The Union of Myanmar

The State Peace and Development Council

The Law Amending the Control of Money Laundering Law
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 8/2004)

The 5th Waning Day of Thadingyut, 1366 M.E.
(2nd November, 2004)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law:-

1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Control of Money Laundering Law.
2. The following section shall be inserted as section 31-A after section 31 of the Control of Money Laundering Law:-

31-A. Whoever reveals, shows or makes known by any means to the person relevant to transmission of information or any other person including a client with respect to information transmitted or to be transmitted or information transmitted for unusual or suspicious transfer of money or property, or information or any matter investigated or to be investigated under this Law shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years or with fine or with both.

Provided that this section shall not apply to revealing of information or any matter to a client or any other person as in duty bound by investigation officer, attorney, notary public, legal professional, accountant or any other person in discharging his duty in conformity with law.

(Sd) Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council

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**PERSPECTIVES**

**Elimination of human trafficking**

Trafficking in persons has existed in the world, regardless of nationality, culture and policy. After the Cold War, human trafficking has become the top global issue amongst transitional organized crimes.

In cooperation with ASEAN members and regional countries, the Union of Myanmar has been tackling to the problems of human trafficking.

The Senior Officials Meeting for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) took place at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon from 27 to 29 October. The opening of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) was held at the same venue on 29 October, with an address by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. In his address, the Prime Minister said “For the first time, cross-sectoral delegations from countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region have come together as a group, to thrust out a mechanism of cooperation, to fight against this evil, which is a threat to human dignity. We unanimously recognize the need of concerned government ministries or agencies to work together to strengthen our capacity to fight off this crime of human trafficking”. Out of the problems, to which the world nations have to respond, trade in people is in the position of more and more seriousness. In fact, basically, the causes of the crimes of human trafficking committed in the region and in the world are the same.

The world people especially women and children fall victims to harsh consequences of human trafficking. Hence, every nation is to pay more serious attention to the drive for remarkable reduction of the number of victims and the danger of trafficking in persons.

With the concept that the problem of human trafficking is a great impact on the dignity of the nation, Myanmar has been taking all possible measures for combating such terrible crimes. Moreover, it has established national level organizations and units so as to speed up acts for cooperation at national level and promulgating more laws for prevention of human trafficking.

It is therefore our simple belief that all nations with similar views related to prevention and control of human trafficking are to accelerate steps and to make collaborative efforts for eradication of such horrible crimes in order that innocent people may not fall victims.

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**Want the Twelfth to know**

- Performing arts competitions have been held for the 12th time
- From beginning to end it was joyful
- Strengthened, prominent, glorious
- Success indeed has been achieved
- Success culminates in harmony
- With pride apparent, homecoming
- Of the same blood these brethren all
- Not wanting to part, to go afar
- Stayed together, shared food together.
- Came, and went harmoniously with unity
- Won’t ever forget, don’t want to part
- Taking of it, feel like not parting
- Would like to compassionately feel it.

* O, When time’s come, and have to go home
Heart feels like not going, wouldn’t want to tread
Because winning was not the aim.
As if blood speaks, don’t want to part, mind wavers.
Tears well, one drop is shed
While comforting, it drops.
Had to hide the shame, quickly wipes it away,
Hides the sentiment.
Want the Twelfth to know.

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**Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe inspect progress of construction of Myanmar Economic Bank branch on 1-11-2004.** — MNA

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**Minister inspects construction of new branch of MEB in Tamway**

**Yangon, 2 Nov** — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe inspected construction of new branch of Myanmar Economic Bank in Tamway Township yesterday.

Managing Director of Myanmar Economic Bank Col Hsan Tun reported on progress of work.

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**Minister inspects construction of new branch of MEB in Tamway**

**Yangon, 2 Nov** — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt met with executive officers and engineers of Pathein and Myaungmya District Development Affairs Committees in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, on 31 October.

He explained the work to speed up the rural and urban development undertakings, and attended to the needs of officials.

At the Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Office in the town, the minister who is also member of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee, held discussions with chairmen and members of war veterans organizing committees of five districts in the division. He presented stipends for children who passed the matriculation examination with distinctions, of the war veterans and cloths to the members.

The minister who has been assigned as the Central Executive Committee member of Union Solidarity and Development Association met with district USAID members and DAD officials at the Division USDA Office in the town. The meeting sought means to develop the rural areas.

In Kangyidaung and Kyaukgoon, the minister observed town development and beautifying projects. He held a meeting in Pantanaw for rural development and town beautifying.

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**Gangaw gets e-library**

**Yangon, 2 Nov** — Gangaw, a town in Magway Division, central Myanmar, has opened an e-library with the assistance rendered by Magway Division Peace and Development Council.

The library, situated at Gangaw District Information and Public Relations Department Office, was formally opened by Chairman of Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe.

Local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people were present at the opening of the library to help enhance the knowledge of the people of Gangaw Township.

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**Feast given to students in Pyin Oo Lwin**

**Yangon, 2 Nov** — A ceremony to give a feast to all students in No. 2 Basic Education Primary School in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Manda- lay Division was held at the school on 26 October morning. At the ceremony, Assistant Town- ship Education Officer U Tin Aye, headmistress Daw Khin Aye Kyu and teachers, donor U Tin Win, Daw Kyi Kyi Htay and son Mg Zaw Lin Htut gave a feast to 600 students. — MNA

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**PBA NRDA Minister inspects rural and urban development projects in Ayeyawady Division**

**Yangon, 2 Nov** — PBANRDA Minister inspects construction of new branch of MEB in Tamway Township yesterday.

Managing Director of Myanmar Economic Bank Col Hsan Tun reported on progress of work.

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**USDA CEC Member Minister Col Thein Nyunt meets secretaries of Pyapun and Myaungmya Districts USADs and township staff officials.** — MNA
US is losing Iraq war, says Powell

LAHORE, 1 Nov— Secretary of State Colin Powell has privately confided to friends in recent weeks that the Iraqi guerrillas are winning the war, Salon.com quoted Newsweek as having reported.

The guerrillas have succeeded in infiltrating Iraqi forces “from top to bottom,” a senior Iraqi official told Newsweek in its Monday’s issue, “from decision making to the lower levels”.

This is a particularly troubling development for the US military, as it prepares to launch an all-out assault on the insurgent strongholds of Fallujah and Ramadi, since US Marines were counting on the newly trained Iraqi forces to assist in the assault.

Newsweek reported that “American military trainers have been frantically trying to assemble sufficient Iraqi troops” to fight alongside them and that they are “praying that the soldiers perform better than last April, when two battalions of poorly trained Iraqi Army soldiers refused to fight. If the Fallujah offensive fails, the American President will find himself in a deepening quagmire on Inauguration Day.”

Salon.com quoted Newsweek as saying.

World’s largest energy market to launch oil trading in Dublin

DUBLIN, 1 Nov— Ireland, home to the mighty dark beer Guinness, will be toasting another kind of black gold on Monday when the world’s largest energy market launches oil trading in Dublin.

In so doing, the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) becomes the latest organization to recognize the Irish capital’s growing reputation as a financial services centre.

“This project is a highly significant win for Ireland”, said Deirdre Lyons of IDA Ireland, the Irish Government agency responsible for securing investment from overseas.

The development of financial services has been one of the IDA’s biggest successes. In a little over 15 years, the sector has gone from being a small, domestic industry to a global base now hosting half of the world’s top 50 banks and directly employing about 12,000 people.

The push to develop the industry began in 1987 with the launch of the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), a run-down docklands area on the banks of the Liffey River, part of government attempts to stem an exodus of Irish graduates.

Offering tax breaks to financial services firms that set up in the IFSC, the government courted banks and insurers, investment funds and corporate treasurers.

Data published this week showed funds domiciled in Dublin jumped by 30 per cent to 503.3 billion US dollars at the end of June from 375.4 billion US dollars a year earlier and up from 21.0 billion US dollars in 1995.

Palestine official says Arafat in stable condition

PARIS, 1 Nov— Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is being treated at a military hospital near Paris, is in stable condition, a Palestinian representative said here Sunday.

The 75-year-old leader has begun eating small amounts of food and speaking with people at his side, the representative said at the Percy Hospital in the southwestern Paris suburb of Clamart.

Doctors were satisfied with Arafat’s stable condition, the representative said.

Leaders of a number of countries, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Morocco’s King Mohammed VI, have sent telegrams to Arafat wishing him a speedy recovery, according to the representative.

