YANGON, 12 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, helicoptered to the 200-ton pulp factory project site (Thabaung) of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Thabaung in Ayeyawady Division on 10 October morning.

The Prime Minister and party were accorded welcome by Ayeyawady Division PDC Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, departmental heads and officials. During their visit to Hlegyitet Village Basic Education Primary School, Thabaung, the Prime Minister and party met departmental officials, members of social organizations and locals.

Next, departmental officials presented reports to the Prime Minister and party on matters relating to agriculture, education, development affairs, transportation and communication in Thabaung. In response to the reports, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of the active participation of related ministries and local authorities in implementing the factory project (Thabaung).

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looks into Thabaung Pulp Mill (200-ton). — MNA

Development of township depends on efficiency and perseverance of officials playing leading role in the area. Prime Minister calls on departmental officials to make field trips down to rural areas to fulfil requirements.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets departmental personnel, social organizations and townselders in Thabaung Township. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Bring honour to the nation through sports

In its drive to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the Government has been implementing 12 political, economic and social objectives. It has placed emphasis on promotion of the nation’s sports standard realizing one of the four social objectives — Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

In the process, the Government not only organizes national level sports events at home but also sends national sports contingents to international sports events. Furthermore, Myanmar hosts international level sports events in the nation with the sponsorship of the Government.

The Government’s assistance and encouragement to sports movements is aimed at enhancing friendly relations between the Myanmar Sports Federations and international sports federations, and Myanmar and other nations through sports movements as well as enabling national sports athletes to be equipped with the spirit to elevate the nation’s role. National wellwishers and citizens, on their part, are making contributions to achieve success in sports.

In this regard, sports athletes, managers and coaches are to make efforts with added momentum to enhance dignity of the nation, realizing that such assistance of the State, contributions of wellwishers and participation of the public indicate that the entire national people have been making combined endeavours so as to raise the sports standard of the nation.

Myanmar takes part in international sports events and so respective officials in the sports field are to constantly make reviews of all the strengths and weaknesses by keeping in close touch with the athletes.

Myanmar women soccer team won the trophy in the first ASEAN Women’s Soccer Tournament held from 29 September to 10 October in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Finance and Revenue team also emerged champion in the 110th Invitational Football Match of India Football Federation (East Bengal) held from 30 September to 10 October in India.

Besides, Myanmar bagged eight gold, six silver and two bronze in the fifth South Asia Canoe Race held from 27 September to 4 October in the Philippines. The national sports teams’ brilliant performances brought honours to the motherland.

Therefore, responsible personnel and athletes are urged to take a more active role in order to achieve greater success in international sports events and producing brilliant athletes who can bring honour to the nation through sports.

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**Perspectives**

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

BAGHDAD, 11 Oct — Tony Blair was confronted by angry Labour MPs last night over the Iraq Survey Group’s report showing that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction. But loyalists rallied behind Mr Blair and urged the rebels to end their criticism.

The Prime Minister, facing MPs at a private meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, failed to answer criticism from Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, over reports that Whitehall officials, who may have worked on the dossier that led Britain to war, were being considered for honours.

Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, asked Mr Blair to apologise for taking Britain to war on a false premise, but Mr Blair refused to repeat last week’s apology by Patricia Hewitt, the Trade and Industry Secretary. “He said he did not regret the decision to go to war to bring down Saddam,” said an official.

It was the first opportunity for the MPs to tackle the Prime Minister about the findings of the report since its publication last week and the murder of Kenneth Bigley, the British hostage. Half of the 16 questions raised were about Iraq, but hostile MPs were shouted down by loyalists. One minister said: “When someone claimed it was the main issue on the doorstep, people groaned out loud.”

MPs criticised Mr Blair for refusing to make a statement to the Commons and some are demanding a fresh debate on Iraq. Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, will seek to quell their protests by making a Commons statement today. He will highlight the corruption among French and Russian nationals identified in the report for taking oil from Saddam intended for the UN oil-for-food programme. —Internet

FM says Sudan supports UNSC reform


Ismail told a Press conference that an urgent reform is necessary for the Security Council and the Sudanese Government has formed a committee to follow up this issue.

The Sudanese minister expressed his reservation over the permanent membership being given to new Western countries, such as Germany, in the Council.

“Application for the permanent membership by these countries in the Security Council will renew dominance of particular countries over the others,” Ismail said. He referred to the permanent membership of the three Western countries of the United States, Britain and France in the Security Council, noting that Africa and Latin America have no representations in the Council whereas the vast Asia is represented only by China. “Our strong support for an expansion of the Security Council comes within the Arab, Islamic and African framework, but we cannot talk of adding a new European country,” stressed Ismail.

He added that African countries will reach an agreement on the African representation in the Security Council. —MNA/Alhussa

Quake jolts northern Iran

TEHRAN, 11 Oct — A strong earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter Scale hit northern Iran early on Friday, but officials said it caused no casualties or significant damage.

State radio said the quake shook parts of north-eastern Golestan Province, sending many startled residents running into the streets. Some houses were damaged and windows were broken.

“Some 60 people in the province were slightly injured while trying to run out of their houses,” Ebrahim Karimi, head of the Red Crescent in Caspian province of Golestan, told the radio.

The official IRNA news agency said the quake’s epicentre was near the northern town of Agh-Ghalah which borders Turkmenistan. —MNA/Reuters

HW observes Mental Health Month 2004

HONG KONG, 12 Oct — Hong Kong started to observe Mental Health Month 2004 on the weekend with the launch of the Caring School programme aimed at promoting the mental health awareness of students, their family and teachers. The theme of this year’s Mental Health Month is “Think Positive, Live Positive”.

Permanant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Carrie Yau said Saturday that the programme’s objective is to encourage participating primary schools to promote the culture of caring for mental health. “The programme is aimed at inculcating teenagers to adopt a positive attitude in facing up to pressure,” she said.

About 100 schools signed a charter to affirm their support for the programme at Saturday’s launching ceremony. They will organize activities like visits to rehabilitation centres, seminars, interactive activities or school-based activities to promote mental health. —MNA/Ahinas

US aircraft destroys Fallujah restaurant

FALLUJAH, 11 Oct — A US warplane early Tuesday destroyed a popular Fallujah restaurant as part of the US command said was a meeting place for members of Iraq’s most feared terrorist organization.

The 12:01 a.m blast demolished the Haj Hussein restaurant as well as nearby shops, residents said. There was no report of casualties and the restaurant was closed at the time, but no guards were missing, residents said. Ambulances and fire trucks rushed to the scene.

The US military command in Baghdad made no mention of the restaurant.

“Following the engagement, secondary explosions were reported, indicating the strong likelihood of weapons caches and explosive devices,” the statement said. “Terrorists frequently planned operations from this location. Plans included targeting Iraqi governmental leadership, Iraq security forces, coalition forces and innocent Iraqi citizens.”

