Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Spain

YANGON, 12 Oct — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2004. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Mon Creek multipurpose dam project. — MNA

Mon Creek Multipurpose Dam project to irrigate 108,000 acres and generate 75 megawatts

Secretary-1 inspects Mon Creek Multipurpose Dam Project in Magway Division

YANGON, 11 Oct — State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, and responsible officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left Myingyan of Mandalay Division by helicopter for the Mon Creek multipurpose dam project being implemented in Sedoktara Township, Magway Division, on 9 October. On arrival, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe, Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win and officials. At the briefing hall, Director U Myint Than of the Construction Group 8 of the Irrigation Department reported on the tasks being carried out by the Irrigation Department for the construction of the dam and related facilities, spillways, and tunnels. In his reports, he continued that 96 percent of the construction of tunnels has been completed while the completion percentage of the construction of spillways is 91. He also reported on the water storage capacity of the dam, adding that the strength and durability of the embankment has also been tested. Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint presented supplementary reports in respect of the measures being taken for speedy completion of the project. After hearing the reports, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win gave instructions on harmonious efforts for the facility to meet the set standard. Next, the Secretary-1 presented souvenirs to departmental employees of the project, and a fruit basket to officials of CITIC Company of the People’s Republic of China.

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INSIDE Perspectives

Work steadfastly towards eternal existence of the Union

(page 2)

Local people, for their part, realizing the goodwill of the State and local authorities, are to actively cooperate in regional development work.

Progress of Mon Creek multipurpose dam project in Sedoktara Township in Magway Division. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Work steadfastly towards eternal existence of the Union

The State Peace and Development Council has been making reforms in political, economic and social fields for the all-round development of the Union of Myanmar. It is doing so for “Our three main national causes” — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty. Our three main national causes are the soul of each and every patriotic citizen.

The Special Refresher Course No 21 for basic education teachers was held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, on 9 October and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, also Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee.

In his speech at the ceremony, the Secretary-2 said that the teachers are to try to their best in order that their students are able to appreciate deeply in their hearts the value of peace and stability of the Union, national unity and sovereignty.

Our three main national causes are as important as our soul and the entire national people are required to adopt them as the national policy. We believe that this national policy will flourish as long as the world exists and we shall have to hand it down to our generations to come.

Nowadays, destructive elements within and without the nation are plotting to destroy it politically, economically and socially. At such a time like this, national unity and Union Spirit are sine qua non for the eternal existence of the Union.

Therefore, the teachers will have to work steadfastly in such a way that national unity becomes stronger and stronger and Union Spirit flourishes more and more. Bearing in mind the maxim that the strength of a nation lies within, local administrative organs, teachers and social organizations will have to live it.

As the Government is implementing the development plan for border areas and national races, rural development tasks and the 24-region development plan the length and breadth of the nation, the development gap between regions has been narrowed down and national unity has become stronger and more consolidated.

We would like to call on all the patriotic national races to live in unity and to safeguard the Union while lending themselves to all the national development endeavours being carried out by the Government.

Minister receives Australian Ambassador

YANGON, 11 Oct — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Australian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Paul Grigson at his office on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning.

Present at the call were Director-General of Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Protector Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and Deputy Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Tun Mya Aung.

The Objectives of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 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
- To prevent influence of alien culture

Commerce Minister receives Ambassador of Singapore

YANGON, 11 Oct — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein received Ambassador of Singapore to the Union of Myanmar Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz at his office this afternoon. Present at the call were Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of Border Trade Department U Nay Win, Managing Director of Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading U Min Hla Aung and officials concerned.

Myanmar delegation arrives back

YANGON, 11 Oct — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa welcomed back the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung who arrived back at Yangon International Airport by air yesterday evening after attending the 55th UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Myanmar delegation comprises Director-General of Population and National Registration Department U Maung Hlay, Deputy Director U Saing Aung Thein of Border Area Immigration Control Unit and Project Manager U Aye of UNHCR Office.

Minister U Tin Winn and Minister U Nyan Win being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport after attending the ASEM-5 on 7-9 October in Vietnam. (News reported) — MNA

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport. — IRP
Car bombs strike twice in Baghdad, killing 11; Rumsfeld warns of more violence

Baghdad, 10 Oct — Car bombers struck twice in rapid succession in the capital Sunday, killing at least 11 people including an American soldier, as Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned that violence may increase before the January election.

Rocket-propelled grenade explosions and machine gun fire rocked the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, late Sunday. Residents reached by telephone said insurgents launched attacks in a half dozen parts of Ramadi, and that four huge explosions shook the centre of the city Sunday night.

Iraq's most feared terror group — Tawhid and Jihad — claimed responsibility for the near-simultaneous car bombings, one near an east Baghdad police academy and the other outside an east Baghdad market as an American military convoy was passing by.

At least 16 people were wounded. An American soldier was fatally injured in the convoy attack, US and Iraqi officials said. One Iraqi was wounded in that attack. The Kindi Hospital said it received 10 bodies from the police academy blast, and police said 15 others were injured there.

The dead at Kindi hospital included three police academy students and a female officer.

In a statement posted on the Web, Tawhid and Jihad, led by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said the car bombings were carried out by its military wing and were "martyrdom" operations, meaning suicide attacks.

Improvised bombs — some left by the side of the road, others rigged in vehicles — have become insurgents' weapon of choice in turbulent Iraq and have accounted for about half the American battle deaths in recent months.

US officials are struggling to build up Iraq's own security resources to cope with the threat.

A soldier from Task Force Baghdad died of injuries sustained in a car bombing that targeted a military convoy early today in the east of the Iraqi capital, according to a statement. A Marine was killed in action in al-Anbar province, west of Baghdad, yesterday during "security and stability operations," the military said without providing details.

The deaths add to the 809 US military members killed in action in Iraq since the invasion that began in March 2003, according to Pentagon figures released two days ago. Of those, 700 were killed since US President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations on 1 May, 2003.

The US may start pulling troops out of Iraq after the Iraqi national elections in January, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today during a surprise visit to the west of the country, the Associated Press reported.

The handling of Iraq has become a key issue in the campaign leading to the 2 Nov US presidential election.

Democratic challenger John Kerry says violence has swept Iraq because Bush didn't have a postwar plan. Bush says the unrest is evidence that the fight against terrorism must also be waged in Iraq.

US soldier, Marine killed in attacks in Iraq

Baghdad, 10 Oct — Two members of the US forces in Iraq were killed in separate incidents, the military said in statements e-mailed from Baghdad.

A soldier from Task Force Baghdad died of injuries sustained in a car bombing that targeted a military convoy early today in the east of the Iraqi capital, according to a statement. A Marine was killed in action in al-Anbar province, west of Baghdad, yesterday during "security and stability operations," the military said without providing details.

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Singh says creating neighbourhood of peace a high priority

New Delhi, 10 Oct — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Saturday that creating a neighbourhood of peace and stability was a high priority with his government and felt the media could play a critical role by shaping ideas that could overcome the burden of past perceptions.

"Creating a neighbourhood of peace and stability is a high priority of our government," Singh said in a message to the two-day conference of South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) which was read out by its media adviser Sanjaya Baru.

Observing that South Asia still remained one of the world's less developed regions despite its advantages, he said "our individual and collective struggle to march forward on the road to development has been impaired by weak intra-regional cooperation, compounded by mutual suspicion".

Singh said his government would like to encourage the free flow of ideas and people to help shed prejudices and develop an appreciation of the existing ground realities. To this end, India had liberalized visa rules for journalists from Pakistan to visit India, he said observing "I am glad that it has yielded concrete results".

