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

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

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

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

YANGON, 16 Oct — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the World Food Day at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, at 8 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign missions, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of the Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries Sciences, departmental heads, officials of the Central and Work Committee for Organizing the World Food Day, those of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and members, representatives of prize winning townships and organizations, private entrepreneurs and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said:

As you are fully aware, the World Food Day has been observed every year on the 16th of October to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO). Today the ceremonies commemorating the World Food Day are being held all over the world with the theme “Biodiversity for Food Security”. The objective of the theme is to highlight the importance of bio-diversity’s role in enhancing long-term production of high-quality food, and the people’s sustainable access to enough high-quality food for an active and healthy life.

We share the view that freedom from starvation and food security are the most imperative human rights of the entire mankind. Myanmar, therefore, has already given a pledge to work together with the international community to ensure a balanced share of these rights amongst all the people of the world.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presents monsoon paddy production prize to Wakema Township through an official.— MNA

FAO Resident Representative Mr Tong Zhengqing speaking at the ceremony to mark the World Food Day.— MNA

Myanmar committed to realizing goal to reduce number of hungry by half by 2015

Myanmar exports marine products to over 40 countries

Main objective of Myanmar agriculture sector to fulfill local food security as well as to meet international demand

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presents monsoon paddy production prize to Wakema Township through an official.— MNA

(See page 8)
For further development of the health sector

In striving for the nation to become a peaceable, modern and developed nation, the Government is paying serious attention to development of the health sector throughout the country for ensuring fitness of the entire national people.

It is now in progress in implementing a special four-year programme to develop the nation’s standard of health care to catch up with the Southeast Asian nations that are in the forefront in the field.

Since assumption of the State duties, the Government has been laying down and implementing projects with added momentum in various sectors for achieving marked success in the health care services. It has built over 100 new hospitals, and the total number has reached over 700.

It has spent over US $20 million to provide advanced electronic lab, medical and hospital equipment for all institutions of higher learning of the health and medical field and hospitals.

Thanks to the all-round endeavours, health care services are developing and can now cover even the remote border regions.

In his address at the 41st meeting of the National Health Committee held at the meeting hall at the Ministry of Health in Dagon Township on 15 October, NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that at a time when marked progress has been made in the Myanmar health sector, it is incumbent upon all officials of the sector to make earnest efforts for improvement of the public health care services.

At the time of the present government, the achievements made in cardiac treatment, renal surgery and transplant, separation of conjoined twins, microsurgery on the replantation of amputated and crushed distal forearm including open heart surgery are all significant milestones in the health sector.

At a time when unprecedented progress has been made in the Myanmar health sector, we would like to urge officials of the health sector to make sustained and relentless efforts for qualitative and quantitative development of health care services of the people.

UMFCCI officials leave for China

YANGON, 16 Oct.—A 24-member delegation including Joint-Secretary U Kyaw Sein, Executives U Kyaw Min (Sein) and Mya Mattress and U Soe Thim of Mandalay Division Commerce and Industry Association left here by air yesterday morning to attend China International Trade Fair to be held in Guangzhou, the People’s Republic of China, as of 15 October.

USDA Secretariat member presents prizes to outstanding students at Myothit BEHS

YANGON, 16 Oct.—UDSA (Central) Secretariat Member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended the fifth prize presentation ceremony of Myothit Basic Education High School in Magway Division yesterday morning and presented prizes to the outstanding students.

Next, the Secretariat member inspected construction of the school building.

While in Myothit, the Secretariat member paid homage to the Sayadaws and made donations and organized at Myothit Township USDA Office and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Former selected swimmers honoured

YANGON, 16 Oct.—The Myanmar Swimming Federation honoured former selected Myanmar swimmers at Karaweik Palace Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

First, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and MSF President Dr Khin Shwe gave speeches. Next, the minister presented cash assistance to the former selected swimmers.

Also present were Director-General U Thaung Htik of Sports and Physical Education Department, members of the Leading Patrons of the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation and officials. — MNA

Camp Commandant’s Office team beat No 11 LID team 2-1

YANGON, 16 Oct.—The Camp Commandant’s Office team beat No 11 LID team 2-1 in the second semifinal match of the 20th Defence Services Competition and sub-Armed Forces held a coordination meeting this evening, attended by Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan.

Sub-committee members and the team managers from the states and divisions reported on the tasks of competitions, followed by a general round of resolutions. Next, Col Tint Hsan attended to the needs. — MNA

Work Committee for Performing Arts Competitions meets

YANGON, 16 Oct.—The chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition and sub-committee members and the team managers from the states and divisions held a coordination meeting this evening, attended by Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan.

Sub-committee members and the team managers from the states and divisions reported on the tasks of competitions, followed by a general round of resolutions. Next, Col Tint Hsan attended to the needs. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

Follow-up news

YANGON, 16 Oct.—Managing Director of Nawade Hotel and Tourism Service Ltd was Col Maung Thaung (Retd) who submitted reports at Ngwehsang Beach Hotel (Central) and the news was published in newspapers issued on 15-10-2004. — MNA

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Col Tint Hsan speaks at meeting of Work Committee, sub-committees and team managers. — MNA
17 US soldiers held in Iraq after disobeying orders

Baghdad, 16 Oct — A Platoon of United States soldiers were under arrest in Iraq last night after refusing to carry out a dangerous mission for which they say they were inadequately equipped.

In the extraordinary incident, which suggests the morale of US forces might be much lower than previously thought, 17 soldiers from the US army reserve disobeyed the order to deliver fuel to Taji, north of Baghdad, on the grounds that their vehicles were considered “deadlined” or extremely unsafe, and unable to travel at above 40mph on the Iraqi roads.

The unit was also not offered the usual convoy escort of armed Humvees and attack helicopters, it was reported.

The event is a gift to US president George Bush’s opponent John Kerry, who has consistently criticised the handling of the war. It also increases the concerns for British troops in Iraq after reports that the Black Watch regiment could be put under US command and sent into hotspots like Baghdad or Najaf.

A statement from the US army’s press centre in Baghdad yesterday confirmed the soldiers’ rebellion: “The Commander General of the 13 Corps Support Group has appointed a deputy commander to lead an investigation into allegations that members of the 343 Quartermaster Company refused to participate in their assigned convoy mission on 13 October.”

Relatives have defended the soldiers’ decision.

Patricia McCook said her husband, a staff sergeant, understood what it meant to disobey orders. But he did not feel comfortable taking his soldiers on another trip.

“He told me that three of the vehicles they were to use were deadlined ... not safe to go in a hotbed like that,” Mrs McCook told the Clarion-Ledger newspaper of Mississippi.

The refusal to carry out orders will fuel persistent claims that the US military in Iraq is inadequately equipped and undermanned. — Internet

3rd ASEAN Plus Three environment ministers meeting ends

Singapore, 15 Oct — The third ASEAN Plus Three environment ministers meeting ended here on Thursday with the participants stressing the need to enhance cooperation through more substantial environmental programmes and activities.

