

Over 300 Iraqis injured daily by mines, bombs

BAGHDAD, 5 Oct— More than 300 Iraqis were injured everyday by mines, bombs, and explosions across the country, Al Taqaddum newspaper quoted a Minister of Health official as saying on Sunday.

The statistics were based on trial survey made on injuries caused by explosions and bombs, which showed that more than 300 persons were injured everyday, most of them were children, the official said.

The source pointed out that the mine injuries in Iraq were one of the highest in the world, and thousands of mines which were not defused threatened the lives of Iraqis people.

There were also unexploded bombs thrown by American airplanes during the Iraq war across the country. — MNA/Xinhua

UN, ICC sign cooperation agreement

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Oct— The United Nations signed on Monday an agreement with the International Criminal Court (ICC), the world’s first permanent tribunal to try war crimes, in a bid to encourage greater cooperation and consultation between the two organizations.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and ICC president Judge Philippe Kirsch signed the agreement at the UN headquarters in New York. UN spokesman Fred Eckhard told reporters.

The agreement recognizes the status and mandate of each organization and outlines that the two institutions will cooperate closely on administrative and judicial matters and consult each other on issues of mutual interest.

Under the accord, which was approved by the UN General Assembly last month despite US objection, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Council for the Prevention of Genocide and the UN Children’s Fund will cooperate with the world court.

The document enables UN humanitarian and peacekeeping missions, especially those deployed in areas where atrocities are committed, to provide information and services to the court. It also allows UN officials to testify before the court. The pact provides for an observer status at the UN General Assembly for the court based in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The ICC, established in July 2002, can try cases involving people charged with committing genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious human rights violations if national courts are unwilling or incapable to do so. As of September 27, a total of 97 nations have signed on as members of the court. — MNA/Xinhua

Nepali Govt team visits Gulf region

KATHMANDU, 5 Oct— As part of a goodwill visit to the Gulf region, a high-level Nepali Government team left here on Sunday for the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

An official from the Nepali Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Xinhua that Minister of State for Labour and Transport Management Urba Dutta Pant left here on Sunday for the United Arab Emirates, signed the agreement at the UN headquarters. The pact provides for an consultation between the two organizations.

The official added that the tax department would measure the tax on net profits within a reasonable rate. 

The UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and ICC president Judge Philippe Kirsch signed the agreement at the UN headquarters, the official said.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Council for the Prevention of Genocide and the UN Children’s Fund will cooperate with the world court.

Likewise, Minister for Information and Communication Mohammed Mohsin will join them on Tuesday, Royal Nepalese Ambassadors to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE will also join the team that will visit the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait.

“During the visit, the team will boost morale of the Nepali workers there, seek concessions from the Gulf countries for Nepali workers, and will express Nepal’s commitment that Muslims won’t be attacked in Nepal at all,” the official quoted Mohsin as saying.

An Iraqi security officer gestures as a body is carried away following a car bomb in the Sadoon neighborhood, central Baghdad recently. —INTERNET
Libraries built on self-reliant basis to disseminate knowledge

Up to 5 October 2004, altogether 9,085 self-reliant libraries were opened nationwide.

The opening ceremony of the self-reliant library of Hlawgar Village in Shwepyitha Township. — IPRD

The self-reliant library in Thayin Village in Pindaya Township, Shan State (South), being opened. — IPRD

A library of model Bonshegon Village in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Division, being opened. — IPRD

The opening ceremony of the self-reliant library in Phaungwe Village in DaikU Township, Bago Division. — IPRD

The opening ceremony of the self-reliant library of North Okkalapa Township in Yangon. — IPRD

Bringing the library to the people and bringing the people to the library.
USDA Secretariat Member tours Kachin State

YANGON, 6 Oct—Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in-charge of Kachin State USDA Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw held a meeting with members of Hope and Indawgyi Region USDA on 3 October.

At the meeting, the USDA Secretariat Member fulfilled the requirements. Next, he inspected rural libraries and bio-mass generators in Pmabaw and Mankhet villages.

In the afternoon, he met members of Mogaung, Phakant and Tanai Townships USDA at Mogaung and presented gifts to the member students who passed the matriculation exam with distinctions. He also looked into Kanyin- myaing rural auto-exchange in Mogaung Township.

On 4 October, the USDA Secretariat Member attended the opening of Waingmaw Township USDA building. He formally opened the building. At the meeting with members of Waingmaw Township USDA, he presented gifts to the students who got through the matriculation exam with flying colours.

