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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses opening ceremony of 26th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and 4th Meeting of AMAF Plus Three.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photos together with delegates to 26th AMAF & 4th AMAF+3.— MNA

YANGON, 7 Oct — The 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three was opened this morning at Sedona Hotel here with an opening address by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

The opening cer-
Boost production of finished wood products

For the development of Yangon City in accordance with the characteristics of other cities in the world, urban development plans are systematically being carried out by building modern housing estates, wide streets, industrial zones and recreation parks in and around the City.

According to the urban development plans, the Wataya wood-based industrial zone of Myanmar Timber Enterprise now has been established in Shwepyitha Township and not only State-owned saw mills and wood-based factories but also private-owned factories that produce value-added wood products are already operating there.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party visited the Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and Shwelinpan industrial zones and inspected the mills and factories there on 2 October. In his meeting with departmental personnel and national entrepreneurs of the Wataya wood-based industrial zone, the Prime Minister called on them to boost the production of finished wood products which are in demand, to maintain a stable market, to pay taxes regularly and to extend the use of modern machinery.

For the entrepreneurs to be able to run their businesses more widely, all the requirements have been fulfilled. For example, plots of land have already been allocated, roads built, water and electricity supplied and raw materials provided. Myanmar is rich in valuable forest resources including teak and some of the foreign exchange needed for the national development comes from wood export. It will be more beneficial if logs as well as finished wood products can be exported. Now, saw mills and furniture factories of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and private-owned wood-based industries are producing wooden furniture, sawn timber and prestressed and precast panels to be used in housing projects.

We would like to urge the entrepreneurs in the Wataya wood-based industrial zones to boost the production of finished wood products by modernizing their factories and departments concerned to render necessary assistance to them.

Use of CNG engines in place of diesel engines demonstrated

YANGON, 7 Oct — A ceremony to demonstrate the use of CNG engines in place of diesel engines was held at the Ministry of Industry-2 yesterday morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, departmental officials, entrepreneurs and officials of Fisheries and Marine Products 2004 Ltd.

First, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw gave a speech, Next, Mr Iori Luca of NGV Motori of Italy explained use of CNG engines. MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe meets MCWA members of model villages in Kyauktan Township

YANGON, 7 Oct — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe this morning met MCWA members of Myaingthaya Model Village and Padagyi Model Village in Kyauktan Township.

In Myaingthaya Model Village, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe met MCWA members at Myaingthaya Pre-Primary School at 7.30 am. Also present were Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, Patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee of MCWA Daw Khin Than Htay and local authorities.

Next, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented gifts to the students of the Pre-Primary School and Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, school stationery through the officials.

Cooperatives Minister inspects Yangon Cooperative Degree College

YANGON, 7 Oct — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, accompanied by departmental officials, arrived at the assembly hall of the Yangon Cooperative Degree College yesterday morning.

Principal U Tin Win briefed the minister on history of the degree college. The minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister inspected construction of Ottara Hall.

The minister and party went to Myat Yadanar Aungchantha Low-cost Housing Estate Project being implemented by Nay La General Products Trading Cooperative Ltd in Thanlyin-Kyauktan Region Development Project Area. Chairman of the Cooperative Ltd U Myint Oo and party reported on facts about the project. Later, the minister inspected construction of the housing estate and plots and attended to the needs. — MNA
Annan urged to pull UN staff from Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Oct — Two organizations representing more than 60,000 United Nations staff members urged Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday to pull all UN staff out of Iraq because of the “unprecedented” risk to their safety and security.

Annan pulled all UN international staff out of Iraq a year ago, following two bombings at UN headquarters in Baghdad and a spate of attacks on humanitarian workers.

The first bombing, on Aug 22, 2003, killed the top UN envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and 21 others.

In August, the secretary-general allowed a small UN contingent to return to Baghdad and imposed a ceiling of 35 international staffers, but he has been under pressure to increase the number to help Iraq prepare for elections in January.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said the United Nations “will take note of this letter” but makes its determination about security based on advice from the UN security coordinator, who has limited UN international staff in Iraq to 35.

“We will need more than 35 in there to do what we want to do on the elections, but don’t now see that that will be possible — at least it’s not possible today,” Eckhard said. “We keep this matter continually under review, in fact on a daily basis.”

Richard Grenell, spokesman for US Ambassador John Danforth, opposed any pullout.

“All of the UN staff want to go against the wishes of Sergio Viera de Mello, we would hope the secretary-general would recognize that the UN exists to help governments in crises, like the 10,800 UN peacekeepers in the Congo or the 35 UN workers in Iraq,” he said.

Internet

Suicide car bomber kills 16 people in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Oct — A suicide car bomber killed 16 people at a National Guard centre in western Iraq on Wednesday as US and Iraqi forces struggled to quell guerrillas bent on derailing elections due in January.

An Interior Ministry official said the bomber targeted recruits for the paramilitary force in the town of Anah, 160 miles northwest of Baghdad, near the Syrian border. Doctors said 16 people were killed and 24 wounded. Witnesses said they saw a car hurtling toward the National Guard center on the edge of town just before the explosion.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told a news conference in Baghdad parts of Iraq had serious security problems. Elsewhere a roadside bomb killed a civilian and wounded four policemen in the southern city of Basra. A Kurdish tribal leader and a companion were shot dead in the northern city of Mosul. — Internet

Blair blamed for Iraq ‘half war’

LONDON, 6 Oct—Tony Blair is to blame for allowing Iraq to degenerate into a “dangerous half war”, shadow foreign secretary Michael Ancram has said.

He accused Mr Blair of failure to do anything post-war planning.

Mr Ancram also went on the attack over Europe, in his keynote speech at the Tories’ annual rally in Bournemouth.

He accused the Prime Minister of “surrendering” to France and Germany on the European Army, EU constitution and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

“There can be few more humiliating sights than a British Prime Minister ingratiating himself with his French and German counterparts.

“One day poodle Blair, next day dachshund Blair but bulldog Blair never,” Mr Ancram told Tory representatives.

On Iraq, Mr Ancram said failures to ensure proper security and maintain employment in Iraq had fuelled violence now blighting the country.

“The price for that is that for the country as a whole?,” he added.

Mr Blair said the Tories would set about restoring “a sense of confidence in Britain again” and repatriate powers from Brussels - if they won the general election. — Internet

Venezuela’s state-run oil company increases exports

CARACAS, 6 Oct — Venezuela’s state-run oil company PDVSA announced on Monday that crude oil had been discovered in Potiguar Basin, in the country’s Rio Grande do Norte Province, in a joint exploitation with Portugal’s oil company PDVSA.

He added that the number includes 300,000 bpd of crude produced by multinational corporations which have contracts with the country.

The daily output will rise to 3.1 million barrels in the near future and five million by 2009, Chavez said.

Venezuela, the only Latin American member of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries, keeps a production quota of 2.9 million bpd and sells approximately 1.5 million bpd to the United States.

Crude oil discovered in Brazil’s Potiguar Basin

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Oct — Brazil’s state-run petroleum company PETROBRAS announced on Monday that crude oil had been discovered in Potiguar Basin, in the country’s Rio Grande do Norte Province, in a joint exploitation with Portugal’s oil company Partex.

It said the reserves will be figured out after new drillings are made.

He added that the total petroleum production in the region where the new oil field is located currently amounts to 260,000 barrels per day, a 10-per-cent increase over 2003.

