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.

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

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

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

Entrepreneurs in Mandalay Industrial Zone have been making harmonious efforts in manufacturing spare parts of farm equipment and industrial items. The Government will continue to render assistance to the zone for its greater progress.

Myanmar delegation back from ASEM-5

YANGON, 10 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Tin Winn arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM-5) in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 7 to 9 October.

Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Tin Winn, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Maung, heads of departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Charge d’Affaires Mr Phan Van Cu of the Vietnamese Embassy.

Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, 10 new EU member countries admitted as new members

YANGON, 10 Oct — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, and officials of the SPDC Office, arrived at Mandalay Industrial Zone on 8 October afternoon.

They were welcomed there by Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and officials. Chairman of Mandalay District PDC Chairman Mandalay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Maung Maung reported on arrangements for building of modern foundries, progress of civil engineering work, production of industrial parts on completion of the plants, power supply, programme for expansion of the roads linking factories up to 30 feet wide ones and training of skilled workers at the factories under the Ministry of Industry-2. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported on assistance provided for ensuring timely completion of the plants.

The Secretary-1 delivered a speech on the occasion, saying that the entrepreneurs in Mandalay Industrial Zone have been making harmonious efforts in manufacturing the items. Mandalay Industrial Zone will be able to pick up higher speed in

(See page 8)
Students to catch up with international community

The Government has been enlisting the might of the entire people in an effort to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one. In the process, it has placed emphasis on the projects for further development of human resources capable of building a developed nation that is on a par with the world nations. Being well convinced that fundamentally, human resources come from students, the Government has been establishing basic education schools, universities, colleges, institutes, technological universities and colleges, universities of computer studies, and computer colleges one after another across the nation with a view to producing more and more dynamic and highly-qualified persons not only in the basic education field but also in the higher education field.

Under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on establishment of universities to produce intellectuals and intelligentsia in the spheres of maritime and aerospace, the Government had opened the Myanmar Maritime University in Thilawa, Thanlwin Township, Yangon Division and the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division.

Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the coordination meeting of the two universities at the Myanmar Maritime University on 9 October. The Prime Minister in his speech said that the facilities were established systematically, and officials concerned are to continue to make efforts to ensure the universities to be prominent among the international communities. Aiming at ensuring academic functions of these magnificent facilities, the Government has been sending faculty members abroad for further studies and having the classes taught by some foreign experts. Moreover, local faculty members and foreign experts teach and train the students theoretically and practically in the subjects on aeroplane-building and ship-building.

The students take greater interest in these areas, realizing that only when they have learnt their studies at the universities, can they keep abreast of international community in maritime and aerospace spheres. Therefore, all the students are urged to study hard to help the two universities become prominent in the world and to be intellectuals and intelligentsia who can stand shoulder to shoulder with students of other nations.

Contestants from Kayah and Chin States, Taninthayi Division arrive

YANGON, 10 Oct — With a view to realizing six objectives — 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 character; to nurture spiritual development of the youths; and to prevent influence of alien culture — the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions will be held at the designated places here, on a grand scale from 14 to 31 October. The Government has been enlisting the cooperation of these magnificent facilities, the Government has been sending faculty members abroad for further studies and having the classes taught by some foreign experts. Moreover, local faculty members and foreign experts teach and train the students theoretically and practically in the subjects on aeroplane-building and ship-building. The students take greater interest in these areas, realizing that only when they have learnt their studies at the universities, can they keep abreast of international community in maritime and aerospace spheres. Therefore, all the students are urged to study hard to help the two universities become prominent in the world and to be intellectuals and intelligentsia who can stand shoulder to shoulder with students of other nations.

Modernization of airports inspected

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Dry Day inspection teams check Tatmadaw, departmental vehicles

YANGON, 10 Oct — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party supervise dry day inspection teams.— MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan being welcomed back at the airport.— MNA

Myanmar information delegation arrives back from ASEAN Information Ministers’ Meeting

YANGON, 10 Oct — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan arrived back here yesterday evening after attending the 8th ASEAN Information Ministers’ Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 6 to 8 October.

The delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col. Soe Win, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi, officials of the ministry and families. Members of the delegation Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, General Manager of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Thet Soe, Director (TV English Programme) of MRTV U Win Kyi and Deputy Director U Myint Htwe also arrived back on the same flight.— MNA
UN inspectors slam Bush, Blair over Iraq

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct — Two former UN weapons inspectors have poured scorn on US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair for seeking to defend their Iraq invasion.

Writing for The Independent on Sunday, former UN chief arms inspector Hans Blix says the two leaders are “clinging to straws” to justify the war.

Writing for the same newspaper, another former weapons inspector, Scott Ritter said “history will judge that Britain and the United States made the world a worse place with their war on Iraq”.

Bush and Blair went to war on the pretext of finding and destroying Iraq’s alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. But no such arsenals have been found to date.

Prospects of finding banned weapons faded further with Charles Duelfer, the chief US weapons hunter, reporting earlier this week that Iraq had ceased to possess chemical and biological weapons since the 1991 Gulf War.

But Duelfer said the Iraqi leader had hoped to renew his quest for weapons proliferation sanctions slapped on Iraq were lifted.

Saddam’s “intent” to develop weapons in the future has now been seized by Bush and Blair to justify the invasion.

“This is the new straw to which the governments concerned have begun to cling,” Blix said in his article.

“Inspectors appointed by Bush to verify the president’s assertions about banned weapons have had to acknowledge that the reality on the ground was totally different from the virtual reality that had been spun,” Blix said.

United Nations, 9 Oct — The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on Friday calling on states to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including extraditing and prosecuting anyone who supports, finances and participates in terrorist acts.

The resolution, passed by the 15-nation Council after lengthy negotiations over its wording, was introduced by Russia last month after a series of terrorist attacks struck the country, including a mass hostage-taking incident in the southern Russian city of Beslan.

The measure, co-sponsored by France, China, Romania, Britain, the United States, Germany and Spain, calls upon all nations “to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, especially with those states where or against whose citizens terrorist acts are committed”.

It urges them to “find, deny safe haven and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens”.

US soldier killed in Iraq violence

BAGHDAD, 9 Oct — A US soldier was killed and two Iraqis were injured Saturday when a mortar rocket landed in the “Green Zone” in the capital, Baghdad.

Two other people were killed and a third injured in separate clashes between unknown gunmen and the US forces near the city of Ramadi west of Baghdad.

A US air force base near the Iraqi city of Biwi north of the capital also came under mortar fire, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

In the southern city of Amara, unknown gunmen killed the chief of police in the town before fleeing.

Gunmen also kidnapped a Turkish oil tanker driver north of the country.

Meanwhile, the US-Iraqi forces arrested Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Taweih, a prominent tribal leader close to Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer.

They also arrested a prominent mosque imam in the city of Baaqouba, regarded as a stronghold for Sunni resistance fighters against the foreign occupation.

