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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang offer ‘soon’ to Buddha Image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda built by King Siri Dhammasoka in Bodh Gaya, India. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party tour Banares and Bodh Gaya

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang arrived at Bangalore Airport at 10.30 am on 27 October to leave for Banares, India.

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and delegation members were seen off at the airport by the governor of Karnataka and officials.

On arrival at Banares in a special aircraft of Indian Airlines, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party were welcomed by officials.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party were taken to Hotel Taj Ganges in a motorcade.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party proceeded to Migadawun, where they revered the area where Gotama Buddha, after reaching Buddhahood, delivered the first Dhammacacca Discourse to Five Disciples.

Migadawun (Myanmar) Monastery Sayadaw Maha Saddhanda Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vannadhaja explained to the Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe the previous existence of the pagoda in the sacred area.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also observed the Ashoka Pillar.

Senior General Than Shwe visualized the Lord Buddha and paid homage to Him after viewing Nandiya Monastery, also known as Mula Gandhakuti, where the Lord Buddha resided.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also paid homage to Dhammekha Pagoda, circling it anticlockwise.

Senior General Than Shwe left Migadawun at 4 pm for Banares Airport.

The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe arrived at Gaya Town in a special flight. They were welcomed at the airport by Magadh Division Commissioner Mr SK Negi and officials.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were later taken to the Royal Residency.

At 6.30 pm, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party visited the Myanmar Monastery in Bodh Gaya. On arrival, they were welcomed by local residents and Myanmar people on pilgrimage.

Senior General Than Shwe and party paid homage to Sayadaws and student monks studying at universities in India.

On the occasion, Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naminda administered the Five Precepts to the congregation led (See page 7)

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Stronger friendly ties, new chapter in bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and India (page 2)

Myanmar ministers meet their counterparts in India (page 5)

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party visit Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Bodh Gaya, India. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang offer ‘soon’ to Buddha Image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda built by King Siri Dhammasoka in Bodh Gaya, India. — MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 1 November, 2004

**Stronger friendly ties, new chapter in bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and India**

Chairs of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar and his wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw Kyaw paid a State Visit to India from 25 to 29 October at the invitation of Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam. On 25 October, Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam hosted a dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaw Kyaw Kyaw at the Presidential Residence in New Delhi.

Speaking at dinner, Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam said: “Our bilateral relationship is a factor of peace and stability for the region and has an important bearing on regional cooperation initiatives.”

Senior General Than Shwe, in his address at dinner, said: “In this age of globalization, Myanmar considers that closer cooperation among neighbouring countries is essential to meet the new challenges we face. In this regard, Myanmar welcomes India’s ‘Look East’ policy and its commitment to strengthen economic linkages and developmental cooperation with the ASEAN countries.” Myanmar has established close and cordial relations with India since many years ago. Moreover, the two countries share historical, geographical, cultural and religious analogues, thereby multiplying mutual understanding and friendly relations between both peoples. Exchange of visits between the high-ranking officials opens a new chapter in political, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

For India, Myanmar is the only gateway to ASEAN. Furthermore, Myanmar and India are partners cooperating in BIMST-EC and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation. With a gradual increase in trade, the two countries still have a prospect of further widening their scope of bilateral cooperation.

During the State Visit to India by Senior General Than Shwe, the two countries signed three memoranda of understanding on cooperation in non-traditional security issues between the two governments, on implementation of Htamanthi hydel power project between the Ministry of Electricity of Myanmar and the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and on cultural exchange programme 2004-2006 between the two governments.

It is believed that the State Visit paid to the Republic of India by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw Kyaw will vitalize bilateral ties and promote cooperation in trade and culture between the two countries.

**Second Abhidhamma Day ceremony held in Myitkyina**

YANGON, 31 Oct — The second Abhidhamma Day ceremony of Kachin State was held at Sasana Abhidhamma Day. Later, members of religious organizations recited Dhammaça-kkya Desana. — MNA

**Ayeyawady Division USDA holds annual meeting**

YANGON, 31 Oct — The annual meeting 2004 of Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the city hall of Pathein this morning. It was attended by members of the Panel of Patrons of USDA (Central) Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Secretary Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and officials.

The commander made a speech on the occasion. The commander gave necessary instructions and the meeting ended.

On October 30, the commander and party inspected the cleaning and beautifying tasks in the towns being carried out by the departmental staff and local people and the commander attended to the needs.

Next, the commander inspected repaving of Minbagyi Road being carried out by the Township Development Affairs Committee and he gave necessary instructions.

Later, the commander attended work coordination meeting of the General Administration Department of Rakhine State and fulfilled the requirements of the works. MNA

**Commander looks into beautifying of Sittway**

YANGON, 31 Oct — A coordination meeting on beautifying and greening Sittway Township was held at Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Office on October 29 morning, attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint inspected extension of irrigated area of Thittakton Diversion Weir and dredging of extension tunnel carried out by Irrigation Department. Assistant Director U Zaw Min Htut and Director U Aye Thein of Irrigation Department and Chairman of Kyaukse District PDC Lt-Col Tin Ohn reported on progress of construction tasks. The Commander attended to their needs. The commander proceeded to TadaU Township and inspected supply of water and sinking of the tube-well. An official reported on progress of works and the commander gave necessary instructions. MNA

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**Myanmar delegation leaves for Thailand**

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left here by air this morning to attend the Ayeyawady-ChaoPhraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Ministerial Retreat to be held in Krabi, Thailand, from 1st to 3rd November.

The Deputy Minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by heads of departments, officials and Charge d’Affaires Mr Opas Chantarasap of the Royal Thai Embassy. — MNA

Minister of State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Sae and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Commander of Myitkyina Airbase Col Zaw Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental officials and local people. U Soe Tint of Kachin State Religious Affairs Department explained matters related to Abhidhamma Day. Later, members of religious organizations recited Dhammaça-kkya Desana. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu being seen off at the airport before departure for Thailand to attend ACMECS Ministerial Retreat. — MNA

**Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views

Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation

Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State

Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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YANGON, 31 Oct — The second Abhidhamma Day ceremony of Kachin State was held at Sasana Berkman of Kachin State in Myitkyina on October 28 afternoon.