“The ministers recognized the synergy of the environmental cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries and noted the need to enhance cooperation through more substantial environmental programmes and activities,” the ministers said in a joint statement.

The ministers from the 10 member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their counterparts from China, South Korea and Japan held fruitful discussions, and they shared and exchanged information on national and regional cooperation among ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

The ASEAN ministers expressed appreciation on the current substantial cooperation activities, especially on the consultation visits organized by the Plus Three countries to share their experience on environmental management with the ASEAN countries, the ministers said.

The ASEAN ministers endorsed the ASEAN Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and supported the establishment of the ASEAN Environment Fund.

At the 8th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting of the Environment here on Wednesday, the ASEAN ministers discussed, among other issues, the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary haze Pollution that came into force in November last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese top legislator calls for enhancing cooperation with Nigeria

Beijing, 15 Oct — China is willing to make “concerted efforts” with Nigeria to enhance economic and trade cooperation, especially industrial cooperation, said its top legislator, Wu Bangguo, here Thursday.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC), made the remarks during a meeting with visiting president of the Senate of Nigeria Adolphus Wabara, here on an official good-will visit to China from October 14 to 17 as guest of Wu.

Wu said China and Nigeria have “constantly deepened their friendly ties since forging diplomatic relations 33 years ago”, and that in recent years, Sino-Nigerian ties have “entered a new phase of development as the two countries maintained frequent high-level visits, enjoyed steady growth of economic and trade cooperation, enhanced exchanges in various fields and carried out effective cooperation in international affairs”.

The Chinese people attach great importance to developing relations with Nigeria, and are ready to join hands with Nigeria in promoting political trust and economic and trade cooperation, acknowledged Wu. — MNA/Xinhua

Poland to reduce number of troops in Iraq

Warsaw, 16 Oct — Poland said on Friday it plans to reduce the number of its troops in Iraq from early next year and will not remain there “an hour longer than is sensible.”

Prime Minister Marek Belka said in a parliamentary speech before a confidence vote in his minority cabinet that Poland will keep troops in Iraq as long as needed to secure a power transfer to local authorities.

“Poland will reduce her contingent from the beginning of 2005 and will be talking about further reductions,” he said.

“We will not remain in Iraq an hour longer than is sensible, than necessary to achieve our mission’s goal: To return Iraq to the Iraqi people and give security to the world,” Belka said.

Poland, seen by the US as a key ally in Iraq, has 2,500 soldiers in the south-central part of the country, heading a multinational division of 8,000 troops.

But the government has been under growing pressure to pull out, with nearly three-fourths of Poles against deployment.

Poland said last week it will have plans to pull out its troops after Iraq holds elections, due in January. Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski also floated the idea of withdrawing troops by the end of 2005.

Seventeen Poles have died in Iraq over the last 13 months. — Internet

British security guard shot dead in Iraq

Kirkuk, 16 Oct — A British security guard has been shot dead near Kirkuk, it was confirmed yesterday. The man, an employee of the London-based ArmorGroup security firm who has not been named, was killed on Monday in the northern enclave of Taza.

The company said: “An investigation into the cause of the incident is ongoing and we will not comment further until that has been concluded. We can confirm that the man’s relatives have been informed.” ArmorGroup said.

The company said further details were withheld at the family’s request.

The Foreign Office confirmed the man’s death and said embassy staff were investigating how he was killed. He had been involved in securing an area in Taza, where engineers were working on infrastructure rebuilding projects.

Two separate car bombings killed at least 40 people in Kirkuk last month.

Internet

US Army soldiers push an Iraqi civilian, suffering from Downs syndrome, at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 15 Oct, 2004. — Internet
US investigates whether troops in Iraq refused mission
WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — The United States military is investigating the reported refusal this week by some US troops to take part in a supply convoy in Iraq, where explosive devices have killed dozens of soldiers, defence officials said today.

A statement issued by the US military in Iraq called it an “isolated incident.” Family members of some of the nearly 20 troops told a US newspaper that security for the fuel trucks was inadequate.

The military statement said 19 members of the 343rd Quartermaster Company, a unit that moves water and other supplies for American troops, did not report for formation to prepare for their assigned convoy mission on Wednesday morning. It said the investigation would determine whether the military’s strict code of conduct was violated.

Refusal to obey orders, especially in a combat zone, is a serious military offence. But the statement stressed that “it is far too early in the investigation to speculate as to what happened, why it happened or any action that might be taken.”

The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, Mississippi, reported on Friday that interviews with some family members indicated that soldiers from the unit, based in Tallil, refused to go on the mission because they felt they did not have an adequate armed escort and the vehicles were not in good shape.

“The initial indication is that the soldiers scheduled for the convoy mission raised some valid concerns and the command is addressing them,” the military statement from Iraq said, adding that some soldiers apparently expressed their concerns “in an inappropriate manner.”

28 US soldiers face charges in deaths of Afghan prisoners
WASHINGTON, 15 Oct — Twenty-eight US soldiers face various charges ranging from involuntary manslaughter to conspiracy in the deaths of two prisoners in Afghanistan two years ago, the US Army announced on Thursday.

One of the soldiers, a military policeman reservist, has already been charged in connection of the deaths. Commanders of the other 27 “will consider the full range of appropriate administrative and disciplinary measures from taking no action to recommending trial by court-martial”, the Army said. The announce-ment came after a 22-month investigation into the two deaths. Both prisoners, one died on 4 December and the other 10 December, 2002, suffered “blunt force injuries”, according to the Army. Medical examiners classified their deaths as homicides.

Sergeant James P Boland of the Army Reserve’s 377th Military Policy Company, based in Cincinnati, was charged August 23 with assault, maltreatment and dereliction of duty, the Army announced last month. Some of those face charges are accused by Army investigators of taking part in the abuse of Iraqi detainees in the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, the Army said. Seven military police soldiers have been charged in the notorious abusing scandal in Abu Ghraib.

Iraq plans to attract foreign firms to boost oil industry
ABU DHABI, 15 Oct — Visiting Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer Ghadban said Iraq was drawing up plans to bring in international oil companies (IOCs) to boost its oil output capacity, the English-language daily Gulf News reported here Thursday.

“We would like to open a dialogue with IOCs. We are now formulating our policies and within those policies we think there is room for IOCs in Iraq because we need investment,” Ghadban told the paper on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2004.

Ghadban hoped that by the end of next year, Iraq could achieve a production level of three million barrels per day and after that could look to a medium-term goal of 3.25 million BPD.

He believed that at least 2.5 to three million BPD could be added to the current production level if new technology is brought in and the industry is further opened up for investment.

“If things go well and Iraq gets the security issue under control, then the country expects to open dialogue with the IOCs in 2005 to prepare for a big increase in the long-term production capacity,” said Ghadban.

In addition, Ghadban pointed out that the country also needed investment in tapping more gas fields and building up refineries.

According to official statistics, Iraq’s proven oil reserves are estimated at some 115 billion barrels, the second largest in the world. While based on available geological information and reservoir studies by both Iraqi and international companies, the country’s probable reserves could hit 214 billion barrels.