Chirac wants to make France trade partner for China

Chengdu, 10 Oct — French President Jacques Chirac wants to make France a natural trade partner for China and sought on Saturday to ease the fears of some of his countrymen over China's economic surge.

Chirac arrived in Chengdu, capital of southwestern Sichuan Province, on Friday evening, kicking off a five-day state visit in which trade and a 15-year-old arms embargo against China are likely to be high on the agenda.

"To those people in Europe and France who ask about the consequences of (China's economic) rise I say that the development of China is an opportunity for our growth and our jobs. And France must take this opportunity," he said in a speech.

"It is also by going in conquest of new markets and in knowing how to seize the opportunities offered to our economy that we will speed up the creation of jobs in France and push back unemployment for a long time."

Chirac is accompanied by a large delegation of businessmen, including the heads of the world's top nuclear power producers, Electricite de France, and nuclear reactor maker Areva. — MNA/Reuters

Don't smoking
Poll shows over-one-third of Britons want Blair to resign

LONDON, 10 Oct — More than one in three Britons say Prime Minister Tony Blair should resign over the Iraq war but a clear majority do not blame him for the beheading of a British hostage in Iraq, an opinion poll showed on Sunday.

In the first comprehen-
vive sounding taken since the death of Kenneth Bigley, the YouGov poll in The Mail on Sunday showed 36 per cent of voters wanted Blair to step down.

But 65 per cent said he was not to blame for Bigley’s beheading by militants in Iraq, while 59 per cent believed Blair’s Labour Government had done everything it could to secure the engineer’s release.

“They are not blaming the government for Bigley at all. Blair’s problem is trust and what has happened in Iraq generally,” YouGov’s, Peter Kellner told Reuters.

Bigley’s hometown of Liverpool staged a day of mourning for him on Saturday and Blair rang the family to offer his condolences. Coming soon after a report from the Iraq Survey Group (ISG), which destroyed Blair’s main argument for waging war on Iraq, the killing looks certain to keep Iraq at the top of the political agenda seven months before an expected election.

Up to 58 per cent of those polled by YouGov said they believed the conflict in Iraq had undermined the health of Blair, who underwent an operation on 1 October to quell heart palpitations.

Blair has said he will stand for a third term but will not stand for a fourth, an announcement that has aroused fevered speculation over who might succeed him.

Despite his plummeting trust ratings, all polls still point to Blair’s Labour Party being the formidable winner of the next election as the opposition Conservatives have failed to capitalize on his woes.

The latest poll in The Sunday Telegraph, taken after the Conservatives annual party conference, showed the opposition party garnering just 30 per cent of support — nine points behind Labour.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide car bomb kills four civilians in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 11 Oct — A rocket attack and suicide car bombing killed at least four people in Baghdad on Sunday as US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld began an unannounced visit to Iraq to gauge efforts to calm violence before January elections.

A Reuters cameraman said he saw four bodies lying in the street near the Oil Ministry and the remains of a rocket, which destroyed two cars and gouged a large crater in the street.

In eastern Baghdad, a suicide bomber blew up his car near the Culture Ministry, an Interior Ministry official said. The bomber’s charred body was found inside the vehicle, A Reuters cameraman at the scene said at least two people were wounded.

Guerrillas and militants trying to undermine Iraq’s US-backed government have mounted frequent bomb, rocket and mortar attacks on state buildings and Iraq security forces.

Rumsfeld, an architect of the 2003 invasion, last visited Iraq on May 13, when he went to Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib Prison amid a scandal over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US forces.

His trip comes about three weeks before the US presidential election. President George W. Bush’s Democratic challenger John Kerry has accused Bush of mismanaging the war and launching it on the pretext of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction that even Washington now admits did not exist.

The US military death toll in the war is creeping toward 1,100 in almost 19 months of fighting and fatalities have risen each month since Iraqi sovereignty was restored on June 28. MNA/Reuters

Iraqi youths walk across the roof of a damaged building following a raid by the US military on Fallujah recently. —INTERNET

UNSC asks countries to cooperate in fighting terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Oct — Asserting that terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances, the United Nations Security Council, stepping up efforts to tackle the menace, has asked all nations to prosecute those who help in financing, planning or commissioning terror acts.

The 15-member Council unanimously voted a resolution on Friday asking all states to deny a safe haven to terrorists and prosecute any person who helps in financing, planning, preparing or commissioning terror acts. Pakistan earlier objected to the wording of the resolution that acts of terrorism “under no circumstances, justifiable by consideration of a political, philosophical, ideological, ethnic or religious or other similar nature”.

However, it finally decided to drop the objection to allow unanimous passage of the resolution, drafted by Russia. —MNA/PTI

UN praises Philippines for development plan

MANILA, 10 Oct — The United Nations has praised the Philippine Government for its successful formulation of the 2004-2010 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), reported the local daily Manila Bulletin on Saturday.

Jeffrey Sachs, special adviser of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, and Hafiz Pasha, Assistant UN Secretary-General in charge of development issues in Asia-Pacific, cited the Philippine Government’s efforts to formulate the MTPDP in record time.

According to Philippine Government officials, the MTPDP is focusing on resolving poverty, enhancing competitiveness, addressing budget deficit, disseminating knowledge and increasing productivity in the countryside.

MNA/Xinhua

Wife of most wanted terrorist captured in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 10 Oct — The wife of the most wanted terrorist in Indonesia was officially arrested by the Indonesian police on Saturday, for suspected implicating on the JW Marriott Hotel in August last year, killing 12 people and wounded more than 100 others, a senior police officer said.

Munafiat Alfiriti, the second wife of Noerdin Moh Top had been arrested in an Islamic boarding school named Miftahul Huda in Subang District in West Java Province, said a director of the Anti-Terror and Bomb of the Indonesian Police Detectives Brigadier-General Pranowo.

“Munafiat is suspected involved in the Marriot Bombing because she hid Noerdin Moh Top, the mastermind of the explosion,” he told reporters Friday evening as quoted by the Detik online here on Saturday. However, Pranowo said that Munafiat did not link with the carnage in front of the Australian Embassy last month, because she had not met with her husband since 22 June this year and only communicated through e-mail and mobile phone. — MNA/Xinhua

Michael Berg, father of Nicholas Berg who was beheaded by Islamic militants, attends an anti-war lecture in Seoul, on 9 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

Michael Berg, father of Nicholas Berg who was beheaded by Islamic militants, attends an anti-war lecture in Seoul, on 9 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET
Kerry claims victory over Bush in second debate

ELYRIA, 10 Oct — Democratic challenger John Kerry on Saturday claimed victory over President George W Bush in their second debate, mocked his rival’s “scowling faces” and scoffed at the Republican incumbent’s leadership skills.

The Massachusetts senator, campaigning in the vital battleground state of Ohio the morning after he and Bush faced off in a tense 90-minute exchange on Iraq, jobs and taxes, also expressed incredulity at the president’s inability to own up to any mistakes.

“Do we want leadership — as it’s called — that can’t face reality and admit mistakes, or do we want leadership that sees the truth and tells the truth to the American people?” Kerry asked thousands of cheering supporters on a sports field at Lorain Community College in Elyria.

Kerry said the United States needed “not a single-minded leader, but a clear-headed leader, not a no-cutting leader, but a well-reasoned leader.”

Bush was sharper and more aggressive in Thursday night’s debate in St. Louis than he was during their first encounter, but many analysts said he sometimes appeared angry and defensive in an effort to compensate for his lackluster performance in Miami on Thursday.

Kerry pounced on Bush’s demeanor to help make his argument the President had come out second best.

