Message from Senior General Than Shwe on Fifty-ninth Anniversary of United Nations Day

YANGON, 23 Oct—The following is the message issued today from Senior General Than Shwe, the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the Fifty-ninth Anniversary of the United Nations Day:

On this special occasion of the fifty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, it is opportune to reaffirm our seriousness and collective commitments to the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations which is the most ambitious undertaking of humankind. The Charter defines the purposes to resolve disputes by peaceful means and to devise collective solutions to economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems. It also encourages international behaviour in conformity with the principles of justice and international law.

The principles of the Charter are as relevant today as they ever were. To reinforce these principles, all Governments of the World adopted the Millennium Development Goals four years ago reaffirming the principles outlined in the Charter, spelling it out in concrete and specific terms relevant to our times, to deal with the new challenges. It is a blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century overwhelmingly characterized by globalization which is transforming our world beyond recognition. Such new challenges require a broader effort to create a shared future based upon our common humanity in all its diversity.

The developments that have taken place following the Millennium Summit indicate some signs of progress towards the goals. However, we still have a long way to go to meet the Declaration’s goals. To achieve these goals, sustained and united action is a prerequisite. The challenges that we are facing today can best be addressed by an integrated collective approach with a greater sense of shared global responsibility and the United Nations has increasingly become an indispensable tool in our collective endeavours to overcome these challenges. More clearly than ever, the United Nations represents the whole human family. Never has the human family needed the United Nations more than it does today.

The majority of the members of the United Nations are developing countries. For them, especially the small and the vulnerable, the United Nations is their hope and aspiration for a better and more equitable world based on shared responsibilities and commitments. They view the Organizations as an important forum for articulation of their position. They also expect it to be responsive to their concerns and needs. The United Nations must live up to their expectations. The success of international cooperation, and indeed of the United Nations system, will be determined by how well it responds to the interests and concerns of not only the developed but also the developing, and not only of the rich but, most urgently, of the poor.

There is no doubt that the United Nations is the best forum to confront global challenges, as well as for guaranteeing international peace and security and a better life for all. The raison d’être of the United Nations is the same as it was founded nearly six decades ago. Accordingly we should renew our commitments to the principles of the United Nations. Let us give a fresh momentum to the principles and purpose of the Charter on this solemn occasion marking the 59th anniversary of the United Nations.

MNA

We should focus our attention on equitable development

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses ceremony to mark 59th Anniversary UN Day

YANGON, 23 Oct — The ceremony to mark the 59th Anniversary United Nations Day was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, here, at 6 pm today, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor and their wives, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and ambassadors, chargés d’affaires ai of foreign missions, diplomats and UN Coordinator Mr Charles James Petrie, resident representatives of UN agencies, departmental heads, representatives of social organizations, local and foreign journalists and guests.

First, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. He said:

It is an honour and a privilege to speak on this special occasion, marking the 59th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations which came into being nearly six decades ago. Since then, there have been rapidly growing trends towards multipolarization and economic (See page 8)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the ceremony to mark 59th Anniversary United Nations Day.— MNA

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

Sunday, 24 October, 2004

**Myanmar committed to materialization of Road Map to discipline-flourishing democratic nation**

The Government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point future policy programme of the State (Road Map) for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

In the process, the Government has endeavoured to hold the National Convention, which is the cardinal point in the seven-step future political agenda called the Road Map. It managed to successfully convene part of the crucial chapter of it from 17 March to 9 July 2004.

The work coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee was held at Pyidaungsu Hall at Nyaungknapin Camp in Hmauby Township on 22 October with an address by NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Addressing the meeting, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said with a view to seeing to the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the Government will continue to implement the agenda, step by step, without change.

He said the Government will continue to convene, without fail, the National Convention, which is the first step of the seven-point agenda, and also most important.

He added that Myanmar is an agricultural country. Such being the case, the National Convention includes among the delegates national races delegates, farmer delegates, worker delegates and other invited delegates, the majority of whom are farmers. As such, they are now engaged in agriculture. He said it had also been made known before that once the harvest is in, and the open season comes, the National Convention will continue. He reiterated that as had been said previously, the National Convention will resume with the coming of the open season.

With the approach of the National Convention, he urged the NCCC, the Work Committee and the Management Committee to make necessary preparations from now on and also to advise, discuss and submit what needs to be done next.

As the Government will continue to implement the seven-step political Road Map to discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the entire national people are to strive together with official committees for successful holding of the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point agenda.

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**Myanmar Furniture Fair-2004 continues**

YANGON, 23 Oct — Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Forestry, the Myanmar Furniture Fair-2004 continued for the second day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wiwara Road today. Entrepreneurs at home and from abroad and diplomats visited the fair. A total of 41 wood-based production companies displayed their products at 154 booths at the fair. The fair will be kept open for departments and entrepreneurs on 24 October and for public on 25 and 26 October from 10 am to 5 pm daily. — MNA

**Myanmar Wushu contingent bags 13 gold, 11 silver and two bronze**

YANGON, 23 Oct — The 12-member victorious Myanmar Wushu contingent led by President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay, together with Manager U Tun Myint and Coach Mr Xu Zhou, which participated in the First World Traditional Wushu Meet held in the People’s Republic of China from 18 to 20 October, arrived back here yesterday evening.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of Board of Leading Patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, officials of Myanmar Wushu Federation and their families.

Over 2,700 athletes from 62 countries took part in the meet in which 12 Myanmar athletes won 13 gold, 11 silver and two bronze totaling 26 medals.

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**Bagan Open Golf C’ship continues for third day**


Min Naing (Srixon) got opportunity to secure champion in the golf tour after firing 203 strokes, 13 under par on the third round in the professional golfers division. Former champion Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) put his position behind the leader with 210 strokes, followed by Aung Win (YCDC), Than Naing (Wilson) and Myint Swe sharing the third place with 215 each.

In the amateur golfers division, Thein Zaw Myint led the tour with 218 strokes. His runners-up were Naing Naing Lin with 220 and Than Zaw with 222.

The Bagan Open Golf Championship is being jointly sponsored by Bagan Hotel Association, Air Mandalay, Tiger Beer, Bagan Golf resort Hotel, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Wilson, Srixon, Grand Slam, Canon, Sun Far Travels & Tours, Bagan Cybertech and Bagan Resort Golf Club.

The fourth and final round of the tour continues tomorrow. — MNA
Five US soldiers wounded in car bombing in northern Iraq

Baghdad, 22 Oct — Five US soldiers were wounded in a car bombing near a US armoured vehicle in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Friday, a US military spokesman said.

The attack occurred as the vehicle was returning to a US military base after operations near Mosul, the spokesman said. The spokesman denied that the US soldiers had entered a mosque in the city, saying that the Iraqi National Guards came under rocket and mortar fire as they arrested suspected car bomb makers who were praying at the mosque.

Earlier, witnesses said that a shooting broke out as US soldiers and members of the Iraqi National Guards tried to enter a mosque in Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad.

US and Iraqi forces have stepped up pressure on rebels ahead of the general elections scheduled for January. — Internet

US facing 20,000 guerillas in Iraq

Baghdad, 23 Oct—American officials are drawing an alarming new portrait of the insurgency in Iraq, showing it has significantly more fighters and far greater financial resources than had previously been estimated.

The New York Times reported yesterday that when foreign fighters and the network of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi were counted with home-grown armed groups, the hard-core resistance numbered between 8,000 and 12,000 people. That tally swelled to more than 20,000 when active sympathizers or covert accomplices were included.