Afterwards, he attended the annual meeting of Myitkyina Township USDA and presented gifts to the students who passed the matriculation exam outstandingly.

Yesterday, the Ministry visited Sayadaw of the Abbot Training School in Myitkyina Dhammacaraya Maha Gandhavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vicittasara Bhivamsa and offered cash donations to him.

The Ministry also presented cash donations to Parami Oo free clinic and rice, edible oil and cash donations to Kachin Baptist Council. — MNA
Ministry of Agriculture and Planning Department of the Tin Htut Oo of Agricultural Emergency Rice Reserve—EARR and the Asia Emergency Rice Reserve-EARR and the
Republic of China, Japan countries the People's Secretariat, three partner officials of the ASEAN their tasks in preparation competition is to be held previous year. The Myanmar Traditional and replied to queries raised by those present. And then, preparations are to be made for presenting prizes to national race contestants who would not win awards in the contestants. Especially, health care service is to be given to the maestros who contributes to holding the competitions. Similarly, health care service will be provided to members of the panel of judges from States and Divisions. All members of the committee, sub-committees and members of the panel of judges are to give suggestions for successfully holding the competitions on a grander scale than the previous year.

Next, officials of the sub-committees submitted their respective reports. Afterwards, penal penalties were awarded to those who did not enlist and reply to queries raised by those present.

Senior Officials Meeting …

Irrigation presided over the meeting. First, Meeting Chairman U Tin Htut Oo delivered an address. He said I also express my sincere appreciation to the Senior Officials from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for their kind presence at the current meeting. I sincerely believe that their active participation, dissemination of views and exchange of ideas will further strengthen our cooperation for future collaborative programme. ASEAN also remains highly receptive to assistance for the development of its food, agriculture, forestry sectors, especially for the New ASEAN Members, in the area of research and development for sustainable agriculture and food security, natural resources and environmental conservation and management and in biotechnology and bio-safety.

I would like to stress that this meeting will be providing us an available opportunity to exchange views and identify subjects for further cooperation between ASEAN Members and our East Asia Dialogue Partners, and also on their regional and international issues.

We need to seek and explore jointly, the most appropriate measures conducive for the progress of ASEAN agriculture and ensure that all enjoy the benefits by the continuation of our AMAF Plus Three Meetings.

And I trust that all of you will be extending your active contribution to this meeting in generating new areas of cooperation with mutual interests.

This important meeting will be covering a lot of topics that have been identified as areas of interest for cooperation — and I remain confident we will be emerging with good results.

And in conclusion, I would also like to stress that I am convinced our close and friendly relationship will grow from strength to strength.

Next, the Thai delegation discussed the pilot project of East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve-EARR and the ASEAN Food Security Information System—AFISS under the agenda of the Alleviation of Poverty and Strengthening Food Security in the Asian region.

Afterwards, all participants reviewed research and development of food, agriculture, fisheries and forest sectors and holding of workshops, training courses and round tables for human resources development in food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

ASEAN senior officials and delegates of three partner countries discussed coordination and cooperation in international and regional issues in food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, agriculture information networking and exchange and trade facilitation.

Next, they considered the draft report and recommendations of the Chairman of SOM-AMAF + 3 on the progress of ASEAN+3 cooperation activities.

The participants negotiated the new project proposal and discussed functions of Asian Farmers’ Group for Cooperation—AFGC.

Later, they coor-
An absurd decision of the US Senate

Aung Moe San

There used to be a fable in which two traders entrusted their merchandise with each other and one of them cheated the other by saying the wire nails left in his custody were consumed by rats and when the other asked about his child left in the latter’s custody he said the child was snatched away by a kite. All are lies and slanders to win over others through unjust means.

Recently, we were tired of hearing news reports disseminated by news agencies under the influence of the West, saying that Myanmar was threatening the whole Southeast Asia; and that the US Senate had made a unanimous decision to present the matter to the UN Security Council. It was an act of hatred against Myanmar that is in the process of building a democratic nation in peace and stability, and also her cordial relations and cooperation with her neighbours and active participation in the ASEAN, Asian and international affairs.

The cause behind the act is that Myanmar has never yielded to the US influence and acted in accord with its own determination. If the existing Government yielded to the US influence, it is far away from Myanmar that is in the process of building a democratic nation in peace and stability, and also her cordial relations and cooperation with her neighbours and active participation in the ASEAN, Asian and international affairs.