The new discovery occurred five days after the announcement of another one in Espalanada, Brazil’s Bahia Province.

By now, petroleum reserves in Brazil have reached 13 billion barrels, including 400 million barrels discovered this year.

A policeman checks the remains of a rocket after it landed near the Oil Ministry, in Baghdad, on Tuesday, 5 Oct, 2004. — Internet
Kerry accuses Bush of mismanaging war in Iraq

TITON (Iowa), 6 Oct — Democratic White House challenger John Kerry accused President George W Bush of mismanaging the war in Iraq after a former top aide said the US paid the price for not deploying enough troops after last year’s invasion.

Paul Bremer, the former administrator for Iraq, said in a speech this week that the US intervention in Iraq was hampered early on by a lack of adequate forces and efforts to contain looting after the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

"We paid a big price for not stopping it because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness," Bremer said. "We never had enough troops on the ground." Kerry, at a campaign stop in Iowa, seized on the remarks, stating, "There is a long list of mistakes (in Iraq) and I’m glad Paul Bremer has finally acknowledged at least two of them."

The decorated Vietnam veteran also said he hoped Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney would do the same.

Bremer made the remarks at an insurance conference in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, according to The Washington Post, which reported them on Tuesday.

The Massachusetts senator’s latest attack came exactly four weeks before the presidential election, with polls showing he had eroded much of the deficit he faced before last week’s debate against Bush.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush relied on the recommendations of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the military commanders, not Bremer, when it came to determining troop levels. McClellan noted that Bremer said troop levels in Iraq today were adequate to deal with a deadly insurgency.

"If there is or ever has been a request for more troops or resources, the president would make sure that the commanders have what they needed," the spokesman added.

At a town hall meeting in Iowa, a key battleground state that Bush just visited on Monday, Kerry renewed his charge that Bush is stubborn and "out of touch" on issues at home and abroad.

"The Democratic, as he did in last week’s debate, evoked Bush’s father, former President GeorgeHW Bush, whom he said knew the value of assembling a wide coalition to take on Iraq and share the cost in the first Gulf War.

Kerry said instead Bush the son has forced Americans to shoulder 90 per cent of the costs and the bulk of casualties in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi elections would not be credible among Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 6 Oct — An influential group of Iraqi Sunni Muslim clerics said on Tuesday that elections scheduled for January would be a farce unless they were nationwide.

Guerrillas control of several cities and a raging insurgency have raised doubts that the polls to elect a national assembly can be conducted throughout the troubled country.

"There won’t be elections. Even if they are held, they will be a laughing stock and not credible among Iraqis," Moham med Bashar al-Faiidhi, spokesman for the Muslim Clerics Association, told Reuters in an interview.

Guerrillas and militiants control several cities and towns in mainly Sunni Muslim central Iraq, the region that is most fiercely opposed to Iraq’s US-backed interim government.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and US Def enc e Secretary Donald Rumsfeld have both said elections would still be valid, even if violence prevented voting in some areas. "Excluding some parts (of Iraq) from elections would be the real knock-out for elections," said Faiidhi.

"It can’t be. The mere idea of exclusion gives the impression that it is not elections but a game, and I personally don’t think elections will be held on time," US and Iraqi officials have promised a major effort to dislodge guerrillas from areas where they are now strong so that elections can be held across the country in January.

The US military said on Sunday it had retaken most of the northern city of Samarra but wresting control of the rebel bastion of Fallujah is expected to be far more difficult.

American Marines assaulted Fallujah in April but withdrew after fierce fighting and high casualties among Iraqis. The Muslim Clerics Association is influential among Sunnis. Some Sunnis enjoy power and privileges under toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who is himself a Sunni.

Now they are worried about their fate in a country where Iraq’s majority Shiites Muslims have gained influence and expect the elections to give them more power.

Faiidhi said the government of Allawi, who is a secular Shiite, had forfeited popularity by sticking to close to Iraq’s former US occupiers, who are still seen as widely influential.

"The interim government is committing big mistakes against the Iraqi people they are supporting the occupa tion forces in their massacres against Iraqis," he said. — MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Oct — One US soldier was killed and two others wounded in a roadside bomb attack targeting a US military convoy travelling near Baghdad overnight, the US military said in a statement on Tuesday.

"One soldier from the 13th Corps Support Command was killed and two injured as a result of improvised explosive device attack on their convoy near Baghdad around 11.30 pm (2130 GMT) October 4," the statement said.

The wounded soldiers were taken to a military hospital in the Iraqi capital for treatment.

Over 1,050 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the beginning of war in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis look at their damaged vehicle following a raid by the US military on Fallujah. US and Iraqi forces swept bastions south of Baghdad and pounded positions held by Iraq’s most wanted, Abu Musab al Zarqawi, in Fallujah. —INTERNET

US troops no longer welcome in Spain

MADRID, 7 Oct — US troops are no longer welcome in Spain’s national holiday parade now that Washington and Madrid have fallen out over Iraq. Instead French soldiers have been invited to march in the Spanish capital on the big day.

American troops have taken part in the October 12 military parade every year since 2001, when the government invited them in homage to the victims of the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington, according to Spanish media.

Defence Minister Jose Bono told a radio station on Tuesday there would be no Americans in this year’s parade marking Spain’s “fiesta nacional” to commemorate the day on which Christopher Columbus sighted land during his first westward journey of discovery.

“(October 12) is not the national holiday of the United States, and no one is under any obligation to see the flag of another country in the parade, though it is a friend and an ally for sure,” Bono told Cadena Cope radio.

“This is in no way an insult nor a sign of contempt towards the United States,” the minister said, adding that Spain was “no longer subordinated and “kneeling” before Washington.

He said he had suggested French troops could appear as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the liberation of Paris at the end of World War II — an event in which US troops played a fundamental role.

The new Spanish Government has rekindled warm ties with traditional European ally France since it came to power, and it sees eye to eye with Paris on the issue of France. France was one of the most vocal opponents to the US-led invasion of Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

Local residents look at the destroyed houses flattened in an overnight airstrike in Fallujah, Iraq, on 6 Oct 2004. According to witnesses three houses were flattened in the attack but no one was injured as the families who lived there had already fled to a safer area. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters
Ireland grants British hostage passport

DUBLIN, 6 Oct — Ireland has granted British hostage Kenneth Bigley a passport following calls from his family who hope that stressing his Irish connections will persuade his kidnappers in Iraq to release him.

“Mr Kenneth Bigley’s family has asked for an Irish passport to be issued in order to help convince his kidnappers of his Irish citizenship,” Foreign Affairs Minister Dermot Ahern said in a statement.

“I am happy to agree to this request and I, and the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), and the government as a whole, very much hope that it will contribute to the efforts to secure his release,” he added.

Bigley, 62, qualifies for an Irish passport through his Dublin-born mother. The country took a neutral stand in the US-led war against Iraq.

Bigley was taken hostage in Baghdad on September 16 along with Americans Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley, who were later beheaded.

His family have been lobbying hard for his release, including frequent appeals to Irish officials for help.

MNA/Reuters

Kerry attacks Bush for restricting stem cell research

HAMPTON (New Hampshire), 6 Oct — Democratic White House challenger John Kerry on Monday attacked President George W Bush for restricting stem cell research and accused him of ignoring science that could offer millions of Americans a chance at a cure.