Al-Zarqawi’s network has claimed responsibility for numerous car bombings, kidnappings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including American businessman Nicholas Berg, South Korean translator Kim Sung-il, British civil engineer Kenneth Bigley and US engineers Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley. —Internet

US violating int’l law

NEW YORK, 12 Oct — The United States is violating international law by holding prisoners in its war on terror incommunicado and in secret hiding places, Human Rights Watch said in a report being published on Tuesday calling for an end to such practices.

The New York-based rights organization profiles 11 al-Qaeda suspects being detained without concern for their rights under international law in a 46-page report. They include Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the suspected architect of the September 11 attacks; Abu Zubaydah, reputedly a close aide of al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden; Ramzi bin al-Shaibah, who might have been a September 11 hijacker if he had not failed to get a US visa, and Hambali, an alleged al-Qaeda ally in Southeast Asia.

"Those guilty of serious crimes must be brought to justice before fair trials,” Reed Brody, special counsel with Human Rights Watch, said in a statement, adding that if the United States ignores international law, "it abandons its ideals and international obligations and becomes a lesser nation.”

The rights group said international treaties required that the International Committee of the Red Cross have access to all detainees and that information on them be provided to their relatives.

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Iraqis watch a burning civilian vehicle following a car bomb attack in Mosul, Iraq, on 11 Oct, 2004. — Internet

A local resident examines the debris after the central library was destroyed in Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 Oct, 2004. — Internet

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Poll says Iraq war hiked terror fears

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct—More than two-thirds of the people living in Australia, Britain and Italy—three countries allied with the United States in the Iraq war—believe the war has increased the threat of terrorism.

Leaders of those countries—Prime Ministers Tony Blair of Britain, John Howard of Australia and Silvio Berlusconi of Italy—all get low marks from their people for their handling of the war on terrorism, an Associated Press-Ipsos poll shows.

More than half of those in the United States, 52 percent, believe the Iraq war has increased the threat of terrorism, while three in 10 in the United States think it has decreased the threat—a view promoted by President Bush.

“In the context of the presidential campaign in the United States, this is undoubtedly a blow for George W. Bush, since it shows that a majority of Americans don’t agree with the main justification for his policy in Iraq,” said Gilles Corman, research director at Ipsos-Insa of Belgium, who studies public opinion trends across Europe.

In Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, a majority thought last winter that the Iraq war was increasing the threat of terrorism. That number has increased in each of the countries. Australians were not polled in the AP-Ipsos project last winter.

Political leaders in the Iraq war coalition have faced domestic political pressure because of their stance on Iraq. “The proportion of people worried by the terrorist threat has increased in most of the countries...since February,” said Corman of Ipsos in Belgium. “People feel more and more insecure.”

Fears of terrorism increased in seven of the eight countries polled last winter and again this fall.

The AP-Ipsos telephone polls of about 1,000 adults in each of the eight countries except Mexico were taken between 23 September and 2 October and have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Hawaii soldier killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct—The Department of Defense Monday confirmed that a soldier from Honolulu was killed Wednesday in Iraq.

Pvt Jeunjgin Na Kim, 23, died after his patrol was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire in Ar Ramadi.

Kim was stationed in Korea. This is the second death of a Hawaii soldier in a little more than a week.

Joshua Titcomb, 20, died when a bomb exploded near his tank.

Vietnam, Germany vow to further ties

HANOI, 11 Oct—Vietnam and Germany have pledged to further their relations in such fields as investment, trade and technology, and to support each other in the United Nations (UN), local media reports said on Sunday.

During separate talks and meetings with visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder held on Saturday, Vietnamese leaders affirmed that Vietnam supports Germany’s bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, and wants to beef up stable and round relations with the country.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai stressed that the visit by Schroeder, who attended the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting summit here on Friday, is a “very important event.”

Three die in crush at Guinea stadium

Dakar, 11 Oct—Three people were killed in a crush outside a soccer stadium in the West African country of Guinea on Sunday ahead of a World Cup qualifying game against Morocco, police said.

“We were rushing to buy tickets there was a crush and some people were trampled. There were three dead. Everyone has now been taken to hospital,” said a police source in the capital Conakry.

A second policeman said the crowd had surged while people were lining up to get into the 35,000-seat stadium through its four entrances. He said he saw one body being taken away.

Three visitors watch as Mount St Helens, Washington, vents steam on 11 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

Indian delegate at UN calls for global nuclear disarmament

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Oct—Calling for a time bound nuclear disarmament and establishment of non-discriminatory control regimes, India has demanded that nuclear weapons states de-alert and de-target such arms, enter into legally binding commitment to no-first-use principle against non-nuclear states.

“As long as nuclear weapons exist, the threat of use of nuclear weapons, accidental or inadvertent, will remain. Only global and complete disarmament, within time-bound framework, can totally eliminate the danger of a nuclear war,” Indian delegate, Anand Sharma, told a United Nations Committee.

Maintaining that growing danger of terrorists acquiring WMD, related materials and technologies has added a new ominous dimension to the danger of a nuclear war, he said the new challenges can be effectively dealt only through non-discriminatory regimes.

“It has been evident that the current nuclear non-proliferation regime is facing major challenges. We need to create a more inclusive and non-discriminatory structure to effectively address the current proliferation concerns,” he told the delegates.

The international community, Sharma, had demonstrated its will to control this danger by adopting in the last session an India-sponsored resolution on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

New Delhi plans to move a similar resolution again this year in the Assembly to reaffirm its commitment to combating this menace, he said.

“We believe states have the responsibility for taking measures to prevent proliferation of WMD and related materials and technology to both non-state actors and other states,” he said detailing steps India has taken in this direction.

But the focus on pursuing the goals of non-proliferation regime without progress towards global and complete disarmament may be “detrimental and counterproductive”, he said.
Mideast aviation-related expenditure exceeds $56b

ABU DHABI, 12 Oct — Total aviation-related expenses in the Middle East have exceeded 56 billion US dollars in recent years, the Gulf News daily reported here Monday.

Statistics released by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) showed that 41 billion dollars were spent in new aircraft purchases and the rest on aviation infrastructure.

In terms of the new purchases, the Dubai-based Emirates Airline has spent more than 24.6 billion dollars and the Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways, 8.2 billion dollars, according to the statistics.

Qatar Airways has placed an order for 18 Airbus worth 5.1 billion dollars, said the report, adding that Turkish Airlines has placed orders for 51 aircraft valued at 2.5 billion US dollars in total.

With regard to aviation infrastructure, the Mideast governments have spent more than 15 billion dollars in airports and related facilities, including a 4.1-billion-dollar investment in Dubai International Airport and five billion dollars in a three-phased development of Doha International Airport.

Air ticket sales through Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP) reached six billion dollars in the region in 2003 and passenger traffic increased by 44 per cent in the same year, according to the report, contributing much of this growth to a robust regional travel market.

The Mideast region has made progress in the aviation industry in recent years, but there is still spacious room for improvement.