Even if Myanmar’s situation is a threat to the regional security, the complaint will be made only by the neighbours and Southeast Asian countries themselves. But now, the US that is far away from Myanmar is showing undue concern over other’s affairs. So ridiculous is that the US’s attitude in this matter is like the sayings, which go, “the pan is not hot, but the lid is on fire” and “To make a mountain out of a mole hill.”

East peace initiative designed by the US. In addition to harming the Arab unity, the Greater Middle East Policy in which Afghanistan, Iraq and Tur- key are inclusive, will also leave aside the Palestinian cause. It will also harm the efforts to enforce cooperation between the Arab world and the EU, he expressed his view. The US government in February announced a programme to promote democracy in the Middle East starting from Morocco in the west- ern end to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the eastern edge. Any kind of reform should be carried out within the country con- cerned, and the external countries cannot implement a programme, insisted Ghali, saying that the US President Bush regarding himself a law-maker is doing one- sided actions. The UN reform programme was affected the world, pointed out Ghali, who served as the UN sec- retary-general from 1992 to 1996.

Every nation in this world has the right to self- determination, said Ghali, who opposes the Middle East peace initiative de- signed by the US. In addi- tion to harming the Arab unity, the Greater Middle East Policy in which Afghanistan, Iraq and Turkey are inclusive, will also leave aside the Palestinian cause. It will also harm the efforts to enforce cooperation between the Arab world and the EU, he expressed his view. The US government in February announced a programme to promote democracy in the Middle East starting from Morocco in the western end to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the eastern edge. Any kind of reform should be carried out within the country concerned, and the external countries cannot implement a programme, insisted Ghali, saying that the US President Bush regarding himself a law-maker is doing one-sided actions. The UN reform programme was affected the world, pointed out Ghali, who served as the UN secretary-general from 1992 to 1996.

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New reports on situation of Afghan children launched

Geneva, 6 Oct — Two new reports presenting a comprehensive insight and analysis of the condition of Afghan women and children were published Tuesday, said the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

These are the first nationwide assessment of issues affecting women and children to be produced in eight years, UNICEF spokesman Damien Personnaz told reporters here.

The reports show that, in some areas, prospects for children have improved in recent years but indicates much work still needs to be done to compensate for decades of conflict, under-investment and international isolation, he said.

More than 20,800 households in 32 provinces of Afghanistan were covered in the survey, which is led by the Afghanistan Central Statistical Office with the support of UNICEF.

One of the reports is “Progress of Provinces; results of the 2003 Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)”, and the other is the accompanying analysis report “Changing Lives”.

According to the reports, one in nine children born in Afghanistan will probably die before the first birthday, and 45 per cent of all primary school age children are not enrolled in school.

Also among the key findings of the reports are diarrhoeal disease affects nearly 30 per cent of children under the age of five, nearly 60 per cent of Afghan households do not have a safe water point while one-third of households do not have a sanitary latrine, etc.

“These two reports are vitally important in enabling the government, UNICEF and other development actors to better focus their programmes for women and children, to play better services that address the real needs of children, and advocate for better targeting of resources in areas where more work is required,” said Waheed Hassan, UNICEF representative in Afghanistan. — MNA/Xinhua

Two ex-auditors of Parmalat will stand trial in Italy

Milan, 6 Oct — An Italian judge opened preliminary hearings on Tuesday into the 14-billion-euro collapse of Parmalat and immediately ruled that two former auditors of the food group should stand trial in one of Europe’s biggest fraud cases.

Ten months after Parmalat plunged into insolvency, Judge Cesare Tacconi has started hearings to determine whether to put on trial 32 individuals and companies accused of crimes concerning the financial scandal including market-rigging.

Tacconi quickly ruled that two former Grant Thornton auditors, Lorenzo Penco and Maurizio Bianchi, should stand trial starting in January, their lawyer, Salvatore Stivara, said. The judge has yet to decide whether to indict the 30 other accussed in what would be one of the biggest trials in Italian corporate history.

Dozens of investors filed into Milan’s main court to register as civil plaintiffs in the fraud case, a reminder of the shock waves that Parmalat sent through global markets when it collapsed late last year. — MNA/Reuters

Oil prices on London Market rise to near record high

London, 6 Oct — Oil prices on London International Petroleum Exchange rallied on Tuesday to a high level just next to its last record of 46.80 US dollars a barrel seen last week.