Iraq could be one of the region’s major oil exporting countries and might be able to contribute to the supply of gas to southern Europe in the future, Ghadban said.

Two Turkish drivers abducted in Iraq
ANKARA, 15 Oct — Two Turkish truck drivers were kidnapped in central Iraq on Thursday, Anadolu news agency reported.

Iraqi police were quoted as saying that the Turkish drivers were abducted with their trucks on the highway near Samarra, some 100 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Guerrillas in Iraq often targeted Turkish workers, especially truck drivers working in Iraq. Some of them have been kidnapped and then released after their companies bowed to the captors’ demands. However, some of them were killed in armed attacks on their trucks or executed after being kidnapped.

Armenia may not send troops to Iraq
YEREVAN, 16 Oct — Armenia’s Prime Minister Andranik Markarian suggested on Friday the Caucasus country might not send troops to Iraq, saying conditions there have changed since they promised to pledge the troops during a visit to Poland last month.

The 50 troops Armenia is considering sending — bomb disposal experts, doctors and transport teams — would work under Polish command in Iraq. Poland commands a multinational security force in central Iraq of about 6,000 troops, including more than 2,400 Polish soldiers.

“Let’s not forget that there have been certain changes from the conditions under which we gave preliminary approval,” Makarian said.

Armenia, a former Soviet republic has sought to portray the decision to send troops to Iraq as a way to boost ties with Europe, but critics worry that it will endanger the 25,000-person Armenian community living in Iraq.

“We also have concerns on this count. It’s possible that as a result Armenia could become of the targets of terrorists,” Markarian said.

Of the 12 former Soviet republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States, four — Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Georgia — have sent troops to Iraq. The Commonwealth is a loose successor to the Soviet Union.
Four Americans among 10 killed in Baghdad’s suicide attacks

Baghdad, Iraq, 15 Oct — Guerrillas struck deep inside Baghdad’s heavily fortified Green Zone, setting off bombs at a market and a popular cafe that killed at least 10 people — including four Americans — and wounded 20 others in a mammoth Republican Palace that is the position of the chancellors’ office, where he made very clear that German policy has not changed ... So if that is the position of the chancellor for, that is the position of the German Government, “ Boscher said. MNA/Xinhua

US says German position on Iraq unchanged

Washington, 15 Oct — US Secretary of State Colin Powell called German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer on Wednesday morning and Fischer told him that Germany’s position on Iraq had not changed, State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said at a news briefing on Wednesday.

“Four Americans among 10 killed in Baghdad’s suicide attacks” — MNA/AP

Polls in 10 nations show views of America worsening

London, 15 Oct — America’s reputation around the world is hurting, according to a series of coordinated polls published Friday from 10 countries, including many of the United States’ closest allies. In seven of the 10 countries where the surveys commissioned by major newspapers were conducted, more people said their view of America had worsened over the past two to three years than improved. That question was asked in nine countries. By big margins, those questioned said the war in Iraq did not aid the global fight against terrorism. And in eight out of 10 nations, those polled said — often in landslide proportions — that they hoped to see US President George W Bush in next months’ election. Bush won backing from a majority of respondents only in Russia and Israel. The polls were conducted in Canada, France, Britain, Spain, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Mexico, Israel and Russia, with results to be published in the participating newspapers on Friday. Not all questions were asked in every country.

France calls for energy saving

Paris, 15 Oct — French Finance Minister Nicholas Sarkozy on Wednesday warned French people to appeal to the spirit of “hunting waste” in the 1970s in face of America now than two to three years ago. In that period, which began just after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the United States has led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. While much of the international community backed the invasion to oust the Taleban, Bush’s decision to invade Iraq has fuelled anger around the world. MNA/AP

A private contractor looks down into the crater made from a suicide bomb attack at the Green Zone Cafe in Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 Oct, 2004. Two bombs were detonated in the Green Zone on Thursday, killing 6 people and wounding many more in the cafe and at an outdoor market. The US Embassy and Iraqi government buildings are located in the heavily fortified area. — Internet

Two US soldiers killed, five wounded in suicide car bombing in Mosul

Mosul, Iraq, 15 Oct — A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle next to a US military convoy in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Wednesday, killing two US soldiers and wounding five, three of them seriously. The military said the bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into the convoy as it travelled through a northeastern section of the city about 2:20 pm (1120 GMT). As well as the two killed, the military said five soldiers were wounded, two of whom were returned to duty.

A military spokesman described the attack as “complex”, adding that there was an exchange of gunfire after the blast. US forces are regularly targeted by roadside bombs and suicide car bombers in Mosul, Iraq’s third largest city, which lies about 240 miles north of Baghdad. At least 822 US soldiers have died in action since the war was launched in March last year. — MNA/Reuters

The rise of oil prices is creating some kind of puncture in our economy and we could try to remedy price effect by volume effect, by reducing the consumption,” the minister said.

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On average, 57 per cent of those questioned said their opinions of America had worsened over the past two to three years, compared to 20 per cent who said their view had improved. That question was asked in nine of the countries, but not in Russia. Seventy-four per cent of Japanese, 70 per cent of French, 64 per cent of Canadians and 60 per cent of Spaniards said they had a worse opinion of America now than two to three years ago.

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The rise of oil prices is creating some kind of puncture in our economy and we could try to remedy price effect by volume effect, by reducing the consumption,” the minister said.
YANGON, 16 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Chairman Brig-Gen Hla Min, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo of Inma Station and officials, met with officers, other ranks and their families at Bayintnaung Hall of the local battalion in Shweu Daung on 13 October morning.

In his meeting with them, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged officials at different levels to provide the families of the Tatmadawmen with the requirements for education, health, economy, social and welfare. He also called upon the families of the Tatmadawmen to undertake agriculture and livestock breeding on a greater scale for increased income.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Naganauk Farm being operated by Myanma Agriculture Service in Pyay Township on 14 October morning. At the briefing hall, local officials reported on measures being taken for cultivation of lychee, orange, mango and jack fruit and distribution of saplings to growers. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on extended cultivation of Inma Station and officials, met with officers, other ranks of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Bago Town.

Li-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also looked into a pest control booth and heard reports on paddy diseases. Later, they arrived at Manawthukha (paddy strain) trial field, jointly conducted by the Chemistry Department of Pyay University and Myanma Agriculture Service.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Pyay by car for Nattalin Township. On arrival, they met with township-level departmental officials, members of social organizations and townswomen at the meeting hall of the township.

Local officials reported on the location of the township, its area, geographical features, climatic conditions, land use, agriculture, livestock breeding, communication, education, health, and local food sufficiency. Departmental officials also reported on tasks being undertaken by their respective departments and the requirements. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged officials to make field trips down to rural areas so that greater success will be achieved in regional development tasks.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for township-level departmental officials to make field trips down to rural areas so that greater success will be achieved in regional development tasks. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than called for township-level departmental officials to make field trips down to rural areas so that greater success will be achieved in regional development tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Nattalin Township People’s Hospital, where he inspected the operation theatre, the X-ray room, the delivery room and the patient wards. Local health officials conducted them around the hospital. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and attended to the needs of patients.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the construction site-2 of the Irrigation Department in Gyoingauk. At the briefing hall, officials of the department reported on construction of dams and tunnels, irrigation of 130,000 sown acres, arrangements for irrigation of 150,000 sown acres for summer paddy.