Campaigning in New Hampshire with actor and activist Michael J Fox, who has Parkinson’s disease, Kerry said if elected he would remove Bush’s restrictions on using federal money for stem cell research and boost funding.

“Stem cells are unprogrammed master cells that can give rise to various cells and tissues. Scientists believe that the cells could lead to cures for ailments like Parkinson’s and spinal cord in-

service personnel killed in the wars in Afghanis-

tan and Iraq.

Pentagon spokesman Navy Lieutenant Commander Jane Campbell said it would be inappropriate to comment on a pending legal matter.

However Campbell said the policy of excluding the media from the Dover ceremonies was designed to protect the privacy of relatives.

“Families and loved ones have never been pro-
hibited from being there at Dover but we have tried to make it a media event,” she said.

The journalism professor was seeking the im-

ages from Dover for aca-

demic research, the law-

suit said.

“It’s all about allowing the American people to accurately and completely assess the price of war,” Begleiter said in a statement released by his lawyer.

MNA/Reuters

US professor to force Pentagon to release photographic records

WASHINGTON, 6 Oct — A US journalism professor is seeking to force the Pentagon to release images of coffins bearing America’s war dead arriving at the defence department mortuary in Delaware, according to a lawsuit filed on Monday.

The lawsuit, filed un-

der the Freedom of Infor-

mation Act in US district court in Washington, chal-

lenges a 1991 Pentagon order banning media cov-

erage of the arrival of the remains of dead soldiers.

The order was issued during the Gulf War and continued during the Clinton and current Bush Administrations.

Ralph Begleiter, a jour-

nalism professor at the University of Delaware, is seeking photographs and video from Dover Air Force Base of arrival cere-

monies honouring US

Canadian police arrest 10 in major drug bust

OTTAWA, 6 Oct — Ca-

nadian police seized 4,000 marijuana plants and ar-

rested 10 people in mas-

sive raids in the eastern city of Halifax on Mon-

day.

The police raided 19 locations, including ex-

ecutive-style homes in Fall River, Sackville, Waverly, Tantallon and Clayton Park, as well as apartments in Halifax. Ten vehicles and a significant amount of cash were also seized in the raids.

Nine men and one woman were arrested. They will face charges ranging from cultivation of marijuana to possession for the purpose of trafficking. Some of the suspects are from Asia, but the police did not give a country of origin.

MNA/Xinhua

ElBaradei thanks S Korea for cooperation on inspection

SEOUL, 6 Oct — Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), thanked South Korean Government for its voluntary report of nuclear material experiments and cooperation with IAEA’s inspection teams on Tuesday, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

Yonhap quoted offi-

cials at the South Korean Ministry of Science and Technology as reporting that ElBaradei expressed the above standing to Science and Technology Minister Oh Myung when the two held meeting on Tuesday.

In responses, Oh reite-
rated that South Korean Government thoroughly holds nuclear transparent principle and will truly fulfill the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Oh also said South Korea will set up an inde-

pendent institution to su-

pervise and manage nu-

clear activities in future. Oh hoped the investi-

gation results of the IAEA inspection over the South Korea’s old nuclear ex-

periments can be reported to the board of governor meeting in this Novem-

ber without any preju-

dice. The two also made agreement to strengthen cooperation over security of nuclear energy, Innova-

tive Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Programmes (INPRO) and radiation iatrology.

Moreover, in a recep-
tion of Egyptian Embassy to South Korea, ElBaradei also confirmed that the IAEA will send a third inspection team to South Korea late this month for additional in-

vestigations into the

disappearing after last week’s presidential debate tightened the race with four weeks to go before elec-

tion day.

Kerry, however, noted that many of the stem cell lines available for federal research money have no scientific value or have been polluted by mouse cells.

Kerry has criticized Bush’s stem cell research policies before, but the lat-
est attack appeared part of a larger effort by the Demo-

crat to portray Bush as someone who stubbornly ignores facts.

MNA/Reuters

Canadian police seized 4,000 marijuana plants and arrested 10 people in massive raids in the eastern city of Halifax on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier mans a machine gun mounted on a blackhawk helicopter as it flies over the outskirts of Samarra. —INTERNET

An Iraqi boy rides his bicycle as he is watched by a British soldier in the city of Basra on 6 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Yonhap
Howard says Blair did not tell truth before Iraq war

LONDON, 6 Oct—British main opposition Conservative Party leader Michael Howard on Tuesday renewed his claim that Prime Minister Tony Blair did not tell the truth in the run-up to the Iraq war, voicing that he is determined to put the public trust back into politics in the country.

Howard pledged his party would set out a clear timetable for when it hoped to achieve if it wins the general elections expected mid next year.

He said crime would be the first problem he would tackle in government, adding that why people should vote Tory.

More police, cleaner hospitals, lower taxes, controlled immigration,

The Tory leader also pledged to prevent Labour third term tax rises and declared: “Be in no doubt, when I can, I will cut taxes.

On international affairs, he said he would set a date for a referendum on the proposed European Union Constitution on his first day in government.

MNA/Xinhua

Lack of adequate forces hampers US intervention in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 6 Oct—The US intervention in Iraq was hampered early on by a lack of adequate forces and efforts to contain looting after the ouster of Saddam Hussein, according to the former US administrator in Iraq.

“We paid a big price for not stopping it because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness,” Paul Bremer said in a speech reported by the Washington Post on Tuesday.

“We never had enough troops on the ground.”

Bremer’s comments echoed charges by administration critics who argue that the US Government failed to plan adequately to maintain security in postwar Iraq, the newspaper said.

In the speech on Monday at an insurance conference in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Bremer said US plans for the postwar period erred in projecting what would happen after Hussein’s demise, focusing on preparation for humanitarian relief and widespread refugee problems rather than a bloody insurgency now being waged by at least four well-armed factions, according to the Post.

“There was planning, but planning for a situation that didn’t arise,” Bremer was quoted as saying.

A Bremer aide told the newspaper that those comments, as well as similar remarks last month at DePauw University, were for private audiences and were supposed to have been off the record.

In a statement emailed to the Washington Post late on Monday, Bremer stressed that he fully supports the Bush Administration’s plan for training Iraqi security forces as well as its overall strategy for Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Mugabe says govt will not be bullied to abandon land policy

HARARE, 6 Oct — A defiant President Robert Mugabe said his land reforms had earned Zimbabwe many enemies in the West, but his government would not be bullied into abandoning the controversial policy.

Mugabe has seized hundreds of White-owned farms in the last four years to resettle landless Blacks, saying he was correcting imbalances created by more than 90 years of British colonialism. Both critics say the seizures violated property rights and amount to racism against Whites.

Speaking at a state dinner for visiting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Mugabe said Zimbabweans had to be vigilant in fighting for their rights and in their struggle for economic development.

“It is well known that in pursuit of that vision, Zimbabwe has made many sacrifices in the West,” he said at the dinner on Monday night.

“Your visit will, therefore, afford you the opportunity to see that our land reform programme, which Britain and her Western allies viciously oppose, has put indigenous Zimbabweans at the centre of economic activity,” Mugabe told Museveni, who was on a three-day visit to Zimbabwe on Wednesday.

The visit by Museveni, one of East Africa’s influential leaders, is seen as a show of political solidarity with Mugabe, and as bolstering his standing on a continent where he has enjoyed diplomatic support despite calls for his isolation by Western opponents and the domestic opposition.

