Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of Turkmenistan

**Yangon,** 27 Oct — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency General Saparmyrat Niyazov, President of the Republic of Turkmenistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Turkmenistan, which falls on 27 October 2004.—**MNA**

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sends felicitations to Turkmenistan

**Yangon,** 27 Oct — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency General Saparmyrat A Niyazov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkmenistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Turkmenistan, which falls on 27 October 2004.—**MNA**

Tianchong-Myitkyina road project reflects Sino-Myanmar friendly relations, unity between Government and national race groups

**Yangon,** 26 Oct — A ceremony was held on 19 October to start the building of a tar road reaching Wishaung village in Waingmaw Township from China-Myanmar border post No 4 of the Tianchong-Myitkyina Road Project. Held at the project site in Kanpaiktee region in the township, the ceremony was attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, senior military officers, local authorities, officials of Public Works, Attorney-General’s Office, and of other departments, leader of Kachin State Special Region 1 U Zakhon Ting Ring and party, leader of Kachin State Special Region 2 U Zaung Khaya and party, Vice-Chairman of Yunnan Province People’s Congress Chairman of Yunnan Province Workers Association of the People’s Republic of China Mr Jiang Bachisia and officials, Mr Hunyi of Baosan Overseas Friendship Association and officials, Chairman of Tianchong District Overseas Friendship Association Wan Saichun, Commissioner of Tianchong District of the

Mines Minister previews display for 2004 Myanma Gems Emporium

**Yangon,** 26 Oct—Patron of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint accompanied by Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Secretary Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo and the central committee members previewed the display of the 2004 Myanma Gems Emporium at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at 3 pm to day. The minister inspected gem and jade shops and mosaic shops on the ground floor, uncut jade in the compound of the gem mart, gem and jade lots and pearl lots on the upper floor where he was conducted round by the Central Committee members. Afterwards, the second meeting of the 2004 Mid-Year Gem Emporium Central Committee took place at the Gem Mart at 3.30 pm with an address by Patron of the Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. Members of the Central Committee and the sub-committees who are officials of gem, jade and pearl management, security and information sub-committees presented arrangements for successful holding of the gem emporium at the meeting.

Next, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Patron of the Central Committee Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. — **MNA**

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

**Wednesday, 27 October, 2004**

In the best interests of the State and the people

The State Peace and Development Council has laid down the national policies—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty with a view to serving the public interest.

In so doing, it has taken action whenever there arose a situation adversely affecting the national interests above all, effective and punitive action was taken whenever there occurred violation of laws such as mistreating and bullying the people. It is the policy of the Tatmadaw constantly adopted in taking action in accord with the concept that no one is above the law and everybody is equal before the law.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win clarified changes taken place in the State at Zeyathiri Beikman on Sunday the other day.

In his clarification, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that constant efforts are to be made for the emergence of a government capable of serving the interests of the State and the people widely, effectively and correctly and for the dynamic government machinery which does not oppress the people through violating codes of conduct, misbehaviour and bribery and corruption. Only when the administrative machinery of the State is dynamic can the people earn their living with peace of mind and security and will the national economy be stronger in all aspects.

The government does not protect the interest of an individual person but it serves the interest of the public according to the policies, rules and regulations without any discrimination.

The State will develop more than ever before if governmental organizations work hard seriously and honestly and if the people do their bit dutifully. A government in its drive for national development is to make relentless efforts for the emergence of a government machinery capable of serving the interests of the State and the people widely, effectively and correctly.

Therefore, all service personnel are urged to strive for the emergence of a government machinery capable of better serving the interests of the State and the people.

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**Gold medallist Aung Khaing Win arrives back**

**Yangon, 26 October**—Bodybuilder Aung Khaing Win (YCDC) who won a gold medal in the 18th Asia Bodybuilding Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 21 to 26 October arrived back here this morning.

President of Myanmar Bodybuilding Federation Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee Col Myint Aung, Vice President U Hla Myint Swe and officials welcomed the gold medallist at Yangon International Airport. — MNA
Blast hits Iraq oil pipeline

Baghdad, 25 Oct—An explosion has ripped through a section of a pipeline near the Baiji refinery in northern Iraq, witnesses said. The cause of the explosion on Monday was not clear. It was not immediately known whether the pipeline was the main oil export pipeline running to Turkey.

Blast hits Iraq oil pipeline

Baghdad, 25 Oct—Another explosion has hit an oil pipeline feeding the northern pipeline, depending on the region’s oil export flows to Turkey’s Ceyhan port were running at 300,000 bpd. Iraq could export up to 600,000 bpd through the northern pipeline, depending on its condition and the level of storage tanks at Ceyhan.

Israel, Jordan to build joint academic centre at border areas

Jerusalem, 26 Oct—Some 20 Israeli and Jordanian officials met on Sunday in Israel’s Tel Aviv to discuss the construction of a joint academic centre on the Palestinian territory. The two sides would discuss many aspects of the project, including security issues and legal and practical ramifications ahead of the construction of the Bridging the Rift (BTR) academic centre, said the report.

Vietnam exports up in first ten months

Hanoi, 26 Oct—Vietnam is estimated to achieve export turnovers of 21.3 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 28.1 per cent. The country’s export revenues are estimated to exceed more than 2.2 billion dollars in October, up 10 million dollars over the previous month, according to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

India’s trade with Asian countries growing impressively

New Delhi, 26 Oct—Fuelled by exports to China and greater liberalization of trade with ASEAN partners, India’s trade with Asian countries is set to leapfrog in the coming years, IMF has said.

“Much of India’s recent export growth has been fuelled by trade with Asia, in particular China, where India has managed to more than double its market share,” David Burton, IMF Director (Asia Pacific Department) said.

He said Asian countries have also been major beneficiaries of growing trade with India whose imports have grown by close to 25 per cent over the last few years.

“Greater trade liberalization and regional integration are also key to realizing India’s potential and benefiting from greater integration into the regional economy,” Burton said.

Australian, Estonian soldiers targeted as violence kills 12 in Iraq

Baghdad, 25 Oct—A wave of explosions and clashes across Iraq left at least 12 people dead, including an Estonian soldier, while Australian troops came under fire in Baghdad.

The UN’s nuclear watchdog, meanwhile, warned that nearly 400 tonnes of explosives had vanished from an un-guarded base in Iraq.

The latest violence came as Iraq officials said the perpetrators of the weekend slaughter of 49 newly-trained soldiers in eastern Iraq could have been tipped off from within the ranks. Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has pledged to restore order, using force if necessary, with the help of the US-led military ahead of elections promised by January.

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Bombings across Iraq kill at least eight, including American soldier and Estonian soldier

Baghdad, 25 Oct—Bombings struck four coalition and Iraqi military convoys and a provincial government office Monday, killing at least eight people, including an American soldier and an Estonian trooper in the Baghdad area.

Coming a day after the bodies of nearly 50 Iraqi military recruits were found massacred, the bombings occurred as a UN agency confirmed that several hundred tons of explosives were missing from a former Iraqi military depot in an insurgent hotspot south of Baghdad. The revelation raised concerns the explosives fell into the hands of guerrillas who have staged a spate of bloody car bombings, although there was no evidence to link the missing explosives directly to the attacks.

On Monday, a roadside bomb in western Baghdad killed one US soldier and wounded five, the US military said.

An Estonian soldier died when a roadside bomb exploded at a market just outside Baghdad as his patrol went by, the Estonian military said. Five other Estonian soldiers were wounded.