“The reason I thought he was making all those scowling faces was because he saw the latest job numbers and he feels like most Americans — pretty upset about them,” Kerry said.

Hours before their town hall-style confrontation, the US Labour Department released unemployment figures showing the economy added an anemic 96,000 jobs in September, well short of of forecasts for 148,000 new hires.

Bush and Kerry, who are locked in a dead heat less than a month before the November 2 election, met in Tempe, Arizona, on Wednesday for their final debate.

“Two and 0, and we’re moving onto the third and I look forward to it,” Kerry said.

Opposition polls showed the Democrat won the first matchup easily but most surveys gave him only a slight edge in the second or deemed it a virtual tie. — MNA/Reuters

Thai minister says India can become gateway for Thailand

BANGKOK, 11 Oct — India has a strategic position in South Asia and it can become a gateway for Thailand in the region, a Thai minister said here as the two countries began negotiating 5,600 items in the second phase of the Free Trade Agreement.

The first phase of the 82 items under the early Harvest Scheme of the India-Thailand FTA came into effect from September this year.

“This is a perfect time when Thailand is advocating ‘look West policy’ and India its ‘look East policy’, Thai Vice-Minister for Commerce Parnpree Wutthakat told the India-Thailand Business Forum Thursday night referring to the interest both the countries have expressed in recent times in trading with each other’s region.

With Thailand’s strategic location in Southeast Asia, the country can become a vital base for India for its trading in ASEAN region, Parnpree noted.

Referring to the next phase in consideration of items under FTA, Parnpree said with 5,600 items to be negotiated, the negotiating team from both countries would try to keep sensitive products to the least level position.

“We will ensure that the items on the normal track will be useful to both sides,” he told the gathering of top businessmen and executives.

Admitted it would not be very easy to achieve this by March next year but hoped with frequent meetings between the two sides it could be achieved.

MNA/PTI

Gang dealing with red mercury arrested in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 Oct — The Iraqi Interior Ministry has announced that the intelligence of the ministry arrested a gang specialized in smuggling red mercury in Baghdad, the Al Sabah Al Jadid newspaper reported on Saturday.

The intelligence arrested the gang of four people as they dealt with the red mercury and sold it in the Kurdish north, an official of the ministry was quoted as saying. The group was selling one kilo of this rare material at the price of 30,000 US dollars to dealers who would then smuggle it abroad, the official said.

The official said that all the members of the gang have criminal records in the smuggling of this material, and they were turned to specialized authorities for required procedures against them. — MNA/Reuters

50th forging anniversary of Sino-Norwegian dip ties marked

BEIJING, 10 Oct — The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Norwegian Embassy gave a reception here Friday to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Norway.

He Luli, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC), said China attaches great importance to Sino-Norwegian relations and seeks to develop a long-term, stable and friendly relation with Norway.

China and Norway enjoyed good relations over the past half century. In 1996 and 1997, former Chinese President Jiang Zemin and King Harald V of Norway paid visits to each other’s counties; and in June of 2004, Wu Bangguo, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, paid a successful visit to Norway as well. All these helped to upgrade the Sino-Norwegian relations to a new high, said He.

The high-level visits have impulsed mutual understanding and political trust and promoted bilateral cooperation in all fields, and China has become the No 1 trade partner of Norway in Asia, she acknowledged.

Jorgen A Kosmo, president of the Norwegian Storting, said the people of Norway and China have built their profound friendship and cooperative political, economic and cultural relations since the two countries forged their diplomatic ties 50 years ago, and more and more Norwegian people are coming to China, which proves the importance of Norwegian-Chinese relations, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

UN bans commercial trade in rare Irrawaddy dolphin

BANGKOK, 11 Oct — A UN conference on Friday banned commercial trade in the rare Irrawaddy dolphin, a move environmentalists said was needed to save the threatened species.

“Most legitimate zoos and aquariums already refuse to display Irrawaddy dolphins because of their endangered status,” said Karen Steuer, a senior policy adviser to conservation group WWF International.

“But there remains an active trade in them for dolphin shows and water parks across Asia.” The proposal to ban commercial trade was put forward by Thailand, host of a conference on the Convention on Trade in International Species (CITES), which regulates global trade in wild plants and animals. — MNA/Reuters

A car burns in the centre of Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 Oct, 2004. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. Car bombers struck twice in rapid succession in the capital on Sunday, killing at least 11 people including an American soldier.

INTERNET

An Iraqi woman and her children walk past a house adorned with a picture of cleric Moqtada Sadr in the Sadr City neighbourhood of Baghdad, on 11 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET
US, Britain criticized over WMD search failure

LONDON, 11 Oct — The last vestiges of perceived legitimacy regarding the US and British decision to invade Iraq have been eliminated with the release of the Iraq Survey Group’s final report which shows that it has failed in finding any Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD), said a former UN weapons inspector.

“We all know that Iraq’s WMD were destroyed in 1991... The inspection process was rigged to create uncertainty regarding Iraq’s WMD, which was used by the United States and Britain to bolster their case for war,” Scott Ritter said in an article in the British Independent newspaper on Sunday.

“Sadly, when one speaks of threats to international peace and security, history will show that it was the US and Britain that consistently ope rated outside the spirit and letter of international law in their approach towards dealing with (former Iraqi president) Saddam Hussein,” Ritter argued.

“This blatant disregard for international law on the part of the world’s two greatest democracies serves as the foundation of any analysis of the question: would the world be better off with or without Saddam in power?” Ritter asked.

“Tragically, we can see the fallacy of that argument unfold on a daily basis, as the horrific ramifications of American and British unilateralism unfold across the globe,” said Ritter, a former intelligence officer in the US Marines and an inspector in Iraq from 1991 to 1998.

“Saddam is gone, and the world is far worse for it — not because his regime posed no threat, perceived or otherwise, but because the threat to international peace and security resulting from the decisions made by Bush and Blair to invade Iraq in violation of international law make any threat emanating from an Iraq ruled by Saddam pale in comparison,” he stressed.

Ritter’s comments were echoed by former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix, who also wrote for the paper claiming that the report released last week by the Iraq Survey Group, which spent 18 months in a vain search for Iraq’s banned weapons, was further evidence “that the reality on the ground was totally different from the virtual reality that had been spun.”

Blair faces fresh pressure over Iraq

LONDON, 11 Oct — Prime Minister Tony Blair faces fresh pressure over Iraq this week as legislators return to Parliament with the beheading of British hostage Kenneth Bigley overshadowing the political agenda.

Coming days after a report from the Iraq Survey Group (ISG), which failed to find banned weapons and so undermined Blair’s main argument for war, Bigley’s killing looks sure to keep Iraq an explosive issue seven months before an expected election.

“You don’t appear to have done anything to help me,” Bigley told Blair in a video tape made by his captors soon before his death and posted on the Internet on Sunday.

Blair, expected to win the next election but with a reduced majority for his Labour Party, has seen his personal trust ratings slide over the controversy surrounding the war.

He may draw some comfort from a poll victory in Australia this week-end for his war ally John Howard, but Blair’s political opponents have vowed to make the war and the issue of trust major planks of their election campaigns.

“When credibility is an issue, as it will be in the next election, Iraq will continue to be very corrosive,” Liberal Democrat Menzies Campbell told BBC TV’s Breakfast with Frost.

The Liberal Democrats, Britain’s third-biggest party, were the only mainstream party to oppose the Iraq war and have called on the government to make a statement to Parliament on the ISG report this week which may be hard to avoid.

As Democratic challenger John Kerry turns the heat up on President George W Bush over Iraq in the US election race, an opinion poll on Sunday showed more than one in three Britons think Blair should resign over the war.