MNA/Reuters

Cheney, Edwards clash over Iraq in Vice-Presidential debate

WASHINGTON, 6 Oct—US Vice-President Dick Cheney and Senator John Edwards clashed on Iraq in their debate Tuesday night, with Cheney insisting the government had done “the right thing” in going to war in Iraq and Edwards countering it had been misleading on the issue from the start.

“We had to go after the terrorists wherever we might find them,” Cheney said at the start of the debate, held in Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, five days after the first presidential debate.

Iraq seemed to be “the most likely nexus” between terrorists and weapons of mass destruction, he said in response to a question from the moderator about new developments in Iraq.

Edwards counter attacked at once. “Mr Vice-President, you are still not being straight with the American people,” he said.

The Bush Administration’s insistence that things are going well in Iraq defied reality, Edwards said. “We need a fresh start,” he said.

More Americans were killed in Iraq in September than in August, more in August than July, more in July than in June, he said. Edwards also cited the views of several top Republican senators, viewed he said could be distilled as “Iraq is a mess, and it’s getting worse”.

Edwards attacked Cheney’s attempts to link the September 11 attacks with Saddam Hussein. “You’ve gone around the country suggesting that there is some connection,” he said. “There’s not.”

In his rebuttal, Cheney said: “I have not suggested there’s a connection between Iraq and 9/11, but there’s clearly an established Iraqi track record with terror.”

The two sides also debated on issues, such jobs, tax cuts, AIDS, and Halliburton, a giant oil-services campaign of which Cheney was its chief executive before joining the Bush campaign in 2000.

 Tightening polls after the first US presidential debate last Thursday could make Tuesday night’s showdown between Cheney and Edwards, which was once presumed to be a sideshow to the presidential race, assume critical importance.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police officers check a vehicle damaged by a roadside bomb near Basra on 6 Oct, 2004. Police said one Iraqi was killed and four were wounded in the attack. — INTERNET

An Iraqi harbour worker unloads wheat received in line with the United Nations oil-for-food deal in the port of Umim Quay, some 620 km south of Baghdad—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters
Human beings have reached the present-day status of civilization, as they are intelligent, and know-how to use their intellectual power. For centuries, human beings have developed their civilization with the intellectual and physical power. We honour the academics and scientists for their inventions and innovations for mankind.

Since from the very start of civilization and till the time it has gained momentum, the ones who have contributed intellectual and physical efforts for its advancement are the sincere persons having the correct vision and aims. They have also participated in developing the human civilization. In this way, human civilization has evolved.

But when the world is under the influence of greed, anger and delusion, human beings start to kill, loot, torture, attack and dominate one another. The world is rich in natural resources, and according to scholars, it is rich enough to wear a gold belt, that is one mile thick and 12 miles wide, around its equator.

According to the scholars, slaves were the majority during the era of slave-ownership, land labourers were the majority during the era of feudalism, and workers were the majority during the era of capitalism. Slavery came into being in the world because of excessive greed, anger, disillusion and pride of human beings. Once a European scholar said that over 40,000 wars broke out in the world during the past 5,000 years, and half of them were waged in Europe alone. Both the World War I during which over 10 million people died, and the World War II that killed over 60 million people also started in Europe. So, Europe houses the largest number of war memorials and war cemeteries.

History stands witness to the fact that Europe has seen the highest degree of development and the largest number of wars. It is also the birthplace of the age of slavery-ownership, the age of feudalism, the age of capitalism and the age of socialism, and the ideologies including the colonialism and the neo-colonialism.

Scholars sacrificed their health and lives to develop various branches of sciences. But their inventions and finds fell into the hands of evil persons who misused their newly found sciences.

An accidental find of the power of steam had led to the invention of steam engines in England, which later, developed the human civilization. In this way, human civilization has evolved.

The capitalists could not stop their greed, although the capitalists needed less money to own the countries and the factories. An accidental find of the power of steam had led to the invention of steam engines in England, which later, developed the human civilization. But they permitted the countries that were defeated by their armies to rule by their own leaders. But colonialists exploited and manipulated their colonies for many decades. The WWI and the WWII were just the struggles between the then prospering colonialist countries and the late-comer industrialist nations such as Germany, Italy and Japan.

Patriots of the colonized nations launched independence struggles against the occupiers. As the colonial powers were badly affected by the WWII, patriots took advantage of the situation to regain independence. The UN was founded in 1945. It declared the UN Charter that ensures the right to self-determination of the countries around the world.

The peoples of the former colonies of the world have sufficient bitter experiences under their enslavement to see and understand the real image of the neo-colonialists, which are trying to put them under their domination, clearer and clearer at present.

The IT and other advancing techniques should be the real driving force behind the rapid advancement of human beings. Instead, they are being misused as weapons of destruction to terrorize the world with the excuse of national defence. The IT, the media and the computer networks have become the effective tools of the neo-colonialists to shape the new world order in accord with their own wish. They are even using the process of globalization for their own cause to dominate, divide and discriminate the whole world.

Because of their love for the nation and patriotism, all citizens cherish their own nation; and they want to see their nation and people enjoying a better life. All have the right to strive for the betterment of their own nation through proper means. Invading and destroying other nations for self-interest is an evil and mean act.

The colonials that had enslaved the innocent peoples of the world and made them live in constant fear are now advocating the cause of democracy, human rights and religious freedom. However, the peoples of the former colonies of the world have sufficient bitter experiences under their enslavement to see and understand the real image of the neo-colonialists, which are trying to put them under their domination, clearer and clearer at present.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanmar together with ASEAN countries has also been cooperating with FAO and UN Agencies in fields of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, forestry, in food-security, environmental protection, regional stability, commerce trade.

**Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

Deputy ministers for agriculture and forestry from ASEAN plus three nations, Japan, China and Republic of Korea arrived here today to attend the 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry plus Three (4th AMAF+3) to be carried out by the Ministers.

Myanmar’s future all-round development.

Myanmar’s overall economic strategy has accordingly, given high priority to the efficiency and development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. About 70% of Myanmar’s population of 53 million is dependant on the agriculture, fisheries or forestry sectors and the Government’s efforts in according priority to the performance and production of these sectors have been highly contributory to food security and economic development.

In Myanmar the total cropped area is 41.32 million acres (16.72 million h.a.). Rice production is being intensified by all means so as to meet the requirements of both increasing local consumption and international market demand.

Traditionally, paddy was grown once a year, mainly as monsoon rice. With the introduction of the summer paddy programme in 1992-93, rice is being produced throughout the year. Total sown area of summer paddy reached 2,736,621 acres (1,107,500 h.a.) in 2003-2004. Various irrigation projects are being implemented to further increase the utilization of water particularly for agriculture development. The number of dams and reservoirs constructed after 1988-89 to date is 164. The number of pumping structures, completed after 1988-89 to date is 265.

Instead of slash and burn farming, measures are being taken for conservation and rehabilitation of upland farming to protect degradation of soil.

Reclamation of upland farming started in 2002-2003 and reached 8,870 acres (3,590 h.a.) for utilizaion in 2003-2004. The main targeted crops are rice, corn, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, blackgram, green gram, pigeon pea, long staple cotton and sugarcane.