The report came as British Prime Minister Tony Blair agreed to send 850 soldiers from the relatively peaceful south of Iraq to a volatile area near Baghdad, freeing US troops to step up attacks on guerrillas strongholds west of the capital, including the city of Fallujah, thought to be a Zarqawi stronghold.

The move is part of a coalition effort to bring order to Iraq before elections in January, although critics of the plan say it is politically timed to give a boost to George W Bush ahead of the US presidential election next month.

Britain has about 8,500 troops in the south, mostly around Basra, compared with almost 140,000 US troops in the centre and north.

Red Cross sends relief materials to quake-hit Yunnan

KUNMING, 22 Oct—The Yunnan Red Cross Society has sent 210,000 yuan worth relief materials to the earthquake-hit Baoshan city of southwest China's Yunnan Province, sources with the society said Thursday.

Food, medicine, clothes and other relief materials have arrived in the city.

The earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale jolted Baoshan City Tuesday morning, leaving 12 people injured. — MNA/Xinhua

China to launch first space solar telescope in 2008

Beijing, 23 Oct—China plans to launch the world’s largest and most advanced space solar telescope (SST) into an orbit circling the Earth in 2008, the state’s leading astronomer said here Friday.

Via this telescope, said Ai Guoxiang, who heads the National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese scientists could engage in the study of solar magnetic field, fine structures of the photospheric surface, the energy accumulation and release of solar flares and sun-Earth interaction, Ai said.

The solar magnetic field, which dominates solar activities, is very hard to be measured. British Journal of Physics listed observation of the solar magnetic field among the four most difficult physical issues of the 21st Century, together with quanta gravitation, fusion-related energy and pyro-superconductivity, MNA/Xinhua

One third of old Vietnamese women suffer from osteoporosis

HANOI, 22 Oct — One third of Vietnamese women aged over 60 have osteoporosis—a bone-weakening disease, according to the Vietnam Nutrition Institute on Thursday.

Around 1.4 million local elderly women suffer from osteoporosis and the number of sufferers tends to increase the institute said noting that the disease is mainly caused by genetic factors and lifestyle ones such as diets (the intake of calcium, Vitamin D and protein in particular), physical activity, smoking and drinking.

According to the International Osteoporosis Foundation, osteoporosis affects one in three women and one in five men over the age of 50 around the world. Osteoporosis is a disease in which the density and quality of bone are reduced leading to weakness of the skeleton and increased risk of fracture particularly of the spine, wrist, hip, pelvis and upper arm.

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US-backed Iraq government losing support

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — Support among Iraqis for the US-appointed government in Baghdad has plunged since it was installed this summer, a US survey released on Friday said.

The survey brought unwelcome news for the Bush administration as it fights to build stability before elections in January. It also indicated that Iraqis are most strongly influenced by their religious, rather than secular, leaders.

The survey, carried out at the end of September, showed popular support for interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi dropped more than 20 percentage points since July. Washington formally handed sovereignty to Iraq at the end of June.

Just over 45 percent of those surveyed said Allawi had been effective since taking office in June, down from over 66 percent in July, and support plummeted from 62 percent to 43 percent over the same period.

The survey was carried out by the International Republican Institute, a government-funded body that promotes democracy around the world and which is helping oversee efforts to build political parties in Iraq.

It found religious leaders carry more political weight than tribal leaders, the government or political parties with potential Iraqi voters.

The Washington Post, reporting figures not publicly released by the institute, said the survey also found that the most popular politician in Iraq was Abdel Aziz Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Fifty-one percent said they want him in the national assembly, which will pick a new government.

Allawi was second, with 47 percent of Iraqis supporting him for a seat in the new parliament if elections were held now, and rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr was a close third, with 46 percent, the newspaper said.

An institute spokesman would not confirm the Post figures.

An Iraqi man inspects the damage at the building in the centre of Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 Oct, 2004, after at least 2 mortar rounds hit the place. According to local police, nobody was injured in the attack. — INTERNET

CIA withdraws claim Danish company sold Iraq WMD material

COPENHAGEN, 22 Oct — The US Central Intelligence Agency has withdrawn its claim that a Danish company sold equipment to Iraq that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction, Denmark’s foreign ministry said on Friday.

The CIA has posted a message on its website explaining that the allegation against the Danish company Niro was based on incorrect information, and it has therefore withdrawn its claim, the ministry added.

The CIA report, entitled “Possible Breaches of UN Sanctions by Danish Companies”, said Niro sold equipment to Iraq in 2001 that could be used to make biological weapons, in violation of a United Nations embargo against Iraq.

The Danish government had investigated the claim and, when its probe turned up nothing, asked the US authorities on Thursday for an explanation.

“I’m pleased that the CIA has now withdrawn its allegation on its website. Niro is no longer accused of having violated the UN sanctions against Iraq,” Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said in the statement.

The statement on the CIA website reads: “The report implies that Iraq procured the spray dryers with precise atomizer nozzles from Danish company Niro Atomizer Inc in 2001. That is incorrect. In fact, the spray dryers and nozzles were procured in the late 1980s, well before UN sanctions were in place on such equipment.”

An institute spokesman would not confirm the Post figures.

An Iraqi man inspects the debris of a destroyed house after a US airstrike overnight in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, Iraq, on early morning, 22 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET

India to lease N-submarine from Russia

MOSCOW, 22 Oct — India is to lease a multi-role nuclear submarine from Russia for 10 years under a deal signed earlier this year, according to the defence industry sources. “The two nations have inked the deal for the 10-year lease of the submarine of project 971, known as Akula,” a Russian defence industry source said.

The Akula-II class third generation nuclear powered submarine was inducted by the Soviet Navy in 1984 and is said to be superior to the deadly US Los Angeles-class nuclear submarines. According to Russian media, a similar submarine Vepor (Boar), built in 1996, recently took part in the first ever war games with France.

The submarine to be leased by India is a Project 971Nergy (Sea Seal) nuclear submarine, which is being constructed at the Amur ship building facility, Komsomolsk-on-Amur town right across the Chinese border. — MNA/PTI

Paris optimistic about hostages’ chance of release

PARIS, 22 Oct — French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier declared Wednesday that Paris has the feeling that the release of the two French hostages and their Syrian driver remains possible.

“The Prime Minister (Jean-Pierre Raffarin) informed all political leaders of the efforts that we continue to make in Baghdad, in the region and even here in Paris, with the feeling that the liberation of Christian Chesnot, Georges Malbrunot and their Syrian driver remains possible,” he said after the 6th meeting on the hostages’ fate at the Prime Minister’s Matignon Palace. “We are continuing efforts ... with patience, tenacity and discretion. I’d like to remind that these are necessary conditions for our compatriots’ safety,” he said.

Christian Chesnot, of Radio France International, and Georges Malbrunot, of Le Figaro newspaper, were kidnapped in south Baghdad on 20 August with their Syrian driver, Mohammed al-Jundi, by a group calling itself “Islamic Army of Iraq”.

Prime Minister Raffarin said last Wednesday that according to recent news, the two French hostages were “alive” and that some “indirect contacts” were ongoing with the kidnappers. — MNA/Internet

British hostage begs Blair to call off Iraq redeployment

DOHA, 22 Oct — British aid worker Margaret Hassan, kidnapped in Iraq, begged Prime Minister Tony Blair to save her life by calling off the planned redeployment of British troops close to Baghdad, in a video broadcast by Al-Jazeera.

“Please help me, please help me, these might be my last hours,” a sobbing Hassan said on the tape, heard in English. “I will die like Mr (Kenneth) Bigley”, the British hostage executed in Iraq earlier this month.

