Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar sends felicitations to Turkey

YANGON, 29 Oct — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2004, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. — MNA

Agriculture, livestock breeding tasks to be carried out on manageable scale

Regional development inspected in An, Rakhine State

YANGON, 28 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman and also Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Hlaing, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Taungup Station and officials, met with officers, other ranks and their families at the hall of the local battalion in An on 26 October morning. At the meeting, with Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged officials concerned to fulfill the social, education, health and welfare needs of the families. He also called for conducting agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale to increase income of the families. Next, he cordially greeted officers, other ranks and their families. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited No 1 Basic Education High School in An. At the hall of the school, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on the area of the school, the strength of teachers and students, the pass rate of the matriculation examination and for the development of human resources. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected multimedia classrooms, which will be opened soon, the language lab and the computer room, and watched the students learning their school lessons in those rooms. He also looked into the construction site of the two-story school building and gave instructions. In An, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the newly built 100-bed People’s Hospital. On arrival, Head of the Health Department of Rakhine State Dr Khin Maung Cho, state-level departmental officials and health officers welcomed Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party and conducted them round the hospital. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports and gave instructions on the speedy inauguration of the hospital.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects storage of water at Hinywet Dam in An, Rakhine State.— MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Hinywet Dam. At the briefing hall, officials reported on data related to the dam, arrangements for handover of the town water supply task to the Development Affairs Department, arrangements for water supply in An, financial matters and future plans. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements through coordination. Hinywet Dam is of earthen type and can hold 1.652 million gallons of water.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at agricultural and livestock breeding farm run by the Western Command, where he inspected poultry farming and gave instructions. The farm is being run on 150 acres of land with the aim of disseminating agricultural and breeding techniques to the public as well as to the regiments and units

(See page 11)

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

Friday, 29 October, 2004

The foundation of national unity

The Government has been building infrastructures in all sectors for progress of the whole Union, further improvement of the people’s living standard, narrowing the gap between the region and another and proportionate development of all states and divisions.

The nation is formed with different landscapes including mountain ranges, dense forests, a large number of natural watercourses, narrow coastal lines and plains. In this regard, the Government has been building a network of roads, with bridges spanning creeks and rivers, to overcome the transport difficulty of the nation.

For example, Rakhine State had to rely mainly on air and water transport as it had only few motor roads in the past. Because of the poor condition of the motor roads, its three land gateways — the An mountain road pass, the Taungup mountain road pass and the Gwagathaingchaung road were not as important and useful as now.

Thus, the Government has used a large amount of financial resources to build roads and bridges in all states and divisions including Rakhine State. And thanks to the Government’s efforts, many new roads including the Sittway-Rakhine State. And thanks to the Government’s efforts, many new roads including the Sittway—MraukU-An road have been built in the state and the existing ones have been upgraded.

Of the 14 over-180-foot bridges of the Taungup-Maei-Kyaunkphyu Road Project, nine bridges have been completed, and the five remaining facilities are under construction at present. Although the engineers and workers are facing a lot of difficulties in building the swampy part of the project, they are making strenuous efforts and using advanced technology to overcome the difficulty.

Opening of the Londawpauk Bridge on the Yangon-Kyaunkphyu Highway in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State, on 25 October has added one more important facility to the nation’s transport network. It is the 188th bridge of 180-foot length and above built since 1988.

Thanks to a large number of new bridges and many miles of new roads, the national races are able to get in touch and exchange knowledge and views with each other, thereby strengthening their brethren spirit, unity and solidarity, which are the foundation of the national unity and Union Spirit.

**Prizes presented to winners in Buddhist Culture Course**

**YANGON,** 28Oct—The 12th ceremony to present prizes to winners in the Abhidhamma, Wideshithma and Buddhist Culture Course of the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at the Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Payy Zawtkayun Pall Tekkatho Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kandalajoti, Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Viçara and members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Amin Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, officials and trainees.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kandalajoti administered the Eight Precepts. The deputy minister supplicated on religious affairs and offereded proclamations to the Sayadaws. Next, the deputy minister, the adviser, the director-general and deputy directors—general presented prizes and certificates to the winners and other trainees. — MNA

**LIGTHS OFFERED TO PAGODA:** The Abhidhamma Day ceremony was held at Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. Belles offer candle lights to the pagoda.— NLM

**9th Mile Mahasi Sayadaw back from Europe**

**YANGON,** 28 Oct — After having given sermons on Saiopathana Vipassana in Switzerland and England. 9th Mile Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavdhaja came back here on yesterday evening.

The Sayadaw was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Hitesi members of the Yeiktha. — MNA

**Timetable of entrance exam of MMU announced**

**YANGON,** 28 Oct — Applications have been invited to Myanmar Maritime University which will be opened on 1 December.

The list of those who can sit the entrance examination will be announced at the University Entrance Selection Board of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) on Thaton Road and MMU in Thilawa, Thanlyin Township, on 29 October. Candidates will not be notified individually. They must report to MMU in person from 1 to 3 November bringing together with them three license size photos, original and copy of Citizenship Scrutiny Card, the original testimonials on character from the respective police stations, original and a copy of mark list issued by Myanmar Board of Examinations and the health endorsement of township surgeon.

The candidates will enter a viva test at MMU beginning 4 November. The timetable of the exam will be announced at the HED (Lower Myanmar) on Thaton Road and MMU in Thilawa, Thanlyin Township, on 29 October. — MNA

**Workshop on bird flu research and lab technology held**

**YANGON,** 28 Oct — The workshop on research on bird flu and lab technology co-organized by Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Myanmar Veterinary Science Council, was held at the Office of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department on 26 October morning.

Bird Flu Expert Dr Ayota Takada of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) gave lectures on matters related to the bird flu.

Present were Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of LBVD, President of MVSC Dr Mya Nyunt, Myanmar Veterinarian Association Dr Than Daing, Dr Saw Palai Saw of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture Forest, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Science. Assistant Resident Representative of JICA Mr Masanaga Yoshihisa and officials.

With the assistance of JICA, Associate Professor Dr Ayota Takada of Tokyo University gave lectures to the veterinarians at the Central Laboratory of the LBVD from 22 to 26 October. — MNA
Australia acknowledges Iraq increases its risk of terrorist attack

SYDNEY, 27 Oct — Australia’s newly re-elected government has conceded for the first time its decision to participate in the Iraq conflict may have increased the terrorist threat to its national interests.

The admission, by Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, followed a warning by Australia’s intelligence chief that the conflict had given Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda propaganda and recruitment opportunities and may have motivated terrorists in Australia.

Downer, who prior to the 9 October election maintained that there was no evidence to suggest involvement in Iraq increased the risk to Australia, said it was possible some sympathisers of extremist Islamist ideology in Australia could be motivated by Iraq.

“If there are people in Australia who believe in this sort of Taliban-style Wahabist extremist ideology and they see Iraq becoming a democracy then that may activate them and energise them,” Downer said.

He said Iraq might be “a motivator” for some people considering terrorist attacks in Australia.

“It has increased the threat against Australian interests in the Middle East,” he added.

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1,109 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct — As of Wednesday, 27 Oct, 2004, at least 1,109 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 971 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The latest death reported by the military: A soldier was killed Wednesday when a motorcycle bomber attacked a US convoy in central Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the military: Marine Cpl Brian Oliveira, 22, Raynham, Mass., killed Monday in Iraq’s Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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Hostage calls on Britain to quit Iraq, says Jazeera

DUBAI, 27 Oct — Iraqi-British hostage Margaret Hassan again urged Britain to withdraw its troops from Iraq and also to free Iraqi women prisoners, Al Jazeera television reported on Wednesday.

The Arab channel aired a video showing Hassan, an aid worker who was seized by unknown kidnappers in Baghdad a week ago, standing in a dimly lit room.

“Please release the women prisoners from the prison in Iraq,” said a tired looking Hassan, director of the Care International charity in Iraq, in her second such appeal and third video appearance. Her other comments were barely audible.

But Al Jazeera said Hassan appealed to British Prime Minister Tony Blair to withdraw troops from Iraq and not deploy them in Baghdad.