A car bomb also targeted an Australian military convoy 350 yards from their country’s embassy in Baghdad, killing three Iraqi civilians and wounding nine people, including three Australian soldiers who suffered minor injuries, Iraqi and coalition officials said.

China’s existing laws governing animal experiments only specify what kind of explosives were missing from a former Iraqi military depot in an insurgent hotspot south of Baghdad. The revelation raised concerns the explosives fell into the hands of guerrillas who have staged a spate of bloody car bombings, although there was no evidence to link the missing explosives directly to the attacks.

Individuals or organizations that use animals in experiments should protect them, says Article Seven of the draft on the management of animals to be used in experiments. The new law.

The principle of animal welfare is to ensure comfortable conditions for animals in experiments. If experimental animals live in filthy environments, they may feel uneasy and excrete hormones which will influence the experiment results,” Liang said. “So to protect animals is actually, in the long run, to protect human beings.”

China’s existing laws governing animal experiments only specify what kind of animals can be used; they do not cover the living conditions of these animals, said Li. If the regulation is approved as scheduled this December, it will be the country’s first local law concerning animal welfare, he added.

Li said Beijing currently has about 180 organizations officially permitted to use experimental animals.

Kerry, Clinton call for new management in Iraq

Philadelphia, 26 Oct — Democrat challenger John Kerry and former president Bill Clinton stood shoulder to shoulder on Monday to call for new management in Iraq and a White House that fights for the middle class.

The American death raised the number of US military fatalities in Iraq to 1102 since the March 2003 invasion, according to Pentagon figures. A car bomb also exploded at the regional government building in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul yesterday and killed at least one person, police and witnesses said. The bomb blew up in the car park of the Nineveh governorate headquarters.

A second car bomb targeted the commander of the Iraqi Facilities Protection Service, who told Reuters he escaped unharmed. Brigadier Mu’atza Taka said three of his guards were wounded and two vehicles damaged in the blast.

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Wave of regulation burdening Britain’s finance industry

London, 26 Oct — A wave of regulation is burdening Britain’s financial services industry and threatening its ability to compete internationally, the British biggest business group said in a report on Monday.

In the next two years, more than 20 European Union measures will be imposed on companies, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said in the report. The CBI called for a moratorium on new rules, to let firms concentrate on their businesses. “Companies are being battered by the impact of relentless new legislation,” CBI Deputy Director John Critland said in a statement. “It’s forcing a dramatic and wasteful diversion of effort away from the daily battle to keep Britain ahead of its competitors.”

Britain’s finance industry employs more than one million people and contributes 5.3 per cent to gross domestic product, the CBI said.

The EU measures include directives on occupational pension funds, consumer credit and marketing. They are part of a plan to create a single European market for financial services. —MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed as car bombs blow up in Iraq

Baghdad, 26 Oct—One US soldier was killed and five others wounded when a roadside bomb exploded in the path of a convoy in western Baghdad yesterday, the US military said.

A large truck was also damaged in the blast, it said in a statement, adding that the injured soldiers were evacuated for treatment.

The blast was one of at least five roadside bombs targeting US military convoys in Baghdad and the restive city of Ramadi, to the west of the capital, although there were no casualties caused by the other attacks.

The American death raised the number of US military fatalities in Iraq to 1102 since the March 2003 invasion, according to Pentagon figures. A car bomb also exploded at the regional government building in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul yesterday and killed at least one person, police and witnesses said. The bomb blew up in the car park of the Nineveh governorate headquarters.

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British opposition launches broadside at Blair over Iraq

LONDON, 25 Oct—Tony Blair’s main political rivals launched a broadside at the British Prime Minister over Iraq on Sunday as British troops readied to provide cover for US forces in a more dangerous area of the country.

Four members of the opposition Conservative Party, all former ministers, threw a string of allegations at Blair, from lying over the justification for war to redeploying British troops to influence the US election.

The high-profile attacks twisted the knife into Blair over Iraq—an issue analysts say is his Labour Party’s most vulnerable link in its bid to win a third term at an election expected in May or June.

“I think he has lied about the situation in the Middle East. We were told that there was a threat. We were told there were weapons of mass destruction. There were no weapons of mass destruction; there was no threat,” former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine told ITV1’s Jonathan Dimbleby programme.

But analysts say Blair’s decision to provide troop cover in a more volatile area of Iraq to allow US forces to tackle guerrillas is politically fraught given a surge in violence.

Police in Iraq said on Sunday rebels had killed 49 unarmed Iraqi soldiers and a US diplomat died in a mortar strike.

Hurd and Clarke said the decision to redeploy British troops was highly political, not just operational, while Heseltine linked it to US President George W. Bush’s re-election bid. “It’s the timing, it’s the timing and the implausibility of it. The fact is that we have an American election in a couple of weeks time, the issue of Iraq is at the centre,” he said.

Blair has described any link with the election as ludicrous.

Sweden eyes Thai agricultural goods in exchange for aircraft

BANGKOK, 26 Oct—Sweden has expressed interest in engaging in a counter trade agreement with Thailand whereby Thai agricultural goods would be exchanged for Swedish aircraft, the Thai senior official disclosed.

Director-General of the Department of Foreign Trade, Rachane Potjanasontum, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying on Monday that the deal had been discussed during recent talks between the Swedish Ambassador to Thailand and Commerce Minister Watana Muangsook.

Under the deal, Thailand would acquire Swedish aircraft, which would replace old planes whose service life has expired. In exchange, Sweden would get products such as chicken, sweetcorn and cassava. Rachane revealed that several countries had voiced an interest in engaging in counter trade with Thailand.

Developed nations urged for special treatment for LDC products

DHAKA, 26 Oct — Bangladesh, a spokesman of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), wants commitments from developed countries on special and differential treatment of products from LDCs.

A source in the Commerce Ministry Monday said the demands of Bangladeshi government at a meeting of the advisory committee of the ministry on World Trade Organization (WTO) on Sunday.

The meeting discussed several key WTO decisions, which include continuation of trade facilitation negotiation, one by one.

A hospital worker cleans up blood after fresh wounded were brought on 24 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

China’s trade volume to reach $1.1 trillion in 2004

HANGZHOU, 26 Oct — China’s total trade volume will reach $1.1 trillion US dollars in 2004 — up 30 per cent over 2003 — with a trade surplus of about $10 billion US dollars, said Assistant Minister of Commerce Yi Xiaozhun.

According to its agreement with the World Trade Organization, China’s passive quota of textiles will be abolished on January 1, 2005. Strong competition from China’s textile industry has aroused concern from both developing and developed nations.

The United States and the European Union have repeatedly asked China to slow down its soaring textile industry.

Extensive growth is another major hindrance to the sound growth of China’s foreign trade, Yi acknowledged, as is the lack of its own brands and intellectual property, especially the intellectual property core technology.

Intellectual property shortage has already caused lower prices in some Chinese products. Figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics show that China’s export volume of colour TVs rose 36.1 per cent year to year in January - September period, while the price dropped 5.1 per cent.

Export prices for ships, carpets, shoes and other goods also saw declines to varying degrees along with increased export volume. Moreover, the soaring prices of energy and raw materials plus the tight-supply of coal, electricity and oil, will also weaken China’s competitive advantages in exports, Yi said.

African nations urged to overcome trade barriers

KAMPALA, 25 Oct—A Ugandan official has called on African countries to spearhead policies that can assist in overcoming trade barriers such as transport costs, tariffs and non-tariff barriers that at hindering intra-regional trade, state-run Radio Uganda reported on Sunday.