Present were Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Sae and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, Commander of Myitkyina Airbase Col Zaw Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental officials and local people. U Soe Tint of Kachin State Religious Affairs Department explained matters related to Abhidhamma Day. Later, members of religious organizations recited Dhammaça-kkya Desana. — MNA

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**Eight Marines killed in Iraq as Fallujah assault looms**

**BAGHDAD, 30 Oct —** Eight US Marines were killed Saturday in the bloodiest attack on American forces in Iraq in almost seven months as troops prepared for a major assault to capture the guerrilla towns of Ramadi and Fallujah.

Violence flared across Iraq ahead of the offensive, expected any day, and US planes and artillery pounded Fallujah in the country’s central Sunni Muslim heartland. At least seven people were killed by a suspected car bomb outside the Al Arabiya television office in Baghdad, the station reported, and seven Iraqis died in clashes with US troops in an area dubbed the triangle of death southwest of the capital.

The US military said the Marines were killed in the restive western province of Anbar, which includes Fallujah and Ramadi, but gave no details. Nine Marines were also wounded.

Witnesses said earlier they had seen three US vehicles burning on a road east of Fallujah, in the same province. It was not clear if that was where the Marine casualties occurred.

The deaths bring to 858 the number of US troops killed in combat. The total number of US troop deaths, including accidents and other causes, is now almost 1,120.

US Marine commanders said Friday they were preparing for a major assault on Fallujah and Ramadi, Internet.

**Polish hostage begs nation to leave Iraq**

**BAGHDAD, 31 Oct —** A Polish woman hostage being held by militants pleaded for her life and asked Poland to remove its troops from Iraq in a video aired Saturday by Al-Jazeera television.

Teresa Borz Khalifa, a 54-year-old with dual Polish-Iraqi citizenship, was wearing a black top and sitting in front of a banner with the militant group’s name, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Fundamentalist Brigades.

"Once again I call on you to help me, by saving my life," she said. "My life is in great danger. The one thing that will save my life is any response to the Iraqis’ demands: by first getting the Polish troops out of Iraq and second, giving any help to release the female Iraqi prisoners from the various American prisons in Iraq," Khalifa made an anguished plea for help specifically to the Polish government.

"For the second time I am asking for the help of the Polish government and the Polish people, I ask everyone who can help me get out of this situation, given that I am a Polish citizen and somehow is being made responsible for presence of the Polish troops on Iraqi soil," she said. On Thursday, Al-Jazeera television aired a video by the extremists holding her captive, demanding that Poland remove all its soldiers from Iraq.

Poland commands about 6,000 troops in 15 nations — including some 2,400 from Poland — in central Iraq. The Warsaw government has ruled out any possibility of negotiations or a pullout from Iraq. Internet.

**Unidentified body found near Tikrit**

**TIKRIT (Iraq), 30 Oct —** An unidentified body has been found near the Iraqi town of Tikrit, police said on Friday, but it is unlikely to be that of Japanese hostage Shuoi Koda.

The bullet-riddled body, with what appeared to be rope burns on the wrists, was found near Saddam Hussein’s hometown, 110 miles north of Baghdad, early on Thursday morning.

Police said the victim was dark-skinned, had a moustache and was draped in a white shirt and baggy pants commonly worn in India and Pakistan, which does not fit Koda’s description.

Some media had earlier reported the body of an Asian-looking man had been found near Tikrit, sparking speculation it might have been Koda.

On Tuesday, militants led by al-Aeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said they would behead the 24-year-old if Japan did not withdraw its 550 non-combat troops from Iraq within 48 hours. No word has been heard from them since.

Japanese has rejected the demand.

Islamic militants are holding a score of foreign hostages a dozen countries. MNA/Reuters

**Angola, Yemen establish diplomatic relations**

**LUANDA, 30 Oct —** Angola and Yemen have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, according to Angolan official news agency Angop on Friday.

The report said Angolan Foreign Minister M. Mansur Khalid, the permanent representative of Angola to the United Nations, signed the accord for the country on Thursday, whilst Abdullah M Alsaedi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to the UN, represented his country.

The ceremony, held on the premises of the Angolan mission, was attended by employees of both diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations, New York. MNA/Agencia Angolana

**Italians stage demo against Iraq war**

**ROME, 30 Oct —** Several thousand people took to the streets of Rome to protest the war in Iraq and demand the withdrawal of some 3,000 Italian troops based there.

Several leaders of the Italian opposition took part in the protest in rainy conditions, in which organizers estimated a turnout of 70,000. Police did not give a figure.

"The war is not yet over and we must continue to keep mobilized," said Fabio Labanti, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party.

Green party president Alfonzo Picorizzo said: "100,000 dead is a good reason to demand the withdrawal of Italian troops from Iraq," a reference to the huge number of civilians killed both during last year’s war and since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

"It’s not enough to sign unitary motions on the withdrawal. We must also mobilize, as thousands of pacifists have done today. This large turnout shows that peace is an issue in Italian public opinion that can mobilize people."

Rome has around 3,000 soldiers in Iraq—the third biggest US-allied force in the country, after the United States and Britain, which have around 140,000 and 8,500 troops there respectively.

Italian Defence Minister Antonio Martino said earlier this month that the Italian government to be elected in January would ask foreign forces operating in the US-led military coalition to leave shortly after taking office.

The aim is to crush guerrillas and root out Arab militants led by the radical Al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi to enable Iraq's interim government to hold national elections in January. Internet

**Eight US Marines were killed in the bloodiest attack on American forces in Iraq in almost seven months on 30 Oct, 2004, as troops prepared for a major assault to capture the guerrilla towns of Ramadi and Fallujah.** — INTERNET

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British soldier killed in redeployment near Baghdad

LONDON, 30 Oct — A British soldier was killed and three others injured on Friday as the Black Watch Regiment travelled from southern Iraq to its more dangerous new base near Baghdad, a military spokesman confirmed.

The spokesman for the British Ministry of Defence told Xinhua the incident occurred “as a result of vehicle accident,” when the Warrior vehicle they were travelling was overturned in Iraq’s Babil Province, adding “no hostile actions” were involved.

It was the first fatality from the contingent of around 850 Black Watch soldiers, who are being redeployed from their previous base in the relatively peaceful southern part of Iraq, at a request from the United States to free-up troops to fight in other hotspots including Fallujah.

The first troops from the Black Watch have arrived at a new base, called Camp Dogwood, about 15 miles south of Baghdad. Sky News television reported. Thesewould arrive over the weekend, military sources said.

Japan hostage in Iraq killed

Tokyo, 30 Oct — A Japanese man who was taken hostage by militants in Iraq has been killed, the Kyoto news agency reported on Saturday, citing government officials.