The television said Hassan also asked Care International employees to end their operations in Iraq. The charity suspended its work in the country after Hassan was kidnapped.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said: “We will consider very carefully what response, if any, to make to this latest video.”

Dublin-born Hassan, who also appeared in videos issued by the kidnappers last week, is the eighth foreign woman to have been kidnapped in Iraq since April.

The others, including two Italian aid workers held for three weeks in September, have been freed.

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Nigeria to conduct national census next month

LAGOS, 27 Oct — The Nigerian Government is scheduled to start counting the nation’s population in November, the News Agency of Nigeria on Monday quoted Chairman of the National Population Commission (NPC) Samu’ila Makama as saying.

The government has so far released about 30 million US dollars toward the conduct of the 2005 census, Makama said, adding that the government would release another sum of about 13.84 million US dollars at the end of this year.

According to him, the European Union has promised to provide about 130.76 million dollars to assist Nigeria to carry out the national census.

Makama said that the national head-count exercise had already been approved by President Olusegun Obasanjo, assuring all communities across the country that enumerators would reach them whether they were in dry desert areas in the north or in primitive forest areas in the south.

He appealed to Nigerians to ensure that they remained wherever they reside to be counted, stressing that the exercise was meant for economic and planning purposes for the nation’s growth.

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Susilo urges prosecutors to combat graft

JAKARTA, 27 Oct — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Tuesday urged prosecutors to get more serious in combating corruption, which he said had caused high-cost economy. “Some people com-plained about injustice and rampant corruption, reflect-ing the failure of our legal system. I come here to ask all of you to work together coping with the problems,” Susilo told prosecutors during an unscheduled visit at the Attorney-General’s Office (AGO) here.

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Ugandan President calls to improve quality of tourism attraction

KAMPALA, 27 Oct — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Monday called upon tourist promoters to improve the quality of tourism attraction and promote culture in order to realize the contribution of tourism in community development.

The President made the call when opening the 8th Cultural and Eco-Tourism Symposium of the Africa Travel Association at Speke Resort, Munyonyo, south of Kampala.

Museveni noted that Uganda is endowed with excellent tourism attractions that make the country unique and quite appealing, saying that Uganda is only one of the three countries in the world that are on the equator and high altitude with favourable climatic conditions of between 18 and 27 degrees Celsius throughout the year.

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Soldiers of the British 1st Battalion Black Watch wait on their vehicles atop American heavy transport vehicles in Basra, Iraq, on 27 Oct, 2004, before their move to an area south of Baghdad.
Most Latinos say Iraq war was wrong

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—An overwhelming majority of Latino voters believes the war in Iraq was not worth fighting, and a significant minority believes Hispanics have suffered a disproportionate share of the casualties, according to a new survey of Latino voters by The Washington Post, Univision and the Univision-Tomas Rivera Policy Institute.

While voters nationally divide over the wisdom of going to war in Iraq, Latinos expressed no such ambivalence: By 2 to 1, Hispanic voters believe the war was a mistake.

The survey found that nearly three in 10 Latinos believe Hispanics are disproportionately represented among the dead and wounded in Iraq compared with other racial or ethnic groups, while six in 10 disagree.

The new poll also found that Democrat John F. Kerry leads President George W. Bush by 59 percent to 30 percent among registered Hispanic voters, virtually unchanged from a Post-Tommy Rivera Policy Institute.

A system for the annual release of data on teaching quality in China's higher education teaching evaluation centre.

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Heartburn drugs linked to increase pneumonia risk

CHICAGO, 27 Oct— Widely used heartburn and ulcer drugs can make people more susceptible to pneumonia, probably because they reduce germ-killing stomach acid, Dutch researchers found in study of more than 300,000 patients.

The highest risks occurred with more powerful acid-fighting drugs called proton pump inhibitors, which are sold in the United States under such brand names as Nexium, Prilosec and Prevacid. Over nearly three years, users of these drugs faced almost twice the risk of pneumonia as other Americans.

The study was led by researcher Robert J.F. Laheij at University Medical Centre St. Radboud in Nijmegen, Netherlands, and appears in Wednesday’s Journal of the American Medical Association.

The acid in normal stomach fluids generally kills harmful bacteria, suppressing it with drugs to treat heartburn and ulcers may make the body more hospitable to such germs, which may then infect the lungs and cause pneumonia, the researchers said.

These heavily promoted medicines are among the most widely prescribed drugs worldwide, with almost 13 billion US dollars in sales in 1998 alone, according to a JAMA editorial.Millions of Americans take these drugs, which are heavily advertised in “ask your doctor about...” TV commercials.

Russian mily to test new-generation rocket booster

MOSCOW, 27 Oct—Russia’s military will test a new-generation rocket booster this week that could eventually be used to launch civilian cargoes into space.

ITAR-TASS news agency said on Monday TASS quoted Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov as reporting to President Vladimir Putin that a Soyuz-M2 booster would blast off on Friday from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwest Russia.

Ivanov told Putin the new booster would initially allow Russia to launch military satellites from launchpads inside Russian territory. TASS reported. “If the test is successful, the new booster will in future also be used to deliver into orbit spacecraft with civilian, scientific and commercial cargoes,” Ivanov said.

Outsourcing becoming strategic imperative for European companies

BANGALORE, 27 Oct— Global sourcing is becoming a strategic imperative with European companies, according to information technology major Wipro.

The Bangalore-headquartered company’s global sourcing event “Strategym” held in London earlier this month confirmed the trend, a statement said on Tuesday. More than 100 senior management executives from European end-user organizations including industry experts explored successful global sourcing strategies, the company said.

The event held on October 14 covered key learnings, best practices, explored next steps in the evolution of global sourcing, and focused on how organizations are using it as a strategic tool to derive more value out of their investments, it said.

Wipro said a survey conducted at the forum confirmed a trend amongst European firms of plans to exploit global sourcing for multiple service lines. 74 per cent of the executives polled said their global sourcing budgets would increase this year and 63 per cent were planning to leverage global sourcing for multiple service lines.

Phillipine Govt asks Kuwait to reconsider sending OFWs to Iraq

MANILA, 27 Oct— The Philippines has asked Kuwait to hold the ban on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) seeking employment in Iraq until the country’s elections in January are over.

“We know it’s their prerogative (to lift the ban). We don’t question that. But because of the experience we had we are appealing to them to reconsider their decision,” Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

Romulo noted that it is not the time to let Filipino drivers and other OFWs go to Iraq because the situation is very fluid. “We just want to avoid this”.

Dalian Port sees drastic surge in software export

DALIAN, 28 Oct— Software export via Dalian Port, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, surged by 55 per cent year on year to hit 30.86 million US dollars in the first three quarters this year, the latest statistics have shown.

According to the Customs of Dalian, 49 software enterprises exported their products via Dalian Port in the first nine months.

Japan was the leading export market of Dalian’s software products, taking in 93 per cent of the total volume for the three-quarter period. Other export markets included Singapore, the United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan.
Chinese, Russian officials discuss sister city cooperation

BEIJING, 27 Oct — Delegates from more than 30 Chinese and Russian cities gathered here on Tuesday to discuss future cooperation between sister cities and agreed to promote multi-level exchanges.

On the third China-Russia sister city meeting which held here Tuesday, delegates from the two countries carried out warm discussions on the development of friendly relations. Some cities also formally established sister city links during the meeting.

Chen Haosu, President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), said that along with the deepening of China-Russia relations, the cooperation and exchanges between the two countries’ cities are getting more and more close.

At present, 66 pairs of sister cities have been established between China and Russia. They conducted fruitful cooperation in various areas, including economy, science, technology, culture and education.

He said the sister cities of the two countries have played an active role in promoting mutual understanding and expanding bilateral cooperation.

During Russian President Vladimir Putin’s China visit earlier this month, he co-chaired a symposium with Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on the expansion of China-Russia regional cooperation. “This fully demonstrates that China-Russia regional co-operation becomes increasingly vibrant, and plays an important role in the development of bilateral relations,” Chen said.

The developing strategy of China’s western region and the rejuvenation of the old industrial bases in northeast China has provided new possibilities for the bilateral regional cooperation, he said.