French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday telephoned Arafat to enquire about his health, said Arafat’s top aide, Nabil Abu Rudeina.

“Abu Rudeina repeated that Arafat was not suffering from leukemia or any other type of cancer. “He is beginning to recover and to carry out some of his duties,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

1,122 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov— As of Monday, 1 Nov 2004, at least 1,122 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 858 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department as of Monday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Monday at 10 am EST.

The British military has reported 70 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 984 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 749 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military: A Marine was killed Sunday by a bomb in Ramadi, the military said.

Oil pipeline in northern Iraq blown up

RIYADH, (IRAQ), 1 Nov — An oil pipeline in Riyad, Iraq, southwest of the oil centre of Kirkuk, has been blown up by people believed to be saboteurs, Sky News reported on Monday.

Oil officials in Iraq confirmed the large explosion, but said it’s too soon to tell if exports would be affected.

“It was big,” one official told Sky News.

“There have been no reports of injuries. The Iraq-Turkey export pipeline as well as other domestic pipelines pass through the area.”—Internet

“Grudge” rules N America box office for second weekend

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov— Horror thriller “The Grudge” continued its rule at North America box office for the second straight weekend, according to studio estimates issued Sunday.

The film, which was adapted from Japanese horror movie “Ju-On,” earned about 22.4 million US dollars during the Halloween weekend, according to its distributor Columbia Pictures.

The 10-million-dollar movie grossed 71.3 million dollars after 10 days in release, and Columbia Pictures expected its gross to pass the 90 million-dollar mark.

“Ray,” starring Jamie Foxx, debuted at No 2 with 20.1 million dollars, while the low-budget thriller “Saw” followed with 17.4 million dollars.

Marines of the 1st Division get a briefing prior to a mission outside Fallujah, Iraq on 30 Oct. 2004. US forces are preparing for a possible attack on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah. —Internet
**First female British soldier killed in Iraq**

**LONDON, 1 Nov—**The body of a soldier who died of a gunshot wound was found at a British military base in Basra, making Britain’s first female military fatality since the start of the Iraq war, the government said on Monday.

Sgt Denise Rose, 34, was a member of the Royal Military Police’s Special Investigation Branch. Her body was found on Sunday at the Shatt-al-Arab Hotel in southern Iraq, where most British forces are based. “The incident is being investigated, but is not thought to have been the result of hostile action,” the Ministry of Defence said.

“Denise was a special lady,” said Col Robert Silk, a commanding officer. “Every more importantly, Denise had a multitude of friends, being universally popular, intelligent and ever cheerful.”

Rose’s death brought to 70 the number of British service personnel who have died in the Iraq war since it began last year.

The 69 male soldiers who have died include 31 who fell in action, 33 who died in accidents and five from natural causes.

Rose started working with British forces in 1989 and had taken part in military investigations in Britain, America and Cyprus.––INTERNET

**Nigeria makes marked achievements in anti-drug trafficking**

**LAGOS, 1 Nov—**The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has made marked achievements in its anti-drug trafficking and money laundering activities in the past four years, the News Agency of Nigeria reported Sunday.

Assistant Director of NDLEA Information and Public Affairs Jonah Achematold reporters here at the weekend that the activities of the agency during the period under review had helped in ‘laundering the country’s image among the comity of nations.

“The outfit has done its best to give Nigeria a good image among the comity of nations in the past 48 months,” he said. Achema said one of the effective strategies used by the leadership of the agency’s in the past four years “is to hit and attack the proceeds and assets of perpetrators of drug trafficking.”

Achema said “the agency had had to seize the properties and proceeds of these barons, such as landed property, automobiles, and the freezing of accounts, as well as the auctioning of confiscated properties.”

The NDLEA had on several occasions impounded equipment worth several thousands of US dollars shipped into the country with laundered money such as computers and accessories, and electronics.

Achema explained that the anti-drug establishment had received commendation letter from the United States Government for its war against drug barons and their proceeds.

He said apart from the seizure of properties, “we make sure that all the perpetrators arrested for drug related offences are prosecuted and convicted”.

MNA/Xinhua

**Drug seizure in southern Iran up seven-fold**

**TEHRAN, 1 Nov—**The amount of drug seized in the southern Iranian province of Bushehr since March has risen seven times compared to the same period last year, official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

Colonel Bahram Shamlo, Police Commander of Bushehr Province, said the amount seized this year stood at 478 kilos against 61 kilos of last year.

He told IRNA over 2,290 people were arrested for narcotics distribution in Bushehr during the same period.

Drug addiction and transportation have been a serious social problem in Iran, a country sitting in the crossroads linking drug-producing Afghan, and Pakistan and market in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions.

According to official statistics, there are at least 2 million drug addicts in Iran.

The country also accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine consumption worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board.

Iran spends 5 billion US dollars annually on anti-drug programmes, and over 3,100 police have lost their lives in conflict with drug smugglers during the past two decades.

MNA/Xinhua

**American among five new hostages in Iraq**

**BAGHDAD, 1 Nov —**Gunmen abducted an American and at least three other people today after shooting their way into a business office in an upscale neighbourhood here and overwhelming guards, according to US and Iraqi officials.

The kidnappings, the latest in a series of increasingly bold and well-orchestrated abductions in Iraq, came as American forces hammered suspected militant strongholds in Falloujah with artillery in advance of an expected offensive. US officials also announced that a Marine was killed in nearby Ramadi on Sunday.

The kidnappings occurred just before 6 pm in Baghdad’s Mansour District. According to Iraqi officials and witnesses, “quite a number” of heavily armed men raided the offices of a Saudi company and began trading fire with guards.

At least one of the kidnappers was shot to death, along with an office guard. A second American who was also at the office reportedly escaped during the melee.

The names of the abductees and the Saudi company were not immediately available.

A US Embassy spokesman said four or five people were kidnapped. Iraqi police told Associated Press that six people were taken: the American, a Nepalese and four Iraqi guards.

Internet

**Canada mulls letting US carriers fly within Canada**

**OTTAWA, 1 Nov—**Allowing US airlines to run flights within Canada and raising foreign ownership limits on Canadian carriers are among the bold changes that will be contemplated under Canadian Government’s sweeping review of transportation policy, it is reported on Sunday.

Canadian Transport Minister Jean Lapierre said that he will present a discussion paper next Thursday to the Transport Committee in a bid to spark broader debate about shaking up Canada’s aviation rules.

The “open skies” pact signed in 1995 between Canada and the United States will be reviewed. That deal cleared the way for new transborder flights, but restrictions remain that prevent Canadian carriers from operating routes within the United States, and also ban US airlines from flying between Canadian cities.

Lapierre said it is time to consider “liberalization” of Canada’s air policy, aiming for “a market-driven framework that will help the industry compete regionally and globally”.

Instead of being sheltered by protectionist measures, Air Canada and its Canadian-based rivals could thrive under free trade in North American aviation, he said.

Air Canada quickly responded to the prospect of new US competition within the Canadian market, saying it would support the entry of US airlines only if Canadian carriers win the right to run flights between US cities.

MNA/Xinhua

**US Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment patrol past unidentified wreckage in Ramadi, Iraq, on 31 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET**
CIA roughed up Iraqi prisoners in “romper room”

SANDIEGO, 2 Nov — The CIA interrogated and roughed up Iraqi prisoners in a “romper room” where a handcuffed and hooded terror suspect was kicked, slapped and punched shortly before he died last year at the Abu Ghraib Prison, a Navy SEAL testified.

Blood was visible on the hood worn by the prisoner, Manadel Al-Jamadi, as he was led into the interrogation room at Baghdad International Airport in November 2003, the Navy commando said Monday at a military pretrial hearing for another SEAL accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners.

Testifying under a grant of immunity, the witness, identified only by his rank as a hospital corpsman, said he kicked Al-Jamadi several times, slapped him in the back of the head and punched him. Five or six other CIA personnel in the room laid their hands on the prisoner, he said, but he did not provide details.

Some time later, Al-Jamadi was found dead in a shower room less than an hour after two CIA personnel brought him into Abu Ghraib as a so-called “ghost detainee,” according to Army Major General George R. Fay’s report on the notorious prison. Such detainees were not listed in the normal roster of military prisoners.