Traders said the price of reference Brent North Sea crude oil for delivery in November rose 55 cents to 46.74 US dollars in early deals, before sliding back to 46.19 US dollars a barrel.

Meanwhile, traders said the price of light sweet crude for November delivery climbed 43 cents to 50.34 dollars a barrel in pre-opening electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

“There was some technical buying in London, which pushed the market higher,” analyst Bruce Evers said. Despite the easing of tensions in Nigeria, markets remained concerned about tight supplies ahead of winter in the Northern hemisphere.

Traders were also nervous about ongoing disruption to oil supplies in the Gulf of Mexico.

“There is still a lot of the Gulf of Mexico production out of action since the hurricane (Ivan),” Evers said. Almost 30 per cent of the 1.7 million barrels of daily production in the Gulf of Mexico remains disrupted by recent hurricanes, according to the US Minerals Management Service, a government agency.

Venezuela to buy 40 Russian attack helicopters

Caracas, 6 Oct — Venezuela has reached an accord with Russia on buying 40 Russian attack helicopters to defend its border with Colombia, local media reported Tuesday. The accord was signed in Moscow as part of ongoing four-day visit there by Venezuelan Vice-President Jose Rangel. According to the agreement, the first 10 helicopters will be delivered to Venezuela in two or three months.

Venezuela and Colombia share a 2,200-kilometer border. Violence stemming from Colombia’s four-decade civil war involving leftist rebels, government troops and outlawed right-wing paramilitary groups often spreads into Venezuela.

Nine art objects stolen from museum in central London

London, 6 Oct — Nine art objects worth about 60,000 pounds (about 108,000 US dollars) have been stolen from a cabinet in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the museum said Tuesday.

The objects, which were stolen Monday, consisted of three small cups, two miniature animal figures, a bowl, two small ornamental plaques and a small ritual cylinder, according to the museum.

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TRADE MARK CAUTION

Kraft Foods Holdings, Inc. is a Delaware corporation, of Three Lakes Drive, Northfield, Illinois 60093-2753, U.S.A.is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

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Reg. No. 2131/1991

Reg. No. 2129/1991

Reg. No. 2133/1991

NEWTONS
Reg. No. 2136/1991

Reg. No. 2139/1991

Reg. No. 2138/1991

RITZ
Reg. No. 2137/1991

in respect of “processed nuts and seeds; savory snacks; peanut butter; processed dried fruit and nut mix; confectionery, crackers and popcorn”

ROYAL
Reg. No. 2134/1991

in respect of “preserved, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; milk, butter, margarine; crackers, biscuits, cookies, snack foods; yeast, bread, cakes, pastries, cereals and cereal preparations; food stuffs for animals; non-alcoholic beverages; fruit drinks and fruit juices and preparations for making beverages”

PLANTERS
Reg. No. 2136/1991

Reg. No. 2137/1991

Reg. No. 2138/1991

Reg. No. 2139/1991

Reg. No. 2140/1991

Reg. No. 2141/1991

in respect of “preserved, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; milk, butter, margarine; crackers, biscuits, cookies, snack foods; yeast, bread, cakes, pastries, cereals and cereal preparations; food stuffs for animals; non-alcoholic beverages; fruit drinks and fruit juices and preparations for making beverages”

NABISCO
Reg. No. 2127/1991

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Dealt with according to said Trade Marks will be unauthorised use of the real preparations”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L., is Kraft Foods Holdings, Inc.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 7 October 2004

INVITATION TO TENDER
Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Medical Equipment.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, No-57, Sakawa Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, commencing from (8.10.2004).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Central Medical Stores Depot, not later than (29.10.2004) 14:00 hours, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/telex proposal will be accepted.

For further information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No. 371284, 371969.

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

MNA/Xinhua
New round of anti-drug campaign targets Bangkok’s slum

BANGKOK, 6 Oct — Thailand’s latest round of anti-drug campaign launched on Monday will target drug dealers and users in the downtown slum reported on Tuesday.

“Klong Toei has never been drug free,” said the Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday, referring to the slum community located in the southern part of Bangkok.

The Prime Minister instructed police officials and Education Ministry to coordinate their efforts to keep people unemployed and children dropping out of school from the drug business and advertising.

“I am serious about taking action against drug traffickers. Government officials, police in particular, must take action too as these traffickers destroy youths’ lives, ruin the economy and damage the country,” he was quoted by newspaper The Nation as saying.