Russian Ambassador to China Igor Rogachev said that during Putin’s visit to China, representatives from more than 60 Russian localities had concrete exchanges with Chinese regional officials, which helped consolidate and push forward bilateral cooperation in various fields.

As capitals of China and Russia, Beijing and Moscow set up sister city links in May 1995. Beijing Vice-Mayor Zhang Mao said that since then, the two cities have cooperated extensively in the fields of culture, education, public health, economy, trade and city construction.

No one in the past two sides also had positive cooperation in the bid for holding Olympic Games, Zhang said. Moscow Vice-Mayor M Men said the partnership with Chinese cities is a priority of Moscow’s international exchanges.

The first and second China-Russia sister city meetings were held in Moscow in 1997 and 2002.

UN to increase security for staff

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Oct — In view of escalation in attacks against its workers, the United Nations has decided to strengthen the security of its staff and facilities at a cost of 97 million US dollars.

Out of the proposed budget, the world body plans to spend 35 million US dollars to bolster the safety of field offices and about 28 million US dollars on upgrade of security at the UN complex in New York, pay for more security officers and training and to install new access control measures.

The budget for similar improvements at the eight main UN offices is estimated at 16 million for Geneva, more than three million dollars each for stations in Nairobi, Santiago de Chile and Addis Ababa; and more than one million dollars each for facilities in Bangkok, Beirut and Vienna.

One-time expenditures such as physical improvements to buildings are expected to total 29.6 million dollars.

Secretary-General Kofo Annan, in a report, had called for combining three separate entities each responsible for staff safety — the Office of the Security Coordinator, the UN Security and Safety Services and the security component of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations — into a new Directorate of Security to be headed by an Undersecretary-General, reporting directly to him.

The new directorate will assess threats and risk, and provide common security policies and standards throughout the UN system.

Day-to-day decision-making on security matters, meanwhile, will remain with local offices.

German, French leaders urge changes in Euro rules

BERLIN, 27 Oct — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac made joint appeal Tuesday for loosening the budget rules guiding euro-member countries.

Speaking after their meeting here in Berlin, Schroeder said that the EU pact to stabilize euro would have to be changed and “growth must play a bigger role.”

Under the stability pact, public budget deficit of a euro country that has so far been vaccinated to exceed 3 per cent of GDP. However, due to economic difficulties, both Germany and France will overshoot this year the budget limits for the third straight year.

Chirac said that he supported Schroeder’s proposals which, among other things, would exclude from budget limits state spending on research and development as well as net contributions a country made to the EU budget.

The German Chancellor also urged more cooperation between the industries of the two countries, which have been at odds over issues concerning business take-over.

“I have an interest in stronger ties at the corporate level,” Schroeder said.

Meanwhile, a statement issued after the German-French summit said that the two countries pledge to play “an important catalyzing role in building the European capability in the area of fast crisis reaction”.

The German-French joint brigade should become the core of a fast reaction force of EU and an EU military cell inside the NATO headquarters should be established by the end of this year, the statement said.

Zambia to vaccinate 200,000 cattle against FMD

LUZAKA, 27 Oct — The Zambian Government will vaccinate 200,000 cattle against foot-and-mouth disease before the rainy season in December, local newspaper The Post reported Monday.

Agriculture Minister Mundia Sikataa was quoted as saying the veterinary department was containing the disease which has so far taken a toll in southern and central provinces.

He said the vaccination exercise was going on smoothly although he could not give the exact number of cattle that have so far been vaccinated.

Sikataa said 200,000 cattle in the affected areas would be vaccinated before rains start because the government wanted to ensure that they were fit to plough.

Ugandan Police to recruit 1,000 constables

KAMPALA, 27 Oct — The Uganda Police will recruit 1,000 constables starting November 22, this year in a bid to increase its physical strength, reported state-owned newspaper The New Vision on Tuesday.

“Our physical strength is not adequate and the force continues to lose personnel. The drive is to cover losses and wastages,” Commissioner of Police in charge of human resource management Chris Opio was quoted as saying.

The Ugandan Police has slightly over 13,000 officers but loses about 500 annually through retirement and others being discharged or dismissed for various reasons.

Opio said the recruitment also aims at improving the police-to-civilian ratio, currently standing at one officer to 1,800 civilians, adding that the United Nations recommends a 1:450 ratio.

Opio said applicants should be Ugandan citizens aged between 18 to 25 and must have A’Level (senior middle school graduates with 13 years schooling) certificates with two principle passes or its equivalent.

A US Marine uses a mountain bike to move around the Ramadi army camp on 27 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

An Iraq boy rescues a destroyed bicycle from the debris of a destroyed building in Fallujah, outside Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET
The First China-ASEAN Seminar on Mass Media Cooperation took place in Beijing in 2002. Participants, only two from Myanmar including myself, had not sufficient time to acquaint themselves with others from ASEAN nations and China. One reason was that it lasted just three days.

Despite the tight schedule, the organizers reserved time for the participants to pay a visit to the world-famous Great Wall and the Forbidden City in addition to a call on the member of the Standing Committee of Poliburo of the Communist Party of China Mr Li Peng in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Before the participants got sufficiently acquainted with one another they had to leave Beijing looking forward to the second seminar proposed to be held the next year in a capital of an ASEAN member nation.

Participants from the Chinese side emphasized the geographical proximity and similarities in culture and traditions between China and ASEAN member nations. They expressed their belief that the region of some 17 billion population could secure peace, security, cooperation and prosperity through friendship and understanding. This, they said, could be realized through mass media cooperation.

A year passed but the second seminar did not take place.

However in July 2004, I received the good news that I was included in the Myanmar delegation as a member to attend the proposed Second Seminar. This time the Myanmar delegation would comprise three with Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win as the leader.

When I studied the programme of the Seminar, I noticed the difference between the first and the second seminars. The second seminar would be a seven-day programme starting from Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the People’s Republic of China, followed by a two-day tour of Guilin, noted as the most beautiful tourist attraction in China, and finally the flight to the capital, Beijing. There, we would see the Great Wall, visit the People’s Daily and call on Mr Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Mr Li Zhaoxing, Foreign Minister.

As we prepared for our flight to Nanning, we found it difficult to choose the shortest possible route to Nanning. Of course there was Yangon-Kunming (Yunnan Province) flight on Wednesdays but there would be no flight to Nanning from Kunming on 25 August when we were to check in there. So, we rerouted our flight to Nanning via Bangkok and Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, leaving Yangon a day earlier.

We left Yangon International Airport for Bangkok by MAI flight at 7.40 am on 24 August. After a day-long flight we finally arrived at Nanning. We were not alone to get there a day earlier.

On the same flight were participants from Laos and Cambodia. Friends from the People’s Daily were expecting the Indonesian participants as well.

It was past 10 p.m. when we got to the Mingyuan (Majestic) Hotel, the venue of the seminar. We noticed that our Indonesian and Vietnamese friends had also arrived. Though we arrived at the venue a day earlier, everything was taken care of, accommodation, food—every detail.

The following day, we were free almost the whole day. So, we walked around in hotel area in Nanning. The city was busy but clean. The traffic was not heavy. There were construction sites here and there, some nearing completion and some still in progress. In the evening, all the participants were present at the welcoming reception.

At 8.30 am on 26 August, Mr Wang Chen, President of the People’s Daily met the delegation heads from ASEAN Ten. This was followed by opening of the seminar with the welcoming speech by Mr Wang Chen at 9 am, as scheduled.

He recalled that in September 2002, the first “China-ASEAN Media Cooperation Seminar” co-hosted by the ASEAN Ten and the People’s Daily in Beijing generated widespread influence and positively pushed forward exchanges and cooperation between ASEAN countries and China.

He added “since the entrance into the new century, we have formed a sound relationship where mutual political trust and economic cooperation interact positively with each other. Since the first China-ASEAN Media Seminar, cooperation between the two sides has developed very quickly. In November 2002, China and ASEAN leaders signed the “Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the People’s Republic of China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations”, aiming at establishing China-ASEAN Free Trade Area by 2010. In October 2003, China joined “Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia”, and signed the “Joint Statement between China and ASEAN Leaders”, announcing the establishment of “Strategic Partnership Facing Peace and Prosperity between China and ASEAN.” Mr. Wen noted, “these moves signify a new stage of bilateral relations”.