Turkish driver kidnapped, another wounded in north Iraq ambush

SAMARRA, 10 Oct — A Turkish driver was taken hostage and another injured when their convoy was attacked near the restive city of Baiji in northern Iraq on Saturday, a police officer said.

The Turkish embassy in Baghdad has been plagued by a hostage-taking epidemic, terrorising hundreds of foreigners and locals. Some have been released — many for ransom — others executed and the fate of the rest is unknown.

The attack came one day after British hostage Kenneth Bigley was confirmed dead, having been beheaded by his captors.

Turkish nationals, driving convoys of supplies across Iraq to US army bases, are an easy target, with five drivers known to have been kidnapped and killed.

Separately, Captain Khalaf said bandits elsewhere kidnapped the son of an Iraqi police officer who works in a liaison office with the US Army.

China’s business confidence stabilizing in 3rd quarter

BEIJING, 10 Oct — China’s business confidence tends to stabilize in the third quarter of 2004, with the business climate index climbing 0.2 point from the second quarter to 134.6 points, a rise of 1.6 points year on year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released on Friday.

In the second quarter, the business climate index, a quarterly barometer of industrial confidence, saw a substantial growth of 17.5 points over the same period last year when severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was epidemic, but dropped 1.5 points from the first quarter.

[Image: A picture released by the US Army shows soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 77th Armoured Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, conducting house-to-house searches in the northern city of Samarra recently.]
Iraqi DM says govt, Fallujah’s residents agree to halt bloodshed

DUBAI, 9 Oct — Iraqi Defence Minister Hazim al-Shalaan said in remarks published on Friday that the interim government and residents of Fallujah had reached an agreement meant to halt bloodshed in the rebel-held city.

The US military says Fallujah is a stronghold of the Tawhid and Jihad grouped by suspected al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, America’s main foe in Iraq. A US raid on the city, 30 miles west of Baghdad, killed 11 people on Friday.

Shalaan told the London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper that the agreement included a three-day ceasefire of strikes on Fallujah, the entry of Iraqi forces into the city and disarming its people of heavy weapons. He did not say when this ceasefire would begin. “The agreement includes a ceasefire on strikes on Fallujah for three days initially followed by the entry of Iraqi forces without any intervention from multi-national forces,” Shalaan said.

“The city’s elderly and men have welcomed this initiative and now we are studying the technical steps to enter,” he said. It was not clear how much influence Fallujah representatives had over the town’s guerrillas. Some Fallujah residents condemn US troops and their allies in Iraq’s interim government, saying US airstrikes have killed and wounded many civilians.

Iraq’s interim government representatives have been negotiating the return of Iraqi security forces to the city ahead of nationwide elections due to take place in January, even as US strikes on Fallujah continued.

The US military said a “precision strike” hit a safe-house used by associates of Zarqawi in northwest Fallujah at 1:15 a.m. (2215 GMT Thursday).

Before the latest raid, Fallujah’s chief negotiator said on Thursday talks with the government could bear fruit soon.

“Fallujah’s families are like hostages at the hands of terror groups there and we believe that the families have the ability to confront these groups,” Shalaan told Asharq al-Awsat.

Bush, Kerry confront on Iraq issues in debate


Bush said that the reason to invade Iraq is because “sanctions were not working” and the UN was not effective at removing Saddam Hussein.

Bush reiterated that Saddam Hussein is “a unique threat”, saying “he could have given weapons of mass destruction to terrorist enemies”. “The world is better off without him in power,” he asserted.

Speaking of US cooperation with the world community on issues of Iraq and Afghanistan, Bush noted that there are 30 nations involved in Iraq, some 40 nations involved in Afghanistan.

On the Korean Peninsula, Bush warned, “It is naive and dangerous to have bilateral relations with North Korea.”

In response, Bush’s rival John Kerry said the world is more dangerous today because Bush did not make the right judgment on the situation of Iraq. Kerry said he also believed Saddam was a threat, but the goal of the sanctions was not to remove Saddam Hussein but it was to remove the weapon of mass destruction. He said he advocated to “use force wisely” instead of rushing to war “without a plan to win the peace”.

“I would have brought our allies to our side,” Kerry said. “If we had used smart diplomacy, we could have saved 200 billion US dollars and an invasion of Iraq, and right now Osmany bin Laden might be in jail or dead.”

Vietnam, China hail development of bilateral ties

HANOI, 9 Oct — Vietnam and China agreed that bilateral ties have developed rapidly, comprehensively and profoundly under the 16-character guiding principle of “long-term stability, future orientation, good-neighbourly friendship, and all-round cooperation.”

In a joint communique issued during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao’s official visit here, the two sides said leaders of both countries have exchanged frequent visits with strengthened political mutual trust, marked results in economic and trade cooperation, and positive progress in the resolution of problems left over by history.

Exchanges and cooperation in other fields have also been expanding with each passing day, and the two sides have supported and coordinated with each other in international and regional affairs.

Wen, who arrived here Wednesday, has had an in-depth exchange of views with Vietnamese leaders on bilateral ties and international and regional issues of common concern in a cordial, friendly and pragmatic atmosphere, the communiqué said.

Against a backdrop of profound changes in international affairs, maintaining the lasting stability, and sound and smooth development ties between the two countries accords with the fundamental interests of both countries and peoples, the document said, adding that the two countries share common strategic interest in many major issues.

The governments of the two countries vowed to continue sticking to the 16-character principle, carry forward traditional friendship, open up mutually beneficial cooperation and address sensitive issues in a timely manner, so as to incessantly push bilateral ties to new and higher levels, the document said.

Azerbaijan President meets senior Chinese official

BAKI, 9 Oct — Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev met with the visiting delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) led by a senior Chinese official on Friday at his presidential office.

During their talks, Liu Yunshan, head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, said China and Azerbaijan have witnessed strengthened political trust, expanding trade and economic cooperation, and more frequent cultural exchanges. China and Azerbaijan have adopted an identical stand on many international affairs and maintained a sound momentum of bilateral relations, he added.

US military denies death of former Iraqi Deputy PM

Baghdad, 10 Oct — Former Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, currently held in US custody, is still alive, the US military said in statement on Saturday, denying previous reports of Aziz death.

“Contrary to media reporting the death of Tareq Aziz, Mr. Aziz did not suffer a heart attack and remains in good health,” the statement said.

Reports also appeared in Rome, quoting one of Aziz sons as saying that his father was well and sound.

Qatar-based Al-Jazeera TV channel earlier reported that Aziz had probably died in detention. Meanwhile, a popular web site confirmed his death, quoting a source in Vatican.

Aziz, the only Christian seated in Saddam Hussein’s leadership, surrendered shortly after the US-led invasion last year and was currently held in US custody.

MA/Xinhua
US soldier killed, another wounded in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Oct — One US soldier was killed and another wounded when their patrol came under attack in northern Iraq on Friday, the US military said in a statement.