“Ask Mr Blair to pull the (British) forces out of Iraq and not to bring them to Baghdad,” she said, in other comments which were only audible through an Arabic voice-over.

Her plea came one day after Britain agreed to an unprecedented US request to redeploy 850 troops to the Babil province south and southwest of Baghdad, freeing up US soldiers for an expected assault on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah.

The soldiers from the Black Watch Battalion had been stationed in the south of Iraq, in a relatively calm region compared to the rebel heartlands near Baghdad.

“Please help me, O Britons,” said Hassan, a dual British and Irish national who married an Irish and has lived in Iraq for 30 years. She was kidnapped on her way to work Tuesday.

The international relief agency CARE, of which Hassan is local director, announced it was suspending operations in Iraq after her abduction. — MNA/Internet

It is not clear whether the aid worker has been kept alive by the Al-Jazeera network only to hasten the release of the British hostages. — MNA/Internet
Attention should be given to increasing deaths of Iraqis

BEIJING, 22 Oct — Equal attention should be given to the increasing deaths of innocent Iraqi people in the US-led war in the country while each and every US casualty was counted, said China’s English-language newspaper China Daily on Thursday.

“Both Iraqi and US lives are innocent,” the newspaper pointed out.

In single week from 11 to 17 October an estimated 208 Iraqis were killed in war-related incidents, it quotes the result of a tally by the New York Times as saying.

Still, the paper noted, “the tally remains imprecise and it gives no rough account of Iraqi lives lost during and after the war of liberation”.

The deaths of Iraqis, it pointed out, have been a sensitive topic and the US Health Ministry, which had routinely provided casualty figures to journalists, stopped the service early this month, it said.

“The figures are an embarrassment to the US Government as well as to the Americans,” it noted.

It is hardly possible to work out a precise figure for the overall civilian deaths in Iraq since the war was launched in March 2003. However, estimates by researchers in independent surveys had placed the figure at around 10,000 to 15,000. “Surveys’ warnings, preliminary reports from hospitals, mosques and homes point to a level of civilian casualties far exceeding the Gulf War,” said the paper.

The US and British military officials insisted they had done what they could to avoid civilian casualties, but that could hardly justify the bombs going astray and targets chosen in error, it added.

Hearing opens for US soldier charged with murder in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Iraq), 22 Oct — A military hearing began on Thursday to determine whether an American soldier should face court martial for killing a severely wounded Iraqi to put him “out of his misery,” the US command said.

Staff Sergeant Jonathan Alban of Company 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, and another soldier in his company, Staff Sergeant Johnny Heme Jr, are accused of conspiracy to commit murder. Alban’s case is the first to be heard, according to a statement.

Eleven witnesses testified during the day-long session, known as an Article 32 hearing, which is the military equivalent of a grand jury hearing. The investigating officer will make recommendations to the US command as to whether there is enough evidence to try the soldier for one count of premeditated murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder.

If tried and convicted, Alban could face a minimum of life imprisonment or the death penalty. Alban was part of a group of soldiers who saw a group of Iraqi men planting homemade bombs along a road in the Sadr City area of Baghdad on the evening of 17 August. The soldiers engaged the men with small arms fire. Other soldiers from the same battalion arrived on the scene to find a burning truck and casualties around it.

According to the witness account, the soldiers attempted to rescue an Iraqi casualty from inside the truck. The victim had severe abdominal wounds, burns, and was thought by several of the witnesses to be beyond medical help.

The criminal investigator said that Alban, his platoon leader and another staff sergeant allegedly decided that “the best course of action was to put [the victim] out of his misery”. Eyewitnesses said that they saw Alban fired multiple rounds into the victim with a rifle, according to the statement.

Two other soldiers from the same unit — Sergeant Michael Williams and Special Brent May — are being charged in the deaths of three Iraqis in a different incident. The unit, based at Fort Riley, Kansas, is temporarily serving with the 1st Cavalry while in Iraq.

US sergeant sentenced to eight years for abusing detainees

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct — US Staff Sergeant Ivan Frederick was sentenced to eight years in prison on Thursday for sexually and physically abusing detainees at the Abu Ghraib jail in Baghdad.

Judge Colonel James Pohl also sentenced Frederick, 38, to a reduction in rank to Private, to forfeiture of pay and dishonourable discharge from the Army.

Frederick’s lawyer Gary Myers called the sentence “excessive” and said he intended to appeal.

“We will seek to try to achieve a sentence reduction,” he said.

Frederick, the most senior enlisted man charged in the Abu Ghraib scandal, had pleaded guilty to five charges of abusing detainees at the facility in October and November last year. He also punched one prisoner so hard in the chest that he needed resuscitation.

Major Michael Holley, the military prosecutor, told the court it was a simple case of right and wrong.

“He’s an adult and capable of telling, as we learned, the difference between right and wrong,” he said of Frederick.

Myers said that while Frederick was right to be punished, a degree of responsibility had to be borne by the military establishment. “Punish him, yes. But please try to understand the defence’s point of view that there is corporate responsibility,” Myers said.

“We discovered that (Frederick) has no abhorrent tendencies.”

Frederick is the third US soldier to be convicted for his part in the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal. Five soldiers are still due to face courts martial. Judge Pohl originally sentenced Frederick to 10 years imprisonment, but reduced it to eight years because of a plea bargain.

US to provide transportation for enlarged mission in Sudan

NEW YORK, 22 Oct — The United States offered two military transport aircraft to support a portion of the deployment of the expanded African Union (AU) mission in Sudan, the US mission to the UN said Wednesday in a statement.

“The President has directed the Secretary of Defence to make available two military transport aircraft for two weeks starting near the end of October,” it said.

“Secretary of State Powell is in close contact with our international partners to encourage their support for this African Union initiative,” it added.

As an enlarged AU mission, the first 1,000 additional troops are expected to come from Rwanda and Nigeria, according to the US mission.

ADF approves funds for constructing Isaka-Kigali railway

TUNIS, 22 Oct — The African Development Fund (ADF) on Wednesday approved the funding of about 2.4 million US dollars for a feasibility study on constructing the Isaka (Tanzania)-Kigali (Rwanda) railway.

The construction of the railway will contribute to the creation of a transport community programme to promote regional economic integration, said an ADF Press release.

The railway will open up and ensure the development of a vast area covering not only Rwanda and the regions of Shinyanga and Kagera in Tanzania but also Burundi and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, according to the release.

5

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Sunday, 24 October, 2004

Masked gunmen take up position in Bahirtz, outside Baqubah, 60 km northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, during a battle with US troops, on Friday, 22 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET


MNA/Zhonghua

MNA/Zhonghua

MNA/Reuters

MNA/AP

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
### US welcomes forthcoming international conf on Iraq

**WASHINGTON, 22 Oct —** The US Government on Wednesday welcomed the proposal to hold an expanded regional conference on Iraq, saying it will secure international support for peace and stability in Iraq.

“We applaud the Iraqi Government and the Egyptian Government’s initiative in diplomatic efforts to make the arrangements for this conference,” State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said at a regular news briefing.

“We thank the Egyptian Government for its willingness to host this conference and the broader role that it plays in supporting regional stability,” Boucher said.

The conference, scheduled to be held in Egypt’s Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik on 22-23 November, is expected to be held at the ministerial level. Representatives of the interim Iraqi Government, Iraq’s neighbouring countries, as well as the Group of Eight industrialized countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League and possibly the European Union are expected to participate in the gathering.

US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns, who is visiting Egypt, said that the conference will focus on stabilizing war-torn Iraq.