Al-Qaeda ailey Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s militant group said in an Internet video on Wednesday it would behead 24-year-old Shosei Koda within 48 hours if Japan did not withdraw its troops from Iraq. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi rejected the demand, saying he would not bow to terrorists.

US decision to cut troops in S Korea a madcap ploy

SEOUL, 30 Oct — The US decision to cut and relocate its troop contingent in South Korea while bringing in high-tech armaments is a madcap ploy that shows a second Korean War is imminent, North Korea said on Friday.

The United States and South Korea signed a landmark deal on Tuesday under which 12,500 troops will leave by 2008. US forces will also vacate a base in Seoul and units will be pulled south away from the fortified Demilitarized Zone border with the North.

General Leon LaPorte, commander of US Forces in Korea, told a seminar many of the more than 100 US sites had been down dusty tracks even 10 years ago but were now in built-up areas because South Korea’s economy had grown so much.

“Many of these installations now cause an irritant to the Korean people,” he said on Friday. “Our goal in realigning our forces is to reduce this irritant.”

Many young South Koreans express anti-US sentiments because of the military presence. LaPorte said the key was to ensure North Korea did not misunderstand the US plan, which is part of a global realignment of its forces.

North Korea has long argued all US forces should withdraw but has taken a different line now that some are actually pulling out.

“The US madcap arms build-up of an unprecedented scale now under way in South Korea under the pretext of the cut down of its troops and their relocation is a dangerous military action,” said the North’s main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun.

An Iraqi boy collects the remains of a rocket shell from inside a badly damaged building destroyed during an overnight US raid in the restive city of Fallujah, 50 kms from Baghdad, on 28 Oct. 2004. — INTERNET

FBI to interview US Army official on Halliburton’s work in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 29 Oct — The FBI has asked to interview a whistle-blowing Army contracting official as part of an investigation into billions of dollars of Iraq-related contracts awarded to Halliburton Co, her lawyer said on Thursday.

The FBI is also investigating whether US Army contracting official Carol Sanders’ former Army Corps of Engineers’ chief contracting officer, went public this week with complaints that US officials improperly favoured Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root for work in Iraq and the Balkans.

Bunnatine Greenhouse, the Army Corps of Engineers’ chief contracting officer, was involved in award of Halliburton contracts. Her lawyer said she knew nothing of anything.

Bunnatine’s attorney Michael Kohn said she was seeking to make sure that her former associate Greenhouse was given protection as a whistle-blower before she meets the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI declined comment. A spokeswoman for the Corps of Engineers, Carol Sanders, said she knew nothing of anything.

Halliburton spokes-woman Wendy Hall said the company was working with all investigations related to the delivery of fuel to Iraq under its contract with the Army. The “old allegations” raised by Greenhouse had once again been recycled ahead of the election, she said.

One of the filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Halliburton previously disclosed a related US Justice Department investigation.

Greenhouse said she understood from the FBI it had launched its investigation into KBR’s Iraq-related work before Greenhouse complained of “repeated interference” in the award of Halliburton contracts.

US new jobless claims up sharply last week

WASHINGTON, 29 Oct — The initial claims for unemployment benefits in the United States increased by 20,000 last week, the largest jump in a month, the Labour Department reported on Thursday.

The bigger-than-expected increase pushed total new claims to 350,000 last week. The increase of 20,000 was sharply higher than the 6,000 gain that many economists had been expecting and was the biggest one-week rise since a jump of 21,000 claims in the week ending on 25 September.

Analysts said that it was another sign that the US labour market remains weak although the economy is accelerating in recent months.
YANGON, 31 Oct.—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Communications, Posts and Tele-graphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, who accompanied Chair-man of the State Peace and Development Council Sen-ior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing as members of Myanmar goodwill delegation on a State Visit to the Republic of India, met officials of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath at Maurya Shweaton Hotel in New Delhi. — MNA

On 25 October morning, Minister U Aung Thaung received the managing directors of GR Group, Larsen and Toubra Ltd and Nipha Export (P) Ltd at the Oberoi Hotel.

In the afternoon, he met the managing director of World Best Trading Co and the chairman of Angelique International Co at the same venue and explained investment opportunities in Myanmar.

Likewise, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met the Minister of External Affairs of India at the latter’s office at 6 pm on 25 October. Matters related to promotion of friendship between the two countries were discussed.

On 25 October, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met the Secretary of Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry and the Chairman of ONGC (VEDESH) and Gail (India) Pte Ltd and party at the Oberoi Hotel.

Matters related to exploration of oil and natural gas in Myanmar, laying pipelines for supply of natural gas produced in Myanmar to India and fuel trade at the border were discussed.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung met Minister of Science and Technology of India Mr Kapil Sibal at the latter’s office on 25 October.

Matters related to the holding of the fourth meeting of India-Myanmar Science and Technology Cooperation Task Force in the last week of November 2004 in New Delhi under the MoU signed by the ministers on 24 June 1999 were discussed.

Likewise, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met Professor Raju and Professor Tiyari of Care Foundation in New Delhi on 25 October.

Matters related to health care services of the two countries and future tasks, especially treatment of and operation on heart, treatment and diagnosis of alimentary tract diseases and cooperation in research work were discussed. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw discuss with Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath at Maurya Shweaton Hotel in New Delhi. — MNA
YANGON, 31 Oct — The visiting Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang arrived at Gaya Airport from the Royal Residency on 28 October afternoon to leave for Kolkata. They were seen off at the airport by Mr SK Negi, Commissioner of Magadh Division and officials.

On arrival at Kolkata by Indian Airlines, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Governor of State of West Bengal Mr Viren J Shah and wife, Senior Minister of the State and Minister of Education Mr Satya Sadhama Chakrabarty and high-ranking officers. Two Myanmar children presented a bouquet to the Senior General and wife. Next, Consul-General U Zeya Oo and wife, staff members of the Consulate-General of Myanmar to India and their families cordially greeted the Senior General and wife. Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation went to the Oberon Grand Hotel by car. In the evening, the Governor hosted a dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife at Raj Bhavan, Kolkata. Also present at the dinner were Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, SPDC member Lt-Gen Thuya Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Minister for Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Than Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and wife Daw Ma Ma Shein, Director-General of the SPDC Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and heads of department. Together with the Governor of State of West Bengal, India, hosts dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang being welcomed by Governor of West Bengal State.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party being welcomed at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang being welcomed by Governor of West Bengal State.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe presents a souvenir to Curator of Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.— MNA

Governor of West Bengal, India, hosts dinner in honour of Senior General Than Shwe and wife

Senior General Than Shwe and party visit Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.— MNA
by Senior General Than Shwe, The recitation of parittas by members of the Sangha followed.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing also offered robes and cash to the Sayadaw.

Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein supplicated on the purpose of donating Three Pitakas and offertories to Sayadaws and student monks.

Next, Kusinaron Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agya Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nānīcāra delivered a sermon to the congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe, which was followed by the sharing of merits gained from good deeds.

Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Maha Bodhi Pagoda, built by King Siridhamma Soka in Bodh Gaya. At the pagoda, they paid homage to the pagoda and offered flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to Buddha images.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also paid homage to the Aparajita Golden Throne and the Bo Tree, under which the Lord Buddha attained the enlightenment.

After paying homage to the Buddha Image near the pagoda, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and members of the Myanmar goodwill delegation left there.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe signs in the visitors’ book at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata. — MNA

The State of Bengal has been the closest to Myanmar in terms of neighbourly relations between the two countries. And the State will continue cooperation with Myanmar in all aspects as before, he said.

Next, the Governor and wife hosted the dinner to the Senior General and wife and party. After the dinner, the Senior General and party went back to their hotel where they were putting up.

On 29 October morning the Senior General and party visited the Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata where they were welcomed by Secretary and Curator Prof Chitta Panda and officials and explained facts about the memorial hall. They next studied the arts and weapons used by Indian national races displayed at the memorial hall.

Senior General Than Shwe and party observed documents on historical facts of the State of West Bengal and paintings depicting culture, customs, economy and social affairs.

They were conducted round the booths on social life of local people by officials. They also observed portraits of leaders of India.

Senior General Than Shwe signed in the visitors’ book and presented gifts to Curator Prof Chitta Panda.

Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang arrived at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata at 2 pm. They were seen off at the airport by Ambassador U Kyi Thein and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw and wife, Consul General U Zeya Oo and wife, embassy staff and families.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang bade farewell to Governor of State of West Bengal Mr Viren J Shah, Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and wife.

The Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang arrived home in the evening.

MNA

Governor of West Bengal, India, …

Bengal, the ministers of the State, the deputy ministers, the Indian Ambassador and wife and high-ranking officials also attended the dinner. Before the dinner, the Senior General and wife met and made discussions with the Governor and wife at the guesthouse. Also present were Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Ambassador U Kyi Thein, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun. At the meeting, the Senior General explained the latest developments in political, economic and social fields of the State. The Governor said he was very grateful for welcoming him when he was on a visit to Myanmar at the beginning of this year. The State of Bengal has been the closest to Myanmar in terms of neighbourly relations between the two countries. And the State will continue cooperation with Myanmar in all aspects as before, he said.

Next, the Governor and wife hosted the dinner to the Senior General and wife and party. After the dinner, the Senior General and party went back to their hotel where they were putting up.

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MNA
Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party being welcomed by local people and pilgrims from Myanmar at Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery in Gaya. — MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay reverence to the place where Lord Buddha administered Dhammaçakkya Desana to His first five monks in Migadawon. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and member of Myanmar delegation present cash donation to Migadawon Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw. — MNA

The Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer flowers to Buddha images at Aparajita Throne and Bo Tree. — MNA
Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing pay homage to Bronze Buddha Image to be kept in front of Maha Bo Tree and Golden Throne in Bodh Gaya.— MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe offers gold foils to Buddha Image at Maha Bo Tree and Golden Throne in Bodh Gaya.— MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family donate robes to Sayadaw of Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery.— MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and Myanmar delegation members feed the fish at Maçanlinda Lake (the Abode of Snake King).— MNA

Images of Senior General Than Shwe’s State Visit to India
On arrival at Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery, they paid homage to Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naninda and members of the Sangha of the monastery. The Senior General gave instructions to officials for attending the needs of the monastery.

While in India, CDs on tri-Pitakat treatises in Myanmar version, Myanmar-English Buddhist cultural books, medicines and cash were donated to 18 monasteries including Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery, Kathinmayon Myanmar Monastery, Thawwhti Myanmar Monastery, Buddhism Myanmar Monastery, Pattna Myanmar Monastery, Indo-

Furthermore, they made cash donations towards the funds of student monks at universities in India. — MNA

Seinbudaw (diamond bud) hoisting of Dhamma Tapawwana Pagoda in Igatpur, India

YANGON, 31 Oct—A ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw(diamond bud) of Dhamma Tapawwana Pagoda built in the World Vipassana Meditation Centre in Igatpur, India, was held at the pagoda on 26 October. Present were member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Garava, Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy on Sagaing Hill Agga Maha Pandita Dr Nanisara and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, Maha Saddhamma-jotikadhaja U Goenka and yogis.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally opened the ‘Myanmar’ Archway and U Ba Khin Vipassana Village Arch-way and formally unveiled the Dhamma circle. The minister and officials sprinkled scented water on them. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sitagu Sayadaw. The minister and U Goenka presented the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and offerings to the Sayadaw, which was followed by the sharing of merits.

The minister then hoisted Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda. He performed rituals of gold and silver showers.

The minister handed over the cash donated for the pagoda by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang to U Goenka. The minister inspected construction of a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda which will be built in Mumbai. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang offer fruits to Buddha Image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party donate provisions to Sayadaws at consecration ceremony of Bronze Buddha Image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Bodh Gaya in Gaya, India. — MNA

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung offers the Hngetmyatnadaw to Sitagu Sayadaw. — MNA
Hu Jintao welcomes Indo-Pakistani efforts to normalize ties

BEIJING, 31 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao Friday lauded the initiatives of India and Pakistan to normalize their bilateral ties stressing that Beijing was keen on a peaceful neighbourhood.

Hu, who met the Speaker of Pakistan’s National Assembly Chaudhry Amir Hussain here, lauded Pakistan’s initiatives for normalizing its relations with India and said China desired peace in the region.

“We appreciate the dialogue between Pakistan and India,” Hu, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China, was quoted as saying.

Despite the repeated terrorist attacks on Chinese engineers and personnel in Pakistan, Hu assured Hussain that China will help Pakistan taking further development projects.

“No incident can affect our trustworthy and cordial relations,” Hu was quoted as saying by Pakistani media.