A clear majority, however, do not blame him for Bigley’s death and opposition parties have backed Blair’s stance of doing no deals with kidnappers.

In the first comprehensive soundings taken since the death of the 62-year-old engineer, the YouGov poll in The Mail on Sunday showed 36 per cent of voters wanted Blair to step down.

The Prime Minister, who Downing Street said spoke to the Bigley family late on Saturday to express his sympathy, has pledged to serve a full third term if elected, which would take him through to about 2009.

Venezuela raises tax on foreign oil companies

CARACAS, 11 Oct — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced that his country began on Sunday to levy 16.6 per cent of taxes on foreign companies which are extracting crudes from the Orinoco oil field.

Venezuela has abundant reserves of heavy crude in the oil field in southeast Venezuela.

In the mid 1990s, foreign companies were charged 1 per cent of tax, as an incentive for foreign companies to develop and invest there. The low tax policy had promoted the rapid development of oil exploitation in the region.

Now oil companies from the United States, France and Norway are extracting oil in the Orinoco oil field. During his weekly radio and television show, Chavez said the low tax policy used to encourage foreign companies to extract oil in the area, but the policy has not adapted to the current situation.

The tax increase is one of the national plans to strengthen its control of the oil industry, he said.

China issues first nat'l guideline on clinical use of anti-biotics

BEIJING, 10 Oct — China recently issued its first national guideline on the clinical use of antibacterial medicines, China’s Health Ministry said here Saturday.

The guideline classified anti-bacterial drugs into three types based on their clinical effects and safety and asked hospitals to adopt different prescription rules for each type. Wang Yu, a senior official with the Health Ministry said at a Press briefing.

The guideline also set up principles for the application of anti-bacterial drugs in disease treatment and prevention as well as the use of anti-biotics under special pathologic and physical conditions, Wang said. Anti-bacterial drugs have been in clinical use for about 70 years and saved millions of lives. But the side effects of anti-biotics and the growing antibiotic resistance caused by the abuse of the drugs have brought about increasingly serious problems.

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The guideline also set up principles for the application of anti-bacterial drugs in disease treatment and prevention as well as the use of anti-biotics under special pathologic and physical conditions, Wang said. Anti-bacterial drugs have been in clinical use for about 70 years and saved millions of lives. But the side effects of anti-biotics and the growing antibiotic resistance caused by the abuse of the drugs have brought about increasingly serious problems.
From the cradle to the grave man builds his life with three kinds of actions — physical deed, verbal deed, and mental deed. In other words, he writes his history by himself. There are two sides in the objectives of building his life and writing his history. One of the objectives is self-integration, Atta Sangaha in Pali term now the other one is integration of the world. Loka Sangaha. Atta Sangaha is for self-interest and Loka Sangaha is for the interest of the world and the people.

In fact, Atta Sangaha is nothing but for oneself, his family, his group and the present world. With Atta Sangaha cannot rejoice at somebody’s success; and, then jealously and uncharitableness spontaneously. Although he works in the interest of himself and his family, his environment and party, he would give an excuse that he is working in the interest of the rest of the people. It is papanca or Attadatti, meaning self-belief. He usually regards the wrong way and practices it as the right one without thinking in his own sense. As such attitude becomes greater, he often thins that the wrong thing is the right one. He also assumes that bad deeds are good deeds. This leads to the fall and ruin. He does not have ability to recover and put it back to rights but thinks that he is right. In spite of his knowledge that something is wrong, he upholds his concept without giving it up. These are the foolish behaviour of dis courteous persons. Man is self-centered. All accepts only self-interest that does not harm the interest of the people and the world. This correlates with the world. If ego of individuals becomes extreme, they will face destruction. In other words, if there is an extreme ego, they will surely sink in the quagmire of destruction. Without any grudge, I will discuss my view on reality of the National League for Democracy, a political party in Myanmar political field, and its party leaders.

After the government had declared the seventeen-point Road-Map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern discipline-flourishing democratic nation, coordination and discussions were held with the party organizations for convening of the national convention as the first step. In the discussions the government told them to let bygones be bygones. It also made efforts to re-convene the National Convention that would hand down good legacies to the future of the State and it coordinated the attendance of delegates of legal political parties, those of representatives-elect, those of national race groups that had made peace with the government, those of mass and individual signatures. Such incidents occurred in Nathagon Ward in Insein Township, Ohnnekan Village in Thongwa Township, 1A Ward and Du Sanpya Ward in Mingalardon Township, Minbaing Ward and Obho Ward in Twantay Township, Ward 10 in Thongwa Township, Ward 7 in South Okkalapa Township, Yedashe Ward in Bahan Township, Ward 2 in Kayan Township, Natsingon Village in Kawhmu Township and Ward 13 in Hlaine Tharya Township, Yangon Division.

Likewise, leaders and party members of the NLD at township, ward and village NLD mocked the people who did not sign the demands and made the honest people sign the demands without telling them the true facts. The party leaders and members also gave them liquor and made them sign the demands. They sent the reports based on fake signatures and the list of people who do not really live in ward or village to the headquarters.

As a matter of fact, those leaflets and fabrications manufactured to trick the people into signing the demands are totally contrary to the national reconciliation and democratic reforms cited by the NLD but will lead to the course of confrontation which is detrimental to the socio-economic life of the people who reside in the Uniontemp of mind.

In conclusion with the NLD attempts to obtain the signatures of party members and the people the government does not prohibit its organizational matters. It requested the party to keep the books of signatures at the house of a party member instead of paying door-to-door visits to collect individual signatures.
Later, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the main dam and the water stored in the dam, the construction of tunnels, and machinery installed at the central control room. The Mon Creek dam multipurpose project is capable of irrigating 108,000 acres of farmland and generating 75 megawatts. Construction works are being carried out for speedy completion of the project.

On arrival at Sedoktara in the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the computer-aided instruction room, the learning centre, the language lab, and the visual aid room.

At the domestic science room, students presented a blanket, which they themselves had wove, to the Secretary-1. In the music room, the Secretary-1 and party enjoyed the entertainment presented by students. Next, they posed for a group photo together with the students.

On arrival at the 25-bed township hospital, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Head of Township Health Department Dr Saw Lwin, nurses and health staff. The Secretary-1 and party comforted the patients and inspected the X-ray room, operation theater and medical store. They next attended the ceremonies to multimedia classrooms of Sedoktara BEHS and to meet with township service personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and townsmen.

Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Than reported on construction of classrooms equipped with modern teaching aids and effective teaching of respective subjects to students. Township PDC Chairman U Phone Myat Thu presented a report on the area of the township and its land resources, annual rainfall, cultivation of paddy and other crops, local self-sufficiency in rice and edible oil, health matters, rural development and requirements. In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 said requirements have been fulfilled to a certain degree for the development of Sedoktara Township’s education and health sectors. Coordinated efforts had been also made for the betterment of phone line and Salin-Sedoktara motor road in the township. That is why local people, for their part, realizing the goodwill of the State and local authorities, are to actively cooperate in regional development work. The State is giving necessary assistance to ensure the equitable development of all the regions in the nation. And departmental staff and local people are to lend themselves to the efforts for their regional development. In particular, as there are a lot of vacant lands in the township, it is needed to make those lands cultivable ones, the Secretary-1 said.

(See page 9)
Mon Creek multipurpose dam ...