The industry in the region has lost over 30 billion dollars since 2001, IATA’s director-general Giovanni Bisignani was quoted as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia to increase oil output

ABU DHABI, 12 Oct — The three Gulf countries of United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Saudi Arabia promised Sunday to increase their oil output capacity to help stabilize world prices, the official WAM news agency reported.

UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral resources Obaid bin Saif Al Nasseri said his country is planning to raise its output capacity to 3.5 million barrel per day (BPD) by 2006 on the sidelines of the 11th Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2004) which opens here on Sunday.

The UAE, currently producing around 2.5 million bpd, could produce additional 300,000 bpd in a short term, the minister told reporters.

The country will join hands with other OPEC producers to pump more oil supplies to bring stability to the world oil market, Al Nasseri said.

He said the current high prices were driven by combined factors, the most important of them were turmoil in producing countries, in addition to climatic and geopolitical factors. He expects prices to rally up if these factors remain active.

“We hope stability would prevail in the world oil market for the interest of both producers and consumers,” he added.

Kuwait’s Minister for Oil Ahmed Al Fahad Al Sabah also told reporters at the venue that Kuwait will increase its output capacity by 200,000 to reach 2.7 million barrels per day in the next few days. “I accept the high prices because it is determined by political developments, but OPEC will work towards bringing about stability in the market,” Al Sabah said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Ibrahim Al Naime also said here Sunday his country is well prepared to increase its production from nine million barrels per day (BPD) to 11 million bpd.

Saudi Arabia will raise its output should the supply factor so requires and that it will not dump the market, Al Naime told reporters. — MNA/Xinhua

British teenager shot dead in Nottingham

LONDON, 11 Oct — A British teenager was shot dead in what police believe was a random attack as she walked home with friends from a funfair in the early hours of Saturday.

Danielle Beccan, 14, died during emergency surgery after being hit by several bullets fired from a passing car in the St Ann’s area of Nottingham, central England.

“This is a truly wicked and callous crime and we will do everything in our power to find the people responsible,” assistant chief constable Sue Fish said.

Beccan, who lived in the area where she was shot, was believed to have spent Friday evening at Nottingham’s annual Goose Fair. She was walking home with a group of friends when a car pulled up alongside and shots were fired.

Police believe she had no involvement with any criminal gang and said the shooting appeared to be motiveless.

Around 100 officers and detectives were involved in the hunt for the girl’s killer, and stop-and-search inquiries would take place over the weekend, Fish said. A post mortem examination is to be carried out later on Saturday.—MNA/Reuters

Iraq, Iran agree to control joint borders

BAGHDAD, 12 Oct — Iraq and Iran had signed an agreement to control their borders and prevent infiltrators. Al Sabah Al Jadid newspaper reported on Sunday.

The commanders of the two countries’ border forces signed the agreement in Basrah, 550 kilometres south of Baghdad and the biggest governorate in the south, a source in the Iraqi Interior Ministry was quoted as saying.

The source also pointed out that the two sides started coordination to implement the agreement in a way that guarantees preventing infiltrating and smuggling operations.

The two sides also discussed release of 19 Iraqi anglers and their five boats, who were arrested by the Iranian authorities.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier urges Sino-French economic, trade cooperation

BEIJING, 11 Oct — China and France should further cement their economic and trade cooperation, said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao here on Sunday at a meeting with visiting French President Jacques Chirac.

Wen said bilateral economic and trade cooperation boasts vast potentials and broad prospects, and both sides should strengthen the cooperation in energy, communication, agriculture and environmental protection.

They should also establish and improve the mechanism of cooperation between their small- and medium-sized enterprises, and expand new- and high-tech cooperation spheres, noted Wen.

He stressed that the Chinese side attaches importance to Sino-French relations and has always treated bilateral ties from a strategic height, hoping both sides will continue pushing forward bilateral relationship.

He characterized bilateral relations as the most stable politically, the most in-depth economically, and the closest in cooperation in international affairs, saying that bilateral all-round strategic partnership is being consolidated and advanced.

Wen said China and France share identical or similar stands on many major international issues, citing that the Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, which was proposed by China and France and adopted at the just-closed summit of the fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), has won favourable echoes from leaders of different countries attending the meeting.

IRAQ

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Iraqi women killed in roadside bomb

BAGHDAD, 12 Oct — A roadside bomb killed a woman and wounded another in central Baghdad Sunday, according to the news agency MNA.

IRAQ

A destroyed home in Fallujah, where the US military has launched two airstrikes, flattening two buildings on 11 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

A US soldier of the 1 Cavalry Division secures an area near a police station in Baghdad’s Sadar City neighbourhood on 12 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

I saw the writing on the wall, I knew this was going to happen... — rip Danielle Beccan.
The Secretary-2 left instructions.

reported on water storage of the dam and supply of water.

Secretary-2 gave instructions.

Asia World Col U Kye, on construction tasks. The of construction materials; and Director (Planning) of the

Myint reported on building of the pagoda; Chairman of building the pagoda Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla

pagoda to the Secretary-2 and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

presented offertories to the Sayadaws. Then, the

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and deputy ministers

11 monasteries and five nunneries through the Sayadaw.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Tin Soe, an old student, K 100,000, and Col Win

trustees presented K 2 million, member of YCDC Col

students who have passed the matriculation in 2004 K 150,000, U Arnt Ku of Two-in-One Restaurant K 100,000,

Ministry of Defence Services Medical Academy Brig-Gen Min Thein accepted the donations. U Than Aung thanked the donors, saying that the students are able to use the multimedia classrooms due to the leadership of the Government and collective efforts of teachers, people and donors.

Teachers should train their pupils effectively, with the use of the advanced teaching aids. As the school has already produced a six distinction-winner like Ma Pan Ei San, greater efforts are needed to produce more brilliant students.

The Secretary-1 cordially greeted teachers, members of SBT, donors and members of social organizations. The Secretary-1 and party posed for photos together with the headmaster, teachers, SBT members, donors and students. — MNA

Secretary-2 attends fertilizing…

(from page 16)
to the monasteries and nunneries in Lashio in cooperation with the sixth presenting of cash donations for building a pagoda to be named Yan Taing Aung Hsutaungpyae Pagoda, at Wizayabumi Maha Aungmye hill in Lashio.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of State

Lt-Col Khin Maung Swe of regional battalion K

100,000, U Khin Maung Yin of Pyoppy Win Co K

200,000, students who have passed the matriculation in 2004 K 150,000, U Arnt Ku of Two-in-One Restaurant K 100,000, students of Yangon University of Compute Science K 100,000, welfare shops of the school K 100,000, Daw Nge Nge Soe of One Wish Restaurant K 70,000, Ma Pan Ei San, who passed the matriculation with six distinctions K 60,000, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik K 50,000, Mingaladon Township Union Solidarity and Development Association K 50,000, Myanmar CP Light Co K 50,000, U Myint Soe and Daw Shin Mi Naung K 50,000, parents of Defence Services Garment Factory K 50,000 and Thein Tun Aung Construction Materials Co K 50,000.