After hearing the reports, Li-Gen Khin Maung Than filled the requirements through coordination with departmental officials and gave instructions on increased sown acreage for summer and monsoon paddy.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the farmers training camp operated by Myanma Agriculture Service in Thitawoye village, Thayawady Township. At the briefing hall, officials reported on tasks being carried out with the employment of organic fertilizer to obtain targeted yield, measures being taken for extension of sown acreage, quality control of high-yielding strains, and training being provided for farmers. After hearing the reports, Li-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on efforts to obtain targeted yield of paddy. Afterwards, Li-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here by car in the evening.

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

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.
The third-day programmes of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated places today.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road, the dancing contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Street, the song composing contest at the State School of Drama on Kaba Aye Pagona Road and the music contest at Padonna and Kanbawzathat. Present on the occasions were Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Than Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, and Daw Khin Khin Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. The contest will be held at the same venue.

Chairman of the Panel of Judges Wunna Tin Aung and party supervised the contest. At State School of Drama, 8 contestants from States and Divisions participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) song composing contest and 12 persons in the higher education level song composing contest.

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Myanmar committed to realizing…

(from page 1)

However, according to a report of the FAO, it can be seen that more than 840 million people around the world are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Global efforts have so far been insufficient to reach the World Food Summit and related Millennium Development goals to reduce the number of hungry by half by 2015. Myanmar, on her part, has already made a resolution to actively work individually, as well as in cooperation with international organizations, to help realize that goal. In this connection, I would like to reafirm that Myanmar has already taken measures to ensure food sufficiency and eliminate hunger in cooperation with the international community.

In Myanmar, the total crops sown area is 41.32 million acres. Rice production is also being intensified by all means so as to meet the requirements of both increasing local consumption and international market demand. With the introduction of the summer paddy programme in 1992-93, rice is now being produced throughout the year.

As Myanmar is working steadfastly to realize its national economic goals based on agriculture, it has laid down relevant strategies, given priority to developing the farming, livestock breeding and forestry sectors and ensuring all-round development of rural areas. About 70% of Myanmar’s population of 53 million is dependent on the agriculture, livestock and fishery or forestry sectors, and the Government’s efforts in allocating priority to the performance and production of these sectors have been highly contributory to food security and economic development. In Myanmar, the total crops sown area is 41.32 million acres. Rice production is also being intensified by all means so as to meet the requirements of both increasing local consumption and international market demand. With the introduction of the summer paddy programme in 1992-93, rice is now being produced throughout the year. Various irrigation projects are also being implemented to further increase the utilization of water particularly for agriculture development. The number of dams and weirs constructed after 1988-99 today is 164. The number of river water pumping stations for irrigation completed after 1988 to date is 265. Thanks to such systematic measures for increasing water supply, we have been able to reclaim over five million more acres of cultivable land. The main objective of the present Myanmar agriculture sector is to fulfill the local food security as well as to meet the international demand. Our efforts have, indeed, rewarded us with premiums. Our rice production has increased significantly. We have set our objectives, for instance, to produce high-quality and high-yielding strains, and transform the traditional farming into a mechanized farming. Encouragement is made so that our agriculture researchers are making their utmost efforts to produce high yield hybrid paddy strains and it is evident that the researchers are also doing the best on their best.

In accordance with encouragement provided to the livestock breeding sector, which is related to agriculture and due to the measures we have taken for the development of the Livestock and Fisheries Sector, there have been substantial increases in the meat production. The livestock sub-sector is an important source of domestic food supply and cash income, as well as for traditional farming, as the country has to rely on draft animals in agriculture. We are, therefore, giving high priority to the development of the livestock breeding sector. Necessary measures have been taken, with the assistance of the IAEA, to increase the breeding rate of the cattle. At the same time, we are also seeking assistance from regional and international organizations, including FAO, for the prevention of avian flu. To prevent foot-and-mouth diseases which are affecting the livestock sector, the government had to cooperate with UNDP and FAO and set up laboratories to produce vaccines. The Myanmar Government is also making systematic efforts for the development of the fishery sub-sector as it plays a pivotal role in the economy of the country. As Myanmar has a long coastline that stretches 2,832 kilometres abounding with marine resources, it is naturally blessed with good economic conditions. For that reason the task to develop the fishery sub-sector is being carried out in accord with the policy, including exploitation of fish, prawn and water resources in strict observance of the international rules and regulations, extended distribution of quality seeds; application of new and advanced methods; production of surplus amounts of fish; boosting exports; promotion of investments in the fishery sub-sector; extension of fish and prawn breeding projects; raising the incomes of fish and prawn breeders. At present, Myanmar has been able to export its marine products to over 40 countries.

As more than half of the country is covered with forests and woodlands, Myanmar is one of the most forest-covered countries in the Asia and Pacific region. The livelihood of seventy per cent of the population who live in rural areas, in one way or another, relates to the forests and forest products.

I would like to touch on the forestry sector. Myanmar is not only rich in culture and traditional values but also endowed with abundant natural resources, including forests. As more than half of the country is covered with forests and woodlands, Myanmar is one of the most forest-covered countries in the Asia and Pacific region. The livelihood of seventy per cent of the population who live in rural areas, in one way or another, relates to the forests and forest products. It can be said that the Forestry Sector, therefore, plays a pivotal and significant role in the socio-economic development of the people. Myanmar is well-known for having managed its forests on a scientific, systematic and sustainable basis for over a period of 150 years. The Myanmar Forest Law of 1992 has full coverage of Myanmar’s forests, preservation and protection of the natural environment and biodiversity, extension of reserved forests and preservation of natural lands.

The adoption of the National Environmental Policy in 1994 calls for harmony and balance between environment and development, protection and replenishment of endangered rare indigenous plants and animal species, and preservation of pasturage lands through the integration of environmental consideration into the development process. Among Myanmar’s forests, currently, 37.41 million acres have been constituted as Reserved Forests and about 5.83 million acres as Protected Areas. Deforestation in Myanmar has amounted to about 37,050 acres due to agriculture expansion, shifting cultivation, urbanization and the mounting fuel needs of households. However, deforestation has been compensated by the Forest Department’s establishment of plantations at an annual rate of 74,130 acres.

(See page 9)
Compressed Natural Gas …

(from page 16)

In the past, over 580 engines of petrol or diesel- used automobiles were converted into gas-gas fueled engines in the nation. And over 200 more cars have been changed into gas cars successfully in Mandalay Region, Mandalay Division. It indicated that CNG can be used safely in cars. Thailand, Malaysia, Italy and Argentina have also turned to CNG cars.