Fay’s report said Al-Jamadi died of a blood clot in the head likely due to injuries suffered after being detained. The military pathologist’s report listed the cause of death as blunt force trauma complicated by hanged breathing.

A CIA spokeswoman declined to comment on the hearing, but noted that the agency is conducting its own investigation into the CIA’s involvement in prisoner detentions and interrogations in Iraq.

The testimony about the CIA’s role came during a hearing for an aviation boatswain’s mate who is accused of punching Al-Jamadi and posing in humili- ating photos with the prisoner. The boatswain’s mate, a 14-year Navy veteran, allegedly twisted other pris- oners’ testicles and struck a prisoner in the buttocks with a wooden board.

An Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a civilian grand jury, was held to determine whether the boatswain’s mate should be court-martialed.

The hearing concluded Monday. An investigating officer will recommend what charges, if any, the boatswain’s mate should face.

The accused SEAL, who received the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in Iraq, could get up to 11 years in prison if convicted.

Al-Jamadi, described in an Army report as a suspect in an attack on a Red Cross facility, was captured by members of a Coronado, California-based SEAL unit during a joint special forces-CIA mission.

Al-Jamadi was subdued after a fierce struggle with the accused SEAL, the corpsman said. After al- Jamadi was cuffed, he said he watched the accused and another SEAL, “body slam” the captive into the back of a Humvee.

The SEALs then drove to an Army base where the accused SEAL jabbed Al-Jamadi with the muzzle of his weapon, according to the corpsman. He said while some of the blows were excessive, others were in- tended to silence Al-Jamadi, who kept talking and shouting in Arabic.

The hospital corpsman was a surprise witness during the two-day proceeding, taking the witness stand only hours after reaching a plea deal with pros- ecutors that would spare him prison time.

Besides the corpsman and the boatswain’s mate, five other members of the SEAL team were charged with abusing Iraqi prisoners. Charges against a chief petty officer were dismissed last week. Article 32 hearings for the other four SEALs have not been scheduled. — MNA/AP

Anti-Bush documentary available on satellite TV, Internet

LOS ANGELES, 2 Nov — The controversial anti- war documentary “Fahrenheit 9/11” was available Monday on a Satellite TV and on the Internet.

The 122 minute-long movie was available on the web site of online video-on-demand firm CinemaNow for 30 million households using broadband Internet at the price of 9.95 US dollars per viewing.

Additionally, EchoStar made the movie available to its more than 10 million Dish Network sat- ellite TV service subscribers, also for 9.95 dollars.

— MNA/Xinhua

Japan vague on Iraq mission extension

TOKYO, 1 Nov — Japan will decide whether to extend the mission in Iraq based on evaluation of local situation, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said Sunday after a Japanese hostage was found killed.

Japan “is determined to firmly fight with terror- ism, and the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) will go ahead with the reconstruction and humanitarian assistance along with Iraqi friends,” he told a Press conference. When asked whether the SDF will remain there after the December 14 deadline, he said, “It will be determined properly after a comprehensive sur- vey and review on Iraq’s rebuilding process and security situation.” — MNA/Xinhua

Experts test anthrax-infested water at Uganda’s National Park

KAMPALA, 1 Nov — Water quality ex- perts are testing the anthrax-infested water at the Queen Elizabeth National Park in western Uganda where about 200 hippos have been killed by the disease in the past three months, local media re- ported on Sunday.

The expert team is led by Florence Adong, assistant commissioner of wa- ter quality control in the directorate of water development.

The team is sent to ascertain the water safety on the Kazunga channel, which has been closed for tourism. According to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the team are testing water samples from the channel as well as lakes George and Edward, where most of the hippos perished.

The UWA has suspended tourism on the channel following the anthrax attack that killed about 200 hippos and several buffaloes. — MNA/Xinhua

Weekend road accidents kill 20 in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Nov — Twenty peo- ple were killed and at least 10 others were seriously injured in two separate road accidents in the weekend in South Af- rica, the SAPA news agency reported on Sunday.

Thirteen people, including two chil- dren, were killed and one injured on Sunday in an accident involving a mini- bus taxi and truck near Mokopane, Limpopo Province.

Local police spokesman Madimetja Makgakge said all who died were in the taxi when it collided head-on with the truck as it apparently tried to overtake another vehicle on the R101 Road, about 10 kilometres south of Mokopane, at 5:25 p.m. (1525 GMT).

The driver of the taxi also died in the accident and the truck driver escaped uninjured, said Makgakge. Another occu- pant of the truck was seriously injured.

Another collision between a bakkie and a car occurred on the R66 Road in KwaZulu-Natal Province on Saturday, killing seven people and leaving nine seriously injured, the SAPA said. Police were still trying to establish the cause of the accident since the drivers of both vehicles were killed. — MNA/Xinhua

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Another collision between a bakkie and a car occurred on the R66 Road in KwaZulu-Natal Province on Saturday, killing seven people and leaving nine seriously injured, the SAPA said. Police were still trying to establish the cause of the accident since the drivers of both vehicles were killed. — MNA/Xinhua
**Election victory for Kerry may be best for global security**

**London, 1 Nov** — A large majority of Britons think a US election victory for John Kerry is the best outcome for global security, according to a poll in a Sunday newspaper.

They also believe — by a smaller margin — a win for the Democrat challenger would damage Prime Minister Tony Blair’s international standing given his alliance with incumbent US President George W Bush, according to the survey.

Surveys have repeatedly shown most Britons feel uncomfortable with the Blair-Bush friendship and their joint policy over Iraq.

Fifty-six per cent told Communicate Research pollster the world would be safer with Kerry, while 24 per cent favoured Bush.

Fifty per cent said a win for Kerry would weaken the international standing of Blair, while 42 per cent thought not.

The survey was published in the Independent on Sunday.  

**Men’s health outpatient department opens in south China region**

**Nanning, 1 Nov** — The first outpatient department for men in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region opened last Friday, department director Liang Jihong said.

The department, attached to the No 1 Hospital of the Guangxi University of Medical Science, is equipped with an audio-visual centre for sexual education, an operation room for sexual dysfunction and an ED test room.

It offers services round the clock in internal and surgical medicine, combination of traditional Chinese and Western medicine and andrology.

“Medical devices here are advanced not only in Guangxi, but also nationwide,” Liang acknowledged.—MNA/Xinhua

**British soldier found dead at Iraq base**

**London, 1 Nov** — A British soldier has been found dead at a military base in Basra, said Ministry of Defence (MOD) of Britain on Sunday.

An investigation was under way, but it was not believed to be the result of any hostile action, said the MOD. A spokesman said the body was found at the southern Iraqi base on Sunday morning, but no name would be released until next of kin had been informed.

The incident — days after a Black Watch soldier died — takes the number of British military personnel to die in Iraq to 70.

Private Kevin McHale, 27, was killed in a separate non-hostile incident when the armoured vehicle he was driving overturned in the North Babil Province on Friday.

A bridge the vehicle was crossing, during a redeployment of troops in Iraq, collapsed. Three others were injured, but were returned to work soon after the accident. — MNA/Xinhua

**Indo-Japanese ties to get major boost during Speaker’s visit**

**Tokyo, 1 Nov** — Enhancing cooperation between the Parliaments of the two countries and issues of mutual interest will come up for discussion during talks at Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament) Speaker Somnath Chatterjee will have with top leaders here during his week-long visit to Japan beginning on Sunday.

Chatterjee, who arrived here on Sunday, is scheduled to visit top Japanese leaders, including Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during his stay, which is expected to provide a major boost to relations between the two countries, official sources said.

The visit, first by a high-ranking Indian official after the United Progressive Alliance government came to power, comes a month after New Delhi and Tokyo agreed to support each other in their bid to become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The most important meeting during the trip is scheduled for Tuesday when Chatterjee would call on Koizumi.

The two leaders are expected to exchange views on bilateral issues and other matters of common interest, sources said.

Chatterjee, who is leading a Joint Parliamentary delegation, will hold talks with his Japanese counterpart, Yohei Kono tomorrow and discuss ways to enhance cooperation between the parliaments of the two nations as well as issues of common concern, sources said.

The current visit of the Speaker takes place in the background of heightened interest in Japan in developing closer relations with India, a senior official said.

In the recent period, this rising interest has been reflected in the visit of a large number of Japanese parliamentarians to India particularly, during the 50th Anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations (2002-2003), the official said.