Pledging no mercy to the people in illegal drug business, Thaksin warned of the serious situation faced with the country in terms of drug trafficking.

“Now, I know drugs have gradually made a comeback though at a much different degree than before,” he was quoted by Bangkok Post as saying. “Ketamine has been brought in via Cambodia where it is not considered a drug.”

MNA/Xinhua

CBI survey shows British business declining

LONDON, 5 Oct — Gloom has overtaken Britain’s finance industry as profitability slumps, new business declines, costs rise and job cuts loom, a Confederation of British Industry (CBI) survey showed on Monday.

“Confidence has reached new lows for both manufacturing and services” said the CBI survey.

Financial services, which account for almost 7 per cent of Britain’s economic output, had remained buoyant compared with manufacturing in the past year, until recently when British stuttering recovery fed through to the money industry, the CBI said.

The figure measuring the balance of optimism versus pessimism in the industry slipped to -22 in the third quarter of this year from +13 in the previous quarter, and is set to fall again in the fourth quarter.

West Africa’s worst locust infestation for more than a decade has wreaked havoc in some of the world’s poorest nations, causing substantial damage to grain crops across thousands of hectares (acres) in a region where many are subsistence farmers.

“The swarms seen in recent days in Nouakchott have come from the reproduction of the first generation which came down from the north,” said Mohamed El Hacen Ouljaa, head of operations at Mauritania’s desert locust centre (CLAA).

“They’re winged juvenile starting their migration and fattening up before they set off. They’re very hungry.”

Children ran through the city’s dusty streets beating the air with sticks to try to chase the insects away; older residents looked on at the locusts with resigned dismay.

“This is becoming our daily lot,” said Alpha, whose city-centre vegetable patch was ravaged by the airborne pests.

MNA/Xinhua

Locusts invade Mauritania’s capital for 3rd time

NOUAKCHOTT, 5 Oct — Locusts have invaded Mauritania’s capital Nouakchott for the third time in as many months, forming massive new swarms munching their way through what remains of the city’s greenery, residents said on Sunday.

Fishermen’s boats block the access to the oil port of Lavera outside Martigues, southern France, on 4 Oct, 2004. — Internet

China, Romania exchange greetings on anniversary of ties

BEIJING, 6 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Romanian counterpart, Ion Iliescu, exchanged greetings on Tuesday to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

“Leaders of the two countries have maintained contacts; political trust has been enhanced; cooperation in various fields has been quite fruitful; and the two countries have cooperated closely and supported each other in international affairs,” said Hu.

“The two countries are good friends and partners that respect each other.” Hu said his visit to Romania in June has led bilateral relations to a new direction when the two sides agreed to promote them to a new partnership of cooperation.

“I firmly believe that with joint efforts, our friendly relations will be even healthier,” said Hu.

Iliescu said in his message that traditional friendship between the two countries has been thriving.

“Bilateral relations to a new milestone in bilateral ties, signed by him and Hu this year, have been enhanced; cooperation in various fields has been quite fruitful; and the two countries have cooperated closely and supported each other in international affairs,” said Iliescu.

“I firmly believe that with joint efforts, our friendly relations will be even healthier,” said Hu.

MNA/Xinhua

Aishwarya Rai to visit Pakistan to campaign against breast cancer

Islamabad, 6 October — Former Miss World and Bollywood (India’s film industry) queen Aishwarya Rai will visit Pakistan by the end of this month as a goodwill ambassador to raise funds for the recently launched campaign against breast cancer.

The campaign known as ‘Pink Ribbon’ (to create awareness about breast cancer) has been launched by an NGO, the Women Empowerment Group, last month.

Rai is visiting at the invitation of the group, local daily ‘Dawn’ quoted Omar Aftab, a representative of the ‘Pink Ribbon’ as saying.

He said Rai had shown deep concern over the increasing number of breast cancer patients in Pakistan and lack of awareness about the disease.

The former Miss World, he said, would stay in Pakistan for two days. During her stay, she would attend a dinner in Islamabad for fund raising.

Aftab said Cherrie Blair, wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, is also expected to visit Pakistan in March for the awareness campaign.

Pink Ribbon is an international symbol for support for breast cancer awareness, for more than 10 years. Every year in October, citizens are urged to wear pink ribbons in honour of the women fighting against breast cancer.