At a time when the prices of crude oil, petrol and diesel are going up dramatically in the world, Myanmar has prospects of changing all its automobiles into cars with the use of natural gas produced locally. Therefore, combined efforts are to be made for extended production of gas cars. In progressing the State sector including the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Rail Transport and the private sector are to coordinate their efforts harmoniously in the tasks especially in converting diesel engines, in addition to petrol engines, into gas-fueled engines on a large scale. All are to strive for accomplishment of the tasks in the interests of the State and the people.

Now, plans are well under way to get CNG kits, cylinders and compressors in time and for extended opening of more gas-filling points. Therefore, gas cars can further draw the attention and win satisfaction of users. So, those present are to deal with matters for extended production of gas automobiles in the nation starting from this November and December.

Next, member of the Leading Committee Mr Minn Khine of Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin said that the ministry installed 30 CNG engines under the conventional conversion kit method in trial installation of CNG engines in two vehicles was made successfully with the use of Electronic Control Unit (ECU) and fuel conversion kit method. Therefore the CNG engines can be installed in the vehicles with both old and new engines.

He said the ministry will provide necessary assistance to private entrepreneurs.

Next, Secretary of Work Commission Managing Director of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries U Soe Thein reported on installation of CNG kits in four-cylinder dieselengines with the use of Electronic Control Unit (ECU) and fuel conversion kit method. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Arrangement for opening of five CNG filling points in Yangon. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay reported on opening of CNG filling points in Paleik, Sengtong Township, Kyaukse District in Mandalay Division on 4 September, economy of fuel oil after installation of CNG engines and arrangements for opening of five CNG filling points in Yangon.

Next, the private entrepreneurs reported on technological conditions to be encountered, maintenance of engines and requirements.

The Secretary-1 then fulfilled the requirements. After the meeting, the Secretary-1, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and party went to No 1 Auto Factory and inspected installation of CNG engines in passenger buses and cargo trucks.

The Secretary-1 and party heard reports on restructure of engines, preparation for placement of ECU and safety of gas cylinder. The Secretary-1 and party inspected installation of CNG engines in TE trucks of Road Transport of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and gave instructions. — MNA
Local authorities responsible…

(From page 16)

Shan State (East) on 13 October morning.

Officials reported on cultivation of crops in 2004-2005, plans to grow cold season crops.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Brig-Gen Khin Maung spoke on the occasion.

Next, the Secretary-2 said that efforts to be made for ensuring food sufficiency of Shan State (East). In the process, the Secretary-2 called on officials concerned, farmers and social organizations to work hard for meeting the target of 400,000 acres of monsoon paddy. The Secretary-2 inspected paddy plants, paddy, rice and boiled rice of Shwe Yin Aye hybrid, Hsin Ekari-3 and Hsin Shwe Wah strains.

Similarly, the methods of cultivation of paddy for boosting production was displayed on 2,200 acres of paddy fields in 10 townships of Shan State (East).

The Secretary-2 and party flew to Mongkat, Kengtung District, and met departmental personnel, members of War Veterans Organization, social organizations and locals at town hall of Mongkat Township.

Chairman of Mongkat Township Peace and Development Council U Nyein Htwe reported on plans to grow cold season crops.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offered alms to Parkan Monastery Sayadaw of Mongyan Township. — MNA

Yangon, 16 Oct — Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the opening of the office building of Shan State (East) War Veterans Supervisory Committee on Airport road in Ward-4 in Kengtung on 14 October morning.

Also present on the occasion were member of SPDC Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Shan State (East) PDC Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, deputy ministers, officials of SPDC office and others.

Shan State (East) WVSC Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Kengtung Township War Veterans Organizing Committee Chairman Maj Luka (Retd) formally opened the ceremony. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally unveiled the signboard of the office building.

Next, the Secretary-2 inspected the shops opened on the ground floor and the Township War Veterans Organizing Committee office, District War Veterans Supervisory Committee office and Shan State (East) War Veterans Supervisory Committee opened on the first floor.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-2 said as the State has given first priority to ensuring peace and tranquillity and rule of law, now there have been peaceful conditions in the country.

With peace and tranquillity prevailing, the government has laid down the border region development project, the 24 development region project and the rural areas development project and is implementing them day in, day out. As a result, the country now is enjoying the fruitful results. In like manner, Kengtung Township is a witness to the success of the development project, the 24 development region project and the rural areas development project and is implementing them day in, day out. As a result, the country now is enjoying the fruitful results.
YANGON, 16 Oct — A ceremony to open the Upper Myanmar Government Printing House of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information was held in the compound of the printing house near Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin road in Aungpinle Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division, this morning, attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt, Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt- Col Kyi Thein and members, officials of the seven towns in Mandalay District, those of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, PPE, Mandalay Sub-Printing House, Myanmar News Agency (Upper Myanmar Branch), Information and Public Relations Department, departmental officials, social organizations, guests and others.

First, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan formally opened the printing house.


Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the printing house and the minister and guests inspected it.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information serves as a bridge between the Government and the people as well as the Government and the international community through the media. In particular, it has to engage in organizational and information tasks for successful realization of the State policies. Head of State calls for ensuring the media tasks to cover the whole nation including border areas and making them sharp and dynamic, and textbooks for students of basic education schools of Upper Myanmar will be printed in Mandalay, Upper Myanmar and distributed with reasonable transport charges. In accordance with the guidance, the Upper Myanmar Printing House was opened today. The printing house with two four-unit rotary machines and one sheet-fed machine has been able to print the papers in both black & white there and distributed to Kachin State, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing Division and Chin State.

Arrangements have also been made to print textbooks for Mandalay Division in addition to those states and divisions.

Moreover, the printing house will print journals, magazines and other publications for the public at reasonable prices. The Ministry of Information has been implementing the three objectives in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. It has been making steps for ensuring the media tasks to cover the whole nation including border areas and making them sharp and dynamic, and textbooks for students of basic education schools of Upper Myanmar will be printed in Mandalay, Upper Myanmar and distributed with reasonable transport charges. In accordance with the guidance, the Upper Myanmar Printing House was opened today. The printing house with two four-unit rotary machines and one sheet-fed machine has been able to print the papers in both black & white there and distributed to Kachin State, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing Division and Chin State. Arrangements have also been made to print textbooks for Mandalay Division in addition to those states and divisions.

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With the use of papers sized 22.75” x 28.25” or 22.75” x 30” or 22.75” x 34”, the machines are capable of printing 30,000 sheets per hour. School textbooks for Upper Myanmar as well as publications of government bodies, social organizations and others will be printed by the printing house. — MNA
The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV “BAGO” VOY NO 781/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No 781/N are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive at Yangon port on 18-10-2004 and will be berthing on about 19-10-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority 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 11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE**

**MYANNA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (529)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (529) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 17-10-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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 11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER**

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

**Toyota leads Indonesian market**

**JAKARTA, 15 Oct—** PT Toyota Astra Motor (TAM), the licensor holder of Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor Corp in Indonesia, continued its lead in national automobile market by controlling 28.6 per cent of the market share in the first nine months of 2004.