The role of the public sector in facilitation of trade and investment will also be addressed. They aim to establish a network between the public sector and the private sector within and between the two continents. The meeting is co-organized by the Japanese Government, the United Nations, the Global Coalition for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.—MNA/Xinhua

**US disturbed by increasing journalists’ death in Iraq**

**Washington, 2 Nov** — The United States has been disturbed by growing death of journalists working in Iraq, deputy spokesman of the State Department Adam Ereli said here on Monday.

“This is certainly horrific and we are deeply disturbed by it,” Ereli said when he was making comment on recent attacks on journalists in Baghdad, Iraq.

“Journalists working for the Al-Arabiya were attacked; five killed. Journalists for al-Shangya network were attacked and killed, and I believe a Reuters cameraman was also attacked and killed.

“This shows — to us demonstrates a new and disturbing pattern of targeting journalists...who are trying to bring the truth about what is going on in Iraq to the public at large,” Ereli said.

The journalists, who are risking their life in Iraq, “are providing a valuable service”, he added.

Expressing condolences to the victims, Ereli said the US will try to provide “an environment in which the free Press can do its work”. — MNA/Xinhua

**US Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment patrol in Ramadi**

**Tokyo, 1 Nov** — Delegates from Asian and African governments, organizations and private sectors are gathering Monday in Tokyo for a conference on promoting economic cooperation to realize a self-reliant and sustainable economic growth in Africa.

The two-day conference, known as TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference, is held as part of follow-up actions of the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) last year.

At the conference, participants are expected to review the current situation and the future potential of the business relations between Africa and Asia, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The role of the public sector in facilitation of trade and investment will also be addressed. They aim to establish a network between the public sector and the private sector within and between the two continents. The meeting is co-organized by the Japanese Government, the United Nations, the Global Coalition for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.—MNA/Xinhua

**Asia-Africa trade, investment meeting opens in Tokyo**

**Tokyo, 1 Nov** — The establishment of diplomatic relations and between the two continents. The meeting is co-organized by the Japanese Government, the United Nations, the Global Coalition for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.—MNA/Xinhua
Quality jade lots to be sold in the Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium

Press conference on Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium was held at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road on 27 October.

At the press conference, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein clarified the holding of the mid-year emporium. Moreover, officials of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and local private gems merchants also expressed their views on the emporium.

Year by year the emporium succeed and the number of local and foreign merchants increased. Gems merchants from Hong Kong and the People’s Republic of China also arrived Yangon on 26 October by chartered plane.

According to an official of Myanmar Gems Enterprise, it is learnt that only quality jade lots will be sold in the emporium. Over 1,500 jade lots will be exhibited in this emporium though there were about 1,200 jade lots were displayed in the past emporiums. Myanmar is rich in natural resources and there are many precious gems exploited in it. So, it should be a world market in gems, a local gems merchant said.

Gems merchants were permitted to inspect the gems, jade and pearls from 27 to 29 October. Jade lots were sold through tender system and competitive bidding system on 1 November; gems on 2 and 3 November and pearls on 4 November. No 1451 lot of Jade being displayed at Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium is of exceptional quality at the emporium. It is 210 kg in weight and mined from Mamon region in Phakant Township, Kachin State.

The 45 carat ruby mined from Mogok region would surely attract bidders and No 107 Lot of diamond weighing 19.80 carat will also be another attraction.

No 266 lot of pearls comprises 118 rounds of pearl produced from Palekyun Pearl Production Camp. It is estimated that about 500 gem merchants from India, Italy, Japan, the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and over 300 local gem merchants will attend the emporium. The gems emporiums have been organized three times a year. Therefore, Myanmar gem market has attracted more foreign gem merchants year after year.

(Translation- AMS)
Myanma Alin 28-10-04

Provisions for monks

YANGON, 2 Nov — Provisions were presented to over 200 members of the Sangha in Singu Township on 28 October the Fullmoon Day of Myanmar month of Thadingyut.

Members of the Sangha recited parittas in the wards and some villages of the township. People from Singu, Chauk, NyaungU, Kyaukpadaung, Sale and Yenangyoung townships presented provisions and offerings to the monks.

Competition to be held on “Hong Kong—Asia’s world city”

HONG KONG, 2 Nov—Hong Kong Information Services Department will hold an essay/photo competition on Hong Kong’s promotion brand “Hong Kong — Asia’s world city”, said the department Sunday.

“In fact, that diversity of views is one of the things that makes Hong Kong such an interesting and exciting city,” said Brown.

The competition, to be held in conjunction with the South China Morning Post, will start to receive entries on November 1.

Article by Sein Shwe Hlaing
Photo by Thaung Win Bo

e-Education Learning Centre

Beijing inaugurates Olympic Press Centre

BEIJING, 2 Nov — The Beijing Olympic Press Centre was inaugurated on Monday, more than three years before the opening of the 2008 Olympic Games. The Press centre, situated at the Huabei Hotel in the north of the Chinese capital, will serve as a fixed place for the municipal government and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics (BOCOG) to hold Press briefings.

MNA/Xinhua
Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister...  

(from page 1) members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Yangon Command Commander, ministers, senior military officers, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, heads of foreign missions in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials and departmental heads.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Maj-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Commerce, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Transport, and departmental heads. — MNA

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Commander, Minister inspect agricultural tasks in Lashio

YANGON, 2 Sept—Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone on 30 October inspected the 2.75-acre orange plantation of local battalion in Lashio Township, and plantations of coffee, macadamia, lychee and Shweli soya bean of the North-East Command and left instructions on extension of agricultural tasks.

The Commander and the Minister proceeded to Hsinsweili hybrid strain paddy (F1) field of the Command. Officials reported on the farm. They inspected packing and storing of paddy and gave necessary instructions to the officials. They also inspected Hsinsweili hybrid strain paddy (F1) field of the local battalion and the 5,000-acre reclamation project in Tabon Region, Lashio. The Commander and the Minister inspected work progress and building of a briefing hall. Next, they went to the livestock breeding farm of the Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. Officials reported on construction of buildings, breeding of pigs and sinking of a tube-well.

The Commander and the Minister instructed officials to extend breeding tasks and looked into the farm. Then, they visited inspected construction of Mya Thein Tan Dhammayon of Manhsupan Phayagyi Monastery in Lashio and gave instructions on meeting the standard set and timely completion of the project. Afterwards, they offered alms to Vice-Chairman of Shan State Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of the Monastery Agga Maha Gandhavacaka Bhaddanta Kondanipa and supplicated on religious matters. — MNA

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Commander, Mayor look into upgrading tasks of Yangon City

YANGON, 2 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe together with Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials looked into measures being taken for upgrading of Yangon City this morning.

During their inspection, Head of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) U Bo Htay of YCDC and officials presented reports to the commander and the mayor on measures being taken for upgrading of the platforms to a 10-foot-wide ones between Ahlon Road and Shinsawpu Street along Pyay Road.

Next, the commander and party proceeded to Kandawgyi Lake and inspected measures being taken for paving of concrete piles on ring road of Kandawgyi Lake and tarring of road near Upper Pansodan Street.

They also inspected upgrading entrance roads to Khaymarthi Street and to Sethmu Lethmu Street to 48-foot-wide ones, and Thudhamma Road to a 72-foot-wide one and gave instructions on timely completion of the projects with set standards. — MNA

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Commander inspects approach road to Pathein Bridge

YANGON, 2 Nov — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing together with Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Myint Thein went on inspection tour of Pathein-Chauktha road section and bridges on it yesterday.

First, the commander and party inspected progress in constructing approach road to Pathein Bridge on Kanni bank and construction work at Bridge No 1/2, Maung Biwa Bridge on Pathein-Chauktha road section. It is of reinforced concrete type. It is 180 feet long and 24 feet in width. Its each pedestrian is three feet in width.

After that the commander and party saw over maintenance work of Pathein-Chauktha road section and instructed officials to carry out construction tasks meeting the set standards. — MNA
Basic Education Sector...

(from page 16)

sector is very important for emergence of a peaceful modern developed and discipline-flourishing nation—the national goal.

To achieve this goal, the government is implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special regions development project and the rural development project in harmony, he said. It is a common knowledge that the education sector has been given priority in the three national development projects, especially, the basic education sector plays a vital role in promoting the education level of rural and border areas. The Head of State has given guidance to pay serious attention to building the basic education sector firmly and to tour down to the villages to make its foundation stronger. The Head of State has also given guidance to promote the curricular to meet the international level, to enable teachers to teach their pupils in accord with the curricular, to enhance the qualification of teachers, to provide teaching aids, and to use them effectively.