“This is an opportunity to help Iraqis and the Iraqi Government to help organize and secure a political process in Iraq,” Burns told reporters after meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell looks forward to going to the conference, according to Boucher.

### Violence continues in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 22 Oct —** The US military said it launched four airstrikes on Wednesday targeted by followers of Islamic extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

It also denied reports that the strikes damaged a school and a house in which six civilians were killed.

An Iraqi child was killed and 11 US soldiers and their Iraqi interpreter were wounded when a pair of car bombs exploded north of Baghdad on Wednesday, the US military said.

The attack, which took place at 3.42 pm local time (1242 GMT) in the northern city of Samarra, was under investigation and the wounded soldiers were transferred for treatment, said the military without giving further details.

Also in Baghdad, Mazen al-Samarai, a leading member of Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi’s Iraqi National (INA), was shot dead outside his home on Wednesday, said the INA.

Two Egyptian engineers, who were abducted last month, were released Wednesday, said an official of the engineers’ company.

### US removes Iraq from terrorist blacklist

**WASHINGTON, 22 Oct —** The United States on Wednesday announced to remove Iraq from the State Department’s blacklist of “state sponsors of terrorism”, thus having put an end to a 14-year-old determination that carried sanctions.

“I hereby rescind the determination of September 13, 1990 that Iraq is a country which has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism,” Powell said in a notice published in the Federal Register.

Powell said that this is an important symbolic act for Iraq’s interim leaders although the move would have little practical effect as most all of Washington’s terrorism penalties on Iraq were suspended last year.

The Iraqi Interim Government headed by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi took the power of Iraq after the US-led coalition troops handed over the sovereignty to Iraqis on 28 June.

“This action is a further step to cement the partnership of the United States and Iraq in combating acts of international terrorism and is an act of symbolic importance to the new Iraqi Government,” Powell said.

The removal of Iraq from terrorist blacklist came one month after US President George W Bush ordered Powell to do so.

For now, six nations remain on the State Department’s list of “state sponsors of terrorism”. They are Cuba, Libya, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

### Fiji to provide security for UN officials in Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS, 22 Oct —** Fiji has agreed to provide a protective security detail for senior UN officials in Iraq, a UN spokesperson said recently.

UN Spokeswoman Marie Okabe told a Press briefing in New York that the government has also agreed to provide a guard unit for UN facilities in Baghdad.

“In addition, Australia has confirmed that it will provide most of the equipment to the Fijians,” she said.

Voicing gratitude to the two governments for their “critical” contribution, Okabe said this would “make it possible for the UN to consider expanding its activities in Iraq, as circumstances permit”.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s Special Representative, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, held a series of meetings in Baghdad with representatives of Iraqi civil society, diplomats and others on means to advance the political process and the role the UN can play in promoting national dialogue, the spokesperson said.

### Thailand raises interest rates under inflationary pressure

**BANGKOK, 22 Oct —** Under the pressure of rising inflation, Thailand on Wednesday raised short-term interest rates for the second time by 0.25 points, local Press reported on Thursday.

The decision made by the Bank of Thailand raises the 14-day bond re-purchase rate to 1.75 per cent from 1.5 per cent.

The central bank’s monetary policy committee in August also raised the same rate by 0.25 points, a first hike in three years.

“The risk of the inflation is higher than we had previously estimated. With the trend of rising inflation, economic stability is at risk,” Aichana Waqasenande, an assistant governor for the central bank was quoted by Bangkok Post as saying.

She also noted that climbing global oil prices have pushed up commodity prices and it’s necessary to seek for a higher policy rate so as to maintain economic stability.

Having hiked oil prices for seven-time and spending 42 billion baht (1.05 billion US dollars) on gas subsidy, the Thai Government on Wednesday decided to lift cap price for retailing petroleum but still subsidize diesel so as to keep production cost at a relatively low level.

Thailand’s headline inflation rose 3.6 per cent in September from the year before, with core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, up 0.6 per cent, according to statistics supplied by Bank of Thailand.

The central bank has a target of keeping core inflation within a range of 0-3.5 per cent over the next eight quarters.

### Greece increases inspections in cotton sector

**ATHENS, 22 Oct —** Greek Agricultural Development and Foods Deputy Minister Alexandros Kontos on Wednesday announced that ministry agencies would intensify their inspections in cotton ginning units around the country in a bid to protect cotton production and to boost transparency in EU subsidies to the sector.

Cotton is a vital factor to the country’s farm sector. With capital inflows totalling 600 million euros, it is a significant part of total inflows in Greece.

A ministry announcement said the inspections would determine the subsidy amount to be offered to Greece and stressed that the ministry has taken measures to simplify bureaucratic procedures in its inspections.
Honouring the 59th Anniversary of the United Nations Day

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)


Representatives of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the People’s Republic of China held talks and drew up the first blueprint for the formation of the United Nations at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC, the United States of America, from 21 September to 7 October 1944, when World War II was going on.

Representatives from 50 countries met in San Francisco, the United States of America, and held a conference from 26 April to 26 June 1945. They formulated a charter that encompassed 111 Articles and ratified it on 26 June 1945. Later on, it was on 24 October 1945 that the birth of the United Nations was officially announced to the world.

In the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, to the 58th Anniversary of the United Nations Day, it was stated: “The leaders of the nations of the world greeted the arrival of the new millennium with the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This important document embodies a large number of specific commitments aimed at improving the lot of humanity and realizing the aims set in the interests of the peoples. As a result, the Organization has now made tangible achievements in numerous areas. Development and the eradication of poverty are other areas that rate second in order of importance.

Development and the eradication of poverty are other areas that rate second in order of importance. The matter of alleviating poverty to a noticeable degree and that of development cannot be done without a strong and long-lasting economic growth. Certain spheres in which priority should be given to the drive for poverty eradication has been highlighted in the Millennium Vision. Providing increased development aids and opening markets for the commodities of developing countries are also included in that vision.
We should focus our attention on... (from page 1)

globalization which has been made possible by the progressive dismantling of barriers to trade and capital mobility. In spite of these positive trends and of common endeavour for peace and prosperity in the century gone by, the world is still not free from conflicts and miseries.

The century we left behind was littered with many solemn occasions, the vision of the international community redefined itself to the vision of the United Nations Charter and to the strengthening of the Organization.

The unique role of the United Nations in the new globalization era derived from the shared values embodied in the Charter. The emergence of a global economy provides benefits like faster growth, higher living standards, and new possibilities in science and technology. However, there still exists a huge gap between the developed and the developing countries. Accordingly, we should focus our attention on equitable development, by ensuring that development is not the preserve of a few.

Globalization is supposed to generate economic equality among all nations through free flow of goods, services and capitals. It provides us with vast opportunities, but currently its benefits are unevenly distributed while its costs are borne by all. Globalization should be a positive force for all the world’s people. The United Nations, which have provided timeless and universal. The emergence of a global economy

We should reinforce, on this special occasion, the political will and momentum of the Millennium Summit in order to translate the commitments into concrete action. Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win read out the message to mark the 59th Anniversary UN Day sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe. (The message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe is reported separately.)

Afterwards, UN Coordinator Mr Charles James Petrie read out the message sent by UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan. (The message of UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan is reported separately.)

Later, artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture presented traditional dances to the audience. — MNA

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Annual general meeting of Pyapon District USDA held

YANGON, 23 Oct — Pyapon District Union Solidarity and Development Association held its annual general meeting at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon this morning. Present were CEC member of USDA Minister Col Thein Nyunt, departmental officials, Secretary of Ayeawady Division USDA U Than Tun, members of District USDA, wellwishers, outstanding students, and USDA members.