TAM managed to sell 99,798 cars in the January-September period of 2004 against 76,591 in the same period last year, economic daily Bisnis Indonesia reported Thursday.

National sale volume in the first nine months this year stood at 348,647 units.

“We are optimistic that in the remaining three months this year, national sale volume will grow to total 420,000 units, 33 per cent of which, or 140,000 units, will belong to TAM,” TAM spokesman Hendrayadi Lastiyoso was quoted as saying.

TAM’s latest model, the Kijang Innovia, is expected to become the main engine of growth in the fourth quarter, he said. **MNA/Xinhua**

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

SmithKline Beecham plc, a company incorporated in England of 980 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9GS, England, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

**VIATOPIN**

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**HYCAMTIN**

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in respect of “pharmacoeutical and medicinal preparations and substances”.

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


P.O. Box 60, Yangon Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

Dated: 17 October 2004

**Chinese President appoints new ambassadors**

**BEIJING, 15 Oct—** Chinese President Hu Jintao has appointed new ambassadors to 15 foreign nations, in accordance with a decision made by the National People’s Congress Standing Committee.

Wang Yi is appointed the new ambassador to Japan, replacing Wu Dawei.

Lu Fengding is appointed the new ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, replacing Zou Mingrong.

Yang Honglin is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, replacing Zhang Weiqui.

Hong Hong is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, replacing Chen Duoqing.

Chen Duoqing is appointed the new ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, replacing Ai Ping.

Cui Huixin is appointed the new ambassador to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, replacing Xi Shuguo.

Ren Xiaoqian (female) is appointed the new ambassador to the Anti-terrorist Warfare, replacing Yang Xiaoxian.

Shen Qing is appointed the new ambassador to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, replacing Song Tao.

Liu Yuqin (female) is appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador, replacing Zeng Gang.

Ye Dabo is appointed the new ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

**Display items to China-ASEAN Expo arrive**

**NANNING, 15 Oct—** The first batch of goods to the upcoming China-ASEAN Expo arrived in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Thursday morning.

The goods are from 55 Thai firms, including food, medicine, commodities and automobile fittings.

Organizers of the expo, which will last from November 3 to 6, said the arrival of these goods signifies the beginning of the reception work of the expo.

The expo will have 2,506 display booths, and 816 enterprises, 222 of whom are from overseas, are expected to attend the expo, according to organizers.

In addition to enterprises from China and the ten ASEAN members, businesses from South Korea, Japan and Germany will also attend the fair. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Singapore targets to attract 450,000 Indian tourists**

**COIMBATORE, 15 Oct—** Singapore has targeted to attract 450,000 tourists from India during the current fiscal, an official of the Singapore Tourism Board said here.

There was 22 per cent increase in Indian tourists during the first half of the current year as compared to the same period of the previous year. Bridget Goh, Area Director (Southern and Eastern India, Sri Lanka and Maldives), of the board, told reporters here. **MNA/PTI**

**IA board approves plan to buy 43 Airbus aircraft**

**NEW DELHI, 15 Oct—** After a delay of two years, India’s state-owned Indian Airlines Board on Wednesday gave the final nod to its plan to purchase 43 Airbus aircraft at a cost of over 100 billion rupees and urged the Government to expeditiously secure the Public Investment Board’s approval to ensure fast-track acquisition.

The Civil Aviation Minister Prafull Patel had recently said that the IA’s acquisition proposal was likely to be taken up by the PIB, but the public sector carrier had already decided to lease the wide-bodied planes, primarily for international operations in Southeast and West Asia.
Researchers seeking permission to do somatic cell transfer

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct— Harvard University researchers said on Wednesday they were seeking permission to use cloning technology to make human stem cells.

They plan to use technology similar to that used by South Korean scientists, who announced in February they had cloned a human embryo as a source of valuable stem cells.

It would be a first step toward personally tailored medical treatments for diseases such as juvenile or Type 1 diabetes, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

“We are seeking permission to do a process called somatic cell nuclear transfer, often referred to as therapeutic cloning,” said Dr Charles Jennings, executive director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

The method is similar to that used to make Dolly, the sheep, the first cloned adult mammal. An egg cell is cleaned out to form a shell and the nucleus is inserted from a cell from the animal or person to be cloned.

A chemical trigger starts the egg growing and dividing as if it had been fertilized by a sperm. After a few divisions, the ball of cells that results is made up mostly of embryonic stem cells.

Each one of these has the potential to form any kind of cell in the body, given the right nurturing and direction. They can grow in batches, or cell lines, for years without dying.

Scientists want to study both these stem cells and cells known as adult stem cells to test new medical treatments and to understand the basic biology of diseases.

Current law prohibits the use of federal funds to make human embryonic stem cells, and in August 2001 President George W. Bush said scientists could work only on a few already existing cell lines, using federal funds.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt retrieves stolen antiquities from Britain

CAIRO, 15 Oct— Egypt, with the help of the British authorities, has retrieved 619 monuments that were stolen from Egyptian Museum in 2000 and smuggled to England via Switzerland, Egypt’s official MENA news agency reported on Thursday.

Egyptian Prosecutor General Maher Abdel Wahed was quoted as saying that the antiques that dated back to the Pharaonic era are rare pieces. Among the total, 485 were original and rare pieces, including an intact sarcophagus, he said.

An expert team from the Egyptian Antiquities Authority left for London on 7 October and returned Thursday with the stolen monuments.

The British authorities handed over the monuments to Egypt as evidence in a case under investigation here.

Earlier, Egyptian authorities announced that a number of suspects were arrested on charges of stealing and smuggling artefacts from Egyptian Museum in collaboration with museum staffers.

The Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities has threatened to co-operate with foreign museums and institutions that buy stolen artefacts.

MNA/Xinhua

NY halts sale of coins allegedly minted from WTC silver

NEW YORK, 15 Oct— The sale of commemorative September 11 coins, allegedly minted from silver recovered at ground zero was suspended by court order on Wednesday.

New York Attorney General Elliot Spitzer described the sale of the silver dollars embazoned with the World Trade Center towers on one side and the planned Freedom Tower on the flip side as a fraud and promised further probes into the claim the silver came from the ruins of the twin towers.

“It is a shameless attempt to profit from a national tragedy,” he said.

“This product has been promoted with claims that are false, misleading or unsubstantiated.”

Spitzer said the National Collector’s Mint, based in Port Chester, made false claims that the coins engraved with “In God We Trust” are legally authorized silver dollars and its sales people also told consumers the coin is legal tender.

He said the coin advertised as nearly pure silver is only silver plated, produced by a Wyoming company called SoftSky Inc. The TV and print ads attributed to the National Collector’s Mint include a duality ad fashioned after a news story.

One of the ads claims that each coin has been created using .999 pure silver recovered from ground zero”, adding the dollar pieces are priced at 99 dollars each, but sold at 19.95 dollars with a limit of five per customer.

