Construction begins on Moscow’s tallest building

MOSCOW, 21 Oct—Although still only in its infancy, construction has begun on the building that is to be Europe’s tallest, a shiny younger brother to the dour “Federation”, a mixed residential and commercial complex that will consist of two soaring glass-clad buildings linked to an even taller stiltscraper, due for completion in 2007. From an observation deck there, visitors will be able to view a city being transformed by a booming economy and a taste for gigantism.

The taller of the two buildings is to top out at 340 metres (1,115 feet), 76 metres (249 feet) higher than the continent’s current champion — Moscow’s Triumphal Palace apartment high-rise. In Western Europe, the tallest building is Frankfurt’s 259-metre (850-foot) Commerzbank.

With the two curved-wall buildings sloping away from the central tower, the 315 million US dollars Federation complex will “call to mind the sails of a brigantine”, its developer Mirax-City claims.

The popular weekly magazine Vysi Yasno came up with a different, though equally gushing comparison. Moscow’s main cathedral was dynamited to make way for this pinnacle of official atheism, but the ground proved to be unstable and the grandiose project was abandoned in favour of a swimming pool — which itself was destroyed after the fall of the Soviet Union and the cathedral was rebuilt.

In the 1960s, an entire neighbourhood was razed to build the Rossiya Hotel, Europe’s largest. It became notorious to visitors for its nightmarishly endless corridors and a seemingly limitless supply of vermin and prostitutes. It is now being prepared for destruction.

Zimbabwe exports 48 million kilos of tobacco in 9 months

HARARE, 21 Oct—Zimbabwe has exported more than 48 million kilos of tobacco worth 151.2 million US dollars in the past nine months of 2004, the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) said on Tuesday.

TIMB said a total of 48.66 million kilos of both flue-cured and burley tobacco were exported to different parts of the world from January to September. The exports, flue-cured tobacco accounted for 47.8 million kilos while burley accounted for 846,400 kilos. The bulk of the exports went to the European Union, which accounted for 18.8 million kilos, followed by East Asia with 14 million kilos.

The rest of Europe imported 5.8 million kilos from the country. Africa 4.7 million kilos while the Middle East accounted for 4.2 million kilos. The statistics further show that the European Union bloc has been the largest importer of Zimbabwean tobacco over the last three years.

Liverpool may become first smoke-free city in Britain

LONDON, 21 Oct—Liverpool could become the first smoke-free city in Britain if councillors vote in favour of a ban on smoking in public places on Wednesday.

If the move is approved, the city’s council plans to petition Parliament to pass a law banning smoking in restaurants, pubs, shops, offices and other enclosed public areas and workplaces.

The council says more than 1,000 people a year die from smoking-related diseases in Liverpool.

“We have a duty to protect employees and customers alike from this real danger,” Councillor Richard Ogilthorpe, the city council’s executive member for green issues, said in a statement.

Under the council’s plans, firms or individuals who flout the new law would face fines of up to 1,000 pounds.

Health experts have urged Britain to follow Ireland’s example and ban smoking in public workplaces, which would include bars, restaurants and pubs.

French President meets with Chinese Defence Minister

PARIS, 21 Oct — French President Jacques Chirac received Wednesday Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan, wishing for development of dialogue and cooperation between Chinese and French Defence ministries.

Their meeting followed talks between Cao and French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie on the eve over reinforcement of defence cooperation between the two countries.

In the presence of Alliot-Marie, Chirac thanked Chinese authorities for the exceptional reception reserved for his state visit to China and “expressed the wish that dialogue and cooperation between the French and Chinese (Defence) ministries develop in the spirit of the global strategic partnership between the two countries,” said Chirac’s spokesman Jerome Bonannat.

Chirac mentioned notably the medical field and the cooperation of participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

Jordan reduces mortality rate of children under five

AMMAN, 21 Oct—Jordan significantly reduced its mortality rate of children under five by 2.4 per cent in the last 10 years, said the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in its latest “Progress of Children” report.

However, UNICEF Health Adviser for the Middle East region Mahendra Sheth told local Press that further reducing under-five mortality and nutritional gaps require Jordanian Government’s efforts over the next five years.

Jordan’s Demographics and Health Survey said recently that the country’s under-five child mortality rate still stand at 27 per 1,000 live births.


A Turkish honey called “mad honey” for its reputed ability to induce euphoria is seen on a flower on the way to Sumela Monastery, northeast of Turkey.

Health experts have urged Britain to follow Ireland’s example and ban smoking in public workplaces, which would include bars, restaurants and pubs.
Deportivo hold Liverpool to 0-0 draw

LIVERPOOL, England October 20 — Deportivo La Coruna rode their luck on Tuesday as they held Liverpool to a 0-0 draw that keeps their slender hopes of qualifying for the next stage of the Champions League alive.