CEC member Col Thein Nyunt delivered an opening address. He called on USDA members at different levels to realized the five aims of the association, to actively take part in the Three Major Projects — border area development project, rural development project and 24 special development zone project and implementation of seven-point future policy programme. CEC member Col Thein Nyunt and officials presented prizes to outstanding students. Next, wellwishers presented K 550,000 to Secretary of Pyapon District USDA U Aye Kyaing. Secretary U Aye Kyaing submitted the report of District USDA. The meeting ended in the evening. — MNA

Education Minister inspects sanitation at basic education schools

YANGON, 23 Oct — In 2004-2005 academic year, October 23 in 2004 has been designated as School Sanitation Day. Students of basic education schools in the entire nation under the supervision of respective teachers and school heads carried out sanitation tasks at school buildings, classrooms, toilets, roads and parks today. Minister for Education U Than Aung, together with Deputy Minister Brig.-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials, inspected sanitation tasks at Dagon Basic Education High School No 3.

Next, the minister inspected sanitation at Thingamyum BEHS No 1 and its environs. — MNA

More tennis players arrive

YANGON, 23 Oct — More tennis players from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Australia and China (Taipei) to take part in the 1st Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament Grade-5 to be organized by the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Tennis Federation arrived here by air this morning and afternoon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Tennis Federation. — MNA

Work Committee, sub-committees, team managers meet

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Work Committee for Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, sub-committee members and team managers of States and Divisions held the coordination meeting at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) this evening. On behalf of the work committee, member of the Security and Military Disciplinary Enforcement Committee Lt-Col Tin Kyaing gave a speech. Next followed a general round of discussions. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win reads the message to mark 59th Anniversary UN Day sent by Senior General Than Shwe.— MNA

turning points in the history of humanity. There were certain moments in which the United Nations managed to prevent major conflicts. Those were the powerful demonstrations of what could be achieved through a multilateral approach to conflict management. Yet there were a few other areas where solution remained elusive.

The Millennium Summit, commemorating the turn of a new country, gave an opportunity to address the role of the United Nations in the 21st century. That extraordinary gathering of leaders from all over the world reflected in the rapidly changing world, discussed the emerging challenges facing us, and collectively sought lasting solutions to them. They decided on the parameters of our collective vision for the 21st century. On that
Prize presentation ceremony…

(from page 16)

competition to Maung Aung Thaw Htet of Yankin Township No 2 BEHS, Ma Phyo Wah Hlaing of Lanmadaw Township No 2 BEHS, Ma Nilar Soe of South Okkalapa Township No 3 BEHS and Ma Zin Min Thu of Ahlon Township No 6 BEHS respectively.

Afterwards, Minister for Education U Than Aung presented first, second, third and consolation prizes of middle school level poster competition to Ma Su Hlaing Tun of Tamway Township No 4 BEMS, Ma Khine Myat Tun Lin of the Institute of Practising School, Kamayut Township, Ma Pwint Myat Thu of Latha Township No 2 BEHS, Ma May Tharaphi Kyaw of Kyauktan Township No 2 BEHS respectively. Next, Coordinator of United Nations Mr Charles James Petrie presented the first, second, third and consolation prizes to Maung Ye Hein Hset of Kyauktan Township Myoma BEMS, Ma Su Yamin of Dagon Township No 1 BEHS, Ma May Htoo Myat Mon of Kyauktan Township BEMS and Ma Su Nyan Moe of Latha Township No 2 BEHS respectively.

Later, ministers, deputy ministers and guests viewed around essays, posters and paintings of winners displayed in the room. — MNA

UN Secretary-General’s Message on United Nations Day

24 October 2004

The following is the message from Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the United Nations Day:

Today is United Nations Day.
Fifty-nine years ago, the United Nations was founded as an instrument of peace, human rights and development. The world is a better place because of the United Nations. But too many people are today the victims of violence, oppression, poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

We can and must do better. All people deserve to live free from fear and want. They must have hope that tomorrow will be better than today. Our common humanity requires it. Our common security demands it.

Each nation needs a government that truly serves its people. And we all need an effective United Nations — one that reflects the world we live in today, and can meet the challenges we will face tomorrow.

I believe we can build a better United Nations. That’s why I will soon be putting before world leaders a package of measures to renew the Organization. It will be up to your leaders to respond with vision and goodwill. They must find common ground at a historic meeting this time next year.

I ask you to encourage your leaders to give our world the United Nations it deserves. With your help, I know we can do it.

We are in a new era. We need a new United Nations. Let’s make it happen.

United Nations Information Centre, Yangon
Cooperative societies inspected in Bago

YANGON, 23 Oct — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min met with the chairman and members of the board of directors of Mazin Industrial Producers Cooperative Society in Bago yesterday.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts...

(from page 16)

Chairman of the Panel of Judges Bogale U Tint Aung, Secretary Deputy Director (Production) U Zaw Hay of Fine Arts Department and members supervised the song composing contest at Kanbawzathagi Theatre. Altogether 12 contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 10-15) song composing contest. Tomorrow morning, the song composing contest will continue.

At Padonna Theatre, 10 participants took part in the professional level (men’s) solo orchestra contest and eight boys in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ solo orchestra contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Hla Myaing and party supervised the contest. On 24 October morning, the higher education level (women’s and men’s) harp contest, the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ harp contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ harp contest will be held at Padonna Theatre.

At the National Theatre, eight contestants from States and Divisions competed in the higher education level (men’s) piano contest, three in the higher education level (women’s) piano contest and 10 in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ piano contest.

The contest was supervised by leader of the panel of judges Pianist U Chit Swe and party. On 24 October, the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ piano contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ piano contest will be held. — MNA

Mahosadha Marionette Contest continues for third day

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Mahosadha Marionette Contest of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the third day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street here at 7 pm today.

Among the audience were Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Lt-Col Pe Nyen members of the Work Committee and the Sub-Committees, maestros, fans and others.

The Ayeyar Hlone Yoksontabin troupe of Ayeyawady Division participated in the contest. Leader of the Panel of Judges U Ye Dway and party supervised the contest. On 24 October evening, the Yoksontabin troupe of Mon State will take part in the contest. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-209167), the Directors (Sagang Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Mawgyaw Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657). — MNA
Japan’s April-September foreign trade hits record high

Tokyo, 22 Oct—Japan’s foreign trade in the first half of fiscal 2004 set a new record in terms of value, said the Finance Ministry on Thursday.

The trade surplus from April to September on a Customs-cleared basis stood at 6,096.4 billion yen (57 billion dollars), up 21.4 per cent from a year earlier.

The exports were at record 30,675.2 billion yen (286.7 billion US dollars), up 12.9 per cent from a year earlier, while the imports grew 11.0 per cent to 25,181.0 billion yen (247.2 billion dollars), also a record high. The ministry attributed the surge of imports to soaring oil prices.

In September alone, exports jumped by 6.7 per cent to record 5,643.4 bil-

lion yen (51.1 billion dollars).

Uganda inaugurates Africa’s biggest “AIDS” training centre

KAMPALA, 22 Oct—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Wednesday inaugurated Africa’s biggest AIDS training centre at Malago Hospital in Kampala.

The new infectious diseases institute houses a laboratory that will en-
hance treatment of pa-
tients, train health profes-
sions of sub-Saharan Af-
rica and also carry out re-
search on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

The institute is to train 250 HIV/AIDS specialists annually and about 300 patients will benefit from its services.