The whole day on 26 August the following morning up to noon, altogether 29 speakers presented their ideas and suggestions on realizing the objectives through mass media cooperation between the media of China and that of ASEAN member nations with “Peace, Security, Cooperation, Prosperity” as the tenet and “Coordinating Media Cooperation and Development of 10+1 Free Trade Area” as the theme.

Participants from the Chinese side emphasized the geographical proximity and similarities in culture and traditions between China and ASEAN member nations. They expressed their belief that the region of some 17 billion population could secure peace, security, cooperation and prosperity through friendship and understanding. This, they said, could be realized through mass media cooperation.

ASEAN participants discussed ways and means to face the challenges and benefit from the opportunities created by the ever advancing Information Technology. They also discussed increased exchange of visits of media personnel between China and ASEAN, gathering correct news and information and dissemination of news about China and ASEAN.

The First China-ASEAN Seminar on Mass Media Cooperation took place in Beijing in 2002. Participants, only two from Myanmar including myself, had not sufficient time to acquaint themselves with others from ASEAN nations and China. One reason was that it lasted just three days.

Despite the tight schedule, the organizers reserved time for the participants to pay a visit to the world-famous Great Wall and the Forbidden City in addition to a call on the member of the Standing Committee of Poliburo of the Communist Party of China Mr Li Peng in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Before the participants got sufficiently acquainted with one another they had to leave Beijing looking forward to the second seminar proposed to be held the next year in a capital of an ASEAN member nation.

Participants from the Chinese side emphasized the geographical proximity and similarities in culture and traditions between China and ASEAN member nations. They expressed their belief that the region of some 17 billion population could secure peace, security, cooperation and prosperity through friendship and understanding. This, they said, could be realized through mass media cooperation.

A year passed but the second seminar did not take place.

However in July 2004, I received the good news that I was included in the Myanmar delegation as a member to attend the proposed Second Seminar. This time the Myanmar delegation would comprise three with Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win as the leader.

When I studied the programme of the Seminar, I noticed the difference between the first and the second seminars. The second seminar would be a seven-day programme starting from Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the People’s Republic of China, followed by a two-day tour of Guilin, noted as the most beautiful tourist attraction in China, and finally the flight to the capital, Beijing. There, we would see the Great Wall, visit the People’s Daily and call on Mr Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Mr Li Zhaoxing, Foreign Minister.

As we prepared for our flight to Nanning, we found it difficult to choose the shortest possible route to Nanning. Of course there was Yangon-Kunming (Yunnan Province) flight on Wednesdays but there would be no flight to Nanning from Kunming on 25 August when we were to check in there. So, we rerouted our flight to Nanning via Bangkok and Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, leaving Yangon a day earlier. We left Yangon International Airport for Bangkok by MAI flight at 7.40 am on 24 August. After a day-long flight we finally arrived at Nanning. We were not alone to get there a day earlier.

On the same flight were participants from Laos and Cambodia. Friends from the People’s Daily were expecting the Indonesian participants as well.

It was past 10 p.m. when we got to the Mingyuan (Majestic) Hotel, the venue of the seminar. We noticed that our Indonesian and Vietnamese friends had also arrived. Though we arrived at the venue a day earlier, everything was taken care of, accommodation, food—every detail.

The following day, we were free almost the whole day. So, we walked around in hotel area in Nanning. The city was busy but clean. The traffic was not heavy. There were construction sites here and there, some nearing completion and some still in progress. In the evening, all the participants were present at the welcoming reception.

At 8.30 am on 26 August, Mr Wang Chen, President of the People’s Daily met the delegation heads from ASEAN Ten. This was followed by opening of the seminar with the welcoming speech by Mr Wang Chen at 9 am, as scheduled.

He recalled that in September 2002, the first “China-ASEAN Media Cooperation Seminar” co-hosted by the ASEAN Ten and the People’s Daily in Beijing generated widespread influence and positively pushed forward exchanges and cooperation between ASEAN countries and China.

He added “since the entrance into the new century, we have formed a sound relationship where mutual political trust and economic cooperation interact positively with each other. Since the first China-ASEAN Media Seminar, cooperation between the two sides has developed very quickly. In November 2002, China and ASEAN leaders signed the “Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the People’s Republic of China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations”, aiming at establishing China-ASEAN Free Trade Area by 2010. In October 2003, China joined “Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia”, and signed the “Joint Statement between China and ASEAN Leaders”, announcing the establishment of “Strategic Partnership Facing Peace and Prosperity between China and ASEAN.” Mr. Wen noted, “these moves signify a new stage of bilateral relations”.

The whole day on 26 August the following morning up to noon, altogether 29 speakers presented their ideas and suggestions on realizing the objectives through mass media cooperation between the media of China and that of ASEAN member nations with “Peace, Security, Cooperation, Prosperity” as the tenet and “Coordinating Media Cooperation and Development of 10+1 Free Trade Area” as the theme.

Participants from the Chinese side emphasized the geographical proximity and similarities in culture and traditions between China and ASEAN member nations. They expressed their belief that the region of some 17 billion population could secure peace, security, cooperation and prosperity through friendship and understanding. This, they said, could be realized through mass media cooperation.

ASEAN participants discussed ways and means to face the challenges and benefit from the opportunities created by the ever advancing Information Technology. They also discussed increased exchange of visits of media personnel between China and ASEAN, gathering correct news and information and dissemination of news about China and ASEAN. ...
Commander attends opening of Commander’s Shield Volleyball Tournament

YANGON, 28 Oct — Chairman of the Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing attended the ceremony to open the North-East Command Commander’s Shield Women’s and Men’s Volleyball Tournament at Pyidaungsu Gymnasium. A total of 18 teams are taking part in the tournament which will last up to 4 November.

In the afternoon, the commander, together with Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, inspected 2.75 acres of orange and tea plantations and vegetable patches. At the coffee and macadamia nursery, Lt-Col Myo Chit of the farm reported on systematic nurturing of the saplings. They saw over thriving Hsinshweli paddy at the F-1 research plot.

F&R Minister inspects departmental functions in northern Shan State

YANGON, 28 Oct — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Director-General of the Customs Department Col Khin Maung Lin, inspected departmental functions in northern Shan State.

On 27 October, the minister inspected the functions of the Internal Revenue Department of Muse Township. He also met with departmental employees and spoke of the need to take effective measures for trade and financial undertakings. Next, departmental officials reported on progress of their tasks being carried out and future plans.

The minister also visited the departments under the ministry in Htunyi Township and looked into their functions. At Shwela Yadana Guest House, the minister met with departmental staff officers and heard reports. Later, the minister urged officials concerned to play a leading role in the realization of designated projects and explained the importance of uprightness and the sense of duty in their career.

Sale of souvenirs to attract tourists coordinated

YANGON, 28 Oct — The subcommittee for souvenirs production and sale held the meeting 2/2004 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industries. Members of the subcommittee, the chairmen of the Central Cooperative Society and officials. In his speech, the minister said the prime tasks of the subcommittee are to ensure that tourists can have an easy access to the purchase of Myanmar souvenirs. A stream of tourists will come to Myanmar in this open season. Therefore, all necessary steps are to be taken to open one-stop souvenir shops. The State can earn foreign exchange from the sale of souvenirs to tourists. It is also necessary to make Myanmar famous for its handicraft. Later, the minister called for the marketing of new souvenirs that will attract the tourists.

Next, departmental officials reported to the minister on tasks being carried out by their respective groups.

The minister also attended a work coordination meeting between Lacquerware College and Weaving Schools at the meeting hall of the Cottage Industries Department in North Okkalapa Township. In his speech at the meeting, the minister spoke of the need for cooperation between the schools and local authorities for intended student enrolment, employment of trainees at textile factories, and the opening of many vocational training schools for economic development.

Building of Htanchaung Bridge in progress

YANGON, 28 Oct — Deputy Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected progress in building the An-Padekyaw-Maei Road in Rakhine State on 25 October. They observed the ground work, gravel laying and building of Daingchaung Creek Bridge before arriving in An. In the afternoon, they inspected Htanchaung Creek Bridge Project where engineers briefed them on progress of work and future work programmes. The Htanchaung Creek Bridge will be a reinforced concrete facility, installed with steel frames. The bridge will be 100 feet long when completed. Seventy per cent of the approach structure on Maei bank and 50 per cent of the approach structure on An bank have been completed.