On arrival at Kaukkwe Creek Dam Project, the Secretary-2 heard reports by the officials on the project. The commander gave a supplementary report. The Secretary-2 gave necessary instructions.

Next, they attended the fertilizing of Hsinshweli high-yield strain paddy with pollen at the 750-acre plot in Shan State (North). On the occasion, the Secretary-2 delivered a speech, saying that it was heartening to see that Tatmadaw members, local authorities, departments and social organizations are making collective efforts under supervision of Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing for regional food sufficiency.

Now, the State is implementing three plans for exceeding production of paddy, sufficiency of edible oil and extended production of beans and pulses and raw material crops.

It is also giving encouragement for extended cultivation of the ten major crops, boosting per acre yield, extended reclamation of cultivated land, and extended multiple cropping in order to raise living standard of the people and to ensure food sufficiency for growing population. In conclusion, the Secretary-2 urged all to make endeavours with added momentum for greater development of the agricultural sector, the most fundamental business of the nation.

The Secretary-2 and party inspected Hsinshweli paddy, sunflower, soybean and other crops and medicines used in production of hybrid paddy seeds.

The Secretary-2 and party visited the groups who carried out pollination. They also inspected maize production of hybrid paddy and power tillers.

They attended the fertilizing of Hsinshweli on 250 acres of land in Lashio Township. On their way to Muse, the Secretary-2 and party inspected plantation of special high paddy, opium substitute and beekeeping stations of North East Command, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on agriculture and livestock breeding and income.

The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Mongbi Village in Hsenwi Township. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station reported on construction of low-cost housing project for war veterans and arrangements for agriculture and livestock breeding. The Secretary-2 provided necessary assistance to 13 war veterans.

At the opening of Sanlaung Sanpya Village station hospital, the Secretary-2 formally unveiled the signboard of the hospital. The Secretary-2 presented gifts to national race leader U Ma Htu Naw. Lt-Gen Aung Hwee gave gifts and uniforms to Dr Daw Phyu Phyu of the station hospital.

On behalf of the local people, U Ma Htu Naw spoke words of thanks. He also presented gifts to the Secretary-2 and Lt-Gen Aung Hwee. They then inspected the hospital.

At the ceremony of the fertilizing of Hsinshweli in Hsenwi Township, the Secretary-2 said he was pleased to see the efforts for food sufficiency in Shan State (North).

One of the important points for national development is economic progress.

Being an agro-based country, economic development depends on agricultural development. Therefore, efforts are to be made for development of agriculture. He called on the people to improve the quality of life. Next, the Secretary-2 inspected tea, macadamia, pepper, orange, coffee, lychee and other fruit plantations in Kaungkha.— MNA
Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone delivers an address at Work Committee for Ensuring the Emergence of Myanmar Copyright. — MNA

Work Committee for Ensuring Emergence of Myanmar Copyright meets

Yangon, 12 Oct — The Work Committee for Ensuring the Emergence of Myanmar Copyright held its coordination meeting at the Government Office this afternoon.

It was attended by ministers, deputy ministers, directors-general and managing directors of department and enterprise, officials of social organizations and guests. Chairman of the Work Committee Minister at the

Ministry of Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attends the presentation. — MNA

State/Division participants to 12th Performing Arts Competitions arrive

Yangon, 12 Oct — More managers and participants from the states and divisions to take part in the 12th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions arrived here this morning.

A 21-member group comprising managers, judges and participants from Mon State led by Chairman of the Mon State Administrative Council Lt-Col Tin Aung arrived at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayint Naung) in the morning, a 651-member group comprising managers, judges and participants from Yangon Division led by Major Thant Zin Oo.

Coord meeting to give lectures to Myanmar entrepreneurs held

Yangon, 12 Oct — A coordination meeting was held at the Myanmar Education Research Bureau yesterday afternoon to give one-day lecture to Myanmar entrepreneur by technicians from Stamford Colleges of Malaysia.

The name of the lecture is Public Relation & Communication for Better Result: 'The Stamfordian Contribution'.

At the course, lectures on Introduction to Public Relation, Marketing Management, Consumer Behavior, Journalism, Media & Advertising and Media & Society will be given.

Participants to 12th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon Division arrive at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayint Naung). — MNA

Malaysians explain MEASAT-3: A satellite

Yangon, 12 Oct — A presentation of MEASAT-3: A satellite beaming 70 per cent of global population took place at the Sedona Hotel here this morning. The satellite will be launched by Malaysia in July 2005. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the presentation of the satellite held at the hotel under the title 'MEASAT-3: A Global Beam for Myanmar', at which Malaysian officials explained in detail its marketability and satellite communication techniques.

The Malaysian speakers were Adviser Dato' Ainuddin Noordin, officials of Malaysia Economic Co-operation, Malaysia Post and Telecommunications, Malaysia Radio and TV and Myawady TV and guests attending the ceremony, and Chief Executive Officer (Sales and Marketing) Mr Paul Brown-Kenyon and Senior Vice-President of Apace and Technology Dr Ali R. Ebadi, who presented the market condition and technical matters. — MNA

Alternate chairmen of National Convention plenary session meet

Yangon, 12 Oct — The members of the Panel of Alternate Chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention held the coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the National Convention Convening Work Committee in Kyiikkasan Ground here this morning.

Maj-Gen Aung Thein acted as alternate chairman.

The meeting was attended by members of the Panel of Alternate Chairmen U Tun Yin Law, U Yaw Aye Hla, U Maung Hla (a), U Hla Myint, U Mya Aye, Dr Myo Thant Tin, Dr U Thein U Po Saw and U Tun Aung Chein. Joint Secretary-2 of the Work Committee Dr Thaung Myint, members U Ba Han and U San Tun, Deputy Director U Aung Kyi of the Work Committee Office and others.

At the meeting, discussions were made for the compilation and scrutinisation of the data collected by the panel of alternate chairmen from the papers submitted by the eight delegative groups in respect of the sharing of legislative powers at the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July so as to submit them to the National Convention by the time it reconvened.

The meeting ended in the afternoon. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs leaves for Singapore

Yangon, 12 Oct — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left here by air this afternoon to attend the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME) and the 3rd ASEAN +3 Environment Ministers Meeting to be held on 13 and 14 October in Singapore. These meetings will give policy guidance for future environmental cooperation activities within ASEAN and with the ASEAN+3 countries.

The Deputy Minister was seen off at Yangon Interna-
Active participation of related ministries...

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by the chairman of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation and experts. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on cent-per-cent completion of the mill and machinery installation compared to 76 percent completion and 21.5 percent of machinery installation on 5 September 2003 when the Prime Minister visited the project site, individual test run and other arrangements. Next, Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries U Than Shwe reported on raw materials for the factory such as bamboo, salt, lime stone, electricity and natural gas and tasks being carried out and future work. After the reports presented by Minister U Aung Thaung, the Prime Minister stressed the need for active participation of related ministries and local authorities in implementing the project and close supervision to carry out to collect correct data and tasks to be carried out according to the respective sectors.