Uganda’s senior presidential advisor on agriculture and veterinary services JJ Otieno was quoted as saying that “African countries were facing difficulties in accessing global market and therefore a need for us to develop a strong inter-trade network among African countries.” — MNA/Xinhua
Shanghai posts double-digit GDP growth for Jan-Sept period

Shanghai, 25 Oct — Shanghai, one of China's economic engines, reported a good economic performance in the first three quarters of this year.

Shanghai's gross domestic product, or GDP, amounted to 530.5 billion yuan (63.9 billion US dollars) for the nine-month period, up 14.2 per cent year-on-year. The growth rate was 2.4 percentage points higher than the year-earlier level, said Cai Xuchu, a municipal statistical bureau spokesman at a Press conference.

From January to September, major industrial enterprises in Shanghai realized 2.513 billion yuan (303.3 billion US dollars) in value-added output, up 23.2 per cent from the same period of last year, Cai said.

They garnered 998.5 billion yuan in sales income for the period, up 30.3 per cent over the same 2003 period. The total included 77.2 billion yuan (9.3 billion US dollars) in profits, up 33.5 per cent, Cai added.

In the three-quarter period, fixed-assets investment stood at 231.25 billion yuan (27.9 billion US dollars), up 25.9 per cent year-on-year. The growth rate was 11.4 percentage points lower than an over-heated level for the first quarter this year. Most of the money went to the manufacturing, property development and construction sectors.

The city's retail sales increased by 11.4 per cent year-on-year to 182.4 billion yuan (21.97 billion US dollars), said Cai.

Foreign direct investment, or FDI, grew steadily in the city. A total of 9.2 billion US dollars entered the city in contracted foreign capital between January and September, up 3.1 per cent year-on-year. About 5.4 billion US dollars was actually used, up 19 per cent. Meanwhile, foreign trade in the city soared 49.9 per cent from the year-earlier level to 53.2 billion US dollars, according to Cai Xuchu.

The city also recorded 86.1 billion yuan (10.37 billion US dollars) in fiscal revenues for the nine-month period, up 26.5 per cent, Cai added.

Chinese scientists work more hours than counterparts worldwide

BEIJING, 25 Oct — Chinese scientists work more hours than their counterparts worldwide and have less time for recreational activities, according to a survey on scientists’ life status.

The survey conducted by the China Academy of Sciences and National Natural Science Foundation of China.

The survey has found that scientists worldwide work an average of 8 hours a day during weekdays and 5.5 hours at weekend.

Chinese scientists work 9.68 hours per weekday and 5.5 hours at weekend.

Chinese scientists work an average of 9 hours a day during weekdays and 7.73 hours at weekend.

Meanwhile, Chinese scientists participate in the amount of sports and recreational activities. On average, Chinese scientists go to the cinema, theatre or other entertain-

ment venues less frequently than once every five weeks.

Conducted by Yang Weijing, deputy director of the Institute of Zoology with the academy, the survey was sent by e-mail to 321 scientists in different fields around the world and received 196 respondents.

Among them, 30.6 per cent are from Asia, 18.4 per cent from North America, 32.7 per cent from Europe, 9.1 per cent from Australia.

“I did not expect so many respondents because surveys conducted in the form of e-mail usually get a low respondent rate. Not to mention it is a cross-border survey and the target audience are busy scientists,” said Yang.

Will life become better? More than half of the scientists said “yes.” Chinese scientists were on top of the list of the confidence in the future, where 20 out of 28 believe that life will be better.

Eight scientists claimed that they suffer from insomnia, which accounts for 4.1 per cent, and nearly half of the respondents said they occasionally suffer from the disease.

NASCAR learned of the crash site, which was in rough terrain, but could not begin their examination until Monday.

Hendrick owns the teams of Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers, all of whom competed in Sunday’s Subway Series at Martinsville Speedway.

NASCAR learned of the plane’s disappearance during the race but withheld the information from the Hendrick drivers until afterward. NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said adding that NASCAR had spoken with Rick Hendrick.

“We’re just saying extra prayers right now,” said Hunter. — MNA/AP

China’s hi-tech products exports soar for 30 months

BEIJING, 25 Oct — Exports of China’s hi-tech products have been soaring since April 2003, with a year-to-year growth rate exceeding 40 per cent for 30 consecutive months through September, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

Export volume of hi-tech products reached 83.86 billion US dollars in the January-September period, up 54.3 per cent year on year and 19 percentage points higher than the average export volume. The monthly export volume in September was 31.41 billion US dollars, surpassing 30 billion US dollars for the first time.

The MOC figures showed that export volume of hi-tech products accounted for 27.1 per cent of China’s total export volume in the first three quarters, growing 2 percentage points over the end of 2003.

Prices for major hi-tech products saw a substantial increase, with prices for auto-digital processing equipment and IDE (integrated device electronics) both rising 22 per cent.

About 41 per cent of the exported hi-tech products were manufactured in the Yangtze River delta regions, including Shanghai and Suzhou and Zhejiang Provinces. The United States, Hong Kong and the European Union are the top three target markets of China’s hi-tech products.

Six children killed, one injured in Ohio apartment fire

TOLEDO (Ohio), 25 Oct — Fire raged through a Toledo apartment building, killing six children and critically injuring another, authorities said.

The six children died at area hospitals, and another child was in critical condition late Sunday, said Fire Chief Michael Bell. The victims were six girls and one boy, ages 6 months to 7 years old.

Joe Jaramillo, 36, said he ran into the two-story apartment and tried to get upstairs where the children were trapped, as the mother of some of the children stood outside screaming that her babies were inside.

“They tried to crawl under the smoke,” said Jaramillo, who had been visiting his daughter in the area. “They were yelling ‘Help us,’ but I couldn’t do anything. I had to come back for air.” — MNA/AP
Health and occupational safety course held

YANGON, 26 Oct — Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour and the Dalla Shipyard of Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport jointly conducted a health and occupational safety course at the shipyard here on 22 October.

Officials of FLLILD lectured on the topic. A total of 168 engineers, supervisors, technicians and workers attended the course. The course concluded after a question-and-answer session between the instructors and the participants. — MNA

Staff pay respects to elders

YANGON, 26 Oct — The Accounts Office of the Ministry of Defence held its 35th ceremony to pay respects to the elders at the office here this morning.

Patrons of the Buddhist association of the office, Director-General U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Director-General U Kyi, officials, aged persons, staff and families were present.

Staff of the office paid respects to elders and presented gifts. — MNA

Myanmar Furniture Fair -2004 ends

YANGON, 26 Oct — Myanmar Furniture Fair -2004 continued today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here.

Altogether 41 finished-wood products companies participated in the fair. They showcased wood and finished-wood products and furniture. There are a total of 154 booths in the fair.

The Ministry of Forestry organized the fair which ended today.

Local and foreign entrepreneurs, governmental employees and foreign diplomats visited the fair today. — MNA

More foreign delegations arrive

YANGON, 26 Oct — To attend the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking Senior Officials Meeting, a four-member delegation led by Mr Khamphao Homphangha of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was present.

A five-member delegation led by Mr Bui Dinh Dinhd of Vietnam and a team of donors led by Mr Robert England, Resident Coordinator of UNDP in Bangkok, arrived here by air this evening.

The officers explained the purpose of holding the meeting and measures being taken by the governments of Great Mekong Sub-region nations in cooperation with UNIAP.