Deputy Minister tours Mandalay Division

YANGON, 28 Oct — Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, together with the managing director of the Myanmar Agriculture Service and paddy experts, inspected research paddy plantation at Yezin Agriculture Research Department on 24 October. The deputy minister inspected paddy seeds at the seed bank. He attended the workshop on high-yield paddy strains suitable for plain regions. On 25 October, the deputy minister inspected production process of bio-super fertilizers. Next, the deputy minister saw over high yield paddy plantations in Meiktila, Wundwin and Thazi Townships and gave instructions on systematic cultivation of paddy strains which can yield 100 baskets and above per acre. In Yamen Township, he viewed pollution of Yezin-2 hybrid paddy strain plantation.

On 26 October, Brig-Gen Khin Maung viewed thriving of paddy plantations in Kyaukse Township. He reported on thriving of Yezin-2 hybrid paddy strain to Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint.
Agriculture, livestock breeding, construction in Yangon Division inspected

**Yangon, 28 Oct —** Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe met with national agriculturists and breeders at Yangon Division Vegetable and Poultry Farming Special Zone near Nyaungnapin Village in Hmawby Township this afternoon.

At the meeting, officials reported on land preparation at the special zones, breeding of broilers and layers and cultivation of vegetables. Departmental officials also submitted reports on maintenance of roads, construction of bridges, water supply, communication system and power supply.

The commander reported on their requirements.

He instructed officials to complete river water pumping project before summer paddy cultivation season in Balar region.

At 6 pm, well-wishers offered 3,000 oil lights to the pagoda. Similarly, the Abhidhamma Day ceremony in conjunction with the 9,000 lights offering ceremony was held at Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township in the evenings.

**YANGON, 28 Oct — Over 500 trainees led by Instructor Sayadaw Bhaddanta Patipasami (Magadi-Thaze) of the Basic Buddhist Culture Course observed the Abhidhamma Day at Maha Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning. The trainees paid homage to the Buddha image and paid respects to the Sayadaw.**

At Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), the seventh Abhidhamma Day was held at Gandakuti Building this morning.

At 6 pm, well-wishers offered 3,000 oil lights to the pagoda. Similarly, the Abhidhamma Day ceremony in conjunction with the 9,000 lights offering ceremony was held at Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township in the evenings.

**Abhidhamma Day ceremony held**

**Yangon, 28 Oct —** Over 500 trainees led by Instructor Sayadaw Bhaddanta Patipasami (Magadi-Thaze) of the Basic Buddhist Culture Course observed the Abhidhamma Day at Maha Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning. The trainees paid homage to the Buddha image and paid respects to the Sayadaw.

Next, the trainees participated in the Abhidhamma Day ceremony by offering the questions. Some trainees recited Abhidhamma Gathas and religious verses. After the ceremony, Dr Myat Htut-Daw Thida Shein and well-wishers served those present with refreshments.

**Cooperative Products Exhibition continues**

**Yangon, 28 Oct —** Cooperative Products Exhibition continued for the third day at the Cooperative Trade Centre (Saya San Plaza) here today.

At the exhibition, StarMotorcycles produced by Panath Cooperative Society in Yenangyoung Township attracts the visitors. Moreover, products from states and divisions including textiles and garments, foodstuff and domestic goods are available there. There is no entrance fee to the exhibition.

**Senior Officials Meeting of Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking continues for second day at Sedona Hotel.**

**YANGON, 28 Oct —** The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) Senior Officials Meeting, hosted by Myanmar, continued for the second day at Sedona Hotel this morning.

Senior officials from China, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam and officials of UNIAP continued their discussions on Regional Plan of Action.

**Buddhist devotees...**

SetUp the img src of the picture...
Dissemination of news about China and ASEAN. Both sides also discussed the setting up of a common website to make the voice of China and ASEAN louder and let the peoples around the globe learn about the region and its peoples in true perspective. At the conclusion of the seminar, the joint statement was worked out and it was finally released on 31 August.

The points in the joint statement are as follows:
1. Establish partnerships between China and ASEAN on media, and cooperate on information sharing, photo swapping, technical cooperation, exchange programmes, facilitating joint news coverage and exchange of news footages;
2. Expand the media cooperation on the internet, including the possibility of establishing a common website featuring news from China and ASEAN;
3. Programme exchange and joint programme production between China Central Television and National or other TV stations of ASEAN countries;
4. Promote coverage on the China-ASEAN Expo and economic cooperation programme and support each other on reporting regional and international events such as 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The participants noted that this seminar is continuing the work endorsed and initiated at the First Seminar in Beijing 2002 and welcomed concrete steps and efforts to enhance China-ASEAN cooperation in mass media. It was also stated in the joint statement that the China-ASEAN Seminar on Mass Media Cooperation is to be held annually in China and ASEAN member countries alternately.

After the two-day seminar in Nanning, the activities in Guilin and Beijing were most lively and very close. More visiting cards were exchanged among the ASEAN participants and the Chinese friends and private as well as group discussions were held in an informal manner at every opportunity. Commemorative group photos were taken and souvenirs exchanged thereby portraying the spirit of the Ten Nations, one Community.

A concrete step scheduled to be taken as the follow-up of the Second Seminar is the proposed Workshop on Enhancing ASEAN-China Cooperation through Information Media to be held in Indonesia later this year with a view to exploring and establishing a programme framework on the long-term collaboration.

In my view, the Second China-ASEAN Seminar on Mass Media Cooperation held under the auspices of the ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China has made an enormous stride to realize the seminar objective—peace, security, cooperation and prosperity—for the region through mass media cooperation. The forthcoming seminars to be alternately in China and ASEAN members every year will greatly contribute towards further promoting cooperation among the media of the region for the common good.
Agriculture, livestock breeding tasks to be carried out ...

The farm is being run on 150 acres of land with the aim of disseminating agricultural and breeding techniques to the public as well as to the regiments and units.

At the farm, various kinds of plants like mango, pepper, banana, pineapple, and teak, pyingadoe are planted.

A total of 1,060 chickens and 166 pigs are bred, and 6,456 chicks and 116 piglets have been distributed to regiments and units.

Leaving An on 27 October morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Taungup and officials, inspected the condition of An-Padan Road session by car. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

Laotian and Vietnamese delegates arrive to attend COMMIT

YANGON, 28 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the 15th day today at the designated places.

Present on the occasions were member of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Competitions Min-

cister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Kyi, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Organizing Sub-committee Director-General U Kyaw Win of the Fine Arts Department, officials and people including tourists.

At the National Museum, 15 girls from States and Divisions participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ religious song contest. Likewise, 16 persons from States and Divisions competed in the amateur level (men’s) old/modern song contest. Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Mya of Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaiing and members supervised the song contest.

On 29 October, the professional level (men’s) team orchestra contest and amateur level (men’s) team orchestra contest will be held.

At Kanbawzathiyar Theatre, 14 girls competed in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ xylophone contest. Next, six contestants participated in the higher education level (men’s) xylophone contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Yi Nwe and party supervised the contests. Tomorrow morning, the professional level (women’s) and higher education level (women’s) and basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ and boys’ Donmin contests will be held.

U Hu Kyi Lwin of Sagaing Division and troupe participate in amateur level dohbet contest.— MNA

Maung Oo Mya Tun of Rakhine State taking part in higher education level mandolin contest.— MNA

743 local and foreign gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 28 Oct — A total of 743 gem merchants — 599 merchants from 192 companies of nine countries and 144 merchants of 90 local companies — arrived here to attend the Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium 2004 held at Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road today.

The merchants viewed gems and jade lots displayed at the emporium from 9 am to 5 pm today. On 29 October, more local and foreign gem merchants are scheduled to arrive here.