Than Shwe reported on raw materials for the factory such as bamboo, salt, lime stone, electricity and natural gas and tasks being carried out and future work. After the reports presented by Minister U Aung Thaung, the Prime Minister stressed the need for active participation of related ministries and local authorities in implementing the project and close supervision to carry out to collect correct data and tasks to be carried out according to the respective sectors.

The Prime Minister presented a basket of fruit to Mr Xu, Chairman of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) and party. Mr Xu in return presented a souvenir to the Prime Minister. They then posed for a documentary photo.

At the project site the Prime Minister and party inspected the machines for cutting bamboo and installation of machinery at the pulp sheet making plant and cutter machine. The Prime Minister and party also saw over functions of the recovery plant and thermal power plant.

After inspecting stockpile of bamboo and the jetty equipped with modern cranes, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

Later, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction tasks being carried out at the project site by motor boat.

The 200-ton pulp mill is situated near Hlegyitat Village in Thabaung Township. It was completed on 30 April 2004 and it started to test run. Plans are under way to build a 50-ton high quality paper factory and a 60-ton newsprint factory.

Development of township depends...

Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements. And he presented a set of computer and its accessories to school head U Khin Zaw for Thabaung Township Basic Education High School. After that, Managing Director U Than Shwe of Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 presented K 2 million to Township Education Officer U Saw Shwe for Hlegyitat Village BEPS.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech on the occasion, saying that as Ayeyawady Division is rich in rice and fish, the people of the region are enjoying a convenient living condition. But greater efforts are still needed to further develop the economy township-wise. The development of a township depends on the efficiency and perseverance of the officials playing a leading role in the region. They will have to find the areas with high economic potentials for progress of economic enterprises reliable for the townships. As Thabaung Township is located near the Rakhine Yoma, commercial plantation of rubber, bamboo, pepper and soybean is possible in it. Thanks to the Thabaung paper and pulp mill of the Industry-1 Ministry, the township has a large bamboo market. Based on the favourable conditions, the township officials will have to lead and organize the locals for emergence of local entrepreneurs. Only with the encouragement of the departments, will the private
 Development of township depends…

sector (from page 8) sector shall strive to lay sound economic foundations. Committees formed sector-wise would make harmonious and coordinated efforts for the progress of their own townships. The departmental personnel will have to join hands with the locals for successful implementation of the five rural tasks. Development Affairs Department and Health Department are required to make cooperative efforts to supply clean water to the rural areas in the division where ponds provide the main source of water for local people. All the departmental personnel should strive in harmony and union for development of rural roads, health, education and economy. The Prime Minister and party are going to attend to the needs of the region in all aspects. The departmental personnel should receive the assistance of social organization to develop their townships in all sectors and improve the living standards of the local people.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted those present General Khin Nyunt and party went to Labutta in Myanmar State by helicopter where they were welcomed by Chairperson Myint Hlaing of Peace and Development Council and Development Council Li-Col Kyi Hlut Win, members of district/township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, members of social organizations and town-selders. Afterwards, General Khin Nyunt went to Labutta No 2 BEHS and attended the opening ceremony of the multimedia rooms of the school. At the opening ceremony, Headmistress Daw Ohn Kyi and Chairman of SBT U Tin Aye on behalf of township education authorities unveiled the signboard of the multimedia rooms.

At the meeting, Lt-Col Kyi Hlut Win reported on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, tasks being carried out in industrial zones and water supply tasks in Myaynigone District. He also reported on education and health sectors in districts and townships in Myanmar State.

Departmental officials also reported on needs for health, education and communication in Myaynigone township. Next, General Khin Nyunt fulfilled the requirements. Afterwards, General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech, saying that they had fulfilled the requirements in response to the reports presented by officials of the townships of Myaynigone District.

In particular, they fulfilled the requirements in education, health and transport sectors. In the transport sector, the government is making arrangements for improving and ensuring better transport across the nation including Ayeyawady Division. As the government is targeting to meet Ayeyawady Division into the granary of the State, priority is being given to regional development of the division including development of agricultural and transport sectors.

The main requirement of the State is self-sufficiency in rice. Only when there is self-sufficiency in rice will the nation be free from relying on others. With this concept, strenuous efforts are being made for the nation to enjoy the self-sufficiency in rice. Some states and divisions have not yet been able to enjoy the self-sufficiency in rice and have to rely only on Ayeyawady Division. However, the nature has been in a position to export rice as it is now in surplus.

Thus, the regions like Ayeyawady Division where rice grows well are in increase cultivation of paddy for higher output thereby contributing to development of the State and own regions.

Ayeayawady Division where paddy cultivation, fisheries and prawn breeding thrive is vital for the State.

The State, therefore, has been placing emphasis on development of Ayeyawady Division, a division that is endowed with the natural gifts of socio-economic life of the local people. With this end in view, it has been building roads and bridges, and is taking measures for development of trade and marketing of fruits. Ayeyawady Division could be accessible by car except one or two towns as a network of roads and bridges has emerged. In building the main roads in the division for better transport, the Government has spent a huge sum of funds on construction of bridges large and small.

The Government is striving day in, day out for ensuring better transport in states and divisions in order that the national races can make frequent contacts with one another, thereby contributing to further cementing the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit.

Unprecedented progress has been made in the national development tasks and in the efforts to improve socio-economic life of the people. Significant progress has now been made in the whole Ayeyawady Division compared with the past ten years during which the division only dreamed for development. But, the internal and external destructive elements, turning a blind eye to national development, are making fabricated news as if the nation has been in the process of deterioration. However, the people have witnessed and enjoyed the results of development and now are able to travel from Pathein to Yangon or vice versa within a short time and Pathein Air Port, in which only small aircraft could use in the past, was upgraded into the one in which big airplanes can take off and land.

In short, the State has been bringing about harmonious development of the nation by means of building basic infrastructures such as bridges and roads, dams and reservoirs and airports. As a result, marked progress has been made across the nation during a period of 15 years.

The Government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point future programmes for the State for the emergence of a peaceful modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. It is working hard to achieve the perpetual existence of the Union to be based on Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity.

With this end in view, the entire national people are to take part in the endeavors for successful realization of future policy programmes of the State by doing their bit so that the Union, where scores of national races reside, can exist as long as the world does.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister greeted those present on the occasion. The General and party looked into progress of Labutta by car. Afterwards, they helicoptored to Ngapudaw. The General held a meeting with local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and town-selders. Officials reported on the requirements. The Prime Minister attended the needs for regional development, health, agriculture, livestock breeding, development affairs and transport sectors. The Prime Minister presented a TV, video cassette player, and computer and accessories to the State by means of building basic infrastructures such as bridges and roads, dams and reservoirs and airports. As a result, marked progress has been made across the nation during a period of 15 years.

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Secretary-2 underscores two main important tasks for perpetuation of Union

YANGON, 12 Oct — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected cultivation of hybrid orange at North-East Command HQ in Lashio, northern Shan State on 8 October.