Earlier in September, the US Mint issued a notice on its web site that the coin “is not a legally authorized government issued” product.

MNA/Xinhua

Oculists badly needed in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 15 Oct— As the world celebrates 14 October as the day for restoring the vision of thousands of visually impaired, health authorities in Nepal are also marking the day with the pledge to restore the vision of its blind population within the Year 2020.

According to a report from Nepal Netrajyoti Sangh, a non-governmental organization that has been rendering eye care services in different parts of the country, three in every 100 people are either blind or visually impaired in Nepal.

Nearly 80 per cent patients could get back their eye sight if provided timely treatment, said the report.

But the lack of doctors and timely medical intervention has forced nearly 130,000 Nepalis to live in darkness, nearly 90 per cent of them live in the far-flung villages, a famous Nepali doctor told Xinhua Thursday.

The main reasons of blindness are cataract, trachoma, lack of Vitamin A and infection in the injured eye, said Dr Harish Chandra Shah.

Among the eye patients, 71 per cent are suffering from cataract, which can be treated through simple surgery.

MNA/Xinhua

Louisiana jury recommends death for suspected serial killer

BATON ROUGE (Louisiana), 15 Oct— A jury took little more than 90 minutes Thursday night to decide on the death penalty for twice-convicted killer Derek Todd Lee, apparently rejecting claims by defence attorneys that their client was mentally retarded. Jurors earlier in the day heard conflicting testimony on the defendant’s mental condition.

2002 Supreme Court decision forbids the execution of the mentally retarded. Lee, 35, has been linked by DNA evidence to the deaths of seven women from 1998 to 2003. The same jury that convicted him Tuesday of first-degree murder in the death of 22-year-old Charlotte Murray Pace of Baton Rouge decided Thursday night that he should die.

MNA/AP
Olympic champion Nicolas Massau of Chile returns a backhand to Davide Sanguinetti of Italy during their Vienna Trophy quarterfinal match on 15 Oct, 2004.

—INTERNET

Japanese 1-0 win to Oman sends Asian champ into 2006 qualifiers

Tokyo, 15 Oct—Japan's lucky streak this year never once looked like running out as they secured their place in the final round of Asian World Cup qualifiers on Wednesday.

Takayuki Suzuki's 52nd-minute strike gave Japan a 1-0 win away to Oman that sent the Asian champions into next year's final round of 2006 qualifiers.

Japan have earned a reputation for luck this year after retaining the Asian Cup in controversial circumstances.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Grasping claw
7. Large marine mammals
10. York ore (anag.)
11. Irritated
12. Summit
13. Beneath
17. Card game
18. Yields
22. Applaud
23. Alighting
24. Maintenance
25. Straggle

DOWN
1. Highlander's pouch
2. Dozer
3. Cut
4. Conducted a meeting
5. Quench
6. Apart
9. Alone (2,7)
14. Give a keen edge to
15. Big-billed water-fowl
16. Trellis-covered walk
19. Make reconnaissance
20. Spasmatic
21. Fatuous

S P O R T S

Yartsev to stay as Russian coach after drubbing in Portugal

Moscow, 15 Oct—Embattled Russia coach Georgy Yartsev vowed to stay in the job on Thursday despite a 7-1 drubbing by Portugal in their World Cup qualifier in Lisbon.

Yartsev, who left the bench minutes before the end of Wednesday's game after the home side's sixth goal, complained his players were not motivated and said he might resign.

But after meeting Vyacheslav Koloskov, president of the Russian Football Union (RFU), to discuss his future on his arrival back in Moscow Yartsev has decided to carry on. "Yes, the two have met and Yartsev is staying," RFU executive director Alexander Tukmanov told Reuters on Thursday.

"He's still our coach as of today. But what will happen in a near future we just don't know. "Yartsev guided Russia to the Euro 2004 finals after taking over from Valery Gazzyayev last August but then the 56-year-old had trouble forming a strong, cohesive squad."

The Russians had a dismal tournament becoming the first team to be knocked out and Yartsev was criticized by local media for "primitive tactics and being scared of the opposition".

At the championship he was involved in a widely-publicized incident with his leading player Alexander Mostovoi as the team was rocked by internal squabbles and in-fighting.—MNA/Reuters

Turkish Cypriot consortium intends to take over Fulham

NICOSIA, 15 Oct—Turkish Cypriot brothers Halil and Husnu Falyali have said they were close to buying Fulham football club and that if they took control would look to sign players of the calibre of England captain David Beckham.

The 34-year-old Halil Falyali was quoted as saying Thursday from his casino at the Salamis Bay Hotel in Famagusta that "It's true we are planning to buy the club. Yesterday my brother met the chairman and financial director to discuss a deal".

Falyali added that the deal will cost them around 100 million Cyprus pounds (about 200 million US dollars) and that current owner Muhammed Al Fayad was "very keen to sell".

However, a source close to the club was adamant that a deal was not on the cards.

"The club is not for sale. Chairman Mohammed Al Fayad does not want to bail out of football or the outfit he has spent more than 200 million dollars on."

A Cyprus-based spokesman for the Falyali brothers said the brothers' business portfolio included a construction company that carried out works in Cyprus, Italy and the Far East, petroleum interests and the world's second largest online gambling firm.

He added that Husnil and Halil spend their lives travelling between Cyprus, Britain and France, but have a particular affection for London and British football.

"They have been Fulham fans since childhood, and are saddened by the clubs current run of bad form," the spokesman said, adding that the two hoped to invest in a number of high-profile new players.

"The club is not doing well at the moment, but we will turn it around," Falyali said adding that he would seek to buy players "like David Beckham".

The spokesman added that Al Fayad's asking price had been 220 million US dollars, but that the Falyalis had offered 170 million US dollars.

"And negotiations have been going on ever since," he added.—MNA/Xinhua

Lippi defends strategy after win over Belarus

ROMA, 15 Oct—Italy coach Marcello Lippi Thursday defended his strategy of trying to give the national team a well-defined game plan no matter who happens to be picked, local media reported.

After a win over Belarus that put Italy back on top of its World Cup qualifying Group E, Lippi said he wanted to be "a coach rather than someone who just picks players."

Lippi has come under fire for switching formats and using too many players in his first five matches in charge. But he said he was determined to keep doing things his way.

"I know myself that the most important thing is to have the best players available, but the overall plan and tactical organization count too," Lippi told reporters in his post-match assessment.

He acknowledged that it was "a hard thing to do" given players increasing club commitments and the short time they are available for national training, but insisted: "It's only right that I should give it my best shot, all the more so given the short time at my disposal."

Lippi confirmed that he would take a "largely experimental" team on an upcoming tour of China during the long winter break from the World Cup qualifying campaign. In the meantime, he said, he was happy with his new squad but was waiting for a number of world-class performer to return to top form. One of these, he said, was Roma's mercurial striker Antonio Cassano, left out for the last two matches because of a bug.—MNA/Xinhua

Greensboro Classic golf tourney

GREENSBORO (North Carolina), 15 Oct—Tour rookie Jason Dufner shot a seven-under-par 65 to take the first round lead at the Greensboro Classic on Thursday.