First Annual General Meeting of MIFFA

YANGON, 2 NOV — The first annual general meeting of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders’ Association (MIFFA) was held at Traders Hotel this morning.

Patron of MIFFA Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than spoke on the occasion.

President of MIFFA U Aung Kyaw Min presented certificates of honour to the patrons of the association.

Next, officials of MIFFA presented certificates toTRAINERS OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT

First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 on 1-5 December

YANGON, 2 NOV — Meeting of the central committee for organizing the First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 was held yesterday at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township.

The trade fair will be held at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township from 1 to 5 December.

At the meeting, Patrons of the central committee Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naung Thein and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn delivered an address. Chairman of the central committee Deputy Minister of Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun discussed matters related to the trade fair. Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naung Thein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn also took part in the discussion.

Secretary of the central committee Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye and officials concerned reported on tasks being carried out for the trade fair. After the meeting, the minister and officials viewed round the centre. — MNA

Minister briefs on rural development tasks in Kayan

YANGON, 2 NOV — Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Then went to Kayan home for the aged and visited Kayan Monastery after meeting with officials of Kayangan Township.

Minister for Education U Than Aung reported on tasks being carried out for e-Education in Myanmar and resolutions of the meeting No 1/2004 of the higher education council and meeting No 1/2004 of the Universities Central Council.

Next, he also reported on percentage of the female staff, faculty members in Ministry of Education and in students, cooperation programmes in higher education sector, compilation of history of education in Myanmar and school enrollment activities for 2004-2005 academic year.

Next, officials concerned also reported on education matters sector-wise to the Secretary-1.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave necessary instructions and the meeting came to an end. — MNA

Japanese volleyball coach Mr Koji Tsu being welcomed at the airport. — MNA

Japanese coach for national volleyball teams

YANGON, 2 NOV — Mr Koji Tsu, a Japanese coach for the men and women’s national volleyball teams, arrived here on 31 October.

He was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Volleyball Federation. He has been hired as coach under the arrangement of the Ministry of Sports and MVF. — MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.
C-in-C (Navy)’s Championship Shield Track & Field opened

YANGON, 2 Nov — The Commander-in-Chief (Navy)’s Championship Shield Track & Field for 2004 was opened at the sports ground of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command this morning with an address by Commander of the Naval Training Command/Headquarters Captain Maung Oo Lwin.

Also present on the occasion were officers and other ranks of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office (Yagon), battalions and units under Yagon Station and Thatbyinnyu Station and their families, athletes and others. Altogether 12 teams took part in the contest in which the Ayeyawady Naval Region Command team emerged champion.

After the contest, officials presented prizes to teams which stood first, second and third whereas Captain Maung Oo Lwin presented prizes to the Ayeyawady Naval Region Command team which emerged champion.

Deputy Minister U Myint Thein attends the Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium (2004). — MNA

Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium continues

YANGON, 2 Nov — A total of 90 jade lots were sold by tender system during the sales yesterday at the Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium for 2004. Merchants purchased 44 jade lots yesterday evening. The emporium sold 717 jade lots through tender system from 30 October to 1 November. Director-General of the Mining Department of the Ministry of Mines U Soe Mya presented a souvenir and certificate of honour to a merchant for buying the highest value of jade.

The emporium continued this morning and merchants purchased 27 jade lots from 9 am to 5 pm today through tender system. The emporium will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Deputy Minister inspects printing & dyeing factories in Myingyan, Magway

YANGON, 2 Nov — Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials on 29 October morning arrived at Printing and Dyeing Factory of the Myanmar Textile Industries in Myingyan and inspected textiles produced there.

At the factory, the minister met with the factory manager and responsible officials and attended to the needs. The minister also oversaw the production process of weaving unit and using of boiler there.

Afterwards, the deputy minister inspected Winthuza Shop in Myingyan. During his tour of Myingyan, officials concerned reported to Brig-Gen Thein Tun on tobacco cultivation and storage of tobacco leaves. The deputy minister also fulfilled the requirements. In the afternoon, Brig-Gen Thein Tun inspected the production process of the Printing and Dyeing Factory in Magway.

On 30 October, the deputy minister and party oversaw the Winthuza Shop, Myanmar Umbrella Factory, Soap Factory and Soft Drinks Factory in Magway.

MNA

Myanmar education delegation returns from China

YANGON, 2 Nov — Myanmar education delegation led by Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min arrived back here yesterday after studying educational activities for one week at the invitation of the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China.

The delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, officials of the ministry and families.

Members of the delegation Deputy Director (Admin) U Khin Maung Aye of No 2 Basic Education Department, Headmistress Daw Khin Win Aung of the Institute of Education Practising High School, Headmaster U Kyaw Kyaw of No 1 Basic Education High School, Dagon and Headmistress Daw Khin Lay Paing of No 8 BEHS, Mawlamyine also returned on the same flight.

MNA

Minister for Finance and Revenue meets foreign guests

YANGON, 2 Nov — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met Vice-Chairman Mr Yoko Kitazome of Nippon Export and Investment Insurance and Director of Asset Planning Group Mr Takekazu Okita of NEXI at his office yesterday.

Present were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and officials.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Commerce meets President of Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd

YANGON, 2 Nov — Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun met President Mr PK Jain of Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd of Singapore and party at his office this morning.

Present were Director-General of Directorate of Border Trade Department U Nay Win and officials of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading.

MNA

Malaysian PM pledges to implement projects earnestly

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Nov — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday pledged to earnestly implement projects he had initiated earlier as his term entered the second year.

“I want to stress that going into the second year as Prime Minister, I want to see that programmes and projects which I have outlined earlier to be implemented earnestly,” Abdullah said while addressing the Prime Minister’s Department monthly assembly in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre. Acknowledging the “honeymoon period” for him was over, Badawi said the people from now on would be less forgiving for any shortcomings on his part and on the part of the government machinery. “I expect the comments directed to me and my government will be harsher,” he said.

Abdullah took over the leadership in October last year from former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Since his appointment, Abdullah has given attention to improving the government’s delivery system, creating an ethical society, rooting out corruption and enhancing Malaysia’s ties with other countries.—MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar Engineering Association Chairman leaves for PRC

YANGON, 2 Nov — Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Association Professor Dr Sein Myint left here by air on 30 October to attend the ASEAN+3 Engineering Academy Round Table to be held in Suzhou, the People’s Republic of China on 31 October 2004.

He will also attend the World Engineers Congress 2004 to be held in Shanghai, the PRC, from 2 to 6 November.

The congress will be attended by over 3,000 engineers from various countries.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects work for maintenance of Pyay-Ngaungtha Road.

CONSTRUCTION

MNA
China to cooperate with Australia in preparation for 2008 Olympics

BEIJING, 2 Nov — China will cooperate with Australia for the next four years in sports as well as sports-related fields and learn valuable experiences from the 2000 Olympics host, said Chinese Olympic Committee president Yuan Weimin here on Monday. “Australia boasts its strength in equestrian, swimming, tennis, cycling, athletics and aquatic events, allowing for a large room for exchange and mutual complementary with China,” said Yuan, who also heads the General Administration of Sports of China.

Australia claimed seven gold, five silver and three bronze from swimming at the Athens Olympic Games where they finished fourth in the medals tally with 17 gold, 16 silver and 18 bronze. Cycling was their second gold mine as they bagged six gold plus two silver and two bronze.

Whereas China, second with 32 gold behind the United States in Athens, has been known for its prowess in table tennis, badminton, shooting, diving and weightlifting.

“At the 2008 Olympic Games is drawing near, it is high time that we set up the framework of sports cooperation in the form of agreement signing,” Yuan said at the signing ceremony of Agreement of Cooperation between Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and Chinese Olympic Committee (COC). “We will carry out more extensive cooperation in fields like doping control and sports marketing,” Yuan said.

“Australia is known for its professional athletes and the Chinese team can learn a lot from them. We should learn how to build our future and develop competitive sports,” he said.

China’s stake in “Galileo” project targets “Complete civilian use”

BEIJING, 2 Nov — The European Union’s Galileo satellite navigation system has broad prospects for application in China’s transportation, mobile communication and other relevant fields, and China has joined the project solely for the purpose of civilian use.