Hu recalled his meeting with President General Pervez Musharraf last year and said it was very useful. They signed a joint declaration, Hu said, adding he was happy to see that the declaration was being implemented.

He also hoped that government of Pakistan would adopt all measures for the safety and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. — MNA/PTI

CHKL granted HK banking licence

HONG KONG, 31 Oct — The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced Friday that it has granted a banking licence to Citibank (Hong Kong) Limited (CHKL) to be effective on October 28, 2004.

CHKL is incorporated in Hong Kong and was authorized as a restricted licence bank on June 28, 2004. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Citibank, N.A. (“Citibank”) which is a bank incorporated in the United States and operates a branch in Hong Kong.

According to The Bankers, July 2004 issue, Citigroup was the largest banking group in the world in terms of tier 1 capital. — MNA/Adhua

Respects paid to teachers at Pyay BEHS No 1

YANGON, 31 Oct — Pyay Basic Education High School No 1 of Bago Division (West) held a ceremony to pay respects to teachers at the hall of the school on October 28 evening. Present were Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and departmental officials. Headmaster U Chan Aung and teachers, members of the School Board of Trustees and students.

First, those present were served with light refreshments. Next, Brig-Gen Hla Min and Bago Division (West) Education Officer U Myint Swe formally opened the ceremony. Headmaster U Chan Aung presented commemorative pennants to Brig-Gen Hla Min and DEO U Myint Swe.

Later, students presented a concert to the audience. — MNA

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein enjoys men’s amateur harp contest at Padonma Theatre

Tan and India,” Hu, who met the Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party supervised the contests.

At Kanbawza Theatre, 10 persons participated in the amateur level (men’s) violin contest and eight students in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ violin contest.

The song contest was held at the National Museum, the dancing contest at the National Theatre, the song composing contest at the State School of Music and Drama, the music contest at the Kanbawza Theatre and the Mahosadha Marionette Contest at the National Theatre. — MNA

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein enjoys men’s amateur harp contest at Padonma Theatre.

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Bangladesh to sign free trade agreement with Morocco

DHAKA, 30 Oct — Bangladesh is set to sign its first bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) with Morocco despite reservations by its own research wing.

The trade minister of Morocco would visit Bangladesh in the first week of December to finalize the FTA with the country, The Financial Express reported on Thursday.

The bilateral FTA with Morocco, however, got a tepid response from the Tariff Commission, the research and analysis wing of the Commerce Ministry of Bangladesh, which feels that the deal would hardly serve any purpose for the country.

Examining the trade records between the two countries and other future possibilities, the commission has expressed the opinion that there is no apparent need for such a deal.

According to the commission, the two-way trade between the two countries did not even surpass two million US dollars in 2003.

In 2002-2003, Bangladesh exported goods worth $1.1 million to Morocco, and the figure rose to $1.68 million in 2003-2004 fiscal.

Ministry sources said that it was Morocco which first proposed to sign the bilateral FTA. Since Bangladesh enjoys a slight advantage over the North African country, the Ministry feels that there is no harm in signing the deal.

Bangladesh had initiated bilateral FTA talks with India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but the talks were suspended after two rounds.

The ministry, meanwhile, shaped up a preferential trade agreement with Egypt and a new trade deal with Iran.

Under the preferential deal, a number of Bangladeshi goods will be allowed to enter the Egyptian market, the biggest in North Africa and the Arab world, while Egypt will also enjoy similar facilities.

At present, their two-way trades hover around 10 million dollars annually.

Bangladesh would sign a new trade deal with Iran by the end of this year, as Iran insisted on suspending the earlier agreement in favour of a new one.

The earlier agreement was signed during Shah's regime and much of its provisions have become obsolete, — MNA/Xinhua

SAIC signs deal to buy shares of S Korean auto maker

SEOUL, 30 Oct — Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp (SAIC), the biggest saloon car producer in China, signed here contract with creditors of South Korean Ssangyong Motor Co Thursday to buy shares of the company.

The Chinese automaker will acquire a 48.9-per cent stake in Ssangyong Motor, a specialist in sports utility vehicles, for 500 million US dollars.

The final contract comes three months after SAIC was selected as the preferred bidder for the South Korean automaker, which had been up for sale since the creditors bailed it out following the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

“The acquisition of Ssangyong Motor is the first step in Shanghai Automotive’s global operations,” Hu Muyuan, president of the Chinese carmaker, told reporters here before signing a formal contract for the deal.

“Following a win-win strategy, we will take aggressive steps to contribute to Ssangyong Motor’s development,” Hu said, stressing: “It is a complementary joint venture and unprecedented cooperation.”

Hu said the SAIC will keep all the company’s workers, maintain the Ssangyong brand and guarantee independent management, accepting most of the demands by Ssangyong Motor’s unionized workers.

The takeover of Ssangyong Motor by China’s largest automaker is expected to pave the way for the East Asia Economic Community (EAC) as early as possible.

“We, as ASEAN and Japanese business persons, have close business relations with China and South Korea and believe that cooperation among all the countries of East Asia will give a great economic advantage to the member countries of EAC,” the joint statement said.

The economic community should be in the form of a more comprehensive economic partner ship including mutual cooperation for people exchange, human resources development, coordinated currency and financial systems, technology transfer and environmental protection, it said.

The leaders sought an early conclusion of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement as a step toward creating the regional economic community. They also urged the Japanese Government to consider appointing a special minister for negotiations on free trade and economic partnership agreements.

Kakutaro Kitashiro, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives which organized the business meeting, said in a news conference, “The further development of ASEAN economic would create a free trade zone of 600 million people.”

“It is important for Japan to open up its largest agricultural markets and contribute to the development of ASEAN,” he added.

The leaders expressed their hope that the joint statement would provide input for the ASEAN plus three summit scheduled for November in Laos.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to promote trade relations with India

HYDERABAD, 30 Oct — Singapore Friday said its businesswomen looked upon India as an attractive investment destination because of its open and liberal policies.

India was the 13th largest trading partner of Singapore with a business volume of 10 million US dollars, which was expected to grow further with the pro-active policies of Indian Government in favour of foreign investors, Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan said after inaugurating a Singapore Medical Centre — being set up jointly by Singapore and Indian doctors — here Friday.— MNA/TPI
China launches award for wildlife protection

Beijing, 29 Oct—The China Environmental Protection Foundation (CEPF) and US Wild Aid jointly launched a special award here Thursday to promote wildlife protection in China. The China Wildlife Conservation Award is the first in China initiated by a non-governmental organ on wildlife protection, said Qu Geping, president of the board of directors of CEPF, at Thursday’s ceremony.