“The Task Force Danger soldier was killed and another was wounded when anti-Iraqi forces attacked their patrol near Tuz on 8 October at about 11.43 am (0843 GMT),” the statement said.

Tuz, some 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, is home to Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen, and has been rocked by ethnic violence.

Over 1,080 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iraq war in March 2003.

British Minister “sorry” over Iraq intelligence error

LONDON, 9 Oct — British Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt on Friday became the first government minister who directly apologized for using inaccurate intelligence to justify the US-led war against Iraq.

“All of us who were involved in making an incredibly difficult decision are very sorry and do apologize for the fact that information was wrong.”

Hewitt said when she appeared on BBC One’s Question Time.

“What we said at the time and in the dossier about the stockpiles of weapons was wrong and we have apologized for that,” said Hewitt, who claimed that she was speaking on behalf of the entire Cabinet led by British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

She was responding to members of the audience who challenged her comment that Blair had already apologized for the inaccuracy of the intelligence.

Blair told the annual conference of his ruling Labour Party last week that he “can apologize for the information that turned out to be wrong but I can not, sincerely at least, apologize for removing people, including women and children, and wounding 17 others, a local resident told Xinhua, adding that the groom was killed and the bride was wounded.

“The attack targeted a wedding party, killing 11 people, including women and children, and wounding 17 others, a local resident told Xinhua, adding that the groom was killed and the bride was wounded.

“We have received 11 dead and 17 wounded,” said Khaled Mohammad Nasser, doctor of Fallujah’s General Hospital. A US military statement said it launched a “precision strike” against what it called a “safe house being used by associates of the Jordanian Islamic militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in northwest Fallujah at 1:15 am (2215 GMT Thursday).”

More than a dozen airstrikes have killed several Zarqawi group’s leaders in the past month, including Mohammed al-Lubnani and Abu Anas al-Shami, described as Zarqawi group’s No 2 and spiritual adviser, the statement said.

Fallujah residents said the US military was exaggerating the number of foreign fighters in the city, asserting that the real goal of the US raids is to push Iraqi residents to fight the resistance in stead of their soldiers.

The US Army and Iraqi authority have pledged to recover rebel hotbeds four months ahead of the national elections slated for next January.

Investigations prove no militant camps in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 9 Oct — Rejecting India’s claims, Bangladesh Thursday said its investigations have shown that there were no militant camps in its territory and that the security concerns of the two countries should be resolved through discussion.

“Our investigations have established that there are no militant camps on the soil of Bangladesh,” Foreign Minister Morshed Khan told reporters on his return from the United Nations General Assembly session.

Khan said India could have security concerns, but Bangladesh too had some, but those should be solved across the table.

He also showed an Indian newspaper report, saying New Delhi has not “specifically identified” the camps in question.

Putin’s visit to China will promote Sino-Russian ties

MOSCOW, 9 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin’s upcoming visit to China will add new impetus to further development of bilateral relations, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Alexander Yakovenko told a news conference on Thursday.

Yakovenko said Russia attaches great importance to developing relations and agreed to sign more agreements on issues of common concern.

During his visit in China, Putin will exchange views with Chinese leaders on issues of common concern in a broad and deep way. Cooperation in economy, trade and energy continues to grow and will be raised to a higher level, Yakovenko added.

The official said Russia and China have adopted the same or a similar stand on most international issues. The two countries have cooperated well in international arenas and mediating regional conflicts. They have been good partners in the six-party talks on the nuclear programmes of the Korean Peninsula, he stressed.

The two countries have also conducted sound dialogues on a series of important issues regarding international politics and maintaining global strategic stability, he said.

Lava flows down Mexico’s ‘Fire Volcano’ in Colima state on 8 October, 2004. Authorities have expanded an emergency zone to a 12.5-mile radius from the crater. — Internet

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5th Summit of Asia-Europe meeting ends

HANOI, 10 Oct — Asian and European leaders on Saturday concluded their fifth ASEM summit here after reaffirming their desire to further push economic partnership, enhance cultural exchanges and increase political dialogues between the two continents.

“It is gratifying to see that ASEM 5 has come to a successful conclusion,” said Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai at the closing ceremony.

He said that the meeting “will go down into history as the first summit of an enlargement ASEM, a summit of bold vision and strong resolve to elevate the Asia-Europe partnership to a new stage of more substantive and effective cooperation, particularly in the economic and cultural domains.”

The leaders from 13 Asian and 25 European nations and the European Commission at the two-day meeting adopted the ASEM 5 Chairman’s Statement and the Hanoi declarations on closer ASEM economic partnership and dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

They agreed to actively promote intra-ASEM dialogue and cooperation and called for greater role of the inter-continental group in addressing regional and international issues.

ASEM, which began its process in 1996, constitutes a forum for informal dialogue between the heads of state and government to exchange their views on important issues agreed upon by all ASEM partners. ASEM holds a summit every two years and the venue alternates between Asia and Europe.

After enlargement, ASEM includes 10 ASEAN countries as well as China, Japan and South Korea, and all the 25 EU members and the European Commission.

Africa launches largest polio immunization campaign

GENEVA, 9 Oct — More than one million polio vaccinators in 23 African countries launched on Friday a massive vaccination campaign, aiming to immunize 80 million children across the sub-Saharan Africa against polio over just four days.

This campaign, as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, is a direct response to an ongoing polio epidemic in the region which risks paralysing thousands of children for life.

The Initiative is spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The eradication effort has united all levels of civil society in Africa to collectively wipe out this disease.

Tens of thousands of traditional and religious leaders, school teachers, parents and Rotary club members will join nurses and an army of other volunteers and health workers to systematically go house-to-house and village-to-village to hand-deliver the vaccine to every child under the age of five.

Singapore launches construction safety campaign

SINGAPORE, 9 Oct — Singapore on Friday launched this year’s construction safety and security campaign in a bid to boost its construction sector’s safety.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the campaign, whose theme is “Safety and Security, Everyone’s Responsibility”, Singapore’s Minister for Manpower Ng Eng Hen said that public confidence has been badly shaken by this year’s two major accidents in the construction industry, namely the Nicoll Highway cave-in and the Fusionopolis heavy steel bars crash in April.

He stressed the need for Singapore to take deliberate steps to help workers feel safe and prevent further loss of lives.

Outlining three key thrusts to achieve the vision of a safe construction sector in the island state, he said that all parties involved in a construction project must firstly internalize safety as a primary concern.

Top management plays a critical role in upholding safety, he said, adding that there is a need to continuously review and recalibrate safety standards, especially in an increasingly dense and built-up environment like Singapore’s where construction work happens close to public and property.

On his ministry’s part, he said that the ministry is introducing the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, requiring designers to partner contractors in thinking through safety management for the entire life-cycle of a project.