(from page 8)

He then presented two sets of computers for the school to the headmistress, exercise books to Township Education Officer U Tun Po and medicines and cash for the funds towards the hospital to Dr Saw Lwin. Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe presented cash assistance for the hospital to the doctor. For the funds to the hospital, USDA CEC member Minister U Soe Tha presented K 500,000 donated by Magway Division USDA to the township PDC chairman. Minister U Soe Tha also donated a computer and a printer for the school.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted those present. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the thriving of 100-acre paddy plantations at the entrance to the township. Afterwards, they looked into Mezali spillway and construction of Kyionkyiwa Dam. They then helicoptered to Bagan-Nyaung-U Airport where they inspected the upgrading tasks. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and officials reported on upgrading tasks of the airport to the Secretary-1 and party, who left there and arrived back here. — MNA

Teaching aids donated to... (from page 16)

First, Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspected teaching aids and teaching and learning at the language lab of the school. Next, they also viewed teaching and learning of teachers and students at computer aided instruction room, computer application room and electronic media video room. Afterwards, teaching aids donation ceremony was held at the hall of the school. Lt-Gen Soe Win presented cash assistance for multimedia equipment for the school to Headmistress Daw Khin Cho San. Similarly, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint Swe presented a set of computer for the school to the headmistress. Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min spoke words of thanks.

Next, Lt-Gen Soe Win attended to the needs for education, health and transportation sectors in the township. Htantabin is not far from Yangon. But, it was not accessible easily in the past because of poor transport. Lt-Gen Soe Win said. Now, due to better transportation, the region acquires development infrastructures. If the local people cooperate actively with officials concerned and if the State provides necessary assistance to it, the region will surely develop in no time. Lt-Gen Soe Win and party had a documentary photo taken together with the headmistress, teachers and students and the ceremony came to an end. Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party went to Htantabin Township People’s Hospital and inspected wards, cold-storage room where vaccines are stored, medical store, operation room, delivery room and X-ray room.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Soe Win and party viewed the development of Htantabin and requirements to be fulfilled.

Next, they inspected currents of Kokowa Creek and preventive measures against erosion at Ngu Jetty in Htantabin Myogyun and a new market built by the township Development Affairs Department. MNA
Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Mya Thein welcomes Finance & Revenue Soccer Team, champion of 110th Indian Football Association's Shield. — MNA

Victorious Finance and Revenue... (from page 16)
back at Yangon International Airport by air this afternoon.
The victorious football team was welcomed back by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Mya Thein and his wife, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife, Deputy Minister for F&R Col Hla Thein Soe and wife, heads of department and their wives and officials.

Myanmar Canoe team bags... (from page 16)
and Win Htay in 200 metres Canoe double’s event; Phone Myint Teza in 200 metres Kayak single’s event and Aung Lin in 200 metres Canoe single’s event respectively.

Chirac says war was illegal (from page 16)
where he was attending a summit of Asian and European leaders.
Chirac said France and China were “very close” in their appraisal of the Iraq crisis, and that the two countries were in regular contact with Germany, Russia and Spain on the issue. The president added he was “very worried for the future of the situation in Iraq”. — INTERNET

State/Division participants in Performing Arts Competitions arrive
YANGON, 11 Oct — Participants from States and Divisions who are going to take part in the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions arrived here by train this morning.
Altogether 514 participants led by Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Major Myint Thein, 15 participants including the manager from Chin State and 195 participants led by Secretary of Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Maj Soe Win arrived at Yangon Railway Station this morning.
They were welcomed there by Chairman of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition Reception and Accommodation Committee Commandant of Defence Services General Hospital (Bed-1000) Brig-Gen Thun Sein, Chairman of the Reception and Accommodation Sub-Committee Police Col Soe Win Myint and officials, members of Mangalar Taungnyunt Township Peace and Development Council and departmental officials and accommodated at No 1 Transit Centre (Bawin Naung). Likewise, participants from Magway Division, Shan State and Tamlinhgyi Division led by the respective managers arrived here this morning while participants from Bago Division and Rakhine State led by the respective managers arrived here this afternoon.
They were welcomed by officials of the Reception and Accommodation Sub-Committee and accommodated at No 1 Transit Centre (Bawin Naung). — MNA

Development work in Kokogyun Township inspected
YANGON, 11 Oct — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe and Union Solidarity and Development Association CEC member Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by departmental heads and officials, inspected regional development tasks in Kokogyun Township in Yangon South District this morning and fulfilled the requirements.
On arrival in Kokogyun, the commander and the mayor visited Zinamarrazein Pagoda. Next, they attended the opening of the Sasana Pala Dhamma Rakkhita Dhammayon. The commander and party presented offering to Sayadaw and members of the Sangha at the ceremony. The Dhammayon is a one-storey building with 57 feet in length and 30 feet in breadth. The commander and the mayor looked into paying of Kayanpet gravel road, water storage in 49 million-gallon Kokogyun Dam and distribution of water from the reinforced concrete tank with the capacity of 12,000 gallons and gave necessary instructions to officials.
The commander and party went to Kokogyun Township Communication station and inspected installation of telephone lines. At the township PDC office, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe and USDA CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin met departmental officials, USDA members, social organisations and local people. The commander and the mayor then delivered speeches.
Officials reported on tasks being carried out for the development of Kokogyun Township and for ensuring the rule of law and agricultural, social, education and health matters. The commander attended to the needs and gave concluding remarks.
The commander and party saw over the thriving of Manawthuuka paddy strains on 13 acres of farm- lands in the township and gave instructions on using of four means and ways to be able to produce high yield monsoon paddy.
The commander, the mayor and party proceeded to the township BEHS where they inspected the publishing of the newspapers of Myanmar Alin and Kyemon sub-printing houses at the learning centre. The commander instructed more distribution of newspapers to local people and students for their knowledge enhancement.
The commander and the mayor inspected progress in construction of the 12 feet long and 14 feet wide reinforced concrete bridge. They then inspected the township hospital, comforted the patients and presented cash assistance there.
After inspecting the township police station, the commander and party met members of Myanmar Police Force and their families and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Minister attends 4th ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Meeting
YANGON, 11 Oct — The 4th ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Ministers’ Meeting was held in Singapore on 7 October 2004 which was attended by the Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt. The meeting was held at Meritus Mandrain Hotel in Singapore and augurated by Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore Professor S Jayakuma. The Ministers’ Meeting was held at Meritus Mandrain Court D. During the meeting, the minister took part in the discussions on measures being taken for developments of rural roads, rural water supply, rural education, rural health and rural economy in Myanmar in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State and achievements. He clarified that plans laid down for implementation of developments of border areas and national races and measures being taken for establishing 24 development regions for equitable development of the State. He also called for measures for regional coopera-tion in rural development and poverty eradication with momentum.
Before the Ministers’ Meeting, senior officials meeting was held on 4 and 5 October 2004, which was attended by Director-General of Border Areas and National Races Development Department Col Than Swe and Director U Aye Lwin.

Foreign Minister U Nyan Win sends message of felicitations to Spain
YANGON, 12 Oct — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Miguel Angel Mortainos, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2004. — MNA
Russia seeks coordination with India in WTO negotiations

NEW DELHI, 11 Oct — Russia favoured Saturday more coordinated approach with India in the WTO negotiations and asked New Delhi to ease anti-dumping norms before the forthcoming visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin in December.

The consular officials of Russia and India would soon hold a meeting to ease visa norms, the Press Trust of India quoted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who is on a three-day India visit, as saying. “Despite good political relationships, our visa ties are not as liberal as with countries with which we do not enjoy relations as good as with India. I hope we will be able to sign and agreement that brings it at par with the visa relationships we have with Italy, France and Germany,” said Lavrov.

In a media report says. “I hope the Indian representative in Geneva will be more forthcoming,” he added.