The main objective of the agriculture sector is to fulfill the local food security as well as to support the regional demand. Our effort have, indeed, rewarded us with premiums. Our rice production has increased significantly, and today we are catching up in production, with some of the top producing ASEAN countries. In the area of

(See page 9)
The fishery also plays a pivotal role in the economy of the country.

??Wich is highly suitable resource.

The fishery sector also plays a pivotal role in the economy of the country. Myanmar has long coastal line that stretches to about 2,800 kilometers. It also abounds with swamps which are highly suitable bases for aquaculture, including shrimp and prawn culture.

Meanwhile, only live or frozen fish, mainly shrimp, is being exported, depending on market demand. On the positive side, Myanmar’s fishery exports have increased significantly; the pollution of water remains minimal, and the potential for aquaculture and marine fishery still remains immense. On the negative side, there are insufficient processing facilities; the need for maintaining product quality to meet international standard; and the development of human resources.

The Government has been addressing these issues and has paved the ways for increased private sector participation and foreign direct investments. We trust that the forthcoming meeting will come up with suitable solutions which would enhance the fishery infrastructure, both for national and regional prosperity.

I would now like to touch on forestry sector. I am glad to inform you that in terms of percentage of forests and wood land coverage, Myanmar rank 5th in the world a coverage of 52.28%. Myanmar still retains a substantial cover of forested areas, including a major share of the world’s tea stock. Of Myanmar’s forests coverage, currently 37.41 million acres (15.14 million h.a) has been constituted as Reserved Forests and about 5.83 acres (2.36 million h.a) as Protected Area. The ultimate goal is to raise it to Conservation of Natural Area Law, 1994, have given full coverage to the protection of Myanmar’s forests. Were remain engaged in fuel-use substitution programmes; watershed management; reforestation of Dry Zone; joint development programmes with FAO and UNDP; rural development; terrace cultivation; and eco- tourism. Myanmar has vast mangrove areas with a coverage of some 318,000 acres (128,690 h.a). However, due to over exploitation for firewood and subsistence farming, degradation of the mangroves became a reality. We are cooperating with international organizations to rehabilitate the mangrove areas. The ultimate goal is to raise it to 30% for reserved forest and 5% for Protected Area.

However, due to agriculture expansion, shifting cultivation, urbanization and the mounting fuel needs of households, it has been estimated that deforestation in Myanmar runs to about 37,312 acres (15,100 h.a) annually. Fortunately, annual deforestation has been compensated by the Forest Department’s establishment of plantations at an annual rate of 74,130 acres (30,000 h.a) since 1972.

Myanmar’s forests have been eroded by various factors such as agriculture expansion, fuel-use substitution programmes; watershed management; reforestation of Dry Zone; joint development programmes with FAO and UNDP; rural development; terrace cultivation; and eco-tourism. Myanmar has vast mangrove areas with a coverage of some 318,000 acres (128,690 h.a). However, due to over exploitation for firewood and subsistence farming, degradation of the mangroves became a reality. We are cooperating with international organizations to rehabilitate the mangrove areas. The ultimate goal is to raise it to 30% for reserved forest and 5% for Protected Area.

All possible measures have been taken to prevent and ameliorate environmental degradation of the central dry zone of Myanmar. A special 9 district dry zone greening project was formulated and implemented since 1994 and the area has been extended to 13 districts. Concurrently, a 30-year integrated plan was formulated for the area which covers whole or parts of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions. Up to the present, more than 270,000 acres (109,300 h.a) of plantations have been established and 1.1 million acres (0.45 million h.a) of natural forests put under conservation the degraded areas through natural and artificial means. All possible measures have been taken to prevent and ameliorate environmental degradation of the central dry zone of Myanmar. A special 9 district dry zone greening project was formulated and implemented since 1994 and the area has been extended to 13 districts. Concurrently, a 30-year integrated plan was formulated for the area which covers whole or parts of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions. Up to the present, more than 270,000 acres (109,300 h.a) of plantations have been established and 1.1 million acres (0.45 million h.a) of natural forests put under conservation the degraded areas through natural and artificial means. All possible measures have been taken to prevent and ameliorate environmental degradation of the central dry zone of Myanmar. A special 9 district dry zone greening project was formulated and implemented since 1994 and the area has been extended to 13 districts. Concurrently, a 30-year integrated plan was formulated for the area which covers whole or parts of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions. Up to the present, more than 270,000 acres (109,300 h.a) of plantations have been established and 1.1 million acres (0.45 million h.a) of natural forests put under conservation the degraded areas through natural and artificial means. All possible measures have been taken to prevent and ameliorate environmental degradation of the central dry zone of Myanmar. A special 9 district dry zone greening project was formulated and implemented since 1994 and the area has been extended to 13 districts. Concurrently, a 30-year integrated plan was formulated for the area which covers whole or parts of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions. Up to the present, more than 270,000 acres (109,300 h.a) of plantations have been established and 1.1 million acres (0.45 million h.a) of natural forests put under conservation the degraded areas through natural and artificial means. All possible measures have been taken to prevent and ameliorate environmental degradation of the central dry zone of Myanmar. A special 9 district dry zone greening project was formulated and implemented since 1994 and the area has been extended to 13 districts. Concurrently, a 30-year integrated plan was formulated for the area which covers whole or parts of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions. Up to the present, more than 270,000 acres (109,300 h.a) of plantations have been established and 1.1 million acres (0.45 million h.a) of natural forests put under conservation the degraded areas through natural and artificial means.

Our rice production has increased significantly, and today we are catching up in production, with some of the top producing ASEAN countries.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents gifts for students of Pre-Primary School to Model Padayagi Village MCWA Branch Chairperson Daw Khin Soe. (News on page 2) — MNA

Workshop on Development of Strategies for Water, Environmental Sanitation & Hygiene opened

YANGON, 7 Oct — The Workshop on the Development of Strategies for Water, Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene in Myanmar was opened at the Dusit Inya Lake Hotel, here, this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, directors-general, deputy director-general and directors under the Ministry of Health, UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long and representatives of UN agencies, officials of international social organizations and guests.

First, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long gave speeches.

Next, the deputy minister and party viewed booths displayed at the hall. Altogether 52 scholars of departments under the Ministry of Health and other ministries, the project manager of UNICEF and officials and other organizations are attending the workshop which will continue tomorrow.

MNA
Ambassador U Soe Myint

accustomed to Turkey

YANGON, 8 Oct — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

Myanmar making...

(cultivated in Paungdaw Region in Kachin Special Region 1 by National International Commercial Enterprise (NICE) Ltd, booth on wood-based products and vaccines by Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, forest conservation by the Ministry of Forestry, booth on cultivation of ginger, potato, orange and banana)

Dagon BEHS No 1 donates books, periodicals to self-reliant libraries

YANGON, 7 Oct — Basic Education High School No 1 of Dagon Township donated books to self-reliant village libraries of Information and Public Relations Department, taking place at Dagon Thi Thiri Hall of the school this afternoon.

Present were Director-General of IPRD U Chit Naing, Staff Officer U Kyi Than of No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon City), Dalla Township Education Officer U Than Hlaing, Dagon BEHS No 1 Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw, Dalla BEHS No 1 Headmistress Daw Mya Mya Thet, teachers and students. First, Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw presented 100,000 of stipend to eighth standard student Ma Phwa Bu of Dalla BEHS No 1, daughter of U Maung Hsaung of Chin State who was honoured as an outstanding teacher at the 2003 World Teachers’ Day.