In his speech, Museveni highly commended the Aca-
demic Alliance of Ugan-
dan Physicians from Makerere University and the Global Pharmaceuti-
cal Company (Pfizer) for their exemplary vision that has made the institute, hitherto a dream, into a reality. The President said that the strategy of his government is to stop the spread of the pandemic.

However, he noted that the 70,000 people that were infected last year will receive heightened vigil-
cane agencies and the government commitment to fight the HIV/AIDS scourge.

The United Nations estimates that HIV has infected 26 million people in Africa. Last year, the deadly disease killed up to 2.2 million Africans, while some three million Africans contracted the HIV virus.

Over 30,000 children go missing in Russia every year

MOSCOW, 22 Oct—Over 30,000 children and teenagers go missing in Russia each year, the Interfax news agency cited a children’s organization here as reporting on Wednesday.

An estimated 190 cases of children smuggling were registered over the past five years in Russia, said Leonid Chekalin, chairman of the interregional public organization Children Are Rus-
ia’s Future.

Moreover, statistics from the Inte-
rnary Ministry show that 2,000 children and teenagers commit suicide each year, two million children are illiterate, and there are 500,00 to 2.5 million neglected children in Russia, said Chekalin.

First man to circumnavigate Arctic Circle without motorized transport

GENEVA, 22 Oct—South African adventurer Mike Horn on Thursday became the first man to circumnavigate the Arctic Circle without motorized transport, completing a more than two-year solo odyssey by ski, kayak and foot.

The Swiss-based Horn, who set out in August 2002, arrived back at the North Cape in Norway, where he was met by his logistics team, wife Cathy and two daughters.

"After two years and three months on the road, it is a great moment," the 38-year-old told Reuters by telephone. His 12,000-mile journey took him through Greenland, Canada, Alaska, the Bering Straits and Russia’s Siberia.

Frostbitten Horn to temporarily abandon a first attempt in April 2002 after he took off his gloves to replace his boots in temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius (minus 45 Fahrenheit). After treatment in Switzerland he set out again on his “Arktos” expedition in August 2002.

“I just keep moving every day — skiing, climbing, walking, sailing, kayaking, cycling and crawling — whatever man can do with two arms and two legs,” Horn said.

The adventurer was also the first man to complete circumnavigation of the equator without motorized transport in October 2000.

Venezuela, Colombia to build gas pipeline

CARACAS, 22 Oct—Venezuela and Colombia will have a transport capacity of 150 million cubic feet per day, said the company in a statement. The pipeline will pump natural gas to Ven-

"Venezuela’s state-owned natu-
rnal gas company said Wednesday.

The 215-kilometre pipeline, with 120 kilo-

metres in Venezuela, will

Caracas, 22 Oct — Vene-

zuela and Colombia will

have a transport capacity

of 150 million cubic feet

per day, said the company

in a statement. The pipeline

will pump natural gas to Ven-

ezuela’s Zulia State in the

first seven years. It may

extend to Central America

in the future.

Although Venezuela is rich in natural gas reserves, its west suffers from shortages in supply. Building the pipeline will start at the end of this year or the beginning of next year, and is expected to be completed within 18 months.
UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMAR RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER
1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following stores which will be purchased in US Dollars and Euros:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>12/T/26/RL(ML)</td>
<td>Spare Parts for Indian</td>
<td>76 - Items</td>
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<td>YDM-4 Locomotives</td>
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Closing Date - 22.11.2004 (Monday) (12:00) Hours.
2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 21.10.2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon

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China’s car production in first three quarters lower than expected

BEIJING, 22 Oct — China’s car production and sales this year will be lower than expected and also the lowest increase since China’s entry to the World Trade Organization three years ago, according to industry experts.

China manufactured nearly 1,760,000 cars in the first three quarters of 2004, a year-on-year increase of 21 per cent, statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show.

China produced 177,400 cars in September, slightly more than in August but down 7.8 per cent over the same period last year.

After several months’ reduction in auto production, stockpiled cars in automakers’ warehouses saw a first decline in eight months, the NBS said, saying stockpiled cars were reduced by more than 10,000 in September.

Retailers, however, said their stockpiled cars continued to increase.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

TRADE MARK CAUTION

ELEPHANT BEER COMPANY LIMITED, a company organized under the laws of THAILAND, and having its principal office at 15 Moo 14, Viphavadi Rangsit Road, Kweang Ladya, Khet Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade marks:-

Reg.No. 4/1768/2004

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PCLSDINE

In respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations used in rheumatology".

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

Win Mu Tin
for Laboratories Expansions
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Date: 24 October 2004

Coke reports 24% drop in third-quarter profits on flat revenue

ATLANTA, 22 Oct — The Coca-Cola Co reported a 24-per-cent drop in third-quarter profit on flat revenue, but beat analysts reduced expectations that were tempered after the beverage giant’s previous warnings.

For the three months ending September 30, Coke said it earned 935 million US dollars, or 39 cents a share, compared to a profit of 1.22 billion US dollars, or 50 cents a share, a year earlier.

Excluding one-time items of 11 cents in reductions due to charges and tax adjustments, Atlanta-based Coke said it earned 1.22 billion US dollars, or 50 cents a share. On that basis, analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call were expecting earnings of 47 cents a share.

Revenue in the July-September period was 5.66 billion US dollars, essentially flat with the 5.67 billion US dollars recorded a year ago.

The results by the Atlanta-based company were announced after the market closed Thursday. Shares of Coke closed 3% higher at 39.48 US dollars on the New York Stock Exchange. In after-hours trading they gained another 37 cents.

Last month, Coke temporarily shelved its policy of not giving quarterly earnings guidance and previewed the earnings results. At the time, chief executive Neville Isdell said the world’s largest beverage maker needed to work harder, better execute its strategy and improve its culture.

ADB approves loan to help Vietnam SMEs development


The project, ADB’s first policy loan in Vietnam specifically designed to promote an enabling environment for the SME sector, will undertake intergovernmental coordination and stakeholder consultation to systematically identify and resolve constraints facing business, the Manila-based ADB said in a statement.

The project will enhance the policy and regulatory framework, improve SMEs’ access to finance and land use rights, and help increase their access to domestic and international markets by improving industrial and technical standards.

MNA/Xinhua
T-Mobile links up with British BT Group

ONLINE, 22 Oct — T-Mobile, Europe’s second-largest mobile phone service provider, is linking up with British fixed-line ally BT Group to triple the number of places in Britain where customers can hook onto local high-speed Internet connections.

In a move designed in part to combat its low-cost, consumer-focused image, the Deutsche Telekom unit’s British arm said on Thursday it had tied up with BT Openzone to give customers access to 1,900 Wi-Fi local wireless network access points, known as hotspots.

Wi-Fi, medium-range wireless networks often rolled out in coffee shops and airport lounges, allows users of laptop computers and other gadgets to access fast Internet connections without the usual struggle with wires and mismatched phone plugs.

T-Mobile Britain and BT’s partnership is part of a trend to open up hotspots. US-based Boingo aggregates hotspots run by different operators, while Airpath and Deutsche Telekom-owned T-Systems provide roaming services between unconnected networks.

Like T-Mobile’s rivals, such as British-based Vodafone Group Plc and France Telecom-controlled Orange, the German-owned company wants to counter stagnating mobile voice call revenue growth with mobile data services.

Market researchers say the Yankee Group estimates that the market for enterprise voice and data in western Europe will be worth 45 billion euros (57 billion US dollars) by 2007 as greater work flexibility and a demand to be on call at any time in any place fuels demand for fast, secure, simple network access.