The minister also said India should recognize Russia as a market economy. “Even China, the United States and the European Union consider Russia so, why not India?”

He said the bilateral economic relationship had lagged behind strategic ties but it was high time the business to business relationship grew from the current levels where the two countries have only 1.5 per cent of their global trade with each other.

China’s Gongbei Customs becoming largest zero tariff goods importer

ZHENGZHOU, 11 Oct — The Gongbei Customs in south China’s Guangdong Province led the country in importing goods from Hong Kong and Macao with zero tariffs since the CEPA (Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement) was implemented early this year.

The Gongbei Customs, in south China’s Guangdong Province, imported 200 million HK dollars’ worth of goods made in Hong Kong and Macao. These goods are eligible for zero tariff under the CEPA in the first eight months, preceding all other Provinces.

The amount of tariffs exempted in importing goods totalled 12.55 million yuan (1.5 million US dollars). Imports from Hong Kong under the CEPA preferential terms made up 99.4 per cent of the total imports of Gongbei Customs in the first eight months.

They fell into the categories of pharmaceuticals, perfume for industrial use and garment.

The imports from Macao, mainly electric conductors and cement, made up 0.6 per cent of the Customs’ total import.

New Shwehtidaw to be hoisted atop SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda

YANGON, 9 Oct — With the sponsorship of SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda Board of Ovdacariya Sayadaws, Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council and Thitagu Sayadaw, new Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Sembudaw will be hoisted atop SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda on top of Wutyon Taungdaw, Sagaing Hill.

Those wishing to make cash donations are to contact the Ponnyashin Pagoda Board of Trustees, Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council and Thitagu Sayadaw.

US tech edge slipping in hands of Asians

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — US technological superiority, long taken for granted, may be slipping and “the most serious threat” is coming from Asian countries like India, China, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan, a media report says.

Indian companies are quickly becoming the second largest producers of application services in the world, developing, supplying, and managing database and other types of software for clients around the world, Adam Segal, senior fellow in China Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations writes in the November-December issue of Foreign Affairs magazine.

South Korea has “rapidly eaten away” the US advantage in the manufacture of computer chips and telecommunications software, and “even China” has made impressive gains in advanced technologies such as lazers, biotechnology and advanced materials used in semiconductors, aerospace and many other types of manufacturing, Segal says in the article.

Although the US technical dominance remains solid, the globalization of research and development is exerting considerable pressure on the American system.

It won’t be easy for the US to keep its privileged position in the world.

The number of Americans pursuing advanced degrees in the sciences and engineering is declining, and university science and engineering programmes are growing more dependent on foreign-born talent. Thirty-eight per cent of the nation’s scientists and engineers with doctorates were born abroad, the article says.

New Oriental School gets large accredited loan

BEIJING, 11 Oct — The New Oriental School, China’s prominent private school, which helps Chinese students prepare for foreign university entrance exams such as the TOEFL, GRE and GMAT, received an interest-free loan worth of one billion yuan (about 120 million US dollars) from a Beijing bank.

Yu Minhong, president of the school, said the money would be used to build a campus for 15,000 students in Beijing, according to Friday’s Beijing News.

Yan Xiaoyan, president of the Beijing City Commercial Bank said though many schools received bank loans recently, it is the first time that a private school can get such a large mortgage-free loan in Beijing.

“Banks begin to trust private schools and financial institutes are more confident about the market of private education,” Yan was quoted as saying.

In recent years, the bank has large sum of lending businesses with many public universities including the prominent Tsinghua University.

The New Oriental School is the most prominent school in China that helps tens of thousands of students who want to go abroad and prepare for tests of academic and English-language skills.

Cambodian Royal Palace guards march in front of the palace on Sunday, 10 Oct, 2004 in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. —INTERNET

MNA/PTI
China encourages development of chain stores on farm products

BEIJING, 11 Oct — China will adopt a series of measures to support the development of chain businesses of agro-products and farming tools to bring the sector in the track of healthy development. Niu Dun, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, said here on Sunday.

Niu said that this year, the ministry has selected 40 chain stores selling farm products and 80 selling farming tools, chemical fertilizers and other agricultural supplies.

At a symposium on chain business development, Niu said chain business is an advanced commercial pattern, which helps improve China’s agriculture production and ensures the safety and quality of agricultural products.

Chain management is popular in advanced countries, said Niu, noting that foodstuff sales by chain stores account for 80 percent of the total consumption in some European countries, and over 95 percent in the United States.

In China, chain stores of farm products is still in an initial stage but has showed great potential for development. A batch of chain businesses in this regard have emerged in recent years and have been expanding rapidly.

The Nanjing Red Sun Ltd Company, which was founded in 2002, has set up a network covering over 380 villages and towns in five provinces so far. The company has set an ambitious target of becoming No. 1 network for farm tools distribution.

However, experts admitted that there are still problems in the development of the sector, citing the lack of reliable brands, inefficient logistics systems, and high threshold for market entrance.

To help solve the problems, experts of Agriculture have issued two regulations last year, asking local agricultural departments to give more support to companies in this sector.

\\n\\nPrivate sector contributes to education development in Mozambique

MAPUTO, 10 Oct — Mozambican Education Minister Alcindo Nguenha said on Friday attributed the expanding coverage of the education sector to the partnerships between the government and the private sector.

“It is important for us that this sector continues developing the spirit of partnerships,” he said. This year Mozambican schools collected 76 percent of the needs for educational services, he said.

Nguenha said that there are still problems with the 40 percent coverage rate of 1992, at the end of the civil war in Mozambique in 1992.

As one of the key projects in developing the education sector, Nguenha mentioned “Um olhar de Esperanca” (A Look of Hope), which involves contributions from business and non-governmental organizations and has been active in building school facilities, collecting school materials and granting scholarships, among other activities.

\\n\\n“CITES” approves to control rare plant trading

BANGKOK, 11 Oct — A United Nations conference approved on Friday a proposal by African countries to control trade in a rare plant sought hungrily by drug companies for its appetite-suppressing properties.

The hoodia cactus in question has been used for thousands of years by southern Africa’s San Bushmen to dampen their appetites during long treks through the harsh Kalahari Desert and holds the key to potentially lucrative anti-obesity drugs.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) listed the hoodia plant in its Appendix II — which will regulate global trade in the species — at the behest of South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. It also adopted a Chinese and United States proposal to put Asian yew under CITES.

“CITES” approved the proposal to direct protection to plants which could save untold human lives while earning billions of dollars for big drug companies.

The proposals will be raised again during the plenary session next week, but are almost certain to pass because they have strong support.

South Africa’s Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has patented the chemical entity extracted from the hoodia and licensed British drug-firms from plants firm Phytopharm Plc to develop the plant’s commercial potential.

Phytopharm said in July it welcomed moves to protect hoodia from illegal cultivation.

“Were very pleased it went through,” said John Donaldson of the South African delegation, saying it would help ensure that hoodia is used in a sustainable manner.

“We would like pharmaceutical companies to produce finished products in the three countries,” he added, noting that they were structured to ensure that the San Bushmen derived benefits from the product.

For years Chinese herbalists have used trees of the taxus species, also known as yew trees, to treat common ailments.

\\n\\nTRADE MARK CAUTION
THE BOOTS COMPANY PLC., a Company incorporated in the United Kingdom of Nottingham is No. 213 A2A England.

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in respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations and substances”.