— MNA/PTI

MNA/Xinhua
**Emirates airline sponsors Arsenal worth potential £178.2m**

**London, 6 Oct—** Premier League champions Arsenal announced a sponsorship deal with Emirates airline worth a potential 100 million pounds (178.2 million US dollars) on Tuesday, the biggest in English football history.

The London club's new 60,000-seat stadium, due to open in 2006, will be known as the Emirates Stadium and the Dubai-based airline will also sponsor the team's shirts for eight years starting from 2006.

This is a historic day in the life of Arsenal football club,” chairman Peter Hill-Wood told a news conference at Arsenal's long-time home Highbury. “Highbury holds very special memories for us but it simply could not meet the huge demands from our supporters.”

Arsenal have won the Premier League title twice in the last three seasons, challenging the supremacy of Manchester United, champions in eight of the last 12 seasons.

Hill-Wood believes the Emirates sponsorship can only improve Arsenal on and off the pitch.

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**Man United shares boost by over 5%**

**London, 5 Oct—** Manchester United received a bid approach on Monday that boosted their shares by over 5 per cent as industry sources said US sports tycoon Malcolm Glazer planned a bid of over 650 million pounds.

“This approach contains a number of significant conditions,” the club said in a statement issued to the London stock exchange on Monday without identifying the suitor.

“The company is seeking clarification of this proposal, and at this stage it is unclear whether any offer will be made.”

Although Glazer declined to comment, sources close to the matter confirmed the tycoon was behind the bid approach, which drew an angry reaction from United fans fearing for the club’s future if he borrowed heavily to fund a takeover.

Shares in United closed at the day’s high, up 5.3 per cent at 271 pence — an eight-month closing high — valuing the club at around 710 million pounds.

Fourth in the Premier League standings, United have been the subject of persistent takeover talk. They are a profitable, debt-free business with one of the best-known sports brands globally and marketing potential in the United States and Asia.

Glazer, who owns the Tampa Bay Buccaneers American football team, already has a stake of 19.2 per cent in United, but if he were to mount a bid, he would probably need the support of United’s top shareholders, Irish racing tycoons John Magnier and J.P. McManus, who own 28.9 per cent.

Analysts were sceptical Glazer would be able to raise enough cash to make a bid, unless he were to sell his holding in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers or part of his property portfolio.

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**Fulham launch court claim for damages against French ex-manager**

**London, 5 Oct—** Fulham launched a landmark court claim for damages on Monday against French ex-manager Jean Tigana, whom they accuse of grossly overpaying millions of pounds for two signings.

The 24-year-old sustained the injury after making a rare start in Saturday’s World Cup qualifier against Wales.

The 24-year-old sustained the injury after making a rare start in Saturday’s World Cup qualifier against Wales.

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**Owen rules out quick return to Liverpool**

**London, 6 Oct —** England striker Michael Owen is upset by British media coverage of his faltering start at Real Madrid and has ruled out a quick return to Liverpool.

Owen, who has yet to score a goal after joining Real from Liverpool in August, also said in a column in Tuesday’s edition of The Times that he hoped to shake off a bad habit in time for Saturday’s World Cup qualifier against Wales.

“Plenty of others are doubting me, but I know that I will succeed in Spain,” he said. “I am aware of what is being said about me in this country and it is upsetting that people are not more supportive.”

“I thought we were meant to be encouraging our top players to take on the challenge of proving themselves abroad. I heard there was talk over the weekend about me coming back to Liverpool.”

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**Racing sack coach**

**Strasbourg (France), 5 Oct—** Racing Strasbourg, bottom of French Ligue 1 after nine games, sacked coach Antoine Kombouare on Monday.

The club said Kombouare, who took over in June 2003, would be replaced by Jacky Dupuyeroux, who has been in charge of recruiting.

“A after a weekend as regards the team’s performance, which was appalling on the pitch,” Strasbourg president Egin Gindorff told a news conference.

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**Martins will be out of action for up to a month**

**Rome, 5 Oct—** Inter Milan striker Obafemi Martins will be out of action for up to a month after injuring his foot during a 3-3 draw against AS Roma at the weekend, the club announced on their website on Monday.

The 19-year-old Nigerian international was carried off just before halftime at Rome’s Olympic Stadium after being tackled from behind by Roma midfielder Daniele De Rossi.

Initial fears that he had fractured his fibula turned out to be false, though the injury could force him out of Serie A rival Udinese, AC Milan, Lecce and Lazio, as well as Inter’s Champions League away fixture against Valencia on October 20.