From 27 to 29 October, gem merchants will observe gems and jade lots. Jade lots worth under 9,999 euro each at reserve price will be sold through tender system on 30 October; the jade lots worth 10,000 euro each and above at reserve price through competitive bidding system on 31 October and 1 November; the gem lots worth 9,999 euro each at reserve price through tender system on 2 and 3 November; the gem lots worth 10,000 euro each and above at reserve price through competitive bidding and pearl lots worth 4,999 euro each at reserve price through tender system on 4 November and the pearl lots worth 5,000 euro and above at reserve price through competitive bidding system.

743 local and foreign gem merchants arrive — MNA
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M.A.H.G.P., D.B.L.
for CHAMPAGNE MOET & CHANDON
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 29 October 2004

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV “MAWLAMYINE” Voy No 108/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “Mawlamyine” Voy No 108/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 30-10-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

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

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66% of Britons support national ban on smoking

LONDON, 27 Oct.—Nearly seven out of 10 Britons want to see smoking banned in restaurants, pubs and offices, according to a poll published on Tuesday.

Sixty-six per cent of respondents to the ICM poll, commissioned by the Guardian newspaper, said they would support a national ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.

The government is poised to introduce controls but has been keen to avoid being accused of engineering a “nanny state”.

Yet 61 per cent of those questioned said the government was justified in regulating “for the benefit of others” the country’s drinking, smoking and gambling habitats. Thirty-five per cent said they opposed such government interference.

In March, Ireland became the first country to ban smoking in restaurants and pubs. Since then several countries, including Norway and Malta, have instituted similar bans.

The ICM poll also showed 57 per cent of people support the government’s plans to allow pubs and clubs more flexible closing times.

Ministers say relaxed drinking laws will reduce alcohol-related crime and other anti-social behaviour by preventing nightcaps from emptying at the same time.

However, police have warned permitting places to open 24 hours a day could spark a rise in violence.

Austrian Airlines collects contact details of passengers

VIENNA, 27 Oct.—Austrian Airlines is collecting contact details of passengers who may have been exposed to bird flu on one of its flights and will hand over the list to health authorities on Monday, the airline said.

The European Commission said on Sunday two birds of prey that were illegally imported from Thailand were discovered by Belgian Customs authorities on October 18 and diagnosed as having been infected with the bird flu virus. The birds were smuggled into the passenger cabin in hand luggage on the Austrian Airlines flight from Vienna to Brussels.

“We are working on completing the passenger contact information,” Austrian Airlines said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Iran makes bid to accelerate energy ties with China

TEHRAN, 27 Oct.—Oil-rich Iran will in the next few days make a bid to accelerate energy ties with China.

Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh will lead a delegation to China, probably on Wednesday night, Oil Ministry sources said.

Another industry source said the trip was intended to make headway with China’s multi-billion dollar deals to purchase Iranian liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Iran is already China’s second biggest oil supplier, providing 14 per cent of imports, and Chinese companies have been prominent investors in the underground oil industry of OPEC’s second biggest producer.

China is the world’s second biggest energy consumer and the US Energy Information Administration estimates Chinese oil consumption will reach 12.80 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2025 from 5.56 million bpd in 2003.

But the world’s most populous country has to weigh its voracious appetite for the hydrocarbons against its runaway economic growth against Washington’s hostility towards Iran. Iran denounces US charges that its nuclear power station programme is a smoke-screen for developing an atomic bomb but its nuclear dossier is edging ever closer to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

An abstention in Iran doubt energy ties will be enough to win a veto at the UN Security Council from China, the permanent member which has least exercised its veto. “I think an abstention is most likely,” one said.

Others agreed, seeing China as unlikely to imitate the US and be the mask of the United States for the sake of Iran’s oil and gas reserves, the world’s second largest.

An abstention is not regarded as a veto on the UN Security Council.

Analysts have noted that Chinese firms are heavily involved in European projects about incurs US wrath through the Iran Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) over ties with the Islamic Republic.

In March, Chinese companies signed deals with US and European companies worth $20 billion in the face of escalating US, European and UK economic penalties, including denial of US credit, for firms making big investments in Iran’s oil sector.—MNA/Reuters

Higher trade growth predicted in 2004 despite oil price hikes

GENEVA, 27 Oct.—Despite high oil prices, the volume of world trade by the end of 2004 is likely to grow by 8.5 per cent in real terms over 2003, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said Monday.

While the price increases for oil and other commodities may dampen growth in trade and overall output in 2005, these effects are being outweighed by 2004 by vigorous trade expansion in many countries stronger than expected recovery in many others, according to WTO statistics.

“Growth in world trade in 2004 will not be adversely affected by higher oil prices to any great extent because we are seeing good growth in trade and output in China, Latin America and Africa,” said WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi.

“We have also seen stronger than expected economic recovery in Japan. Strong demand is behind rising prices for oil and other commodities and markets appear to be handling this well,” he said.

Analysts in the WTO’s latest trade report on International Trade Statistics, parts of which are available on the WTO web site from Monday, show that world merchandise trade increased in nominal terms by 16 per cent to 7.3 trillion US dollars in 2003.

In real terms, merchandise trade rose by 4.5 per cent in 2003, compared with 3 per cent in 2002 and a decline in 2001, according to the report.

Statistics also show that trade in commercial services grew by 13 per cent to 1.8 trillion dollars in nominal terms.—MNA/Xinhua
**Pay-TV piracy causes huge losses in Asia-Pacific region**

**HONG KONG, 27 Oct —** The cost of pay television piracy in the Asia-Pacific Region is predicted to rise 11 per cent from 874 million US dollars in 2003 to 770 million US dollars as estimated in 2004, a survey showed.

The Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA) and CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets (CLSA) announced here on Tuesday that piracy has caused huge losses to all sectors of the Asia-Pacific pay-TV industry, from platform operators to independent suppliers of programming.

This is the second annual Asia-Pacific cost of pay-TV piracy report covering all forms of cable and satellite pay-TV piracy and spanning Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The cost to governments in lost taxes, licence fees and other revenues is estimated to be at least 152 million US dollars, according to PriceWaterhouseCoopers, who contributed to the report.

The survey showed that Hong Kong has suffered a 66 per cent increase in revenues lost to pirated cable subscribers, but the piracy cost associated with satellite overspill has fallen by 16 per cent.

Yet again the results are alarming,” said Simon Twiston Davies, CEO of CASBAA. “Pay-TV piracy in Asia-Pacific is not a matter of small-time individuals who make a part-time living from trading in pay-TV, but a serious organized crime. All sectors of the pay-TV industry have direct links to, and funding from, organized-crime syndicates investing large sums of money in breaking encryption systems and collecting illicit cable subscriptions”.

“These characters are often involved in drug running and prostitution. In some markets these guys have relationships with terrorists. The offenders are far from nice people and the perception that pay-TV theft and the theft of other types of intellectual property rights is a victimless crime must be clearly rebutted,” added Twiston Davies.

The CLSA noted that the global pay-TV industry is larger than the global recording and filmed entertainment industries combined in terms of revenue. It is vital that all industry participants in Asia join forces to address the problems and overcome the challenges of piracy. —MNA/Xinhua

**Thai-Malaysian Marine police to conduct joint security operations**

**BANGKOK, 27 Oct—** Marine police from Thailand and Malaysia will conduct joint operations next week to see a crackdown on insurgents and illegal drugs and weapons, the Thai News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Under the joint plans, Police Lieutenant Colonel Thawatchai Saikrachang, head of the Perlis and Thawatchai Saikrachang reported on Tuesday.

Illegal drugs and weapons, the next week to see a crackdown on insurgents and land and Malaysia will conduct joint operations.

The Malaysian initiative was made advance forecasts of the oil smuggling situation could be kept under control.—MNA/Xinhua

**Super market chains thrive in Greece**

**ATHENS, 27 Oct —** The super market-department store sector is the second largest business activity (based on its annual turnover) in the local commercial sector, a survey by Stat Bank said on Monday.

The survey said that total profits of the country’s 99 large super market-department store chains rose 18.4 per cent in 2003.

Enterprises in the sector were steadily increasing their profitability in the last three years, the survey said.

Major super market chains dominate the sector, with the seven most profitable companies accounting for about 70 per cent of total net profits of the sector, it said. —MNA/Xinhua

**Czech Customs seized large amount of heroin**

**PRAGUE, 27 Oct —** Czech Customs officials confiscated tens of kilos of heroin lately, thus completing the Salvej (Sage) operation, which lasted over a year, Jiri Bartak, the spokesman for the Customs Authority said Tuesday.