Fang Xiangming, deputy general manager of the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC), the major initiator of the project in China, made the remarks Monday while addressing a high-level Sino-French dialogue in aviation and aerospace.

The 30-satellite system, with a navigational fix accurate to within one metre, will provide safe, reliable and accurate navigational information for Chinese users in the fields of civil aviation and railway, waterway and road transportation, Fang acknowledged.

CASIC and its French peer is constructing the perfecting system in China to strengthen the information send by the Galileo system, he noted, in order to better serve the needs of service signals for China’s civil aviation with accurate, complete, feasible and continuous navigation.

According to Fang, China and France had an enormous room with great potential in such a high-tech satellite navigation, because of China’s huge market for global application of satellite navigation system and France’s advanced technology and mature experience.

Sponsored jointly by the European Commission and the European Space Agency, the Galileo space project is a satellite positioning and navigation system entirely for civilian use.

The project is expected to be operational by 2008, and will, and likely outperform, the existing Global Positioning System (GPS) of the United States with more precise information and on a still larger coverage.

China has officially joined the project after signing an agreement with the European Union on October 9 in Beijing, and pledged 200 million euros for the project. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Govt looking at boom in radio sector

NEW DELHI, 2 Nov — Despite controversies, the Indian Government is expecting a big boom in the radio sector, envisaging 400 private FM radio and 4,000 community radio stations across the country.

At the same time, it is not favourably inclined to allow news on private FM radio.

“We are coming out with a liberalized community radio policy for which Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also released a consultation paper to elicit views of various stakeholders,” a senior official in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said here.

On the FM radio segment, for which TRAI had already submitted recommendations to the Ministry, the official said the government is going for a re-think.

The TRAI recommendations, which had suggested a revenue share model in place of the existing high licence fee regime, is not suiting the government as its revenue would fall drastically from the current one billion rupees to just about 100 million. Also, there are some technical and procedural problems the government finds in the proposed system.

“The government is looking to retain the licence fee structure, thus the low licence fees from the current levels,” the official said, adding it expects to have as many as 400 private FM radio stations soon.

However, the government is not very much inclined on the issue of allowing news and current affairs on private radio channels. “It is a very sensitive issue as the radio has a wider reach and its news has wider impact,” the official said.

News groups sue Ohio elections chief over poll access

COLUMBUS (Ohio), 2 Nov — Six national news organizations have filed a federal lawsuit seeking additional access at the polls on Election Day.

ABC, CNN, CBS, Fox News, NBC and the Associated Press sued Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell on Monday over a policy that would prevent exit-polling within 100 feet of a voting place.

The organizations have formed a consortium to collect exit-polling data. The news organizations said the prohibitions hinder their ability to gather information about the political process and violate constitutional guarantees of free speech.

They contend exit-poll reporters were allowed access within 100 feet of polls in the March primary.

Blackwell’s spokesman, Dan LoPardo, said Blackwell’s office had already submitted recommendations to the Ohio Board of Elections for bill changes to include polling places on the short list.

Anticipating a crush of voters and media Tuesday, Blackwell told county boards of elections to enforce a state law barring anyone except official poll workers from talking to voters or media.

The group that brought the lawsuit, the People for the American Way Foundation, claims a law prohibiting reporters from coming within 50 feet of a polling place’s front door to interview or photograph voters is unconstitutional.

Pelicans swim in a pond in Delhi zoo. The zoo, spread over an area of 214 acres, has more than 2,000 animal and bird species including pelicans from all over the world.— INTERNET
Uganda launches campaign to reduce primary school dropouts

KAMPALA, 2 Nov — The Ugandan Government has launched a countrywide but accroy campaign to reduce the primary school dropouts of over 70 per cent, reported local Press on Monday.

The issue of school dropouts, especially for the girls and irregular attendance, is a major chalenge to UPE (the Universal Primary Education)," said Richard Akankwasa, director of education from the Education Ministry.

Uganda started the UPE in 1997 to promote the education but according to statistics, of the 1.6 million pupils who joined primary one in 1999, the second year of UPE, only 433,000 have cleared for primary leaving examinations this year, a 73 per cent dropout rate in the primary education.

According to a report from the ministry, the main reasons for the drop-out are economic and social-cultural. "Social-cultural reasons include under enrolment, postponement of marriage and early marriages, lack of interest, family problems and lack of community appreciation of the benefits of education," the report added.

ROAD CRASH KILLS 25 IN SOUTHWEST NIGERIA

LAGOS, 2 Nov — At least 25 persons, some of whom were school pupils, have been killed, and 36 others injured in a road crash in Nigeria’s southwest state of Ondo, local newspaper Vanguard reported Monday.

The road accident involving a luxury bus and a trailer on the Owo-Benin Highway occurred at the early hours of Sunday.

According to Hassan Ahmed, sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), 15 passengers in the bus and all the occupants of the trailer died on the spot.

— MNA/Xinhua

OIL PRICES FALL HEAVILY

LONDON, 2 Nov — Oil prices fell heavily on Monday, as oil crude below 50 US dollars on speculation that US election win for Senator John Kerry could soothe the geopolitical friction that helped spark this year’s crude rally.

US light crude by 1.401 dollars to 422 US dollars a barrel, after spending nearly a month above 50 US dollars. London Brent lost 2.18 US dollars to 44.80 US dollars a barrel.

European and US winter heating fuel futures, the driving force behind latest rally in oil, recorded a drop even more sharply than crude.

London gas oil lost 23.75 US dollars to 422 US dollars a ton and US heating oil dipped to 1.01 and US dollars a gallon.

Energy analysts said a win for the challenger Kerry in Tuesday’s US election win could mean lower crude prices this then-bad weather provides a lift.

"Under a Kerry administration, we’d likely have a much more interventionist SPR (Strategic Petroleum Reserve) policy," said Jamal Qureshi, market analyst at PFC Energy in Washington.

“And when you look out a bit further, Bush is more likely to be aggressive in the Middle East, particularly in Iran.”

PFC is forecasting an average US crude price of 43 US dollars a barrel in 2005 should "We, compared to 48 US dollars in the event Bush triumphs.

A Bush win could stoke nervousness about US policies in the oil producing Middle East, while Kerry is seen as more likely to work through conventional diplomatic channels.—MNA/Reuters

Great Mekong Subregion Business Forum (GMS-BF) Vacancy Announcement for Managing Director / CEO

GMS-BF Secretariat invites applications from highly-motivated and efficient nationals from six GMS countries namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan Province of China.

Duty Station: GMS-BF Secretariat, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Salary Range: US $ 1,800 — 2,000 with 20% bonus pay for achieved targets

Some of the expected qualifications for prospective candidates:

- Effective public speaker and dynamic personality
- Results and output oriented
- Motivated by mission
- Team Leader
- Budgeting and Reporting Skills
- Fully Web-literate
- High proficiency in English

For details please contact:
UMFFCI,
No. 504/506, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Tel: 95-1-246495, 243151, 381284-5
Fax: 95-1-248177

Closing date: November 9, 2004

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GLENGO VOY NO (004)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GLENGO VOY NO (004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.11.2004 and cargo 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 byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: DONGNAMA KOREA CO. LTD. KOREA

Australia, US miss key deadline for FTA

CANBERRA, 2 Nov — Australia and the United States have missed a key deadline for their free trade agreement but Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said on Monday he was confident the deal would start as planned on 1 January.

The two close allies needed to exchange letters confirming the agreement by October 31 to meet the 60-day notice period before the deal could start on 1 January 2005.

But the exchange of letters was delayed by official checking from both countries to ensure enabling laws were consistent with the agreement.

A spokesman for Vaile said the 60-day notice period will be short-ened by mutual agreement, once we have the exchange of letters. We need a bit more time to get that done,” he said.

The Australian Parliament and US Congress have already passed laws to enforce the free trade agreement.

Bilateral trade between Australia and the United States is worth about 41 billion Australian dollars (31 billion US dollars) a year, with the trade balance weighted in favour of Australia.

In 2003, Australia imported 27 billion Australian dollars worth of goods from the United States, including aircraft and parts, veterinary chemicals, medical, car engines and communica-tions equipment. It exported about 14 billion Australian dollars worth of beef, lamb, crude oil and cars.

An Australian Government-commissioned study found the trade deal with the United States could add 6.1 billion Australian dollars a year to the economy after 10 years.