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**Redknapp charged with foul play on Tim Cahill**

**London, 5 Oct—** Tottenham Hotspur’s Jamie Redknapp has been charged with serious foul play after a tackle on Everton’s Australian midfielder Tim Cahill in their Premier League game on Saturday.

Redknapp was cautioned by referee Graham Poll, but FA rules say if they are satisfied a player should have been sent off they can act.

Cahill was the victim of an ugly-looking challenge on his knee. Everton physio Mick Rathbone told the club’s web site: “None of the major structures have been damaged. He still has a sore, swollen knee, but it is unclear whether he will be fit for our next game.”

Midfielder Redknapp has apologized for the tackle. Tottenham won the match 1-0.—MNA/Reuters

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**Crystal Palace beat Fulham 2-0**

**London, 5 Oct—** Crystal Palace notched their first Premier League win of the season with a 2-0 victory on Monday over London rivals Fulham, who played for all but the first six minutes with 10 men. The three points gave Palace five from eight games and lifted them off the bottom of the table but they stayed firmly in the relegation zone in 19th place in the 20-strong League.

Fulham were forced to dig a goal back after Ian Pearce was sent off for fouling Palace striker Andy Johnson in a professional foul 30 metres from goal.

Johnson made Fulham pay when he struck the 53rd minute, gliding the ball past Edwin van der Sar.

Fifteen minutes later Finland midfielder Aki Riihilahti headed home from a corner to score his first goal for two years. Arsenal top the Premier League on 22 points, two clear of Chelsea.—MNA/Reuters

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**An Indonesian worker puts a finishing touch on a giant cake measuring 806 metres wide and 5 metres high, in a Jakarta shopping centre on 1 Oct, 2004. The cake, made by Indonesian cake maker Nila Sari, was created for peace and unity in Indonesia. The cake was made with more than a ton of sugar, 1,000 pounds of rice flour, 900 pounds of butter, and 12,000 eggs and will be distributed to the poor.—INTERNET**
**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 6 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

**MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kakhi, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagain Division, scattered in Shan State, Ayeyawady and Paninthisi Divisions, isolated in the Lower State, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and weather has been cloudy in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kakhi State and upper Sagain Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Shwegu (5.98 inches), Katha (5.16 inches) and Bhamo (2.44 inches).

**Bay influence:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in West Central Bay and North Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 7-10 October 2004: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kakhi, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States and upper Sagain Division and isolated 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: Consequent showers or thundershowers are likely in the southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighboring area for 7-10 October 2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighboring area for 7-10 October 2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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MINISTER INSPECTS CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS, BRIDGES

YANGON, 6 Oct — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected maintenance of roads and bridges on Yangon-Pyay Road, Padaung-Taungup Road and Taungup-Maei Road on 1 and 2 October.

On 3 October morning, the minister and party arrived at Lonedawpauk Bridge construction site in Maei Township and gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, they proceeded to Thanthamagyi Bridge construction site at mile-post No 13/7 on Maei-Kyaupkyu Road where Senior Engineer U Thila reported to the minister on progress of work and future plans. The minister gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

Similarly, the minister also inspected Thanthamachay Bridge construction site at mile-post No 17/4 Minkyaung Chaung Bridge construction site at mile-post No 26/1 on Maei-Kyaupkyu Road and the site chosen to construct Wanpikeochaung Bridge the at mile-post No 21/1.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun went to Thazintan Bridge construction site at mile-post No 19/2 and fulfilled the requirements. Of nine bridges on Maei-Kyaupkyu Road, the three ones namely Kyaukkyaup Bridge, Sanepauk Bridge and Didokpauk Bridge have been inaugurated.

Lonedawpauk, Thanthamagyi, Thazin-saneipauk and Minkyaungchaung bridges are under construction and arrangements are being made to construct Wanphaik Bridge.

The minister and party arrived at Maei-Kyaupkyu Road construction project the next day and gave instructions. Later, he viewed the construction work and installation of iron beams at Thanthamagyi Bridge.

The objectives of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are: to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens; to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage; to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts; to preserve Myanmar national characters; to nurture spiritual development of the youths; and to prevent influence of alien culture.

Present on the occasion were leaders of senior officials delegations from ASEAN countries-Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Also present on the occasion were chairmen and members of the Leading Committee and the Work Committee.

(See page 9)