At last weekend, the police arrested two chief organizers of an international drug-dealing gang, Bartak said. Details will be disclosed at a Press conference on Wednesday, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

**China’s World Food Prize winner honoured**

**BEIJING, 27 Oct —** Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu met with China’s 2004 World Food Prize winner Yuan Longping here on Monday, according to the State Council’s greetings to him for his great contributions in raising the nation’s rice yield.

Yuan, dubbed the “father of hybrid rice”, developed the world’s first hybrid rice variety in 1974, increasing rice output by 15 to 20 per cent. He was awarded a World Food Prize this month for his outstanding work.

The Vice Premier thanked Yuan for his creativity and perseverance in promoting scientific agriculture and called on all researchers in the sector to learn from him.

Hui noted that China’s agriculture and rural productivity should rely on science, which is crucial in building up modern agriculture, increasing farmer’s income and promoting rural economies.

Hui also said China should work ceaselessly, go on exploring, make bold innovations and scale new heights so as to introduce breakthroughs in agriculture in technology and grain breeding.

**Customs chief says Thailand can control oil smuggling**

**BANGKOK, 27 Oct—** Director-General of the Customs Department of Thailand, Satthit Limpongpan, insisted that the problem of oil smuggling was under control, revealing that the military would be called in to help suppress cross-border oil smuggling from next month.

Satthit admitted that the global oil price crisis had precipitated a rise in attempts to smuggle oil into the country, the Thai News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Nonetheless, he stressed that the Customs Department was liaising closely with the Excise Department to step up security measures, while the marine police and Navy were helping prevent smuggling at sea. Revealing that the Customs Department and other agencies had already made advance forecasts of the oil smuggling situation, he said that as a result they had been able to draw up detailed suppression plans, ensuring that the smuggling situation could be kept under control.—MNA/Xinhua

**Wal-Mart to enter east China scenic city**

**HANGZHOU, 28 Oct —** Wal-Mart, the world’s top retailer, is going to open a large shopping centre in Hangzhou, a scenically beautiful city with the most Chinese tourism city in Zhejiang Province.

A letter of intent for the approximately 300 million yuan (about 36.3 million US dollars) project was signed between the US-based retailer and a Chinese commercial company, namely Shenzhen Guotou Commercial Properties Company, on Tuesday.

Construction on the shopping centre, a five-storied building with a floor space of some 55,000 square metres, is scheduled to begin early next year and open within two years.

This will be the first Wal-Mart store in Hangzhou City and also the first in Zhejiang Province, according to a source with the government of Xihu (West Lake) District of Hangzhou, where the Wal-Mart store will be located.

Wal-Mart has opened 39 outlets in 19 major Chinese cities, including Shenzhen, Beijing, Harbin and Nanjing, in the past eight years since 1996. The retailer has employed more than 20,000 people in China. Wal-Mart boasts the largest revenues among its peer companies, and it topped the global Fortune 500 from 2000-2003, with a total of 1.5 million employees. — MNA/Xinhua

**A customer buys a slice of pizza on 27 Oct, 2004. Britain’s biggest-selling newspaper said that Arsenal full-back Ashley Cole was responsible for throwing a piece of pizza that it claimed hit Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.**

INTERNET
Mendieta needs surgery for knee injury

LONDON, 27 Oct — Middlesbrough's Spanish midfielder Gaizka Mendieta has been ruled out for up to a year with knee ligament damage.

Mendieta requires surgery on an anterior cruciate ligament injury sustained on Sunday against Portsmouth, Middlesbrough said on their official website on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old was injured after a challenge with Portsmouth's Patrik Berger in the 38th minute of the 1-1 draw at the Riverside. "It's an absolutely devastating blow, not just for him but for the football club," said Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren. "It's a sad loss for us and we wish him a 100 per cent recovery and a speedy one. It's going to be a long haul, nine or 12 months to get him back. "I do feel sorry for him because he's a player who loves playing football and to deny anyone that is very hard." The Spanish international was established himself in the first team and helped them to win last season's League Cup.

Deportivo beat Cercada 2-0

MADRID, 27 Oct — Deportivo Coruna striker Diego Tristan continued his impressive return to form by scoring both goals in the 2-0 victory over fourth division Cercada in the first round of the King's Cup on Tuesday.

Tristan, who got the equalizer in the 1-1 draw at Malaga on Saturday shortly after returning from a lengthy injury lay-off, opened the scoring when he drilled the ball in on the turn from the edge of the area midway through the first half.

Both sides were reduced to 10 men after half an hour when Depor midfielder Sergio and his opposite number Nacho were involved in a minor scuffle but Tristan put the result beyond doubt when he headed his second goal eight minutes from time.

A shadow Real Madrid side, led by strikers Michael Owen and Fernando Morientes, take on modest neighbours Leganes and Osasuna visit another third division side Castellon in Tuesday's late matches.

Burnley sink Aston Villa 3-1

LONDON, 27 Oct — Aston Villa lost 3-1 away to second division Burnley in the League Cup third round on Tuesday as the top Premier League clubs made their first appearance in this season's competition.

A much-changed Manchester United side won 3-0 at Crewe Alexandra, Liverpool beat Millwall by the same scoreline and there were also victories for Portsmouth and Nottingham Forest.

Villa, five-times League Cup winners, fell behind to Burnley after 10 minutes when Graham Branch scored for the hosts.

David O'Leary's team rarely threatened to equalize and, after Villa goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen saved a penalty, Mohamad Camara scored following a short corner routine to double Burnley's advantage.

Colombia striker Juan Pablo Angel got back for Villa with a header nine minutes from time but Jean-Louis Valois made the game safe for Burnley in the dying minutes.

Manchester United, showing 11 changes from the side that started Sunday's league victory over champions Arsenal, eased past Crewe in the first competitive match between the near neighbours, which pitted English soccer's two longest-serving managers in Alex Ferguson and Dario Gradi.

United took the lead after only 10 minutes through Alan Smith who was set up by his fellow striker Louis Saha. Crewe held their line until 12 minutes into the second half when Ireland midfielder Liam Miller grabbed his first goal for United, and the Premier League side added a third through a Steve Foster own goal just before the hour mark.

Liverpool, record seven-times League Cup winners, took the lead at second division Millwall on 17 minutes when midfielder Sahil Dhoaaramed the ball home from 30 metres after a corner.

Last season's FA Cup runners-up fell further behind midway through the second half following a mistake by goalkeeper Graham Stack. Liverpool striker Milan Baros turning the ball into an empty net, and the Czech striker added a third in stoppage time.

BAYERN MUNICH BEAT WOLFSBURG 2-0

BERLIN, 27 Oct — Bayern Munich reined in Bundesliga leaders Wolfsburg on Tuesday with a 2-0 victory, courtesy of a double strike from Peruvian forward Claudio Pizarro in his first match in a month.

Bayern drew level with VfB Stuttgart on 20 points, just one behind Wolfsburg, but remained third on goal difference.

Pizarro showed he has lost none of his poaching instincts with both goals coming from close range, the first from a pass by Bastian Schweinsteiger in the 24th minute and the second on the stroke of halftime off an Owen Hargreaves free kick.

Bayern coach Felix Magath, who is missing several players through injury, including playmaker Michael Ballack, was full of praise for Pizarro in only his third match for Bayern this season.

"Without him, there’s no one who can hold the ball and draw defenders. We play much better with him," Magath said.

Wolfsburg coach Erik Gerets recognized his side had been a clear second best.

Stuttgart have the chance to go top if they get at least a point from their match against champions Werder Bremen in the highlight of Wednesday evening's action.

Hannover 96 climbed to fourth with a 4-1 home win over Kaiserslautern, a defeat that left the visitors rooted to the bottom of the table.

Kaiserslautern chairman Rene Jaggi said after the match that coach Kurt Jara would remain in place at least until Sunday, despite mounting pressure.

It was Hanover's fifth straight win, but perfectionist coach Erwald Lienen felt his side had fortune in an finely balanced match.