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Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein and party receive the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada. (News on page 16) — MNA

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein accepts donations for building Yan Taing Aung Hsutaungpyae Pagoda. (News on page 16) — MNA

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein meets departmental officials, local people and members of social organizations in Lashio. — MNA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Taungyay Dam in Kyaukpaduang Township

Yangon, 12 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win, Director-General of Water Resources Utilization Department U Win Shwe and officials of NyaungU on 10 October inspected the tasks being carried out to supply irrigation water to Meiktila plain and met with departmental officials at the Kantawmangala Hall in Meiktila and gave instructions to them.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Shamman Village tract in Meiktila Township and inspected site chosen to build No 1 support dam near Shanmange Village. They also inspected the site chosen to build No 2 support dam on Kandawmyint Thiri road section from Paleik to Thabyaywa near Kandawmyint Thiri Bridge.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at the briefing hall of Taungyay supporting Dam project. Deputy Director of Construction-7 U Myo Tun reported on progress of taungyay dam construction in accordance with the data of the project and implementation, Director-General U Kyaw San Win on earth work of Kyetmauktaung Dam and installation of outlet conduit.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report on construction of canals and dam.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of Hsinthay Diversion Dam, Taungyay Dam and supply of irrigation water and tunnel. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected plantations on both sides of Meiktila-Kyaukpaduang Road and measures undertaken for greening the region. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects tasks being carried out to irrigate Meiktla plain

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Irrigation of Meiktila Plain and 12,000 acres in Meiktila and Wundwin envisaged.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials of Meiktila and Yamethin districts at Kantawmangala Hall in Meiktila. — MNA

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Nigeria wants $10b investment annually in oil industry

LAGOS, 11 Oct — Nigeria will require an investment of 10 billion US dollars annually in the coming five years to meet the country’s target of oil reserve of 40 billion barrels by 2030 and the elimination of gas flaring by 2035, a senior official has said.

Of this amount, the joint venture operation will require about 7 billion dollars while the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) operators in the deepwater area will make up for the balance, Director of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) Mr Ofurhie said.

"I expect average oil and gas spending to peak at about 10 billion annually over the next five years, 7 billion dollars per annum by the Joint Venture Operations in the onshore and offshore water, and 3 billion dollars by the PSC operators in the deepwater," Ofurhie was quoted by local daily The Guardian as saying on Monday.

He said that the government had set ambitious targets for boosting local content participation aimed at achieving 45 per cent local participation specifically in the provision of goods and services, especially in local engineering, construction and fabrication for the oil and gas.

In addition, the government had signed a memorandum of understanding with the China National Oil Corp to identify suitable upstream projects and oil and gas assets that would be integrated into the downstream projects including refining, power generation, petrochemicals and fertilizer in partnerships with local industry players, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Poles line up for shares in largest bank privatization

WARSAW (Poland), 11 Oct — Poles signed waiting lists for a chance to buy shares in their largest bank, using a signup system from Communist times to impose order on the crush of interested investors.

Monday marks their first chance to register for shares in the state-owned PKO Bank Polski, which intends to float 30 per cent of its shares in Central Europe’s largest initial public offering of the year and Poland’s biggest since a 1998 telecom IPO.

The government hopes the partial privatization will raise 6 billion zlotys ($12.3 billion US dollars) for its coffers.

PKO BP was giving ordinary Poles only Monday to sign up for a first batch of shares.

The government said Sunday it was raising the stock volume available for signup Monday to about 7 per cent of the bank’s share capital from the 4 per cent originally planned.

“This is the first privatization in quite a while in which ordinary people can buy shares, bypass exchange speculators,” Darius office clerk Danasiak, 40, standing outside a Warsaw bank.

He said he wouldn’t be surprised if competing clients came to blows on Monday.

Would-be investors have been signing up for days on lists kept by volunteers that set the order in which they can enter the bank Monday. The system harks back to the time when Poland was under communism, when was used to give people a fair chance to obtain scarce consumer goods when they happened to be available in stores.

Up to a quarter of the IPO’s shares are earmarked for small-time investors, who are limited to 20,000 zlotys ($5,700 US dollars) each. The rest are to be offered abroad to family and foreign institutional investors.

The initial price for PKO BP shares is being set later. The bank is expected to make its Warsaw stock exchange debut next month.

Floating part of PKO BP is crucial to the government’s 2004 budget, which targets privatization revenues of 8.8 billion zlotys ($2.5 billion US dollars)

Privatization of state companies has recently stalled in ex-Communist Poland, the largest of 10 countries, most of them from the former Soviet bloc, that joined the EU on 1 May.

PKO posted first-half net profits of 844 million zlotys ($230 million US dollars) this year, up from 722.5 million zlotys ($195 million US dollars) a year earlier. — MNA/AVP

S Korean company to invest heavily in Indonesian power plant

JAKARTA, 12 Oct—Korea Electric Power Corp (Kepco) will materialize its 350 million-US dollar investment in the construction of a gas-fired power plant in the Indonesian province of West Java, a local newspaper reported Monday.

The 740-megawatt power plant will be built in Cilegon Town and is expected to start operation in 2009, reported Bisnis Indonesia.

Death toll from floods, storms rises to 36 in Vietnam

HANOI, 12 Oct—Floods and storms have killed 36 people, including 23 children in Vietnam’s southern Mekong Delta during this year’s rainy season, which started in August, an official of the Central Steering Committee on Flood and Storm Prevention told Xinhua on Monday.

As of Sunday, floods had submerged over 40,800 houses and 300 schools, and damaged nearly 5,000 hectares of paddy fields and orchards, deputy head of the committee’s office Do Ngoc Thien said, adding that the worst-affected provinces include Dong Thap, An Giang, Long An and Kien Giang.

The level of floodwaters in the upper stream of the Mekong River, which peaked in late September, is receding, he noted.

Natural disasters claimed 7,760 human lives and caused total losses of 2.5 billion US dollars in Vietnam between 1996 and 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.

The second best time is now.
Canada will inquire into submarine fire

11 Oct — The Canadian Ministry gives its nod, the Finance Ministry, on the island of Tahiti in French Polynesia, according to a Sino-French joint motive bilateral exchanges.

Nepali Army plans to recruit 6,000 soldiers

The Ministry has already sent documents to the Finance Ministry, which will study the feasibility of the proposal. The Nepali Defence Ministry said.

China plans to set up consulate on Tahiti

The joint communique, issued during French President Jacques Chirac’s state visit to China, says that the two countries are considering the mutual establishment of new consulates to promote bilateral exchanges. The French Government the official said on condition of anonymity. The estimated budget for increasing the strength will be about six billion Nepali rupees (81 million US dollars), he noted. Meanwhile, the Army has started recruiting women officers for infantry units for the first time. More than 800 aspiring women have applied for the post of infantry officers, he added.