China highlights UN role in facing world challenges

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Oct — The United Nations is needed more than ever to face numerous world challenges, said Zhang Yishan, deputy Chinese representative to the UN.

Addressing the UN General Assembly as it concluded Friday its consideration of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s report on the work of the organization, Zhang said the report put forward some enlightening ideas that needed consideration.

“The United Nations had been through a challenging year in the area of peace and security, having played an important role in, among others, Iraq, Sudan and Haiti,” he told the assembly.

Noting that the prospect of peacekeeping operations around the world required an increase in the resources to carry them out, he noted, hoping that developed nations would respond to Annan’s appeal for additional assistance. “Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remain challenges,” he said, adding that it was necessary to strengthen cooperation in both those areas.

Zhang noted that development was the basis for peace and stability worldwide. “There was a need to close the widening gap between North and South, and the establishment of a new economic order was necessary so that globalization could benefit the whole world,” he said.

He called for the establishment of a true multilateral trade system and effective global partnerships with developing countries.

“There was a need to strengthen multilateralism and the role of the organization. International developments in the past year showed that multilateral mechanisms, centred around the organization, were vital to peace and security,” he added.
Developing countries today are transforming themselves into democratic ones through two forms of democracy revolution. The first one is to give priority to political freedom before a nation is economically strong. Owing to the practice of this form, a country can be faced with a collapse resulting in bloodshed and leaving its people in great trouble. Some old eastern European socialist nations had practised it.

The second is to prioritize political freedom only after the nation has been economically strong, whereupon a nation can introduce democracy at home with better living standard of the people, development of productive forces and stability in the nation. Now, the People’s Republic of China and ASEAN countries are practising this type. Of these two types, a developing nation should choose the one they find appropriate, through which it can minimize sufferings and adversities of its people in democratic process.

It will become apparent for one if one compares the reform of the People’s Republic of China to that of eastern European countries.

In a bid to force them to directly copy western democracy, the United States and its allies have been putting political pressures and imposing sanctions on developing nations plus encroaching upon the development of productive forces and stability in the region. The United States and its allies know that their attempts to introduce the form of democracy they formatted in a developing country shall never work because they have no regards for the characteristics of the country concerned, since there is no ready-made democracy in the world that can be practised at any regions at any time.

The United States and its allies know that they can only bring democracy by implementing the seven-point future policy programme. However, the act of interfering and intervening in the internal affairs of Myanmar by them is but to fuel internal conflicts.

It reminded me of the involvement of the United States’ CIA in the intrusion of nationalist Chinese (KMT) troops’ into Myanmar around 1950. Moreover, it also reminded me of some points that appeared in the report of CIA Director William Koby to the US Senate in 1970. It said the United States’ expenditure on the internal affairs of Chile was USS $8 million.

It meant the US spent that money to oust and assassinate Chilean President Allende. According to the report, the US spent US$500,000 on the canvassing of the pro-American right-wing political parties in the elections of Chile and US$ 350,000 on the gift (bribery) to the members of Chilean Parliament in 1970. That is a point world nations must be aware of in their dealings with the US.

With respect to Iraq affairs, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed delivered a speech to Malaysian Parliament in Kuala Lumpur on 24 March 2003. In his address, the Malaysian prime minister said that the United States’ invasion of Iraq was a cowardly act of feudalism, and the UN Charter and international agreements would have no meaning. Like acts of Stone Age man, now we are influenced by the principle — might is right.

Nowadays, the United States is trying to reverse the trend, from capitalism to feudalism. So, world nations have faced the dangers of bullying posed by the US feudalism.

Nowadays, the United States is trying to reverse the trend, from capitalism to feudalism. So, world nations have faced the dangers of bullying posed by the US feudalism. The following is the concept on international human rights practised by China which is making economic progress considerably.

It was stated that for a long time China has been totally against the push of any countries in respect of how to put into practice its vision, political norm and development pattern at the expense of human right issue in the activities of UN human right campaign, and also against the interference in the internal affairs of other countries, especially of developing countries, and the assault on their sovereignty and prestige.

In this context, China stands in solidarity with developing countries, and is also in favour of justice. The human right issue by nature pertains to the administrative pattern of a particular country.

Respect for the sovereignty of a nation and non-interference in their internal affairs are widely-recognized international norms. They should be adopted in any area of international relations. China also finds them fit to practise in human rights issue.

In the UN Charter, the Section (7) of Article (2) says “Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII”. In the UN-approved resolutions such as the non-interference in internal affairs of other nations and the right to the safeguard of their freedom and sovereignty, the enhancement of cooperation in friendly relations in accord with the UN Charter; and the non-interference and non-intervention of internal affairs of other nations, it is clearly stated that neither any nation nor any nation grouping has the right to the interference and intervention of their interior and exterior affairs of other countries for whatever reasons; and that every nation is obliged for avoiding the act of driving a wedge between nations or nation groupings either on the pretext of human rights issue or by means of invention.

These internationally-recognized resolutions indicate the majority consent of preserving international legislative norms and normalized relations. In other words, these are the basic principles to be followed in global campaigns for human rights.

Therefore the United States breaking up international interests and serving self-interests will be further shunned by international community. Since the birth of the UN, international community has resisted and removed colonialism up to now.

The United States and its allies should emulate China’s attitude towards international community. It is because democracy cannot be introduced nor flourish in a developing country by means of international pressure and foreign invasion, and they should have realized well that internal affairs of a nation is just the concern of its...
Mandalay Industrial Zone will…

Making progress if it operates the factories including modern foundry plants through modern methods and greater efforts. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 pledged that the Government will continue to render assistance to the zone for its greater progress.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party observed samples of farm implements and machinery that the foundry and forging plants will produce on completion.

They also inspected progress of construction of machine shop Nos 1 and 2, forging shop & heat treatment, foundry shop, forging shop & heat treatment, and warehouse. So far, 63 per cent of construction of new modern foundry has been completed.

Similar plants are being built in Aye Thaya in Taunggyi and Monywa Industrial Zones.

The Secretary-1 and party went to UD Group Factory in Mandalay Industrial Zone-1 and inspected the machines to be used for changing diesel or petrol engines into engines of foundry shops.

Chief Executive Officer of UD Group U Khin Maung Win reported on the chosen site for construction of a two-storey ward building to the Secretary-1, which gave necessary instructions.

Next, a ceremony to donate teaching aids to No 3 BEHS in Myingyan was held at the school where MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said that the State is making efforts for enhancement of national education and human resources as well as ensuring equitable development of the whole nation and development of regions on account of public cooperation with the government. The service personnel are to cooperate with the local people for development of Myingyan region. School Head U Myint Kyaw reported on efforts made for the emergence of teaching aids and tasks being carried out by the parent-teacher association, and the school board of trustees.