"I was pleased with us going forward. What I didn’t like was that we had problems in defence," he said.

VfL Bochum and Borussia Dortmund each gained their second victories of the season.

Bochum, following four consecutive defeats, beat Moenchengladbach 3-0, helped in part by the dismissal of Moenchengladbach’s Jeff Strasser just before the hour mark.

Some of the visiting fans stayed at the end, demanding words with coach Holger Fach. Moenchengladbach have lost their last two matches in the absence of striker Oliver Neuville, banned for steering the ball into the net with his hand nine days ago.

Bochum coach Peter Neururer meanwhile recognized his side had been nervous at the start before growing in confidence after the break.

Dortmund won 1-0 at Hertha Berlin thanks to a Jan Koller header and drew level with Werder on 11 points, just behind them in 11th position on goal difference.

"It’s a first step, but a very important step... The team showed real character today," said Dortmund coach Bert van Marwijk.

Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney (L) fights for the ball with Arsenal's Sol Campbell. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger criticized United’s approach during their controversial win at Old Trafford last weekend. — INTERNET

Michael scores his third goal in three games

MADRID, 27 Oct — Real Madrid striker Michael Owen scored his third goal in three games when he helped his side to a 2-1 win over third division neighbours Leganes in the first round of the King’s Cup on Tuesday.

Fellow striker Fernando Morientes, getting his first start of the season, put Real ahead in the 19th minute when he poked the ball home on the rebound after an Owen volley.

The England striker, who got the winners in Real’s 1-0 victories against Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League and Valencia in the Primera Liga, made it 2-0 early in the second half as he steered the ball in after a neat pass from Morientes.

But Real had to endure a nervy finale after leganes pulled one back with a superb Dani Ruiz free kick in the 95th minute.

Deportivo Coruna striker Diego Tristan continued his impressive return to form by scoring both goals in the 2-0 victory against fourth division Cercada a game which saw both sides reduced to 10 men after 30 minutes. In Tuesday’s other match, Primera Liga side Osasuna managed to squeeze through with a 4-2 victory on penalties against third division Castellon after the game ended 0-0.

Holders Real Zaragoza, who claimed a dramatic extra-time victory over Real Madrid in last year’s final, face a tricky game at second division Gijon on Wednesday when league leaders Barcelona visit third division Gironet.

MNA/Reuters

Two-time bronze medalist Fumie Suguri, pictured, and former Canadian champion Cynthia Phaneuf will be looking for strong showings at this week’s 2004 Skate Canada event. — INTERNET
**Second Japan-ASEAN security symposium opens in Singapore**

**SINGAPORE, 28 Oct —** Singapore on Wednesday hosted the second Japan-ASEAN security symposium, which is convened by Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies.

Speaking at the opening of the symposium, Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zainul Abidin Rasheed stressed the need for the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan to deepen their cooperation in the face of challenges posed by global terrorism.

He said that global terrorism is a common threat and challenge faced, not only by ASEAN and Japan, but also by all countries in the world.

The war against terror is not something that a single country or a single region can deal with on its own, he said, adding that it will require a global, multi-pronged and multinational approach.

“There must be a deeper and closer cooperation between nations and regions. In this regard, it is important that ASEAN, together with Japan and our other partners, sustain and further intensify the momentum of counter-terrorism cooperation on all fronts,” he said. — MNA/PTI

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**Singapore urges countries to work together for biometric passports**

**SINGAPORE, 28 Oct —** Singapore on Tuesday called on countries to work together to develop and deploy biometric or e-passports, and enhance controls at borders.

“One such strategic effort which countries can work together on is to urgently develop and deploy biometric passports and thereby enhance passport controls and border surveillance. To do this meaningfully, we need to establish common security, biometric and operating standards quickly,” Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng said at the Asia Integrated Circuit (IC) Card Forum here.

He said that only by maximizing interoperability will they achieve the full efficiency and security benefits of a biometric traveller identification system across all countries.

On Singapore’s part, he said that Singaporeans are likely to use new biometric passports by the end of next year, in time to meet the new US immigration rules in October.

The minister said that the island state will host interoperability testing for e-passports next month, and that the Changi Airport will also carry out a demonstration project for seamless passenger travel, namely the Fully Automated Seamless Travel (FAST) system.

China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore are the founding members of the Asia IC Card Forum, which seeks to address interoperability issues in the region as well as to facilitate research and standardization of IC card technology and public administration infrastructure to support mutual secure authentication.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday, 28 October, 2004**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 27-10-2004 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 28-10-2004 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-10-2004 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 27-10-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-10-2004 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 14 mph from East (12:30) hours MST on 27-10-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-10-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light rain or thunder-showers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-10-2004: Fair weather. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-10-2004: Generally fair weather.
Buddhist devotees perform meritorious deeds at religious edifices residences on Abhidhamma Day

YANGON, 28 Oct—Buddhist devotees in the Union of Myanmar performed meritorious deeds at religious sites peacefully on Abhidhamma Day today and Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.

Famous pagodas in Yangon City—Shwedagon, Sule, Botataung, Kaba Aye, Tooth Relic, Meilamu, Shwephonepint, Kyaukkasen, Okkalapa, Kyaukkaloh and Kyaukkale in Mingaladon Township, Thadukan and MyoU in Shwepyitha Township, Koedatgyi, Chaukhtetgyi, Ngadatgyi, Lawka Chantha Abbaya Labha Muni Buddha Image in Insein Township—were crowded with devotees and pilgrims from the dawn to the evening.

They paid homage to the pagodas, recited verses from the seven treatises of Abhidhamma, organized the ceremony to offer flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to the pagoda, practised meditation and donated refreshments to the pilgrims. At Shwedagon Pagoda, the ceremony to recite verses from the seven treatises of Abhidhamma, organized by the pagoda board of trustees, was held at the prayer hall. Present were religious associations and officials. Similarly, Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees organized the ceremony to offer flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to the pagoda, practised meditation and donated refreshments to the pilgrims.

A stream of monks and people go to Shwedagon Pagoda for paying homage on Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. — NLM

Jade to be sold in kyat at Jade Mining Division (Lonkhin), Phakant Township

YANGON, 28 Oct—Myanma Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines will sell the uncut jade lots in kyat at Jade Hall in Lonkhin Jade Mining Division in Phakant Township from 13 to 16 December through competitive bidding in accord with prescribed rules and regulations. Gems merchants will be allowed to view and examine the jade lots from 10 to 12 December. Payment for jade lots is to be put into a bank account of Myanma Economic Bank. Merchants are permitted to carry the purchased jade lots to Yangon and Mandalay only under the supervision of the committee concerned.

The sales of uncut jade lots aims at enabling the companies that are jointly doing business with the government to generate their incomes swiftly, boosting the jade trading in the region in accord with rules and regulations of MGE, enabling the gems entrepreneurs to produce polished jade. Moreover, it also aims at curbing the smuggling of jade out of the country. Besides, after cutting the uncut jade bought in kyat, merchants can sell the quality jade in foreign currency at the Myanma Gems Emporium which will be held in March.

Contact is to be made with Myanma Gems Enterprise (Head Office) Yangon; the Jade Mining Division (Lonkhin) and the Jade Mining Divisions (Camp Office) in Myitkyina and Mandalay for registration to attend the sale and to obtain applications. — MNA

IN SUM

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspect main embankment and storage of Mone Creek Dam in Sedoktara Township.

YANGON, 28 Oct—Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, Director-General U Kyaw San Win of Irrigation Department, Director-Water Resource Utilization Department and officials, inspected functions of Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented on Mone Creek in Sedoktara Township on 25 October.

Next, the minister inspected the main dam, storage of water and the main embankment measuring 6,490 feet long and 200 feet high. He then inspected the water supply building, the outlet of the feeder canal and the Mone Creek Hydel Power Station.

Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo met USDA members of Sedoktara Township at the hall of the project and urged them to participate in regional development together with local people and to make efforts for achieving success in implementation of the seven-point policy programme of the State.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The minister heard reports on construction of the spillway, diversion tunnel and the tunnel for the hydel power station. He then inspected the water supply building, the outlet of the feeder canal and the Mone Creek Hydel Power Station.

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