Harm ranks fifth biggest killer in China

Strong local demand shrinks Bangladesh’s tea exports

According to reports from the state-owned Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB), the present annual domestic tea consumption has risen to about 40 million kilos, up from 20 million kilos a decade ago. Tea exports, on the other hand, in the fiscal 2003-2004 stood at 12.46 million kilos, down from 26.22 million kilos 10 years ago. Lately the domestic market is picking up as more people are developing the habit of drinking tea, as tea is found to be the cheapest drink in the country, said Rasul Nizam, managing director of a leading tea brokerage house.

The fire broke out while the Chicoutimi was sailing to Canada from Scotland and three seriously injured crewmen were airlifted to hospital in Ireland, where one of them died.

The vessel is one of four submarines which Canada bought from Britain in 1998 but which needed major repairs before they could safely put to sea.

MacLean said the condition of the submarine when it left Britain was “as good as it gets”.

“I stand absolutely convinced that submarine was in all respects ready to sail and proceed to sea when it left,” he said.

British Defence Minister Geoff Hoon has defended the work carried out in Britain to ensure the submarines were seaworthy, amid speculation Canada may sue Britain.

“These boats were brought up to Royal Navy standards, they had undergone rigorous trials and tests,” Hoon told BBC Radio.

“Canada has had the opportunity over many years to survey the boats and has been in negotiation with Britain during that period,” he added.

The Ottawa Citizen newspaper has quoted defence documents as saying the Chicoutimi’s hull was so badly affected by rust that the vessel could not dive to its usual operating depth.

Canada bought from Britain from Bri-
**SPORTS**

Own goal hands Cyprus 2-2 draw against Faroe Islands

Nicola, 11 Oct — A late own goal from defender Pol Thorsteinsson handed Cyprus a 2-2 draw against the Faroe Islands as both sides secured their first point in World Cup qualifying Group Four on Saturday.

Thorsteinsson put through his own net nine minutes from time when trying to clear after goalkeeper Jakup Mikkelsen had saved a shot from Yannamik Okkas. Mikkelsen had been at fault for the game’s opening goal, bringing down Michalis Constantinou who made no mistake from the penalty spot after 14 minutes.

Cyprus failed to gain home their early dominance and the Faroes were quickly back on level terms with Claus Bech Jorgensen heading home from a free kick. Always dangerous on the counter-attack, the visitors were rewarded for their positive play with a second goal two minutes before halftime, Rogvi Jakobsen scoring with shot from distance. — MNA/Reuters

Brazil hammer Venezuela 5-2

Maracanã (Venezuela), 11 Oct — Kaka and Ronaldo hit two goals apiece as Brazil hammered Venezuela 5-2 on Saturday in a World Cup qualifier twice interrupted by fans going on to the field to hug the visiting players.

Adriano added the fifth goal as the world champions stayed top of the 10-nation South American qualifying group at the halfway mark of the competition, with 19 points from nine games.

Venezuela, who grabbed two late consolation strikes through forward Roberth Moran, have 10 points.

The first supporter came on to the pitch after Ronaldo had scored Brazil’s fourth goal in the 51st minute and hugged full-back Roberto Carlos before being pulled away by security men.

Shortly after, another fan, wearing a Brazil shirt, went on the field and did the same to Ronaldo.

Although Roberto Carlos laughed off the incident, the Venezuelans could find themselves in serious trouble for the double security lapse.

The first half was even in terms of possession but Kaka’s two goals made the difference. Ronaldo then scored twice in three minutes after the break to kill off the home team.

Venezuela, who have lost all 16 meetings with Brazil, had hoped to end their wretched run after enjoying a huge improvement in the last three years under coach Richard Paez.

Brazil, though, almost went ahead in the 8th minute when Ze Roberto’s shot was cleared off the line by Luis Vera.

Kaka, who was left out of last month’s match against Bolivia after he failed to take part in an August friendly in Haiti, played a one-two with Ronaldinho on six minutes, slipped through several defenders and placed his shot in the right corner of the net.

Venezuela then twice tested Dida with long-range shots. The AC Milan goalkeeper parried one dipping effort from Juan Arango before tipping Jose Manuel Rey’s swerving free kick over the crossbar. — MNA/Reuters

Ten-man Poland defeat Austria 3-1

Vienna, 11 Oct — Ten-man Poland survived a late onslaught to secure a 3-1 victory over Austria in their World Cup European Group Six qualifier on Saturday.

The defeat knocked the Austrians off the top of the group and down into third behind England and the Poles.

The visitors had Arkadiusz Radomski sent off two minutes from time but with Austria storming towards Poland’s goal in the dashing moments, a long through ball found Tomasz Frankowski alone in front of Alex Manninger’s goal and his second attempt found the net.

Poland took the lead through Radoslaw Kaluzny after 10 minutes after Manninger could only parry a free kick from Maciej Zurawski.

The Austrians equalized thanks to Markus Schopp on the half hour, the Brescia midfielder latching on to a through ball from Rene Auhauser before firing between Liverpool keeper Jerzy Dudek’s legs.

The Poles went ahead again when Dariusz Klich’s cross was headed home by Danilo Turcios in the 39th minute.

The visitors levelled against 10 men as they forced Poland out of the game in the 43rd minute, when Austria full-back Robert Huth scored.

The match, played amid heightened security, was a mark this weekend. — MNA/Reuters

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The match, played amid heightened security, was a mark this weekend. — MNA/Reuters

Honduras draw with Canada 1-1

San Pedro Sula (Honduras), 11 Oct — Substitute Danilo Turcios snatched an equalizer in the second minute of injury time to earn Honduras a 1-1 home draw with Canada in their World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

The Mexican-based midfielder, who replaced Edgard Alvarez in the 74th minute, fired home from inside the penalty area as Honduras maintained their unbeaten record in Group B of the second stage of the CONCACAF zone qualifiers.

Canada, who had won all their five games, had their play held back when midfielder Atiba Hutchinson, who plays for Swedish club Helsingborgs, shot into the net amid a crowd of defenders following a corner in the 72nd minute.

Honduras, whose only appearance at the World Cup finals was in 1982, have six points from four games in the group and are well placed for a top-two finish.

Canada, aiming to qualify for the finals for the first time since 1986, stayed bottom with two points.

US beat El Salvador 2-0

San Salvador, 11 Oct — Brian McBride and debutant Eddie Johnson gave the United States a 2-0 victory over El Salvador in their World Cup qualifier on Saturday. The win by the Americans strengthened their grip at the top of the CONCACAF region Group A Table, with eight points from four games. El Salvador remain bottom on three points.

The match, played amid heightened security, was a far cry from the ill-tempered September 4 fixture between the two nations that almost caused a series of on-field brawls.

The US carved out several early chances and it was no surprise when McBride struck in the 29th minute.

Kerry Zavagnin collected a quick throw-in from DaMarcus Beasley and found McBride, who lashed the ball in from 17 metres. — MNA/Reuters

**INTERNET**

Bolivia win over Peru 1-0

La Paz, 11 Oct — Striker Joaquin Botero scored his fifth goal of the World Cup qualifiers to give Bolivia a 1-0 win over a lethargic Peru on Saturday.