The cash donation ceremony for purchase of teaching aids took place.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party went to Myingyan District Hospital (100-bed) where officials welcomed them. National Health Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspected the children’s ward, medical store, operation theatre and X-ray room.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials reported on the chosen site for construction of a two-storey ward building to the Secretary-1, who gave necessary instructions.

At 10 am, the Secretary-1 and party met members of Myingyan district and township PDCs and industrialists in the hall of Myingyan Industrial Zone. Secretary of Myingyan District PDC Maj Myint Soe reported on the location and area of the industrial zone, land allotments to industrialists, power supply, water supply, installation of phone lines and operations of factories in the zone. Next, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions to officials and inspected compressors and accessories, pumps, pistons and biofertilizers produced by the industrialists.

He also inspected various kinds of motor vehicles assembled by Myingyan Industrial Zone, machinery and farm machinery.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party looked into the foundry plant of U Aye Maung and the foundry plant and lathe workshop of U Chint Oo.

Then, they left Myingyan by helicopter and inspected the greening of Mount Popa in Kyaukpaduang Township.

Coord meeting to construct Nanattaw overpass in Kamayut held

A coordination meeting to construct Nanattaw overpass in Kamayut township was held at the briefing hall of the construction project this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Maung Lwin and U Pe Thun, Managing Director of Myanma Railways U Min Swe, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Department Col Aung Win, No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tin Hlaing, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and guests.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min presented reports on progress in constructing overpasses at places of level crossing and arrangements to be made for future tasks, condition of traffic jams at the junction of Baho and Nanattaw roads while trains are passing through there, measures to be taken for construction of Nanattaw overpass to overcome traffic jams. And, Deputy Minister U Pe Thun presented reports on timely completion of the project, measures being taken for coordinating with departments concerned to build overpass at safe distance of power lines, telephone lines and pipe lines during the period of construction of the overpass.

Nanattaw overpass to be built is of reinforced concrete, which is 946 feet long. Its motorway is 48 feet wide. Each pedestrian lane is four feet wide and its clearance, 14 feet high. In case of incomplete, it can withstand 60-ton loads. Upon completion, Pyay, Baho and Bayintnaung roads can be crossed within a short period. — MNA
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for group photo with teachers and students at multimedia classrooms at Chanayethazan BEPS No 4. (News on page 16) — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win meets with Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs Brig-Gen George Yeo. — MNA

Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, 10 new... (from page 1)

of the Political Department U Thaung Tun, Director-General of the Consular and Legal Department U Nyan Lin and delegation members also arrived back on the same flight.

At the Enlargement Ceremony held at Hanoi-Daewoo Hotel on 7 October, Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR from Asia and 10 new EU countries were admitted as new members. The ceremony was followed by an informal working dinner where recent political developments were discussed. Minister U Tin Winn briefed the heads of delegations on political development in Myanmar. The 5th Asia-Europe Meeting adopted the Hanoi Declaration on Closer Asia-Europe Economic Partnership, Declaration on Dialogue Among Cultures and Civilizations and the Chairman’s Statement. While in Hanoi, Minister U Tin Winn called on Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Mr Vu Khoan and former Prime Minister Mr Vo Van Kiet. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win also held bilateral meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Dy Nyein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Nobutaka and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Brig-Gen George Yeo. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan poses for group photo with other ministers and party. — MNA

Information Minister attends 8th Conference of ASEAN Information Ministers

YANGON, 10 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the 8th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) held in Cambodia from 5 to 8 October. The Information Senior Officials Meeting of the 8th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) was held from 5 to 6 October at Intercontinental Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, attended by Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay and Director-U Win Kyi from the Myanmar delegation.

The 8th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information was held at Intercontinental Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 7 to 8 October, attended by the delegations led by ministers of ASEAN nations and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Myanmar delegation members.

At the opening ceremony of the conference, Cambodian Minister of Information Mr Khieu Kanharit and Vice-Prime Minister Mr Sok An made opening speeches. Afterwards, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified facts about “Towards Shared Prosperity and Destiny in a Peaceful, Integrated and Caring Community” which is the objective of the conference.

The second- and third-day sessions of the conference continued at Intercontinental Hotel. In the conference, participants discussed matters related to encouragement of ASEAN cooperation in media and information sector, organizational set up of ASEAN-COCI, ASEAN digital broadcasting cooperation and cooperation in information between ASEAN and Plus Three Nations and they laid down the future tasks. In the evening, ministers approved the minutes of the conference. — MNA

Minister attends ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

YANGON, 10 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the Fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication held at Meritus Mandarin Hotel in Singapore on 7 October. Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Professor S Jayakumara opened the meeting. The Ministerial Meeting continued at Meritus Mandarin Court D. At the meeting, Minister Col Thein Nyunt clarified implementation and successes of five rural development tasks, improvement of rural roads, development of rural water supply, rural education, rural health and rural economy, implementation of plans on development of border areas and national races and establishment of 24 development regions for equal improvement of regions all over the nation and discussed acceleration of regional cooperation in rural development and poverty eradication.

Before the ministerial meeting, Director-General Col Than Swe of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and Director U Aye Lwin attended the senior officials meeting on 4 and 5 October. — MNA
Provisions of Tatmadaw families, wellwishers donated to monasteries, nunneries in Thakayta, Dawbon, Hline

YANGON, 10 Oct — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicine, gram and cash to 24 monasteries and two nunneries in Thakayta and Dawbon Townships this afternoon.

The donation was held at Dhamma Beikman in the precinct of Zinamaung Pagoda in Thakayta Township. Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Major General Tin Pa, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Minister Brigadier-General Kyaw Myint, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers, local authorities, social organization members and local people.

On behalf of the Tatmadaw families, Major General Tin Pa of the Ministry of Defence accepted cash and kind for the monasteries and nunneries donated by 80 wellwishers.

Similarly, Tatmadaw families and wellwishers donated provisions to 15 monasteries and nunneries in Hline Township this afternoon.

The donation ceremony was held at Panditayama Pariyatti Monastery in Ward 13 in Hline Township.

Commander Major General Tin Pa, Minister for Religious Affairs Brigadier-General Thura Myint, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers offered donations to the Sayadaws.

Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence, Cmdr Tin Aung San of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Office and Colonel General Staff (Air) Lt-Col Nay Win supplicated on the purpose of the donations.

Bhaddanta Angisa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Today’s donations for monasteries and nunneries were 633 bags of rice, 230 viss of oil, 455 viss of gram, 2,277 viss of sodized salt, 455 tubes of tooth paste, 1,370 bottles of traditional medicines, 4,559 cakes of soap and K 20,243,891.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Myanmar is a country rich in natural resources. Myanmar has now become famous in the world for its great wealth of offshore gas as well as underground and underwater resources.

Jade Dragon Company being operated by PaO Peace Group discovered a huge jade boulder weighing nearly 3,000 tons at a depth of 40 feet from Nannaw jade block of Phakant Township in 2000. The jade boulder attracted the whole world as it has been considered the world’s biggest one. U Aung Hkam Hti, leader of PaO Peace Group, donated the jade boulder to the State on 26 May 2002.