Though China has made great progress in the protection of wildlife, the illegal hunting and trading of wild animals continues, said Qu. He said the award will help promote the country’s awareness of environmental protection.

The award selection starts every September, and the result will be declared the next March. Each round will have six winners, five gold medallists and one life-achievement winner.

Apart from a certificate and cup, each winner will get a 3,500-US-dollar bonus to be used for wildlife protection.

The award carries no limitations on nationality, region, and religion for its candidates — anyone who has made contributions to wildlife protection in China is eligible.

At Thursday’s ceremony, Wild Aid President Steve Tremt was granted an honour certificate for his efforts in protecting wildlife resources in China.

Rare fossil skeletons of tiny human found

New York, 29 Oct—In one of the most spectacular fossil finds in recent times, scientists have found fossil skeletons of a tiny human that grew no larger than a three-year-old modern child, a media report said on Thursday.

The hobbit-like humans, who had skulls about the size of grape fruits, lived with pygmy elephants and Komodo dragons on a remote island in Indonesia as recently as 13,000 years ago, according to the National Geographic News.

Australian and Indonesian researchers, said discovered bones of the miniature humans in a cave on Flores, an island midway between Asia and Australia.

The tiny human is believed to be an extinct Asian offshoot of Homo erectus, the forerunners of modern man is called.

But, he should be classified as a separate species of Homo, as he was entirely different from either Homo erectus or Homo sapiens, a report in the British science journal Nature said.

Scientists have determined that the first skeleton they found belongs to a species of human completely new to science. Named Homo floresiensis after the island on which it was found, the tiny human has also been dubbed by dig workers as the “hobbit”, after the tiny creatures from the Lord of the Rings book, the report said in the National Geographic News.

The original skeleton, a female, stood at just one metre tall, weighed about 25 kilos and was around 30 years old at the time of her death 18,000 years ago.

The skeleton, the report said, was found in the same sediment deposits on Flores that have also been found to contain stone tools and the bones of dwarf elephants, giant rodents, and Komodo dragons.

Enlarged spaces around blood vessels had lower mental ability

London, 29 Oct—Changes around blood vessels in the brain may hold clues about mental decline and dementia in the elderly, Scottish scientists said on Thursday.

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh have discovered that elderly patients have abnormal channels, which are known as enlarged perivascular spaces, in the brain which are rare in young, healthy adults.

These findings mean that we should certainly be looking more closely at the enlarged perivascular spaces as a cause of dementia and other mental decline, said Dr Alasdair MacLullich, who headed the research team.

They raise the interesting possibilities that there may be substances in the blood, such as cholesterol or sugar levels, or even blood pressure itself, that may contribute to memory decline as people become older, he added in a statement.

MacLullich and his colleagues measured the enlarged perivascular spaces in the brains of 100 healthy middle-aged volunteers and 100 more elderly people who had mental decline. They found that people with enlarged perivascular spaces had lower mental abilities and higher blood pressure.

Umbilical cord blood may hold valuable clues for doctors

London, 29 Oct—Blood from a baby’s umbilical cord could help doctors predict which children will suffer from allergies and asthma later in their lives, British and American scientists said on Thursday.

The researchers found that levels of allergy antibodies in the cord blood could be a more important indicator of allergy risk than exposure to allergens such as pollen, pet hair and dust mites. “These findings support the importance of prenatal conditioning in the development of allergy later in life,” said Dr. Hasan Arshad, of the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, in a research paper released Thursday.

The scientists studied more than 1,300 children up to the age of 10 and monitored their allergies. Children who had high levels of IgE, an immune system response indicating sensitization to allergens in their umbilical cord blood, were twice as likely to develop an allergy and 66 per cent more susceptible to asthma.

“This research indicates that umbilical cord blood may hold valuable clues as to why one in five children in Britain have asthma and one in three adults are developing an allergy,” said Professor Andrew Peacock, of the British Thoracic Society, in a statement.

Arshad said the finding could have an effect on measures pregnant mothers could take to prevent allergies and asthma in their child.

Jordan likely to sign engine deal with Toyota

London, 29 Oct—Formula One team Jordan are hoping in on an engine deal with Toyota that would secure their survival in the race, the team said on Thursday.

The deadline for teams to enter for the 2005 championship is November 15 and Jordan have been racing against time to secure an engine deal by then. The Silverstone-based team, founded by Irish entrepreneur Eddie Jordan, have been in Formula One since 1991 but were left scrambling around for an engine after Ford announced they were pulling out of the sport.

Jordan were powered by Ford-owned Cosworth this year and had been expecting to continue with them in 2005.

Singapore receives 658,224 tourists in September

Singapore, 29 Oct—Singapore received 658,224 tourists in September this year, up 18 per cent over last year.

According to a statement by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Thursday, China, Indonesia and Japan were the island state’s top-three tourist-generating markets, and these markets accounted for 40 per cent of the total number of tourists of the month.

In the first nine months of this year, Singapore posted an estimated 7.2 billion Singapore dollars (about 4.3 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts. As a nation of around four million, Singapore’s target is to get 8.7 billion Singapore dollars (about 5.2 billion US dollars) in tourism receipts this year.
**SPORTS**

**Sol Campbell will miss match against Southampton**

LONDON, 30 Oct—Arsenal and England defender Sol Campbell has sustained a calf injury and will miss the team’s Premier League match against Southampton on Saturday, manager Arsene Wenger said.

“We have a problem with Sol Campbell,” Arsenal’s website quoted Wenger as saying. “It is a calf injury linked with the Achilles he had before. He will have a scan to see the extent of the problem but he is definitely out for Saturday.”

Wenger said left-back Ashley Cole and goalkeeper Jens Lehmann were also doubtful.

Cole picked up a knee injury during the team’s 2-0 defeat against Manchester United on Sunday while Lehmann has been suffering from a hamstring problem.

“I have not decided yet on Ashley Cole,” Wenger said. “There could be a problem with the left back.” — MNA/Reuters

Byrd, Sluman on top of leader board in Chrysler C’ship

PALM HARBOR (Florida), 30 Oct—Jonathan Byrd shot his second successive five-under-par 66 on Friday and joined Jeff Sluman on top of the leader board after two rounds at the Chrysler Classic.

Byrd and Sluman, who followed his course-record 62 with a one-under 70, are tied at 10-under-par 132.