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Press conference on COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting held

YANGON, 26 Oct — A press conference on Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking Senior Officials Meeting to be hosted by Myanmar in Yangon from 27 to 29 October at Sedona Hotel, was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Police Brig-Gen Win Myaing of Myanmar Police Force, Director-General U Nyan Lin of the Consular, International Law and Treaties and Research Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Secretary Prof Daw Khin Aye Win of Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, Deputy Regional Manager Dr Su Su Tha Tun of UN Inter Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Great Mekong Sub-region, Regional Information and Communication Officer Melissa Stewart, U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Patron U Hla Hwe of Myanmar Correspondents Club, Chairman U Sao Kai Hpa and correspondents, Chief Editor U Tin Hlaing of Myanmar News Agency (Internal) and reporters and guests.

The officers expressed the purpose of holding the meeting and measures being taken by the governments of Great Mekong Sub-region nations in cooperation with UNIAP.

The officials answered queries raised by journalists at home and abroad and the press conference ended.

ASEAN Tourism Forum 2005 to be held in Langkawi

YANGON, 26 Oct — A clarification on participation of Myanmar hoteliers and tour operators in the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2005 which will be held in Langkawi Island, Malaysia from 21 to 29 January 2005 was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pa-goda Road this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyi, Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, departmental officials, Chairman of Myanmar Travels Association and tour operators.

General Manager of the Traders' Hotel Mr Ramond Bragg reported on his trip to Langkawi Island.

The deputy minister and the director-general took part in the discussions on the ASEAN Tourism Forum. Arrangements for tour programmes in ASEAN region and European market will be made at the forum. To promote Myanmar as a tourist destination, “Myanmar Night” programme will also be included. — MNA

MTF hosts Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament dinner

YANGON, 26 Oct — Myanmar Tennis Federation held a dinner to mark the opening of the first Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament Grade-5 at Traders Hotel here this evening.

Present at the dinner were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Soe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Patron of MTF Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, departmental heads, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information Col Soe Win, Director (News) U Win Tin, President of MTF U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd), patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, presidents of sports federations, officials of International Tennis Federation, diplomats of foreign missions in Myanmar, specially invited guests, entrepreneurs, journalists, officials and managers, coaches and athletes of the participating teams in the under-18 tourney Australia, Chinese Taipei, England, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States, Canada, and the host Myanmar.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made an address. The MTF patron presented certificates of honour to entrepreneurs who have provided assistance for the tournament.

The MTF president presented a gift to tournament referee Mr Punnet Gupta.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers a speech at the dinner to make opening of the Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers a speech at the dinner to make opening of the Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament. — MNA

The respect-paying ceremony of the accounts office of the Ministry of Defence in progress. — MNA
Tianchong-Myitkyina road project...

from page 1

PRC Mr Zhang Weijin and officials, representative of Tianchong-Myitkyina Road Construction Committee Mr Jiao Shihlon and members, invited guests and local people.

The ceremony started with U Zakhon Ting Ring of Kachin State Special Region 1 extending greetings, expressing his pleasure for the beginning of the road construction project.

In his speech, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe said that in its drive to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, with the specific objectives to steer its course, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has been striving to develop the whole Union including border areas. It has laid down and is implementing the 24-development zone project covering the Myitkyina region in Kachin state as one of the zones. The road project reflects both the Sino-Myanmar friendly relations and unity between Government and the national races groups.

When completed, the road will help develop border trade between Myanmar and China as well as create benefits to the national races of the border areas. Thanks to the efforts of Kachin State Special Region 2, the Liza-Myitkyina road has been upgraded. Likewise, Kachin State Special Region 1 is going to contribute to the development of Tianchong-Waingmaw-Myitkyina road. Thus, the main and sub-contractors are required specially to build the road meeting the set standard.

Mr Jiang Bachisia, Mr Hunyi and Mr Wan Saichun also made speeches.

Chief Engineer of Public Works U Maung Maung explained the purpose of the project, followed by the speeches of U Zaung Khaya and Mr Jiao Shihlon, honouring the project.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe exchanged gifts with Mr Jiang Bachisia and Mr Zhang Weijin and party of the PRC.

Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Chairman of Myitkyina District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Myo Swe, U Zakhon Ting Ring and U Zaung Khaya, Chinese officials Mr Jiang Bachisia, Mr Hunyi, Deputy Mayor of Baosan Mr Yan Qinjan and Mr Zhang Weijin formally launched the project.

Cooperative Products Exhibition opens

YANGON, 26 Oct — Cooperative Products Exhibition, organized by Ministry of Cooperatives, was opened this morning at the Cooperative Trade Centre (SayaSanPlaza) in Bahan Township and Minister for Cooperatives ColZaw Min unveiled the billboard of the exhibition.

It was also attended by ministers, deputy ministers, commercial attaches of embassies in Yangon, chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, officials of the cooperative societies, social organizations and private economic enterprises and guests.

Director-General of the Cooperative Department U Soe Win and Chairman of the Committee for construction of Cooperative Trade Centre (SayaSanPlaza) Dr Khin Shwe formally opened the exhibition.

Altogether 211 booths of cooperative societies from states and divisions, private companies and economic enterprises are opened there. At the exhibition, skill demonstrations of the hand-crafted materials including tapesteries, earthen pots and wooden sculpture and traditional weaving of Paungung nationals in Shan State will be given. The exhibition last till 1 November and will be kept open from 9 am to 9 pm daily. With a view to developing the market for goods, securing the market for regional products from states and divisions and development of the production enterprises of states and divisions, the exhibition is organized for the second time this year.

MINA

29 persons exchanged arms for peace in August, September

YANGON, 26 Oct — The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, is striving with might and main for national reconciliation and making concerted efforts for equitable development of all the regions of the country.

Therefore, armed groups realizing correct endeavours and genuine goodwill of the Government and realizing their destructive acts exchanged arms for peace in the embrace of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people individually or in groups in August and September.

Medic Maung Hla of KNPP armed group with a Winchester and five rounds of ammunition and Company Commander Kya Naw, Deputy Company Commander Ya Khu, Pts Tar Wi, Paw Ne, Law Na, Pe To, Khu Kyu and Kya Nu of LDF armed group with two pistols, one carbine, one Winchester, one M-22 rifle, one rifle, four magazines and 43 rounds of ammunition exchanged arms for peace in Eastern Command area; Second-Lt Pho Laut, wife Naw Bu Ke, son Daw Kwe Mu, son Saw Le Hnian, daughter Naw Thuy Thay and Naw Bae Kale Mu of No 4 brigade of KNU armed group with one M-16 Rifle, nine rounds of ammunition; Corporal Aung Soe with two grenades, Ar Ye, a local, in No 11 Regiment with one grenade in Coastal Region Command area; Pvt Hto Hto, wife Ma Kyi Hto, son Kha Kyu and Pvt Mar Lu of SSRA armed group in North-West Command area; Joint Secretary of Thandaw Township Administration Group Phado Saw To To and wife Naw Ki Be of KNU armed group in Southern Command area; member of the central committee of CNA armed group Salai Hone Maung (a) Shwe Nge, Aye Maung No 1 brigade of KNU armed group with one grenade in South Command area; and officials in respective camps warmly welcomed the 29 persons who exchanged arms for peace and fulfilled their needs. And, more persons in armed groups are willing to exchange arms for peace.
Sanitation, activities to control DHF carried out in Tamway

YANGON, 26 Oct — Activities to control dengue haemorrhagic fever were carried out in Kyaukmyaunggyi (Sany) Ward in Tamway Township this morning in cooperation with Yangon Division Health Department and health department of Yangon City Development Committee.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the works.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials of Health Department, Vice-Chairman of YCDC Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and members and departmental officials.

The commander, the mayor and officials arrived at the office of Tamway Township Development Affairs Department.