Brian McBride, the managing director of T-Mobile Britain, told a conference call that, although it was too soon to detail the revenue impact of Wi-Fi, it was growing “exponentially”.

“The number of customers has doubled over the last six to eight months and the usage of the customers is up fivefold,” he said.

T-Mobile has been integrating its second-generation (2G) and Wi-Fi area networks and has been rolling out a range of integrated data cards and handsets designed for broadband mobile data services.

“Wi-Fi is still significantly faster than 3G to the order of 10,” he said.

“So you need it all.”

The group said in February it had about 5,000 hotspots across its businesses. Eight months on, it has 10,500 across Germany, Britain, the United States, Austria, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic and is expecting to roll out more.

— MNA/Reuters

Global investment in offshore IT services to go up

HOUSTON, 21 Oct — Global investment in offshore IT services will grow from 7 billion US dollars in 2003 to 17 billion US dollars by 2008 and India is among the select group of countries which are poised to gain from this spurt in outsourcing, a new research has predicted.

According to a study by analyst firm IDC, spending by US customers on offshore IT services will continue to concentrate heavily on applications, with most activity in the areas of Custom application development, application management and systems integration.

As the phenomenon is expected to gain ground, the countries that are poised to gain will be India, the Philippines and China, joined by central and eastern Europe, the study said.

“Customers’ continued need to look to offshore as a resource from which to procure IT services as part of their overall sourcing requirements is not only growing as a share of the total IT services market, but is expanding from traditional IT services, such as application development and maintenance, to areas traditionally delivered locally,” David Tapper, director of outsourcing, utility and offshore services research at IDC, said.

“These services range from application and infrastructure management to IT consulting,” he added.

“Due to the persistent need for customers to reduce costs, coupled with the proven capabilities of offshore players, IDC [sees] considerable market opportunities for these players in the onshore markets, as well as local players looking to leverage offshore as part of their service delivery capabilities,” Barry Mason, senior analyst for IDC’s application outsourcing and offshore services research, said.

— MNA/PTI

Children born to older fathers risk developing schizophrenia

LONDON, 22 Oct — Children born to older fathers have a higher than normal risk of developing schizophrenia later in life, Swedish scientists said on Friday.

They suspect that accumulating mutations in the sperm of older men add to the risk of their children suffering from the psychotic disorder.

“There is an association between paternal age and the risk of schizophrenia in the offspring,” Professor Finn Rasmussen, of Bengali tigers wait to be fed in their cage at the Sritacha Tiger Zoo in Chonburi Province, southeast of Bangkok, Thailand, on 22 Oct, 2004. — internet

Rasmussen and his team, who reported their research in the British Medical Journal, estimated that the three-year age increase in the 20-24 years could result in 12.15 per cent more cases of schizophrenia.

The causes of schizophrenia are unknown. Scientists believe it affects chemicals in the brain and that there is a biological link which can predispose a person to the disease.

It affects about 24 million people worldwide, mostly in the 15-35 age group. Although it is a treatable illness, more than 50 per cent of sufferers do not receive appropriate care, according to the World Health Organization. — MNA/Reuters

Indian tea exporters eye China market

BEIJING, 22 Oct — Indian tea exporters on Thursday took their first step to enter the huge Chinese market by offering the world-famous Darjeeling tea and other high-quality varieties for which they hope to secure a ‘niche’ market in the world’s most populous nation. This is our first attempt to showcase Indian tea to the Chinese people and the industry.

We are confident of making our presence felt in the Chinese market,” Executive Director of TeaBoard, Chandrjait Satia, told PTI here.

The Tea Board, which has roped in a number of leading Indian tea exporters and planters at the China Tea Expo 2004 which commenced here on Thursday, will make sustained efforts to promote Indian tea in China where the people mainly drink green tea and are not exposed to black tea. — MNA/PTI

Global tea exporters expect growth

KOLKATA, 22 Oct — Indian tea exporters expect output to rise by 5-10 per cent in the forthcoming season as rains improved, though the estate produce was affected by disease.

“Overall, we expect a 5-10 per cent growth in production in the coming season,” Executive Director of TeaBoard, Chandrjit Satia, told PTI here.

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— MNA/PTI
Mutu warmly welcomed by national team

BUCHAREST, 22 Oct— Romania coach Angel Iordachescu will warmly welcome back Chelsea striker Adrian Mutu after he has served any ban he might receive for failing a drugs test.

"I'm waiting for Mutu to come back to the national team as soon as possible... his place is with his colleagues," Iordachescu told reporters on Thursday. "The national team needs him, I need him and so do his team mates."

"Mutu made a mistake. A lot of young players make mistakes and I don't think he should be buried," Iordachescu said.

Mutu's agents have said the striker, stories of whose playboy exploits have filled the pages of the tabloid Press in Britain for the last few days, was devastated and wanted to cooperate with any FA hearing. Mutu has agreed to counselling and to waive the right to a test of a B sample after admitting to testing positive for cocaine.—MNA/Reuters

Newell's Old Boys go top of Argentine Apertura C'ship

BUENOS AIRES, 22 Oct— Newell's Old Boys went top of the Argentine Apertura championship after traditional favourites Boca Juniors and River Plate both failed to win for the second time in four days.

Newell's, where former World Cup forward Ariel Ortega has resumed his career after ending a 19-month ban following his decision to walk out on Tuesday's Fenerbahce, beat coachless Racing Club 1-0 on Wednesday night.

River lost 1-0 at Lanus while Boca coach Miguel Brindisi was insulted by fans as his team conceded a late equalizer in a 1-1 draw at home to Banfield.

Midfielder Fernando Belluscio scored a 40th minute winner as Newell's went top on goal difference from Velez Sarsfield, who were beaten 1-0 at home by Rosario Central on Tuesday.

Ortega, who joined Newell's after FIFA brokered an agreement between the club and Fenerbahce, had another excellent game for his new club.

Fernandez had midfielder Juan Manuel Torres sent off in the 85th minute as they lost for the seventh time in eight games.

The 2001 Apertura champions are under the caretaker leadership of Guillermo Rivarola after Ubaldo Fillol, goalkeeper in Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning team, resigned on Monday.

Newell's and Velez both have 22 points from 11 games, two ahead of third-placed Boca who were set to go top until Banfield striker Diego Ceballos gave his team a 1-1 draw at the Bombonera Stadium. —MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Hors d'oeuvre
2 New
3 Black
4 Windpipe
5 Underground cell
6 Flashlight
7 Lose weight
8 Lawsuit
9 Hickory
10 Displacement
11 Eradicates
12 Small pie
13 Follow
14 Kitchen sideboard

**DOWN**

1 Full of matter
2 Embellished
3 Subject
4 Ordinary seaman
5 Frenzied
6 Anaesthetic
7 Pagan
8 Ecstasy
9 Overlook
10 Asks
11 Deleted
12 Is concerned
13 Light-coloured
14 Hardwood
15 Stratum

**SOLUTIONS**

**ACROSS**

5: New
7: Lose weight
9: Hickory
10: Displacement
12: Small pie
13: Follow
14: Kitchen sideboard

**DOWN**

2: Embellished
3: Subject
4: Ordinary seaman
5: Frenzied
6: Anaesthetic
7: Pagan
8: Ecstasy
9: Overlook
10: Asks
11: Deleted
12: Is concerned
14: Hardwood

**Clue**

**To solve the puzzle:**

- Place the words in the grid according to the number of letters.
- Crossword Clue: Williams reaches last eight in Zurich
  - ZURICH, 22 Oct— Venus Williams came through a stiff test against Serbian schoolgirl Ana Ivanovic on Thursday to book her place in the Zurich Challenge quarterfinals.
  - The American former world number one eventually defeated the 16-year-old 7-6, 7-6 but will have to raise her game against in-form Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova in the next round.
  - Williams broke early in the first set and seemed on course for a routine victory but world number 156 Ivanovic thrilled the Swiss crowd by storming back to force a tiebreak.
  - Ivanovic had five set points before Williams clinched the tiebreak 13-11.
  - The young Serb, who has won all five of the ITF tournaments in which she has competed this season, maintained her form in the second set to cause the four-times Grand Slam champion just as much trouble.