Tommy Armour III (64), Australian Rod Pampling (65) and world number one Vijay Singh (69) are tied at eight-under-par 134. Kent Jones (71), Kirk Tripplett (71), Vaughn Taylor (65) and Sweden’s Jesper Parnevik (67) are at seven-under-par 135. — MNA/Reuters

**Wenger welcomes Man Utd’s investigation over tunnel fracas**

LONDON COLNEY (England), 30 Oct—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger welcomed the news that Manchester United had launched an investigation into the tunnel fracas after Sunday’s bad-tempered contest.

“We are against the ownership by a single company or individual whose main motive is profit,” Nick Towle, chairman of Shareholders United, told Reuters. On Monday, the eight-time Premier League champions said they had called off talks with US sports tycoon Malcolm Glazer about his proposed offer for United but did not rule out further discussions.

Towle, whose group also opposed the 1999 takeover bid by satellite television company BSkyB, said his group’s target was to increase the individual shareholders’ stake in the club to more than 25 per cent from 18 per cent.

“Our doors are open to anyone who can help us reach this objective, he said. — MNA/Reuters

**Owen says nice to score three goals in three games**

MAIDEN (England), 30 Oct—Michael Owen says scoring three goals in three games for Real Madrid has been the perfect way to help him settle at his new club, with a goal in Real’s 2-1 win over Leganes in the King’s Cup on Tuesday.

“I’d like the run to continue,” he said. “But I’d also like the run to continue with the team. We’re winning games now and we’re playing a little bit better step by step, so if my goals can help that then great but the team is the important thing.”

The 24-year-old believes that he still has plenty of room for improvement at Real and says he is determined not to rest on his laurels.

“I can’t ever say I can show more for the team. Just because I’ve scored a few goals doesn’t mean that you’re playing to the best of your ability so obviously I’d like to keep improving. It’s a massive challenge for me.” — MNA/Reuters

**Chelsea sack Adrian Mutu for taking cocaine**

LONDON, 30 Oct—Chelsea have sacked their Romanian striker Adrian Mutu after he tested positive for cocaine last month.

“Chelsea has terms and other stakeholders in football regarding drugs was more important than the major financial considerations to the company.” Chelsea is actively considering all options in relation to any financial losses as a result of this case.”

**British-American consortium to buy Leeds United within a week**

LONDON, 30 Oct—Leeds United, one of the great names of English soccer, could be sold to a British-American consortium within a week.

The head of the consortium, Sebastian Sainsbury, said on Friday he had an agreement with Leeds chairman Gerald Krasner to buy the club for 25 million pounds (45.73 million US Dollars).

All he has to do is come up with the money.

“My latest news is that he (Krasner) wants proof of funds and that is what I’m now going to be working to deliver,” Sainsbury told BBC Radio. “I very much hope it will be on his desk by Monday.”

Asked whether Krasner and the Yorkshire-based consortium that owns the club would definitely sell if the money were forthcoming, Sainsbury said: “We have an agreement.”

He was always committed to completing the deal a week today so the only thing that can delay it is Mr. Krasner and the board,” said Sainsbury, great-grandson of the founder of the British supermarket chain which bears his name. — MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

**EATEN CHOLER TANKARD NOISE EGG TIT TRUE E AT S SKY A UN CLING READING FITSF S FAL SCENE**

**Maiden Trail Blazers’ Sebastian Telfair drives against Seattle SuperSonics’ Antonio Daniels (33) during the fourth quarter on Friday, 29 Oct, 2004, in a preseason game in Seattle. — Internet**

**Chelsea Utd fans to oppose any takeover bid**

LONDON, 30 Oct—Manchester United fans will oppose any takeover bid for the club unless they are involved and aim to raise their shareholding to more than 25 per cent, a leading supporter has said.

Thousands of fans opposed the Glazer bid, many of them carrying banners during the 2-0 win over champions Arsenal at Old Trafford on Sunday saying United was not for sale.

Glazer, owner of American football team Tampa Bay Buccaneers, has 28.11 per cent of the club’s shares. Irish racing tycoon John Magnier and J. P. McManus own 28.9 percent.

“Thousands of fans opposed the Glazer bid, many of them carrying banners during the 2-0 win over champions Arsenal at Old Trafford on Sunday saying United was not for sale.”

Man Utd striker Ruud van Nistelrooy has been ruled out further discussions.

“Chelsea is actively considering all options in relation to any financial loss as a result of this case.”

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers’ Association, said the dismissal was disappointing.

“Chelsea has terms and other stakeholders in football regarding drugs was more important than the major financial considerations to the company.” Chelsea is actively considering all options in relation to any financial losses as a result of this case.” — MNA/Reuters

**Byrd on top of leader board in Chrysler C’ship**

Byrd won the 134. — MNA/Reuters

**Portland Trail Blazers’ Sebastian Telfair drives against Seattle SuperSonics’ Antonio Daniels (33) during the fourth quarter on Friday, 29 Oct, 2004, in a preseason game in Seattle. — Internet**
Sihanom addresses nation for first time as new monarch

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) 31 Oct—King Norodom Sihanom addressed his nation Saturday for the first time as Cambodia’s new monarch, pledging to be a “faithful servant” of the people — many of whom knew little about him until two weeks ago.

Sihanom, a former ballet dancer, spoke to a crowd of about 50,000 well-wishers who carried his portrait or their country’s flag, packing the park in front of the Royal Palace.

“To all the beloved people, through all my life, I will be a faithful servant to all the people, I will always be with the people to share the happiness and suffering,” he said, speaking from a pavilion overlooking the grassy knoll across from the golden palace.

Sihanom was enthroned late Friday in an elaborate ceremony that included blessings chanted by Buddhist monks, the blowing of conch shells and traditional music played.

Sihanom had told his recent election that “a King is not the master of the country or the people, a King is a servant of the motherland and the people”.

Students, members of the Armed Forces, government officials and everyday citizens gathered to hear Sihanom’s address, which included speeches by Prime Minister Hun Sen and National Assembly President Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Sihanom’s half-brother.

“I am so happy to see him for the first time in real life. This is great. I have only seen him before in pictures,” said Prak Nary, a 44-year-old teacher.

Hun Sen and Ranariddh paid tribute to the King, saying his achievements and the role he played during the last five years, according to the psychologists.