Apart from natural gas, condensate can be produced on a commercial scale at Yetagun oil and gas field. Now, the field can produce some 8,700 barrels of condensate a day and put them on sale for domestic use through the Malaysia Petrochemical Enterprise. The daily production of condensate is stored in a floating tank, and when the number of barrels reaches 400,000, it is transferred to a tanker and transported to MPE in Thanlyin.

Surrounded by offshore oil wells named M-12, M-13 and M-14, Yetagun offshore gas field is located off the coast at a distance of 100 miles northwest of Dawei and south of Yangon.

MOGE entered an agreement, PSC, with a British oil company named Premier Oil Company on 3 May 1990 to undertake these offshore oil wells. They had conducted 2D and 3D seismic surveys. According to the data collected, it is detected that oil and gas reserves possibly lie buried in sand layers and they have a delightful prospect.

As Yetagun drilled another four wells successfully at the end of August this year, plans are under way to increase the sale of natural gas to Thailand up to 400 million cubic feet as Thailand has shown greater demand for it.

Moreover, the number of barrels of condensate will also increase to 12,000 a day. It will imply that domestic demand can also be met.

The natural gas exported from the gas field is processed in various steps with the use of high-powered pressure machines to make sure that they contain no amount of water and condensate. Then, the purified natural gas is piped to the metering station on Thailand-Myanmar border. The station also runs a monthly check on the gas so as to ensure that both sides do not suffer any loss.

As an offshore treasure trove, Yetagun is now making a good success standing as a prime foreign exchange earner.

Translation: KTY Kyemon, Myanma Alin: 9-10-2004

Aerial view of Yetagun offshore oil and gas drilling rig.
“NY Times” reporter to face 18 months in jail in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON, 9 Oct — A New York Times reporter is facing up to 18 months in prison after a federal judge held her in contempt of court on Thursday for refusing to name her source to prosecutors investigating the disclosure of the identity of a covert Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent, media reports said Friday.

The reporter, Judith Miller, published no articles about the agent, Valerie Plame, but the judge, Thomas F. Hogan, of US District Court in Washington, ordered her jailed for as long as 18 months, noting that she had contemptuited writing such an article and had conducted interviews for it.

The judge agreed to suspend the sanction until a planned appeal is concluded.

Appearing on NBS’s “Today” show on Friday, Miller said she was deeply reluctant to divulge her confidential source to the prosecutors, even if the source permitted her to do so. She would have to be certain the source’s decision to be identified “was really voluntary”, before she considered disclosing the source’s name, Miller said. — MNA/Xinhua

EU urged to recognize China’s full market economy status

HANOI, 9 Oct — Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai on Friday urged the European Union (EU) to recognize China’s status as a full market economy.

Bo, meeting EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy here on the sidelines of the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting summit, said the EU should recognize China’s full market economy status at an early date in line with the market economic development since its accession to the World Trade Organization.

The two sides also discussed textile trade. Bo said China would work with the EU for a stable transition after the lifting of quotas on textile trade. — MNA/Xinhua

China pledges to further ties with Estonia, Britain

HANOI, 9 Oct — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here Friday with Estonian Prime Minister Juhan Parts and British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott during his visit to Vietnam.

During his meeting with Parts, Wen said China hopes that Estonia, a new member of the European Union (EU), would play a positive role in pushing forward Sino-EU ties.

Wen expressed satisfaction with the development of Sino-Estonian ties, noting that China and Estonia have maintained sound cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields.

He said China welcomes Estonia to engage in exchanges for business cooperation, and will continue to work with the EU for a stable transition after the lifting of quotas on textiles.

He said China is ready to work with Britain to enhance the substantial cooperation in such areas as trade and investment, finance, energy resources, and education.

Prescott, for his part, said Britain’s work with the EU for a stable transition after the lifting of quotas on textiles is at their closest.

He said the British Government will make more efforts to advance the Halland round and strategic partnership with China. — MNA/Xinhua

Suspected drugpusher captured in Colombia

BOGOTA, 9 Oct — Colombian police on Thursday arrested suspected drug pusher Gabriel Puerta, who was related to a drug cartel in the north of the country.

Puerta was captured in a rural area of La Vega, central department of Cundinamarca, Police Commander Jorge Castro said.

A federal court of the United States has issued an extradition petition for Puerta on a count of drug trafficking. The Attorney General’s office Thursday will decide whether Puerta will be sent to the United States or stand trial in Colombia.

Since President Alvaro Uribe took office in August 2002, over 200 people have been extradited to the United States. Meanwhile, Colombian Marines on Thursday seized 2.5 tons of cocaine which belongs to the paramilitary of the United Self—Defense Forces of Colombia. — MNA/Xinhua

Turkey to gain EU membership in 2014

ANKARA, 9 Oct — Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said on Friday that a fair date for Turkey to gain full membership of the European Union (EU) would be in 2014, assuming that the EU agreed to open accession negotiations with Ankara at the end of this year.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Turkish private television station NTV, Gul said that full-membership date would likely be in 2014 as the EU summit was prepared up to 2013.

“However, this relies on Turkey’s performance.” The negotiations process for England took 12 years,” Gul said, adding that membership negotiations could start in June 2005 and they were studying other states accession process.

The Foreign Minister said the European Commission (EC)’s Progress Report on Turkey in implementing the reforms required to start membership talks, which was released on Wednesday, had some flaws. However, he added that these should not be allowed to overshadow a historic moment for Turkey. — MNA/Xinhua

Belgian Airport records more drug seizures in 2003

BRUSSELS, 9 Oct — Customs at Belgium’s International Airport, Zaventem, have recorded a total of 566 drug seizures in 2003, twice as many cases as the year before, a report shows.

The report, published by the federal government, showed that Customs at the international airport found more drugs in 2003 due to new sniffer dogs, Flanders International Radio reported Thursday.

Customs at the airport have also recently introduced new “scanners”, vans with a built-in scanning device. These are mostly used to check commercial transportation of goods via such companies as courier firms.

The scanner can identify products such as alcohol and cigarettes that normally are subject to high duty taxation. Due to the use of colour imagery, the scanners can also be programmed to detect weapons, drugs and animals, the report said. Customs at the airport also found more counterfeit goods in 2003. Around 40 million items have been confiscated, mostly CDs, DVDs, cassettes and cigarettes. — MNA/Xinhua

First insurance for newly-wed Chinese couples launched

BEIJING, 9 Oct — Couples getting married in the eastern Chinese city of Shanghai can rest more easy when they tie the knot — ban insurance company for the first time is offering protection against mishaps.

Chinese tradition puts a huge value on a smooth wedding ceremony and any accident, even food poisoning from the caterers, is seen as a hugely bad omen.