Head of Health Department of YCDC Dr Tin Maung Win, Head of Tamway Township Health Department Dr Khin Than Mya and Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint reported on outbreaks of DHF in the townships, treatment, prevention, precaution measures in 20 wards and educative talks in schools.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo gave a supplementary report.

The commander and party inspected sanitation works and spraying insecticides.

They also met local people. — MNA

Traditional Cultural…

(from page 16)

A total of eight contestants participated in the basic education level song composing contest.

Basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ and girls’ and professional level guitar playing contests will be held tomorrow.

The professional level women’s orchestra contest continued at Padonna Theatre and four orchestra troupes participated in the contest.

U Sein Satin and members of the panel of judges supervised the contest.

In the afternoon, the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ orchestra contest continued and five orchestra troupes took part in it. Afterwards, the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ orchestra contest was held and four orchestra troupes participated in it.

Leader of the central Judgement committee U Sein Hla Myaing and party supervised the orchestra contests.

Basic education level (aged 10-15) and (aged 4-10) boys’ individual orchestra contests will be held tomorrow at the same venue.

At the National Theatre, six Ozi troupes from states and divisions competed in the professional level Ozi contest and five troupes from states and divisions in the basic education level (aged 15-20) Ozi contest.

The contest was supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party.

The amateur level Ozi contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) Ozi contest will continue at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA

Minister U Tin Winn receives Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 26 Oct — Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister for Labour U Tin Winn received the Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odana to Myanmar at his office this evening.

Also present at the call were Director General of Labour Department U Soe Nyunt and officials. — MNA

Computer exams 7 and 14 Nov

YANGON, 26 Oct — Myanmar Computer Professionals Association (MCPA) will hold MCPA professional certification examination in Yangon and Mandalay on 14 November and MCPA professional certification (Fundamental) examination in both cities on 7 the same month.

The examinations will be held in accord with the curricula of Japan-Myanmar Cross Certification IT Engineer Exam. Latest date for application submission is 5 November. For more information contact MICT Park in Yangon or dial 652276. — MNA
Philippines takes seriously threat of major earthquakes

MANILA, 26 Oct — City planners in Manila are taking seriously the threat of a major earthquake after a two-year study by Japanese and Filipino seismologists while last Saturday’s earthquake in Japan left 24 people dead. The research has caused a review of the capital’s rescue units, and is calling for changes to the country’s building code and land use laws, the Philippine Star daily on-line news Monday quoted Ramon Santiago, director for special operations and public safety of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, as saying. It would take just seconds to kill or wound 147,000 people, swallow up entire neighbourhoods by the ground, and mop up what is left of the Philippine capital in hundreds of fires.

“These are worst-case scenarios, and these are planning figures. These may not necessarily happen,” Santiago said. But the figures are worrying nevertheless. A 7.2-magnitude quake with the epicenter within city limits could kill up to 33,000 and destroy 175,000 of its 1.3 million-plus buildings, according to the Metropolitan Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study, completed in March. As some 500 simultaneous fires erupt from the wreckage, doctors would triage the 114,000 injured outside Manila hospitals with a combined capacity of just 10,000 beds. Three million residents would flee the city. — MNA/Xinhua

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YANGON, 26 Oct — A coordination meeting on the 6th Asian Wushu Championship was held in the National Indoor Stadium-1 this afternoon. The championship will be held in Yangon from 20 to 28 November.

Present were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, members, president of Wushu Federation and officials. President of the federation U Khin Maung Lay reported on arrangements made in detail. A general round of discussions then followed.

The minister and party inspected construction of the sports hall in South Okkalapa Township, progress of work, construction of the gate for the Padetha stadium and recreation garden.

They went to Yangon West District Stadium and inspected construction of entrance road, car park and finishing touches.

The minister then gave instructions. — MNA

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Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.
Chinese Vice-Premier meets Macao financial delegation

BEIJING, 26 Oct — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju met here Monday with a Macao financial delegation headed by Anselmo Teng, president of the Monetary Authority of Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Huang said there has been strong economic and financial cooperation between Chinese Mainland and Macao. To strengthen such a cooperation is significant in maintaining the long-term stability and prosperity of Macao.

HK’s mushrooms featured on stamps

HONG KONG, 26 Oct — Hong Kong’s mushrooms will feature on a set of four stamps to be issued by Hong Kong Post on November 23, said Postmaster-General Allan Chiang here Monday.

The new Mint Stamps include the Straw Mushroom at 1.40 HK dollars (0.18 US dollar), the Red-orange Mushroom at 2.40 HK dollars (0.18 US dollar), the Violet Marasmius at three HK dollars (0.38 US dollar) and the Lingzhi at five HK dollars (0.64 US dollar).

A convenient Souvenir Sheet comprises a complete set of the four stamps at 11.80 HK dollars (1.5 US dollars). There is also a Stamp Sheetlet at five HK dollars (0.64 US dollar) featuring the Hexagon Fungus together with selected elements from the other four stamp images.

With the release of these new stamps, we ensure that this tradition of quality is maintained and also bring alive for the people of Hong Kong the beauty of the place in which we live,” said Allan Chiang.

The stamps are designed by local artist Ken Li and printed by Joh Enschede BV in the Netherlands. — MNA/Xinhua

Macao’s Pawnshop awarded UNESCO’s Honourable Mention prize

MACAO, 26 Oct — The conservation of the Tak Seng On Pawnshop in Macao was awarded an Honourable Mention in the 2004 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards at a ceremony held at the site here on Monday.

With the prize, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized the unique restoration of a Tak Seng On Pawnshop, which was among 16 other sites awarded this year to represent the memory of the last millennium, said Richard Engelhardt, UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific.

Engelhardt said that this year’s competition for the award was intense. The pawnshop was selected from a shortlist of some 40 entries by the selection committee to set an example for extending the understanding of heritage beyond the stereotype concepts of churches and temples.

He commented that with the award, UNESCO emphasized the coordinated effort of the private sector and the government in restoring and conserving buildings of heritage value. Besides the value of the architecture, the pawnshop represents a living heritage.

The century-old pawnshop, which is a private asset revamped by the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) at a cost of 175,000 US dollars, opened to public as a pawnshop museum and a cultural club in March last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Govt holds meeting on anthrax

JAKARTA, 26 Oct — Senior officials of the Indonesia’s Agriculture Ministry held an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the possible anthrax outbreak that is suspected to have killed 11 people in West Java.

The meeting was held following report that anthrax has caused deaths at Citaringgul Village in West Java after people ate goat meat probably infected by the disease, reported Detikcom online news service.

The meeting is expected to result in a recommendation to Agriculture Minister Anton Apriantono for the disease, reported Detikcom online news service.

Some residents from the same area are currently being treated at the Cibinong Hospital for possible anthrax. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai land over the next two years, with the development of 300,000 rai (1201 hectares) of new rubber plantations in the northern region and 700,000 rai (2800 hectares) in the northeast.

The meeting is expected to result in a recommendation to Agriculture Minister Anton Apriantono for the disease, reported Detikcom online news service.

A horse takes a swim. A South African preacher baptised a thoroughbred racehorse called “Running Reverend” in front of his congregation in a controversial bid to raise church funds. — Internet

Thailand to expand rubber cultivation by 0.4m hectares

BANGKOK, 26 Oct — The Department of Agriculture of Thailand unveiled plans to expand rubber cultivation by one million rai (0.4 million hectares) in north and northern regions of the country, ending the southern region’s stronghold on the nation’s rubber industry.