The Mexican-based striker beat the offside trap, latched on to Luis Grito Ribeiro’s incisive pass and chipped the ball past goalkeeper Oscar Blanez in the 56th minute of a bad-tempered, goal-ridden match at 3,600 metres above sea level.

A poor game degenerated even further in the 84th minute when Luis Grito Ribeiro was sent off for kicking Juan Jayo in the face, triggering a pushing match featuring nearly all the players.

Bolivia defender Ronaldaldo Raldes aimed a punch at an opponent during the scuffle but the referee appeared to miss the incident.

The win took Bolivia level with Peru on nine points after nine games of the South American World Cup qualifying competition, which reaches the halfway mark this weekend.

Bolivia used their customary tactic of peppering the visitors’ goal with long-range shots hoping that goalkeeper Oscar Blanez would be caught out by the flight of the ball in the thin air of La Paz. — MNA/Reuters

Colombia held 1-1 draw with Paraguay

Barranquilla (Colombia), 11 Oct — Colombia squandered a hatful of chances before conceding a late equalizer in a 1-1 home draw with Paraguay in their World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

The Colombians missed an excellent opportunity to climb several places in the 10-nation South American group, which is now at the halfway mark, after letting their opponents off the hook.

Midfielder Aureliano Torres scored in the 78th minute of injury time to earn Paraguay a point which appeared beyond them as the home team dominated the first half and went ahead through Freddy Grisales.

The result left Colombia level with Bolivia and Peru on nine points at the bottom of the group, Paraguay, third at the start of the weekend, have 15 points and are on course for their third successive World Cup finals appearance.

Colombia went ahead in the 17th minute when Grisales crossed from the right, the ball deflecting off defender Paulo Da Silva and flying into the net.

The hosts looked almost certain to add to their goal total as they dominated the midfield and sliced through the Paraguay defence with their neat passing.

Juan Pablo Angel fired one chance left of the goal and another to the right in quick succession. Then Grisales sidefooted wide from the edge of the penalty area after a clever dummy by Frankie Oviedo.

The second half was a different story as Diego Gavilan replaced Angel Ortiz in the Paraguay midfield and the visitors began to create chances.

MNA/Reuters

**INTERNET**

Houston Astros. Carlos Beltran (R) pumps his fist to teammates as he passes Atlanta Braves catcher Johnny Estrada after a solo home run in the third inning of Game 5 of the National League Division Series in Atlanta, on 11 Oct, 2004. Beltran also hit a home run in the sixth inning as the Astros went on to win 12-3 and advance against the St Louis Cardinals in the NLCS. — INTERNET

**INTERNET**

Mexico’s Cuauhtemoc Blanco, top, takes control of the ball against an unidentified St Vincent and the Grenadines player, during a CONCACAF World Cup qualifier in Kingstown, St Vincent, on Sunday, 10 Oct, 2004. Mexico won 1-0. — INTERNET
UNODC confirms steady reduction in opium cultivation in Myanmar

(from page 16)

The Shan State traditionally has accounted for more than 90 per cent of total opium production in Myanmar. "Factor in a parallel decline in opium cultivation in Laos — 45 per cent in comparison to 2003 — and what we may be seeing, if the decline continues, is a potential end to more than a century of opium production in the Golden Triangle," said Antonio Maria Costa, the Executive Director of UNODC. Speaking to an audience in Brussels, Costa added: "Today Myanmar faces a critical, two-fold challenge. First, the country needs a permanent decline in opium production. At the same time, Myanmar must do everything in its power to head-off the humanitarian disaster threatening opium-growing families who at present live on, or below, the poverty line."

According to the survey, 260,000 households were involved in opium cultivation in 2004. Most of them reside in remote, mountainous, and isolated areas, and opium is often their primary or sole source of income. Most importantly, the average income of non-opium producing households is 30 per cent higher than opium producing households. "Opium is a last resort for farmers confronting hunger and poverty," said Mr. Costa. "If we do not provide for the basic human needs of farmers in Myanmar, they will never escape the vicious circle of poverty and opium cultivation. The opium communities will remain vulnerable to human rights abuses, human trafficking and forced relocation," added Mr. Costa.

According to Gareth Evans, President and CEO of the International Crisis Group (ICG), "It is very encouraging that the United Nations has been able to report such a significant decline in opium production in Myanmar. However if these declines are to be sustained, more will have to be done to provide economic opportunities for those living in border areas in Myanmar — even in the absence of political reform, which is essential. ICG has recommended that donors develop new strategies, working with the UN and others to reduce poverty and to tackle the problems of conflict, disease and drugs that have caused so much harm in this region."

"Democratization and national reconciliation in Myanmar, as well as national commitment to drug control, are goals the United Nations has reaffirmed on several occasions. The international donor community carries a responsibility to support this process by providing alternative sources of income to those families in Myanmar whose livelihoods are adversely impacted by the loss of opium-generated income," concluded Mr. Costa.

This survey jointly carried out by UNODC and the Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control provides also figures on addiction. The survey (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html) is based on field work complemented with satellite imagery. — UNODC
YANGON, 12 Oct — No 1 Basic Education High School in Mingaladon Township, Yangon North District, Yangon Division, opened its multimedia teaching centre at the school this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, officials, headmaster, old students, donors and students.

On arrival at the school, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by dance troupes and band troupes and students singing the song “Myanmar School”.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister U Than Aung and Chairman of School Board of Trustees Daw Thi Thi Aung formally opened the centre. The Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard.

The Secretary-1 and party visited electronic media (audio system), language lab, computer application and e-mail room, electronic media (video system) room, altar, computer aided instruction room, printed media (reading corner), library, school dispensary, art room, domestic science room, agricultural and herbal booth and handicraft booth. Students explained the herbal plants and their use. They presented ginger honey, garlic honey, fruit juice and inhalant to the Secretary-1 as gifts.

At the donation ceremony for the centre, students sang songs and performed dances. Headmaster U San and students explained the number of classrooms and students, matriculation examination pass rate of the school, and efforts being made for it to become a model school.

Secretary-2 attends fertilizing of Hsinshweli paddy with pollen in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 12 Oct—Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the SPDC Li-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, and officials of the SPDC Office, on 9 October morning attended the presentation of provisions (See page 6)

UNODC confirms steady reduction in opium cultivation in Myanmar

The following is the press release issued by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on 11 October, 2004.

BRUSSELS, 11 October—Today, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released the results of Myanmar’s Opium Survey 2004. The survey shows a 29 per cent decline in comparison to 2003. The opium cultivation this season is estimated at 44,200 hectares (ha) representing a significant cumulative decline of 73 percent when compared to the 163,000ha in 1996. The production of opium for the year 2004 amounted to 370 metric tons, representing a decline of 54 per cent with respect to 2003. (See page 15)

Opening ceremony of 12th Performing Arts Competitions to be telecast live

YANGON, 12 Oct — A ceremony to open the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions will be held at National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street at 7 am on 14 October. Programmes of the opening ceremony will be telecast live by both radio and television. MNA