Dufner, who has never led a round on the Tour before, is one shot ahead of five players tied for second, while a further 12 players, including Britain's Justin Rose who achieved his first hole in one as a professional on the par-three 17th, are two shots behind on 67.

Champion Shigeki Maruyama of Japan shot a four-under-par 68 and is tied for 19th, three shots off the lead.

Dufner, like many of the other players at the tournament is trying to secure his card for next year by earning enough to finish within the top-125 on the money list. The 27-year-old is 186th on the money list with 206,795 dollars so far. The cut-off at this stage is 54,959 US dollars.

His best finish was a tie for 11th at the US Bank Championship in Milwaukee where his 84,000 US dollars was the bulk of his earnings for the season. It was also the first time he finished in the top 25 at a Tour event.

Only Bo Van Pelt (40th) and Tom Pernice (50th), who are in the group of players tied for second, have secured their cards for next year.—MNA/Reuters

Leeds United to reduce debts by selling Thorp Arch

LONDON, 15 Oct—Leeds United have sold their Thorp Arch training centre to reduce debts of 40 million pounds (72 million US dollars) and signed a 25-year lease to keep using the facilities, the Second Division club said on Thursday.

The club said they expect to reduce debts, which stood at over 100 million pounds before the club was rescued by a consortium in March, by four million pounds. The club chair also have an option to buy back the centre near Wetherby.

Leeds' chief operations officer Shaun Harvey told the club's web site: "In an ideal world it’s not an option we would have taken, but our number one priority is to reduce this club's debt so it can operate again under normal circumstances. "This arrangement will go a long way to helping us do that."

"Instead of paying the mortgage on Thorp Arch, we will be renting it instead, with the players continuing to utilize the excellent training facilities available there."

The club's financial straits are the result of a spending spree at the start of the decade under former chairman Peter Ridsdale and then manager David O'Leary in the belief that Leeds could buy domestic and European success.—MNA/Reuters

Davide Sanguinetti of Italy returns a backhand to Nicolas Massau of Chile during their Vienna Trophy quarterfinal match on 15 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET
Secretary-2 attends opening …

(from page 10)

helicopter. They were welcomed there by Triangle Region Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin and officials. National Health Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Then Sein and party visited Mongyu People’s Hospital and inspected the women’s ward, medical store, delivery room. He then comforted the patients and presented cash assistance.

At the hall of the hospital, the Secretary-2 met departmental officials, social organizations and local people.

At the meeting, the Secretary-2 said as Mongyu is a region where a variety of national races reside, they are responsible for the development of their own region. Local administrative bodies and departmental officials are to join hands with local residents to ensure the prevalence of law and order, economic growth, higher socio-economic development in their region. To be so, agriculture in combination with livestock breeding should be conducted. Moreover, departments, social organizations and local residents are to cooperate in the drive to enable school-age children to go to school. Conceived efforts are also to be made for the success of the five rural development tasks by taking as inborn duty our three main national causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuity of sovereignty.

Next, the Secretary-2 presented cash assistance to departmental staff through a township administrative officer. The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Mongyu Township Office, where he inspected office rooms and staff quarters. He also inspected the reading room of the Information and Public Relations Department and gave instructions on keeping a complete collection of books and periodicals at the reading room.

The Secretary-2 and party proceeded to Mongyawng of Mongbyat District by helicopter. On arrival there, the Secretary-2 cordially greeted the welcoming party and urged them to work hard in all seriousness for regional development, and to take part in the process of transition to democracy in accord with the seven-point Road Map. The Secretary-2 also called upon departmental officials to cooperate with local residents in regional development tasks. The Secretary-2 looked into the development condition of the town by car.

Next, the Secretary-2 and party arrived at Mongyawn People’s Hospital, where he inspected women patients wards, men patient wards, the medicine store room and the delivery room. The Secretary-2 comforted the patients and presented cash assistance to them. He also presented cash assistance to hospital staff through a hospital official.

The Secretary-2 met with departmental staff and members of social organizations in front of Mongyawng Township PDC office and urged them to take part in the drive in the implementation of the seven-point Road Map and to work hard in earnest for their regional development.

Next, the Secretary-2 and party flew to Kyainglat of Tachilek District. At Kyanglang Assembly Hall, the Secretary-2 met with officials and gave instructions to them.

The Secretary-2 also cordially greeted the welcoming party comprising departmental officials, members of social organizations and local residents in front of the Town Hall and called upon them to play an active role in regional development tasks. The Secretary-2 and party arrived back at Kengtung by helicopter in the evening.

At 6 pm, the Secretary-2 and party arrived at Khemayahta Standing Buddha Statue built on Swamps Hill in Kengtung. They paid homage to the Buddha Statue and also offered flowers, water and lights. The Secretary-2 signed in the visitors’ book and donated cash to the funds of the pagoda.

Next, they proceeded to the cultural museum in the precinct of the pagoda, where they viewed round traditional costumes and handicraft of national races and their utensils.

The Secretary-2 and party viewed Naungthon Lake round by car and proceeded to Maha Myatmuni Pagoda. The Secretary-2 paid homage to the pagoda and offered flowers, lights and incense sticks. He also inspected the pagoda and donated cash to the funds of the pagoda. After donating cash to the funds of the pagoda, the Secretary-2 and party left there.

WEATHER

Saturday, 16 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon and Kayah States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Magway Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (10.91) inches, Maungdaw (9.09) inches, Sittway (8.70) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.46) inches, Ann (1.77) inches, and Aunglan (1.73) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-10-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 16-10-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-10-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 15-10-2004 was (3.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport and central Yangon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (111.93) inches at Yangon Airport, (106.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.21) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 15-10-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the North and Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-10-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine State, scattered in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Northern Shan State, Ayeaywady. Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and upper Sagaing Division and weathe will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers are likely in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-10-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-10-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 17 October, 2004

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 17 October, 2004
Compressed Natural Gas can be used safely in automobiles: Myanmar has prospects of converting all its vehicles into gas ones

YANGON, 16 Oct—The Leading Committee and Work Committee for Substitution of CNG Engines for Petrol and Diesel Engines in automobiles held a meeting at the Ministry of Industry-2 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present on the occasion were members of the Leading Committee ministers, members of the Work Committee deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials, and entrepreneurs being engaged in substitution of CNG for petrol and diesel in automobiles.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the Leading Committee and the Work Committee have been formed to take systematic measures to step up substitution of compressed natural gas engines for petrol and diesel engines in automobiles. Now, the nation has around 0.26 million petrol or diesel-used cars, over 0.15 million of which are in Yangon City.

(See page 9)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects CNG cars at No 1 Automobile Factory.—MNA

Ramayana Drama Contest continues

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, member of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy 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 Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, officials and departmental heads, attended the displaying of model paddy field for meeting the target per acre yield of monsoon paddy in 2004-2005 held at the 200-acre model paddy plot in Mongzin Village, Kengtung Township.

(See page 10)