Next, Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw and officials presented various kinds of books and periodicals and K 100,000 donated by Dagon BEHS No 1 education family to Director-General U Chit Naing.

Later, writer Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) gave talks on literature. — MNA

IPRD Director-General U Chit Naing accepts books and periodicals for self-reliant libraries. — MNA

Myanmar women’s team third in Women’s Invitational Sekap Takraw Tourney

YANGON, 7 Oct — Myanmar women’s team secured 3rd place in the event of Women’s Invitational Sekap Takraw Tourney held in the People’s Republic of China from 28 September to 3 October.

In the tourney, Vietnamese women’s team stood first and Thai women’s team second. Myanmar stood third and Chinese women’s teams fourth. — MNA

26th Meeting of...

(form page 16)

Minister of Agriculture and Forest Dr Nerned Gunawan of Indonesia, Dr Dihananto Saphongthong, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Tan Sari Dato’ Haji Muyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin of Malaysia, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Mag Gen Huy of Cambodia, Minister of National Development Mr Mah Bao Tan, leader of the Thai delegation Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphok Ohrakasol, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Dr Bui Ba Bong, Director Dr Aerni Mai Akir of the ASEAN Secretariat, delegation members of Bangkok-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Manila-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Thailand-based Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre.

Malaysian Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin, who chairs the 25th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers for Agriculture and Forestry, extended greetings.

At the meeting, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar Maj-Gen Htwa Oo was selected as chairman, and Minister for Agriculture of the Philippines Mr Arthur C Yap as co-chairman.

Minister Maj-Gen Htwa Oo in his speech said: I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to your Excellencies and respective delegates for having responded positively to the invitation. We remain confident that your active participation in the meetings will greatly contribute to the successful convening of the 26th AMAF and also the 4th AMAF + 3 Meetings.

I am confident that the ASEAN + 3 cooperation will bring fruitful results, and highly confident to His Excellency for the contribution of much of his valuable time in devotion to the activities for the development of the ASEAN right through the year and to the end of his obligatory term.

Secondly, I express my heartfelt appreciation to the AMAF Ministers for having entrusted me with the important responsibility of Chairmanship of the 26th Meeting of AMAF and 4th AMAF + 3 Meetings.

I believe that with your strong support and also your kind cooperation, I will be able to fulfil the important task.

At the 9th ASEAN Summit in Bali in October 2003, the leaders had endorsed the initiative by ASEAN Economic Ministers to pursue among others, the accelerated regional integration of agro-based and fishery products. It marks another challenge placed before us and calls for closer cooperation, and more concerted efforts.

I am sure, this meeting will be providing us an invaluable opportunity to discuss the issue in depth, and accelerate our integration process, through the combined economic strength of ASEAN Members. In fact, the meeting will be of significance in providing opportunities to all Member Countries, and in particular, those economies which are agriculture oriented.

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Commerce Deputy Minister back from Vietnam

YANGON, 7 Oct — Commerce Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig Gen Aung Tun arrived back here by air this afternoon, after attending the opening of the ASEAN Trade Fair 2004 in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

A coordination meeting of Working Committee for Product Displaying of Five Countries Trade Fair was held at the meeting hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Merchant Street on 4 October, attended by President of UMFCCI U Win Myint and officials.

First, President of UMFCCI U Win Myint made a speech. Afterwards, Secretary of Working Committee U Than Aung clarified the facts for displaying the products in detail, followed a general round of discussion. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig Gen Aung Tun being welcomed at the airport on his return from Vietnam where he attended ASEAN Trade Fair 2004. — MNA

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We have each four political, Economic and Social objectives, out of which “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation is the one from four Social objectives. In the health sector six diseases i.e. Malaria, Tuberculosis, Hypertension, Diabetes mellitus, Gastrointestinal upset, Diarrhoea and Dysentery are the top priorities for our country to treat and to control the spread.

Here, Tuberculosis is one of the oldest infectious diseases still killing five humans in every minute; therefore everybody can imagine the magnitude of its danger. As it is an airborne disease, the spread is too quick, 1/3 of world population is infected i.e. (2000 million people). But luckily only 10-15% of infected persons suffer the disease, about 30 million people are suffering, 2.5 million are dying and 8 million new cases are occurring every year. It is still rising trend generally all over the world.

The following questions many be food for thought and find the cause.

1. Don’t we know the cause?
Yes, we know the causative organism (Tubercle bacilli), we can easily detect it from the patient’s sputum under the microscope by ZN stain.

2. Don’t we have the Drug to kill the bacilli or to cure the patients?
Yes, we have potent anti-TB drugs (i.e. INH, RIF, PZA, Ethambutol, Streptomycin injection etc.) which can kill the Tubercle bacilli in combination.

3. Don’t we know the strategy?
Yes, we have a reliable and granted strategy (i.e. dots—directly observed treatment short-course chemotherapy), which has 70 to 90% cure rate.

4. Don’t we have the aim and objective?
Yes, we have a firm aim and objective (i.e. 75% case finding and 85% cure rate)

5. Is it very surprising? Why is TB in rising trend? The answer is
(a) Magnitude of TB can give the example of iceberg phenomenon (we see only the surface, there is a big mass may be 10 times volume below it).
(b) The other example is a story about 4 people, named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody would have done it, but Nobody did it. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

6. Do we have any success-light to combat TB in our country?
Yes, we have. Up to end of the year 2003 our effort is slowly progressing but then under the guidance of Ministry of Health (MOH) general practitioners (GPS) take part in the health care programs, therefore dots strategy is now well known among the public. On top of that GPS act as dots provider (e.g.: 12 in Meiktila township) on behalf the MOH and Public Service International takes responsibility in refilling the drugs and supervising the works.

*1 The TB prevalence will fall to 1:10,000 people in 15 years time. (at this moment our TB prevalence is 1:1000 population).
*2: 100,000 in 30 years time, and
*3: 100,000 in 50 years time.
At that moment we can say TB is eradicated from our land.

To have it we cordially welcome your service.

What is service?
* Everybody can be useful because anybody can contribute his service.

* You don’t need to have a college degree to contribute your service.

* You only need a hearty wish to serve generated by consciousness.

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**Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil**

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.

Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.
China-EU trade enters into rapidly developing stage

BEIJING, 6 Oct — Maintaining the pace of an over 30-per-cent growth over the years, China and the European Union are marching towards the strategic goal that “EU will become the biggest trading and investment partner of China”.

In the first eight months of this year, China-EU trade hit 111.33.4 per cent respectively, recording a surplus of 46.17 billion US dollars and imports from the European Union amounted to 65.47 billion US dollars, up 33.4 per cent respectively, figures from Chinese Customs show.

A year bilateral trade recorded 125.22 billion US dollars.

China mainly exports to the European Union machinery and electronic products, high-tech products, as well as textile, garments, toys, shoes, bags and plastic products and imports from it capital-intensive goods, automobiles and parts, steel, optical discs, optical discs, CDs and other products.

In August, China’s exports to the EU rose to 14.05 billion US dollars, up 26.5 per cent year-on-year, while imports increased by 28.7 per cent to 9.73 billion US dollars.

China-EU trade partners and technology provider and the fourth investor. China is the second biggest trade partner of EU.