Teenagers with problems will continue to increase, unless they are properly monitored and solutions found, said Deputy Professor Ngarmtha Wanintanont, a prominent researcher on social behaviour. Recent studies in Thailand have revealed that most teenage suicides are girls who are driven to take their own lives because of a bad relationship with parents or between their parents, according to Prachid Sukanan, a researcher working on suicide cases.

Teenagers tend to copy their parents’ views and behaviour. So teenagers living in violent families — where they are violated toward each other or their kids — have a greater risk of using violence to solve their own problems, Prachid said.

Thai experts say family tensions key cause of teenage problems

BANGKOK, 31 Oct—Senior Thai psychologists and social researchers have warned that tension and violence within the family are key causes of teenagers’ behavioural problems.

Family tensions, including violence between parents, neglect or parents’ inability to take care of their children, have led to the deterioration in the quality of life for Thai teenagers, reported the Thai News Agency Friday.

8:20 am
8. ผู้สื่อสารที่สัมพันธ์กับ (ผู้สื่อสารที่สัมพันธ์กับ)
8:30 am
9. International News
8:45 am
10. Grammar Made Easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to upload National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Demonstration Exercises For Correct Pronunciation
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. "พระบาทสมเด็จพระพุทธยอดฟ้าเจ้าอยู่หัว" (I will be a servant to all the people)
5:15 pm
6. Dance variety
5:30 pm
7. Music
6:00 pm
8. Musical programme
(Thailand Modern Music Troop)
6:10 pm
9. Discovery
6:15 pm
10. Music: Reality
6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. Lunch time music
-Live More
-Live More
9.00 pm
14. Spotlight on the star
-Jennifer Page
-Questions
-Always you
-Answer Article
9.10 pm
15. Radio Magazine
-Let the flower buds bloom
10.30 pm
16. Musical programme
8:00 pm
17. Church music
10.45 pm
18. News
19. International News
20. Weather report
21. "พระบาทสมเด็จพระพุทธยอดฟ้าเจ้าอยู่หัว"
22. The new day’s programme

Monday, November 1

News/Slogan
8:20 am
8. ผู้สื่อสารที่สัมพันธ์กับ (ผู้สื่อสารที่สัมพันธ์กับ)
8:30 am
9. International News
8:45 am
10. Grammar Made Easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to upload National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Demonstration Exercises For Correct Pronunciation
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. "พระบาทสมเด็จพระพุทธยอดฟ้าเจ้าอยู่หัว" (I will be a servant to all the people)
5:15 pm
6. Dance variety
5:30 pm
7. Music
6:00 pm
8. Musical programme
(Thailand Modern Music Troop)
6:10 pm
9. Discovery
6:15 pm
10. Music: Reality
6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. Lunch time music
-Live More
-Live More
9.00 pm
14. Spotlight on the star
-Jennifer Page
-Questions
-Always you
-Answer Article
9.10 pm
15. Radio Magazine
-Let the flower buds bloom
10.30 pm
16. Musical programme
8:00 pm
17. Church music
10.45 pm
18. News
19. International News
20. Weather report
21. "พระบาทสมเด็จพระพุทธยอดฟ้าเจ้าอยู่หัว"
22. The new day’s programme

Monday, November 1

Vietnamese shrimp farmers object to US tariff

HANOI, 31 Oct—More than 2,500 Vietnam’s shrimp farmers representing 3.5 million congeners expressed their strong objection in a letter on the United States’ anti-dumping tariff on shrimp imports from the country.

“Our shrimp meets the highest requirements for export to the US. We do not get any subsidy from the government in shrimp farming,” the local media Friday quoted the letter as saying, in which the farmers required the US Department of Commerce (DOC) and the US International Trade Commission (USITC) to conduct their investigations and re-examining the dumping issue for shrimp import from Vietnam without bias.

The preliminary tariffs imposed on Vietnam’s shrimp are 12.11-93.13 percent, while DOC will make the final decisions on November 29.

The letter will be sent to relevant individuals and organizations such as the USDOC, the USITC and US congressmen.

A verdict on whether imported shrimp is the real reason of losses to the US shrimp industry will be given by the USITC in January 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Sunday, 31 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

A maximum temperature was recorded on 30-10-2004 was 36°C. Minimum temperature on 30-10-2004 was 24°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-10-2004 was 72 %. Total sunshine hours on 30-10-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 31-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport.

Weather is cloudy in Andaman Sea, West and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-11-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thunderstorms in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagain, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang attend consecration of Bronze Buddha Image in Bodh Gaya

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Bronze Buddha Image to be kept in front of Bo tree and Golden Throne of the Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Bodh Gaya of the Republic of India was consecrated at the venue on 28 October, Full moon Day of Thadingyut.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang offered eight requisites and alms to members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Bodh Gaya Myanmarr Monastery Sayadaw, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Military Assistant to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Nay Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Than Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Myanmar Ambassador U Kyi Thein and wife, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and wife and officials.

Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naniinda and eight members of the Sangha consecrated the Bronze Buddha Image.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang donated eight requisites and alms to the Sayadaws. After administering the Five Precepts by the Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw, Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Kutheinnayon Myanmar Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Naniisara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang and party offered ‘soon’, fruits, flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to the Buddha image. Next, the Senior General offered Shwethingan (gold robes) to the Image and presented cash donation for Maha Bodhi Pagoda to Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Mr Chaitanya Prasad. Afterwards, Mr Chaitanya Prasad gave a replica of the Maha Bodhi Pagoda to the Senior General and a portrait of Buddha image to Daw Kyang Kyang.

They paid homage to Bo Tree and Golden Throne, one of the seven places where Buddha sojourned for seven days each just after enlightenment, in the precinct of the Bodh Gaya Maha Bodhi Pagoda.

Next, they paid reverence to Yadana Corridor, the building of Yadanaagarha Sattaha Abhidhamma and Animisa Sattaha. They then viewed Ajapala Niyodha banyan tree. At Mucilalinda Sattaha, they fed the fish. Next, they viewed the thriving Linloon tree (Buchhamania latifolia) planted by Myanmar and the maintenance of Rajayatana Sattaha.

They viewed the park meant for meditation. Afterwards, the Senior General and wife donated cash towards the funds for maintenance of Maha Bodhi Pagoda to Patron of the pagoda board of trustees Sayadaw Bhaddanta Bodhipala. The Senior General signed in the visitors’ book.

The Secretary-1 also donated cash towards the funds through Sayadaw Bhaddanta Bodhipala.

(See page 10)