The “wedding odds” insurance was launched by the Shanghai Association of Wedding and Ceremony Industry and China Ping’an Insurance Co during the week-long National Day holiday, Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

“The insurance, which caters to the city’s booming wedding market, covers mishaps such as food poisoning,” the agency said.

The bride and groom can obtain compensation of up to 180,000 yuan (21,770 dollars) while guests can win up to 20,000 yuan, depending on the scale of the disaster.

“This is the first insurance to specifically target China’s huge wedding and ceremony market. China Ping’an is confident in surging demand and profitability,” the company was quoted as saying.

Shanghai witnesses more than 100,000 weddings every year and the number surges during holidays. — MNA/Reuters
Visa cardholders spend $17.3b in Asia Pacific regions in 2003

HONG KONG, 9 Oct — Visa cardholders visiting Asia Pacific Regions are spending more than ever, purchasing goods and services worth 17.3 billion US dollars in 2003, up from 16 billion US dollars in 2002, said Visa in a report released on Thursday.

The report, entitled “Recent trends in spending by visitors to Asia Pacific”, shows that the two largest spending countries of origin in the region in 2003 were the United States (3.26 billion US dollars) and the United Kingdom (2.62 billion US dollars).

And they were followed by Japan (1.81 billion US dollars), Hong Kong (1.07 billion US dollars) and Australia (970 million US dollars). In total, these top five locations accounted for 36 per cent of the total Visa Asia Pacific spent by international cardholders.

The highest spending on a per transaction basis was by cardholders from Chinese Mainland, with an average spending per transaction of 253 US dollars. By comparison, the United States and the United Kingdom averaged 135 US dollars and 141 US dollars per transactions, respectively.

The report highlights the trend of cardholders shopping for a diverse range of goods and services in different countries and regions.

For example, spending by Visa cardholders at arts and craft stores in Mainland has been growing steadily over the last five years; in Hong Kong, international Visa cardholders spend more on clothing, while in Australia cardholders spend more on education services relative to other destinations in Asia Pacific. Electronic and computer-related goods are relatively popular in Japan and Singapore.

On a per transactions basis, in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, education attracted the highest spending. In contrast, in Hong Kong it was household goods that topped the category; in Japan it was accommodation; and in Mainland, mail order transactions attracted the highest spending per transaction in 2003.

The report also shows that on-line transactions account for a minority of tourism-related spending. On average, 91 per cent of the 17.3 billion US dollars international Visa spent in Asia Pacific occurred in person between cardholders and merchants, as opposed to over the telephone, Internet or through mail-order transactions.

The growing importance of intra-regional tourism to Asia Pacific countries was also highlighted, with Asia Pacific based cardholders making up 45 per cent of the total Visa spending in 2003, up from 39 per cent in 1999. — MNA/Xinhua

Sweden tops global e-banking stakes

STOCKHOLM, 9 Oct — Swedes are the world’s most prolific users of online banking services, according to a new research published on Thursday.

Figures from Nielsen NetRatings, the global Internet audience measurement and analysis company, showed that 2.7 million Swedes — 30 per cent of the population — visited a bank web site in August 2004.

Sweden’s closest e-banking rival is the Netherlands, where 22 per cent of inhabitants used Internet banking services during the same period. In the United States, the figure was 14 per cent.

Largest among Sweden’s Internet banks is Forenings Sparbanken, which had 1,455,000 individual visitors in August — a 15 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

Svenska Handelsbanken, another of Sweden’s four large commercial banks, saw its share of the market grow as its Internet user visits increased 21 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Brazil, Spain sign trade agreement

MADRID, 9 Oct — Brazil and Spain signed a general cooperation agreement here on Thursday to widen bilateral trade, the Brazil-Spain Chamber of Commerce announced.

The Brazil-Spain Chamber of Commerce president Carlos Moreira-Garcia and the Export and Promotion Agenda of Brazil (APEX) president Juan Quiros signed the agreement, which identifies companies with the capacity of extending their business to both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Under the agreement, the APEX will encourage more Brazilian companies to enter the Spanish market. On the other hand, Brazil with nearly 200 million population represents a potential market for Spain. It is one of the principal destinations for the Spanish investment abroad, said the Brazil-Spain Chamber of Commerce.

According to the Spain Trade Ministry, Spain exported 798 million euros (957 million US dollars) of goods to Brazil in 2003 and imported 1.27 billion euros (1.52 billion dollars), 38.54 per cent more than that of the previous year. — MNA/Xinhua

China hosts first International Conference on Media Education

BEIJING, 9 Oct — The First International Conference on Media Education in China opened here Friday in Communication University of China (CUC), a leading university special for training media talents in China.

Focusing on “Media Education in Information Age”, experts from domestic and overseas will discuss a series of topics, including building media education theory with Chinese characteristics.

The four-day seminar will also focus on how China can teach its young people critically evaluate the media. Media literacy is the ability to access and evaluate information from the media.

Many countries, like Canada and the United States, have listed the media education a regular curriculum in schools.

Originated from 1930s in England, media education was aimed to encourage students to “see clearly and resist” the influence of mass media.

As the presence of television, movies and advertising expands in China — so does education about its affects. — MNA/Xinhua

OAS chief to resign

WASHINGTON, 9 Oct — Secretary-general of the Organization of American States (OAS) Miguel Angel Rodriguez announced on Friday that he will resign next week.

“I resign the post of secretary-general of the OAS on 15 October,” Rodriguez said in a letter to the Washington-based OAS.

Rodriguez was sworn in on 23 September to a five-year term as chief of the world’s oldest regional organization.

Rodriguez announced his resignation amid accusations of corruption dating to his presidency of Costa Rica.


Georgia to normalize relations with Russia

MOSCOW, 9 Oct — Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania Thursday said the priority of Georgia’s foreign policy is to normalize relations with Russia, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

“All Georgian citizens, from villagers to top politicians are interested in establishing good neighbourly and friendly relations with Russia,” Zhvania said.

The Prime Minister expressed the willingness of Georgia “to resolve the problems blocking the establishment of such relations”, saying the Georgian authorities “are ready for reasonable compromises, and are hoping for same steps by the Russian side, while taking into account the interests of both countries”.

Zhvania said Tbilisi calls for developing cooperation with Russia in the spheres of border protection and fight against terrorism, adding that “Georgia is going to set up a Georgian-Russian anti-terrorist centre on its territory”.

Georgia and Russia have different approaches regarding the settlement of the smoldering conflicts — in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, according to the official. But “it is impossible to establish peace and stability in the Caucasus without normalizing the Georgian-Russian relations and settling these conflicts”, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

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As the presence of television, movies and advertising expands in China — so does education about its affects. — MNA/Xinhua
Barcelona interested in signing 12-year-old Argentine

BUENOS AIRES, 9 Oct—Spanish giants Barcelona are interested in signing a 12-year-old Argentine, the boy’s father told reporters. “It’s an interesting offer. Barcelona have opened all the doors for us,” said Jose Lamela, whose son Erik plays for the youth team of Argentine club River Plate.