Australia, US miss key deadline for FTA

One killed, five injured in Jacksonvillskingflying plane crash

JACKSONVILLE (Florida), 1 Nov — A plane carrying Skydivers crashed at a small airport, killing one person and injuring four others, one critically, police said.

The Cessna 206, operated by Skydive Jacksonville, crashed shortly after noon Saturday.

Jacksonville police spokesperson Ken Jefferson said. Investigators said one person died at the scene, and four of those aboard suffered only minor injur-ies, Jefferson told The Florida Times-Union. The identities of the victims were not immediately re-leased.

Officials said the plane crashed at Herlong Airport, which is where Skydive Jacksonville is based. A woman who answered the telephone at Skydive Jacksonville’s offices Sat-urday evening declined to comment.— MNA/AVP

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China-ASEAN Trade Fair new initiative of China

HANOI, 2 Nov — The organization of the first China-ASEAN Trade Fair (CA-EXPO) in south China’s Nanning City is China’s greatly noteworthy new initiative about expanding all-round relations between the country with ASEAN members, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem told Xinhua in a recent interview.

“China has made great efforts to make prompt and thorough preparations for the 1st CA-EXPO, being ready to welcome over 10 participating countries with over 1,000 national and standard pavilions. That shows the host country’s enthusiasm and determination to forge and further improve the multifaceted ties between China and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN),” Khiem stated.

Vietnam will participate in the fair’s special activities such as a China-ASEAN trade and investment conference, ASEAN forums on calling for investment and trade exchanges, and a Vietnam-China business forum on Thursday, he said, adding that its participation aims at building up traditional relations between Vietnam and China as well as other ASEAN members, and promoting trade among the nations.

Some 80 Vietnamese companies will showcase their products and services in the fields of farm produce, seafood, processed foodstuff, handicraft, tourism, cosmetics, fashion, garment, transport, investment and industry so as to “expand export market, seek business partners for business cooperation, approach distribution channels and investment opportunities, and bring into play integration advantages of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area,” said Khiem.

He held that the construction of such an area with gradual removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and implementation of trade-facilitating measures plus geographical advantages will strongly develop Vietnam-China economic and trade relations, and forge other cooperative ties. “The target of recording the two-way trade of 10 billion US dollars in 2010 set by the two countries’ leaders is totally attainable,” he noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to protect 400 categories of goods in ASEAN-China FTA

JAKARTA, 2 Nov — The Indonesian Government has submitted nearly 400 categories of sensitive and highly sensitive goods to be excluded from the liberalization scheme under the planned ASEAN-China free trade area (FTA), according to an official.

The FTA plan is expected to be signed by leaders of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries and China during the 17th ASEAN summit in Vientiane, countries and China during the 13th ASEAN summit in Vientiane, Laos, later in November.

The Ministry of Trade’s director for regional cooperation, Elver Radjagoekgoek, said that the Indonesian list of goods to be protected from trade competition had actually surpassed the limit agreed during the initial trade talks, although it was later accepted.

“They want to limit the number of sensitive goods, but we can’t reduce our list,” Elver was quoted Monday by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

Indonesia’s list of sensitive sectors consists of 348 tariff categories covering, among other areas, the automotive and electronics industries, as well as their component industries, a few branches of the textile industry and the chemical industry.

Meanwhile, the highly sensitive list consists of 50 tariff categories that include rice, sugar, soybeans, corn and several other food staples.

ASEAN and Chinese economic and trade ministers agreed to establish an FTA by 2010 with the six founding members of ASEAN, and by 2015 for the newer members.

During the 36th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in Jakarta in September, talks with China resulted in the finalizing of the agreements on trade in goods and services and on dispute settlement mechanism. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippines to import almost 1m metric tons of rice in 2005

MANILA, 2 Nov — The Philippines will import almost one million metric tons of rice in 2005 worth 12.6 billion pesos (225 million US dollars) due to insufficient domestic production, a local newspaper reported on Monday.

Representative Rodolfo Andaya Jr, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, told Philippine Daily Inquirer that although a record-high harvest of rice was forecast in 2005, the total production would still be inadequate for the domestic demand. Andaya attended a hearing last week on the proposed budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for next year.

He cited swelling population, static and overpriced rice,Besides, the programme to increase rice production by three million sacks of rice a year, Andaya said.

The DA earlier expected the rice harvest to reach 15.12 million metric tons in 2005. However, it still planned to import 960,000 metric tons of rice.

It said that the country’s topography is not really ideal for rice growing, compared to the wide river delta countries in the Asian mainland like Vietnam and Thailand, but this can be corrected with man-made irrigation systems.

The government is also implementing hybrid rice programme to increase rice yield through the use of certified seed, hybrid rice varieties.

But, the programme is experiencing funding problem when only 181 million pesos (3.23 million dollars) of the 550 million pesos (9.82 million dollars) allocated for this programme for 2004 has been released. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam welcomes more foreign visitors

HANOI, 2 Nov — Vietnam hosted nearly 2.4 million foreign visitors in the first 10 months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 27.5 per cent, the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) told Xinhua on Monday.

The number of tourists increased the most, by 39.7 per cent to nearly 1.3 million, followed by overseas Vietnamese returning home to visit relatives by 23.7 per cent to 387,000, and business visitors by 14.2 per cent to 427,000, the VNAT said.

In the period, China’s Mainland, the United States, and Japan became Vietnam’s largest tourism markets with the numbers of visitors rising by 27.6 per cent, 28.8 per cent and 29.6 per cent to 646,000, over 225,000 and 216,000 respectively.

“We hope to receive at least one million visitors from China’s Mainland in 2004.” — MNA/Xinhua

New chief of Indian Air Force named

NEW DELHI, 2 Nov — Air Marshal S P Tyagi, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Air Command, was Sunday named the next chief of the Indian Air Force.

The 59-year old Tyagi’s appointment as the Chief of Air Staff would be with effect from December 31, 2004 when incumbent Air Chief Marshal S Krishnaswami retires from service, an official release here said. Air Marshal Tyagi, who was commissioned in the Air Force on December 31, 1963, as a pilot in the fighter stream, saw action during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistani wars.

During his career in the Air Force for four decades, Air Marshal Tyagi, an alumnus of the prestigious Services Staff College, Wellington, has worked in a variety of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments.

He has the distinction of commanding three Air Commands—Central, South Western and Western.

He has been decorated with Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2003 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 1994. He is one of the Honorary ADCs of the Supreme Commander, the President. — MA/PPI

Wal-mart opens 40th outlet in central China city

WUHAN, 2 Nov — Wal-mart, the world’s largestretailer, announced the opening of its 40th outlet in China here Monday, with a new shopping centre coming into being in this capital city of Hubei Province in central China.

Li Qingquan, manager of Wal-mart’s east China centre, said Wal-mart attached great importance to the Wuhan outlet, with 30 per cent of its products on sales stacked from the local market to be selling at the 550 million pesos (9.82 million dollars) allocated for this programme for 2004 has been released. — MNA/Xinhua

Wal-mart opens 40th outlet in central China city

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 3 November, 2004 13
Newell,Velez stay at top of Argentine c'ship
BUENOS AIRES, 2 Nov — Leading sides Newell's Old Boys and Velez Sarsfield both lost in the Argentine championship at the weekend, each featuring a host of six rounds of matches to play.

Newell’s and Velez stayed level on 25 points at the top of the Apertura championship but only four points separate them from fifth-placed Gimnasia-La Plata.

Newell’s, who lead on goal difference, crashed to a shock defeat for the first time in the campaign as the unfashionable champions claimed their second major scalp of the championship following their shock win at River Plate one month ago. Osvaldo Miranda scored the winner early in the second half.

Velez Sarsfield lost 3-2 at home to a Colon team inspired by their trio of Colombian internationals — Giovanni Hernandez, Gerardo Bedoya and Freddy Giraldo. Hernandez, with a penalty, and Bedoya, from a free kick, put Colon 2-1 up by the 21st minute before Giraldo added a third in the second half.

Lucas Valderramín, from another penalty, and Fabiano Cabrerizo replied for Velez, who had Maximiliano sent off for a rough tackle in the final minute.

Ferguson to ask FA to investigate challenge by Henry
LONDON, 1 Nov — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is to ask the Football Association (FA) to investigate a challenge by an Arsenal’s Thierry Henry on Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze, British newspapers reported on Sunday.

The match on October 24, won 2-0 by United to end Arsenal’s run of 49 successive unbeaten league games, was an ill-tempered affair that ended with a fracas in the tunnel, in which Ferguson is reported to have been pelleted with food.