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

Win Mu Tin,
for THE BOOTS COMPANY PLC
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 12th October 2004

ARRIVAL / CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV “MANDALAY” VOY NO 137/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” Voy No 137/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 12-4 and will be berthing in 12-14-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risks and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 and 12 noon to 4 pm up to claims day now declared as third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (362)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No 362 are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 11-10-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to claims day now declared as third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No Claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION
Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Private sector contributes to education development in Mozambique

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Nguenha told Press that “Um olhar de Esperanca” (A Look of Hope), which involves contributions from business and non-governmental organizations and has been active in building school facilities, collecting school materials and granting scholarships, among other activities.

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Two British Airways stewardesses fail breath test  

LONDON, 10 Oct — Two British Airways (BA) air stewardesses were prevented from boarding a BA flight from Helsinki to London after allegedly failing a breath test on Saturday.

BA confirmed that “two stewardesses allegedly failed a breath test conducted by the Finnish police at the Helsinki airport this morning before they were boarding the aircraft.”

The pair were then refused boarding and would have been flown by BA back to Britain on Sunday, a BA spokesman said.

Seats were found on other flights for most of BA’s 112 passengers after the incident severely delayed the 0440 GMT flight to London, according to a BBC report. Pilots, cabin crew and air traffic controllers are subject to a limit of 20 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

BA’s rules state crew should only consume alcohol in moderation in the 24 hours before reporting for duty and ban them from consuming any alcohol in the last eight hours.

The British Government gave police powers to test suspected offenders in March this year, with penalties as high as 5,000-pound fine or two years in prison. MNA/Xinhua

Anti-smoking policies of Europe studied  

BRUSSELS, 11 Oct — A Europe-wide study of anti-smoking policies due out this week will pour scorn on German and Czech efforts to curb the habit while praising Iceland and Britain for their battle against tobacco.

Luk Joossens, who coordinated the study for the European Network for Smoking Prevention, told Reuters the dossier would single out Luxembourg and the Czech Republic for criticism over their cheap cigarettes.

The report, to be released on Tuesday, ranks the European Union’s 25 member states, as well as neighbours Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland, for their progress on a range of anti-smoking measures recommended by the World Bank.

Iceland comes top as it has taken almost all of the Bank’s measures to heart, Joossens said. Britain also scores highly, particularly for making cigarettes so expensive with tax.

World Bank research suggests raising prices by 10 per cent cuts cigarette consumption in a wealthy country by 4 per cent. Data from Philip Morris France, a unit of Altria Group Inc shows a packet of 20 Marlboro cigarettes cost 6.60 euros (8.12 US dollars) in Britain in January, but 2.90 euros in Luxembourg.

“The Bank certainly is doing very well on government spending, on cessation programmes and on prices, but it’s doing very badly on smoke-free places,” Joossens said.

In March, Ireland became the first country to ban smoking in restaurants, bars and pubs. Norway and Malta have since instituted similar bans and incoming European Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou last week urged all EU governments to follow Ireland’s example within five years.

The report is due to be released on Tuesday, with a BBC report saying the incident severely delayed the 0440 GMT flight to London. The couple were then refused boarding and would have been flown back to Britain on Sunday, a BA spokesman said.

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Chirac’s tour to China magnifies partnership  

BEIJING, 11 Oct — Dialogue between China and France, two countries which highly value cultural diversity and pluralism in international politics, is no doubt conducive to world peace, China’s English-language newspaper, China Daily said on Saturday.

French President Jacques Chirac arrived in China on Friday for a significant four-day visit. Some 50 French business leaders, including those from 17 small- and medium-sized companies, accompanied Chirac on his visit.

Under the ever-changing international situation, Chirac’s visit to China will further boost the development of an all-round partnership between the two nations, the paper said.

Chirac’s visit coincided with the inception of the Year of France in China, during which more than 200 activities will be held to present the essence of French culture to the Chinese. And thanks to mutual trust and common efforts, the Year of China in France in 2003 was a great success.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-French diplomatic ties, such full-blown cultural exchanges will certainly strengthen amicable relations between the two countries, the paper noted.

The all-around Sino-French strategic partnership was initiated by President Chirac and then President Jiang Zemin in 1997. Over the past seven years, the two countries have built an exemplary strategic partnership and made steady progress on the path of mutual trust and respect.

During his successful visit to France last January, Chinese President Hu Jintao signed a joint declaration with President Chirac, which showed the shared will to reinforce political dialogue and build specialties in the fields of economy, industry and science and technology.

The paper indicated that the positive development of Sino-French relations can largely be attributed to the convergence of strategic objectives and interests between the two nations. As two influential countries in the world and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China and France share much in common, face the same challenges and shoulder major responsibilities in international affairs, it added. MNA/Reuters

Motorcycle taxi drivers wait for passengers in front of the Cambodian Royal Palace on 10 Oct, 2004 in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. — INTERBSE
**Sports**

**England produce solid display in Group 6 to beat Wales 2-0**

Manchester (England), 10 Oct—A stunning goal by captain David Beckham guided England to a convincing 2-0 victory over Wales in their World Cup qualifier at his former Old Trafford home on Saturday.

England got to a dream start after only four minutes of the Group Six clash when midfielder Frank Lampard’s shot took a deflection off Michael Owen’s heel and flew into the right-hand corner beyond the reach of wrong-footed Welsh keeper Paul Jones.

But there was no doubting England’s scorer in the 76th minute when Beckham, in his second season at Real Madrid after leaving Manchester United sent a curling 25-metre shot beyond Jones for his 15th goal in his 76th international.

Beckham blotted his copy book just minutes later, though, for a yellow card after a rash challenge on Ben Thatcher that will rule him out of next Wednesday’s qualifier in Azerbaijan.

After starting out with a 2-2 draw in Austria and a 2-1 win in Poland, Saturday’s victory lifted England to provisional top slot in their group on seven points, ahead of Austria (4pts) and Poland (3pts), who were meeting later on Saturday in Vienna. It was a game where many paths crossed, with Wales winger Ryan Giggs taking on United teammate Gary Neville down the flank and former United players such as Beckham and fellow midfielder Nicky Butt returning to Old Trafford. —MNA/Reuters

**Ireland delighted after holding France to 0-0**

Paris, 10 Oct—An outstanding performance from goalkeeper Fabine Barthez helped France an undeserved 0-0 draw against a brave Ireland in their World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

It was the third consecutive draw the French conceded on their home ground since Raymond Domenech was named coach last July.

Ireland deserved a better outcome in the Group Four game they dominated from the start but were denied victory thanks to Barthez’ distributive saves.

The team’s poor display confirmed France have yet to overcome the retirements of midfielder Zinedine Zidane and defenders Lilian Thuram and Bixente Lizarrazu.

“We certainly could have done better tonight,” said Domenech. “But we are building up a team. We have not conceded a goal and at least we can be happy with this.

“I’m not angry. Some things were rather good, others obviously need to be improved.

“All the other teams in the group have drawn too. So we are still in the race for the qualification.”

Switzerland lead Ireland in the standings on goal difference with five points after their 2-2 draw in Israel. In the group’s other game, Cyprus and the Faroe Islands also shared four goals.

France and Ireland also have five points.

Backed by 30,000 fans who made the trip to see their team take on the former world and European champions, Ireland entered the match like they were at home. They dominated the battle in the midfield where the absence of Patrick Vieira because of suspension was highly noticeable. —MNA/Reuters

**Finland beat Armenia 3-1**

Helsinki, 10 Oct—Stand-in striker Shefki Kuqi struck twice either side of a goal by Aleksandr Eremenko as Finland beat Armenia 3-1 in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

Kuqi, replacing the injured Mikael Forssell, got his first international goal for three years with an easy tap in after eight minutes when he was set up by Eremenko. Eremenko then made it 2-0 with a 28th minute free kick — his fifth goal in four World Cup qualifiers — before Armen Shakhgildyan got one back for Armenia with a free kick deflected by Finland defender Sami Hyypia past keeper Antti Niemi.