—MNA/Reuters

**US teenage soccer prodigy wins cybersquatting case**

GIOVEA, 22 Oct— US soccer’s most expensive player, teenage prodigy Freddy Adu, has won his cybersquatting case against a man who claimed to be preparing a fan-based web site, an international arbitrator ruled on Thursday.

Adu, a Ghanaian-born 15-year-old who plays for Washington’s DC United, filed a complaint against FrankFushima, a soccer fan who registered the domain name freddyadu.com in 2002.

Richard Lyon, an arbitrator appointed by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), ordered the domain name transferred to Adu after ruling that Fushima had acted in bad faith.

Fushima had contacted Adu’s agent seeking majority ownership of the disputed site, participation in corporate advertising negotiations and admission to all matches.

Italy’s Francesco Totti, Dutch defender Jaap Stam and Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole are among other soccer players to have won decisions at WIPO, a United Nations agency offering a fast-track, low-cost procedure to resolve domain name disputes.

Adu— the highest paid player in professional US soccer after being the first pick in Major League Soccer’s superdraft — also successfully claimed his name freddyadu.com in 2002.

Fushman had formally registered the ruling said.

MNA/Reuters

**Netherlands’ Heureen van Handson, right, struggles to keep up with Benfica’s Joao Pereira during their UEFA Cup match on 21 Oct, 2004 at Benfica’s Luz Stadium in Lisbon, Portugal. Benfica defeated Heureen 4-2. —INTERNET**
Rare genetic mutation may help diabetes, heart disease, obesity

WASHINGTON, Oct 23 — A rare genetic mutation may help explain why some people get hit with a triple whammy of high blood pressure, cholesterol and a tendency to gain weight easily, US researchers reported on Friday.

The mutation is seen in one gene found in mitochondrial DNA — handed down virtually unchanged from mother to child. Mitochondrial DNA affects basic cell functions and while the mutation itself is rare, it may help explain so-called metabolic syndrome or syndrome X, in which people are prone to diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

“That finding raises the possibility that all features of the metabolic syndrome may be attributable to altered mitochondrial function,” said Dr Richard Lifton, a geneticist at Connecticut’s Yale medical school who led the study.

This in turn could help explain why people are more prone to heart disease as they age — because mitochondria work less efficiently as people get older, Lifton and colleagues wrote in Friday’s issue of the journal Science.

Lifton and colleagues studied 142 people in four generations of a family whose members frequently had high blood pressure, cholesterol and another, less well-known disorder in which their blood carried low levels of magnesium. It was this rare disorder that first put them onto the trail said Lifton, whose work is funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Colleagues at the State University of New York treated a woman with a rare condition causing her to have low magnesium levels.

“The mutant allele has now been identified in eight individuals from the family, including subjects with diabetes, high blood pressure and/or low magnesium levels,” the researchers said.

“Many researchers believe that birds and dinosaurs evolved from the same ancestor. This month alone fossils have been reported showing that Tyrannosaurs had feathers and that a related dinosaur slept curled up like a bird. The earliest known bird is the 150-million-year-old Archaeopteryx although scientists have also discovered a 200-million-year-old feathered dinosaur fossil.

Chinese Scientists find 120-million-year-old fossil of baby bird

WASHINGTON, Oct 23 — Scientists in China have found a 120-million-year-old fossil of a baby bird which is believed to have died just before it had hatched and which could shed light on the relationship between dinosaurs and birds.

The discovery of the bird, with a well-developed skull, large curved claws and feathers, could also give an insight into how complex bird behaviour evolved. The fossil, with a tail length of 12 centimetres, being less than a metre long, was found in deposits in Liaoning in northeastern China. It is only the second complete and undamaged fossil to be found from the period that dinosaurs roamed the earth.

The fossil chick was found in deposits in Liaoning in northeastern China. While there is no eggshell, the little body is curled up into an egg-shaped space and looks like a developing chick. The bird looks even more developed than so-called precocial birds that live today. Precocial birds such as Australian Malee fowl hatch with their eyes open and covered with down and can survive on their own fairly quickly. In contrast, altricial birds are born without feathers and completely helpless. All songbirds are altricial, and scientists believe this type of bird evolved later.

Many researchers believe that birds and dinosaurs evolved from the same ancestor. This month alone fossils have been reported showing that Tyrannosaurs had feathers and that a related dinosaur slept curled up like a bird.

Kerry leads over Bush among college students

WASHINGTON, Oct 23 — The Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry took a big lead over the incumbent US President, George W Bush, among college students, who are drawn by the war in Iraq and the uncertain economy, The Los Angeles Times reported Friday.

Among college student voters, Kerry enjoyed a support of 52 per cent of those surveyed, leading 13 percentage points over Bush, who had 39 per cent of student voters’ support, the paper said, quoting a poll released Thursday by Harvard University.

The paper attributed the big margin partly to falling student support for the war in Iraq. Support for Kerry was also more pronounced among under- and central veterans, the paper said. The poll surveyed 1,201 college undergraduates from October 7 to 13 on 210 campuses in 48 states and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points.

The 18-year-olds were given the right to vote in 1972 and voter turnout among young people has ever since fallen steadily. But the poll showed that 84 per cent of students said they “would definitely be voting” this year, compared with 50 per cent who said they would in March 2000, the paper said — MNA/Inthua

WEATHER

Saturday, October 23, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Bago Division, isolated in Kachin and Chin States. Yangon Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Bago (220) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-10-2004 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 23-10-2004 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-10-2004 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 22-10-2004 was 1(1) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba Aye 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 was 6 mph from northeast at (18:40) hours MST on 22-10-2004.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in east Central and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 24-10-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Yangon and Bago Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

The season: Seas will be slightly to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-10-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-10-2004: Partly cloudy. Weather outlook for last weekend of October 2004: the coming weekend is expected to be generally cloudy in Yangon Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Division.
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

Commander and Mayor inspect measures for making city clean and pleasant

YANGON, 23 Oct—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation work along 64th Street and alleys in Botataung, and Mingala Taungnyunt townships, laying of pavement on ring road of Kandawgyi, construction of the overpass linking Kandawgyi and Yangon Zoological Gardens and sanitation works and laying of the pavement and paving of roads in Bahan, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (South), North Okkalapa, Mayangon and Swareyitha townships. They gave instructions on works.

Ma Pwint Phyu of Mandalay Division taking part in the basic education level (aged 10-15) song composing contest. — MNA

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 23 Oct—The 10th-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 piano contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, the Saing song contest at Padonna Theatre and the piano composing contest at the Kanbawzathiri Theatre. Present on the occasions were members of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tin Tint Hsan, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyoein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, officials of the respective committees and enthusiasts.

At the National Museum, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges for Song Contest Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanma Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the song contest. Altogether 14 contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boy’s religious song contest. And, 13 women took part in the amateur level women’s old and modern song contest. On 24 October, the professional level men’s classical song contest and the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ classical song contest will be held at the same venue.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects progress in building overpass linking Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon). — YANGON COMMAND