Liverpool's Djibril Cisse, Milan Baros and Luis Garcia were all denied as the Spanish team secured their second point in Group A, although they are yet to find the net. Deportivo barely threatened Liverpool, with lone striker Walter Pandiani an isolated figure in attack.

Rafael Benitez's high-tempo Liverpool side wasted several chances in the opening half, although Deportivo right back Manuel Pablo made some crucial blocks.

He dashed back to block Cisse's shot after the ball had broken to him in the area from Garcia's tackle.

Pablo then denied Baros when the Czech forward raced on to Dietmar Hamann's defensive splitting pass and rounded goalkeeper Jose Molina.

Molina also tipped Garcia's close range shot over the bar when the impressive Xabi Alonso's drive deflected to him beyond the visitor's defence.

Despite their defensive approach, Deportivo — semi-finalists last season — did have an early chance to go in front.

Liverpool's marking failed them in the 15th minute, allowing Cesar a free header which John Arne Riise cleared off the line.

Owen scores first goal for Real

Madrid, 20 October — Michael Owen scored his first Real Madrid goal on Tuesday to earn the nine-times European champions an edgy 1-0 win over Dynamo Kiev and leave Group B finely poised at the halfway stage.

The England striker slid in to convert a Ronalducross from close-range in the 35th minute at a rain-swept Bernabeu and open his account for the Spanish club following a close-season move from Liverpool.

Real went close again through Ronaldo eight minutes into the second half but there were few other clear chances for the home side, who were barely clinging on by the end of the game.

Real beat 3-0 away to Bayer Leverkusen in their opening game, re-visited their campaign with a 4-2 comeback win over Roma last month and a second successive home win was enough to put them level with Leverkusen and Kiev on six points.

Mariano Garcia Remon chose the most at-tacking line-up at his disposal for another must-win match and for the first few minutes Kiev seemed overawed at the sight of Owen, Ronaldo, Raul, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo bearing down on them. Ronaldo almost made them pay for hesi-tating in the fourth minute when he closed in on goal and smacked in a shot that Oxander Shorkovsky did well to turn away.

Two minutes later the keeper made a mess of a Raúl cross but redeemed himself by palming clear when Francesco Totti's first-time shot from the edge of the box.

Zidane struck a post with a low free kick after which a defensive error in the 11th minute and Raul took advantage of more artless defending to race towards goal and fire wide. Real were unable to maintain the pace of their attacks for much longer and Kiev began to go for-ward with menace themselves.

Kleber had good claims for a penalty when he was bundled over by Francisco Pavón and Zinedine Zidane was only fractionally wide with a sweet shot from just inside the area after a neat move down the right.

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Manchester United were held 0-0 at Sparta Prague in their Champions League Group D match on Tuesday, the first time in 15 outings that the English side have failed to score in a European match. United's teenage forward Wayne Rooney failed to repeat his heros of two weeks ago.

The 18-year-old, who scored a hat-trick on his United debut in the demolition of Fenerbahce at Old Trafford, showed flashes of his prowess and twice shot narrowly wide in the first half.

But Sparta came closest with two chances just before halftime. United's former winger Karel Poborsky, Sparta's captain, forced United keeper Roy Carroll into a good save with a shot from the right. Then defender Jiri Homola headed the corner kick against the top of the post.

The home side could also have gone ahead in the 72nd minute when Tomas Jun was sent clear by midfielder Lukas Zelenka's header, but with only Carroll to beat he was foiled by the goalkeeper, who saved with his feet. — MNA/Reuters

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Macao to invite cultural heritage protection opinions from others

Macao, 21 Oct — Macao will invite cultural heritage protection scholars and specialists from the Asian Pacific Regions to a forum on the protection of world heritage, which will open on October 25.

The one-day forum is co-organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the Asian Academy for Heritage Management and the Macao Institute for Tourist Studies (IFT).

IFT communications staff named Lo said that Richard Engelhardt, UNESCO Regional Adviser for Culture in Asia and the Pacific will deliver a lecture at the forum, which will also invite keynote speakers from India, Thailand, Vietnam and Australia.

Lo said that IFT will record the forum memoir and submit it to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government to provide consultation for policy and law making.

Macao’s world cultural heritage bidding has been designated as China’s only nomination to apply for the UNESCO in 2005. The application work has been in full swing.

Macao’s bidding under the name of the Macao Historical Architecture Clump for the World Cultural Heritage embraces 12 priceless cultural heritage sites, including China’s oldest church, Christian cemetery, lighthouse and western theatre.—MNA/Xinhua

ITALIAN AIR FORCE'S CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS MACAO

BEIJING, 21 Oct — The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) attaches great importance to developing friendly cooperative relations with the Italian Armed Forces, said a senior Chinese military officer here Tuesday.