Finland dominated the second half but could not add a third goal until Kuqi wrapped up the points in the 87th minute with a curling strike from long distance that went in off the post.

After four games Finland are level on nine points at the top of Group One with Romania, who were playing their fourth match against Czech Republic on Saturday. Finland travel to Amsterdam to face the Netherlands in their next qualifier on Wednesday. —MNA/Reuters

**Italy beaten 1-0 by Slovenia**

Celle (Slovenia), 10 Oct—A header by substitute defender Bostjan Cesar eight minutes from time gave Slovenia a famous 1-0 win over Italy in their World Cup Group Five qualifier on Saturday.

Cesar rose unchallenged six minutes after coming on to head home a Nastja Ceh free kick.

It was Italy’s first World Cup qualifying defeat since May 1993 when they lost in Switzerland—a campaign which saw them qualify safely and go on to reach the World Cup final itself the following year.

The upset victory means that Slovenia now lead Group Five with seven points from three matches, ahead of Italy who had won their first two games.

“We’ve had a lot of luck and a lot of heart. The goal that we scored we have been working on in every training session,” said Slovenia coach Branko Oblak.

“The free kicks were our joker today,” said Slovenia captain Milenko Acimovic.

“It’s a great win for us as this was the best team I have played against over the past six or seven years.”

Italy were the better side throughout but failed to capitalize on their chances, particularly in the first half.

“It could have well ended with an Italian victory. He has ended with Slovenia’s victory because they have scored on the only occasion they came close to our area in the second half,” said Italy coach Marcello Lippi. —MNA/Reuters

**Koller’s penalty secures Czech Republic 1-0 victory over Romania**

Prague, 10 Oct—Striker Jan Koller’s first-half penalty secured the Czech Republic’s first points with a 1-0 victory over Romania in their World Cup European qualifying Group One match on Saturday.

The Czechs, beaten 2-0 by the Netherlands in their opening game, were heavily depleted in midfield with the sudden retirement of Pavel Nedved and injuries to Karel Poborsky and Vladimir Smicer.

“We had to overcome some missing players, so I am satisfied with the result. We didn’t make many mistakes, we couldn’t afford to. I’m happy with how we played,” said Czech coach Karel Bruckner.

With little danger generated from the middle, the job was left to Milan Baros to carve out scoring chances.

The Liverpool striker was denied a penalty just after the half-hour when he rounded Romanian keeper Bogdan Lobont and fell under his challenge. Referee Roberto Rossetti waved away the spot-kick appeals.

The Czechs were awarded a penalty five minutes later when Martin Firanek was hauled down. Koller clinically fired into the top corner to net his country’s first goal since Euro 2004. —MNA/Reuters

**Argentina beat Uruguay 4-2**

Buenos Aires, 10 Oct—Striker Luciano Figueroa scored twice as Argentina beat neighbours Uruguay 4-2 in Saturday’s World Cup qualifier to give new coach Jose Pekerman a winning start.

Luis Gonzalez and Javier Zanetti scored the other goals to help Argentina establish a 4-0 lead in 54 minutes before Cristian Rodriguez and Javier Zanetti scored the other goals after the Cruzeiro midfielder was set free on the left by Saviola.

Juan Pablo Sorin’s pass at the far post after the Cruzeiro player was overlooked by his predecessor — including midfielders Esteban Cambiasso and Juan Roman Riquelme and forward Javier Saviola. Argentina needed only six minutes to open the scoring. Luis Gonzalez turning in Juan Pablo Sorin’s pass at the far post after the Cruzeiro player was set free on the left by Saviola.

The home side took control of the midfield and Figueroa, who also scored twice when Argentina beat Uruguay by the same score at the Copa America in July, nearly added a second when his low shot was deflected wide by his left leg.

“Despite the absence of Patrick Vieira because of suspension, we are still in the race for the qualification,” said Italy coach Marcello Lippi.

“I’m not angry. Some things were rather good, others obviously need to be improved.

“All the other teams in the group have drawn too. So we are still in the race for the qualification.”

Switzerland lead Ireland in the standings on goal difference with five points after their 2-2 draw in Israel. In the group’s other game, Cyprus and the Faroe Islands also shared four goals.

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Backed by 30,000 fans who made the trip to see their team take on the former world and European champions, Ireland entered the match like they were at home. They dominated the battle in the midfield where the absence of Patrick Vieira because of suspension was highly noticeable. —MNA/Reuters

**Italian 125cc rider Andrea Dovizioso, centre, celebrates after he won the 2004 world championship during the Malaysia Motorcycle Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit, on Sunday, 10 Oct. 2004. —INTERNET**

**Baltimore Ravens running back Jamal Lewis leaves the field at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland following the Ravens 17-10 win over the Washington Redskins, on 10 Oct, 2004. The game was Lewis’ last before having to serve a two-game suspension for violating the NFL’s substance abuse policy.—INTERNET**

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 12 October, 2004

WEATHER

Monday, 11 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawkhong (3.31) inches.

Maximum temperature on 10-10-2004 was 96.0°F. Minimum temperature on 11-10-2004 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-10-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 10-10-2004 was (6.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 11-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and 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. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from West at 15:35 hours.

MST on 10-10-2004.

Bay influence: According to the observations at (12:30) hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed in the Andaman Sea and adjoining East Central Bay and it is likely to intensify further into a depression. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 12-10-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Rakhine, Shan States, Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions, isolated in Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough Sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-10-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-10-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) 297028 (Press).
Htantabin is not far from Yangon. But, it was not accessible easily in the past because of transport difficulties. Now, due to better transport, the region acquires development infrastructures. If the local people cooperate actively with officials concerned and if the State provides necessary assistance to it, the region will surely develop in no time.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Spanish counterpart

YANGON, 12 Oct — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2004. — MNA

Teaching aids donated to Htantabin BEHS

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers a speech at the donation ceremony of teaching aids at Htantabin BEHS in Yangon North District. — MNA

Victorious Finance and Revenue football team arrives back

YANGON, 11 Oct — The 110th Invitational Football Match of India Football Federation (East Bengal) was held from 30 September to 10 October 2004. The Finance and Revenue football team (Myanmar) became champion in the football match and arrived.

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Myanmar Canoe team bags eight gold in fifth SEA Canoe Race

YANGON, 11 Oct — Myanmar Canoe team won eight gold, six silver and 2 bronze totalling 16 medals in the fifth South East Asia Canoe Race held in Manila, Philippines from 27 September to 4 October.

Altogether 75 rowers from the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia participated in the race. In team’s event, Vietnam was first, Myanmar second and Indonesia third. Aye Mi Khaing and Thein Htay Win won gold medal in 1,000 metres Kayak double’s event; Phone Myint Teza and Aung Kyaw Moe in 5000 metres Kayak double’s event; Aye Mi Khaing and Thein Htay Win in 500 metres Kayak single’s event. Phone Myint Teza and Aung Kyaw Moe in 5000 metres Kayak double’s event; Aung Lin

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Chirac says Iraq war was illegal

HANOI, 8 Oct—French President Jacques Chirac has said the US-led war in Iraq was illegal and expressed his fear for the country’s future in the face of a “civil war”.

In an interview with China Central TV filmed last month ahead of a visit to China this week, Chirac reiterated his strong opposition to Washington’s decision to wage war on Saddam Hussein without United Nations backing.

“I believe it was a bad solution which didn’t conform with legality and with international law, and so it was a mistake,” he said, according to a

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