Heinze was brought down by Arsenal’s Frederik Ljungberg just before halftime and Heinze collided with the Argentine while he was still on the ground.

“The tackle on Heinze was terrible. … What Henry did?,” quoted Ferguson as saying by the Observer newspaper.

“We shall present that to the FA and see what they do.”

United’s Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy was banned for three matches for a foul on Arsenal defender Ashley Cole and Ferguson was unhappy with the way the incident was brought to the FA’s attention, the newspaper said.

“You should check how the Ruud van Nistelrooy tackle was brought to the attention of the FA,” said Ferguson.

“There is supposed to be a system to deal with issues like that, but in this case the compliance officer stepped in and I think that is because of the publicity.

“That is the case, who is deciding the discipline — the Press, the FA or the referees’ committee?”

Mutu has no intention of quitting soccer
LONDON, 2 Nov — Disgraced Romanian international Adrian Mutu, who faces an FA hearing on Thursday after being sacked by Chelsea following a positive test for cocaine, says he has no intention of quitting football.

Mutu’s end of contract at Chelsea was at the beginning of this month and the 24-year-old striker has admitted accepting the drug.

The statement added: “…The suggestions in the Press that Mr. Mutu had taken this substance just before playing football or that he played with it in his system are completely untrue.”

“So too are the reports of his criticism of Chelsea FC or those stating that he wants to leave football.”

The 25-year-old, bought from Italian club Parma for last year for almost 16 million pounds, faces a maximum two-year ban from soccer.

“He apologizes profusely to everybody involved with and supporter of Chelsea FC,” said the statement.

“Thankfully, with the excellent support of the FA, PFA and Peter Kay of The Sporting Chance Clinic, Mr. Mutu has already made significant progress in dealing with these difficulties.

“…greatly regrets not seeking professional help earlier. ‘Mr. Mutu loves football — it is his life, and he has absolutely no intention of leaving the game. He wishes to put this regrettable error of judgment behind him.”

Mutu is the second player to be sacked by Chelsea for cocaine abuse following the dismissal of Australian goalkeeper Mark Boskovich two years ago.

Part of doping test sample stolen in Athens Olympic Games
LONDON, 2 Nov — Part of a doping test sample taken from Irish show jumping champion Cian O'Connor's horse during the Athens Games has been stolen, the BBC has reported.

Some of the "B" specimen from Waterford Crystal was "taken illegally" while en route from Paris to a laboratory near Cambridge, England, the report said.

British police and their Swiss counterparts based near the International Equestrian Federation’s headquarters in Lausanne are investigating.

O’Connor, who salvaged a disappointing Olympics for Ireland by winning the country’s only medal, could be stripped of his individual show jumping gold.
UAE’s Dubai Diamond Exchange joins WFDB

ARUBI DIAB, 2 NOV — The Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been admitted to the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB), the Gulf News daily reported recently.

According to a statement released by Dubai Metals and Commodities Centre (DMCC), the WFDB’s general assembly voted unanimously to accept the DDE into its ranks to become the first WFDB-affiliated bourse in the Arab world.

The membership is a key strategic move for the DDE to become part of an important international platform, dedicated to advancing a common set of trading practices in the region and synchronized global industry policies, said the statement, cited by the daily.

The new relationship is set to boost regional diamond trade and highlight Dubai, one of the emirates in the UAE as the industry’s regional hub, according to the daily.

As part of the international bourse body the DDE members will have access to all member bourses, said the statement.

Schmuel Schnitzer, president of the WFDB was quoted as saying the diamond industry in the Arab region had witnessed a remarkable growth and that Dubai’s role as an important player in the global diamond industry was set to increase in the future.

MNA/Xinhua

The drive-by shooting took place at about 7:55 am (0447 GMT) when assailants opened fire, killing the Baghdadi’s deputy governor and wounding four of his bodyguards, said Colonel Adnan Abdul Rahman of the Interior Ministry.

He could not provide further details on the assassination which is the latest in a series of killings which targeted officials working in the country’s US-installed government.

MNA/Xinhua

Jordan opposes all forms of terrorism

AMMAN, 2 NOV — Jordan’s Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Muasher said Sunday that Jordan opposes all forms of terrorism, especially killing the innocent, the official Petra news agency reported.

During meeting with Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister Shuzen Tanigawa, Muasher said Jordan feels deep sorrow with Japan people on the death of hostage Sohsei Koda in Iraq.

The Japanese diplomat, for his part, praised Amman’s efforts for the release of the Japanese hostage in Iraq. Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said Sunday that the headless body found Saturday in Baghdad has been confirmed as Koda.

Koda entered Iraq via Jordan last week. He went there merely to see what was going on, Japanese media said.

Tanigawa arrived in Amman Wednesday in a bid to set up a Japanese secure mission for releasing the hostage. — MNA/Xinhua

Bahrain to host regional business training centre

ARUBI DIAB, 2 NOV — Bahrain has been chosen by the Group of Eight (G-8) to host a regional training centre aimed at encouraging small businesses and independent ventures.

Bahrain’s official BNA news agency reported Monday.

It is part of a G-8 initiative for a partnership with the Middle East, which was launched at the group’s last June summit in Sea Island, Georgia, in which Bahrain’s King Hamad Bin Eisa Al Khalifa attended.

The centre aims to promote the private sector, encourage young people to launch small- and medium-sized projects and provide them with necessary expertise, said BNA, adding that training programmes will be initially held at the Bahrain Institute for Banking and Financing.

King Hamad during the G-8 summit stressed that his country was a good example of reform plans for the Middle East region.

Wednesday, November 3

WEATHER

Tuesday, 2 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Yangon, Ayeayawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Central Yangon and Phayayon (0.35 inch) each. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) below normal in Magway and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining states and Divisions.

Maximum temperature on 1-11-2004 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 2-11-2004 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-11-2004 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 1-11-2004 was (6.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 2-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kab-Aye and (0.35 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall for the period 1-11-2004 to 2-11-2004 was (112.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kab-Aye and (109.64 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Northeast at (16:30) hours MST on 1-11-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-11-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Ayeayawady and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-11-2004: Possibility of isolated thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-11-2004: Fair weather.

MNA/Xinhua
YANGON, 2 Nov — Myanmar Education Committee held its meeting No 4/2004 at Zeyathiri Beikman, on Konyinttha here this evening, with an address by Chairman of MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present on the occasion were members of MEC, the ministers, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments.

First, Chairman of MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech. He said various committees were formed to carry out the tasks for development of economic, education, health and social sectors. Myanmar Education Committee is also implementing the tasks for progress of education sector, he said. He said the government is undertaking long-term and short-term plans for national education. The MEC is responsible for realization of the tasks in the plans in accord with the national education policies.

He said development of human resources is vital for national development.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State emphasis was placed on producing highly-qualified human resources in education sector. So, local intellectuals and intelligentsia are capable of building bridges, dams, modern airports, hydro-electric power stations which are infrastructures, he said.

Moreover, he stressed the need for the majority of the national people to possess knowledge which can distinguish what is right or wrong and good or bad and said it plays a vital role in building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Therefore, he said, it is obvious that education is vital for national development.

(MNA)

YANGON, 2 Nov — Nanattaw Overpass at the junction of Nanattaw Street and Baho Road in Kamayut Township here today.

The main structure of the overpass will be 581 feet long, and if the lengths of the approach roads on both sides are added, it will be a 964-foot facility. The reinforced concrete overpass will support a 48 feet wide motor road flanked by four-foot pedestrian lanes on either side. The clearance for the railroad underneath it is 14 feet high. The overpass will help reduce traffic congestion on both the Nanattaw Street and Baho Road. Its maximum load-bearing capacity will be 60 tons. The Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation is to implement the project.

Before the start of the pile-driving ceremony, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min explained facts about the overpass and construction schedule; and Deputy Minister U Pe Than, engineering works, relocation of power lines and telephone lines that are located in the project area and stockpiling of materials. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the scale model of the bridge and the project.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Commander Col Tint Hsan, Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Min Swe and responsible personnel. — MNA

Dipavali Day falls on 12 November

YANGON, 2 Nov — The Government of the Union of Myanmar today announced that Dipavali Day, which falls on 12 November 2004 (1st Waxing of Tazaungmon 1366 ME) (Friday), is a public holiday under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

MNA