Liang Guanglie, Chief of the General Staff of the PLA, made the remark in a meeting with visiting Italian Air Force’s Chief of Staff Leonardo Tricario.

Li said, also a member of the Central Military Commission, said the friendship between the Chinese and Italian peoples has a long history although the two countries are far from each other. Since China and Italy established diplomatic relations over 30 years ago, bilateral relations have been developing smoothly and the two countries have kept constant contacts.

The two sides share identical or similar views on major international issues and have conducted cooperation in wide-ranging areas such as politics, economy, culture and military affairs, said Liang. He said he hoped the friendly cooperation between the two armed forces could develop in more fields and at different levels.

MNA/Xinhua

US consumer prices up 0.2% in September

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct — US consumer prices increased by 0.2% per cent in September following a smaller gain of 0.1% per cent in August, the Labour De-

partment reported on Tuesday.

The report also showed that energy prices actually dropped by 0.4 per cent in September following a 0.3 per cent decline in the previous month.

Natural gas prices fell sharply and electricity prices were flat. That helped to offset price increases for fuel oil and gasoline.

Food prices were flat in September following an increase of 0.1 per cent in August.

Excluding energy and food prices, which can swing widely from month to month, the “core” consumer prices in the country rose by 0.3 per cent in September, up from a 0.1 per cent gain in August.

US consumer prices increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.6 per cent in the third quarter of this year following increases of 5.1 per cent and 4.8 per cent in the first and second quarters.

Analysts said the report suggests inflation remains no threat to the US economy.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 21 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay and Ayeawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions.

Maximum temperature on 20-10-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 21-10-2004 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-10-2004 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 20-10-2004 was (7.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 21-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (112.24) inches at Yangon Airport, (106.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 20-10-2004.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-10-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light rain in the extreme southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbourhood: Except for 22-10-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-10-2004: Generally fair weather.

MNA/Xinhua
Model cooperative shops opened

YANGON, 21 Oct — Model Cooperative Shop of Yadanamyay Trading Cooperative Ltd in Thingangyun Township was opened yesterday morning and Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspected the shop.

Director-General of the Cooperative Department Col Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Economic Cooperative Union U Ye Aung and Chairman of Yadanamyay Trading Cooperative Ltd U Than Maung formally opened the shop.

After the opening ceremony, U Ye Aung presented cash assistance provided by Yangon Division Economic Cooperative Union for the model shop.

Later, model cooperative shop-2 of the Thakayta Township Trading Cooperative Ltd was also opened in Thakayta Township.

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspected the shop and gave instructions.

Foodstuff, household goods, stationery and textiles are available at the model shops.

After the opening ceremonies, the minister went to Cooperative Bank (Head Office) and also inspected banking services. — MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspects raising of 1,000-ton capacity cold storage of Pyi Phyo Tun Co in Kyunsu Township. — i&F

YANGON, 21 Oct — Accompanied by the deputy commander of Coastal Region Command, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on 18 October arrived on Mawtonyi Island in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District, and inspected breeding of ornamental fish of Pyi Phyo Tun Co employing cage system.

The minister and party next inspected chosen sites where sea fish and prawn can be bred, the cold storage of Pyi Phyo Tun Co and breeding process, functions of the dried fish and prawn processing factory, the crab breeding camp and saw mill of the company.

Managing Director of the company U Hla Than reported to the minister on breeding tasks and future work.

The minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

L&F Minister inspects raising of ornamental fish

12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue for eighth day

YANGON, 21 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the eighth day by implementing the six objectives of the competitions at the designated places, here, today.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road, the dancing contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, the song composing contest at the State School of Music and Drama on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and the music contest at Padonna and Kanbawza Theatres.

Present on the occasions were members of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, officials of the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and sub-committees and fans.

At the National Museum, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaung and members supervised the song contest. A total of 13 contestants from States and Divisions participated in the amateur level (women’s) classical song contest. Next, 14 girls and boys from States and Divisions took part in the basic education level (women’s) team orchestra contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ team orchestra contest will be held.

At the National Theatre, leader of the (See page 9)

Maung Star Bo Het and troupe of Yangon Division taking part in the basic education level (aged 15-20) dohbat contest. — MNA

Bagaya Road in Sanggyoung Township, four dohbat troupes took part in the higher education level dohbat contest. Next, four contestants took part in the higher education level dohbat contest and five dohbat troupes participated in the basic education level (aged 15-10) dohbat contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party supervised the contest. On 22 October, the amateur level (women’s) team orchestra contest, the higher education level (women’s) team orchestra contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ team orchestra contest will be held.

At National Theatre, leader of the (See page 9)

Ma Yadana Lin of Bago Division participates in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ piano contest. — MNA

INSIDE Perspectives

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Dams for regional development (page 7)