The plans form part of a government drive to increase rubber cultivation land over the next two years, with the development of 300,000 rai (1201 hectares) of new rubber plantations in the northern region and 700,000 rai (2800 hectares) in the northeast.

Chakan Saenggraksawong, director-general of the Department of Agriculture, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying on Monday that the department had conducted satellite surveys of each province to determine land suitable for rubber cultivation.

This had shown that 25.16 million rai (100,640 hectares) of land in the northeast was suitable, and 7.55 million rai (30,200 hectares) in the north. It is hoped that the promotion of rubber farming will boost agricultural incomes in rural areas. — MNA/Xinhua

Hainan Airlines and China Duty Free Group set up joint venture

BEIJING, 26 Oct — Hainan Airlines and China Duty Free Group have signed an agreement to set up a joint venture company dealing in duty-free goods, sources with the Hainan Airlines said here Monday.

The new company will provide passengers on Hainan Airlines with duty-free goods, such as souvenirs, tobacco, wine, textiles, leather goods, perfume and jewellery.

Hainan Airlines has three regular international routes: Sanya to Seoul, Haikou to Bangkok and Beijing to Budapest. It also has irregular flights from Haikou to Singapore and Haikou to Osaka. It plans for more routes to Europe and the United States.

China Duty Free Group is the only licensed company to sell duty free goods nationwide. — MNA/Xinhua

Shaanxi Products one-third of world’s condensed apple juice

XI’AN, 26 Oct — Northwest China’s Shaanxi Province has become the largest condensed apple juice processing base in the world, with output accounting for one-third of the world’s trade. Jia Zhihong, governor of the province, said that in the fruit season of 2003-2004, the output of squeezed apple juice in Shaanxi has reached 276,000 tons.

Shanxi now has 18 processing companies with total production ability of 400,000 tons a year. Of the total, 90 per cent is produced for export. According to Jia, Shaanxi’s apple juice is mainly exported to Europe, North America, Middle East and Japan. The quality of the product has met the internationally acknowledged standard, which is also adopted by companies like Nestle and Heinz. Located at high altitude in an area without pollution, the Loess Plateau in the northern part of the province is regarded as one of the most suitable places for planting apple trees in the world.

With planting area of 400,000 hectares, the gross output of apple in the province in 2004 is expected to reach 5.5 million tons, accounting for 10 per cent of the world’s total. Ma Aiguo, Director of China Green Food Development Centre, said Shaanxi has become the largest green (organic) food production base in China after years of development. Total fruit growing area has reached 700,000 hectares and fruit export volume reaching 400,000 tons in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua
Carter says Bush exploited Sept 11 attacks for political gain

LOndon, 26 Oct — US President George W. Bush has exploited the September 11 attacks for political gain, former president Jimmy Carter said in an interview published on Monday.

Asked in an interview with Britain’s Guardian newspaper why US polls were split over the war in Iraq, the former Democrat president said: “I think the basic reason is that our country suffered, in 9/11, a terrible and shocking attack … and George Bush has been adroit at exploiting that attack and he has elevated himself, in the consciousness of many Americans, to a heroic commander-in-chief, fighting a global threat against America.”

MNA/Reuters

Chinese CPPCC Chairman stresses relations with Portugal

BEIJING, 26 Oct — China and Portugal have witnessed the steady growth of bilateral relations since the forging of their diplomatic ties 25 years ago, said senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin here Monday.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks while meeting with Jaime Gama, chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Portugal.

“Friendly relations between the two countries, based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit safeguard exchange and cooperation in various fields,” Jia said.

Increasing economic and trade cooperation in recent years has greatly advanced the friendly relations between the two countries, he said. Jia expressed the hope that Portugal, as an important EU member, will make more contributions to the relations between China and the European Union.

After China resumed sovereignty over Macao, Macao has become an important channel between China and other Portugal-language countries, Gama said, and Portugal has always supported the efforts within the European Union to expand the relations between the EU and China. — MNA/Xinhua

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 27 October 2004

Drive with care

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SAN YANG VOY NO(29)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAN YANG Voy No (29) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMAR FIVE STAR LINE where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
EASTERN CAR LINER LTD, Japan
Phone: 256924, 256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAGWAY VOY NO(TC-7)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAGWAY Voy No(TC-7) arrives on 27.10.04 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
EASTERN CAR LINER LTD, Japan
Phone: 256924, 256914

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by MYANMA Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1478(MR)(S &amp; T)</td>
<td>Under Ground Signalling Cable (5.5mm x 2C)</td>
<td>2000 Meter</td>
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<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>Under Ground Signalling Cable (5.5mm x 2C)</td>
<td>171000 Meter</td>
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<td>Under Ground Signalling Cable (5.5mm x 1C)</td>
<td>100 Meter</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PVC Insulation Drop Cable (1mm x 1 Pair)</td>
<td>500 m/coil</td>
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Closing Date: - 25-11-2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), MYANMA Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 26.10.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext - 602, 605.612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, MYANMA Railways, Botataung Yangon.

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Dated: 27 October 2004

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 27 October, 2004
Internet users not as safe online as they believe

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct — Internet users at home are not nearly as safe online as they believe, according to a nationwide inspection by researchers. They found most consumers have no firewall protection, outdated antivirus software and dozens of spyware programmes secretly running on their computers.

One beleaguered home user in the government-backed study had more than 1,000 spyware programmes running on his sluggish computer when researchers examined it.

Bill Mines, a personal trainer in South Riding, Virginia, did not fare much better. His family’s 3-year-old Dell computer was found infected with viruses and more than 600 pieces of spyware surreptitiously monitoring his online activities. “I was blown away,” Mines said. “I had a lot of viruses and other things I didn’t know about. I had no idea things like this could happen.”

The Internet always has had its share of risky neighbourhoods and dark alleys. But with increasingly sophisticated threats from hackers, viruses, spam e-mails and spyware, trouble is finding computer users no matter how cautiously they roam online. The technology industry is feeling the pain, too.

Spurred by the high costs of support calls from irritated customers — and fearful that frustrated consumers will stop buying new products — Internet providers, software companies and computer-makers are making efforts to increase awareness of threats and provide customers with new tools to protect themselves. Still, many computer users appear remarkably unprepared for the dangers they face.

The study being released Monday by America Online and the National Cyber Security Alliance found that 77 per cent of 526 adults in 12 states assumed researchers in a telephone poll they were safe from online threats. Nearly as many as 80 per cent of those in the study. The survey participants, a cross-section of Internet users, were selected in 22 cities and towns by an independent market analysis organization, said AOL spokesman Andrew Weinstein. The alliance, a nonprofit group, is backed by the US Homeland Security Department and the Federal Trade Commission, plus leading technology companies, including Microsoft Systems Inc., Cisco Systems Inc, Cisco Systems Inc, eBay Inc and Bell Inc.

The group’s chief, Ken Watson, said consumers suffer from complacency and a lack of expert advice on keeping their computers secure. “Just like you don’t expect to get hit by a car, you don’t believe a computer attack can happen to you,” Watson said.

MNA/AP

Zambia should not wait until 2015 to eradicate poverty

LESAKA, 25 Oct — Zambia should not wait until 2015 to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of eradicating poverty, Vice-President Lupando Mwape has said.

Mwape was quoted by Sunday Post as saying 2015 was too far away for Zambia to eradicate poverty. He said 2015 was too far to reduce by half the number of people affected by chronic hunger in the country.

“‘How can we justify our continued leadership of our country if the elimination of poverty and chronic hunger is not at the very centre of our agenda for this nation,’ he added.