EU’s investment in the Chinese Mainland has grown to 32.1 billion US dollars by 2004, up 33.4 per cent respectively, figures from Chinese Customs show.

In the first eight months of this year, China-EU trade recorded 125.22 billion US dollars.

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Oracle to continue hiring aggressively in India

NEW DELHI, 6 Oct—Enterprise software maker Oracle said on Tuesday it will continue to hire aggressively in India at the rate of 250 people a month. “We have been hiring 250 people a month in India. In all probability we will continue to grow at this pace,” Oracle India’s Managing Director Shekhar Dasgupta said at a Press conference, where he announced the forthcoming Oracle OpenWorld conference in Mumbai.

Oracle currently has 6,400 people in India and the new recruitments would be spread across all its functions, he said.

The company has development centres in Bangalore and Hyderabad. “We will continue to consolidate these two centres and have no plans to start a development centre at any other location,” Dasgupta said.

He did not disclose the investment that the company would make for expansion.

Dasgupta said Oracle is working to extend the functionalities of its data hub solution to include applications for government departments.

New chief of ISI appointed

ISLAMABAD, 6 Oct—Lieutenant-General Asif Azeem Pervez Kiyani, Corps Commander of Rawalpindi, has been appointed as the new chief of Pakistan’s powerful spy agency ISI succeeding General Ashfaq Haq who will take over as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Military Staff later this week.

Kiyani, who earlier held the post of Director-General of Military Operations, a key assignment involving hotline contacts with Indian Army counterparts to discuss operational issues, was promoted to the post by President Pervez Musharraf.

California lowers estimates for future population growth

LOS ANGELES, 6 Oct—California, the most populous US state, has sharply reduced its population estimates to about 51 million residents by 2040, seven million fewer than previous forecast, state planners said Monday.

California, currently with about 36 million residents, will continue to grow, but at only about 400,000 people a year, rather than the 600,000 once forecast, said Mary Heim, chief of the State Finance Department’s demographic research section.

This is largely because of a decrease in births, particularly among Hispanics. Birthrates have declined among all ethnic and racial groups tracked by the state, but Hispanic women account for the largest number of births, Heim said.

However, birth rates of Hispanic women have decreased from an average of 3.41 children per mother to 2.6. “I think you could safely say more than half the reduction is because of the reduced fertility among Latins,” Heim said.

Despite the reduction, California will still have to prepare for a crowded future, said Terry Roberson, a director in the governor’s office of planning and research.

“We still have to take care of the people who are here today and who arrive next year, much less 50 years down the line,” she said. “And we’re already behind.”

But Hans Johnson, a demographer at the San Francisco-based Public Policy Institute of California said the new numbers have a substantial impact on future demands for public services.

“It’s a big story for California’s future,” he said. “It will have a significant effect on demand for everything from schooling to water and infrastructure and other public services.”
Southeast Asian Women’s Soccer Tournament enters semifinals

Ho Chi Minh City, 6 Oct — Vietnam team one drew 1-1 with Myanmar here on Tuesday to secure a semifinal berth in the Southeast Asian Women’s Football Championship. The draw placed the Vietnam team one second in the Group B with five points, ahead of Thailand, who crushed the Maddves 12-0 in the last group match the same day.

Thailand missed the chance to kick to the semifinals after suffering a 1-0 loss to Myanmar in the opening match. Vietnam team one will meet Vietnam team two, which topped the Group A with nine points, in the semifinal match on Thursday while Myanmar will take on Indonesia in another semifinals. — MNA/Xinhua

Newcastle face Sporting Lisbon in UEFA Cup

LONDON, 6 Oct — Italian hopefuls Lazio will take on Villarreal, Newcastle United face Sporting Lisbon and two former winners will meet when Schalke 04 play Feyenoord after Tuesday’s draw for the group stage of the UEFA Cup.

Inspired by the commercial success of the money-spinning Champions League, this season’s UEFA Cup format sees 40 clubs drawn into eight groups of five teams.

Each side will play two home and two away games, with the top three clubs in each group going into a knockout round where they will be joined by eight teams dropped from the Champions League.

Lazio should have little difficulty emerging from Group E, which also features Middlesbrough on their first foray into Europe, Partizan Belgrade and Esgaleo of Greece.

Villarreal captain Quique Alvarez, whose side beat Roma, Celtic and Galatarsaray on the way to last season’s semi-finals, said: “Lazio and Partizan have good a historical record in Europe and, like all English teams, Middlesbrough are guaranteed to be strong.”

“Last year we had very tough opponents and we reached the semi-finals. We have to be strong at home and use that as our foundation to reach the next round.” Newcastle and Sporting are joined in Group D by Sochaux, Greek side Panionios and Georgia’s Dinamo Tbilisi.

Tennis star Davenport to retire after this season

BERLIN, 6 Oct — Lindsay Davenport has yet changed her mind of retiring by the end of the year despite the opportunity to be ranked world number one.

“In my mind nothing’s changed,” said the 28-year-old American ahead of her opening match at the Filderstadt Grand Prix on Wednesday. “I still feel I’m more towards the end of my career than anything else.” Davenport, currently ranked two behind France’s Amelie Mauresmo, has the opportunity to reclaim the number one ranking this week with competing in the WTA tournament. It was in the German town that she first took over the number one ranking six years ago. “I still haven’t decided what I’m going to do. My focus is on finishing this year and doing well and not worrying about what happens after 2004. I’m in a great position to try and finish and the year number one,” she added.

Unseeded Thai player Tamarine Tanasugarn, pictured in earlier competition, said she had mixed feelings when she became the first competitor to reach the semi-finals of the Japan Open after her opponent retired hurt. — Internet

Only one Greek named for 2004 FIFA player of the year

LONDON, 6 Oct — Only one member of Greece’s victorious European Championship squad has been named on a 35-strong shortlist for 2004 FIFA player of the year.

Captain Theodoros Zagorakis, who helped guide the Greeks to one of the biggest shocks in football major tournament history in July, has been named but teammates such as striker Angelos Hadristes and top-rated defender Traianos Dellas missed out.

Zagorakis was named player of the tournament after Greece beat hosts Portugal 1-0 in the Euro 2004 final. In contrast, Copa America winners Brazil have five nominees including three-times winner Ronaldo who skipped the tournament in July after a disappointing season with Real Madrid.

Adriano, who replaced Ronaldo in the event after Greece beat hosts Portugal 1-0 in the Euro 2004 final. In contrast, Copa America winners Brazil have five nominees including three-times winner Ronaldo who skipped the tournament in July after a disappointing season with Real Madrid.

Lozano also netted twice in a match which marked the international comeback of volatile striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco on a 20-month absence. Blanco was delighted to be back despite failing to hit the target. “I’m very happy, we didn’t get desperate, we knew the goals would come,” he told reporters.

Mexico, who are expected to march through Group C in the second stage of the CONCACAF qualifiers, went top with a maximum of six points from two games, ahead of Trinidad and Tobago on goals difference.

The Caribbean islanders, who fired coach Adrian Shaw last month and brought in Serb Zoran Vranes, kept Mexico to a single goal in the first half, headed home by Borgetti in the 30th minute. The floodgates opened after the break as Lozano scored twice in nine minutes, the first from a free kick and the second after a one-two with Blanco.

Borgetti then scored a 21-minute hat-trick as he took his tally in the qualifiers to nine goals in four games. Sergio Santana helped himself to number seven.