His mother Mymy added: “If we have to travel, the whole family will go because we’re not going to separate.”

Argentine media say Barcelona have offered to pay Lamela’s parents 120,000 euros a year for a four-year contract with their youth squad.

Lamela was spotted during a tournament in Spain which River won and he finished as top-scoring.

River are regarded as having an outstanding youth training scheme, which has produced players like Argentina internationals Javier Saviola and Pablo Aimar. —MNA/Reuters

Woodgate to undergo treatment in US

MADRID, 9 Oct—England defender Jonathan Woodgate is to undergo treatment in the United States after his Real Madrid debut was put on hold due to the recurrence of a long-term thigh injury.

“Real Madrid medical staff have decided that Jonathan Woodgate will travel to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in the United States in order to complete his recovery from his injury,” the club said on their website on Friday.

“Once in the United States the most appropriate course of treatment will be decided upon. Thanks to new techniques of muscular regeneration it is hoped that Woodgate will be able to avoid undergoing surgery.”

The central defender, who joined Real for 20 million euros (24.63 million dollars) from Newcastle last month, is due to play with a three-man attack.

Woodgate, 24, was due to play in next Tuesday’s group stage qualifier against local Madrid side Alcorcon but he has not played since making his Real Madrid debut two weeks ago.

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World number one Amelie Mauresmo took another step towards retaining the top spot when she dismissed American Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-1 and second seed Lindsay Davenport ended the run of Serbian qualifier Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 6-3.

Second Seeds Myskina dropped the opening set to fellow Russian Elena Likhoskova but won 7-5, 6-2.

“Perhaps he wants me to quit,” added Kahn, who led Germany to the 2002 World Cup final but has since been stripped of the captaincy by new coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

“Or maybe he wants goalkeeping coach Sepp Maier to quit. The direction we’re heading isn’t good at all. It’s insane.”

Maier, who coaches Kahn at both national and club level, has repeatedly endorsed him ahead of Kahn and did so again ahead of a friendly against Iran on Saturday.

Expectations were already being raised after Rooney marked his Manchester United debut with a Champions League hat-trick at Old Trafford bound to give them a lift.

Michael Owen, who should have shaken off a back injury, leaving no room for reliable stand-ins John Terry and Ledley King. Rooney, who lit up England's quarterfinal defeat in June by the host nation.

England welcome back Euro 2004 sensation

LONDON, 9 Oct—England welcome back their Euro 2004 sensation Wayne Rooney on Saturday in what should be a pulsating World Cup qualifier against Wales at the teenager’s new Old Trafford home.

Rooney will not be the only player welcomed back to the international stage, though, as Sven-Goran Eriksson is expected to field his central defensive pairing from the 2002 World Cup.

Rio Ferdinand has completed an eight-month ban for missing a drugs test and has impressed for United, while Sol Campbell has recovered from an Achilles injury, leaving no room for reliable stand-ins John Terry and Ledley King.

Rooney, who got up England’s campaign in Portugal with four goals in three group games, is back after a foot injury suffered in their 1-0-1-6-7-6 at the Lyon Grand Prix on Friday.

The American found himself 5-2 down in the third set of his quarterfinal but clawed his way back to force a tiebreak which he secured 7-2.

“I wasn’t going well the whole match but I was very excited when I reached the tiebreak in the third and had the feeling that nothing could stop me,” he said.

Spada defeats Melzer in Lyon Grand Prix

LYON (France), 9 Oct—Seventh seed Vincent Spada came back from the brink to defeat Jureg Melzer 6-1, 6-7 (6), 6-4 in 58 minutes by fellow Swede Robin Soderling, ranked 47th in the world.

Johansson, who reached the semifinals of the US Open last month, said the match boiled down to a few vital points.

“Only my serve twice because Robin took advantage of the two break points he had and I missed the only one I got,” she said the 22-year-old.

In the two other quarterfinals, Spaniard David Ferrer ousted Sweden’s Jonas Bjorkman 6-2, 6-4 and Belgian Xavier Malisse defeated Russian Mikhail Youzhny 6-3, 6-4. —MNA/Reuters

Borussia Dortmund reports highest-ever debt in German soccer history

DORTMUND (Germany), 9 Oct—Borussia Dortmund, European champions in 1997, reported the highest-ever debt in German soccer history on Friday.

Liabilities rose to 118.8 million euros (146.3 million US dollars) in the 2003/2004 year to June, up from 73.5 million euros on the previous 12 months.

The club also posted a profit of 67.7 million euros, compared with a profit 3.3 million the previous year.

Borussia chairman Gerd Niebaum said they would roll up their sleeves to restructure the club. “We have probably made some misjudgements,” he told a news conference.

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WEATHER

Sunday, 10 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00hrs MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States. Magway Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were PynOol, win (5.42) inches and Myitkyina (1.22) inches.

Maximum temperature on 9-10-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 10-10-2004 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:00hrs MST on 10-10-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 9-10-2004 was (5.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 10-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, (0.04 inch) at Kaba-Aye and, nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (111.73 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.22 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (108.62 inches) at central Yangon.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-10-2004: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Mon State, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Shan State, Yangon and Bago Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Thundery conditions in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-10-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-10-2004: Partly cloudy.

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MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils the signboard of multimedia classrooms at BEPS No 4 in Chanayethazan Township.— MNA

YANGON, 10 Oct — A ceremony to open multimedia classrooms at Basic Education Primary School No 4 in Patkon Pyawbwe Ward of Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division was held in front of the school on 8 October evening, attended by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Mandalay mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local people and students.

Headmistress Daw Khin Ohn Myint and Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Khin Maung formally opened the multimedia classrooms. Next, the Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the language lab where teachers and students were applying of modern teaching aid. They also inspected installation of modern teaching aid at other multimedia classrooms. Next, they viewed round the domestic science room. Students presented a model house made of plastic as souvenir to the Secretary-1. Lt-Gen Soe Win and party enjoyed entertainment of students at the music and arts room. Later, the Secretary-1 and party together with the headmistress, teachers and students posed for a documentary photo.

Before their departure, schoolchildren waved to the Secretary-1 and party singing the song titled Zartiman (national spirit). — MNA

Victorious Myanmar women’s football team given warm welcome

YANGON, 10 Oct — Victorious Myanmar women’s football team which emerged champion in the First ASEAN Women’s Football Tournament held in Ho Chi Minh City of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 29 September to 9 October arrived back here by air this evening.

The victorious selected Myanmar women’s team comprising the manager, the coach and players totalling 23 led by Prof Daw Pandora Aung Gyi was given a warm welcome at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of the Panel of Patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, the President of Myanmar Football Federation and officials, athletes and relatives of the victorious team with songs and dances.

MNA