He said the emphasis on agriculture would achieve the goal of eliminating hunger. But Mwape noted that the development of agriculture could only be achieved if there was corresponding infra-structural development in the sector.

Zambia is one of the least developed countries in the world and about half of its population live below the poverty line. The MDGs are contained in the millennium declaration adopted by the United Nations millennium summit in September 2000. They include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. —MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

Human proteome research will lead to more new medicines

BEIJING, 26 Oct — Research of human proteome will greatly increase the number of new medicines in the next two decades, said John Bergeron, president of the Human Proteome Organization (HUPO), here Monday.

Bergeron said the Human Proteome Project, launched by the HUPO in 2001, will discover 5,000 functional proteins in 20 years, providing opportunities to find cures for deadly diseases such as cancer.

Following the Human Genome Project, which finished in the late 1990s, the proteome project is another global bio-scientific collaboration. Proteins are the basic components of human organs.

Scientists hold that if they can decode the secret of human proteins, they will be able to unveil the rules of human life and the pathology of many diseases. The 2,000 medicines so far developed by human beings are based on 500 proteins. Samir Hanash, a professor from the University of Michigan in the United States, said the whole scientific world used to think that the sources of disease would be found if the human gene sequences were mapped out. “But we were wrong,” he said.

He acknowledged said scientists only managed to understand 10 per cent of the total function of human genes and the remaining 90 per cent remained unknown. “What we need to do now is to understand them on the protein level,” said Hanash, the previous HUPO president.

MNA/Xinhua

Mali to supply food to villagers who lost their harvests to locusts

BAMAKO, 25 Oct — Mali’s government said on Saturday it could supply enough food for villagers who watched locusts devour their harvests and that the threat posed by the insects had largely subsided.

Aid workers are beginning to assess the damage caused by the worst desert locust infestation for more than a decade in West and Central Africa. It has affected a vast area stretching from the Atlantic coast to landlocked Chad.

“We can announce the very good news that there has been a real lull (in locust infestation) in most areas,” government spokesman Boumama Thiam told broadcast media. “There won’t be any catastrophe linked to these concerns over food security because we have already taken precautions.”

The government estimates locusts have consumed about 441,000 tons of cereals.

Annual production was forecast at about 3 million tons for the 2004/2005 harvest in the country of roughly 12 million people. Mali, Niger, Senegal and Mauritania and Chad have suffered in this year’s latest locust plague, prompting warnings from aid workers that they will need large amounts of food aid.

Aid workers said on Monday the ravaging locust swarms which have since headed north are likely to return in 2005, raising the prospect of more lost harvests.

MNA/Reuters

Tunnel vision: One of the art decorated exits in the tunnels of Stockholm’s “Sodra Lanken” (Southern Link) that was opened to traffic after seven years of construction to a cost of around 880 million euros. —INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 27 October, 2004 13
Inter hold Milan to 0-0 draw

MILAN, 25 Oct — Inter held champions AC Milan to a 0-0 draw in the Milan derby on Sunday, doing neither side much good in their bid to catch Serie A leaders Juventus.

The result was the first time the derby, in a league fixture, doing neither side much good in their bid to catch Serie A leaders Juventus.

Juventus have a five-point advantage over Milan and early season surprise packages Lecce, while Inter, unbeaten but with five draws from seven games, are eight points behind the leaders.

While there were no goals to entertain capacity crowd of nearly 80,000 at the San Siro, both sides created opportunities and the game produced great entertainment.

In the end, though, the two prolific strikers on show, Inter’s powerful Brazilian Adriano and Milan’s Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko, were mastered by their markers and suffered from a lack of incisive service.

Arsenal’s record run of 49 unbeaten matches ended

MANCHESTER (England), 25 Oct — Manchester United beat Arsenal 2-0 to end the champions’ record run of 49 unbeaten Premier League matches and re-ignite their own title challenge.

A controversial Ruud van Nistelrooy penalty and a late Wayne Rooney goal secured a priceless victory for United who became the first team since Leeds United on May 4, 2003 to beat the Gunners in the league.

The two Premier League heavyweights had slugged it out toe to toe in pouring rain in front of a passionate crowd of almost 68,000 without creating any clear chances until Rooney tipped over the trailing leg of his England teammate Sol Campbell with 17 minutes remaining.

Van Nistelrooy, who hit the bar with a penalty in the goalless draw in last season’s corresponding fixture, found the target in the 73rd minute by sending goalkeeper Jens Lehmann the wrong way with a low shot to his left. Rooney completed the win — and capped a memorable 19th birthday — with a breakaway goal three minutes into injury time created by substitutes Louis Saha and Alan Smith.

The England forward scored with ease from close-range to send Old Trafford into ecstasy.

Rooney, coincidentally, had helped end a previous Arsenal unbeaten run when, as an Everton player, he scored the winner in a 2-1 victory over Arsenal in October 2002 which halted the Gunners’ 30-match streak without defeat.

Arsenal still lead the league on 25 points from 10 matches, two clear of Chelsea, but United are back in contention on 13 and have not lost in 13 league and cup matches since being beaten 1-0 at Chelsea on the first day of the season.

Stuttgart reclaim top spot in Bundesliga

BERLIN, 25 Oct — VfB Stuttgart squandered a chance to reclaim top spot in the Bundesliga on Sunday, losing their first match of the season with an unexpectedly weak showing against lowly SC Freiburg 2-0.

Germany striker Alexandre Iashvili beat Timo Hildebrand in the 35th minute, the first goal the German goalkeeper keeper had yielded in 536 minutes, and Soumaia Colibaly sealed the southwestern derby in stoppage time with a free kick.

The defeat left Stuttgart in second place with 20 points from nine matches, one point behind surprise leaders VfL Wolfsburg who beat VfL Bochum 3-0 on Saturday.

It was only the second win of the season for Freiburg, struggling to field a team with six players sidelined by flu. It also ended a three-match losing streak and lifted them from 16th place to 12th.

“We were asleep for the whole first half,” said Stuttgart’s Philipp Lahm. “We did far too little against Freiburg. We can’t allow that to happen.”

Juventus extends lead at top of Serie A

MILAN, 25 Oct — Alessandro Del Piero struck twice as Juventus extended their lead at the top of Serie A to six points ahead of Sunday’s Milan derby.

Fabio Capello’s side struggled during the first half before Del Piero, who has been sidelined with an Achilles tendon injury, provided the breakthrough eight minutes after the break.

Brazilian Emerson crossed and Del Piero pounced on Zlatan Ibrahimovic’s header down to fire Juve in front.

Del Piero doubled the lead seven minutes later when he drove home a right-foot shot after good work from overlapping full-back Jonathan Zebeda.

S Korean scores first goal for PSV Eindhoven

AMSTERDAM, 25 Oct — South Korean Lee Young-gyo scored the goal and set up the second as leaders PSV Eindhoven beat Ajax 2-0 and Arouna Kone hit a hat-trick for Roda JC Kerkrade in the Dutch first division on Sunday.

Second-placed Feyenoord thrashed RKC Waalwijk 4-0 to stay level with PSV at the top on 22 points, while Ajax sank to sixth seven points behind after nine matches.

Heerenveen are fifth after a 2-1 win at home to double the lead.

Both sides ended the game with their reserve goalkeepers after Lobont and PSV’s Gomes both had to be carried off on a stretcher with knee and groin injuries respectively.

Dutch international Romeo Castelen gave Feyenoord an early lead when he scored after 10 minutes from a pass by Dirk Kuijt.

Bart Goor with a double and Kuijt sealed Feyenoord’s win in the second half.