The Caribbean islanders had Benford Joseph sent off in the 69th minute for a second bookable offence. The teams meet again in St Vincent on Sunday.

Mexico hammers St Vincent & Grenadines 7-0

PACIFICA (Mexico), 7 October — Striker Jared Borgetti scored four goals as Mexico hammered St Vincent & Grenadines 7-0 in their World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

Jamae Lozano also netted twice in a game which marked the international comeback of volatile striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco after a 20-month absence. Blanco was delighted to be back despite failing to hit the target. “I’m very happy, we didn’t get desperate, we knew the goals would come,” he told reporters.

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MNA/Reuters
Applications invited to MMU-VAEU

Applications invited to MMU-VAEU

YANGON, 7 Oct — The Myanmar Maritime University of the Ministry of Transport will be opened on 1 December 2004 for 2004-2005 academic year. The courses includes BE (Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering), BE (Marine Engineering), BEng (Port & Harbour Engineering), BE (River & Coastal Engineering), BE (Marine Electrical Systems and Electronics) and BSc (Nautical Science) will be conducted at the university and the course duration will be five years each.

The Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University of the Ministry of Science and Technology will be opened on 1 December 2004 for 2004-2005 academic year. BE (Aerospace-Propulsion & Flight Vehicles), BE (Aerospace Avionics), BE (Aerospace-Electrical Systems and Instrumentation) and BE (Aerospace-Fuel & Propellant Engineering) will be conducted. The course duration will be five years each.

At the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, there will be three undergraduate diploma courses—Diploma in Engine & Airframe Technology, Diploma in Avionics Technology and Diploma in Electrical & Instrumentation Technology—will be opened on 1 December 2004 and course duration will be two years each.

Male with following qualification may submit applications to these universities:

(a) The entrant must have above 400 marks in the 2004 matriculation examination and the entrant must passed the exam with following combinations of subjects:-

(1) Myanmar, English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Economics
(2) Myanmar, English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and History
(3) Myanmar, English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Optional

(b) To attend undergraduate diploma courses at MAEU, priority will be given to those who passed the matriculation exam for 2004. But those who passed the same exams in previous years may submit applications and they can be chosen. However, those who were dismissed from any universities will not be allowed. For the undergraduate diploma courses, the applicants must have above 336 marks in six subjects of the matriculation exam and those must have above 280 marks in the five subjects. Especially, the applicants must took the combination including Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

(c) The applicant must be lawful citizen.

(d) The applicant must have good condition in medical check up
(e) They must sit personal test.
(f) Those wishing to attend the MMU should fill out the applications issued from the exam supervisor and send the application in the separate envelope to MMU, Thilawa, Thanlwin Township, Yangon Division, from 8 to 22 October, by postal service or in person.
(g) Those wishing to attend the MAEU must send the application in the separate envelope to the University Application Selection Committee of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) by postal service or in person. They must also submit copy of marks list issued by Myanmar Board of Examinations. The original one must be brought when they sit the personal test. Those who passed the matriculation exam in 2004 can take the designated applications at the exam supervisors (Heads of BEHS).
(h) Those who passed the matriculation exam before 2004 wishing to attend the diploma courses can take the designated applications at the exam supervisors (Heads of BEHS). Then, the application is to be kept in the separate envelope and to be sent to University Application Selection Committee of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) by postal service or in person. They must also submit copy of marks list. The original one must be brought when they sit the personal test.

(i) To avoid loss of opportunity to join the university, those who cannot attend the two universities should submit applications kept in the University Entrance Envelope to other universities in accord with the rules.

Those wishing to know further information may dial HED (Lower Myanmar) Thanlwin Township, phone numbers: 503 1457 and 525612, MMU, Thilawa, Thanlwin Town- ship, Tel:056 221802/221182/221823 and 522184; and MAEU, Meiktila, Tel: 064-22201, 064-22202.

Special storm report

YANGON, 7 Oct — The depression over the West Central Bay of Bengal has gained strength and transformed to a young storm making the sea its centre 320 miles south of Kolkata in India. It is likely that the young storm may intensify and move northwards, according to the observations recorded at 15.30hrs Myanmar Standard Time today.

The effect of the young storm can trigger occasional rain and strong wind along Rahekin Coast and offshore. Surface wind speed in squalls with moderate to rough seas may reach 40 mph. — MNA

WEATHER

Thursday, 7 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in Chin State, Ayeayawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas from isolated belches in Kachin State. The amounts of rainfall recorded were Moe Nyo (5.07) inches, Shwegu (2.52) inches, Homalin (2.28) inches and Katha (1.97) inches.

Maximum temperature on 6-10-2004 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 7-10-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 7-10-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 6-10-2004 was (7.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Akyab-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-3-2004 was (110.94) inches at Yangon Airport, (106.18) inches at Akyab-Aye and (108.58) inches in central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Akyab-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (15.30) hours MST on 6-10-2004.

Bareinfluence: According to the observations at 06:30 hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed in the West Central Bay and it is likely to intensify further into a depression. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-10-2004: Rain or thunder showers will be widespread in Rajhini, Kachin, Chin and northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and northern Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Yangon, Ayeayawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rajhini, Kachin States and upper Sagaing Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rahekin Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuing on of rainfall or thunder showers in upper Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-10-2004: Light rain or thunder showers with likelihood of isolated heavy falls. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-10-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Significant water level bulletin

(Issued at 12.00 hrs MST on 7-10-2004)

The water levels of Chindwin River may rise above the present water levels by about 10 feet at Rakhine, 12 feet at Homalin, 10 feet at Mawlaik and Kalaywa and 8 feet at Morywa during the next (3) to (5) days commencing noon today.

Obituary

Daw Khin Myiint Gyi (Aster) Age 82 years
Ex teacher, Methodist English High School


Friends and relatives far and near please accept this as the only intimation.

Farewelled Family

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Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Deputy Director-General of IRRI Dr William G Padolina.— MNA

A&I Minister receives officials of FAO and IRRI

YANGON, 7 Oct — Assistant Director-General Dr He Changechui of Bangkok-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and party attending the 26th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and Senior Officials Meeting and the 4th Meeting of ASEAN+3 called on Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at 4 pm today.

Similarly, Deputy Director-General of Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr William G Padolina and party also called on the minister at Sedona Hotel later in the evening.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo was accompanied by directors-general and managing directors from the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Myanmar and Thailand discuss cooperation in drug elimination

YANGON, 7 Oct — The Myanmar-Thai Cooperation in Drug Elimination Meeting was held at the administration hall of the Drug Elimination Museum on Kyuntaw Street in Kamayut Township, this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the work group chairmen and secretaries of CCDAC, guests, Secretary-General of Mae Fah Laung Foundation Chief Executive Officer of Doi Tung Development Project of Thailand Mom Rajawongse Disnadda Diskul and party and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal.

First, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing extended greetings. Afterwards, Chief Executive Officer of Doi Tung Development Project of Thailand Mom Rajawongse Disnadda Diskul clarified facts on All-around Development Project of Yaungkha Village-tract in Mongsat Township, Shan State (East) being implemented with the assistance of Thailand starting from 2002 and drug elimination tasks.

Afterwards, Mom Rajawongse Disnadda Diskul answered the queries raised by those present and the meeting ended in the evening.

The 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in progress.— MNA

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