Sevilla move up into 2nd place in Primera Liga

MADRID, 25 Oct — Sevilla moved up into second place in the Primera Liga on Sunday after spectacular goals from Altor Ocio and Julio Baptista earned them a 2-1 victory at home to Atletico Madrid.

Joaquin Caparros’ young side made it four home wins out of four as they overpowered the visitors with their mixture of intense and skilful football.

Ocio put them ahead with just 11 minutes on the clock when he unleashed a thunderbolt shot from a metre outside the area after Atletico midfielder Jorge had conceded a free kick.

Brazilian Julio Baptista added a second with a brilliantly taken individual goal seven minutes after the break.

Receiving the ball just inside the Atletico half the burly striker shrugged off one tackle, powered his way towards the box, checked inside defender Pablo Ibanez and smashed an unstoppable shot past keeper Leo Franco.

Atletico gained a late consolation when Ibanez smashed home from close range after a goalmouth scramble in injury time.

The win allowed the Andalucians to leapfrog champions Valencia and move to within two points of Barcelona at the top of the table.

The performance of the day came from Argentine midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme, who scored one goal and made two to direct Villarreal to a 4-0 victory over struggling Numancia.

S Korean football sensation Dong Fangzhou seen here playing for Dalian Shide, which abandoned a match against Shenyang Jinde in protest at the referee on Sunday.—INTERNET

Chinese football sensation Dong Fangzhou seen here playing for Dalian Shide, which abandoned a match against Shenyang Jinde in protest at the referee on Sunday.—INTERNET

Roma vs Palermo: AS Roma’s defender Matteo Ferrari (L) vies with Palermo’s forward Luca Toni during their Italian Serie A football match, at Rome’s Olympic Stadium. —INTERNET

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Japanese Govt making every effort for quake relief

OITA (Japan), 26 Oct — Helicopters lifted people to safety and soldiers handed out food and water as more tremors jolted northern Japan on Monday, arousing fears of another powerful earthquake on the country's deadliest in a decade killed at least 25 people.

A strong quake with a magnitude of 5.6 shook rural Niigata Prefecture, about 150 miles north of Tokyo, two days after the first big tremor, which also injured more than 2,200.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said an increase in aftershocks meant there was a 40-per-cent chance of an earthquake of magnitude 6.0 or greater in the area in the next week.

Saturday's initial quake had a magnitude of 6.8.

Forecasts of rain for the next few days were raised on Monday, the country's deadliest in a decade.

The tremor on Monday, which struck at 6:05 a.m. (2105 GMT on Sunday), was one of hundreds of aftershocks since the initial quake, and was felt strongly in Tokyo.

Nearly 1,000 soldiers were dispatched for rescue and relief, and military helicopters airlifted people from the village of Yamakoshi, where hundreds were stranded by landslides triggered by Saturday's initial quake.

"I have no food. I have nothing to drink, I have no change of clothes for my children. But I'm relieved," said a young woman after being rescued. As of Monday morning, the number of people evacuate had risen to about 97,000, national broadcaster NHK said.

Canada, Mexico to enhance bilateral relations

OTTAWA, 26 Oct — Canadian and Mexican leaders issued a joint statement here Monday, pledging to strengthen and enhance strategic bilateral partnership in the region.

The joint statement issued by Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and visiting Mexican President Vicente Fox, said North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) continues to be the basis for a strong North American economy.

Within this economic framework, Canada has grown to become Mexico's second largest export market and Mexico is Canada's sixth.

The two leaders believed that the two country will continue to seek opportunities to make the most of the advantages offered by the NAFTA.

Andean countries, US begin new round of FTA negotiations

QUITO, 26 Oct — The fifth round of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the United States and the bloc of Andean countries formed by Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, started Monday at the Ecuadorian city of Guayaquil.

Over 1,500 people, including delegates, chief negotiators and experts, participated in the negotiations. Andean countries are pressing for the best possible treatment for their products and services in the US market.

During the talks expected to end Friday, the negotiators will try to hammer out differences over market access, intellectual property, governmental procurement, labour, investment safeguards, technical regulations, agriculture, financial services and rules of origin.

The United States wants the FTA to be ready by January 2005, when seven rounds of negotiations will be completed.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 26 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State, upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 25-10-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 26-10-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-10-2004 was 82.9%.

Rainfall on 26-10-2004 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 6 mph from Northeast at 10-40 hrs MST on 25-10-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-10-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-10-2004: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-10-2004: Generally fair weather.
**Commander, Mayor inspects upgrading tasks of Yangon City**

**YANGON, 26 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 Linn this morning inspected upgrading of roads in the capital and fulfilled the requirements.

They inspected the progress of tarring of Sule Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township and Kanpat Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. They also looked into construction of pavements, wooden walkway and progress of the construction of wooden bridge linking Paganlon Island and Khemadipa Island in Kandawgyi Garden and replacing of stone slabs in front of Kandawgyi Garden.

Head of the Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of YCDC U Bo Htay reported to them on tasks being carried out and future tasks.

Minister Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn urged the officials concerned to accelerate work on upgrading tasks. — YANGON COMMAND

**Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspects Paunglaung Dam project on 23 October. — A & i**

Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials, on 22 October met departmental staff, officials of Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise, factory managers, zone managers and business entrepreneurs at the office of Myanma Agriculture Service in Toungoo, Bago Division, gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the needs.

On 23 October, the minister viewed the thriving monsoon paddy plantations in Yedashe Township and visited No 6 Sugar Mill (Yedashe). He inspected the warehouses. At the briefing hall of the mill, the minister heard a report by the mill manager on production target, purchase of sugarcane and maintenance of machinery.

Next, the minister attended to the needs. The minister and party went to the Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project site. Director of Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department U Victor reported on construction tasks. Irrigation Department Director-General U Kyaw San Win also reported on construction progress of the dam, storage of water in the dam and collaborative works done with other departments. The minister gave instructions to officials on earlier completion of the project and safety of the work site. He went round the project site and inspected construction works and thriving the paddy fields stretching 300 acres. In meeting with farmers, the minister gave instructions on initiating triple cropping per year, yield of one hundred baskets of paddy per acre and systematic use of fertilizers.

Afterwards, the minister went to the Agricultural Research Department in Yezin Village where Director-General Dr Tin Soe reported on boosting of crops yield, conservation of natural resources, conducting of research on hybrid crops.

The minister next stressed the need for development of farming techniques.

The minister proceeded to Myohla (Tatkon) Dam project site, six miles from the west of Nyaungfong Village in Tatkon Township. Director (Design) of the Irrigation Department U Ohn Khaing reported on feasible study for construction of the dam and projected greening tasks.

The minister then met engineers and local people and inspected construction of the dam and rural development works. — MNA

**Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue**

**YANGON, 26 Oct —** The 13th-day programmes of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated venues today.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road, the song composing contest at Kanbawza Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and the music contest at Padonma and National Theatres.

Among the audience were members of the patrons of the organizing committee for performing arts competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice Chairman of the organizing committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Work Committee for organizing Competitions No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, 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 Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the song contest. Altogether 12 contestants participated in the professional level women’s oldies and modern song contest. And, 14 contestants took part in the basic education level boys’ (aged 5-10) oldies and modern song contest.

Altogether 15 contestants participated at the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ religious song contest.

Amateur level men’s classical song contest and basic education level girls’ (aged 5-10) contest will continue at the National Museum tomorrow.

Chairman of the Panel of Judges Bogale U Tint Aung and members supervised the song composing contest at Kanbawza Theatre.

Altogether eight contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 5-10) song composing contest. — MNA

(See page 9)